

CREATURE ROCK: ON THE TRAIL WEST FROM LEDGE ROAD TRAILHEAD.



35 Sleepy Valley Road
Athens, VT 05143-4406



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Putney, VT 05346
Permit No.1



We honor Volunteers as stewards of the trails and the land

In 2011 and 2012, 66 volunteers plus several groups of students from the Compass School and The Putney School pitched in to help maintain and improve the trails and manage the land. They worked at maintaining the trails, clearing views, pulling invasive plants and reaching out to the public at booths during local events. *Thank you all!*

John Barnett
Valerie Barry
Maria Basescu
Michael Bennett
Ron Boslun
Joseph Brissette
John Broadley
William Brown
Russell Capron
Compass School students
Tony Coven
Kerry Doyle
Cindy Fine
Hubey Fulsom
Malcolm Guild
Roger Haydock
Adrienne Hitchcock

Ray Hitchcock
Julian Jonas
David Kahle
Susan Kochinskas
Jane Krochmalny
Bryant Kuhn
Jean Kuhn
Alison Latham
Abigail Littlefield
Meg McCarthy
John Medeiros
Lynn Morgan
David Langmaid
Gary Lavorgna
Holly Lorch
Bev Major
Randy Major

Kath Martin
Libby Mills
Jeff Nugent
Chip O'Brien
Diane O'Brien
Philip Odegard
Susan Odegard
Jeff Pelton
Nort Philips
Russell Pickering
The Putney School students
Phil Ranney
Stewart Read
Camilla Roberts
Silos Roberts
Susan Roman
Dick Sippel

David Stern
Vanessa Stern
Christian Stromberg
Andy Toepfer
Courtney Venable
Sarah Waldo
Richard Warren
Arthur Westing
Carol Westing
Lillian Willis
Richard Willis
Martha Wilmot
Molly Wilson
Paul Wilson
James World
Tim Young
Ellen Zimmerman

There were some duplicated names...I count 66 names plus the two school groups. I made this alphabetical. The Putney School always has a cap "T", so should it be alpha under "T"?

There was no high res Gate image



The facts at 20 years old:

The Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association was founded in 1991 and over the years has grown to over 1,820 acres with 21 miles of trails across five towns: Westminster, Brookline, Athens, Rockingham and Grafton. Eleven trail-heads are marked with information kiosks. There are two self guided trail tours, one at the Holden Trail to the Pinnacle

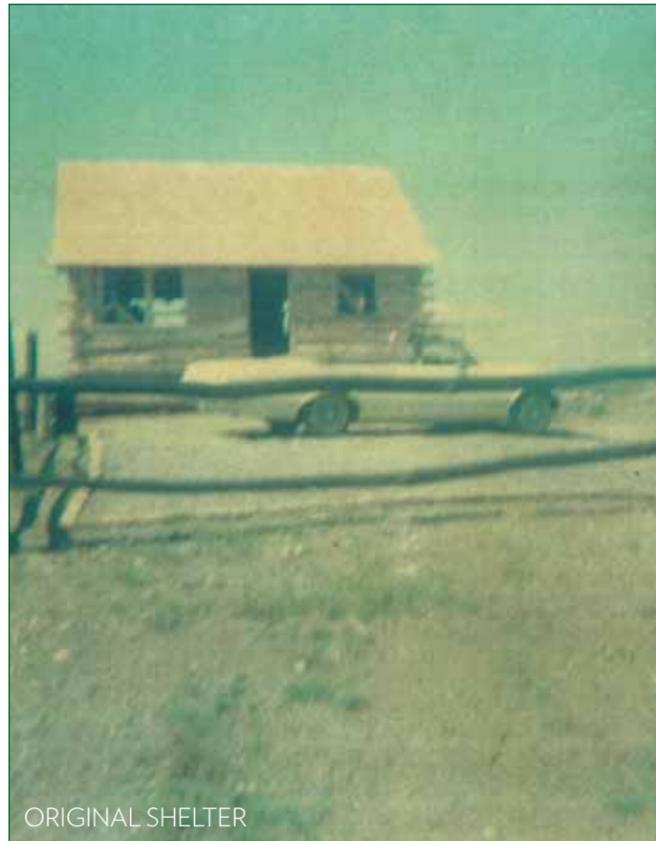
and the other is the Dunn Nature Trail at the Martin Sanctuary on Bemis Hill. It is estimated that there are at least four thousand visits by hikers per year on the trails.

See story written by Ed Dodd, with photos about the history of the shelter. 🍃



THE SHELTER AT THE PINNACLE IS THE ONLY STRUCTURE ON THE PROPERTY.

I pulled the caption sentence out of the body copy, okay?



