



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.14 Issue 2 June 2007

Notes from the Board

John Heiam

Next year we have decided to change the format of our monthly meetings. They will start at 7:00 PM with a 30 minute social time. Then at 7:30 our business meeting will begin. Immediately thereafter the program will follow, and it will be limited to 45 minutes. This change will give people a chance to renew acquaintances, and will assure that we finish by 9:00 PM. We are in the process of scheduling next year's programs and have a number of spots to fill. If you think you could present a program that would be of interest to club members, please contact Jodie Hoffmeister (e-mail jodie@tcmi.biz).

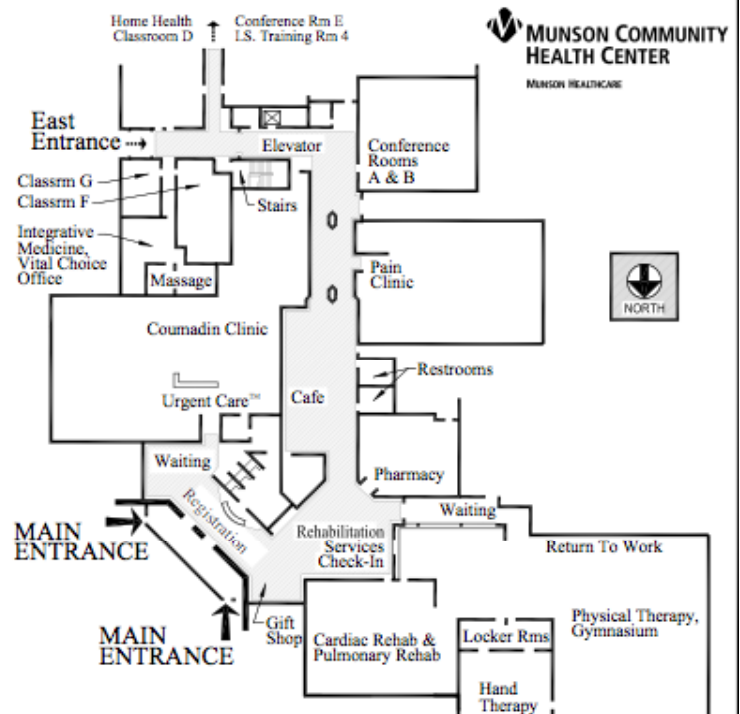
We have also decided to supply everyone in the club with a membership list via an attachment to an e-mail. We don't want to put a roster on the web site for privacy reasons. The list will not be mailed due to the expense involved. If you don't have e-mail, or have trouble reading the attachment, you can ask me for a copy at Trails Day on June 2 (see notice below) or at any of the meetings next fall. They will not be available for public distribution at meetings because of privacy concerns.

If you would prefer your name, address, phone & email address NOT be included on this distributed membership list, please notify June Thaden by email: jthaden00@yahoo.com or by phone: 231 947-8476 by June 1.

Programs & Meetings



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



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 Jodie Hoffmeister (Vice President of GTHC) at jodie@tcmi.biz or call 231-947-4144 home, or 231-620-6049 cell.



Outings and Events

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY Saturday, June 2

National Trails Day this year is on Saturday, June 2. Since we have no new trail construction projects ready to go, we'll take a hike instead.

We'll meet at Scheck's Place at 9:00 a.m.
Directions from TC:

- From Garfield and South Airport, go south on Garfield for 7.8 miles to Brown Bridge Road (immediately opposite River Road).
- Go east on Brown Bridge Road where at 0.8 miles, you'll reach the fork with Scharmen Road.
- When you get to the fork, continue on Brown Bridge Road (the fork to the north) until you cross the Boardman River at 3.5 miles from Garfield.
- Continue across the river and Scheck's Place Campground is on the river to your right. There is a parking lot by the boat landing.

When we get there we'll take a hike toward the Valley of the Giants. The hike is about two miles each way out and back. It's a very scenic trail. An alternate route would be in the opposite direction toward Muncie. We can hike out until about 11:00, then turn around to get back to Scheck's around 12:30. It will be a simple out and back hike with no shuttle necessary.

After the hike, we'll have a picnic at the campground. Bring a dish to pass and we'll have a feast. We will provide hot dogs and condiments, a grill, and water jugs with water and lemonade. If you would like a different beverage, bring it yourself.

We'll also have a of couple tables for the food. I don't know how many picnic tables will be available so it would be a good idea to bring along a folding chair.

Come join us for a great time in celebrating NTD.

