



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 Third Quarter of 2010 are **July 14, August 11 (our annual picnic, which will start at 6:00 PM), and September 8.** For those who can join us, prior to the meeting, we will meet for dinner at 5:45 PM, at the Grove Street Café on the north side of Delton, located at 370 N. Grove Street (just across from intersection of Delton Road and M-43) .

REMINDER: For updated information on chapter events, especially toward the end of the quarter, please visit our web site: www.northcountrytrail.org/cnd/index.htm at the “Events Calendar” link.

Chief Noonday Chapter Votes to Host NCTA 2012 Conference

At our June 9 Chapter meeting, with a very nice turn out of members, our Chapter voted to host the 2012 NCTA Annual Conference. While there are probably a few formalities yet before headquarters writes this in stone, this vote appears to be the final major hurdle.

This process began within the past couple months, when our president, **Dr. Larry Hawkins**, was approached by NCTA Director **Bruce Matthews** to gauge the interest from our Chapter in hosting this conference. Larry Hawkins then brought this to the board, and **Dave Cornell**, along with **Mick Hawkins**, investigated potential sites. At our June 9 meeting, Mick reported at least 2 sites appear to be acceptable from a location and capacity standpoint.

Our vote followed, and it was not unanimous (although almost unanimous). Reservations expressed were primarily due to the large Chapter commitment needed to pull this off, specifically the number of people needed to be involved before the conference, and again the number of people needed during the conference. **We will need participation from everyone to help make this conference a success.** A committee has been formed to recommend a site to our Board at the July 14 meeting. If you have ideas on a potential location, please contact our committee chairman, **Dave Cornell**, at onestep@mei.net.

Officers elected at May Chapter Meeting

Our May meeting was the Chapter Annual Meeting, and on even years, we also elect our Officers. The slate of officers elected: President: **Larry Hawkins**; Vice President -Trail Management: **Jeff Fleming**; Treasurer: **Ron Sootsman**; Secretary: **Mick Hawkins**; and Vice President - Administration: **Larry Pio**.

Upcoming events (see details in following pages)

July 3: Hike Fort Custer Recreation Area

July 24: Work day BSGA

August 5-8: NCTA Annual Meeting in Ashland, WI

Aug 11: Chapter Picnic and meeting

Aug 14: Hike Allegan SGA

Aug 21: Blazing work day

Sept 3-7: “Bring on the Bridge”: camp out and Mackinac Bridge

Sept 18: Work day

June 19: Work day Augusta

Jeff Fleming becomes CND Chapter's 4th Head of Trail Management

Jeff Fleming was elected Vice President – Trail Management at our Chapter meeting in June, and we thank Jeff for taking this responsibility, and offer our support. Jeff has been a member of the NCTA since 1999 and one of his claims to fame are the small wooden signs you may see along the roadway proclaiming "North Country Trail".

As far as I can determine, Jeff is our 4th head of Trail Management, following in the footsteps of:

Lynn Waldron: up to 2001

Charles Krammin: 2001 to 2005

Steve Hicks: 2005 to 2010

Steve Hicks is shown in the picture to the right, taken at our work day in April at the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. Steve was also Treasurer of our Chapter for several years before becoming VP Trail Management. He has earned a well deserved break from the extra demands of his time we have asked of him.

Thank you Steve for all the work you have done to build and improve our trail.



NPS's Dan Watson visits to inform on Volunteer Injury and Tort Coverage

Have you ever wondered what would happen if you were injured while doing volunteer work for the North Country Trail? It turns out we are treated as if we were a National Park Service employee, if injured doing legitimate volunteer work for our Trail, provided we have followed procedures noted below.

Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator for the National Park Service, met June 13 **with Larry Hawkins, Ron Sootsman, Linda Sootsman, and Larry Pio** to provide training.

The first thing we learned was **we needed to be signed up properly as a volunteer** to be covered.

- Larry Hawkins has taken care of this for NCTA members who are current on their membership.
- For nonmember volunteers, we have a quick form to fill out prior to your activities. This would include nonmember spouses, members whose dues are delinquent, or any other visiting volunteer.
- For volunteers under the age of 18, parental or guardian signatures are needed, prior to volunteer activities.

