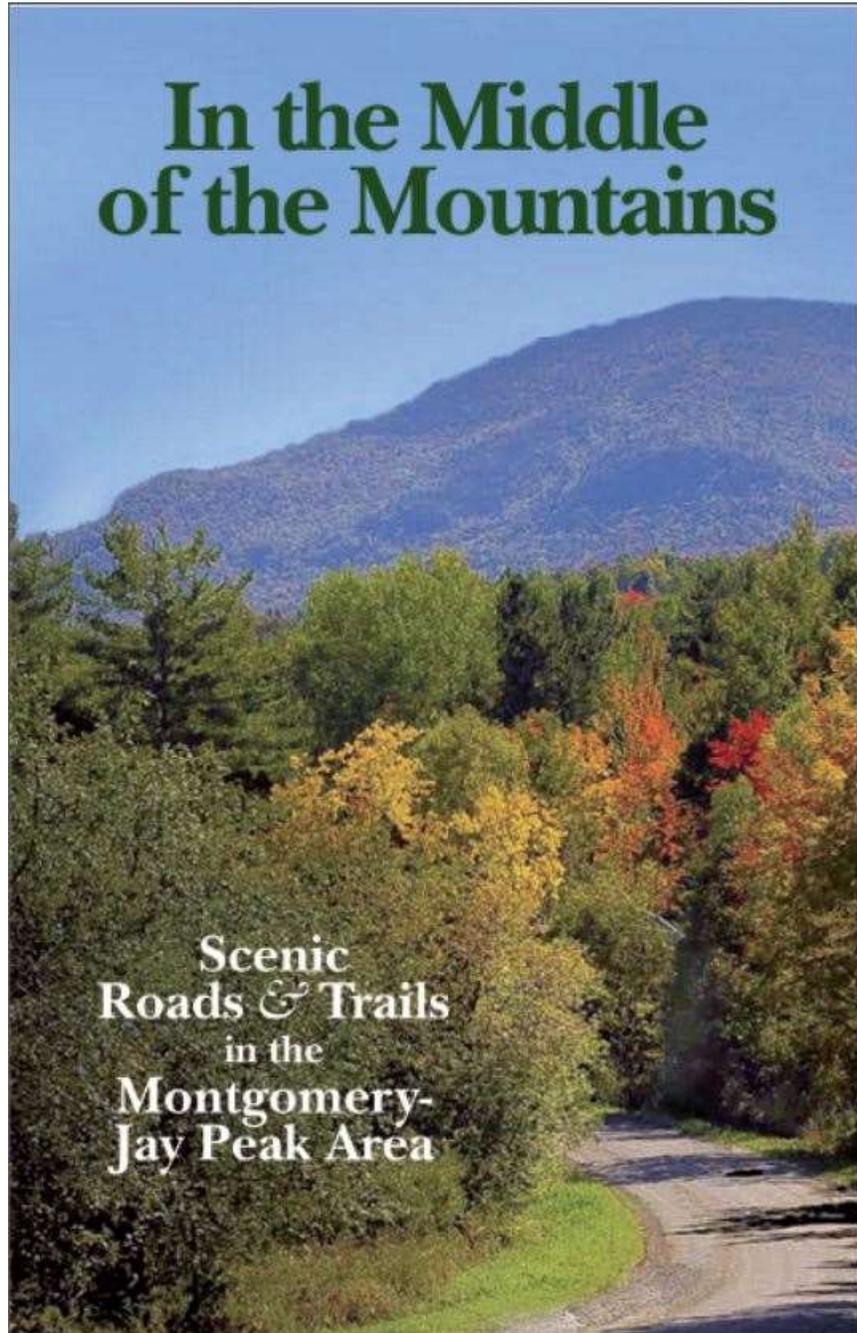


**All book's proceeds go to the Recreation Board to support its popular children's summer camp and other programs.**



## **New Guidebook Describes Scenic Roads and Trails in the Montgomery–Jay Peak Area**

**T**he Montgomery Recreation Board’s new guidebook—*In the Middle of the Mountains: Scenic Roads & Trails in the Montgomery–Jay Peak Area*—describes eight road tours, seven “easy walks” and 15 hikes leading to the “most beautiful scenery in the northernmost Green Mountains.”

Illustrated with color photographs, the pocket-size 208-page book provides detailed descriptions of mountain views, ponds, waterfalls, cascades, seven historic covered bridges and distinctive 19th-century architecture.



The book’s road tours—which range from a 6-mile loop to a 31-mile round trip—offer continuing views of the highest summits in far-northern Vermont and make dramatic crossings of the Green Mountains in Jay Pass, on Rt. 242; North Jay Pass, on Rt. 105; and Hazen’s Notch, on Rt. 58.

Among the region’s “easy walks” are:

- .2-mile round trips to Big Falls in Troy and Crystal Falls in Montgomery;

- a .6-mile round trip along the big, broad cascades of the ironically named Pacific Brook, also in Montgomery;

- a 1.2-mile round trip to and around secluded Riterbush Pond in Eden; and

- a .5-mile ramble around the open summit of Jay Peak, the highest mountain in far-northern Vermont. Jay’s craggy 3,858-foot summit—which can be quickly and easily ascended on the aerial tram at the Jay Peak

Resort—affords views of mountains and lakes in three states and Canada.

All 15 hikes offer at least one view of mountains in Vermont or Canada, and ten of them lead to several vistas. Together they take you to every major viewpoint in the far-northern Green Mountains. Eleven hikes follow the Long Trail, the famed 272-mile footpath that runs on or near the crest of the Green Mountains from Massachusetts to Canada.



The best hikes, according to the guide, include a moderate 5.8-mile round trip to the restored fire tower atop 3,360-foot Belvidere Mountain and a 4.2-mile round trip to two overlooks on 3,223-foot Haystack Mountain. The panoramic views from both landmarks rival those from Jay Peak as the “best in the region,” according to the guide.

Eight hikes, or more than half the total, are less than 4 miles. These include:

- an “undemanding” 1.4-mile round trip through a covered bridge that offers continuing views of the Jay Massif and other Green Mountains;
- three “very moderate” 2.3- to 2.6-mile round trips; and
- two excursions where you ride the tram to Jay’s summit and make a moderate, “view-filled,” 2- or 2.7-mile descent of the mountain on intermediate or beginner ski trails.



The guide was written by the landscape designer and writer Robert Gillmore, who lives in Montgomery. Gillmore is the author of the Great Walks guides to day hikes in seven national parks, including Acadia, in Maine.

Its color pictures are by the award-winning photographer Eileen Oktavec, also of Montgomery, whose work illustrates the Great Walks guides.



The book has received favorable media coverage, including a review in *Seven Days*, which wrote:

“Writer Gillmore and photographer Oktavec pack an incredible amount of information into this pocket-size book—far more information than we should probably expect from a book published by the recreation board of a tiny Vermont town.

“An ideal stocking-stuffer for anyone who loves the outdoors, *In the Middle of the Mountains* contains everything you need to know about 15 hikes, eight road tours and seven ‘easy walks’ through some of Vermont’s most spectacular scenery.”



Selling for \$12.95, the guide includes five detailed maps and an extensive index. It’s available at area retailers and at bookstores throughout northern Vermont.

Copies can also be ordered directly by sending a check or money order payable to the Town of Montgomery, along with your mailing address, to: Montgomery Recreation Board, PO Box 356, Montgomery Center, VT 05471-0356. Shipping is free.