



## Chief Noonday Chapter

*of southcentral Michigan, including Calhoun, Kalamazoo & Barry Counties*

North Country Trail Association

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

Meetings are at **7:00 PM** at the Barry Township Hall on Orchard Street in Delton the second Wednesday of each month, and are open to the public. Meetings through the second quarter of 2007 are **April 11, May 9 and June 13.**

**REMINDER:** For the latest information, especially toward the end of the quarter, please visit our web site: <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/cnd/index.htm>

### **A HIKE A MONTH and the HIKE COMMITTEE**

At our February meeting we decided to sponsor, or at least be involved with, a hike every month. You will note the schedule below shows the beginning of this effort. **Joe Higdon** and **Charles Krammin** have volunteered as 2 of the 5 people we think we need to serve on our Hike Committee to sustain this effort. Please contact them, or **Larry Hawkins**, if you are interested in helping, at [hawkeyemd@cablespeed.com](mailto:hawkeyemd@cablespeed.com) or at 269-945-5398.

### **April 21 Hike Western Linear Trail (Battle Creek)**

We will be hiking the western portion of the Linear Trail in Battle Creek on **April 21**, from Brady St to downtown (5 miles). We will meet at **Cereal City Parking lot at 9:30** and carpool to Brady Street to start the hike. Lunch at Arcadia Brewery is an option.

Cereal City can be reached by taking I-94 to exit 98B, taking I-194 downtown, and turning left on Michigan Avenue. It is the red brick building a couple blocks down and across the river.

Brady Street is on the Dickman Road curve about 1.1 miles East of Armstrong Road, which is near the Fort Custer Cemetery. At the end of Brady Street is parking, and the start of our hike.

**We welcome anyone who is interested to join us for any of our hikes or work day events.**

### **April 28 Work Day with Baw Beese Chapter**

We have tentatively scheduled a trail project in the Lost Nations SGA of the Baw Beese Chapter, our neighboring Chapter south of Calhoun County. **Larry Hawkins** will be finalizing this with the president of the Baw Beese Chapter, **Steve Veer**, with more details available soon. See the web site, sign up for our Yahoo email reminders, or contact Larry Hawkins for final details.

### **May 5 Canoe the Thornapple & Hike (Middleville)**

The Middleville Trail Enhancement Committee will be hosting the **5-5-7 Volksmarch & Volkscanoe in Middleville**. Our Chapter is linking with this event, with a canoe trip down the Thornapple River, and a hike back to the DNR landing in Irving (2.9 miles +).

**Charles Krammin** will be bringing the scout canoes (4) with PFD, and anyone wishing to use their own canoe or kayak may also bring it. **It is important to let Charles know if you want to reserve a spot on one of his canoes.** Contact Charles at [krammin@core.com](mailto:krammin@core.com) or 269-945-2569. We will meet at the river access in Irving at **9:00 am**. Take M-37 to McCann Road. Turn left on Irving Road and the DNR landing will be on your left 0.5 miles. We will canoe to Middleville, take out at the portage, then hike back to Irving on the Paul Henry Trail. If you are going to go for AVA credit, you will need to register at the Stagecoach Park while you are there.

### **May 5 Trail Adopters Workshop at Kellogg Forest**

**Dave Cornell** will be leading our annual workshop for adopters at Kellogg Forest on **May 5 at 8:30 am**. This is a good chance to brush up on skills, get some blazing paint, and pose for our annual picture. This is open to anyone that is interested. The Kellogg Forest Parking Lot is 3.6 miles north of Augusta on 41<sup>st</sup> Street (by the Shell station), and 1 mile south of M-89 on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. Note the street numbers change, but the road is the same.

### **May 12 Spring Wildflower Hike at Fort Custer Cemetery (between Battle Creek and Augusta)**

Our annual wildflower hike will be on the Fort Custer Cemetery section of our trail. We often have the help of someone who actually knows the names of all the flowers, so here is a chance to brush up on your flower naming skills. This hike is about 2.6 miles.

