



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.16 Issue 1 March 2009

Notes from the Board *John Heiam*

This winter, the Grand Traverse Hiking Club formed a partnership with the Grand Traverse Conservation District (GTCD). We have agreed to help them maintain their trails and to provide some volunteers for their educational programs. In addition, we will advertise their programs in our newsletter. In return, starting next September, they will host our monthly meetings at the new Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Road. The GTCD has a large number of outdoor education programs for children, and we think this would be a great opportunity to introduce the North Country Trail to young families in the area. We also hope that some of our members might enjoy assisting with some of these programs. If you would like to help teach area youngsters about the outdoors, contact Colleen Masterson, the Education Director for the Grand Traverse Conservation District at 231 941-0960 ext 25 or cmasterson@gtcd.org Please let her know that you are a member of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club.

This spring and summer the club has several trail projects that are described in greater detail later in this newsletter. Briefly, we will finish the Traverse City to Kalkaska trail, and we will extend the new NCT from M-37 to the Manistee River at No. 17 Road. On Saturday June 6, National Trails Day, we will celebrate the completion of the Traverse City to Kalkaska Trail with a picnic at Guernsey Lake. Two weeks later, on Saturday June 20, we'll help the village of Mesick celebrate the addition of

the NCT to their area. Hodenpyl Dam will be open for tours and there will be hikes on the trail and paddling outings on Hodenpyl Pond starting at the Northern Exposure Campground.

Programs & Meetings

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 7 PM in Classrooms A & B at MCHC
Backpacking in the Grand Canyon with Bert Courson

In March 2008 Bert Courson and five friends started hiking on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, and descended to the Colorado River on the Bright Angel Trail. They spent three days on the Tonto Platform and then hiked out on the Grand View Trail.

Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7 PM in Classrooms A & B at MCHC
Outdoor Photography with Tom Haxby

Outdoor Photography Tips: You do not have to travel thousands of miles to capture nature's beauty in your photographs. We are surrounded by it here in the Grand Traverse region. Get advice on how to take great photos on hiking trips, local or elsewhere. See a slide presentation of some of Tom's outstanding work of many images from northern Michigan, and get his top ten tips for taking better landscape photos. This will cover use of the camera and tips on composition to

produce even better photos that will capture the scenes as experienced on the trip.

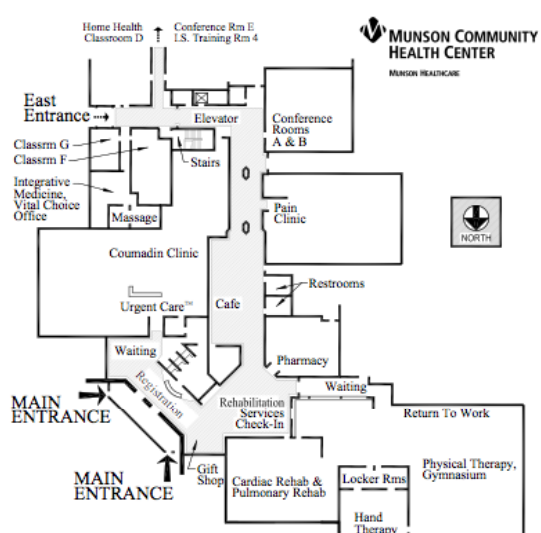
Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7 PM in Classrooms A & B at MCHC Hiking Oregon with Dick Naperala, Joe Meredith, Bud Ward & Rick Halbert,

In August 2008 we experienced great hiking in the beautiful state of Oregon. Our trip began with a three day backpacking hike along the most pristine section of the 360 mile Oregon Coast Trail, then we headed inland for day hikes at Crater Lake, the Rogue River Canyon, Three Sisters Wilderness, and finally, the Columbia River Gorge.

Wanted: Speakers for Monthly Programs

We are always looking for people to present programs at the monthly meetings of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. All presentations MUST be limited to forty-five minutes in length so that we do not overstay our welcome at Munson Community Health Center. 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 for March through May will be held in Conference Room A&B at Munson Community Health Center. Refer to the following diagram.



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.

