Why I give to MALT, by David Hallam

After living in Chittenden County for 32 years, Patty and I decided to move “back to Vermont” and chose Middlebury in 2006. I had recently retired and we wanted to be more connected to our community.

I have always been drawn to outdoor activities; biking, skiing, hiking, and a life-long love of lacrosse. After settling into our Chipman Park home, I wanted to see what volunteer activities were available and I found MALT.

I have been volunteering 1/2 day per week ever since. I started with general office work and eventually learned to manage their donor database. Just this past year, MALT moved to a new database, Little Green Light, which has improved our efficiency immensely.

I give to MALT in both time and money. I believe that conserving land for future generations is extremely important and this work needs to be done early and as often as possible, before the land is gone. MALT takes a long-term view of how to preserve our landscapes, provides opportunity for outdoor activities, and helps us all to live balanced lives.

Reflections from Katie & Mo, Summer Camp Staff

For seven years, we’ve led MALT camps at Otter Creek Gorge. We have a stick “castle” just off the TAM, that is magical to us. We made a hobbit house with a stone foundation, a bark roof, and a soft mossy floor. Campers sold their wares, hid their backpacks, and held counsel during big games. On rainy days, kids stumbled across dark, yellow-spotted salamanders. Most have never seen one, and they always crowded around to peek.

Our castle in the forest hums with activity as campers build, make plans, and look after the lands they steward. These activities, and all the time on MALT lands, have made our camps a safe and comfortable place for us to be. It feels like home, even though it’s just a handful of sticks in the forest. We feel so lucky to call the MALT land our home each summer.