

Bar Hill

Barr Hill received its usual stream of visitors during the year. Among others, it featured a massive reunion of the Mackenzie-Stevens clan. Last August Tracy St. Louis cut out a large clump of softwoods blocking the view from the upper picnic area. In the spring of this year a team from the Nature Conservancy/Montpelier re-marked the boundaries. In June Kevin Rich brushhogged several areas below the picnic sites. Eric Clark got the road in excellent condition at the start of the season, then had to bring in gravel and yolk-rake again after severe storms in July badly damaged the road. The Barr Hill Stewardship Committee is discussing alternatives for longer-lasting improvements to the road.

In October the Vermont Nature Conservancy's Science and Stewardship Committee visited the Long Pond Preserve with a conservation biologist from Audubon/Vermont, who pointed out the suitability of various forest configurations in the preserve to different forest bird species. After several users of Long Pond called for protecting the pond's pristine character and limiting access to 4-wheel drive vehicles, the Selectboard declined VT Fish and Wildlife's proposal to improve Long Pond Road and clear a parking area next to the pond to facilitate fishing access.