



# Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.17 Issue 3 September 2010

## Notes from the Board *John Heiam*

In early August, Lois and I attended the 2010 North Country Trail Association (NCTA) Annual Conference in Ashland, Wisconsin. We went on several wonderful hikes, met many dedicated NCTA volunteers, and renewed relationships with headquarters personnel. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will learn of all the things our wonderful trail crew has accomplished this year. At the national conference, numerous volunteer awards were distributed. Quite a few of our Grand Traverse Hiking Club (GTHC) members were among those recognized. We returned home with a box full of stuff, and we will honor those volunteers at our monthly meeting in September.

You will be happy to know that the NCTA has many people building and maintaining the trail. Our chapter is one of many that have members who provide thousands of hours of volunteer labor for the Trail. Last year the North Country Trail Association logged 59,957 hours of volunteer service! The National Park Service gives this a value of \$1.2 million dollars. Because of all the hours that were logged last year, the National Park Service honored the NCTA with the George B. Hertzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service by a group in the Midwest region. Watch for more details in the September newsletter and the next issue of the North Star magazine.

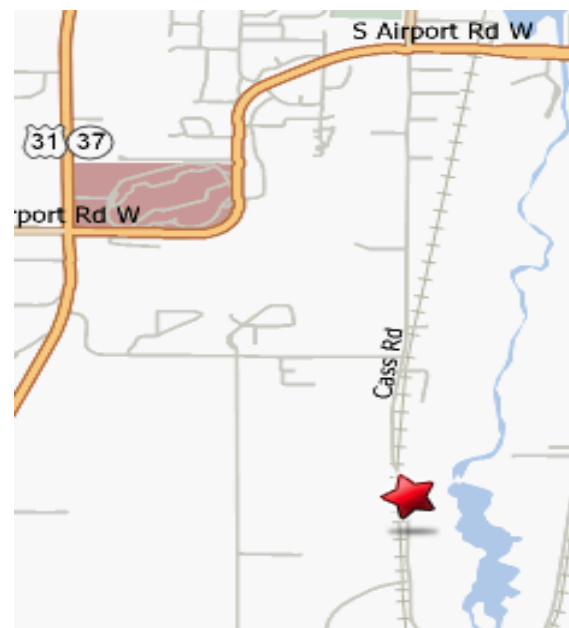
We are always looking for people who would like to become more active in the club. You

can help us out by doing some small administrative task, like helping to greet people at our monthly meetings. Everyone is welcome to attend our Board meetings – just ask me for the date and time, and give me your email address. I will send you the agenda several days before the meeting. Arlen Matson can always use more people on his trail crew. Simply tell Arlen you would like to help with some trail work, and give him your email address. When there is work to do, he sends out an announcement, and you respond only if you are able to help on that particular day.

## Programs & Meetings

### Meeting Location

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



After a break in June, July, and August programs resume in September, and begin at 7 P.M., the third Tuesday of each month. The fall schedule follows.

**Tuesday September 21 at 7 PM**  
**Boardman River Nature Center**  
**Tales From the Trail by Marilyn Hoogstraten**

One "non-athletic" woman's hiking the NCT through Michigan's lower peninsula - why it came to be, plans and plan changes, what her hike looked like, and some looks at the trail along with anecdotes from the Ohio state line north across the Mackinac Bridge. Marilyn will have some of her photographic art available for purchase, with 30% of sales donated to GTHC.

**Tuesday October 19 at 7 PM**  
**Boardman River Nature Center**  
**Utah's Redrock Country by Clayton Doughenbaugh**

Come see a presentation by Clayton who is with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). Their mission is to work to ensure that the wild public lands we all enjoy remain eligible for future wilderness designation. This means keeping a close eye on the ground working with federal agencies when possible, challenging bad land management decisions and advocating for Utah wilderness in Congress. Come see some beautiful photography and see how you can get involved.

