News From The Trail

A busy year on the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) has meant some big improvements. John Derick, (trails coordinator), Melake Getabecha (summer intern), along with volunteers from the MUHS Workplace Readiness Program, Counseling Service and TAM Trail Keepers have worked hard on a variety of trail projects. Along with keeping the trail clear and in good condition, they improved a number of boardwalks, rerouted a section of trail on Chipman Hill, and graveled multiple wet and root-covered sections on the trail. Using a $1600 grant from the National Park Service and North Country Trail Alliance the boardwalk on the Jackson Trail off Route 30 was reconstructed and now runs a length of 75 feet raised above the wetland area. Boardwalks on the Johnson, Blue, and ’97 trail sections were also either reconstructed or repaired. Just about every section of the trail also received some gravel work, which minimizes soil erosion and compaction while also decreasing the amount of water that pools on the trail.

To maintain the 18 miles of the TAM and side trails takes a tremendous amount of work in both people power and equipment. Two tractors are stationed at different points along the trail for mowing, while a host of other maintenance tools are transported to various work sites.

Over the summer the MALT team and volunteers worked daily on clearing, mowing, pruning, graveling and a myriad of other tasks including signage, kiosk repair and construction. We also spent a lot of time maintaining the two bridges found along the trail. Both bridges received a new coat of Linseed Oil but both bridges will need inspections and leveling in the coming year.

John Derick, one of the TAM founders is the driving force making the TAM what it is today. As the TAM nears its 25th Anniversary, John’s work over the years represents an incredible amount of time, effort and dedication to the TAM and the community. If you are ever out on the trail and see John, make sure to stop and thank him for all the wonderful work he has done.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A typical summer of work for John</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mowing = 33 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boardwalk = 20 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervising Volunteers = 56 hours (working with between 3 and 12 volunteers at a time)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other = 105 hours (graveling, trail clearing, kiosks, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Trail News........

North Country Trail
Through - hiker Luke “Strider” Jordan

Luke finished hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail this past September. The 4,600 mile trail begins in North Dakota and officially ends at Crown Point, NY. MALT, the NPS, and NCTA are in the process of making an official Vermont section. The Vermont section would add around 40 miles to the National Trail and connect to the Long Trail. Luke is the first through hiker to complete the proposed VT section. Visit www.striderntc.com to read about his adventure.

Lincoln Land Initiative

MALT is working with Lincoln residents to establish a trail around Lincoln. Please contact us to find out more about this project and how to get involved.

Hikes and Outings Series

We are beginning to plan for the 2014 series after a successful year of hikes and outings. This past year included a Quest Hike with the Otter Creek Audubon Society, a Biology Hike with Environmental Studies Professor Marc Lapin, a guided bike tour of MALT lands with David Hallam and Carl Robinson and a two-part geology hike with Geology Professor Ray Coish. We are excited to continue our partnership with the Audubon Society and look develop new partnerships for future hikes and outings. Be in touch with your suggestions! Keep an eye out for next year’s schedule in April 2014.

MALT summer camp

We will again be hosting the increasingly popular MALT summer camp. Everyday is an adventure with counselors Mo Bissonett and Katie McEachen as they explore the woods, streams and meadows of Otter Creek Gorge with groups of 6 - 9 year olds. Check the malt website for registration and the new camp schedule.
New Board Member

Christy Lynn is a native Middlebury resident who returned to the area last August to join the Addison Independent team. Previously Christy lived in Vancouver, British Columbia and worked as a regional technical representative for Brooks Running company. Christy loves to run the TAM and is thrilled to bring some of her experiences organizing events to the MALT board.

Thanks to the TAM Trek Sponsors

Active.com Emergen C • Addison Independent • Agway Farm & Garden • American Flatbread • Andrea Landsberg • Bike Center • Bill Beck Real Estate • Bill Roper • Carrara & Sons • Champlain Valley Apiaries • Champlain Valley Equipment • Co-Operative Insurance • Courtyard by Marriott • Danforth Pewters • David Starr • DeeDee Pierson-Flagg • Eben Punderson • Forth N Goal • Fraga & Lilja CPAs • Franklin Environmental Center • Goodpoint Recycling • Green Mountain Coffee • Hannafords • Happy Valley Orchard • IPJ Real Estate • LandWorks • Little Pressroom • Lodge at Otter Creek • Marbleworks Partnership • Monument Farms • Middlebury Fitness • Middlebury Inn • Middlebury Natural Foods Coop • National Bank of Middlebury • Neuse • Duprey & Putnam • Phelps Engineering • Ramunto’s • r.k.Miles • Shaws • Town of Middlebury • Vermont Book Shop • Vermont Soap • Vermont Sun • Waterfall Day Spa • Woodchuck Hard Cider

Tenth Annual TAM Trek

The Middlebury Area Land Trust held its 10th Trek event on Sunday, September 22, 2013. The Trek is a trail hike and run held annually to raise money for the maintenance of the trail.

The morning started off a bit rainy, but it soon cleared up and was a perfect day for a trail outing, drawing in 109 participants. Music, balloons, and decorated cupcakes added to the celebratory mood. This year’s Trek had a different setup than in the past, with separate start times for different run lengths (2, 4, 8, 16 miles). The hike was a set 3.5 miles on the O’Neil Trail and included a tour of the College Organic Garden. The event was held on the Middlebury College Campus at the golf course entrance on Route 30, enabling runners and hikers to start and finish right on the TAM with a beautiful view of the Green Mountains.

Participants were treated to donated baked goods, apples and cider from Happy Valley Orchard, and chocolate milk from Monument Farms. MALT Board and Trek Committee member Jono Chapin awarded raffle prizes donated by our sponsors.

