**Fall 2024 CHNSA Newsletter**

Hello CHNSA Skiers,

We have been hard at work preparing the trails for our 45th winter, so here is a recap of what we’ve done and a to-do list of tasks still to be completed.

The trails have been mowed so we encourage you to come up and take a walk on your favorite trails to see what conditions look like and get you excited for winter. One task that is taking up more of our time these days is weedwhacking along the edges of the trails to beat back the weeds and woody vegetation that wants to encroach on the trails. So, there are still a couple of days left to complete this task.

Given the vagaries of climate change, we are looking for ways, short of snowmaking, to guarantee as much good skiing on decent snow conditions as possible. One solution has been to improve the drainage and create a smooth, grassy turf trail surface so we can be ready to safely ski on a minimum of snow. We’re reaching that point on the “dog loop”. We have gone over some of the trails with a “Harley rake” to dredge up and remove stones that sometimes compromise the quality of the grooming and followed up with re-seeding.

Still to do are a couple of significant small bridge repairs on Dead River Run and Skunk Brook trail. It’s also the time of year when we make and install “waterbar bridges in the waterbars along the trails. This encourages maximum snow accumulation in waterbars with running water that would normally melt newfallen snow until deeper winter cold sets in.

We can’t avoid mention of the logging that has recently finished up in the area of Woodchuck Ramble and Bear Claw. We hope to get an excavator up there this pre-season to clean up and re-shape those trails and guarantee clear access to the popular backcountry Lion’s Ridge trail in Camel’s Hump State Park.

With a great weather forecast of sun and warm temperatures coming up for the next week or more, we will be out working on those chores. So…stay tuned for announcements of a couple of additional workdays soon.

This is also the time of year when we look to see season pass purchases pick up to cushion our bank balance as annual fixed expenses come due: insurance, VSAA dues, ongoing payments on the grooming machine, etc.. Please consider going online to our website, [www.camelshumpskiers.org](http://www.camelshumpskiers.org) to purchase your season pass. The price remains the same as it’s been for several seasons, and it’s the best bargain around, especially if you’re interested in taking advantage of the VSAA “reciprocal pass” program that entitles you to a free day of skiing at each participating Nordic area (that includes most areas in Vermont).

Happy Skiing!!

Dave Brautigam, President

CHNSA