**Tuesday November 16 at 7 PM**  
**Boardman River Nature Center**  
**Through Hiking the Appalachian Trail by Tim Keenan**

On March 29, 2009, Tim, trail name Naneek, began his hike from Springer Mountain GA. He completed his journey at Mt Katahdin, ME on September 16, three days short of his 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He hiked the first 350 miles solo, and then was joined by good friend Gabrielle Spencer, aka Solar System. Keenan said to himself many times, "How could I ever explain what I am seeing and experiencing to others, and have them relate". The goal of his presentation is always to encourage others to

hike this magical journey. We are sure you will find his presentation both informative and entertaining

**No monthly meeting in December – see Outings list for December 11 event.**

**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](mailto:steffes@chartermi.net), or 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.

**Saturday, October 2 (morning)**  
**North Country Trail along the Manistee River**

**Leader: John Heiam and Lois Goldstein**  
We will hike somewhere along the Manistee River between M-37 and US-131. The exact location will depend on weather and fall colors. If the weather is going to be warm and pleasant, we will each carry a lunch and eat at a spot overlooking the river. If the weather is

inclement, we will shorten the hike and then go out for lunch. Contact us after Wednesday, September 29 for the meeting time, location, and nature of the hike, and to put your name on the list ([johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net) or call 231-938-9655)

**Sunday October 10 (morning)**  
**Leelanau State Park**  
**Leader: Nancy Fleming**

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've done this color hike for the past several years, and it's always been fantastic! Call us for details and more specific directions after October 6 at home in Michigan at 231-334-6300, or on our cell phone at 630-729-4662. Please call before 9 AM on the day of the hike to check in case of iffy weather.

**Friday, November 26 (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 us after Tuesday November 23 for meeting time and location, and to put your name on the list ([johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net) or call 231-938-9655)

**Saturday December 11 (morning)**  
**Holiday season outdoor activity**  
**Leaders: John Heiam & Lois Goldstein**  
Our monthly meeting will be replaced this month by a hike/snowshoe/x-c ski at the Sand Lakes Quiet Area. The activity will be determined by local snow conditions. We will probably go out for lunch afterwards at

TraVino's. Contact us after Wednesday, December 8 for details, meeting time and location, and to put your name on the list ([johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net) or call 231-938-9655)

**Special Event!** 

**Saturday, October 9, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**  
**Navigation with Map, Compass, and GPS Class to held in the home of Rick Halbert (Bingham Township, Leelanau County) and in the field.**

Do you want to sharpen your skills with map and compass? Is it time to check out the world of GPS navigation? We will cover all three in this all day class. First, we will practice reading topographic maps, review compass use, learn how to use a Garmin GPS, and look at some mapping software. Then we will go into the field (in the Bow Lakes area of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore) for hands on practice on a 3-4 hour off-trail hike through normally dry, wooded terrain that varies from level to hilly. Wear hiking clothing, bring extra water, and a sack lunch. Rain gear, carried with your lunch and water in a daypack, would be a good idea. You will need a compass that includes a base plate. If you are buying a new compass, I recommend one of the following:

- Brunton Classic 9020G - adjustable declination scale so you can, "set it and forget it"
- Brunton 7DNL - minimalist and probably just right for your wrist, no declination scale
- Brunton 54 LU - roamer scales, and a unique prism system for .5 degree accuracy, no declination scale, more expensive

Contact me at [rhalbert1@me.com](mailto:rhalbert1@me.com) to sign up or if you need more information. After the class fills (limited to 6 students), I will email a course outline, directions to my home, and some practice maps (pdf files) that should be printed and brought with you to class, along with pencil and paper for note taking.

## Yahoo Group Replaces Hiking Buddies

John Heiam

The Grand Traverse Hiking Club has set up a Yahoo Group that we will use to publicize information about last minute outings. We have stopped using the "Hiking Buddies" email list because this is more secure, and just as easy to use. (You do not have to be a member to use this site, but obviously we would like you to join.) Here is all you have to do:

Click on this link and go to our group site:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandTraverseHikingClub/>

If you already have a Yahoo sign-in, go to "**Join this Group**" below. If you do not have a Yahoo sign-in, you must create one by doing the following: In the upper left hand corner of the page, click on "create account". Fill out the information on the page and click on the button at the bottom.

