



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.14 Issue 4 December 2007

Notes from the Board

John Heiam 1-231-938-9655

The board would like to thank Jodie Hoffmeister for her service as Vice President. She has brought a lot of enthusiasm and energy to the job and planned an excellent series of programs for our monthly meetings. We will miss her smile at our board meetings. However, as one person steps down, that leaves an opportunity for someone else to step up and add his or her perspective to the board. The duties of the vice president are to plan and schedule the programs for our monthly meetings, and to attend the board meetings. Although the duties of the vice president are very important, they do not require a large time commitment. Please consider volunteering to serve as vice president. Talk to me (231-938-9655), or one of the other officers, if you are interested.

Although we have some terrific outings planned for this winter, there are not as many trips listed as I had hoped. The problem is that I am asking people to commit to leading a trip in January or February, and as I am writing this it is the end of October, and people simply can't plan that far in advance. To solve this problem we have a "Hiking Buddies" list on our computer. See the "Hiking Buddies" note in this newsletter to find out how to be included in these last minute informal trips.

Trip Reports

Note to trip leaders: If you send me a trip report, I will include it in the next newsletter. Pictures from the trip are always welcome.

Saturday September 22 John and Lois led a group of 19 people from Dollar Lake to the Boardman River, and then over to Muncie Lake before returning to the trailhead. We met a group of young adults who were backpacking as part of a P.E. class for Northwestern Michigan College. We even sat in on the talk about stoves while they were camped on the hill overlooking Muncie Lake. It made me feel good to know we provide a beautiful trail like this for the general public, and that it is being used.

Sunday October 14 Carolyn Francis led a group of over 20 people on a hike to the Valley of the Giants. The weather was beautiful, and they had the good fortune to have Jim Ribby, a professional story teller, as one of the participants. Jim recited a number of poems, but this was everyone's favorite:

Lost: by David Wagoner

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you

Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here, And you must treat it as a powerful stranger, Must ask permission to know it and be known.

The forest breathes. Listen. It answers, I have made this place around you.

If you leave it you may come back again, saying Here.

No two trees are the same to Raven,

No two branches are the same to Wren.

If what a tree or bush does is lost on you, You are surely lost. Stand still.

The forest knows where you are.

You must let it find you.



Photo by Marilyn Hoogstraten

**Joint Holiday Party / Potluck
 Sunday, December 9
 2:00 P.M. Timber Ridge Resort
 (This takes the place of our normal
 December meeting)**

In recent years Mike Schaeffer and Debby Page have hosted this event at their home, but the party has gotten too big to fit in their house. To remedy this situation, the bike club, paddle club, and hiking club have decided to join forces to rent the facility at Timber Ridge Resort. Everyone who attends will be asked to donate \$5 towards the rental of the building.

We plan to hike, mountain bike, snowshoe, or cross country ski on the trails at Timber Ridge and the adjacent VASA trail. Each person can decide on an activity appropriate for the weather that day. Even if it's raining, we can still have fun outdoors. The weather will determine what we'll do on the trail, but it can't get bad enough to cancel the event. After we work up an appetite with our outdoor activities, there will be a party indoors. Bring a dish to pass (with serving utensils), and your own beverage. If you aren't interested in hitting the trail and would rather go shopping in the afternoon, you can still join the fun at the potluck dinner. We should be back at the banquet room at approximately 5:00 PM.

The building will be available at 2:00 to drop off food before we hit the trail. If you have questions, please contact John Heiam at 938-9655 or johnheiam@charter.net