**Sunday, April 19 (afternoon)
Hike along Hodenpyl Pond
Leader: Marilyn Hoogstraten**

We will hike along this spectacular new section of the North Country Trail that follows the shoreline of the Hodenpyl Pond. We will spot some cars and hike from near the Hodenpyl Dam to the Fletcher Creek campground, a distance of about six miles. If people are interested, we can meet at Chum's Corners and car pool to the hike.

Please contact Marilyn for specific meeting time. hoogstraten@charter.net or (231) 276-0363.

**Saturday, April 25 (afternoon)
Hike the Mason Tract
Leader: Sara Cockrell**

1:00 PM Meet at Smith Bridge river access on M-72, 15 miles east of Grayling. Sara Cockrell will be leading a group of paddlers from the morning, so you may have to wait while they lock up boats, and store gear & paddles. Then, all will drive across M-72 to trailhead together.

1:30-5PM Hike 11 miles on Mason Tract Pathway back to Chase Bridge, with snack break, overlooking famed South Branch of the AuSable River. The trail is fairly flat, so is an easy hike with gorgeous river views.

5-6PM Paddlers will drive hikers back to M-72, where paddlers will load up boats & gear at Smith Bridge, before heading into Grayling for

dinner. You do not need to sign up for the hike; you can just show up. However, if you have questions, you may contact Sara at: sarac369@charter.net or (231) 620-3543. Note: if it is cold and rainy, the trip may be cancelled. If uncertain please call me.

**Sunday, May 10 (afternoon of Mother's Day)
Hike and clean up the VASA trail
Leaders: John Heiam & Lois Goldstein**

Celebrate Mom's Day with Mother Nature! Anyone who has a mother is welcome. We will meet at the VASA trailhead off Bartlett Road after lunch and hike the 10 km and 5 km X-C ski trails picking up the litter left over from a season of skiing. You will have the choice of walking the 10 km or 5 km loop. We often find things like Goo packets and broken ski pole baskets, but usually nothing heavy or unwieldy. Please contact us after Thursday, May 7. We would love to have a big group of people, and we want to make sure the forecast is decent for Sunday. E-mail lgoldstein@charter.net or call 231-938-9655 for details on meeting time.

**Saturday, May 16 (morning)
Hike & cleanup of NCT
Leaders: Nancy Fleming & Bill Schafer**

We're looking for fair-weather helpers! We are planning to do the spring clean-up for our segment of the NCT on Sat. May 16 if it's a nice day, with Sun. May 17 as a rain date -- and we're looking for some helpers. Our segment of the trail runs from M-37 to No. 17 Road -- easy to find and good parking. We'll be driving from the Glen Arbor area and would be glad to take 2 or 3 workers with us in our car. We will coordinate once we know who is coming, so we can hopefully have a car at each end of our segment. Helpers need to wear work clothes (probably long-sleeves and long pants), hat, and work shoes or boots. Bring water, a lopper and small brush saw if you have one, and a garbage bag. We'll bring some treats. Please contact us if you are willing to give us a hand on a nice day! We'll

send driving directions and discuss details then. E-mail nancy-fleming@sbcglobal.net or phone (630) 729-4662.

**Saturday, June 6
National Trails Day at Guernsey Lake**

See the general description under *Special Events*.

**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, 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)



Log on for the latest GTHC

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

Special Events

**Saturday, June 6 (9 AM)
National Trails Day celebration at Guernsey Lake**

Leader: Dick Naperala

We will have a hike, a ribbon cutting celebration, a paddling outing on Guernsey Lake, and a picnic on the shore of Guernsey Lake in the Sand Lakes Quiet Area. Details will be in the next newsletter, coming in late May. Mark your calendar now!

**Saturday, June 20 (10 AM)
Mesick Community Celebration (NCT established through their area)
Leaders: John Heiam and Dick Naperala**

This event is still in the planning stage. However we do know that most of the events will start at the Northern Exposure Campground. We will offer hikes on the NCT, paddling outings on the Hodenpyl Pond, and tours of Hodenpyl Dam. Details will be in the next newsletter, coming in late May. Mark your calendar now!

