

Quarterly Newsletter

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www.northcountrytrail.org/gtr/

www.facebook.com/GTHikers

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandTraverseHikingClub/>



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Gifts to US

We've been celebrating the National Park Service centennial for the past year. In reading about the Service's history the names of John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt commonly are mentioned because of their outspoken support of national parks and because they are true giants of conservation and preservation. But to bring the celebration to our own neighborhood I want to recognize two Michigan heroes who helped to give to us the "most beautiful place in America".

Philip A. Hart (1912-1976) was a United States Senator from 1959 until his death in 1976. He was from Bryn Mawr, PA but after receiving a law degree from the University of Michigan he made Michigan his home. Hart was the principal sponsor of the legislation to create Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and it was his tenacity that brought that to fruition.

Partnering with Senator Hart was Ms Genevieve Gillette (1898-1986) of Lansing. In 1920 she was the first woman to graduate from the Michigan Agricultural College (MSU) with a degree in landscape architecture. She was a classmate and friend of Pete Hoffmaster, the first superintendent of the Michigan's state park system. Ms Gillette recognized an opportunity and in her spare time scouted sites for new parks and wrote reports for Hoffmaster's review. She was instrumental in the establishment of Hartwick Pines State Park among numerous other sites worthy of protection.

In 1959 Ms Gillette helped found the Michigan Parks Association to promote much needed improvements in Michigan's state parks. The result was passage of a \$100 million bond that was used to accomplish that goal. Senator Hart invited her to Washington the next year when legislation to create Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was introduced. Their collaboration made this proposal a reality.

continued on Page 2

Today the Philip A. Hart Visitors Center in Empire welcomes tourists to the Dunes. And at P.J. Hoffmaster State Park near Muskegon the E. Genevieve Gillette Nature Center continues her work in helping visitors learn to enjoy and appreciate the beauty of Michigan. We owe our thanks to these two who did so much to provide these gifts to us. We can't express those thanks personally but we can honor them by remembering who they were.

Jerry Freels, Outgoing GTHC President

GTHC Board Elections . . . Mike Schaeffer, Vice President

The GTHC Board includes 4 officers and up to 11 Members at Large, who attend the Board meetings, head or work on various committees, and provide valuable input in directing the operation of the Chapter.

Our Board will have some vacancies coming up with the expiration of the terms of some of members in January. These vacancies include President, Secretary, and two Member at Large positions.

Jerry Freels is stepping down from his President duties and Bette Jackson likewise from the Secretary position. We appreciate the time and effort that Jerry and Bette have contributed and are looking for some new blood to replace them.

At the October meeting we announced that these Board openings existed, hoping for some response. Jill and Kent Nordin stepped up with Jill taking the President's job and Kent a Member at Large position. (You may remember that Jill Cziezewski was our president before marrying Kent and moving to Gaylord area). Thank you two very much and welcome back to TC. I think the two of you will add some new energy to the Board.

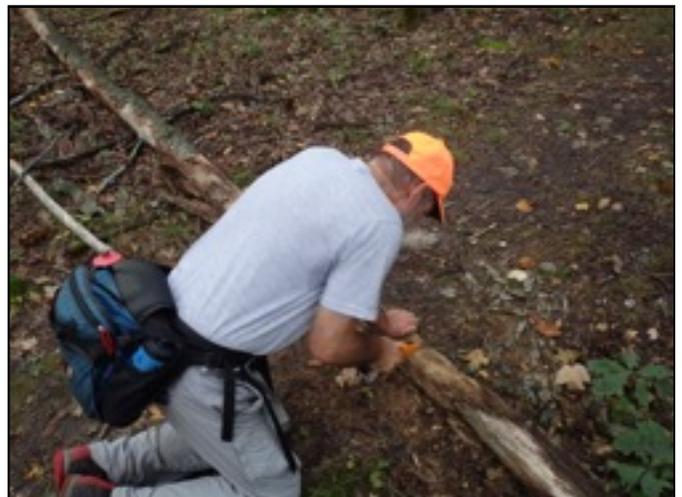
At our November meeting, in response to our announcement of openings, Gwendolyn Thurston volunteered for the Secretary opening.

With the addition of Jill, Kent and Gwendolyn to the Board, we still need one Member at Large. No prior experience is required for any of these positions. We strongly welcome new people to the Board since some of our older members have served for many years and we really need some fresh ideas. If you are interested in any of the Board positions, please contact me at mk.schaeffer@yahoo.com.

Editor's note: In keeping with our proposed by-laws, we will bring a Board approved slate to the membership for approval at our January Annual Meeting. Other nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting prior to a vote of the membership.

