

# 25 Years of People, Paths, Possibilities

Jay Davis, Former UVTA Board Member

My favorite memories from my eleven years on the UVTA Board certainly involve trails, but more specifically the people that these trails brought together.

The Board itself was a great example: amazing men and women from all over the greater Upper Valley, each committed to working together to help build trails and communities. I learned so much of what I now know about effective board governance from board leadership during those years, and I also laughed, a lot, while we were doing the hard work. To spend time with a group of people for a couple of hours – discussing, arguing, compromising – and then still want to see those people at the next meeting? That's a good group of people to be part of.

I also remember the countless volunteers who helped to make our events possible. Whether the Lake Morey Skate-a-thon, or the Tour-de-Taste, or the medical community's "Prescribe a Walk," National Trails Day, or so many separate trail-building and maintaining outings, it was the UVTA volunteer base who made it all work. With Russ's unparalleled instincts for how to leverage networks for good, people came together to do important work and in doing so made important connections with each other.

So all of those people are at the foundation of the UVTA, but the people I most associate with my time on the Board are the hundreds of children that our organization was honored to support. We started both the Passport to Winter Fun program and the Trails Corps program during my time, which I got to enjoy as a board member but also as a parent. Both of my children spent hours working on their passports each year, and one of my sons worked in the Trails Corps program for parts of two consecutive summers. I know from them, and from so many other families, that the UVTA creatively and strategically helps to bring countless kids together in the outdoors, and with a community service focus when they are old enough.

A mission, and results, for the UVTA to be proud of!

Jay Davis