We will meet at the trailhead on Armstrong Road at **9:00 am** and carpool to our starting point. Armstrong Road is about 2 miles east of Augusta on Dickman Road (M-96), and the trailhead is 0.7 miles north of Dickman. We will start the hike at the intersection of Dickman Road and Fort Custer Drive, less than 0.5 miles east of Augusta. Beavers have been active, so bring footwear that is water friendly, just in case.

### **May 19 Work Day for Road Walk Blazing**

We haven't blazed our road walks in quite some time, but on **May 19** we will be dressing up our old blazes, and adding new ones to new sections. We will meet for breakfast at the **Hickory Inn** in **Hickory Corners** at **8:00 am**. We will then split up and renew the blazing in Barry County from Keller Road south and blaze the new road walk from Marshall to Albion and from Albion to Homer.

### **June 2 National Trail's Day Hike (Augusta north)**

For our National Trail's Day hike we will hike about 7.5 miles from the Augusta Road trailhead parking lot to Gull Lake - Kellogg Middle School. We will meet for breakfast at the **Lakeside Café** at 209 S. Webster in Augusta at **8:00 am**. Meet at trailhead at **9:00** to begin the hike and arrange for carpooling.

The trailhead is 0.4 miles north of M-96 on Augusta Road in Augusta. We will be traveling north through the Hutchinson property, the Sackett property, the Kellogg Forest (MSU Experimental Forestry), the Cheff property, and the MSU Experimental Dairy Farm, stopping at the school on 40<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **June 16 Work Day – no details yet**

We are reserving this date for our June work day. Check our web site later for details.

### **Summer 2007 Kanoe the Kazoo**

We are looking for a way to be involved with one of the Kanoe the Kazoo segments, perhaps with a hike back to the cars. More details soon, but shooting for some time in July.

### **August 2 – 5 NCTA Annual Conference**

The 2007 NCTA Annual Conference will be held in **Bemidji, Minnesota** on **August 2 – 5**.

### **August (last week) Upper Peninsula Work Week**

The Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter in the Upper Peninsula is a small Chapter with a long section of trail that needs some TLC. **Bill Menke** (Regional Trail Coordinator) and **Clare Cain** (Director of Trail Management) are planning a weeklong work project in the Upper Peninsula for the last week in August to provide support. **You are invited.**

Work will be on the trail west of Tahquamenon Falls. Food and camping will be provided. If you are interested contact Larry Hawkins at: [hawkeyemd@cablespeed.com](mailto:hawkeyemd@cablespeed.com) or Clare at 616-897-5987 for more information.

### **MSU W. K. Kellogg Biological Station**

One of our trail partners, MSU Kellogg Biological, which includes the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, Kellogg Forest, Kellogg Experimental Dairy Farm, and Kellogg Manor, is looking for volunteers. Positions would require about one day per month, or two half days. Short training sessions begin on **April 10**, depending on the position you volunteer for. Contact the Community Relations Office at 269-671-2263.

### **April 21 Ziph Expeditionary Team Skills Training Session**

The Fortune Bay Expeditionary Team has let us know about a skills training session on April 21 sponsored by another group. Email for more info:

[abgumc@mutualdata.com](mailto:abgumc@mutualdata.com)

Other info and past pictures are seen at:

[www.fortunebaycompany.com/Mainpage.htm](http://www.fortunebaycompany.com/Mainpage.htm)

All individuals are welcome to attend this course. Instructors are Chuck Hill, Bill Smith, and Chuck Hayden.

Course Curriculum:

- 1) Map and Compass Reading
- 2) Global Positioning System (GPS) use and practice
- 3) Rappelling, Ascending, Traversing, Telfer Lower, Knot Tying, etc.
- 4) Team Dynamics and Team Structure
- 5) Various Campcraft Techniques (Firestarting, site selection, constructing site amenities, etc.)
- 6) Wilderness Expeditioning and activities

### **April 21 NFS Chainsaw Training in St. Ignace**

If you are interested in traveling to this Class "A" chainsaw training course (bucking only) in St. Ignace, check with **Clare Cain** to see if there are still spots available. Class begins at 8 am. She will tell you what protective clothing and equipment are required to participate. (A 2 day course will also be held in Bejimji prior to the Annual Conference. See Clare).

