



# Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.16 Issue 2 June 2009

1

## Notes from the Board *John Heiam*

To start the summer the club is hosting two different celebrations.

The first is on Trails Day, Saturday June 6. We will be celebrating the completion of our spur trail that links the TART and VASA Trails to Sand Lakes and the KART Trail in Kalkaska. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony, a hike, and a picnic. We have invited the Cherry Capital Cycling Club to share in our celebration by riding their mountain bikes to the picnic on the spur trail.

On Saturday June 20, we are joining with the community of Mesick to host Mesick River Day. This is shaping up to be an exciting event. There will be a hike, a paddle on the pond, dam tours, and more. See the announcement in this newsletter. If you have questions about the event, give me a call, or email me.

This summer promises to be busy for our trail crew. We have a number of projects to complete small portions of new trails, and once the plan is approved, we will start working on the M-37 to Harvey Bridge connector along the Manistee River.

Beginning next September, we will have all of our monthly meetings in the Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Road (1.5 miles south of Airport Road). They will all take place on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May. I think this will be a great venue for our club. In order to introduce people to the

area, the club will host a short hike on the adjacent nature trail before our September meeting.

## Programs & Meetings



**(Note change of location)**

**Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7 PM**  
**Boardman Nature Center, 1450 Cass**  
**Road, Traverse City**  
**Walking the Camino de Santiago with**  
**Gary Hoensheid**

Gary's first European experience took him on a 350 mile journey walking the ancient Pilgrim Trail, "El Camino de Santiago". "El Camino De Santiago" is Spanish for The Road of Saint James. St. James, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, established the trail as his missionary route shortly after the death of Christ. Numerous trails exist throughout Europe, all leading to the town of Santiago, the burial place of St. James. The trail Gary and three friends took starts in the Pyrenees Mountains of France and heads west to the town of Santiago, walking along ancient Roman roads through the countryside of northern Spain. Come and hear about this month long journey walking 18- 25 miles a day.

**Wanted: Speakers for Monthly Programs**

Request for GTHC Programs: Have you taken a hiking/walking trip that would be an entertaining and educational presentation to the GTHC? Do you have an idea for a program, or know of someone else who may have a program to share? Our members enjoy sitting back and being armchair tourists once a month at club meetings, but we need more "tour guides". Whether your trip was near or far, we welcome your offers to share adventures. Some "tour guides" have already stepped forward, but we are looking for about five more for next year, Sept. - May. Contact Jody Bennett for open dates if you, or someone you know, would like to show us a good time: [bennettj@charter.net](mailto:bennettj@charter.net), 231-932-9249. We can help you with the presentation technology if necessary.

Programs are held at the Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Road. They will all take

place on the third Tuesday of each month, September through May

**Club Outings**



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, June 6 (9 AM)**  
**National Trails Day celebration at Guernsey Lake**  
**Leader: Dick Naperala**

National Trails Day, June 6, 2009, will be a day of celebration for the Grand Traverse Hiking Club (GTHC), North Country Trail Association (NCTA), Traverse Area Recreational Trail (TART), and Kalkaska Area Recreational Trail (KART). This day will mark the completion of the Traverse City to Kalkaska Trail. The four groups have worked together to link the TART to the VASA Trail, VASA to the NCT, and the NCT to the KART. A person may now hike or bike the 27 miles through the state forest between Traverse City and Kalkaska by following the blue and white blazes.

To celebrate this special day, people will meet at the first parking lot at Guernsey Lake Campground. Starting around 10:00 AM, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony along with a few speeches. This will be followed by an hour long hike led by John Heiam, a bike ride led by Jay Warren, or a kayak tour led by Lois Goldstein. So, bring either your mountain bike, your hiking shoes, or your kayak. At 11:30 AM, people will meet at the boat launch for the picnic pot-luck. Please bring a dish to pass, along with plates and silverware. The GTHC will provide the hot dogs and grill. There are only a few picnic tables in this area so it might be a good idea to bring a lawn chair, too. Please call me if you need directions or more

information. My phone number is 231-223-7903. Dick Naperala

**Sunday, June 7 (all day)**  
**Hike the Jordan River Pathway**  
**Leader: Sara Cockrell**

This is an 18-mile hike, over 6 hrs with stops, at a 3 mph pace, and very hilly. The scenery is ever changing, from overlooks of the valley from Landslide Lookout & Deadman's Hill, to cascading Cascade & Lookout Creeks on the south side, and portions on the north side along the Jordan River, with boardwalks crossing the beaver-dammed marsh at the pond. The north & southwest sections are part of the North Country Trail, so blue blazes, while the southeast section, between Deadman's Hill & Landslide is a spur trail, so white blazes. The south side is more hilly & heavily wooded.

We will meet at 9:30AM at Landslide, at the end of Harvey Rd (dirt), which is north off of Alba Hwy, C-42, between Alba & M-66. There is a pit toilet in the parking lot. Don't leave any valuables in your car. We will hike 3.6 miles, crossing Cascade Creek, to Pinney Bridge Campground, where there is a water pump & pit toilet.