Thursday to Sunday, June 8 - 10 Backpack trip on North Manitou Island Leader: Brian Cox

We have all looked out at the islands off of Sleeping Bear Dunes; here's your chance to actually hike there! This is a classic northern Michigan backpack outing that is a favorite of many people in the club. It is suitable for a relative novice, since the island is just not that large. Call or e-mail Brian if you are interested.(231) 668-4341, tcbrian@chartermi.net

Fall Hikes Needed

Our next newsletter will be published at the end of August so we need people to start thinking of hikes they could lead this fall. Please contact John Heiam (johnheiam@charter.net) with any ideas you have. If necessary, he will be happy to help you with the actual newsletter write-up. (Note: his wife Lois, who can actually spell, will do the editing.)

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 have a list of "*hiking buddies*" in our e-mail address book. Periodically, we send out a note asking if anyone would like to join us on impromptu outings in this area. These non-club outings occur both on weekdays and weekends. Last season we sent out about 20 of these requests, and we frequently had groups of two to ten people join us. 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 if you would like to be included.

e-mail: lgoldstein@charter.net or johnheiam@charter.net

Trail Tread Ways

Arlen Matson

Waiting



There comes a time when our submissions come to a standstill. This is one of those times as we wait for the Traverse City DNR to act on our reroute proposal for the VASA to Kalkaska connection. We also

are waiting for the National Park Service to send us the symbols for signage, and the status of our CCS Grant for a kiosk and benches. Both the DNR and NPS are in a budget crunch that has affected their responses. Our trail crew of 25 volunteers are waiting for a call to action. We will inform you ASAP when the clouds of confusion clear.

Chainsaw Certification Class

On April 28, Joe Carrick of the US Forest Service held an all day class to certify personnel using the chainsaw on state or federal land. Rit Portuesi, Ed Morse, and Dick Naperala attended from our chapter and now are officially certified as Sawyer's. Both the DNR and NPS require certification when using a chainsaw on the NCT. A Sawyers equipment includes the following: chainsaw, helmet, ear device, face guard, chaps, gloves and work shoes. Thanks for your commitment, Sawyers!

Hodenpyl--Wheeler Creek Reroute

Consumers Energy has taken our proposal to reroute the NCT from Hodenpyl Dam to M-37 utilizing the north side of the reservoir and the Manistee River. After preliminary meetings in Cadillac, Consumers Energy has moved up the chain of coordinators to their headquarters in Detroit, all with preliminary approvals. This whole process has been a positive experience for all concerned, and the enthusiasm continues to build. This proposal would link the Marilla Trailhead to the NCT at Wheeler Creek. It would eliminate nearly 6 miles of walking on roads, and enhance the NCT with many scenic miles of water views. This is a two -year goal, and progress is continuing as we become more specific with the route on Consumers' property, and as we contact key landowners for easements. The reroute would also pass through the sizeable campground at Northern Exposure. We are also attempting to set a spur trail into Mesick.

An Adopter's Trail Inspection

It was a sunny, blue-sky morning as I parked the truck, having driven 15 miles to our 4 mile adopted section of the NCT. As we headed north from a missing marker post, one of us was carrying a lopper and a trash bag. The guy in front had a bow saw and a pulaski. Blue blazes, within sight of each other, led us along a well-trampled tread. In the first 30 minutes of walking, it was the pulaski that was the workhorse of the tools. Nubbins, exposed roots and stubs from cut trees exposed by hikers' shoes were removed. This was usually done by a 4-way cut with the axe and then a pull with the hoe blade. A fresh fallen spruce was noted on the report. We knew Betsy would call a sawyer to craft it out. Another spruce was a leaner, so we bow sawed all the branches in the trail's way. A little lopping kept the 4' x 8' corridor nice and open. Not much litter; a beer can with multiple 22- rifle holes in it, a beer bottle worth 10 cents and a plastic water bottle. We lunched at a grassy spot used as a log staging spot, and both agreed this would make a fine tent site for a backpacker. We finished our first day's patrol at mid-afternoon. By my estimates we used the lopper some, the dull bow saw on occasion, and the pulaski at least 40 times. And that does not include knocking down some hummocks that made for a poor tread. We have one more day and two miles of trail to cover next week. To all of you adopters out there, may I recommend that you call Arlen, when heading out to your sector and tell him you want to take a pulaski. I guarantee it will be your most utilized tool in making the NCT a premium walk for all hikers.



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Newsletter!!**

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Join the NCTA *online* @

[https://salmon.site-secure.net/
northcountrytrail/ncta/join_us.htm](https://salmon.site-secure.net/northcountrytrail/ncta/join_us.htm)

\$\$\$ Classified

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FOR SALE

For sale ads here.

WANTED

Wanted ads here.

Lost and Found

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.

2007 Officers and Committees

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Email: barb@netonecom.net

Club Historian

Bev Cuthbert Tel. (231) 929-9022
Email: Bjcuthbert@aol.com

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**



Member of a specific Chapter: Grand Traverse Hiking Club

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| 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: | |