The second thing we learned: **if you are injured, it must be reported**, even if treatment is not being sought. Sometimes injuries are worse than we first thought, and if they aren't reported, it is difficult for Dan to help out later.

There is paperwork for the Doctor to fill out, **but if you require medical treatment, getting the treatment is the first priority**. We can always go back and get the paperwork. Call Dan's office as soon as you can, and he can help make things happen.

The 301A Volunteer Agreement Form is available at www.nps.gov/noco. Then under Quicklinks, click on "Support Your Park". Finally click on: The Volunteer-in-Parks Emblem. It can be filled out online, printed, and then must be signed by a Chapter Official prior to the activities. Dan Watson will take it from there.

The Chief Noonday Chapter welcomes everyone to join us for any of our meetings, hikes, or workday events. For more information, please contact Larry Hawkins at 269-945-5398 or hawkeyemd@cablespeed.com, or see web site for other contacts.

July 3: Hike in Fort Custer Recreation Area; Kalamazoo County

Our July 3 hike will be in the Fort Custer Recreation Area, located across the Kalamazoo River to the east of Augusta, and the entrance is the first turn to the north after you cross the river on M-96. (Note: the river is not the little bridge that is under repair.)

The FCRA is located across Dickman Road from our section of trail in the Fort Custer National Cemetery. The FCRA is located on 3033 acres, and the hike will be around the lakes section. One thing you may see on this hike is a very large beaver dam. This dam is about 6 to 7 feet tall, and has turned the stream into a very nice looking lake in this area.

Breakfast will be at **Duda's**, at 113 W. Michigan in Augusta at **8:00 AM**. Once again, let Mick Hawkins know if you will not be able to meet for breakfast, so he can make arrangements to meet up with you at the FCRA. A State of Michigan Parks Annual Sticker or Day Pass is required.

July 24: Work Day in Barry State Game Area; Barry County

Our July 24 work day will involve an area of potential reroute in Barry State Game Area around a zone that has been clear cut. The work site will be on the east side of Norris Road, 0.4 miles south of Gun Lake Road at about 9:00 am.

We will have breakfast at **8:00 am** at the **Gun Lake Diner** at 12441 West M-179 Highway (Chief Noonday Highway). The Gun Lake Diner is 4.7 miles west of the Yankee Springs Road and M-179 intersection on the south side of the road.

August 5-8 NCTA 2010 Conference to be held in Ashland, Wisconsin

The 2010 NCTA Conference kicks off on August 5 in Ashland, WI with the opportunity to visit with, and learn from, NCT volunteers from the whole length of the trail. **Some highlights on other opportunities:**

- A pre-conference 2 day backpacking hike led by **Bill Menke** on August 3
- Chainsaw certification on August 5
- Medic First Aid workshop on August 5
- Cruise the Apostle Islands on August 7
- A large selection of hikes and workshops the rest of the conference

Several of our members will be traveling to Ashland for the Conference. If you are interested in attending, registration forms are available at <http://northcountrytrail.org/conf10/>. A \$5 discount if you register by June 30. You may want to let **Larry Hawkins** know, and perhaps you can find someone willing to car pool.

Only 614 miles from Delton, MI to visit a great vacation spot on the shores of Lake Superior. Hope you can join us.

August 11: Chief Noonday Picnic and a Meeting

Our annual picnic will be held at the shelter behind Barry Township Hall in Delton at **6:00 PM**. We encourage everyone to attend, and specifically **we would like to invite all the land owners and land managers who host our trail** to join us. Families are welcome. Please bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and table settings.

Before June 30, please report your volunteer hours either on the NCTA website, or by mail, or by reporting them to a Chapter officer. These reports are used by Congress, the National Park Service, and others to help determine funding for the North Country Trail, and for some project requests.

August 14: Hike Allegan State Game Area, North Swan Lake Trail; Allegan County

We will hike the Allegan State Game Area, North Swan Lake Trail, for our August 14 hike at about **9:30 AM**.

We will meet for breakfast at **8:30 am** in near downtown Allegan at the **Village Inn** restaurant, located at the intersection of M-40 and M-89 (1520 Lincoln Road), and leave from there to stage cars for the hike. If you plan to attend, but cannot be there for breakfast, contact **Mick Hawkins** at webmaster.ncta-cnd2@comcast.net for directions to the starting point of the hike (or if you want to be sure we don't leave breakfast before you arrive).