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

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/naturalareaspreserves.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

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.

Public Programs

At the Grand Traverse Conservation District's Boardman River Nature Center

1450 Cass Road, Traverse City, MI 49684
231.941.0960

For more information about these programs visit: <http://www.natureiscalling.org/>

* Suggested donation \$5 for all programs

Water, Water, Everywhere

March 4, 6-7 p.m. / All ages welcome

Fishy by Design

March 7, 1-2 p.m. / All ages welcome

Crafts from Nature

March 11, 6-7 p.m. / All ages welcome

Beginning Birder Workshop

March 14, 9-11 a.m. / All ages welcome

An Introduction to Native Trees & Shrubs Workshop

March 18, 6-7 p.m. / Recommended for adults

The Geese Return

March 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. / All ages welcome

Native Landscaping Clinic

March 21, 1-4 p.m. / By appointment only

River Walk

March 25, 6-7 p.m. / All ages welcome

Cormorants of the Great Lakes

March 26, 7-9 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Landscaping for Water Quality – Riparian Buffers and Rain Gardens

March 28, 1-3 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Invasive Trees & Shrubs Workshop

April 1, 6-7 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Scavenger Hunt

April 4, 1-2 p.m. / All ages welcome

Basic Tree & Shrub Planting Workshop

April 8, 6-7 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Native Landscaping Clinic

April 11, 1-4 p.m. / By appointment only

Annual Seedling Sale

April 17, 12-6 p.m. and April 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

An Introduction to Native Plants Workshop

April 22, 6-7 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Shrink Your Lawn!

April 25, 9:30-11:30 a.m. / Recommended for adults

How to Plant Native Workshop

April 25, 1:00-2:30 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Landscaping for Water Quality Workshop

April 29, 6-7 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Dance of the Woodcock

April 29, 7:30-10:00 p.m. / All ages welcome

Native Landscaping Clinic

May 2, 1-4 p.m. / By appointment only

Invasive Plants Workshop

May 6, 6-7 p.m. / Recommended for adults

Native Landscaping Clinic

May 9, 1-4 p.m. / By appointment only

Native Plant Sale

May 16, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and May 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. / All ages welcome

Wildflower Walk

May 20, 6-7 p.m.

Dawn Chorus – Who really owns the woods and river?

May 23, 6:30-8:00 a.m. / All ages welcome

Nature in Silence

May 27, 6-7 p.m.

Shhhhh! Join us for this unique program to explore nature in silence.

Trail Tread Ways Arlen Matson



Hodenpyl—NCT Reroute/West Sector

Two trail crew teams will work this spring and summer to complete the NCT reroute from the existing NCT in the Manistee NF to No. 19 Rd east of Wheeler Cr. The west sector team will be a small group whose task is to complete the following:

1. Brush out the last section from the base of Hodenpyl Dam (River Rd) to the spur trail coming from the NCT south of the Marilla trail head. This is also known as the Manistee River Trail.
2. Blaze in blue the new NCT reroute.
3. Blaze In white the Woodpecker Cr. route we built last summer.
4. Install 3 Mini Information Stations at key locations.
5. Brush out and mark 5 tent sites at the west end of Northern Exposure campground for backpackers.

M-37 to No. 19 Rd Reroute

The larger trail crew will brush out and construct the final link of the Hodenpyl - NCT reroute work of last year. This 4 mile section will leave No. 15 Rd and wind its way eastward to No. 19 Rd., then turn north and rejoining the existing NCT that is coming from M-37 and the Wheeler Cr area. There will be 5 small stream crossings involving short bridge spans. The new trail will be located on primitive terrain adjacent to the Manistee River. The end point for this reroute will be north of Harvey Bridge.

Vasa—Sand Lakes—KART Reroute

Another project for this year is the developing of a spur trail from the VASA Pathway, moving eastward to the NCT, located at the southern end of Sand Lakes. This is approximately 2 miles long. We then move further east to N. Boardman River Rd. Here we leave the Shore-To-Shore Trail (SST) and work towards Smith Rd and Smith Lake. Somewhat paralleling M-72 on its south side, the NCT will run east into the village of Kalkaska and its Kaliseum facilities. Most of this new reroute is located on existing two tracks.

