



# Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.16 Issue 3 September 2009

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## Notes from the Board *John Heiam*

A lot of things have happened since last June. On the national front, the North Country Trail Association has a new president. Dave Cornell has completed his two year term, and Bobby Koeplin from Valley City North Dakota has taken over. Bobby is a very capable individual, and I am sure he will do a great job. On the legislative side, "willing seller" legislation has finally been enacted by congress. In the past it was illegal for the North Country Trail Association to buy land for the trail, even if the landowner approached us and wanted to sell us the land! This new legislation puts us on the same legal footing as other National Scenic Trails. For example, last year the national government appropriated 10 million dollars to allow the Appalachian Trail Association to buy land that would improve the view from the trail. Many people feel the NCTA could have used that money more effectively. However, to make this happen, we have to do some groundwork. If there is a piece of property we feel would really improve the trail, we need to talk to the owner and see if he or she would be willing to sell. In that case, we would need a price for the land, and then we would go to Congress. We would tell them that we need X dollars to buy a specific piece of land, and we'd need to be able to explain how it will benefit the trail. If our arguments are more convincing than those of others, we would get the money. We need to start laying the groundwork at the local level if this legislation is to benefit us.

On the local level, we have received approval for the final link of the new Hodenpyl reroute which runs from our trail near M-37 east to Harvey Bridge on the Manistee River. This will be another wonderful addition to the trail. It is much shorter than the segment we completed last summer, but it goes through more difficult terrain, so the trail crew could use some more volunteers. Please contact Arlen Matson (231-941-4152) if you would like to help.

Finally, we have a new location for our monthly meetings. We will meet at the Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Road, south of South Airport Road. First of all we wanted to hold our meetings on a consistent date (i.e. third Tuesday of each month) and that was difficult to achieve at MCHC. Secondly, the Nature Center is a very nice facility that allows attendees to use their trails prior to meetings. We may also hold a meeting in which the program is walking the trails looking at wildflowers, water birds, etc.

## Programs & Meetings

### New Meeting Location

**Boardman River Nature Center  
1450 Cass Road (1.5 miles south of  
South Airport)  
Traverse City, MI**



**Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at 7 PM  
Boardman River Nature Center  
El Camino de Santiago  
By Gary Hoensheid**

Gary's first European hiking experience took him on a 350 mile journey walking the ancient Pilgrim Trail, the Camino de Santiago (Spanish for Road of St. 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 that 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. They walked 18-25 miles a day. Come to hear about this month-long journey.

Gary is a resident of Suttons Bay and has previous hiking experiences in the Grand Canyon, Minnesota, Boundary Waters, Porcupine Mountains, McCormick Tract, and Isle Royale.

**Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7 PM  
Boardman River Nature Center  
Backpacking Adventures from the Needles  
to the Sierras  
By Sara "Energizer" Cockrell**

Come share Sara's exciting 2009 adventures. This year she will take you to the slick rock canyons in Needles UT in April, the Niagara Escarpment rock vistas overlooking Georgian Bay from the Bruce Peninsula in Ontario in May, Glacier among the grizzlies in July, and her September finale on the John Muir Trail through Kings Canyon & Sequoia, to the summit of Mt. Whitney at 14,494 ft, the highest in the Lower 48. In addition to the 300+ miles she backpacked, she will share her travels to several other national parks she visited in between. If you haven't met Sara yet, by the time you leave you'll know why her trail name is "Energizer", if you can get up from your seat!

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 7 PM  
Boardman River Nature Center  
Banff/Jasper  
By Will Wuerthele**

Will Wuerthele will present photos from hikes in the Banff/Jasper area of Canada, including Banff, Jasper, Yoho & Glacier National Parks, plus a great hike in Mount Robson Provincial Park.

**Sunday, December 13, 2009  
Holiday season outdoor activity (morning)**  
Our meeting will be replaced by a hike or x-c ski outing at the Sand Lakes Quiet Area. The

activity will be determined by local snow conditions. Contact John Heiam or Lois Goldstein after December 9 for exact details. [lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net) or (231) 938-9655.