August 21: Work Day for Blazing

For our work day on August 21, blazing road walk is our current priority. Please check our web site for a breakfast location, which will be somewhat centralized. We will disperse from breakfast to our blazing assignments. This will involve painting blue blazes to assist hikers in staying on the trail. Bring your gloves and sunscreen.

September 3-7: Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter Hosts "Bring on the Bridge"

The Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter is hosting their 2nd "Bring on the Bridge" event in Moran, Michigan. This is a camping rally, and includes hiking across the Mackinaw Bridge on Labor Day, the only day during the year that section of the North Country Trail is open to foot traffic.

Registration must be received by August 2, and is limited to the first 75 registrants for the camping portion. See <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/hss/botb/botbIIregistrationwaiver.doc> to register. The registration form does note it can be chilly crossing over the cold water.

September 6: Middleville non-competitive Volksmarch Bridge and Trail Walk

The last Volksmarch of the year in Middleville will be held on September 6 with starting times between **9:00 am and 11:00 am**. Participation is free, or you can register to get an AVA / IVV award for \$5. Participants can register at the gazebo next to Middleville Village Hall at 100 E. Main Street, ¼ mile east of the M-37 traffic light. Participants may walk, run, or bike at your own pace. Lengths to walk are 5K, 10K, or 12K. You will cross 4 bridges. More info: <http://tracmvl.webs.com/VM96.pdf>. This section is also North Country Trail, and qualifies for Hiker Challenge miles.

September 18: Work Day Scheduled

This work day may be used as a back up day (in case of rain on our scheduled blazing work day on August 21) or we will schedule other work. Please check our web site for more information as the date approaches.

More Chief Noonday Hikes for 2010

The following additional hikes are scheduled for 2010:

November 6, 2010: Saugatuck Dunes State Park; Allegan County

December 4, 2010: Marshall Riverwalk, and Brooks Nature Area; Calhoun County

October 2: Fall Color Hike – MSU Kellogg Biological Station to Kellogg Forest; Kalamazoo County

If you haven't hiked the MSU Kellogg Biological section of our trail in the past two years, you will find quite a different look, as much of the trail has been rerouted, and an extension to the north has been added. We will hike from KBS through the Cheff Center forest, and then on to MSU Kellogg Forest. After lunch, we may continue on to the Hutchinson property parking area in Augusta.

Breakfast location is yet to be announced, but you should put this hike on your calendar now. This hike also all North Country Trail, and qualifies for Hiker Challenge miles.

REGISTER LOG – Fort Custer National Cemetery

Several years ago we placed a register on the Armstrong Road side of Fort Custer National Cemetery. We lost some of the early entries from some of our more famous North Country Trail hikers, due to moisture getting into the register. Occasionally I'm sure folks have had problems getting the register opened, and we are working on improvements. Below are all of the entries we do have, interpreted as best as I can. Please forgive the errors. I think the entries are an interesting history, and we will share them. We look forward to your comments as we work to expand this program. Last names, street addresses, and phone numbers will not be included in the newsletter unless they are CND Chapter contacts or nationally known hikers.



Here is the register at Fort Custer National Cemetery.

Welcome to the North Country Trail. Please leave comments on trail (or just say hello). Larry Pio (Adopter) 269-327-3589
Nice trail 5/8/06
Hello Susan Bond NCT 5/23
Hi Elaine N. 5/23
I W. 6/10 Very nice! Large tree blocking trail about 1.5 – 2 miles in.
7/13/06 Tim H. 10:15 am
7/22/06 Crew in today & removed large tree, weed whipped across marsh section. Trail in great shape. Larry
8/19/06 Gloria + Geneva L. – BC 12:45 Hi Larry
10/15/06 Andy W. BC; why don't you run trail south to linear path instead of north to River Rd. You could put parking to south by path
11/4/06 June C., Gloria G. + Ambra L. – BC Keith + Carolyn M.
Jon E., Grace H., Scott and Leigh C.; Pat, Scout, Sage 1:50 11/24/06
11/25/06 Andre + Ruth de St. L. We were not able to find the entrance from River Road Side. Almost missed this one. BC
Gloria + Geneva L. Paige B. BC
12/16/06 Mick Hawkins
12/30/06 Jason, Nicki, Hailey & Mitchell B.
3/24/07 Keith & Ardath R. Portage, MI
3/25/07 Jerz Dawn + Nate
4/19/07 Sue H. Galesburg
4/30/07 Patt & Nancy Great sunny day!
Jason & Richard B. 5/5/07 10:15am Hiked to River Road & back. Nice day. Nice trail. Beaver pond was cool.

