Walking the TAM in a Day

Is the TAM on your bucket list? It’s crept to the top of mine, especially after inspiration from three MALT members who recently hiked the entire TAM. Susan, Glen, and Caroline teamed up on a late winter day to celebrate their favorite local trail. I didn’t know they tackled this adventure until Susan burst into the MALT office the next day, wearing a joyous smile that is only garnered after spending a day in nature. She shared stories and pictures while laughing and waving her arms in descriptions of falling snowflakes and sun shining through the trees. I hope you enjoy their featured story in our spring newsletter. Thank you for being a member of MALT and happy trails!

- Jamie Montague, Executive Director

"The three of us set off on April 10th. A trip to the east over Chipman hill warmed up our legs. Means and Battell Woods were quiet and peaceful. The forest of the O’Neil Class of ’97 Trail ushered us over the ridge line. Timing was good for lunch at The Knoll and spring water filled the creek on the Jackson Trail. On the Johnson Trail, we had lovely views of the Green Mountains against cloudy Vermont skies.

"After a little less than six hours, we were back at the Seymour Street railroad overpass to close the TAM loop. We had walked at an average of a little more than three miles per hour and covered eighteen beautiful miles!"

The stiles in the farm fields next to Morgan Horse Farm Road sent us to the trail in Otter Creek Gorge, where the rushing water of Belden Falls was audible long before we could see it. The TAM is a local treasure in our community. Please join MALT in doing your part to make sure it continues to be maintained for generations of walkers, runners, hikers, skiers, snowshoers, families, and dog walkers to come.” -- By: Susan Polk
Items needed at MALT

- Rubbermaid bins for education supply storage
- Work gloves for trail volunteers (used is okay!)
- 2 tape measures
- Arts and craft supplies for youth; crayons, markers, colored pencils, construction paper, glue, etc. (in good condition, please)
- Steel farm gates for trail sections

Matt Dibley Scholarship

For the first time, MALT is able to offer scholarships for our nature summer camps. Close friends and family of Matt Dibley donated nearly $3,000 to MALT, in honor of the young man who passed away on July 7, 2017 after a tragic hiking accident. The scholarship funds were raised at The Dibley Cup, a local hockey tournament held in Bristol, Vermont. The scholarship fund has been named in Matt Dibley’s memory. Matt lived by his favorite phrase; “Be nice to each other out there people.” Matt’s family and friends are finding ways to teach his message to those of us who didn’t know him personally. MALT is deeply grateful to pass a love of nature to our community’s youth with these funds. Thank you!

Meet Our 2018 Summer Interns

Jenn Smith: Trails & Volunteers

Jenn grew up in Pittsford, Vermont. She attended Paul Smith’s College where she studied Natural Resources Management. After college, she worked on the Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program in Worcester, MA. She spends her free time hiking with her dog, biking, kayaking, running and hunting. This summer, Jenn will assist in the maintenance of the TAM and work side by side with MALT volunteers.

Jack Herscowitz: TAM & GIS

Jack is a native of Cabin John, Maryland and a double major in Environmental Policy and Music at Middlebury College. He grew up around the Potomac river and has a love for outdoor recreation and conservation. He plays tenor saxophone and spends his time at Middlebury playing with the jazz band, skiing, hiking, and writing music. This summer, Jack will be improving MALT’s GIS maps and assisting with trail work.

Sammy Kepes: Environmental Education

Sammy is from Addison, Vermont and is studying Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont with a focus on Environmental Education. In her free time Sammy enjoys running, hiking, biking, and spending time with her family. This summer, Sammy will be teaching MALT’s Summer Camps and implementing the education goals of our new strategic plan.
MALT's NEW Strategic Plan 2019-2021

Our Vision
Thriving natural & productive lands sustaining vibrant communities

Our Mission
Working with our community to conserve natural and productive landscapes, and to enhance scenic, recreation, and education opportunities.

Goals for 2019-2021

Conservation Goal: MALT is well poised to protect lands that align with community needs and our conservation values. Conserved lands ensure there will be natural spaces within which our community can connect and engage.

Stewardship Goal: MALT prioritizes responsible stewardship of our lands. Upholding high and rigorous stewardship standards demonstrates our credibility in maintaining quality lands for our community.

Education Goal: MALT reaches a widely diverse population with increased programming and prioritizes environmental education on MALT lands. Expanded opportunities result in more people engaging and connecting with MALT’s environmental ethic.

Recreation Goal: MALT meets increasing demand for recreation with a sustainable operative plan, improving quality and accessibility of our trails. Our trails introduce people to MALT in a physical and impassioned way.

Thank you to our members!

MALT is a member driven non-profit organization. Your donation supports the ongoing maintenance of the Trail Around Middlebury (TAM), local land conservation, and environmental education.

Ways to Give:
- Become a Member:
  - $35 Individual Membership
  - $100 Sustaining Member
  - $250 Sponsor
  - $500 Friend
- Online Donations: www.maltvt.org
- Make Checks Payable to:
  - M.A.L.T. PO Box 804
  - Middlebury, VT 05753
- MALT accepts gifts of stock:
  - Contact jamie@maltvt.org for info

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GO GREEN! Call or Email us to let us know at (802) 388-1007 / info@maltvt.org