10/6 Muncie Lakes Pathway

A great day to be in the woods on the Muncie Lakes SF Pathway with Mike & Debby. It takes approx 3 hrs to hike the loop, along the lakes, up & down the hills & to the Boardman River



Programs for Winter 2016. . Sara Cockrell, Program Chair

December 11, 2016 - Holiday Celebration at Muncie Lakes Pathway & Peegeo's

Come join the Grand Traverse Hiking Club for our annual holiday celebration at Muncie Lakes State Forest Pathway from 1:00-3:30PM on Sunday, December 11. Mike Schaeffer started this outing in the 1990s & it has always been a lot of fun! Depending on trail conditions, we will hike, XC ski or snowshoe. The trails are well-marked, with several loops, like an ice cream cone. You can do one, two or three scoops! Afterwards, we'll have dinner from approx 3:30-5PM at Peegeo's, 525 High Lake Rd. If you have other plans for the afternoon, you can still join us for dinner. <http://outdoormichigan.org/trails/MuncieLakesPathway.jpg> To get there, take Supply Rd east to Rennie Lake Rd, south to Ranch Rudolph Rd, east to the North Country Trail crossing near the yellow End of Pavement sign. If you drive down a hill to a "Y" in the road, you've just passed it!

January 17, 2017 - Annual Meeting and Awards

We will have a few items of official business at our annual meeting, including a vote on our proposed bylaws and election of officers and board members. Traditionally we also use this official meeting to make our award presentations for our 100 Mile Challenge, volunteer awards and other member recognition. We will have a short program by Dick Naperala. We will finish up with refreshments and socializing.

February 21, 2017 - DISCOVER THE GEMS OF THE GTRLC

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has a service area that covers five counties and has over 30 preserves. They have protected a wide range of natural habitats from coastal marsh, coastal dunes, dune-swale wetlands, river and creek riparian areas, and a myriad of forest types, to name but a few. They have 14 different trail systems to explore some of those gems. Stephen Lagerquist, GTRLC Land Steward, looks forward to sharing how to get to some of those gems and what they have to offer.

March 21, 2017 - HIKE 100 NCT CHALLENGE CELEBRATION WITH LOCAL FINISHERS

In celebration of the National Park Service's 2016 Centennial Anniversary, the North Country Trail Association hosted a special Hike 100 Challenge, 100 miles for 100 years of the National Parks! The Grand Traverse Hiking Club will be celebrating with local Hike 100 Challenge finishers at our March 21, 2017 meeting at the Boardman River Nature Center from 7-9PM. Come share your tales from the trail, make some new hiking friends, and join us for a piece of centennial birthday cake!



SEARCH FOR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The NCTA, headquartered in Lowell, Michigan, is seeking a dynamic leader to replace Bruce when he retires next August. We are seeking a candidate to can forge partnerships, grasp nuances of multiple agencies, with the ability to build on the current strategic plan, expertise in the political arena and strong advocacy, fiscal management, and communication skills. The position requires travel, flexibility and understanding of legal, regulatory and procedural landscapes. If you, or someone you know, is interested, submit a resume and cover letter to edsearch@northcountrytrail.org. The position is open until filled.

A Word From Our Board

Interested in serving on our Board or specific committee? Contact any Board member to see if there is a fit for you. Terms will start in January. For more on open board seats, see page 3.

Chapter By-Laws We have completed our Chapter By-Laws, using a template required by the NCTA, and it is currently under review by their office. We hope to have it back in time to present to the general membership at the Annual January Meeting.

Website John Heiam, past president and member of the National Board, has been working with NCTA on developing our new web presence. The website will be maintained by headquarters, and will have trail and club information. To communicate current local events, we will have a google calendar and google doc page. We will continue Yahoo for hikes and Facebook for other notices.

Member Communication / Newsletter With our Newsletter Editor leaving the Board, it seemed an appropriate time to review our communication strategy with members. With the new website capabilities, and all but a few of our 100+ members listing an email address, we feel we can be more timely using email to keep members updated. Often this will be a short email, occasionally it may be an attached "flyer". We appreciate your patience as we roll out this process and tweak it over the next year. Your comments are always welcome. Contact Marilyn at marilyn.hoogstraten@gmail.com.

Trail Reroutes We have been actively looking for an off road reroute location for CR612 and considered a number of options, which haven't panned out. We are currently looking at a reroute that would use small backroads instead of the busy county road. Another trail route would be along the south side of the Manistee River between Baxter Bridge and the Old US31 SFCG, creating a scenic backpacking/hiking loop trail with a State Forest Camp Ground on each end.