ORIGINAL SHELTER

Pinnacle Cabin, 1999

NOTES BY TED DODD

The cabin was built as a well-equipped summer place, with running water feeding a regular kitchen and bathroom. The road up was quite passable—there is a photo of a regular sedan next to it.

By the time the Pinnacle Association came to possess it, the house was quite run down, and we decided to adapt it as more of a lean-to style campsite. We cleared it all out, making one open space with a loft, and opened half of one side to the outdoors.

Several of the logs on the east side had to be replaced, and that is what the photos show. Other projects were to point the stone wall on the west side with mortar, put on the metal roof, build the wide steps, and install the outhouse.

The work pulled together crews of volunteers who worked with great energy and enthusiasm, drawing on their professional skills and resources to improve a gorgeous spot. It was a fun project that created something for community enjoyment.

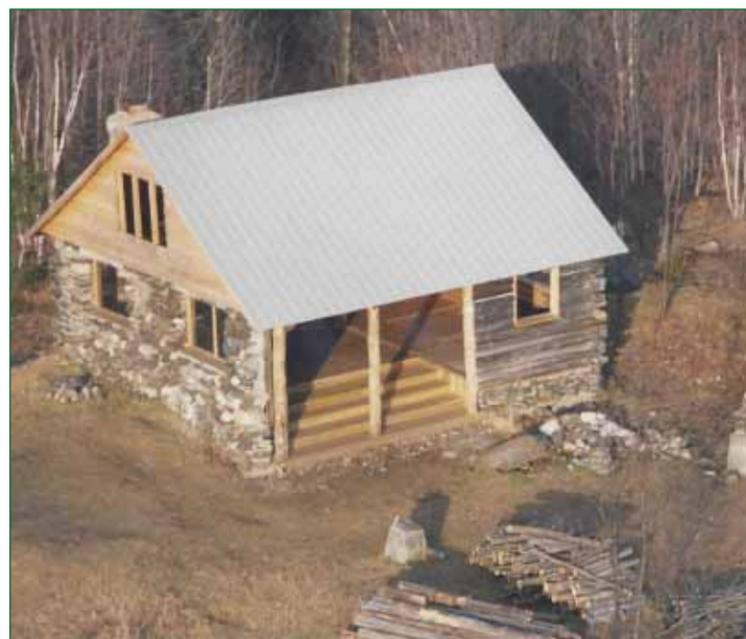
The old road was an adventure to make passage through, and we remember the generosity of the Littmans, not only for allowing our access to it, but for enabling our ownership of the Pinnacle in the first place. 🌿



AERIAL VIEW



ORIGINAL SHELTER



1999 SHELTER RENOVATION



NEW FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS LEDGE ROAD BROOK



1999 SHELTER RENOVATION



SHELTER FIREPLACE

New Trails are Completed in the Athens Dome Area

BY CAMILLA ROBERTS

In a burst of energy and eagerness last fall, the new trails were developed in the Athens Dome area. These 4 miles of new trails are open for public use, complete with two trailheads that include kiosks, parking, and maps. Maps are available at the kiosks and on the website windmillhillpinnacle.org. The trail is marked by white discs, with the spur trail to the overlook being marked by yellow discs, and the Bear Hill trail with blue slashes (a pre-existing trail that is not maintained by the Pinnacle Association)

Some of the most interesting features are:

Boulder field: near the top of the trail from RT 35 Sleepy Valley trailhead to Ledge Road trailhead. These are a jumble of large boulders left by the glacier in a large swath of steep slope. The trail picks through them, among hardy plants that have found a fertile crevice between the rocks in which to grow.

Creature Rock: on the trail west from Ledge Road trailhead. There is a steep uphill hike at first, arriving at the Creature Rock site (see photo) quite quickly. These enormous boulders are naturally piled and balanced together by the glaciers aeons ago with nooks and crannies that offer shelter to “creatures”. Noises from creatures were heard occasionally by the family that previously owned the property, hence the name of “Creature Rock”.

Overlook: from the height of the land above Ledge Road Brook can be found on the same trail beyond creature Rock, by a spur to the right.

Spruce forest wetland: (or possibly bog) is located in the most remote area of the Athens Dome trails, east of and below the summit of Bear Hill in Grafton. This is a deep dark quiet forest with hummocks and wet troughs. The trail crosses along the edge of this special area.

One billion year old bedrock: Walking from the Sleepy Valley trail head to the exposed bedrock on the Athens Dome trail that goes to the wetland represents a travel in geologic time of 1 billion years (500 Ma to 1400 Ma).

Soapstone quarry area: is located along the south side of the ledge Road about 2 miles in from the Ledge Road trailhead. A kiosk has been placed at the road to provide information about the historic quarries.

There are many loop hiking options by combining the new trails with the old town roads in the Athens Dome. 🌿