Next click on **Join this Group**. You have four options under **Message Delivery** that will affect the way this site works for you:

If you choose "Individual Email", you will be notified by email whenever a member posts a hike to this site.

If you choose "Daily Digest", once a day you will receive an email with all the new messages that have been posted to the site.

If you choose "Special Notices", you will only get emails from the administrator about the status of the site.

If you choose "Web Only", you will never receive an email from this site. You can still see all the postings by going to the site whenever you want.

You can change your Message Delivery preference at any time by clicking on "edit membership" near the top of the page.

**To post an outing on this site you have two options:**

- 1) You can go to the site and post an outing (click on the word "POST" on the left border).
- 2) You can send an email through your normal email account to:

[GrandTraverseHikingClub@yahoogroups.com](mailto:GrandTraverseHikingClub@yahoogroups.com)

However, if you choose to hide your email address from other members, you cannot use this feature. You can post outings only by going directly to the site.

Both result in the same thing happening. The notice will appear on the site, and people who chose to get notified by email will receive an email message with the total text of your message.

**Please remember that this site is only to be used to announce outings. It is not a discussion site. All messages that are not announcements of outings will be deleted.** Repeat offenders will be barred from using the site. We have set it up this way so that users are not hesitant about being notified as soon as an outing is posted.

At the present time we are allowing posts from non-members because there is no automated way to restrict it, and the Board feels that if a non-member is willing to lead a hike for the club, that is to our benefit. If you have questions, you can call or email me. John Heiam at 231 938-9655 or [johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net)



**Log on for the latest GTHC**

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

## 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.

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

## New - Michigan Recreational Passport

Beginning October 1, the \$10 Recreation Passport replaces the state park sticker to get you into all state parks, recreation areas and boat launches. To get your Recreation Passport, just check "YES" on your Michigan license plate renewal form. Your \$10 also helps preserve forest campgrounds and trails, historic and cultural sites in state parks, and parks in your own community. Get your Recreation Passport and tell your friends and family to do the same. It's only \$10...a good deal for you means a GREAT deal to future generations. Where can \$10 take you? Visit [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport) for more information.

## Trail Treadways

Arlen Matson



## Starvation Lake Clean-up

In June our trail crew drove up to Starvation Lake Road and re-established the NCT in a red pine forest plantation that had been logged. This involved the removal of branches, a few small logs, raking the tread, and re-blazing the trees. While most of us were engaged in this project, two from our brush mower team mowed the NCT from CR 612 north up to the vicinity of Pickerel Lake. It sure is nice to have the tools provided by the National Park Service for this purpose; Pulaskis, McCleods, DR brush mower, bow saws, loppers, and paint.

## Eagle Scout Project

In June, Troop 42 from Mesick was engaged in the construction of a boardwalk project west of

Fletcher Creek Campground, and another section west of Northern Exposure Campground. Daniel Sanders was working on his Eagle Scout award and met with me to survey the needs. He then contacted a sawmill, whose owners provided the heavy oak planking (no charge), and some of the sills for the project. We supplied the remaining sills. Scoutmaster Lee Billingsley, his wife, the Sanders family, scouts and friends, then tackled the laborious project of carrying all the materials to the two job sites. On a Saturday 4 members from our trail crew joined the Mesick group and installed 14 sections of double planked boardwalk.

We had 2 special treats that day. Mrs. Billingsley drove all the way into Cadillac and returned with 2 long Subway sandwiches compliments of Subway. After finishing the project, the Baileys treated everyone to ice cream at Nate's Store. The GTHC Trail Crew is very familiar with the large portions of ice cream we have been eating at Nate's Store over the last two years. A few of us did return a few days later to add a few planks.

### **Highbanks Rollway**

In July, a small team installed some waterbars and naturalized an area with an erosion problem just east of the viewing platform. In times past, various individuals were leaving the trail and proceeding down the steep bank to the water's edge. Not only was this an eyesore, but it was leading to serious erosion. We corrected the problem without having to alter the NCT in any way. On the same day we also headed over to Anderson Creek and made the adjustment to the NCT away from the old bridge.