10/1 Hike: Guernsey Lake to Dollar Lake

Ed M, Peggy & John R joined Sara for a 3 hr hike on the NCT from Guernsey Lake CG to Dollar Lake. Enjoyed passing through Sand Lakes Quiet Area & along the N Branch of the Boardman River, admiring the colorful



mushrooms in the woods. The trees are just starting to turn.

All Hike Photos by Sara Cockrell

Interesting Facts about GTHC members

Enjoy this brief review of our current membership, as my service ends on the Board of GTHC, currently as keeper of the membership list and sender of email notifications for several years. (*and much, much more! - editor's note*)

As I reflected on these past years, I began to resort the list, and discovered that many of the current active members are also the members who joined many years ago. Those who have joined since 2010 are urged to become more active. You are needed – and it's fun.

The only remaining member of our Chapter's first group of members is Dennis Hansen, author of *Trail Atlas of Michigan*, 1987.

Twenty are still members who joined between 1987-1999. Among these members are outgoing President Jerry Freels, and five current members of the Board. At least eight have served on the Board and one is about to join the Board. Many are active members of the Trail Crew, GTHC Adopt-A-Trail Coordinator Betsy Duede, and her trail maintainers.

Forty-three are members who joined between 2000-2009. This decade of new members include John Heiam, President for ten years. More than eleven have been active members of the Trail Crew and four are currently on the Board.

Sixty-seven are members who joined between 2010-2015.

Twenty joined in 2016

Membership types: Household, 51; Indiv, 65; Intro, 26; Life, 4; Organization, 2; Student, 1.

June Thaden, Outgoing Member-at-Large, and Secretary for Membership

10/9 Jordan River Pathway

Great hike with fun friends on the Jordan River Pathway/NCT. Twelve did a 12-mile point-to-point from Landslide Overlook to Deadman's Hill on the NCT, and three of us finished the 17-mile loop at Landslide. Not as much color as the last 2 of my annual fall hikes, but we had perfect cool & sunny weather. Thanks to Tami for organizing the shorter hike shuttle, and to Henry & Anne for waiting to join Kathy, Bert & me at Short's for dinner afterwards.



Welcome New Members

Chad Margita	Mio, MI
Mindy Binsfield	Maple City, MI
Max Wendell	Empire, MI
Mickie Novorolsky	Traverse City

Twenty six members renewed in August, September and October, including GTHC's earliest member, Dennis Hansen.

Thanks for your support of the NCTA and GTHC!

June Thaden
Secretary for Membership

Places to Hike

There are many wonderful places to hike in the Grand Traverse Region. Check out these online resources or maps and descriptions.

TART <http://www.traversetrails.org/maps/>

GT Conservation District <http://www.gtcd.org/trailmaps/>

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy <http://www.gtrlc.org/preserves/preservemap.php>

Michigan Department of Natural Resources http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_16839_50522---,00.html

Sleeping Bear Dunes <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trails.htm>

The Leelanau Conservancy <http://www.theconservancy.com/naturalareaspres.html>

Grand Traverse Conservation District
Find maps at <http://natureiscalling.org/trail-maps/>
and Programs at <http://www.gtcd.org/calendar/>

Know of others? Please contact the newsletter editor to add your favorite trails to this list.

Want to lead a hike on your favorite trail? Or want company on your hike?

Go to Yahoo Groups and post your hike: <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandTraverse-HikingClub/>. If you don't already have a yahoo sign in, you need to create one. Then click on **Join This Group**. Select the option you prefer, and start joining hikes with new friends and old.

GTCH's 100 mile challenge Take The Challenge - GTCH challenges you to hike our entire 100 mile section (well, ok, it's currently 105 miles). Do it in your own time frame, in any order that you want. Go to www.northcountry-trail.org/gtr to download a log and brochure with our map. If you get it finished by December, return your log and we'll recognize you at the January Annual Meeting.

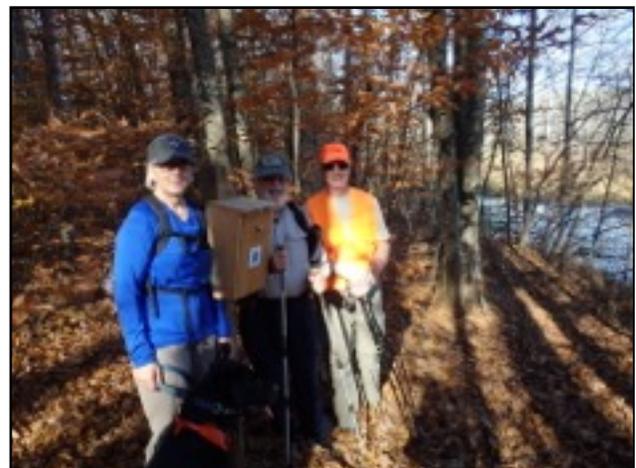
NCTA 2016 100 Mile Challenge: To celebrate the National Park Service's centennial year, the NCTA is promoting a 100 mile challenge. Hike 100 miles in any configuration, in aggregate or all at once, 100 different miles or repeating the same parts. For more information and to sign up, go to www.northcountrytrail.org/hike100challenge.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Trial Trekker Challenge Hike all 13 mainland trails within one year from first hike. Trails range from 1.5 miles to 4.25 miles, although some op-

tional loops can take you up to 14.7 miles. Pick up your log at the Empire Headquarters, or download from www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trail-trekker-challenge.htm