Good luck to Mike on the through hike. Larry 5/5/07
5/6/07 Leco & Nate
7/12/07 Ellen & Ari L. Attn: we found 2 American Chestnuts between here and the cemetery maintenance building. (First is above trail at junk car.)
7/28/07 Came from River Road. Nice day for a hike, but pretty humid
8/25/07 LT. Brian P. US Navy Out for a hike. Back from IRAQ. Dan S., just a buddy for a nine ???? the LT Bucee S. US Army
10/24/07 Cool sunny nice day for hiking. Glen & Dee C.
1/29/08 Terry Q. A good place to rest & forget the world's problems for awhile. Even the trees were crying + moaning this evening!
3/25/08 Lester Kenny and I started at
4/5/08 Most of downed trees removed today. Marsh area is passable & very nice views. Some blue blazes a little faded – will refresh as needed in early May. Have a great hike. Larry Pio
4/10/08 Enjoyed the Trail! Good job, Larry. CL Thanks for the time you spend keeping trail nice.
4/10/10
4/16/08 Beautiful day! Beautiful place! Hiked about 1½ miles west – till water on the trail was too deep for my low-cut hiking shoes, & I was afraid of getting lost if I went too far off the trail trying to bypass the H₂O. Saving the rest for another day. Cheers! Mick Hawkins
MAD MIKE 4/20/08
SCUBA STEVE! 4/20/08
Great maintenance and signage
Cub Scout Pack #300 Scott K.; Kevin; Jacob; Robert H.; Jennifer R.; Robert H. 26 April 08 3:23 pm

5/4/08 Heading to Petoskey where stopped last year.
Judy G
5/4/08 Pennie H.; Robert H.; Robert H. II
6/11/08 Kellie C.
6/13/08 Troop 239 BSA Kellie C.; Ryan & Ken B.;
Lukas M.; Luke S.; Ken S.
6/16/08 Roy T. Saw a fawn 25 yards away – nice hike.
God’s country is awesome
9/11/08 Pat & Carl Y.
9/12/08 Laurie B. Great trail
10/13/08 Tony & Sheri W.
11/2/08 Kenneth; Seth; Alan; Dale; Jack; Tony
4/25/09 Pete C.
5/3/09 Pete C. again. This time its not raining. Here to
Dickman and back. High Water!
Ruben L. God Bless USA 5/4/09 Thanks to all who
died for my freedom.
5/9/09 There is a lot of wet ground from just past
maintenance driveway to far side of bog. Prepare for
wet feet if you hike this section. If beavers don’t do
more – may dry out later. LLP
Steve V.
6/14/09 Sue L.; Bog S.
Gary 6/14/09
Ken B. 7/28/09
9/20/09 Judith K. of Portland, Oregon (formerly Spec 5
of the US Army) Have a great day!
Ruben L. 9/24/09
Amy E. 9/24/09

Pack 325 Battle Creek; Bear Den; 10/14/09; Sean, Jake,
Seth; Seth is cool; Nonso, Mary, Jude Cox, Nowah D.,
JC D.
10/19/09 Recorded a GPS track of the trail for a new
map on the Web Site. Sure need boots in this section!
Mick Hawkins
11/1/09 Nancie C.; Great Day
11/1/09 Jim M.; Absolutely!
11/12/09 Greg H.; Cool Sunny Day; dry trail today
Michigan Youth Challenge; MYCA 2nd DLT; 3/7/10
50°
3/28/10 Frank and Joan B.
4/10/10 Gary & Mary H. from Mishawaka, IN
4/16/10 Doug C. & Jim B. Battle Creek
4/17/10 Jeremy B.; Nate L.; Mike C.
4/17/10 Trail is a lot dryer this year, but one section
after the maintenance shed driveway has been flagged
temporarily. Use this to keep your feet dry. LLP
4/22/10 Trail in good shape. Frank & Joan
4/26/10 Jerry & Shirley
4/30/10 Wayne B.
4/30/10 This trail is one of my favorites – I feel like I’m
on a one day vacation – I have slowed my pace down
just to see the beauty; Eric
5/15/10 Wet Patricia H. Had a great walk; Alex
Havens; Zach and Grant H.
William S. 5/18/10