**Note: In order to accommodate our speaker, the program in January will not occur on a Tuesday night, but rather on Sunday. Mark your calendar now!**

**Sunday, January 17, 2010 at 7 PM  
Boardman River Nature Center  
Far, Fast, & Light: 23,000 Miles of  
Backpacking in America's Wild Lands  
By Andrew Skurka**



The presentation\* will encompass many of Andrew's hikes and outdoor experiences starting with his early trips to the mountains of New Hampshire and Maine, moving on to his first steps on the Appalachian Trail, an exhilarating trek around the West, and his adventures in exotic destinations like Alaska and Iceland. With a mix of photos and video clips, he'll share his most entertaining, inspiring, and heart-warming stories, and will highlight what he believes are the most important life lessons that he's learned through them. The presentation will last about 45 minutes and it will be followed by a 15-minute Q&A session. Some of his lightweight gear will be on display, though it won't be a primary focus of the presentation.

Andrew snowshoed 1,400 miles through both peninsulas of Michigan, northern Wisconsin, and northern Minnesota in winter 2005 via the

North Country Trail as part of his Sea-to-Sea Route hike.

\*A \$5.00 admission charge will help defray Andrew's travel expenses.

## Wanted: Speakers for Monthly 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 always looking for ideas and presenters for future programs. Contact Jody Bennett for open dates if you, or someone you know, would like to show us a good time: [bennettjj@charter.net](mailto:bennettjj@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 (note exceptions in December and January above).

## 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, September 13 (Afternoon)**

## **Hike from the High Rollways to Anderson Creek**

**Leader: Marilyn Hoogstraten**

This hike is 5.1 miles one way. Contact Marilyn to let her know if you want to hike out and back (10.2 miles) or just one way (which will require spotting a car on a very rough two track). The bugs should be down by this time, so it should be a great trip on one of our more scenic sections of trail. Contact Marilyn at: [hoogstraten@charter.net](mailto:hoogstraten@charter.net) or call 231 276-0363

### **Sunday, October 11 (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 M-72 and M-22 in TC. We will meet in the parking lot at the trailhead at 10 AM. 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 after October 14: at home in Michigan at 231-334-6300, or on our cell phone at 630-729-4662. Please call before 9 AM on the 17th to check in case of iffy weather.

### **Sunday October 18 (morning)**

#### **Fall Color Hike on the NCT along the Manistee River**

**Leader: Mike Schaeffer**

We'll meet at 10 AM at the Old 131 campground. We'll hike north on the fairly new part of the trail and then hike back. The distance will be determined on how far everyone wants to go. Contact Mike if you have any questions (231) 947-9379 or [chiefpat@charter.net](mailto:chiefpat@charter.net).

### **Sunday, October 25 (afternoon)**

## **Hike at Alligator Hill in SBDNL**

**Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

We will meet after lunch and hike to the overlooks on the Alligator Hill Trail. This will be a casual walk with time for photos of the fall colors and the Manitou Islands. Contact John or Lois after October 21 for exact time of the hike. [lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net) or (231) 938-9655.

### **Friday, November 27 (morning, 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 go hiking 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. We may use hiking boots or snowshoes depending on the weather. Contact John or Lois after November 24 for specific meeting time and location. [lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net) (231) 938-9655.

### **Sunday, December 13 (morning)**

#### **Holiday season outdoor activity**

**Leaders: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**

We will hike or x-c ski at the Sand Lakes Quiet Area. The activity will be determined by local snow conditions. Contact John Heiam or Lois Goldstein after December 9 for exact details. [lgoldstein@charter.net](mailto:lgoldstein@charter.net) or (231) 938-9655.

## Trail Openings



On Saturday June 6, National Trails Day, we celebrated the opening of the new trail segment connecting the VASA Trail in Acme to the KART Trail system in Kalkaska. We had representatives from the NCTA, DNR, TART, KART, and Senator Carl Levin present for the ribbon cutting.

On Saturday June 20 we opened the new section of trail along Hodenpyl Pond at the Manistee River Day Festival. The day featured several guided hikes along our new section of trail, a kayaking outing on the pond, and a tour of the Hodenpyl Dam.

### Special notice

My name is Tom Funke and I am in the NCT "1000 Mile" club.

In my travels, I have realized that there is a great need for a shuttle service to better meet the logistical needs of backpackers and day hikers on the NCT.

I have started such as service, the Tahqua Trekker, which is servicing hikers and backpackers (and canoeists!) in the eastern Upper Peninsula from St. Ignace to the mouth of the Two Hearted River.

I have recently entered into an advertising agreement with the NCTA, and will be running ads on their website shortly. In the meantime, I would like to make an offer that would raise funds for your chapter. If any members of your chapter mention the chapter after using our service, I'll donate 10% of their fees back to your chapter. Therefore, it is advantageous to help me get the word out to your members in order to make this little adventure a success!

Please check out the website [www.tahquatekker.com](http://www.tahquatekker.com).