From there, we will continue on the north side, with a stop along the Jordan River for lunch about noon. After lunch, we will head to the pond, up to Deadman's Hill overlook, if time, then continue on the south side back to Landslide. You should bring hiking poles, day pack, lunch & snacks, water, rain gear, windbreaker, and bug net/repellent, at minimum. Wear broken-in hiking boots & appropriate clothes for the weather. We should be finished before 5PM, and could have dinner in Mancelona or Kalkaska, on the way home.

Mileages, clockwise: Landslide to Pinney, 3.6 miles, to Jordan River Rd, 5.0 miles, to Deadman's Hill, approx 4.0 miles, back to Landslide, 6.5 miles.

If anyone wants to camp overnight, they could drive in on Pinney Bridge Rd (dirt) off M-66, but get there early, since there are only 15 first come-first serve, walk-in only sites. The cost is \$15, deposited in envelope in metal tube. Or, backpack from Deadman's Hill or Landslide, on the south side, camp, wait for us to arrive by 11AM, then hike back on the north side with the Sunday group. Another alternative is to car camp at Grave's Crossing State Forest CG nearby, off M-66.

For last minute update, contact Sara Cockrell at [sarac369@charter.net](mailto:sarac369@charter.net), or (231) 620-3543.

Trail & map:

<http://www.michigandnr.com/publications/pdfs/wildlife/viewingguide/nlp/49Jordan/index.htm>

Campground:

<http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=610&type=SFCC>

**Saturday, June 13 – Monday, June 15**  
**Backpacking on South Manitou Island**  
**Leaders: Rick Halbert, Dick Naperala**

Check in at the ferry ticket office in Leland is at 9:15 A.M. (\$30 round trip). On the island, we will set up camp at one of the three campgrounds, then enjoy day hiking on this beautiful island. The return ferry departs at 4:00 P.M. If you can join us for just the weekend, that is okay too. Call or email Rick (231-947-8485, [homes5@chartermi.net](mailto:homes5@chartermi.net))

**Special Event** 

**Mesick River Day**  
**Saturday, June 20**  
**Northern Exposure Campground**  
**285 Manistee River Drive**  
**Mesick, MI 49668**  
**Telephone: 800-563-7425**

Driving directions: Drive west out of Mesick on M-115. Drive one mile, go over the river and

make the first left on Hodenpyl Dam Road, then follow the signs to Northern Exposure Campground.

There is a cost of \$4.00 per car to enter the campground. This covers the cost of the shuttle bus and the food at the picnic.

Schedule of events:

6 – 10 AM Free fishing tournament at boat launch of campground

9:30 - 10:30 AM NCT ribbon cutting ceremony at campground entrance

11 AM – 2 PM Tours of Hodenpyl Dam. You must have a ticket that you received upon entry to the campground. Bus shuttle provided.

11 AM – 2 PM Hike to Fletcher Creek Campground (3 miles) and then paddle your own kayak back or take the free bus shuttle back to the NE campground. Note: If you want to kayak back, drop your kayak with the campground host at Fletcher Creek Campground on your way to Northern Exposure Campground.

11 AM – 12:30 PM Family hike of about a mile. The pace will be appropriate for small children.

12:30 – 2 PM Family hike of about a mile – same as above.

11 AM – 2:30 PM Historical displays of the Hodenpyl Dam and Mesick at the Museum

12 – 1 PM Presentation of history of the Hodenpyl Dam and Consumers Power at Mesick High School.

3 – 4:30 PM Free picnic at Northern Exposure Campground (note: You must have your ticket that you received upon entry to the campground).

## June Events at the Grand Traverse Conservation District

Boardman River Nature Center  
**1450 Cass Road**  
**Traverse City, MI 49684**  
**231.941.0960**  
**www.NatureIsCalling.org**

### Wednesday Evening Programs

#### Beaver Hike

June 3, 6-8 p.m. / All ages welcome

#### Creepy Crawlies Hike

June 10, 6-7 p.m. / All ages welcome

### Introduction to Paddlesports

June 17, 7-9 p.m. / All ages welcome

This program will feature lots of cool info for beginners about canoeing and kayaking in the Traverse City area. It's being planned by John Heiam and Lois Goldstein, members of the Traverse Area Paddle Club  
<http://www.traverseareapaddleclub.org/> to inform the entire community about paddling opportunities in our region. They will discuss boat selection, gear to bring along, how to fit a life jacket, where to go, what to wear, how to load a boat on a car, how to organize a shuttle, etc.

### Exploring Wetlands with Ducks Unlimited

June 24, 6-8 p.m. / All ages welcome

## Saturdays at the Nature Center

### Nature Scavenger Hunt

June 6, 1-2 p.m. / All ages welcome

### Nature North Festival

June 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. / All ages welcome

### **Fly Fishing & Fish Habitat**

June 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. / All ages welcome  
Space is limited for this program. Please call 231.941.0960 to register.