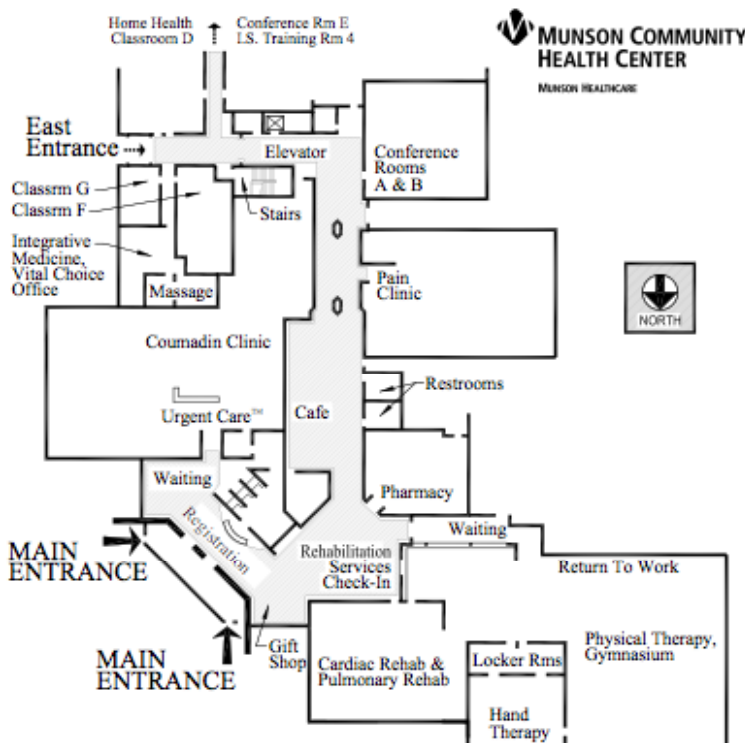
**Tuesday January 15, 2008 at 7PM in
 Classrooms A & B at MCHC
 Lessons Learned in 789 Miles on the
 Appalachian Trail over Six Years
 with June Thaden**

What is it that pulls June back to the AT? Backpacking is tough work, but has so many rewards. For June it includes weeks in wonderful forests with her middle-aged son John, incredible views, and the special peace of walking in the woods. Learn how

Programs & Meetings



Programs are held in Conference Room A&B
 Munson Community Health Center



pack weight and equipment changed to make each section hike more fun (and possible for June's aging body!), as you enjoy June & John's favorite views of the AT from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Shenandoah, plus the 100 Mile Wilderness and Mt. Katahdin, Maine.

Tuesday February 19, 2008 at 7PM in Classrooms A & B at MCHC Experience a Rocky Mountain High with Sara "Energizer" Cockrell

Come join Sara as she shares her summer's 6-week adventures including: Yellowstone & Grand Teton National Parks, National Outdoor Leadership School's "Light & Fast Backpacking" class in WY's Absaroka Wilderness, a visit with high school friends at their Red Canyon WY horse ranch, and finally, Wind River & Rocky Mountain National Parks. During her travels, she hiked & backpacked over 300 miles and paddled on the Snake River in WY & Cache la Poudre River in CO. Sara fell in love with the beauty of the Rockies, as she hiked up canyons, along cascading creeks, past thundering waterfalls, through alpine meadows bedecked with wildflowers galore, then climbed up to pristine alpine ponds with reflections of the mountain cirques above, their towering rock spires & craggy peaks mirrored below.

Tuesday March 18, 2008 at 7PM in Classrooms A & B at MCHC Backpacking in Wilderness State Park with Marty Johnson and Crew

Join Marty as she and other fellow backpackers Pat and Jim Coats, Rick Halbert, Ed Morse, Dick Naperala, Rit Portugesi, and Gail Staisil from Marquette, backpack for four days along Sturgeon Bay, through Wilderness State Park, and on into Mackinaw City. Come and hear about their adventure and see the slides of their trip and this beautiful state park, which is only a short distance from us here in northern Michigan.

WANTED: Speakers for monthly meetings
REWARD: the eternal gratitude of club members

We are always looking for people to present programs at the monthly meetings of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. Usually our meetings occur on the third Tuesday of each month from September through May. We are fortunate that the present location at Munson Community Health Center offers us free use of every type of media. All presentations MUST be limited to forty-five minutes in length so that we do not overstay our welcome at this free facility. If you have an idea for a monthly program or know of a good speaker, contact John Heim at 1-231-938-9655, or contact one of the other club officers.



Log on for the latest GTHC Newsletter!!

Visit our GTHC Web Page @ <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/gtr>



Outings and Events

Note: You do not have to be a member of the Hiking Club to attend one of our outings. However, if you enjoy the trips and continue to participate in a number of our outings, we would hope that you would support the organization by becoming a member.

