



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.14 Issue 3 September 2007

Notes from the Board

John Heiam 1-231-938-9655

This year we are changing the time and format of our monthly meetings to better accommodate those people who need to get home earlier. Our meetings will start at 7:00 with a 30 - minute social time. The business meeting will begin promptly at 7:30. The program will follow immediately thereafter and it will be limited to 45 minutes. This change will allow people to renew acquaintances, and will assure that we finish by 9:00 PM. Debby Page has volunteered to bring goodies for the first meeting, but we need people to sign up for subsequent meetings. Please see Debby at the meeting or contact her at 947-9379 to volunteer. We will continue to meet in Conference Rooms A & B at Munson Community Health Center. See the map on this page.

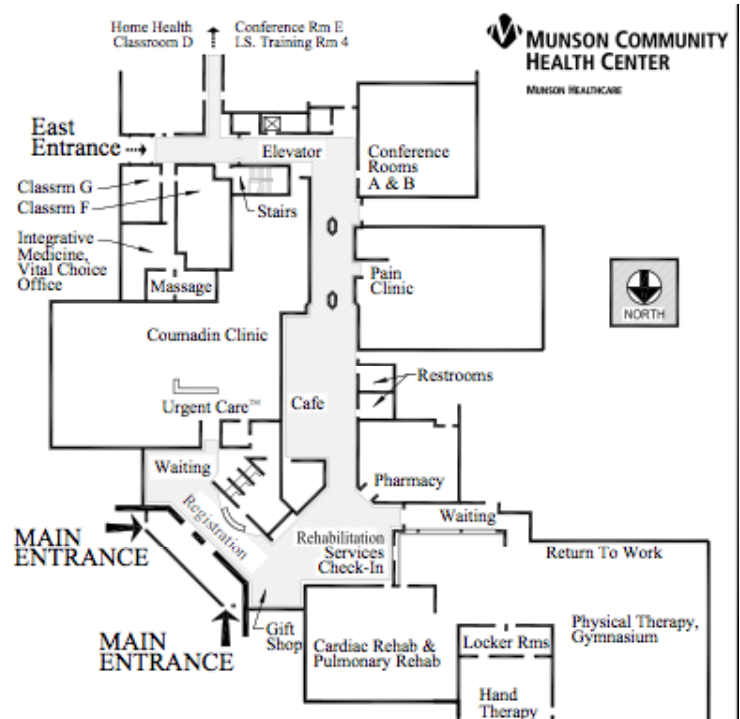
Outings

The club has day hikes scheduled every weekend from September 15 through the end of October. There is also a weekend backpack scheduled during the prime fall color season. We will need winter snowshoe hikes or cross country ski outings for our December newsletter, so please let me know if you would be interested in leading one.

Trail Building

We have had a problem getting the D.N.R. to approve our plan to connect the VASA Trail to the KART trail in Kalkaska. The proposal has been sitting on the desk of the manager of the Traverse City field office since last December.

He has not offered any reason to oppose the project, yet he refuses to sign the proposal. Members of the Board have started to work through political channels to gain his approval, because if he doesn't sign it during 2007, we will lose our federal grant for signage. On a more positive note, thanks to the efforts of Dick Naperala and Arlen Matson, we have received approval from Consumers Energy to reroute the North Country Trail along the shore of Hodenpyl Pond and the Manistee River north toward Wheeler Creek. We still have to secure permission from some private landowners, but with the help we are getting from the Mesick community, this appears quite possible. This is one of the biggest tasks we have ever taken on, and it will be a tremendous asset to the trail and the hiking public.



Programs & Meetings



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

**Tuesday September 18, 2007 at 7pm in
Classrooms A & B at MCHC
Meet Bruce Matthews, the new Executive
Director for the NCTA**

Bruce will be introducing himself and talking about our beautiful North Country Trail system and how his office integrates with our chapter. Bruce will be speaking on many different topics such as national and local trail issues and what more they can do at headquarters to support our efforts. From Bruce, "We're nothing without clubs and volunteers like yours. I need to intimately understand and support your efforts, so I'm grateful for this chance to learn." This will be an exciting opportunity to meet Bruce and ask questions!

