

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2012

Lt. Governor Phil Scott works on Long Trail Patrol

Montpelier, VT – Lt. Governor Phil Scott worked with the Green Mountain Club’s Long Trail Patrol today, restoring some damaged portions of the Long Trail in the Shrewsbury area.

Today’s 5-hour “working hike” was part of Lt. Governor Phil Scott’s Vermont Everyday Jobs initiative, where he tackles various hands-on endeavors that are new to him, but part of the everyday routine for the Vermonters in those fields.

The Green Mountain Club maintains more than 500 miles of Vermont hiking trails and more than 60 shelters. The club’s Long Trail Patrol, made up of both paid staff and volunteers, is charged with the heavy-duty construction work necessary to maintain the trail system – such as repairing shelters, building steps, improving trail drainage, and more.

“Folks who have done any amount of hiking along Vermont’s trails can’t help but wonder how those massive stone steps are placed, or who cuts the drainage ditches, and so forth,” Lt. Gov. Scott said. “They certainly don’t magically appear. It’s hard work, and in some pretty inaccessible places.

“Not only does their dedication give all of us places to play on the weekends, but it also draws a tremendous amount of visitors to our state and helps provide a good experience for them, which is critical to our economy. The Long Trail Patrol is part of what happens behind the scenes to make Vermont what it is. I was proud to work alongside them today.”

Lt. Gov. Scott also toured some Irene-related damage to both roads and hiking trails in the Shrewsbury area as part of today’s visit. The day started off with a tough conversation with the town road commissioner, a 30-year veteran of town service who expressed his frustration with the lack of certainty about the availability of state and federal funds for road repairs.

“We’ve made a lot of progress, but today was a very visible and hands-on reminder that there’s still work to be done to rebuild our infrastructure after Irene – both in terms of roads as well as the recreational facilities that we may not use or see every day,” Lt. Gov. Scott said. “Obviously this is an issue I’ll continue working on along with other state officials – asking questions and doing whatever we can to support the communities that still need our help.”

About Lt. Gov. Phil Scott’s “Vermont Everyday Jobs” Initiative

Lt. Governor Phil Scott started his “Vermont Everyday Jobs” initiative last year to promote Vermont businesses and strengthen the relationship between the business community and state government. By finding out in a hands-on manner what it takes to make Vermont businesses work, the Lt. Governor will gain a better understanding of what state government can do to help those businesses work better.

Previous “Vermont Everyday Jobs” have included:

IBM / Essex, VT
Dr. Alison Cornwall, DVM (Large-Animal Veterinarian) / Central VT
Smugglers’ Notch Distillery / Jeffersonville
Burlington Fire Department
Vermont Rail Systems / Rutland
Vermont Foodbank / Rutland
The Addison Eagle / Middlebury
GE Aviation / Rutland
Orange County Sheriff's Department / Chelsea
Lake Champlain Ferry / Burlington
Breakwater Café / Burlington
Windjammer Best Western Inn / South Burlington
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice / Berlin
Beekeeping with French Hill Apiaries / St. Albans
Doug Cox Violins / Brattleboro
Teaching second grade at Union Memorial Elementary School / Colchester
Assembling solar trackers at AllEarth Renewables / Williston
Stowe Mountain Resort
Porter Hospital / Middlebury
Working with a line team at Green Mountain Power / South Burlington
Vermont Quicklube / South Barre

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