12th Annual TAM Trek

The TAM Trek trail race on Sunday, September 20, 2015 offers 18-mile, 6-mile or 2-mile run/walk loop courses that follow the TAM around the iconic New England town of Middlebury, Vermont. The TAM is made up of single-track and double-track trails and a few short connecting sections on asphalt that encircle the village of Middlebury and links several hundred acres of town land, conserved properties, schools (including Middlebury College), and other local landmarks. The challenging 18-mile course gains over 1,000 feet in elevation and offers stellar views of the pastoral landscape of the Champlain Valley and the surrounding Green Mountains. Aid stations will be available along the timed courses and a celebration at the start/finish in Wright Park will be open to all finishers and fans. Refreshments, music and beverages from one of Middlebury's well-known "Tasting Trail" producers will entice you to stay and relax after the event, as will generous prizes provided by local sponsors. All event proceeds will go directly to managing and up keeping this local "gem." The 12th year of the TAM Trek will be one to remember!

Sign Up Today!

The Parsnip is out!

It’s that time of year again. The wild, or poison, parsnip (Pastinaca sativa L.) is out along the roadsides and fields of Vermont and will soon be blooming with its umbel of tiny yellow flowers. This is a garden parsnip that has escaped and flourished, but it can cause a nasty burn if you mistakenly get its juices on you, and are then exposed to sunlight. Handle with care!

A more dangerous relative of parsnip is Giant Hogweed. This looks similar, but has white flowers and is much larger, up to 10 or more feet tall. These aren’t as common right now as parsnip, but they have been spotted around the area.

Photo by Kristine Schaefer
Working with our community to conserve natural and productive landscapes, and to enhance scenic, recreational, and educational opportunities.

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MALT News is the official newsletter of the Middlebury Area Land Trust, Inc.

Call 802-388-1007 for information or with your comments. E-mail us at info@maltvt.org

Like us on

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**Thank You to our Volunteers and Partners**

MALT would like to thank the many people that help out in various ways.

Thanks to our Board for your support and contributions towards our many projects.

Thanks to Dave Hallam, for keeping our database current, and for his generous contribution of a new computer!

Thanks to John Derick, who maintains the TAM and Parks and manages volunteers who help with trail building and maintenance.

Thanks to Bill Roper, who is part of the TAM Endowment Committee, mows Otter View Park and TAM maintenance.

Thanks to Otter Creek Audubon Society members who lead the Wildlife Walks in Otter View Park and Hurd Grassland. This is for you Gale Hurd, Gary Starr, Josh Phillips, Ron Payne, Craig Zondag, and Carol Ramsayer, and others.

Thanks to the Mountain Club of Middlebury College, Al Stiles, Heather Flewelling, students from the Diversified Occupations Program, and others for trail work.

Thanks to Vermont Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, United Way of Addison Country, Addison County Chamber of Commerce, the Addison Independent, Rotory and many others.

Thanks to the many Local Businesses who sponsor the TAM Trek and other MALT initiatives.

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Middlebury College Students from the Mountain Club help John Derick fix the trail in Wright Park in April.
MALT welcomes new Board Members

The following people have generously offered their time and energy to run MALT. The next time you see them, say thanks!

Michael “Mike” Corbett is a Vice President and Business Banker with People's United Bank working with small businesses in Addison and Rutland Counties. Mike lives in Middlebury with his wife and two young children and enjoys spending time on the TAM with them as well as boating, downhill skiing, and other outdoor activities. He also serves on the Addison County Economic Development Corporation’s board, is the incoming President of the Vermont Chapter of the Risk Management Association, and coaches the Middlebury Union High School track and field program.

Laura Asermily is our liaison to the Middlebury Selectboard. She's an avid TAM user, especially of the Chipman Park Trail near where she lives. She treasures the TAM's evolution through the seasons and its potential to link neighborhoods as pedestrian byways. Laura is the Middlebury Safe Routes Coordinator and invites anyone who would like to expand Middlebury's bike and pedestrian options, including expanded TAM links and maintenance, by supporting MALT.

Jeff Stauch is the Director of Annual Giving at Middlebury College. He coaches youth hockey with the Middlebury Amateur Hockey Association, teaches the Japanese martial art Aikido, and runs an occasional marathon or ultra-marathon.

Don Devost, of Addison Advisors, LLC, lives in Middlebury, and is serving as MALT Board Treasurer. He enjoys exploring Battell Woods and the TAM with his family.
TAM NEWS

Spring 2015 Trail Updates

We have had a busy and productive Spring working on the TAM. Every year we begin with surveying the damage caused by our long winters, clearing downed trees and brush, re-signing, and developing our work plan for the year. Here are some of the additional tasks completed so far.

- The Boat House Bridge was closed for two weeks, while some much needed maintenance was completed by Big Branch Builders, LLC., and John Derick.
- Trail Re-route was built on a section of the Blue Trail (April 18th Trail Work Day)
- Maps were replaced in many of our kiosks
- Gravel was delivered to many areas while the ground was still frozen. Much of which has already been spread by our many volunteers.
- Mowing
- Trail Re-route was built in the Otter Creek Gorge as well as stile repairs. (May 16th Trail Work Day)
- TAM wooden signs were varnished.

