



# Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.15 Issue 3 September 2008

## Notes from the Board

*John Heiam 1-231-938-9655*

This summer work crews led by Arlen Matson and Dick Naperala have built eight miles of new trail along Hodenpyl Pond and the Manistee River. This new trail stretches from Woodpecker Creek near the Hodenpyl Dam all the way to M-37 near Glengary north of Mesick. This new section of the NCT will rival any section in Lower Michigan for scenic beauty. The entire new section of trail is on Consumers Power land. When we approached them with the idea for the trail they enthusiastically got behind the idea and helped us earn approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). People at Northern Exposure Campground helped us with the trail on the land they lease from Consumers, and even built a beautiful bridge over a small creek.

By the time you read this we hope to finally have approval for the spur trail from the VASA Trail over to Sand Lakes. With luck we may even get that completed before the snow flies.

Jody Bennett has put together a great selection of programs for our monthly meetings. Come join us and renew acquaintances.

There was a great article about our new section of trail in the Grand Rapids Press on Friday, August 29, 2008. Follow this link to see the article:

[http://www.mlive.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2008/08/new\\_stretch\\_of\\_north\\_county\\_t.html](http://www.mlive.com/outdoors/index.ssf/2008/08/new_stretch_of_north_county_t.html)

## Programs & Meetings

**Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 7 PM  
in Classrooms A & B at MCHC  
Bridging the Bering Sea by John  
Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

John and Lois took an "expedition" cruise in the Bering Sea this summer. The cruise started in Nome Alaska, crossed over to the Russian Far East and then proceeded south to the Aleutians and on to Seward. They visited many islands and native settlements along the way. They hiked on tundra, saw natives bring in a gray whale, watched walrus sunning themselves on a beach, and observed bears clamming in Katmai National Park. The Travel Channel was along on the trip making a documentary. If you want to see the inside story before the program airs, join John and Lois as they show photos from their voyage.

**Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7PM in  
Classrooms A & B at MCHC  
John Muir Trail thru-hike by Sara  
"Energizer" Cockrell**

Come join Sara as she shares her 26-day adventure on the 220-mile long John Muir Trail (JMT) in August & September. She started in Yosemite Valley solo, then with more than a dozen from the Detroit SOLAR club, and finally, with one other member. The JMT is the longest roadless wilderness of any of the nation's long-distance hiking trails. The eastern side of the Sierra Nevada is short, steep & dramatic, forming one of the most striking

escarpments in America, with 5,000 ft deep canyons. Dramatic pinnacles, half-frozen tarns of aquamarine water, soaring granite cliffs, jagged spires, sculpted cirques & cascading waterfalls make this eye-popping country. It's also a land of the mildest, sunniest climate of any major mountain range in the world. The JMT runs through 3 national parks, Yosemite, Kings Canyon & Sequoia, 2 wildernesses, John Muir & Ansel Adams, Devils Postpile National Monument, the Inyo National Forest, and 13 river drainages, ending on the highest mountain in the Lower 48, Mt Whitney at 14,494 ft.

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008  
Classrooms A & B at MCHC  
Hikes in Sequoia National Park by  
Bette Jackson**

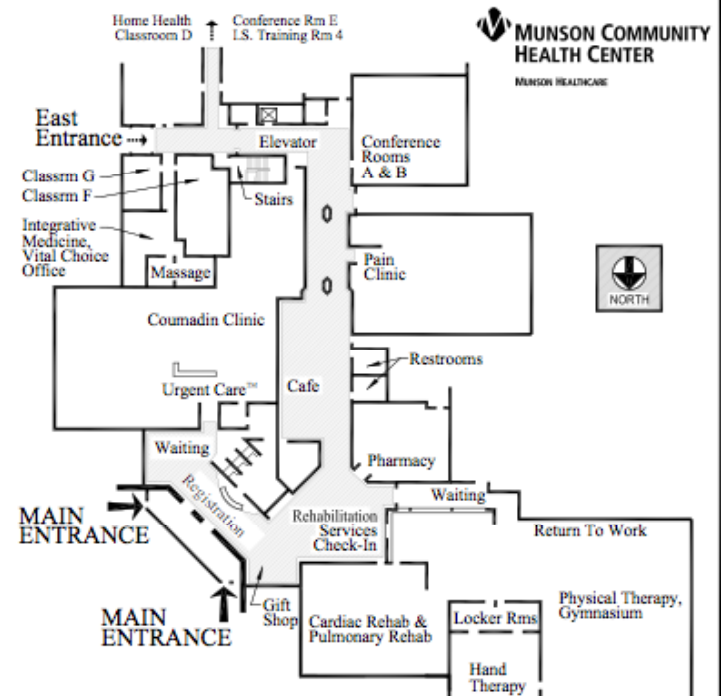
Learn about the experience of living and working in Sequoia National Park, the second oldest national park in the US. Bette Jackson took a minimum wage job with the concessionaire and for two months lived in the dorm with the international students and stepped outside into the park. Although mainly known for the giant Sequoia trees (the earth's oldest living organisms), it is truly a hikers' paradise. She has pictures of a few of the shorter hikes, 2-3 miles around the main lodge etc, and a spectacular nine mile round trip to Heather Lake at 9600 feet.

