



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.17 Issue 1 March 2010

Notes from the Board *John Heiam*

As you are reading this, the snow should be starting to melt, and we will soon be able to put away our snowshoes. Our new sections of the NCT are really gorgeous, and I encourage you to get out and enjoy them. In particular, you should not miss the hike from the Marilla Trailhead near Hodenpyl Dam west of Mesick to #17 Road near Harvey Bridge. This section is more than most people want to do in a day, so you may want to split it into two one-day hikes. Bring along a friend and show off our new trail! For your first outing, leave one car at the Marilla Trailhead and the other at M-37. On another day, start at #12 Road near M-37 and walk east to #17 Road.

By the first of May, we hope to have a new brochure printed, and it will show the entire portion of the NCT that is maintained by the GTHC. At the same time the NCTA will have new official maps available through their headquarters in Lowell. If you are not familiar with the trail, and the new maps are not yet available, ask any of our Board members for directions to trailheads. We will be happy to help you. Even if you didn't have a hand in actually constructing the trail, you should feel proud that your dues made the trail possible. And while you are showing off the trail to your friends, please encourage them to join the NCTA. Even if people don't have time to help build or maintain the trail, or join us on our outings, their dues can help us maintain this wonderful resource.

We all owe our thanks to two people who have retired from the Board. Barb Kennedy, our Publicity Chair, is retiring after many years in the position. Barb has given her list of contacts to Sara Cockrell, who has volunteered to take on this position. Jody Bennett will also be stepping down as Program Chair, and Kim Steffes has volunteered to take on this responsibility. When you see Sara and Kim, be sure to thank them for taking on these critical duties.

Programs & Meetings

Meeting Location

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



Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at 7 PM
Boardman River Nature Center
Backpacking in Glacier National Park
By Bert Courson

Six audacious explorers spent the last week of July 2009 exploring the backcountry of Glacier National Park. Bears, moose, marmots, and even a few Hominids crossed their paths as they experienced this mountainous area.

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 at 7 PM
Boardman River Nature Center
Across Bhutan by Bike
By Roger Raehl and Ray Landfair

Bhutan is often referred to as the last Shangri-La due to its isolation, pristine natural beauty and unique cultural traditions that have been preserved to this day. This is Ray's and Roger's from-the-road view of this fascinating country's good-natured people, monasteries, scenic vistas and festivals.

Tuesday, May 18, 2010
Boardman River Nature Center
Cycling in Viet Nam
By Henry Eckhardt

Follow Henry on a bicycle trip adventure from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) with a loop thru the Mekong Delta. There are things he just had to know and see in person in the former "evil empire". For many Americans this trip is the only way to have closure of the war, and be a most welcomed guest.

**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 Boardman River Nature Center offers us free use of a meeting room and 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 Kim Steffes at 231-938-0743 or steffes@chartermi.net, or contact one of the other club officers.

Club Outings



Note: You do not have to be a member of the Grand Traverse 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, March 21 - 1 PM
Spring celebration hike on NCT
Leader: Bob Fitch

We'll observe the vernal equinox by hiking from the Dollar Lake trailhead on Supply Rd. We will head east (in the direction of Sand Lakes) and walk along the North Fork of the Boardman River. After an hour or hour and a half, we'll return. Weather may dictate the use of snowshoes. Call 231 941-0268 if you have questions.

Directions to Dollar Lake Trailhead: The trailhead is on Supply Road, about 1/4 mile west of the intersection of Supply Road and Williamsburg Road. If you are coming from the west on Supply Road, look for the large parking lot on the right, shortly after you pass the entry to the Woodland School. If you get to the corner of Williamsburg Road, you went too far. If you are coming from the north on Williamsburg Road, make a right on Supply and go about 1/4 mile; the parking lot will be on your left. If you are coming from the east on Supply Road, then continue on Supply about

1/4 mile after the corner of Williamsburg Road; the parking lot will be on your left.

**Saturday, April 17 - 10:30 AM
Hike along the Manistee River**

Leader: Bob Fitch

Meet at Baxter Bridge access site southeast of Kingsley: go east on M-113, south on Summit City Rd., west on County Line Rd., and south on 29½ Rd. We'll hike to the Highbanks Rollway, eat lunch, and return. Total time is about 3 1/2 hours. Call 231 941-0268 if you have questions.

**Saturday, April 24 - 9:30 AM
Strenuous all day hike along Jordan Valley 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 9:30 AM 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, and 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 5 PM, 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. Another alternative is to car camp at Grave's Crossing State Forest Campground nearby, off M-66.

