HMCA Activities Update

by Diana Todd

for sharing at the January 2019 meeting of the HPC

A summary of what HMCA has been doing in the interval since the last submission in early November, 2018.

* The traditional ski trails cleanup day was held on the Friday after Thanksgiving, with good turnout despite the ground already being snow-covered.
* After the Nov. 26 storm with heavy, wet snow that caused widespread, days-long power outages across the county and the state due to downed trees, reports have come back that the Hogback trails that have been inspected typically have few if any blowdowns that will need a chainsaw to clear. Most of the fallen debris is small enough to move by hand - but it’s frozen in. Trail cleanup days will be planned for spring.
* Charley Eiseman reports that he is working on the winter tracking portion of the Biodiversity Inventory. He has found lots of fisher track on the north side of Route 9.
* The traditional New Year’s Eve Sunset hike to the Mt. Olga fire tower had eight participants despite it being a cloudy day with no sunset to see. A good time was had by all despite the hard packed and icy condition of the Tower Trail.
* The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum hosted a First Day hike on Hogback on New Year’s Day, with 15 participants. The hike was led by naturalist Mike Clough, Museum Asst. Director, and was co-sponsored by HMCA.
* At our Annual Meeting, held Jan 3, 2019, HMCA thanked outgoing Directors Carol Berner and Staley McDermet, and elected new Directors John Kohler and Pieter van Loon to serve three-year terms. Director Nancy Anderson was elected to serve a second three-year term. Officers were elected: President - Diana Todd, Vice President - Jack Widness, Secretary/Treasurer - Nancy Anderson. Staley McDermet will continue to serve as Assistant Treasurer.
* HMCA staffed a table at the nonprofit showcase hosted by Strolling of the Heifers at the River Garden in Brattleboro on January 4, during the monthly Gallery Walk night. Twelve people (or over 5% of the estimated 200 visitors) signed up to receive HMCA’s email newsletter.
* The website has received an average of 15 visits per day during the past two months.
* HMCA has adopted a new logo, designed for us by volunteer Jessica Weitz.