**Wanted: Speakers for Monthly Programs**

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 one of the other club officers.

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



 **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.

**Saturday, September 27 (morning)  
Fall color hike along the Manistee River  
Leader: Bob Fitch**

We will meet at the old US 131 Campground at 10 A.M. and hike west for a couple of hours until we find a beautiful lunch spot overlooking the river. We will have a leisurely lunch and then hike back. If the weather is threatening,

call Bob to make sure the trip is still on. (231) 941-0268.

Directions to old 131 Campground: Head southeast of TC via Supply Road or M-113, and turn right (south) on US-131. One mile south of the intersection of M-113 and US-131, there will be a sign for the State Forest Campground. Turn right and then an immediate left so you are heading south on Old 131. Follow the signs about 2 miles towards the campground; go straight to the parking area. We will begin hiking from the NCT bulletin board across from the outhouses.

**Saturday, October 11 (morning)**  
**Fall color hike along Hodenpyl Pond**  
**Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

We will hike along this spectacular new section of the North Country Trail that follows the shoreline of the Hodenpyl Pond and the Manistee River. Following the hike we will go out for lunch at one of Mesick's eating establishments.

Please email or call John or Lois for specific meeting time and location. Signups will be taken after October 7. [lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net) (231) 938-9655.

**Wednesday, October 13 (morning)**  
**Urban stroll through downtown TC and neighborhoods.**

**Leader: Jody Bennett**

Join us for a morning stroll in Traverse City. After the hike, you may join us for lunch at a local eatery. Contact Jody for meeting time and place.

[bennettj@charter.net](mailto:bennettj@charter.net) or (231) 932-9249 .

**Saturday, October 18 (morning)**  
**Fall color hike at Leelanau State Park**  
**Leaders: Nancy Fleming and Bill Schafer**

Save this morning for a fantastic 2+ hour hike along the trails of the Leelanau State Park, north of Northport and about 50 minutes from

the junction of M72 and M22 in TC. We will meet in the parking lot at the trail head at 10 A.M.. Lunch afterwards in Northport is an option. We did this color hike last year, and it was fantastic! Call us for details and more specific directions at home in MI after Oct. 14 231-334-6300 -- or on our cell phone 630-729-4662. Please call before 9 A.M on the 18th to check in case of iffy weather.

**Thursday, November 13 (morning)**  
**Boardman River trail from YMCA to Sabin Dam and back.**

**Leader: Jody Bennett**

Join us for an easy walk along the Boardman River. After the hike, you may join us for lunch at a local eatery. Contact Jody for meeting time and place.

[bennettj@charter.net](mailto:bennettj@charter.net) or (231) 932-9249 .

**Friday, November 28 (the day after Thanksgiving)**  
**Hike at the Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain Resort**  
**Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

Let others go shopping; we can hike at one place that is totally free of deer hunters! We will hike among the sculptures for a couple of hours and then go out for lunch.

Please email or call John or Lois for specific meeting time and location. Signups will be taken after November 24.

[lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net) (231) 938-9655.

## **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](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net)) if you would like to be included

## Places to Hike

Do you want to expand your horizons? There are many wonderful places to hike in the Grand Traverse Region that you haven't tried. Check out some of these online resources for new places to hike close to home:

Sleeping Bear Dunes already has an excellent web site that has maps of all their hiking trails. <http://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trails.htm>

The Leelanau Conservancy also has a web site that lists all their trails. <http://www.theconservancy.com/naturalareaspreserves.html>

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy also has a web site that lists their trails. <http://www.gtrlc.org/preserves/preservemap.php>

The Grand Traverse Conservation District also has a web site that lists all their trails.

<http://www.gtcd.org/trailmaps/>

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources also has a web site that lists their trails: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365\\_16839\\_50522---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_16839_50522---,00.html)

These links provide maps and descriptions for 75 trails in our area, and that is not including the state DNR site which lists trails all over the state.

### Using the TART Trail to the Reffitt Nature Preserve Carole Groves



If you bike on the stretch of the TART Trail from the library on Woodmere to Acme, do you know that you pass the 83-acre Reffitt Nature Preserve along the south side of the trail? Why not park your bike at the entry on Three Mile and Parsons Road and then take a refreshing 1.5-mile trail hike?