November 6 Hike:

Great hike on the NCT following the Manistee River from Glengary across M-115 & along Hordenpyl Dam Pond to the dam road trailhead for 10 more miles for Jill S' Hike100 NCT Challenge with Ed & Bert. Can't believe it's Nov & 70 degrees!!!





10/13 Baxter-High Banks Rollway - Harvey Bridge

The fall colors have finally turned along the Manistee River. Paula, Kathy, Carol & Kate did an out & back hike from Baxter Bridge trail-head to High Banks Rollway & John Briggs' bench. From there, Bert, Mark, Chipper & I continued on to Harvey Bridge. Lots of great conversation & perfect weather. Finished my NCTA Hike 100 Challenge today!

10/15 Manistee Hike and Paddle

Double your pleasure, double your fun, a full 6+ hr day of fall colors on the Manistee River today with 9 friends. Only way it could have been better was if Mother Nature had provided a little sunshine to make the leaves sparkle! My most complicated hike & paddle since we hike 7 miles from Dell Rd to Old 131 Campground, but the 11 mile paddle back ends at Baxter Bridge, 2 miles farther downstream due to private property the NCT does not cross. Thanks to [Henry Eckhardt](#), who only had time to hike, we were able to store our paddle gear in his truck until we finished the hike & all of our cars were at the finale. Congrats to [Paula H Dreeszen](#), who finished her NCTA Hike 100 Challenge today.



Are We Coming or Going?

In the spring of 2015 we excitedly accepted the GT Hiking Club's 100 mile challenge. We started out near Hodenpyl Dam in the spring and finished at the Starvation Lake area by fall. Both of us have plenty of summer company and an aversion to mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks so we didn't hike in July or August.

We are "directionally" challenged which resulted in extra miles and several SOS calls to Dave and Patty Warner. (A big thank you to the Warners.) We saw gorgeous sights on every hike including water, wild life, and amazing colors. We completed our challenge in October 2015.

We were disappointed about the end of our hiking challenge so we decided to hike in the reverse direction in 2016. Even if we are somewhat "challenged" by directions, it was an awesome decision!

This last spring (2016), as nature was coming alive, we started hiking at the east side of the 100 mile challenge near Starvation Lake and finished near Hodenpyl Dam in October as nature was painting its landscape in glorious colors.

Hiking the trail in the reverse direction was every bit as exciting and beautiful as the first hike. We laughed as we visited areas where we had gotten lost, questioned areas we didn't remember, and YES, we did get lost while hiking the second time.

We highly recommend hiking our magnificent 100 (or, was it 125?) mile challenge in both directions. It doubles your pleasure!



Debbie Beason and Joyce Freiwald

Eagle Project on the NCT



Photos by Jerry Marek



Austin Coggins from Troop #30 completed a small re-route on the Fife Lake Trail for his Eagle Scout Project. The project included signage and development of a campsite with benches and a fire ring, completed on Trails Day. He also constructed four recorder boxes which were dispersed along our 100 miles of trail. The first was placed near the trail to the camp site he made. The second was placed in the Sand Lakes area, next near Northern Exposure campground, and the final one in the Valley of the Giants. The project has received many favorable comments as measured by the comment sheets.

This also gives us a better understanding of trail usage. We may be lucky to have more projects of this nature in the future as the NCTA is encouraging more involvement of this type.



When you join the North Country Trail Association (NCTA), the organization that supports the many clubs that do the work of building and maintaining the trail, you also become affiliated with the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. Our Introductory Membership Program allows current members to sign up new members at an introductory rate of just \$23.00. To qualify, Introductory Members must be new to NCTA, or not have been members for at least two years. The rate for continuing members is \$46.00.

Membership Form	Mail with check to: North Country Trail Assoc., 229 E. Main Street, Lowell, MI 49331 Sponsored by Jerry Freels, President Grand Traverse Hiking Club
Name (please print)	
Address	
Daytime Phone	(area code first)
email	
Skills to volunteer:	



Grand Traverse Hiking Club
520 Highland Park Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686

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September 2016