Many thanks to our board members, TAM Trek committee members, and volunteers; Jim and Krissa Bolton, Jono Chapin, John Derick, Fran Fraga, Story Jenks, Christy Lynn, Amy Roberts, Molly Robinson, Jerrod Rushton and Nicole Wilkerson.

We look forward to next year’s event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the TAM!

3rd Edition TAM Map

The New TAM Map is available at the MALT office and various locations in downtown Middlebury. This edition includes some great improvements including trail mileage, additional trails and a weather resistant material. Make sure and pick up one today! A $2 suggested donation goes towards trail maintenance.
### Financial Report

**Fiscal Year October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013**

#### Income

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Donations</td>
<td>$38,032</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$12,400</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events and Activities</td>
<td>$18,357</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$3,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Designated Donations</td>
<td>$89,484</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$161,295</strong></td>
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#### Expense

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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Management and General</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development and Fundraising</td>
<td>$45,189</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,348</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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#### MALT Statement of Financial Position for Fiscal Year 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>Liabilities and Equity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Equivalents</td>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes and grant receivable</td>
<td>$4,745</td>
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<td>Beneficial interest in net assets held by</td>
<td>Net Assets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont Community Foundation</td>
<td>Unrestricted $165,029</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>Temporarily Restricted $7,168</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property</td>
<td>Permanently Restricted $1,029,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>Total Liabilities and Equity $1,201,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$1,206,007</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Annual Meeting**

Over fifty people attended MALT’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 24th, at Danforth Pewter Store and Workshop in Middlebury, co-sponsored by Danforth Pewter and the Vermont Book shop. A number of other businesses showed their support by providing refreshments and food including, Lincoln Peak Winery, Twigg Farm Cheese, and Blue Ledge Cheese. A silent auction to benefit the TAM included items from The Bike Center, Danforth Pewter, Blueberry Inn, Wonder Walks, Rikert Ski Center, and more raised over $800. The attendees received information about MALT and its successes over the past year, as well as voted in the newest board member, Christy Lynn. Vermont authors of “Walking Distance,” Bob and Martha Manning gave a wonderful talk and slide show about their hikes and travels. They discussed everything from why to hike and how to pack, to highlights of their favorite hikes. Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making this year’s annual meeting a success!
**HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL YEAR 2013**

- Completed the Hamblin Farm project, a 101-acre conservation area in the Beaver Brook watershed of Cornwall, in collaboration with the Vermont Land Trust and neighbors.
- Aided the town of Middlebury in buying 40 acres of open space on the east side of Chipman Hill.
- Constructed a new section of trail on Chipman Hill and built new trailhead parking and a kiosk off Washington St Ext., providing access to Chipman Hill Park.
- Maintained and gravelled the TAM, thanks to all the help from Trail Coordinator John Derick and summer intern Melake Getabetcha, along with volunteer groups from MUHS, Counseling Service, United Way, Middlebury College, and the communities.
- Received a permanent easement on a section of the Jackson Trail owned by Middlebury College.
- Constructed the boardwalks on the Jackson, Johnson, and Blue sections of the TAM thanks to a grant from the NPS and NCTA.
- Started working on the gravel and drainage features of the trails in Wright Park.
- Completed another season of Hikes and Outings with informative hikes in the areas of geology, biology and birding, as well as a bike tour of the Middlebury area.
- Ran another successful summer of the popular MALT camp.
- Raised $10,000 from the 10th Annual TAM Trek, which goes to TAM maintenance and endowment.
- Finished the 3rd edition of the TAM map. It can be found at the office, around town, and our website.

**Thanks for your support in 2013!**

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**From MALT Summer Intern Melake Getabecha**

This summer I worked as the MALT Intern... and it was GREAT! The work consisted of trail work on the TAM and GIS mapping.

The trail work was a wonderful way for me to get out in the Middlebury landscape. I would spend most mornings with John Derick in Wright Park or at some other trail section, where we would gravel trails, build boardwalks and other maintenance. The TAM is a wonderful place to be, and apart from the health benefits from hiking, shoveling and grass whipping, I found the trail work gave me a unique experience with the environment and a very tangible product.

The GIS work gave me another way to understand the Middlebury landscape. This took place in the computer lab on the Middlebury Campus which complemented the outdoor physical labor. I consulted with Carl Robinson and Bill Hegman who helped me edit the new TAM map and place it on Google Maps.

This combination of indoor and outdoor as well as mental and physical work resulted in very well-balance summer. My summer couldn’t have been better, and I have MALT to thank for that. I was humbled by Vermont’s beauty as well as the amount of work that is done to keep Vermont beautiful. As a runner, I see the TAM with a lot more appreciation having seen what it takes to sustain it.
I want to help preserve the natural beauty of the Middlebury area and maintenance of the Trail Around Middlebury!

I would like to contribute at the following membership level:

- Benefactor $2,500
- Friend $100
- Supporter $1,000
- Contributor $50
- Sustaining $500
- Other $________

Please provide the following information and mail with your check to MALT, P.O.Box 804, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Name:________________________________
Address:______________________________
City/State/Zip:__________________________
Phone:_______________________________
Email:________________________________
If you would like to remain anonymous, check here. □

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MIDDLEBURY AREA LAND TRUST
MALT office hours are Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Buy a TAM logo Tshirts for $15
Join our email list at www.maltvt.org
Like us on Facebook!

SUPPORT OTTER VIEW PARK
Purchase a plank to be engraved by Don Mason, of Vermont Laser Products. You may choose to honor a family member, pet, civic group or even quote poetry on multiple planks!

This is a great way to show your support of this in-town gem. An engraved plank with a maximum of 25 characters is $250.

To purchase a plank call 388-1007 or email info@maltvt.org