### **Anderson Creek Bridges**

Early August found the 18 members of the trail crew engaged in 3 projects at the Anderson Creek crossing of the NCT. The pick-up truck loaded with bridge decking was unloaded and

carried to the new bridge site that is located a short way north of the old one. A team then installed the new decking to the 24 foot stringers that had been transported a few days earlier.

The second team headed up the ATV-damaged approach to the old bridge, and naturalized the area, and also installed waterbars.

The third team dismantled the old oak bridge, utilizing the wood for waterbars. This material was heavy wood decking. They also painted the new blue blazes, and removed the old ones.

This was a special place to work on this hot day, as it was located among some beautiful large white pine and cedar trees. Anderson Creek is a most delightful creek to view, as it is quite wide and fast moving. It might be worth trout fishing sometime.

### **Harvey Bridge (No. 19 Rd) Area Boardwalk**

Our last sizeable project was the installation of 11 sections of 2"x12"x12' treated plank boardwalk, about a half mile west of Number 19 Road, in the Harvey Bridge area. This is the section of last year's reroute, and again we endured some demanding labor, hauling in all of the materials and tools. The Melcareks' wagon really helped with the transporting of the 4"x4"x4' sills - 33 of them to be exact. The problem we have with this lumber is that it is freshly treated and weighs a ton. So...not only do we do a lot of walking, but hulking as well. Have you ever carried a 2 x12 a half a mile? Well, that's one way to become lean and mean! Having 3 backpackers come along the NCT while working was a real encouragement, as they raved about the new reroute.

Before we began working, Deena Barshney handed me a white envelope, which was her commitment to our project, so again we had all

of the funding for our boardwalk project. Thank you Deena! Do you all think that this reroute is maybe her favorite part of the NCT?

## **NCTA Grants & Funding**

The year 2010 found us submitting two grants, one for \$1419 for the expenses for one bridge: permits, decking, waterbars, rerod, benches and all the related hardware. We have a commercial account with Home Depot which makes for a convenient location to pick up materials. We also have an agreement in which they do all the cutting for us, which may be nearly a 100 pieces of treated wood. Being an air force veteran, this year I have been able to ask for an additional 10% discount, which is also open to available veterans.

Another source of funding this year has been the Traverse City Track Club. We have parked cars for them at the marathon run this summer, as well as mowed a field used for parking at another event. The total of funding from them has been \$800. This organization is one of the premier groups in the state of Michigan, and we are grateful to be a part of their team, and receive their financial support.

## **Odds and Ends**

Our brush mower teams have been working all summer, beginning from the south in the Hodenpyl Dam area, and gradually working north. Having the flatbed trailer with 2 mowers on it really helps get the job done. By meeting at the same location they can head in opposite directions, and cover twice the terrain. Currently they are somewhere in the Sand Lakes area. The teams are made up of coordinator Jerry Freels, and team members Dick Parks and Jerry Marek. Dick Naperala has done a lot of pinch hitting this summer as well.

Roger Evans is the newest member of our Sawyer team, having attended certification workshops for 3 days at Sleeping Bear Dunes.

He joins Dick Naperala and Ed Morse in providing the valuable service of removing trees across the NCT, when reported by our Adopt-a-Trail adopters and sometimes by random hikers. We understand that another workshop is in the making for the three others who have signed up to become sawyers. We will keep you posted. We appreciate your labors this summer, especially in this year's hot sun.

And you may have noticed that our kiosks and 10 information stations have all the new maps posted for hikers. Thanks for taking the time to clean the glass and tidy things up.

## **High Banks to Red Bridge - A Journey on the North Country**

Note – Gail Staisil wrote the following journal after a backpacking trip on a portion of the Grand Traverse section of the NCT.

### **Pre-Trip -- April 29**

After spending the last few days with great friends who live in Harbor Springs, I drove to the Manistee River area via Traverse City where the vast orchards of cherry trees were blooming. I couldn't resist a stop at Oryana, the wonderful food coop hidden on the back streets of town.