Web Site Trail Log Reports

Mick Hawkins has included detailed reports, with pictures, at the TRAIL LOG page on our web site on some of our recent activities. **Please take the time to look at these reports, and the great photography that Mick includes in his reports.** In the last quarter he has included reports on:

- The passing of our Chapter’s senior member, **Martha Jones**. Martha was also a past president of the North Country Trail Association, and was an active participant. She was 90 years old, and will be missed greatly. Mick has a much more detailed summary, with some great pictures on the web site.
- In his May 2 summary of events, Mick also includes **Bruce Matthews** note on Martha Jones’ memorial service.
- Our April hike in Yankee Springs, with **Charles Krammin, Verle Krammin, and Mick Hawkins** the only participants, as the forecast looked grim.
- The April 17 work day in Yankee Springs, where we completed the finishing touches on the trail reroute. Thanks to **Mick Hawkins, Steve Hicks, Jerry Pattok** (and his granddaughter **Anna**), **Larry Pio, George Lee, Bob Sulaski** and **Charles Krammin** for all the help on the work day, and to **Jeff Fleming** for making the signs that were installed.
- Our May 1 Adopters Meeting held at Kellogg Forest. **Larry Pio** led the meeting with a brief review of blazing technique, and the unveiling of our new DR Trimmer / Mower. Later, **Larry Pio, Steve Hicks** and **Ron Sootsman** tried out the new DR Trimmer / Mower at the Hutchinson parking lot. Thanks to **Diane Hawkins** for taking this year’s Adopter photo. **Thanks to all of our adopters for their service.** They are: **John Rudnicki, Bob Cooley, Susan Bond, Larry Pio, Mike Wilkey, Chris Vreeland** and family, **Jeff and Mary Fleming, Ron Sootsman, Jim Martin, Jim Mackey, Josh Richie, Tom Funke, Marcia Mellon, Joe Higdon, Roxanne Potter, Jerry Pattok, and George Lee.**

More Web Site Trail Log Reports

- The May work day in Middleville State Game Area, where we fixed a difficult section of trail. Thanks to **Larry Hawkins, Jason Buckner, Ron Sootsman, Mick Hawkins, Bob Sulaski, Charles Krammin, Mary Rebert, and Larry Pio** for an excellent job. Mick has some pictures, and here is a video showing the final product: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHcgl5zePiM>
- Our Trails Day Hike in the Manistee National Forest, with **Jeff Fleming, Mary Rebert, Mick Hawkins, Steve Hicks, Charles Krammin, and Larry Hawkins** making the trip. The season was a bit late for flowers, but the trail was nice, and an earlier trip is contemplated for next year.
- Our June 19 work day, which was split between the Kellogg Forest puncheon project and a mowing and trimming day at the **Sackett** property, and the **Hutchinson** property south of Kellogg Forest. The puncheon project included building a pretty fancy raised footpath, as well as moving the puncheon back into position. This work is continuing on June 26, but was led by **Steve Norton** and his scouts (and their dads and moms) from **Troop 294**. They were assisted on June 19 by **Jeff Fleming, Larry Hawkins, Jason Buckner, and Mick Hawkins**. The rest of our crew split up between the Sackett property (**Mike Wilkey** and **Larry Pio**) and the Hutchinson property (**Bob Sulaski, Charles Krammin, and Ron Sootsman**).