## MSU Dessert and Discussions

The MSU Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) is pleased to continue the ***Dessert with Discussion*** series, programs highlighting a wide range of environmental and ecological issues of local and global concern. The informal hour-long program features Rwanda coffee, tea and delicious desserts.

The programs will be held on Tuesday evenings April 10, May 15, Sept. 18 and Oct. 30 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. They are free and open to the community. The ***Dessert with Discussion*** series will be held at the KBS Education Center Auditorium located at 3700 East Gull Lake Drive. From M-89 take 40<sup>th</sup> Street north to B Avenue. Follow B Avenue one mile west.

Prior to the 7:30 p.m. presentation, attendees may choose to enjoy dinner with the evening's guest speaker in the historic W.K. Kellogg Manor House. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:15 p.m. Dinner is \$35 per person and reservations are required. The programs this quarter:

### Tuesday, April 10 ***Seeds of Science: Connecting Children to Science through the 4-H Gardens***

Dr. Norman Lownds, MAES Horticulture Scientist, Curator MSU 4-H Children's Garden

### Tuesday, May 15 ***Endangered Species Restoration: Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Success Stories***

Joe Johnson, Chief Wildlife Biologist and MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary Manager

Additional KBS special events can be found on the web at [www.kbs.msu.edu](http://www.kbs.msu.edu).

## Report on First Friday Forum

By **Larry Hawkins**

**Larry** participated in a First Friday Forum sponsored by the Barry County Democratic party at their Thomas Jefferson Hall in Hastings to discuss trail issues in Barry County. He was joined by **Phil Van Noord** of the Middleville Trail Enhancement Committee and the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance along with **Rick Moore** of the Thronapple-Paul Henry Trail. The program was televised on the local cable TV channel and nicely covered in the local news media.

**Receive the Chief Noonday Chapter newsletter via email. Contact Larry Pio at [nalcoman1@aol.com](mailto:nalcoman1@aol.com). Please share your newsletter with a friend, and tell someone about Chief Noonday and the NCT.**

## Report on Winter Hike

By **Joe Higdon**

On the coldest and blowiest day of the winter, **Charlie Krammin, Mick Hawkins, Ron Sootsman, Larry Pio** and **Joe Higdon** were joined by "hiker **Dave**", **Dave Goodman**, to hike the eastern half of the Battle Creek Linear Trail. They all survived and have great stories of the adventure.

## Report on 3-3-7 Volksmarch

By **Larry Hawkins**

The Chief Noonday Chapter helped the Middleville Chapter of the American Volkssports Association kick off their inaugural hike along the Paul Henry Trail. It was a day not unlike the day of our chapter winter hike-very cold, windy, and snowy. It was a day to test the spirit of true hikers and perhaps their sanity. **Charlie Krammin** was the first to sign in at the Middleville Hall and shortly thereafter, the rest of the CND contingent checked in; **Mick Hawkins, Ron Sootsman, Jerry Pattok and Larry Hawkins**. We initiated the hike with both **Jerry** and **Larry** landing on their derrieres in the icy parking lot. **Charlie** struck out setting the pace for the hike until **Ron** took over assuming the "trailbreaker" role. Although our friend, **Cal Lamoreaux**, the hike organizer, had advertised that there was about two inches of snow on the underlying slush, it was soon apparent that there was more like six to eight inches of new snow. Needless to say, it was a very long and challenging hike. With **Charlie** regaling us with stories and folk wisdom we finally reached Irving, the halfway point for the 11K hike. It was shortly after noon, the time that most of us had anticipated being back in Middleville enjoying a warm lunch. Lunch consisted of great company, protein bars and cold water. After lunch **Ron and Charlie** again took the lead setting a pretty stiff pace. On our way back we did meet one of the volksmarch volunteers on cross-country skis. The hike took us about 5 hours. We were tired but oh so very proud of ourselves for having survived the elements.