### **June Plants & Birds Hike with the Grand Traverse Audubon Club**

June 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m. / All ages welcome

### **Camping with Kids**

June 27, 1-2 p.m. / All ages welcome

### **Listening to the River Adventure for Teens**

June 22-24, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. / Ages 13-17  
\$50 registration fee. Some scholarships available. Please call 231.941.0960 to register.

### **Nature Day Camp**

Stay tuned for our new **Nature Day Camp** program at the Boardman River Nature Center this summer! Visit our website or call 231.941.0960 for details.

\* Suggested donation \$5 for all programs

## **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 has an excellent web site that has maps of all their hiking trails.

<http://www.nps.gov/slbe/planyourvisit/trails.htm>

The Leelanau Conservancy has a web site that lists all their trails.

<http://www.theconservancy.com/naturalareaspres.html>

The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has a web site that lists their trails.

<http://www.gtrlc.org/preserves/preservemap.php>

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

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

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources 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.



Log on for the latest **GTHC**

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

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



**Hodenpyl—NCT Reroute/ Status**

We are nearly complete with this reroute. The finishing touches from the Marilla Trailhead intersection heading south to Hodenpyl Dam and east to M-37 are in process. All of the signage is in place with the exception of six mileage signs. These distances are currently being measured and should be installed by mid-summer. NCTA maps could be available the latter part of May. They will be placed on the three information stations and also available from the NCTA & Northern Exposure Campground (NECG).

We recently made an adjustment to the NCT near Teall's Private Campground, better facilitating the privacy of their campers and the home located at the site.

Since we are utilizing Consumers Energy property, it is vital that all hikers acquaint themselves with the locations for parking their vehicles. The hiking/backpacking users need to park at the trailhead locations. This would place vehicles at the outside gate of Fletcher Creek Campground, the exit gate of NECG (our main trailhead) and the trailhead at the base of Hodenpyl Dam. Parking is permitted at the NECG boat landing area for a daily fee of four dollars.

Two primitive backpack tent areas are available; one just west of the Fletcher Creek Campground and the other at the west end of NECG. There are no fees for backpackers

utilizing these two primitive areas. Showers are also available at NECG for a fee of \$2. Nate's Country Store is located a short walk from the main entrance to NECG. Groceries, coffee, homemade rolls, and abundant scoops of ice cream can be purchased in this quaint building.

**Hodenpyl—NCT Phase 2 Reroute**

We are awaiting news from the Cadillac DNR as to constructing the final phase of the four miles of reroute. Much of the new trail will follow the Manistee River with some picturesque views from hillside settings. It also moves inland and will have five stream crossings. The terrain is rugged and our Trail Crew will have its greatest challenge of the decade benching into the continuous ridge of clay along the northern slope.

This trail section from M-37 is about a mile walk on No.10 Road. At the junction with No. 13 Road, there will be a place for parking and a mileage sign. The reroute will intersect with No. 19 Road (also know as Harvey Bridge Road.) Parking will also be available at that boat launch site.

We anticipate a full summer's work at this location and the building of five short bridges. Contact Arlen Matson or Dick Naperala if you are not on our Trail Crew roster and want an adventure in the wilderness. The reroute when completed will rejoin the NCT coming west from Wheeler Creek.

**The VASA—NCT—Kalkaska Route**

This interconnection of trails begins at the trailhead of the VASA Trail on Bartlett Road in Acme and moves eastward to the NCT at Sand Lakes. From here it continues on the NCT to North Boardman River Road where it has been rerouted onto a series of two-tracks all the way to Kalkaska's Kaliseum area. It then follows streets on the north side of town moving northeast to Log Lake. Another two miles puts

the reroute back onto the Shore to Shore/NCT existing trail.

This whole section is nearly all blazed and signed. You can become better acquainted with this section by joining us for a picnic and a hike on National Trails Day. For more information. see Dick Naperala's article under *Special Events*.

A note on maps: Unfortunately the last items to be developed are detailed maps. This is due to the fact that the last step in the reroute process is certification with the National Park Service. Once they approve the final certification, the NCTA in Lowell, Michigan is then sanctioned to use their cartographer and produce the official maps. We have accomplished at least 18 reroutes in the 15 years of our existence as a chapter of the NCTA. With so much work accomplished, current maps are always in revision. Our goal—a premier trail.

**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

**\$\$\$ Classified \$\$\$**

**FOR SALE**

Trekking Poles: Leki Super Makalu. The length is adjustable and the poles are spring loaded for shock absorption. They are in excellent condition, just not as lightweight as the newer poles. I originally paid about \$100 and will sell them for \$30. Contact Rick Halbert – email [rhalbert1@me.com](mailto:rhalbert1@me.com) or phone 231-947-8485

## 2009 Officers and Committees

**President:**

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**Secretary/Membership**

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**Trail Guide**

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



**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