**Tuesday October 16, 2007 at 7pm in
Classrooms A & B at MCHC
A Taste of the Appalachian Trail & Other
Adventures, from Georgia to Maine in 7
weeks with Sara "Energizer" Cockrell**

Come join Sara as she shares her experiences on the A.T., first with 7 friends for 7 days in Georgia, then, continuing north on her own, traveling through 9 of the 13 states the A.T. crosses, most for the first time, visiting 16 parks, including Roan Mountain, Grayson Highlands/Mt. Rogers, Blue Ridge Pkwy, Shenandoah, Berkshires, Green Mountains, White Mountains, and the 100-Mile Wilderness. In addition, Sara spent 7 days whitewater rafting in SC, NC, TN, WV, PA & MD, and two days mountain biking at NC's Tsali Singletrack and at the Damascus' Virginia Creeper Trail. Discover the wonders of this long-distance trail,

from the thru and section hikers, the shelters and hostels, the ever-changing mountain top vistas, grassy balds, rock ledges and outcroppings, cascading waterfalls, river gorges, and wild ponies.

**Tuesday November 20, 2007 at 7pm in
Classrooms A & B at MCHC
Canoeing Quetico with Arlen and Arlene
Matson**

From Arlen Matson's previous presentation on canoeing the interior waters of Isle Royale, we now travel further west into a canoeing paradise: Quetico Provincial Park. Three canoes, loaded with Duluth Packs, knife the waters of Beaverhouse, Quetico and Cirrus Lakes. Late July abounds with fantastic flowers, spectacular sunsets, fine fishing, loud loons and everyday eagles. Come join two college students, a married couple, a teen age girl and her grandfather as they set up base camp with a terrifying unknown storm brewing.

**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

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

Saturday, September 15
Alligator Hill at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Morning hike and then lunch at the Friendly Tavern in Empire
Leader: Jane Conard

We'll meet at a parking lot on the west side of Traverse City, form car pools and then drive to Alligator Hill. The group will hike along the longer loop, stopping at all the overlooks to savor the views of Lake Michigan and North

and South Manitou Islands. The entire hike should be less than three hours. Contact Jane Conard to learn the specific details of the trip and to sign up. calamitj@pentel.net or call (231) 223-4467.

Saturday, September 22
Hike from Dollar Lake trailhead to the Boardman River
Meet early afternoon for a six mile hike
Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein

This is a repeat of our famous 2007 Mother's Day hike. On that outing our group was having such a good time that everyone wanted to extend the trip, so we hiked another two miles to the overlook of Muncie Lake. Depending on the weather and the desires of the group we may do this again. This hike brings us to a beautiful undeveloped inland lake and one of Michigan's premier trout streams. Call or e-mail John or Lois to sign up, and learn specific meeting time: (231) 938-9655, lgoldstein@charter.net

Sunday, September 30
North Country Trail starting at Dell Road
Meet at 10 AM at Dell Road trailhead – park along east side of the road
Leader: Deena Barshney

Hike the North Country Trail along the tributaries and main branch of the Manistee River south of Kingsley. This will be an out-and-back 4.5 miles one way to the bench at Townline. Bring a lunch and/or snack to eat when we get to the bench. Please carpool with friends if possible and park along the east side of Dell Road near the old gate entrance to the NCT. Contact Deena Barshney at deenab@charter.net if you need help finding the trailhead on a map or have questions about the hike.

Saturday - Sunday, October 6 – 7
Backpack the Manistee River Trail and
North Country Trail
Meet at Red Bridge Saturday morning
Leader: Steven Terry

The plan is to park at Red Bridge, hike up the west side of the river on the Manistee River Trail up to the Hodenpyl National Forest Camp for the evening, and then head down the east side on Sunday on the North Country Trail. I believe the trip is roughly 20 miles for the loop. Fall colors should be perfect and the trail is usually in good shape this time of year. I am flexible on either Sat/Sun or Sun/Mon, whichever works best for the most people. I can be contacted at angstrom27@yahoo.com or 231.995.8194.

Saturday, October 6
Explore new proposed route of the North
Country Trail along Hodenpyl Pond
Four hour off-trail hike
Leader: Richard Naperala and Arlen Matson

We will meet at a campground mid-morning, hike for two hours, have lunch at a beautiful spot under the pines overlooking the pond, and then hike for another couple of hours. With the fall colors near their peak, you will recognize this as potentially one of the most scenic places on our section of trail. Although the terrain is basically flat, the hiking will require stepping over trees and branches, so be sure to wear appropriate footwear. Contact Arlen at 941-4152 or acmatson@sbcglobal.net for the specific time and meeting location.

