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End-to-End Committee  
Green Mountain Club  
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Hello:

I am surprised, as I review my memories of twenty-one years of backpacking, to find that I have taken only five hikes in Vermont. Somehow of all the states and all the trails and all the terrains I have hiked, it is the Green Mountains which are, to me, the most varied, the most lovely, the most precious. Other backpacking trips are visits away; on the Long Trail I am at home. This explains, I am sure, why in those five trips (indeed, in only three of them) I have completely covered the Long Trail.

With this letter I am applying for end-to-end certification. I have attached a brief report detailing my daily activities.

Sincerely,

Dan Styer

## End-to-End Report

Dan Styer

### 1982: Sherburne Pass to Camel's Hump

- June 21* Bus to Rutland, hitchhike to Sherburne Pass. Walk in about a quarter mile and camp.
- June 22* My first sighting of Braun's Holly Fern. At David Logan Shelter, a hummingbird flies among the Cow-Parsnip. Sleep alone there. Torrential downpour at night, during which porkie enters shelter.
- June 23* Rain on-and-off all day. My first sightings of Twisted Stalk, of White Bog Orchis (*Habenaria dilatata*), and of Three-toothed Cinquefoil. Impress a family at Sunrise Shelter by building a fire in the soaking wet woods. Slip and fall on wet puncheon, hurting knee. Sleep at Sucker Brook Shelter, which is full.
- June 24* Weather clears—beautiful day. Walk with a recently engaged woman, and promise to send her recipes for wedding cake. Sleep alone at Boyce Shelter.
- June 25* White-throated Sparrows call at Skylight Pond. Marsh Blue Violet nearby. Great views from Bread Loaf. Sleep at Cooley Glen Shelter with five late-nighters.
- June 26* Leave Cooley Glen in rain and mist before the others even stir. Weather improves all day: broken clouds at Mt. Abraham, good views at Mt. Ellen, exceptionally clear at Stark's Nest. Meet the roving caretaker, Jeff, at Mt. Ellen. He has a growing interest in ferns, as do I, and we discuss ferns all the way to Stark's Nest, where we will sleep. Most spectacular sunset of my life: Lake Champlain turns into molten gold.
- June 27* Write letter from Stark's Nest to my sister, who was caretaker there in 1975. Find two Painted Trillium, still in bloom! Keep careful list of all ferns from Stark's Nest to Montclair Glen Lodge, and leave it there for Jeff's edification. Allen Range is the toughest hiking I've ever done. I'm bushed when I get to Montclair Glen Lodge, where I sleep (with caretaker and a father-son team). My knee is killing me.
- June 28* Camel's Hump is worth every knee injury it demands. Summit naturalist points out Rusty Woodsia and Smooth Woodsia, and insists (without explanation) that I visit Will Monroe's cemetery. Leave by the Forestry Trail. Hitchhike to Waterbury. Next day bus home to Ithaca.

## 1987: Camel's Hump to Quebec

- July 27* Fly to Burlington, taxi to bottom of Bamforth Ridge Trail. Walk up about two miles through a brief rain, then camp. Sunset reflects from water droplets clinging to spruce. "I'm surrounded by sunset."
- July 28* Bamforth Ridge and Alpine Trails to Camel's Hump, which is as wonderful as ever. See Asters, Turtlehead, Large-leaved Goldenrod, Twisted Stalk with orange fruits. My first sighting of Small Purple Fringed Orchis. Dinner at Wiley Lodge, camp in Honey Hollow.
- July 29* Tough and beautiful new trail from Duck Brook Shelter to summit of Bolton. . . built by the spiritual heirs of Will Monroe. Disturb a pair of porkies. Sleep on the summit of Bolton. See three meteors before I drift off, which is in about forty seconds.
- July 30* Mansfield! What else can I say? Weather and views are great. Ravens play in the updrafts, tumbling around each other. Stay at Taft Lodge (with caretaker and a youth group of about ten). After dinner, walk to Adam's Apple and Chin, which are wrapped in mist. Return via Profanity Trail.
- July 31* Pre-breakfast trip up Profanity to Chin. Even clearer than yesterday. Can I see Mount Holyoke, Massachusetts? The beauty of this day never lets up. Camp on north slope of Whiteface.
- August 1* Nice day through lowland woods. Fast downhill walking brings back my 1982 knee injury. Sleep at Parker Camp, perhaps cleanest on the Long Trail. Make two friends there.
- August 2* Lose trail in the maze of recent logging, walk about a mile extra on my bum knee. What species live in the "fern-filled defile" of Devil's Gulch? Common Polypody and Spinulose Woodfern. A swim in Ritterbush Pond temporarily improves my spirits. View from Belvidere reveals approaching storm, but I'm too tired to make it to Tillotson Camp. I camp out one and a half miles north of Belvidere and get wet.
- August 3* Heavy rain all morning, soaked all day. Camp north of Domey's Dome. When I take off my boots, I find that my entire foot is wrinkled.
- August 4* Help evacuate hiker with broken ankle from the north slope of Jay (see essay "To Bourn Pond"). The spring at Laura Woodward Shelter is a flower garden. Sleep alone at Shooting Star Shelter. . . beautiful setting!
- August 5* Walk to Canada today. Border swath reveals deep blue sky with cirrus. Walk back to route 105 where I meet my mother for a visit.

### 1989: Williamstown, Massachusetts to Sherburne Pass

- June 19* Fly to Albany, taxi to Williamstown. Fifty yards north of the Vermont line I am greeted by my favorite flower, Wood Sorrel. Sleep alone at Seth Warner Shelter.
- June 20* Flush a Wild Turkey! Find twenty-one Pink Lady's Slippers in a patch. Camp a quarter mile north of Melville Nauheim Shelter, at "mosquito haven".
- June 21* Goddard Shelter is black fly paradise. Eat lunch at Glastenbury Mountain tower, where wind keeps the flies away but views are limited by cloud. Painted Trillium in bloom near summit. Rain late afternoon and night. Sleep alone at Story Spring Shelter.
- June 22* Moose tracks on trail south of Kelly Stand road. New trail on Stratton Mountain is magnificent... White Birch groves underlaid with blankets of Hay-scented Fern. My first sighting of Wild Calla. Enormous White and Yellow Birch trees. See essay "To Bourn Pond". Swim in Stratton Pond, sleep there alone in Vondell Shelter.
- June 23* Swim in Stratton Pond at sunrise. See a loon. Excellent water at Spruce Peak Shelter. Camp on south slope of Styles Peak, where it rains but I stay delightfully dry.
- June 24* Sky starts out cloudy, ends up clear. Swim at Griffith Lake (in a cloud) and at Big Branch. Magical sounds of Little Black Brook. Best swim of my life at Little Rock Pond. Camp one mile north of Little Rock Pond.
- June 25* Bird songs near White Rocks. Holsteins in pasture beyond Beacon Hill. My first sighting of American Brooklime. Find Common Wood Sorrel with lavender petals (forma *rhodantha*). [Under a boulder on west side of trail sixty yards north of the crossing of the east branch of Cold River: division V, mile 9.8.] Sleep alone at Governor Clement Shelter.
- June 26* Go back to see lavender Wood Sorrel again, then north to Killington. I decide that the best water on the Long Trail comes from the stream just south of Consultation Point. Goldthread in bloom on Killington summit spur. Killington summit is crowded with black flies. Pico summit is breezy, with nice views. Sleep alone at Pico Camp.
- June 27* Walk to Sherburne Pass, then on down Appalachian Trail to route 100. Hitchhike to Troy, New York. Next day fly home to Oberlin.