I settled in at the Upper River Trailhead at 9 PM for the night, as I would meet the Grand Traverse Hiking Club (North Country Trail Chapter) in the morning. Thoughts ran back to how I originally met some members of this fine group. It was at least a decade ago on the Jordan River Trail where I first met Dick N. and Rick H. In hindsight, I probably had met Rick before that at a GLH Gathering. Anyway, after years of occasionally running into one or the other, I started attending their annual group backpack outing several years back. I was also looking forward to seeing Ed, Kim, Dale and

Deena who I had met and hiked with a few years back.

This year was very exciting as we were going to hike the new section of the North Country Trail that the club had designed, and constructed during the last few years. We were to hike 31 mi during the next four days, 18 mi of which had been newly rerouted.

### **April 30 -- Stormy Night**

In the morning, I drove the short distance to Red Bridge where most of the group would congregate. Although I recognized Rick wearing his signature Tilley, there were many that I hadn't met before. Dan, Bruce, Peggy, Tom, Pam, and Sara (who I had recognized from ski racing years back) introduced themselves. Mona and Deena were also there to help shuttle the hikers. When we had been shuttled to the start point, Kim and Nan joined us for the backpack trip.

We started at the High Banks area. We hiked either along or a short ways back from the Manistee River on the "high banks" above the river. There were many spectacular overlooks along the way. Dick joined us at Anderson Creek as he had backtracked from our first night's camp. At the creek we readily re-supplied with water. It was a hot crazy day for spring and it didn't take much to overheat. It was at least 85 degrees and the air was very dry almost making it desert-like conditions.

We later set up our camp above the high banks of the river. We all chatted and learned many facts about each other. It was a very diverse group, some members were from the Traverse Group but others were from further points near Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and myself from the U.P. During the evening Dale and Andy arrived at different times from opposite directions, it was a large group for sure. Peggy treated everyone to chocolate fudge, which she had prepared at camp.

The evening remained hot. Heavy storms were predicted and we weren't to be disappointed. The first rain drops fell around 10 PM so everyone trailed off to their respective shelters. Earlier that evening I had spied a broken small poplar tree that had the top hung up in the crotch of a tree. I had considered moving my tarp even though directionally the tree had no chance of hitting me if the hung up part came down. Lightening flashed everywhere and thunder was reverberating in all directions (the next morning, Dale compared it to "surround sound", a perfect description).

I was settled under my tarp listening to all the sounds when the winds shifted directions and pulled violently on my tarp. The tarp had been set up in sandy soil and I feared for the worse. All of a sudden some of my tarp stakes violently jerked out with a ferocious blast of wind. It was evident that I would be in trouble!

Rain was seemingly falling as hard as possible and before I could unzip the closed mosquito netting of my bivy, my hair and shirt was plastered with water. I gathered the loose part of the tarp as best I could around me and tucked those edges under my bivy to keep them from flying away. Meanwhile I dug into my pack that was next to me, and got out a hat and fleece plus rain gear. I layered on the clothing as best as I could considering that I was still holding down the tarp. I huddled under the enclosure until the worst of the storm went through.

There was still another round to go with this storm but in the interim I got up and starting looking for my stakes. With so much pressure they had flown off in many directions and I found all but two, after looking seemingly forever. I found some tree branches to secure the other loops. Lightening was still flashing everywhere and even with the use of two lighting sources the other two red stakes were nowhere to be found. The storm was really noisy and I wondered if others were OK.

I went back to bed with wet hair and a partially wet sleeping bag hoping to dry both with body heat. Then the next round of the storm came through and I hoped for the best. Thankfully, it was soon morning and I had slept well.

In the morning, I noted that the poplar tree section had indeed separated from the crotch of the tree and was now impaled into the earth several feet from my tarp (I am so glad I didn't move my tarp in that direction). Another small tree was also down; funny thing is that I heard neither hit the earth. In the morning, I and others had searched for the remaining stakes but just found one so the other one is still out there, perhaps it flung off the cliff. (Later reports indicated the rainfall was 1.2 inches.)

Others had their own difficulties during the night. Rain was flying in through the mesh on their tents and they used umbrellas, rain jackets or whatever they had to stop the penetration.