Sunday, October 14
Valley of the Giants
Morning hike finishing about noon
Leader: Carolyn Francis

We will meet at Scheck's Place Campground, hike for a little over an hour to the Valley of the Giants, spend some time there relaxing, taking photos, and eating a snack, and then return. This deep valley which contains old growth trees is a very special place. Contact Carolyn

for specific meeting time and other details
231-668-7434 or email
northerngal_tc@yahoo.com

Driving directions to Scheck's Place Campground (about 40 minutes from Traverse City) (We recommend that you look this over before you set out, and follow the route with a detailed map of the area). Take Hammond east to High Lake Road. Turn right (south) for one mile and then turn left (east) on Supply Road. Take Supply Road east until you reach Rennie Lake Road. Turn right (south) on Rennie Lake Road and follow it all the way to the T-intersection and stop sign at Ranch Rudolf Road. Turn left (east) on Ranch Rudolf Road and follow it all the way (past the trailhead for the Muncie Lakes Pathway), down the hill to the T-intersection with Brown Bridge Road. Turn right on Brown Bridge Road (heading back west) and follow it a mile or two (passing the horse campgrounds) until you see the bridge crossing over the Boardman. Immediately before the bridge, turn left into the campground and drive about 100 yards to the parking area by the river. There is an outhouse there.

Driving directions from southwest of town (this requires a great deal of attention, and more distance on unpaved roads). Go through Chums Corner (US-31 and M-37), and head east on Beitner Road. Go down the hill until you pass over the Boardman River. About 100 yards after that, turn right and head east on River Road. Follow it to Garfield, and then cross over that, and then about 50 yards later, cross over Arbutus Hill Road. Continue on that road (you will cross the river again), the paved section will end and you will pass the entrance to Brown Bridge Pond. About 200 yards after that, STAY LEFT when you encounter the fork in the road. Follow the road for about 3 miles and then it will cross the river again. As soon as you cross over, turn right into the campground.

questions, please contact John Heiam at 938-9655 or johnheiam@charter.net

**Sunday, October 21
Baxter Bridge to Highbanks Rollway and return**

**Meet at 10 AM at the Baxter Bridge boat access on the west side of 29 ½ Rd
Leaders: Mike Schaeffer and Debby Page**

We will hike 2 miles west to the overlook, enjoy the view, have lunch, and walk back. There are a lot of ups and downs with this hike, so it is more strenuous than the distance would indicate. If you have any questions, contact Debby or Mike at pagedebby@yahoo.com or call 947-9379 that Saturday or Sunday morning if there are concerns about the weather.

**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.

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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



Thanks to the adopt-a-trail folk, the trail is getting some attention.

Hodenpyl Dam Reroute

Club members have been scouting and collecting data for the Hodenpyl Dam reroute. This information has been sent on to Consumers Energy. The process so far is highly favorable. We are currently contacting property owners east of M-37 and trying to figure out the best way to hook up with the abandoned railroad route that our NCT utilizes east of M-37.

Our Trail Crew

Our Trail Crew has been silent this summer. Maybe with all the heat it was just as well. I still have the names and the DNR has indicated that October 1st will tell the tale. We have begun to implement our regular Tuesday work sessions, however, the work has been a series of minor improvements requiring only a few workers so far.

The NCT shield sign has been moved at the entrance to the Old US 131 SFCG. We also cut out the huge white pine in the campground that was laying across the spur trail. We barricaded the ATV hillside immediately north of the double bridge using posts, and seeded the whole bank. We also benched the ravine on both sides at the first bridge west of the NCT junction sign, put in two steps, and cut out the large poplar tree across the trail. We will have a work session requiring some work force on Tuesday, September 11. It's time to enjoy the cooler days and the beauty of the NCT. It's interesting how much of it is in the shade.

If all goes well by the time this goes to press, we should have a short puncheon installed at Twenty-two Creek at the muddy spot as you approach the creek.

Starvation Lake Signage

Four of us spent the day installing 13 carsonite and 4x4 posts on the NCT, CR 612 to Starvation Lake Road. This is Dennis Hansen's adopted trail section and the 10 mile section is now complete. Dick, Ed and Arlen have finished all the GPS work for this section.



Log on for the latest GTHC Newsletter!!

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



Join the NCTA *online* @

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

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.

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FOR SALE

For sale ads here.

WANTED

Wanted ads here.

Lost and Found

2007 Officers and Committees

President:

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E-mail: johnheiam@charter.net

Vice President:

Jodie Hoffmeister Tel. (231) 947-4144
Email: Jodie@tcmi.biz

Secretary/Membership

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Email: jthaden00@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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Email: mlis@localnet.com

Administrative Trails Coordinator:

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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**



Member of a specific Chapter: Grand Traverse Hiking Club

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
Traverse City, MI 49686