More Web Site Stuff – Mick’s MAPS and NCNST Databook for Hikers

Every quarter we have a section on what **Mick Hawkins** reports in our TRAIL LOG, but he does a whole lot more with our web site. He has done an amazing job mapping almost our entire Chapter, and he has made it available to print from the web site. You can also select the background for your map, viewing terrain, street layouts, satellite view, or a combination of satellite and street layouts. This is a great tool to have available as you are heading out to look at that section of trail you haven’t been to before. **Check out the MAPS tab** on our web site.

The other area that **Mick** and **Ron Sootsman** put together a couple years ago is our site’s **NCNST Databook for Hikers**. This is a great database for hikers who are using their GPS to navigate our Chapter’s trail. It also has reference codes for finding restaurants, groceries, water, campsites, etc. **Thanks to both Mick and Ron for these excellent hiker aids.**

CND Hiker Challenge 2010 and Become a Trail Deputy

Competition is well underway for the Chief Noonday Chapter Hiker Challenge Cup, version 2010. The basic challenge is to see who can hike the most miles on the North Country Trail in 2010. The complete rules can be seen on our web site, but here is a summary:

1. You must be a member of the Chief Noonday Chapter at some point during the year.
2. Only North Country Trail miles can be counted. A segment can be counted only once during the year.
3. Cross country skiing is a legitimate mode of hiking. After all, our goal is to get people on the trail.
4. If you can find someone to push your wheelchair, that will count for both of you. See goal in item 4.
5. Report your miles, and segment ID, to me in person, or via email to nalcoman1@aol.com with the subject CND Hiker Challenge mileage, or by mail to: Larry Pio; 2409 Woody Noll; Portage, MI 49002.

Our top 10 leaders as of

6/27/10 are:

Ron Sootsman – 185.61

Bob Sulaski – 56.8

Mick Hawkins – 46.5

Jim Burgess – 33.25

Jason Buckner – 26.5

Larry Hawkins – 17

Steve Hicks – 15.5

Linda Sootsman – 14.88

Mary Rebert – 11.5

Jeff Fleming – 10.5

We have a new **TRAIL DEPUTY REPORT** project, where our hikers can report trail conditions, signage, blazing, etc. These reports are useful to us to keep up on where our trail needs extra work, and **gives hikers filling them out extra volunteer hours**. A link to this form is found on our HIKER CHALLENGE web page, in the VOLUNTEER HOURS box at the bottom of the page. Send your completed form to Larry Pio. Please note: this form is not required for your report. It is useful as a list of items to evaluate, which can be summarized in an email if you wish. Thanks for your help in keeping our trail as good as it can be.

More News

Joan Young's Blog and more Joan Young info

This year **Joan Young** is going to finish the North Country Trail, after hiking it in sections over the past several years. Joan has been extremely active at all levels on our trail, and did the NCTA web site for many years. She now writes a blog, <http://www.northcountrytrailnews.blogspot.com>, which features a lot of news about the North Country Trail and issues that affect the trail. Joan has been a past speaker at the Chief Noonday Chapter, but these days requests for her talks are more frequent, and usually include book signings of her "North Country Cache: Adventures on a National Scenic Trail".

Joan is not often speaking in our area, but will be **in Holland on November 5** presenting "High Hopes Wearing Sweaty Socks", her slide program on hiking the North Country Trail. For more information on the Holland visit, and other Joan presentations, see <http://www.booksleavingfootprints.com/meetauthor.htm>.

MSU's W.K. Kellogg Biological Station

One of our partners on the trail, Michigan State's W. K. Kellogg Biological Station, hosts a variety of programs throughout the year. Additional information on KBS special events and membership information can be found on the web at www.kbs.msu.edu.

In addition, the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary is open to visitors year round. For more information, contact the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary at 269-671-2510 or email: birdsantuary@kbs.msu.edu.

New Members

We want to welcome new members to the Chief Noonday Chapter in the 2nd Quarter:

Michael Couch – Battle Creek

Jeanie Hall – Battle Creek

Chawn Ott – Paw Paw

William Dixon - Brighton

Lyme Disease has now been reported in most of Michigan's 83 Counties

See http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12150_12220-26945--,00.html.

Receive the Chief Noonday Chapter newsletter via email. Contact Larry Pio at nalcoman1@aol.com. Share your newsletter with a friend, and tell someone about Chief Noonday Chapter and the NCT.

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