### **May 1 -- The New Reroute of the North Country Trail**

A new day, and a beauty of one. In the morning Deena, Jan and Bert came in to join us for the day on some of the new section of trail. Deena had worked on building this section along with Dick, Sara, Ed and other members of the club. This section was much closer to the river and much more scenic than the former North Country Trail through this part (I had backpacked the old section many years back).

Being new trail, the surface is a bit more uneven until the passing of many hundred hikers occurs. The construction of many bridges and boardwalks were necessary as many areas are wet, based with clay or have creek crossings. Many of the structures were referred to by the name of the person that worked on them like "Deena's Bridge". There is more work to do but this section is officially open and wonderful.

We met more mushroom hunters along the way who indicated they weren't being as successful as normal years. Maybe it had been the dry and cold weather previous to now.

It was another scorcher of a day. Rest breaks alleviated sweating bodies and hydration was key. We hiked to the Fletcher Creek CG where the day hikers left us as well as Sara who had another outing (but would return the next afternoon). Since Sara was leaving she offered to get refreshments and snacks for the group. We hiked a bit further to the backcountry site where we would spend the night. It gave us more privacy as well as quiet and it was situated on a short spur to a point off the main trail.

We had a great surprise that evening when Ed popped into our campsite. He had been looking forward to the trip but had recently become saddled with a back problem. We enjoyed his visit and wished he could of enjoyed the fruit of his efforts on the new trail. He has accumulated a significant amount of hours working on the trail and will continue to do so when he gets better.

We gathered in the vicinity of the official fire ring where Nan attended to the fire. Stayed up well past dark and then retired to my tarp and bivy located near the shoreline...a very pleasant evening,...heard splashing now and then from some critter that was entering and exiting the water regularly.

### **May 2 -- Along the Dam, Across the River, and Through the Woods....**

During the early morning it began to rain quite steadily. To our surprise it ended before we took down camp, in the meantime we took all the necessary rain preparations. The day was a bit cooler but still felt hot between rest breaks.

We noted that some chainsaw craftsman had made mushroom sculptures out of some tree stumps. Many of the local landowners or

leasers from Consumers Energy have been active in making this reroute possible and have given many hours to the trail. Perhaps it was one of them who did the sculptures.

As we went near the Northern Exposure CG, Nan, Kim and Dale left us, as they had to get back to their lives in TC. It has been a "schedule" intensive trip as Rick has organized the comings and goings of some 16 people. He didn't seem frazzled by this but then he is a retired schoolteacher!

We skirted the backwaters of the Hodenpyle Dam along the shore and then before we crossed the Little Mac suspension bridge we met a large group of students from Calvin College who were completing a 1 credit backpacking course. They had done the Manistee River Trail as an overnighter and were excited about their trip.

We took a lunch break on the other side of the bridge and then hiked down to camp site #6 located about 5 mi after the bridge. Since the campsite was high on the bluff, I descended to the river via trail and walked a bit in the water and relaxed at riverside.

It was a great night of conversation around the fire ring area. We watched the sun disappear and soon most were off to bed. Sara (who had hiked back in earlier) and I were the last to leave conversation and then I soon drifted off to a comfortable sleep.

### **May 3 -- A Short Day**

Morning was bit cooler, I even wore my down sweater for a bit although it wasn't an absolute necessity. As we headed out we spied a sign Andy had drawn in the dirt as he had camped further up the trail than we did last night. The trek out was uneventful but it brought back many memories of numerous "24 hours of Manistee" trips that I used to do. I hadn't been there in 5 years so it was great to be back to not only experience that but to also hike the new section of marvelous trail along the river.

Thanks to Rick H, Dick N, and Ed M for their efforts in organizing the trip. Can't wait to see everyone again next year!...or sooner!!

To check out my slide show from this trip, go to:

<http://outdoors.webshots.com/album/577567520QObZCg>

**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

## 2010 Officers and Committees

**President:**

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

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**Secretary/Membership**

June Thaden Tel. (231) 947-8476  
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**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



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