Step off the bike trail into a part of the Mitchell Creek Watershed, walk through a dry mesic forest which houses black oak, red maple, and jack pines. You'll also walk on a boardwalk through a speckled alder swamp which provides housing and habitat for mammals, birds, deer, grouse and muskrat. And be sure and check out the stream as you enter and leave to see if you can spot a nice brook or

brown trout. You may find you enjoy the hike so much that hiking the trail becomes part of your outdoor biking routine.

Sixty-six varieties of birds, thirteen species of mammals, nineteen species of fish, and numerous plant species have been encountered in this preserve. You may find blueberries or highbush cranberry in season.

The Reffitt Nature Preserve, established between 1992 and 2000, is owned by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. If you, or a group, is interested in a guided tour or more information, please call Natalie Bryne, Reffitt Friends Coordinator, at 231. 938-6236 or visit the GTRLC website at [www.gtrlc.org](http://www.gtrlc.org)



**Log on for the latest GTHC**

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

### **Trail Tread Ways** *Arlen Matson*



### **NCT—Hodenpyl Reroute Status**

As of the end of August, our Trail Crew has completed 7 sectors beginning at Woodpecker Creek (south of the dam) all the way to Glengary. We began our greatest trail building project on May 20<sup>th</sup>. This totaled 14 separate work sessions. It does not include all the flagging, meetings and general administrative chores that Dick, Arlen and John have engaged. During this time, the Trail Crew has logged in 1037 hours of labor amid the beauty of the lake shore, high river banks, hardwood and pine forests. We have been relatively insect free this year. The cool breezes from Hodenpyl Pond, and a continuous array of new flowers satisfied all that back-bending, sweating labor.

The Northern Exposure Campground Crew also completed a section of this trail. Most

noteworthy is the thirty-one foot bridge they built. With their man, Bob, in charge, they constructed one of the finest bridges you will ever see on the NCT.

September should set in place another two section bridge of 28 feet and 25 feet plus 4 sections of boardwalk. Most of the blazing is finished. The signage will also be put in place including 2 kiosks. Funding for the bridges came from an NCTA grant, and the kiosks, mini-info stations and general signage from a NPS grant.

The section of trail next to be developed will be from Glengary to M-37 just south of Sherman. This involves some Consumers Energy property and the private ownership of 2 other parties. The paperwork should be signed by mid-September.

Next year we hope to complete the final 2 to 3 miles east of M-37 rejoining the NCT east of Wheeler Creek. This will require a trail relocation from the Cadillac DNR.

Special recognition goes out to Linda McIlrath of Consumers Energy who is retiring in October. She has been a proactive supporter of the NCT project moving onto their land and has done a bulwark of administrative labor to bring this to fruition. Thank you Linda, and now perhaps you will have some time to hike an earthen trail instead of a paper trail.

### **VASA – NCT - KART Linkage**

To date we have been waiting for a letter from the Grand Traverse County Commissioners granting an easement to make a spur trail from the VASA to the NCT at Sand Lakes Quiet Area. The possibility exists that this trail work could be put in place yet this year. One of our trail crew workers mentioned to me that she would be willing to work this winter. How about that! Anyone else with snowshoes?

## Tittabawassee Chapter HELP NEEDED ON NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

**September 27th, Saturday at 9:00 A.M.** our Tittabawassee chapter of the North Country Trail will be working on the Boor Conservancy reroute, south of Petoskey, to move the North Country Trail off of Krause Rd, into the woods, and onto the side of a 200 foot hill. We really need all the help we can get to bench this trail into the side of the hill.

**Bring** any dirt moving tools you have, such as grub hoe, shovel and metal dirt rake. Our chapter will provide mattocks, Pulaskis, fire rakes, and McLeods. The chapter will provide some snacks and beverages for breaks, but feel free to bring more. We plan on providing lunch and a supper meal for the workers at the end of the day. Please let us know if you plan to come so we can prepare enough food. Please **RSVP** to [tbwchapter@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:tbwchapter@northcountrytrail.org)

Meet at Krause Rd south of Brubaker Rd by the communication towers. There are a group of towers at that location that are visible from miles around. Consult your county map of Emmet County because unless you are familiar with the area, it is confusing. **Camping** is available on private land if you want to stay overnight and help the next day too. We'll eat up the leftovers! Any questions other than the RSVP, call Gary at 989-842-3478 or Jerry at 231-526-9597.

### **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](mailto:jthaden00@yahoo.com) By doing this, you have helped save both a tree and money for our club. Thank you.

## 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/>

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

### **FOR SALE**

Contact Rick Halbert at [rhalbert1@me.com](mailto:rhalbert1@me.com) with your ad

### **WANTED**

Wanted ads here.

### **Lost and Found**

## 2007 Officers and Committees

**President:**

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**Trail Guide**

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

**Promotional Brochure**

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