A RSVP would be advisable, since these plans are being made 60 days in advance. 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=SF CG>

**Friday, April 30 - Monday, May 3
Backpacking the NCT Highbanks Rollway to Red Bridge**

Leaders: Richard Naperala , Ed Morse, and Rick Halbert

Join us for a backpacking trip along a very scenic section of the NCT. We will hike approximately 30 miles, including 18 miles of newly rerouted trail, almost all of which follows the beautiful Manistee River in northwest Lower Michigan. The terrain is varied so that there are sections where the trail is just a few feet from the river, and sections where the trail crosses high bluffs providing wonderful vistas

of the river and surrounding countryside. During the past two years, hiking club members have put in hundreds of hours creating this new section of trail and we are eager to share it with others. Our hike will begin at the Highbanks Rollway in Wexford County and end at the Red Bridge access after four days and three nights on the trail, hiking from six to 12 miles each day. If you are interested, or would like more information, contact Rick Halbert at rhalbert1@me.com 231-947-8485, Ed Morse at ed.morse@charter.net, or Dick Naperala at napperri@yahoo.com 231-223-7903.

Sunday, May 2 - mid-morning to mid-afternoon

Hike the NCT from Harvey Bridge to "8 Bridges"

Leader: Jocelyn Trepte

This will be a casual walk with plenty of time for photos. We will carry lunch and eat near the "8 Bridges" area and then turn around and walk back. This hike features beautiful overlooks of the Manistee River and numerous small creeks with mini waterfalls. Contact Jocelyn at jtrepte@charter.net or phone (231) 943-9664 for exact meeting time and place.

Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day) - afternoon

Hike the Jordan River Pathway from Deadman's Hill

Leaders: John Heiam & Lois Goldstein

Come say hello to Mother Nature on Mother's Day! We will start at the Deadman's Hill overlook and hike down to the fish hatchery and back. We may add on a short side trip to get better photos of the marsh marigolds. It should take about four hours to hike 8 miles. Contact John or Lois at (231) 938-9655 or lgoldstein@charter.net after May 5 for exact meeting time and place.

Saturday, May 15 - 10:30 AM

NCT/Sand Lakes hike

Leader: Bob Fitch

We'll meet on Broomhead Rd. where it crosses the North Branch of the Boardman River. Our hike will take us into the Sand Lakes system. We'll stop for lunch after an hour and a half, then return. Call 231 941-0268 if you have questions.

Friday, May 21 - 10:30 AM

A spring walk in the woods at Houdek Dunes and Kehl Lake

Leaders: Nancy Fleming and Bill Schafer

We will meet at Houdek Dunes and wander around in the woods marveling at the carpet of trilliums for a few hours and then drive to Kehl Lake and have a picnic lunch. We will then walk around the Kehl Lake preserve. Since both of these hikes are less than 2 miles in length, if the weather cooperates, and people are energetic, we can also drive a short distance and do a walk at Leelanau State Park. Phone Nancy at (231) 334-6300 or (630) 729-4662 if you want to go on this outing, because the hike will be postponed to Saturday May 22 if the weather is nasty.

Sunday, May 23 - hike begins at 10:30 Dell Road to Townline and back on the NCT

Leader: Deena Barshney

Note: If it is pouring rain, the hike will be cancelled.

Much of this part of the NCT is along the beautiful Manistee River. On easy terrain, the distance is 9 miles round trip to and from the bench platform high above the river. From the main intersection in Kingsley, drive east on M-113 one mile to Summit City Road. Turn south for 5 miles until Summit City ends at County Line Road. Turn east on County Line for 1 mile until County Line ends at Dell Road. Please park along Dell Road in front of the trail

gate. Bring a lunch and/or snacks for our mid hike break. For further details contact deenab@charter.net

**Saturday June 5 - 9:00 AM
National Trails Day Celebration**

Leader: Richard Naperala

National Trails Day will be a day of celebration for the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. We will be hiking the new reroute of the NCT east of M-37 near Sherman. This gorgeous, new pathway along the Manistee River with 11 scenic overlooks and 10 bridges will be a delight to hike. Following the out and back hike, there will be a pot luck picnic at the new, spectacular Manistee River overlook. We will meet at 9:00 AM at the east end of Menards parking lot. From there we will car pool to the NCT trailhead. If you are driving directly to the trailhead overlook at the corner of 17 Road and 19 Road and need directions, call Dick at 223-7903. Don't forget to bring a dish to pass, your own dinnerware, and a chair. Hotdogs, buns and condiments will be provided by the GTHC.

June 19

Mesick River Day

Leader: Richard Naperala

Tentative plans have been set for Mesick's 2nd annual River Day. This is one day of the year that the village celebrates its rich history and multiple recreational opportunities. Mesick, surrounded by state and national forest, is located a short distance from the mighty Manistee River, beautiful backwaters of the Hodenpyl Dam and the North Country Trail. The unique location of the village will provide many fun and exciting recreational events for June 19. There will be a running race, canoe trips, family hikes, bird watching, historical presentations, and a fishing contest. There will also be an ice cream social! Mark your calendar and watch the Record Eagle for the details. Northern Exposure - 1-800-563-7425 - also has the details.