TAM Intern Report

Our 2015 Summer Intern from Middlebury College is Allie Aiello. She has a lot of energy and is very enthusiastic about being out on the trail. Allie will be working on a variety of trail maintenance projects as well as some GIS mapping, which enables her to spend time in the college GIS lab during the really hot or rainy weather.
**TAM Work Days 2015**

We have had a great first few TAM trail work days! Thank you to those who came out and helped on April 18, May 16, and June 6.

**Next work days: July 9 and 18, August 6 and 15, times and locations to be determined.**

Come on out and join us in taking care of this great community resource! We have plenty of tools and will spend time shoveling gravel, cutting brush and branches, repairing boardwalks, and removing invasive plants. We will also provide snacks and drinks for all volunteers.

Local students in the Diversified Occupations program help move gravel to wet spots on the TAM.

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**Otter Creek Audubon Society and MALT’s Third Annual "Let's Go Birding" Hike**

MALT thanks the Otter Creek Audubon Society and Carol Ramsayer for co-hosting the third running of our “Let’s Go Birding!” hike.

Hike leaders Ron Payne, Craig Zondag, and former MALT Executive Director Josh Phillips gave an informative walk to look for and identify all the different bird species (and other animals) in Middlebury Town’s own Wright Park.

The two-hour guided walk is for birders of all ages along the Quest Trail, a spur off the Trail Around Middlebury.

If you were not able to join us this year we hope you can next time.

New birders, from last year’s hike.
TAM Endowment

As you may remember, MALT celebrated TAM’s 25th anniversary last year and its TAM Endowment task force set out to have $125K in the Endowment account by the end of 2016. We’ve made great progress!

Efforts to date include a nine-part series in the Addison Independent focusing on the different sections of our “Emerald Necklace,” written by different authors. If you missed any of the articles, they can be found on the MALT website. MALT held the 11th annual TAM Trek fundraiser and earned another $5K, with $2,500 going straight to maintenance and $2,500 going into the Endowment Fund. The Task Force presented to Rotary, American Legion, Horizons Club, and Lions Club and contacted many individuals in our larger community. We continue to look for and reach out to other interest groups willing to learn more and engage with this campaign.

At this time, we are delighted to report that we have received pledges of $75,000, with $45,000 in the bank. As you can see, this means we need to raise $50K more. If you are passionate about the TAM and would like to help beyond making a contribution, here’s some other ways you could assist MALT:

  - Spread the word about the Endowment Fund, ranging from informal conversations with your friends to writing a letter to a local paper’s editor.
  - Volunteer labor on any of the many maintenance jobs MALT undertakes during the summer.

Thank you again for your generosity and help. The long term viability of our remarkable TAM depends on all of us as stewards and supporters. Please contact MALT with any questions and pledges.

North Country National Scenic Trail News

The movie, “Wild” and the movie adaptation of the book, “A Walk in the Woods” have increased the popularity of thru-hiking, and consequently the amount of hikers on the well-known Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails. As a result these trails can be pretty crowded. The North Country Trail is a great alternative.

This year, we know of four thru-hikers out on the NCT. Seth Siladke and James Thomas started in South Dakota in March, and should make it to Middlebury by November. They average 20 miles a day and you can follow them on Facebook at “Eastbound on the North Country Trail”.

Also, Rick Bearwalker Carbonell, Christine Button Herpfer, and their dog Molly started heading west from Vermont on March 6, and have made it to Ohio so far. They are telling their story as “NCT4feet4paws” on Facebook.

MALT News Spring 2015—6
Otter View Park News

The garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) has (mostly) been pulled out for this year, and we are gearing up for Parsnip removal. If anyone would like to help in this exciting and risk-taking venture, please let us know. :) Many thanks to Bill Roper for mowing the meadow area, as the shrubs and trees were starting to grow in, including some invasive amur maple (*Acer ginnala*).

MALT is also planning on replacing a couple of the educational signs in the park, as well as working on the benches. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help us with any of these projects.

You can also support the park by buying a plank, which can be engraved with a name or personal message. Contact MALT for more info.

MALT Launches New Website

Take a look at our new online look! (The home page is below.) We have redesigned the website for MALT, thanks to Kathie Ross of Email Energetics and Bud Reed of Timberline, Inc. The new site is more streamlined with mobile devices and information. We have also changed our online donation service from Network for Good to PayPal, which should be easier to manage, and more recognizable. We have the Middlebury Area Land Trust Facebook page, but also have a Facebook page for the TAM (Middlebury-TAM, which was set up by Middlebury College students as an outreach project) and a Twitter feed, MALT_TAM, that is directly from the MALT Facebook page.
Upcoming Outings

Marsh, Meadow, and Grassland Wildlife Walks
Middlebury Area Land Trust and Otter Creek Audubon Society invite you to join us as we survey birds and wildlife of Otter View Park and the Hurd Grassland.

All walks start at Otter View Park parking lot in Middlebury. Shorter and longer routes possible. The primary walking path at OVP is universally accessible.

Note: These start at 7 am in the summertime.
July 11, 7 am
August 15, 7 am September 12, 7 am

Beginning Birder’s Walk with OCAS
Sat, June 20, 9am – 11am
Wright Park, Seymour Street Extension, Middlebury
Call Carol Ramsayer at 989-7115 for information.

TAM Trailwork Days
July 9 and 18 August 6 and 15

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, PO Box 804, Middlebury, VT 05753.
Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
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If you would like to remain anonymous, check here. □