Wednesday Evenings, December 19 through March 19
Snowshoe the hills behind the hospital
Leaders: Mike Schaeffer and Debby Page

Every Wednesday evening through the winter, people will meet at 6:30 in Parking Lot K behind Munson Hospital (at the side closest to the hill) with snowshoes, and hike for 1 – 1 1/2

hours and then adjourn to Sleder's for food and/or beer. Trip will go only if there is sufficient snow. You do not have to call to sign up, this is a "show and go" type of outing. Contact Debby or Mike if you have questions pagedebby@yahoo.com. If you wish to call, please do so **after 5 PM** 947-9379.

**Wednesday, December 19 - morning
Hike at Sleeping Bear Dunes
Leader: Carol Salerno**

We will meet in the parking lot at the Cannery in Glen Haven on M-209. Note: all vehicles are required to have SBDNL Park Pass. Depending on the weather and desires of the group, we will hike on the beach or road to the trailhead (near the Sleeping Bear Dunes Point Coast Guard Station). The Dunes-Sleeping Bear Point Trail traverses dense forest and open dunes. Hiking up the dunes in sand is not easy, but the majestic views at the top make the effort worthwhile. We will hike between 3 and 4 miles and then adjourn to have some soup at Art's Tavern. Contact Carol at salernocpm@hotmail.com or phone 231-590-3329 for specific meeting time.

**Wednesday, December 26 - morning
Cross Country Skiing at Sand Lakes Quiet Area
Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

We don't want to go near the stores on this date, and we want a chance to use our Christmas gifts! If there is decent snow we will ski. We may have to break trail, but Sand Lakes is worth the effort since this area is spectacular in the wintertime. If snow conditions are icy, we will snowshoe instead. If there is no snow, we can still go hiking. Either way, it's better than fighting the crowds at the mall! Contact John or Lois at lgoldstein@charter.net or call (231) 938-9655 for specific meeting time. If you wish, you may join us for lunch afterwards at a local restaurant.

**Sunday January 6 - morning
Cross Country Ski at Muncie lakes
Leader: Carolyn Francis**

Come join us for a leisurely ski around this beautiful loop system just southeast of Traverse City. Contact Carolyn at northerngal_tc@yahoo.com or call 231-668-7434 for specific meeting time. If you wish, you may join us for lunch afterwards at a local restaurant.

**Sunday, January 13 - morning
Snowshoe the Valley of the Giants
Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

This valley is even more spectacular in the winter than it is in the summer. Come join us for a two to three hour snowshoe hike, and then for lunch at a local restaurant. Contact John or Lois at lgoldstein@charter.net or call (231) 938-9655 for specific meeting time and place. Note: Because of very limited parking at the entrance to the valley, we will probably meet at a nearby location and carpool from there.

**Sunday, February 10 - morning
Snowshoe along the North Branch of the Boardman River
Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

We will snowshoe along the banks of the North Branch for several hours and then go out for lunch at a local restaurant. This is one of the most beautiful winter hikes in our area, so don't miss it! Contact John or Lois at lgoldstein@charter.net or call (231) 938-9655 for specific meeting time and driving directions.

**Friday February 29 - morning
Urban stroll on the Boardman Lake Trail from the Library to Logan's Landing (and back) (4 miles)
Leaders: Jody Bennett and Bob Luoma**

We will meet at the front of the library, and then head out looking for early signs of spring along the east side of Boardman Lake. Feel free to

join us for lunch afterwards at a local restaurant. This will be an entry-level outing, so if the weather is really crummy, we'll reschedule it. Please contact Jody or Bob for details and to sign up bennettji@charter.net or phone 932-9249. We want to be able to notify you in case of cancellation.



Join the NCTA *online* @

https://salmon.site-secure.net/northcountrytrail/ncta/join_us.htm

Hiking Buddies

Lois Goldstein & John Heiam

Picture this scenario: It's been cold and raining for a week, but the forecast is looking up. We just decided that we'd like to check out a new section of the North Country Trail, or do a clean up at Muncie Lakes. We're looking for people who might be ready to drop everything and spend some time hiking (or snowshoeing or x-c skiing).