I am currently researching other areas to offer the shuttle on other Michigan segments of the NCT, large rivers, and rail trails, so stay tuned!

Thank you for your time

Thomas Funke, NCT member since 1998  
Owner - Tahqua Trekker  
Author - "50 Hikes in Michigan's Upper Peninsula"

## Fall Events at the Grand Traverse Conservation District

**Boardman River Nature Center**  
1450 Cass Road  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
231.941.0960  
<http://www.NatureIsCalling.org>

Check out the fall calendar at <http://www.gtcd.org/calendar/>  
\* 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/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](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

This 12 mile reroute can be considered a done deal. Even as we write, five more signs are being installed. It gives us five mileage signs as the last phase of the signage for this project.

A slight correction was made near the Fletcher Creek backpacking campsite eliminating a rutted section damaged by some trespassing ATV's.

We will be meeting with Consumers Energy personnel to finalize the fee for usage of the two campsite areas that have been designated for backpackers. Currently there is a charge of \$10 for utilizing Northern Exposure's five sites located at the west end of their campground. This does include showers. Parking for hikers and backpackers also needs some clarification for public usage although there is no fee outside the campground

Another significant alteration was made north of M-115. This is Heather Peyton's Adopt-a-Trail section. Last winter imposed some spring runoff problems at the midway point between M-115 and Glengary. Two eroded gullies of great length led us to move the planked crossing downstream after benching a better route to the east of the current trail. This work was supervised by Jerry Marek and myself. We utilized the Youth Corps from Manistee in a strenuous two day work session in July.

## **VASA—NCT—KART—NCT LINKAGE**

It is now possible to hike from the VASA Trailhead in Acme all the way to rejoin the NCT northeast of Kalkaska. This involves using the VASA Trail to the Big Rock on its eastern section and then proceeding east across Williamsburg Road to join the NCT in the Sand Lakes Quiet Area. Following the blue/white or white/blue metal signs, depending on which way one is walking, the NCT is the dominant trail all the way into the Kalkaska Fairgrounds area. At this location it joins the KART Trail System, then moves east on side streets, and eventually crosses US 131 & CR 612. As you enter the Log Lake area (camping is permitted), the NCT heads northeast finally uniting with the existing NCT/SST system.

This trail has been blazed with signage at key road crossings. It does need mileage signs. We are looking for volunteers to measure this whole section in order to accurately calculate the distances for the mileage signs and new maps. Call Dick Naperala or Arlen Matson and indicate the area you could measure.

## **No. 15 to No. 19 Reroute (Phase 3)**

The Cadillac DNR and the state DNR office have approved the last phase of the Hodenpyl-NCT reroute. This approximately 3.5 mile section is on state land east of M-37 and begins at the corner of No. 12 Rd. and No. 15 Rd. A small portion is on private land and an easement has been obtained. We have begun this work at No. 15 Road and have brushed it out to the first big creek.

In September, we will move to No. 19 Road (Harvey Bridge) and will begin working both west and north. Now is the time for all of our trail crew to report for duty, and put forth a strong effort to make up for a lost summer's work on this reroute. If you are not a part of the crew, we welcome more to come and make this final link a reality before the snow flies. Our goal is a finished trail which also includes the building of five small bridges. We will most likely double our weekly schedule for September and October.

Grants from the National Park Service and the North Country Trail Association for 2007, 2008 and 2009 are in the amount of \$13,500 for the projects included above. The administrative work that lies ahead for me includes final reports indicating the work is finished, funds spent, certification of the new reroutes, decertification of the old reroutes, etc. This work is sizeable due to the slow processing of the requests. We are indeed grateful for all of this funding. All of the trail work, bridges, signage, new brush mower and flat bed trailer are evidences of these grants. The dues we pay to the NCTA, and the volunteer hours we report to the NPS all contribute towards the access to these grants. All of us are "Giving Trees" that landscape the corridor of the beautiful North Country Trail we have built collectively. Thank you!

## Save a Tree



Do you realize that each mailed newsletter costs our club about \$1.00. If you are able to download 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 will help 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

## 2009 Officers and Committees

**President:**

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

**Program Chairperson**

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

**Secretary/Membership**

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

**Treasurer**

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

**Administrative Trails Coordinator:**

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

**Field Trails Coordinator:**

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

**Advisor:**

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

**Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator:**

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

**Tool Trailer Supervisor:**

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

**Publicity:**

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

**Newsletter**

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

**Web Page:**

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

**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