Other Outings Possibilities

Hiking Buddies 

Lois Goldstein & John Heiam

Some GTHC members prefer to organizeday hikes on short notice. To find out about these impromptu outings you must get your email address onto the "Hiking Buddies" list maintained by Lois Goldstein. Here is how it works. Lois has a group of email addresses in her address book entitled "Hiking Buddies", and she shares it with everyone on the list. Periodically people send out notes asking if anyone would like to join them on an impromptu outing in the area. These outings occur both on weekends and weekdays. Last season about thirty requests were sent out, and there were frequently groups of two to ten people on these outings. For this to work, you need an email address and you need to check your emails at least once a day, because these notices often go out with very little lead time. For example, at 6 PM Friday evening we might send out a notice about a Saturday morning hike. We have over eighty people on the list so it is impractical to call specific individuals if they do not have email.

If your name is not on the list, you can add it by emailing Lois at goldstein@charter.net and letting her know you want to be on the Hiking Buddies list. You do not have to be a club member to be included, but since this is a service we run for the club, we hope you would support our efforts and join. See the last page of this newsletter for an application.

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.

There are also many nature and outdoor events scheduled at the Boardman River Nature Center:

1450 Cass Road
Traverse City, MI 49684
231.941.0960

<http://www.NatureIsCalling.org/>

Check out the winter calendar at

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

* Suggested donation \$5 for all programs



Log on for the latest GTHC

Newsletter!! Visit our GTHC Web Page@

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org/gtr>

Trail Tread Ways *Arlen Matson*



2009 Annual Trails Report

After two years of major reroutes, the eight page annual report, submitted at our last club meeting, is worth reading as a historical document. It encompasses 22 miles of new trail in the southern and northern end of our domain. Some highlights for 2009 include:

1. Trail crew logged 2,074 hours of labor.
2. Seven new bridges & five planked stream crossings were added.
3. Five mileage signs & two info stations were installed.
4. Silversaw Awards were presented to Deena Barshney, June Thaden and Pat Delaney

New goals for 2010 center on corrections and improvements on select areas of the NCT. These improvements will include seven new mileage signs to be erected on the Kalkaska reroute and the No. 12/15 reroute

Adopt-a-Trail Teams

With new adopter personnel and changes in assignments, we are scheduling a vital meeting for all of our important maintenance people. On Saturday, April 24, at 10 A.M., we are requesting that all of our adopters meet at the Boardman River Nature Center. This morning meeting will cover meeting trail standards, tool techniques, brush mowing, safety procedures, and new forms. All of this is in compliance with our goal to meet standards of the DNRE and the NPS as they relate to safety and insurance coverage.(Very important session)

Trail Crew Sign-up

We would like to compile another trail crew roster of personnel available to work on select

projects. Although we will not require the intensity of labor as in the last two years, there is a need for smaller crews to handle a variety of projects. Contact Arlen or sign up at our monthly meetings as to your availability.

GTHC Trail Sector Coordinators

Our yearly challenge is to improve the general quality of the NCT. We have decided that the establishment of overseers would be an asset for our adopters, adopter coordinator, and the two regular trail coordinators. To implement this, we have divided our 90 miles into 6 sectors with the following overseers.

- Sec 1: Manistee NF to M-37 Ed Morse
- Sec 2: M-37 to Baxter Bridge Rd Dick Parks
- Sec 3: Dell Rd to 131 spur trail intersection
Jerry Marek
- Sec 4: 131 SFCG to Cedar Cr. Rd (avail.)
- Sec 5: Cedar Cr Rd to Sand Lakes Bob Rudd
- Sec 6: VASA to Kalkaska SST Jay Warren

Early Spring Projects

Our first trail crew project this year will involve the installation of two mileage signs at the No 12/15 Road & 19 Road locations. No 12/15 Road is located 1 mile east of M-37 and a small trailhead is located at this corner. We will also install a mini-info station here as well.

Another project is the addition of boardwalk to the west of Northern Exposure Campground in the wetlands area. Some benching needs to be improved in the reroute from No. 12/15 bridges area. All of this work of course is pending approval of Grants submitted to the NCTA. Later on we will need to re-deck the Anderson Creek bridge and work with the DNRE to solve the erosion problem coming down the steep hill to the west.

Trail Mower Procedure

Once our Adopters have completed their May maintenance and filed their reports with Betsy, our trail mower teams will begin the mowing

process. This usually occurs in June and continues into July as the grasses and ferns hit their peak in growth.

The crew consists of Jerry Freels as Coordinator, and Jerry Marek and Dick Parks as his assistants. The procedure consists of two DR Brush Mowers going out to a certain location and mowing in two different directions. With two teams, this works well, and they can alternate their work schedules so they cover twice the territory. Driving distances involved are also a consideration due to our expansive territory. We do need one more person to join this group to complete two teams. Contact Jerry Freels if you wish to help.

Adopters may want to do this chore themselves, with a weed whacker, or some other tool of their choice. In some cases, our machinery just can't negotiate through a given site. We ask that if you choose this option, to let Jerry Freels know.

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 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

For Sale

Place an ad for your items for sale here.

2010 Officers and Committees

President:

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

Program Chairperson

Kim Steffes Tel. (231) 938-0743
Email: steffes@chartermi.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:

Sara Cockrell Tel. (231) 620-3543
Email: sarac369@charter.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 49331



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