Kalkaska now becomes a trail town with access to supplies for the backpacker. The Kaliseum already has a trailhead at that location. The last link for this reroute is to move through the village's north side and head towards Blue and Log Lakes. The trail will reunite with the existing NCT/SST north of those 2 lakes. This new reroute is approximately 3 miles long.

Trail Crew for 2009

In our database we have 24 volunteers from last year. Each year we start over with this list. If you would like to be a part of any reroute project please communicate this info to Dick Naperala or Arlen Matson. You may prefer working on the Kalkaska project or the Mesick area reroute. You do not have to be present for all work sessions. The dates for the work sessions usually have been on Tuesdays and some Saturdays, but that can depend on the availability of workers after signing up. Call Dick @ 223-7903 or Arlen @ 941-4152.

Kiosk/Information Station Managers

This is an urgent request for individuals with time to devote to two visits a year for our info. locations. Communication with the hiker and backpacker is vital on the trail. Once in spring and once in early fall, the message boards need to be updated and cleaned up a bit. A

pleasant drive to any of the following locations where you place new maps and other data completes the task. The following trailheads are the locations where we have kiosks:

- Sand Lakes (2 kiosks),
- Muncie Lakes (1)
- Sheck's Place (1),
- Kalkaska (1)
- Old US 131 SFCG (1) - Portuesi
- Hignbanks Rollway (2)
- Hodenpyl NECG (1) - Baileys

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.

Adopt a Trail 2009

Our Chapter has been involved in substantial trail building over the past few years. Unfortunately, once the trails are built, the work does not stop. Maintainers are needed to hike the trails to pick up litter, lop off encroaching branches, remove small downed trees, touch up blazes, and notify the Trail Crew of projects needing more extensive work (e.g. chainsaw work, erosion control, water drainage, bridge repair, etc.)

The GTHC section of the North Country Trail has been divided into approximately three-mile sections that are available for adoption. **We are looking for volunteers willing to walk a section just twice a year (early spring and late summer/early fall).** Your work will keep these trails in pristine hiking condition for all to enjoy.

There are a few sections still available for adoption this year. Would you please consider making two hikes this year as a GTHC Trail Adopter?

Please contact me if you are interested or need more information.

Thank you!

Betsy Duede
Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator
Pedalpushers272@cs.com
231-946-4524

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

Day Pack - MountainSmith panel day pack (1800 cubic inches) that can convert to a carry-on suitcase. It has a padded back panel and a very effective hip belt. Color - red with black trim. It is in good condition - I just need something with more pockets. New \$ 100, you can have mine for \$40. Contact John Heiam - email johnheiam@charter.net or phone 231 938-9655.

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 or phone 231-947-8485

2009 Officers and Committees

President:

John Heiam Tel. (231) 938-9655
 E-mail: johnheiam@charter.net

Program Chairperson

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

Secretary/Membership

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

Treasurer

Darlene Warren Tel. (231) 223-9818
 Email: darwarren@aol.com

Administrative Trails Coordinator:

Arlen Matson Tel. (231) 941-4152
 Email: matsonarlen@sbcglobal.net

Field Trails Coordinator:

Dick Naperala Tel. (231) 223-7903
 Email: napperri@yahoo.com

Advisor:

Mike Schaeffer Tel. (231) 947-9379
 Email: chieftrat@charter.net

Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator:

Betsy Duede Tel. (231) 946-4524
 Email: pedalpushers272@cs.com

Tool Trailer Supervisor:

Jerry Freels Tel. (231) 922-1801
 Email: jfreels@hotmail.com

Publicity:

Barb Kennedy Tel. (231) 932-9733
 Email: barb@netonecom.net

Newsletter

Rick Halbert Tel. (231) 947-8485
 Email: rhalbert1@me.com

Web Page:

Brian Cox Tel. (231) 883-3722
 Email: tcbrian@chartermi.net

Trail Guide

June Thaden Tel. (231) 947-8476
 Email: 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

