



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.15 Issue 1 March 2008

Notes from the Board

John Heiam 1-231-938-9655

This spring, summer and fall will be a busy time for our club. We are working behind the scenes with political leaders to secure a reliable funding source for the DNR. When we build trails on public lands we need their cooperation, and they can't help us if their budget does not allow them to spend time reviewing our proposals. On the more tangible side, we hope to build a link between the VASA trail and the Sand Lakes Quiet Area, and start on the Hodenpyl reroute which will be built on Consumers Energy property. Both of these projects will add miles of spectacular pathways to the growing inventory of hiking opportunities in this region. None of this could happen if we did not have the national organization behind us supporting our political efforts, and funding our trail building needs. On another note, the North Country Trail Association has had to raise dues for the first time in over ten years. I hope that this increase will not deter you from renewing. We cannot continue to build and maintain trails without your support.

While I'm on the topic of money, I have a reminder for members who work on our trails. If you itemize your tax return, you can claim a donation of **\$.505/mile** to the NCTA for every mile you drove getting to and from the work site.

Trip Reports

Cross country skiing at Sand Lakes - Wednesday, December 26 - Led by John & Lois

This trip was originally scheduled as a cross-country ski outing, but the snow didn't cooperate. So we changed it to a hike along the North Branch of the Boardman River. We had a great group for a snowshoe / "YakTrax" hike. We walked for a little over two hours and then went to TraVino for lunch. Below is a picture of the group minus John who took the picture.



Photo by John Heiam

Snowshoe hike in the Valley of the Giants – Sunday, January 13 - Led by John & Lois

On the way to the trailhead everyone got to help as we pulled one of the cars out of the ditch on Scharmen Road. It pays to carry a tow strap and a shovel in northern Michigan!

The trail had already been broken so it was an easy hike down to the creek. Most of the group didn't even bother with snowshoes. The valley was magical in its winter dress. If you haven't been down there at that time of the year, you have to go!



Photo by John Heiam

Snowshoe hike along the North Branch – Sunday, February 10 - led by Lois and John

During the week preceding this event we were contacted by 17 people who wanted to join the hike. We had scheduled it in order to offer an activity to outdoor enthusiasts who weren't involved in the VASA ski races. You may recall that Sunday morning the temperatures were below zero, with lots of wind and blowing snow. Well, the 13 people who cancelled (including four no-shows) missed a great hike! Bob Fitch, Ed Morse and we were all dressed properly, and in fact, we had to vent once we got into the woods away from the cars. The ice formations on the river were just magical, and the lacy effects of snow on branches made it a true winter wonderland. We walked for about 2 1/2 hours and then enjoyed a delightful lunch at TraVino. We felt sorry for the people who missed this opportunity; it was simply another manifestation of the best winter snow season we've had in years! Besides, we all got to test out all the warm winter gear that had been sitting in our closets.

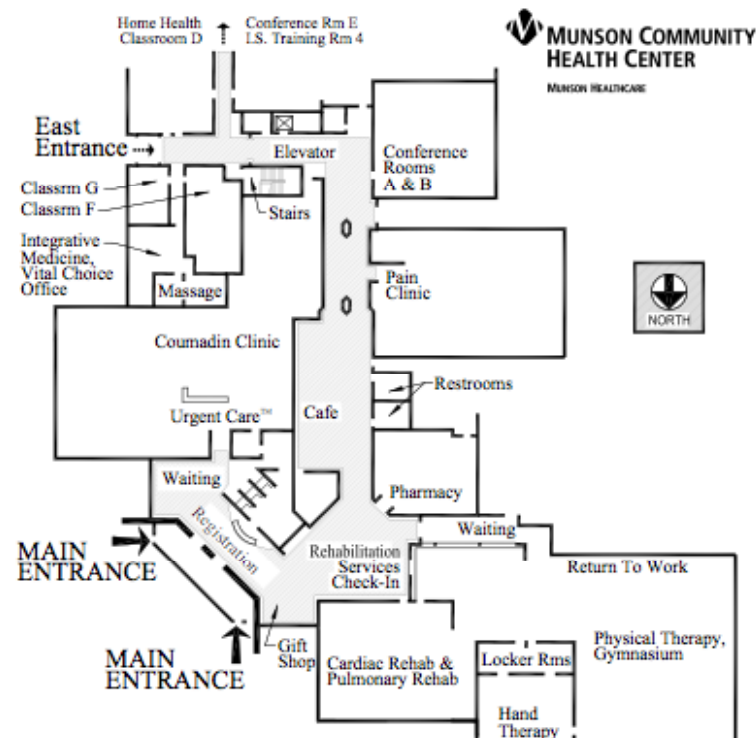


Photo by Ed Morse

Programs & Meetings



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



**Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 7 PM 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 Portuesi, and Gail from Marquette, backpack for four days through Wilderness State Park near Mackinaw City. Come and hear about their adventure and see the slides of this beautiful park which is only a short distance from us here in northern Michigan.

