

Green Mountain Club Mud Season/Eclipse Content

Mud Season

The weather this time of year changes so much it gives us whiplash! It may be clear and warm one day, then freezing and snowing the next. The varying conditions we've seen throughout the mild winter – fewer and shorter periods of freeze and more frequent thaws – means that Vermont is seeing mud-season-like conditions throughout the winter and sooner in March than in previous years.

GMC will be working closely with Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation to issue official mud season trail closures later in the month, but it's never too late to brush up on mud season hiking practices and trail etiquette. Remember when you encounter muddy trails while hiking, consider turning around and finding another place to hike, or please hike directly through mud to avoid widening the trail and damaging plant life.

Mud Season Resource Links:

- GMC's [mud season guidance page](#)
- Mud season [hike recommendations](#)
- Executive Director Mike DeBonis' [interview with NBC5](#) about what a mild winter and early mud season means for hikers and the club's trail management practices
- [VT Digger article](#) about how fewer winter freezes and more frequent thaws are changing mud season

Total Solar Eclipse

The total solar eclipse is coming right up in northern Vermont! Protect yourselves and Vermont's beautiful natural spaces: use caution and avoid the mountains on eclipse day. Stay safe, stay in town: Early April means unpredictable, variable weather in Vermont. Hiking trails and mountaintops may be cold, snowy, icy, or muddy, and require winter-specific equipment and experience to safely navigate. Vermont's trails are steep and rugged, and difficult to navigate in winter conditions.

Emergency response services and trailhead access may be compromised on eclipse day, due to crowds and traffic, and cell phone coverage is not consistent in the backcountry. Plus, Vermont's mountaintops are home to fragile, endangered alpine vegetation. Walking on these plants can kill them. Trails on state land are closed to protect high-elevation environments during the spring mud season.

Don't overshadow safety: Stick to organized events and avoid the backcountry. Make the eclipse one to remember (for good!)

GMC's Eclipse Resources

- [GMC's Eclipse Guide](#)
- [Eclipse FAQs](#)

Final Winter Speaker and Spring Workshops

"Being Outside and Outside the Binary" with Kae Ravichandran

Join the Green Mountain Club for the final speaker in this year's winter speaker series at 7 p.m. on March 28, on Zoom. Runner and advocate Kae Ravichandran will share her experiences with running, gender identity, and inclusivity in the running and trail running communities. Kae became the first winner of the Boston Marathon's non-binary division in 2023 and studies as a medical student at UVM.

Link to register <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/greenmountainclub/1092311>

Upcoming Spring Workshops

- [Backpacking 101](#), on Zoom from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 28
- [Long Trail End-to-End Panel](#), on Zoom from 6-7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 3
- [Wild Spring Edibles of the Northeast](#), at GMC Headquarters in Waterbury Center from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 12
- [Essentials of Map and Compass](#), at GMC Headquarters in Waterbury Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 19