## Interpretive Brochure Completed

**Tom Garnett**, with major help from his better half **Judith Garnett**, has designed and completed a new interpretive brochure for the Norris Road to McKibben Road section. This brochure is available only on-line, currently on the Trail Log section of our web site. Many people were involved in this project, including **Charles Krammin, Sheryl Drenth, Barb VanDyken, LaVerne BeBeau, and Larry Pio**. Their efforts are detailed on the Trail Log. History, geology, flora, fauna, and some mapped info are featured. Thanks to all for your efforts.

## **Report on Work Days:**

**By Larry Hawkins**

In **January**, the kiosks in Middleville, the Middleville SGA, the Paul Henry trail, Barry State SGA and Yankee Springs Recreation Area were all supplied with the new written materials and the Plexiglas was replaced with chicken wire in some "target" areas. The materials are laminated or covered with plastic to protect them from the elements. New, "You are here" maps from National are in the trailhead kiosks and there are memorials for **LaVerne BeBeau** along his section of trail. Workers included **Bob and Brenda Jones, Larry Pio, Ron Sootsman, Jerry Pattok and Mick and Larry Hawkins.**

In **March**, Saint Patrick's Day dawned clear, cold and beautiful. **Larry and Mick Hawkins, Steve Hicks and Josh and Larry Ritchie, Jim Heaton, Larry Pio, Tom Garnett and John Rudnicki** placed new kiosks along the river at Helmer Rd. and Jackson St. and at Horseshoe Bend Park near the Emmet Street end of the Linear Park. Remember the rocks! Much thanks to everyone for a job well done.

## **Web Page Update – Mick Hawkins**

-Calhoun County Hikes has been posted but is still "under construction". Special thanks to **Ron Sootsman** for his involvement.  
-Work is beginning on a Kalamazoo County Hikes page.  
-Adding some pictures to the Barry County Hikes page.  
-National is developing a hard copy Lower Michigan Trail Atlas and is going to allow us to use a simplified version for on the web page, stay tuned for updates.  
- **Mick** has been working with **Joan Young** and our chapter activities are now listed on the NCTA calendar.

**North Country Trail Association  
Chief Noonday Newsletter  
2409 Woody Noll  
Portage, MI 49002**

**Please visit the Trail Log on the CNC Web Page for pictures and commentary on events.**

## **Report Your Volunteer Hours**

PLEASE report your volunteer hours, either by mail, or by filling out the form on the NCTA web site. <http://www.northcountrytrail.org> Go to the Volunteers heading, and click on Report Hours. These hours are reported to Congress, and are used to help determine budget numbers for our trail.

## **New Outfitter in Grand Rapids**

Apex Outdoor Gear has opened at 4222 29<sup>th</sup> Street SE in Grand Rapids. You can see their web site at: [www.apexoutdoorgear.com](http://www.apexoutdoorgear.com)

## **Thank you to those businesses that support our chapter:**

### **Lee's Sports & Sportswear**

311 W. Kilgore  
Kalamazoo  
(269) 381-7700  
[www.leesports.com](http://www.leesports.com)

### **Sandhill Marketing Communications**

1715 Glendale Blvd.  
Kalamazoo  
(269) 382-2561

### **Mid-Lakes Mini Storage**

11235 S. Wall Lake Rd., Delton  
269-623-5005

Provides storage for the Chief Noonday Tool Crib.

### **Yankee Springs Outdoor Center**

Long Lake and Chief Noonday Outdoor Centers  
269-795-3856 Provide use of lodge for some Chapter winter hikes.

**Katies & Christy's Midlakes Screen-Printing,**  
Monogramming Active Wear and Tanning Salon  
Delton, MI.