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at 7 PM in
Classrooms A & B at MCHC
Hiking in Andalucia in southern Spain by
John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

Join John and Lois on a series of day hikes in the mountains of southern Spain. During the first week they joined a walking tour which took guided day hikes from a small inn located just outside a national park. During the second week they visited two different areas and took day hikes on their own. This is a trip almost anyone could do, although a knowledge of Spanish was very helpful during the second week.

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7 PM in
Classrooms A & B at MCHC
Hiking the Cornish Coast by Sue Makrianis**

Cornwall, which is in the southwestern corner of Great Britain, has a coastline that is characterized by dramatic cliffs, deep blue water, and inaccessible pocket beaches. Join Sue as she hikes along the tops of these cliffs.

**Saturday, June 7
National Trails Day** See the next newsletter for the details of our celebration.

**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 Jody Bennett at 1-231-932-9249, 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, 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.

Sunday, April 13

Afternoon cleanup hike on the 10K VASA trail (RSVP - April 11 to 13)

Leaders: John Heiam & Lois Goldstein

We will meet at the VASA trailhead off Bartlett Road after lunch and walk the 10 km x-c ski trail picking up the litter left over from a season of skiing. We usually find things like Goo packets and broken ski pole baskets, but usually nothing heavy or unwieldy. Please do not contact us before Friday, April 11. We will take an unlimited number of people, and we want to make sure the weather is decent and the snow is gone before we commit to this outing. E-mail lgoldstein@charter.net or call 231-938-9655 for details on meeting time.

Saturday, April 19

TART Spring Cleanup

Call the TART office to get involved 231-941-4300

Sunday, April 20

Morning hike on the Dell section of the North Country Trail (JSU)

Leader: Deena Barshney

This is an outstanding section of the NCT that follows the Manistee River. The trail has moderately difficult terrain and we will hike for 4.5 miles to the bench at Townline for lunch before returning the 4.5 miles back to the cars. Please meet in time to start hiking at 10:30 AM. Total time of outing should be 3-4 hours. Dell Rd. is located at the south end of Summit City Road. Summit City Road is 1 mile due east of Kingsley. Turn left on Dell Road (dirt) and drive 2 miles until it dead ends at the NCT trailhead. E-mail Deena Barshney with questions: deenab@charter.net

**Friday, May 2 – Monday, May 5
Backpack the North Country Trail
Leaders Dick Naperala, Rick Halbert**

We haven't worked out the details yet, but we are thinking of hiking the section from Tahquamenon Falls to Lake Superior. Save the dates and let us know if you are interested in this trek. Plan on hiking about 10 miles or less per day.

**Sunday afternoon, May 11 (Mother's Day)
Day Hike from Dollar Lake trailhead (RSVP – May 8 to 11)**

Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein

Celebrate Mom's Day with Mother Nature! Anyone who has a mother is welcome. We will meet at the Dollar Lake trailhead and hike to the Boardman River. We may continue around to Muncie Lake, before returning to the cars. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. Please do not contact us before May 8. We will take an unlimited number of people, and we will have an accurate weather forecast by then. E-mail lgoldstein@charter.net or call 231-938-9655 for details on meeting time.

Sunday May 18

Hike the Lake Dubonnet DNR Trail (Lost Lake Pathway) (JSU)

Leader: Marilyn Hoogstraten

Meet at 10 AM at the parking lot off Wildwood Road. This hike will be an excellent way to work up an appetite for buffalo burgers at the NMC Barbeque later that day.

Directions: From Interlochen Corners go west one mile, turn right on the first road past the golf course (Gonder Road), go straight until the road curves (dirt road will continue straight but don't go there) - the parking lot will be on the left. Two lengths if we want to divide up - about 3 miles and about 6 miles.