We maintain a list of "*hiking buddies*" in our e-mail address book, and we share it with everyone on the list. Periodically, people send out a note asking if anyone would like to join them on impromptu outings in this area. These non-club outings occur both on weekdays and weekends. Last season about thirty requests were sent out, and there were frequently groups of two to ten people on these outings. We have made a lot of friends on these unofficial trips, and are always happy to have new people come along.

If you would like to learn about these last minute plans, you can be added to our "hiking buddies" list. Let us know by email (lgoldstein@charter.net) if you would like to be included.

Save a tree



If you receive your GTHC newsletter via the web, and are no longer interested in receiving this newsletter by mail, please contact June Thaden. Leave a message at 231-947-8476 or send an email to: jthaden00@yahoo.com By doing this, you have helped save both a tree and money for our club. Thank you.



Trail Tread Ways

Arlen Matson

Hodenpyle Dam Reroute

It's now been a year, since we initiated the dream, and the process of rerouting the NCT from the Marilla Trailhead east towards Hodenpyle Dam. This route continues along the back-water through tall pine trees interspersed with views of the water. Crossing M-115, it will continue along the river on an abandoned railroad bed, eventually reaching M-37. All of the landowners we've contacted have been reluctant to grant easements due to their concern about deer habitat. They are all hunters.

Our current thinking is to cross M-37, hook up with a dirt road for a short spell, and then reconnect with the NCT some where east of Wheeler Creek. More scouting is in the process to determine an exact location before submitting the new reroute to the Cadillac DNR. Consumers Energy has our GPS readings, and we are expecting to meet with them to finalize the major portion of this plan soon.

Thermarest mattress 3/4

Windfalls

And we don't mean money, although if we had it, we would support the DNR. How can Michigan promote tourism when they cut their budget to smithereens? In the meantime, this summer was not only hot but loaded with an unusual amount of high winds. Rit P., Ed M., and Dick N., our new certified sawyers, have been kept busy all over the NCT this summer. Thanks to our adopters, we were able to pinpoint the exact locations, and in many cases, accompany them as a safety precaution, and give assistance in removal of the debris.

Maintenance

With no action by the Michigan DNR to our VASA-Kalkaska proposal, we have gradually attempted to improve the quality of the NCT. Re-blazing, signage, and benching are a few of the new trail traits you may observe while hiking this fall.

Equipment

This is a reminder to all adopters and trail crew personnel that it is time to return all tools to our tool trailer located at the home of Arlen Matson. It is time for the annual inventory to determine what replacements are needed.

\$\$\$ Classified \$\$\$

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Backpack equipment, new in 2006, and used for only 5 days. Call Arlen Matson @ (231) 941-4152

MSR Hubba Hubba Tent
Big Agnes sleeping bag
Big Agnes air mattress
Snow Peak stove & fuel
MSR titanium pot
Long poncho

WANTED
Wanted ads here.

Lost and Found

2007 Officers and Committees

President:

John Heiam Tel. (231) 938-9655
E-mail: johnheiam@charter.net

Vice President:

Position open.

Secretary/Membership

June Thaden Tel. (231) 947-8476
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Treasurer

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Administrative Trails Coordinator:

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Advisor:

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Email: chieftrat@charter.net

Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator:

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Tool Trailer Supervisor:

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Hospitality:

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Rick Halbert Tel. (231) 947-8485
Email: homes5@chartermi.net

Web Page:

Brian Cox Tel. (231) 883-3722
Email: tcbrian@chartermi.net

Trail Guide

June Thaden Tel. (231) 947-8476
Email: jthaden00@yahoo.com

Promotional Brochure

Barb Kennedy Tel. (231) 409-9733
Email: barb@netonecom.net

Our Sponsored Membership Program allows current members to sign up new members at an introductory rate of just \$18.00. To qualify, Sponsored Members must be new to NCTA, or not have been members for at least two years. The \$18 rate is good only for the first year of membership. The rate for continuing members is \$30.00.

Fill out the form below and mail it with a check to: **North Country Trail Association, 229 E. Main St., Lowell MI 49331**



Sponsored by: John Heiam (NCTA #5951) – President Grand Traverse Hiking Club		
Name (please print)	Daytime phone (area code first):	
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Skills to Volunteer:	Email address:	



**Grand Traverse Hiking
Club**
520 Highland Park Drive

