

2009 ATC Biannual Meeting

The 2009 ATC Biannual Meeting was held at Castleton State College in Castleton, Vt. PATH was represented at the conference by Jim Houck(President), Chris Bracknell(Vice President) and his wife Rhonda, Bill Boudman(Trail Supervisor), Susan Andreatta(Buffet Meister) and husband Bill Helms and John Hartpence(Secretary). We spent 9 days at the conference including travel.

At the General Meeting there were no major issues brought up. The Financial Status of the ATC is solvent. We have had an increase in membership. Invested monies and donations are down. The ATC did not have to cut personnel or any programs. Cost of living wages will not be take by the higher ups, but will be given to the rest of the staff. It was announced that the ATC has only 4 miles of trail not under their control!! The next Conference in 2011 will be held at Emory and Henry University (near Marion, Va.) and the 2013 Conference will be at Western Carolina University(near Asheville, NC).

The clubs in our region met to discuss what we are doing to encourage young people to learn about the trail. Many good ideas were discussed. Mount Rogers would like to work with us on this because they have a low membership.

Jim, Bill and I attended numerous workshops which will help us in the future.1) Trailside Geology of the Green Mountains-presenter Jon Kim of the Vermont Geological Survey.2) Endangered and Exotic Plants:the good, the bad and the ugly-presenters-Kent Schwarzkopt(ANST) and James Akerson(NPS).3)Know your privy-privy technology-presenter-Dick Andrews-GMC Volunteer. The information we gained from these meetings will be very helpful to us in the future.

We were able to take hikes and excursions-1) Battell Old Growth Preserve(East Middlebury, Vt-leaders --Molly(from the Center for Biological Diversity) and her husband David(a writer and publisher). It was mostly off-trail. The old growth forest is owned by Middlebury College. 2) Hiking through time:Old Joe and Greeley Village near Mt. Tabor,Vt. Presenter --David Lacy, Archaeologist for Vt. and the Finger Lakes of New York. David explained the archaeological site of the mid 1800's. There was a bustling mill village complete with a school near the Long Trail and the AT. We saw remains of charcoal kilns and buildings. We went into the Wilderness and saw where the Greeleys' had their mill and homestead. They are buried a few hundred yards up the hill. The hardest part of this hike was crossing a roaring stream(very full from the recent rains). We had only one hiker fall in on the way out.3) we took a historic excursion to Ft. Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. We had a tour guide explain the history of the now completely restored fort. There is also a beautiful garden below the fort. Leaving the fort we went up the hill to Mt. Defiance. The British set up cannons there and could fire on Ft. Ticonderoga and Fort Independence below. This was the end of the Americans at these forts.4) We went to the town of Hubberton, VT. where the Battle of Hubberton was fought. This was the only major battle in Vermont. Our rear guard was able to slow up the British so our troops from Fort Ticonderoga and Fort Independence could retreat southward. We were able to regroup and win the Battle of Saratoga.5) We visited a Japanese

Garden and cemetery near Hubberton. 6) Chris and Rhonda went on bike hikes.7) Susan and Bill went boating. Susan and Bill had "Doc" Branham and his fiance staying with them at Killington, Vt. "Doc" has sold his house and is doing very well.

We set up our PATH display in the gymnasium at Castleton on Friday. We manned the booth on our free moments Friday -Sunday. We were able to answer many questions about our section and handout brochures and business cards to those stopping by. We spent a lot of time answering questions about the conference in 2011.

Jim took a lot of pictures and these will be in the Gallery on our website soon.

We had a great time and learned a lot. You will be hearing a lot about the Conference of 2011. We will need all of you to help. There will be a job for everyone. Our clubs in our region are small. We have only around 1200 members compared to 9000 in the Green Mt. Club. We were able to do Radford '99 so I know that we will be successful in 2011. The dates of the Conference at July 1-8. Put this on your calendar now.

John Hartpence -Secretary