If you have questions, contact Marilyn Hoogstraten at hoogstraten@charter.net or phone 231-276-0363

Special Event

Saturday, March 15 WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CLASS

Northern Cairn will be holding a one-day Wilderness Survival course on Saturday, March 15 at Camp Daggett, south of Petoskey, if a minimum of 10 participants sign up. It will cover land navigation with compass, GPS & altimeter, in addition to water procurement, fire and shelter building for that "unexpected night out". The course will run from 9 AM until 8 PM, if needed, to cover all subjects. Lunch will be provided. Registration is \$75, and can be made at www.northerncairn.com or call (877) 582-9742. Tim Webb, the "Mountain Man" will be teaching this class. Class size is limited, so register now. For local questions, contact Sara Cockrell at sarac369@charter.net or call (231) 620-3543. A carpool will be arranged once the class has been confirmed.

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

Adopt-a-Trail Report

This past year, our GTHC Adopt-a-Trail volunteers spent over 465 hours maintaining sections of the North Country Trail and four local DNR pathways. These volunteers worked on their sections at least twice a year, spring and fall. Their responsibilities included checking trail conditions, removing downed limbs and trees, carrying out litter, cutting back ferns and branches that encroach on the trail, and refreshing the blazing. They sent in reports indicating the work they did and what further work is needed.

The following club members (sometimes with their friends or family members) were our Adopt-a-Trail volunteers for 2007. Please appreciate the work that they do as you enjoy your next hike.

Jim Heffner & Dave Hicks
Dick Parks
Eric Dreier
Fred & Kathy Sabel
Larry & Donna Dodd
Tom Beatty
Bob Rudd
Pat Delaney
Mike Schaeffer & Debby Page
Rit Portuesi
Dick Naperala
Jerry Freels
Bill & Bonnie Mathias
Heather Peyton
Arlen & Arlene Matson
Tom Mayhew
June Thaden & Mona Liska
Bob & Marty Johnson

Hannah Dietz
Jodie Hoffmeister
Dennis Hansen
Ed Morse
Jerry Heiman
Bud Ward
Steve & Betsy Duede

If you are interested in adopting a section of the trail for 2008 (or want to find out more about it), please contact me by phone, email, or at the next GTHC meeting, Betsy Duede, 946-4524, pedalpushers272@cs.com

Please Help Edit the GTHC Trail Guide *June Thaden*

Do you know a part of *our* 90 miles of the North Country Trail – as a maintainer, trail builder, or as a hiker? We need your help!

The GTHC Trail Guide Committee has been creating a data book describing the 90 mile section of the North Country Trail the GTHC maintains. We need fresh eyes to read our prose and add or suggest changes. The Trail Guide describes each section in a general way, then point to point with mileages, and noting details like water source, roads (with distance to any nearby town), established campgrounds, and other info important to a hiker.

General comments about the general format and approach are also welcome. We want to make this as useful to hikers unfamiliar with northwest lower Michigan as possible.

Email June at jthaden00@yahoo.com or phone me at 947-8476, telling me the part of the trail that you can help edit, with your email. I will email you the draft as a Word document. With the electronic document you can add comments in red type, making it a fairly quick & easy job for both of us. If you would rather deal with paper, I can mail the specific part to you.

Our goal is to post the first edition of our Trail Guide in early May – so let me hear from you soon!



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.

\$\$\$ Classified

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FOR SALE

Send your ad to Rick Halbert at rhalbert1@mac.com

WANTED

Wanted ads here.

Join Us

How this works: Actually you will join the North Country Trail Association (NCTA), the organization that supports the many clubs that do the work of building and maintaining the trail. At the same time that you join the NCTA you also become affiliated with the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. Our Sponsored Membership Program allows current members to sign up new members at an introductory rate of just \$23.00. To qualify, Sponsored Members must be new to NCTA, or not have been members for at least two years. The \$23 rate is good only for the first year of membership. The rate for continuing members is \$46.00.

1. Fill out the **New Member** form on the next page.
2. Mail it with a check to: **North Country Trail Association**, 229 E. Main St., Lowell MI 49331
3. Alternatively, join on line at <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/>

2007 Officers and Committees

President:

John Heiam Tel. (231) 938-9655
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Program Chairperson

Jody Bennett Tel. (231) 932-9249
Email: bennettjj@charter.net

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Email: jthaden00@yahoo.com

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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



New Member Form:

1. Fill out the form.
2. Mail it with a check to: **North Country Trail Association**, 229 E. Main St., Lowell MI

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

Stamp

