

JANUARY 2010

Brule-St. Croix Chapter Winter Newsletter



2010 Chapter Calendar of Events

Iron River Hikers—weekly year round! Meet Tuesdays at 9 AM at Orchards Café. Contact Bob Norlin, 715-372-5229

Solon Springs Hikers—weekly, meet Thursdays at 9:30 AM at Community Center, starting in April. Contact Lynne Nason, 715-378-4412.

Spring Chapter Meeting - Saturday, April 17th, 9 AM at Highland Town Hall, Lake Nebagamon

NCTA National Conference—August 5-8, Ashland, WI

North Country Trail Association

Brule-St. Croix Chapter

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Chapter Elects New President, Looks Forward to 2010

Tim Mowbray of Solon Springs was elected president of the Brule-St. Croix Chapter at the fall chapter meeting, succeeding Dave Zosel. Tim has been active with the chapter as a member and trail maintainer for more than five years. Peter Nason was re-elected chapter treasurer for another two year term.

In 2010, the chapter will be active in building new trail westward in the Gordon Dam area. A new trailhead will be built on the west side of US 53 due to the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant on the current site. In addition to our traditional National Trails Day celebration on the first weekend in June, there will be activities and volunteer opportunities for many chapter members when the North Country Trail Association National Conference comes to Ashland, August 5th through 8th.

Make Plans Now to Attend the National Conference in Ashland, August 5-8

The NCTA conference returns to Wisconsin this year for the first time since 1997. The conference schedule will include lots of activities with other trail enthusiasts—hikes, of course, including two in our area—and a Brule River canoe trip, an ecological tour of the Chequamegon Bay area, seminars on trail maintenance, chapter communications, great food and live music! We'll need volunteers to help with many of these activities as well as the behind-the-scenes fun of having a conference. The conference is always a great chance to meet others from the NCTA chapters, learn, and share.

Contact conference chair Lynne Nason, 715-378-4412 or phlpnason@gmail.com, to get involved. Watch the North Star this spring for the conference registration form.

Call for New Trail Adopters

When spring comes around—and April is now less than three months away—three new adopters will be needed for sections of trail in our area. Becoming a trail adopter is a rewarding experience. It's a lot like making a new friend. The section of trail you adopt becomes familiar, and you get to know it so well you can spot each little change along the route. Trees become landmarks, you anticipate animal signs, you watch for the effects of weather and the seasons. The most rewarding experience waits for you on each visit when you open the register box and take out the book. You'll be surprised by who's been hiking your section—people from distant places, or sometimes a neighbor you never expected to be a hiker. The most common message in all of our books is, "Great trail! Thank you for making it possible."

Adopting comes with responsibility, of course. You need to make sure the trail is clear and hikeable in all seasons. Regular mowing in the warmer months ensures that hikers have a quality experience. Keeping the trail clearly blazed is important, as is maintenance or replacement of signs, benches, and other trail features. The NCT was designated by the National Park Service to provide a high quality hiking experience. It's up to us, working with the NPS, to make sure that's what hikers find when they explore our trail.

Want to join our crew of trail adopters? Just contact Peter Nason at 715-378-4412 or phlpnason@gmail.com, and plan to attend the April 17th spring chapter meeting for initial training and orientation.

Superior Days—Taking the Trail to the Capitol

Once again Superior Days, our regional citizen lobbying event, will promote the development of the North Country Trail. NCTA representatives will meet with officials of the DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism to update them on our trail development progress. We'll also update our area legislators, and thank them for the support they've shown for our trail.

Superior Days in Madison will be February 23rd and 24th. Visit www.superiordays.com for more information. Want to join the NCTA contingent at the Capitol? Contact Peter Nordgren, 715-292-3484 or pnordgre@yahoo.com.

Help Us Find New Members

While our trail grows, our chapter membership has slipped a bit in recent months. All of us know someone who enjoys the trail but is not yet a member. They may just not know about the fun that comes from reading the North Star or getting involved in the chapter. Clip that sponsored member form out of the North Star, or make a few photocopies, and pass them out to those prospective members. Consider the benefits: the North Star four times a year, chapter hikes, National Trails Day events, and a great trail to enjoy.

View Our Video Online

Several of our chapter members were featured in "National Parks Wisconsin" on the Wisconsin Public Television network. If you haven't seen the program, watch online:

<http://wpt2.org/NPA/NationalParks.cfm>.

NCT Manager Retires

Fred Szarka, National Park Service Manager for the North Country Trail, retired on January 1st. Fred was a regular visitor to BSC trail and helped bring the National Park Service's regional director to one of our National Trails Day celebrations. It's expected an interim manager will be appointed soon, with a permanent replacement sometime later this year. Meanwhile we will continue to work with NCT Superintendent Tom Gilbert in the NPS Madison office.