



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association Volume No.11 Issue 2 Mar. 2004

Notes from the Board

John Heiam

IMPORTANT NOTICE !!! Meeting Location Move

As you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, Northwestern Michigan College is forcing us to move out of the Oleson Center for the remainder of this year. We do not know if we will be able to return to the Oleson Center next year, or what the price will be if we can move back. To be on the safe side, we need to investigate alternative meeting sites for next year. We want a place that is centrally located, has good parking, and will rent for \$30 - \$50 a night. It also has to be large enough to hold 50 - 70 people. If any members know of such a place, please contact me, or Betsy Duede.

The board also discussed the overall goals of the club. Obviously we want to support all the volunteers who maintain the NCT. To do that, we need to attract new members, and the board agreed that a realistic goal was to increase membership by 25 people this year. We also agreed that we need adequate funding to support the club's activities. Last year we made \$650 by staffing the recycle tent at the National Cherry Festival for one day. This year we would like to do that again. Barb Kennedy and Beverly Cuthbert agreed to coordinate that effort.

There is a group from Kalkaska who would like to build a hiking/biking trail between Kalkaska and Traverse City. It was decided that this club would support that effort. See "New Trail Being Planned" elsewhere in this newsletter.

Northwestern Michigan College is in the middle of a large building and remodeling program, and the club has just been notified that we will not be able to use the Oleson Center for our March, April, and May meetings.

Our March and April meetings will take place in Scholars Hall, which was formerly the old science building. This building is just to the east of the Dennis Museum Center (Between Dennis and the Library). We will be using room 217 on the upper floor, which is a mini theater that seats 70. Finding a parking space could be more difficult than it was at the Oleson Center. Please refer to campus map below (Building #2) to find Scholars Hall and to locate parking options.

Our May meeting will take place at the Traverse City Public Library.



Volunteer Coordinators Needed

National Cherry Festival Volunteers Needed

Administrative Trails Coordinator:

This person assigns sections for the North Country Trail to volunteer leaders, and files yearly reports with the North Country Trail Association.



National Trails Day Food Coordinator: This person will work with Dick Naperala to coordinate the food for the picnic on Trails Day, June 5.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact John Heiam. (See phone number and e-mail address at the back of this newsletter.)



This year we will again staff the recycle tent for one day. We will need approximately 24 people to each work a four-hour shift. Barb Kennedy and Beverly Cuthbert will be coordinating the volunteers again this year. This is an important source of funds for our club. Specifics for volunteering will be in our May newsletter.

Special Offer for GTHC Club Members

New Trail Planned



The GTHC, in conjunction with the TART and KART (Kalkaska Area Recreational Trail), is embarking on a new and exciting endeavor. We plan to build a non-motorized scenic hiking trail

from Traverse City to Kalkaska. The North Country Trail, hopefully, will be the middle section of the 25-mile trail.

On February 24, 2004, representatives from Kalkaska and Traverse City met to discuss the possibilities of building a hiking trail between the two towns. After looking at maps and discussing benefits, the committee agreed that such a scenic recreational trail would be a wonderful addition to the present area trail system.

The committee members – Richard Naperala, Bob Otwell, Arlen Matson, Bud Ward, Mike Schaeffer, Dick Parks, John Heiam, Bernie Senske, Don Bubar, and Russ LaRowe – formed teams to explore different sections of the State Forest to find the most enjoyable route for the trail. We hope to seek out many beautiful features such as lakes, rivers, and streams and also utilize as many existing trails as possible. Our next meeting will be May 2004.

McLain Cycle & Fitness invites Grand Traverse Hiking Club members and their guests to a special preview of their Annual Toy Sale. Join them Wednesday April 21 between 6 and 8 PM at their Garfield Road location to enjoy refreshments and get special sale prices and see all sale items in advance.

McLain Cycle & Fitness, 2786 Garfield Rd N., Traverse City, MI Phone: 231-941-8855.

On the web at: <http://mclaincycle.com/site/>

Get your GTHC Newsletter Faster & Cheaper via the web

In a cost savings effort, we are looking at lowering mailing and printing costs for the newsletter. We can substantially cut expenses by partially eliminating printing and US postage. **We are looking for members who are willing to receive the newsletter via the web only, and be removed from the US postal mailing list.**

We will provide you with email notification and a web link each issue so that you merely point, click, and enjoy the newsletter as always in either MS Word or Adobe Acrobat format. **HELP US SAVE!** Please contact Betsy Duede, at 231-946-4524 or Email at: pedalpushers272@cs.com and leave your email address.

Programs & Meetings

Thursday March 18, 2004 - 7:00PM

"Imagery in Nature"

Scholars Hall NMC - Room 217

Traverse City

Kimberli A. Bindschatel, publisher of "Whisper In The Woods", Michigan's Nature Journal, is also a professional wildlife photographer. She will share a slide presentation of her images as well as talk about her journey to help others find meaning in nature. She lives in Traverse City with her husband Ken and their two dogs. Kimberli's presentation will include scenes from the Grand Traverse area, Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, and Florida.

Thursday, April 15, 2004 - 7:00PM

"Hiking in the Dolomites"

Scholars Hall NMC - Room 217

Traverse City

In September 2003 as part of a European vacation Peter and Natalie Melcarek spent two weeks hiking in the Dolomite Mountains in NE Italy. They attempted to climb three peaks, with two successes. Mostly they made daylong hikes above timberline, afterwards sleeping in the picturesque rifugi up in the mountains, camping near mountain villages or staying in one of the numerous zimmers. They used the excellent via ferrata system for scaling otherwise difficult terrain. The equipment will be demonstrated. They saw world-class scenery and were enlightened by the exposure to similar yet different cultures. Often the hikes were a walk through history, both human and natural. This is the land where the Iceman roamed and where WWI soldiers dug trenches on mountaintops. The presentation will be all digital with slides, audio and video.

Tues., April 20, 2004 -7:00PM

GTHC Board Meeting

TC Horizon Books – Lower Level

This is the place where the business of the club gets conducted.

Everyone is welcome!

Thursday, May 20, 2004 - 7:00PM

"Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro"

Traverse City Public Library

Traverse City

This program will be given by Bill Howard. More details will be available in the May newsletter.

Club Outings and Activities



9655.

Note: Please consider leading a hike or backpack. We can only have a full program if everyone contributes.

Contact me if you are interested and I can help you with the newsletter write-up. *John Heiam; email:* johnheiam@charter.net or phone 938-

Saturday, March 13

Snowshoe hike along the Boardman

Leader: Dick Parks

Join us for a morning snowshoe outing along the banks of the Boardman! We will hike several trails within the Boardman River Nature Education Reserve between Beitner Bridge and South Airport Road. **Call Dick Parks at 946-7098 for time and meeting place.**

Tuesday, April 20

Breakfast hike at the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve

Leaders: Rebecca Teahen and John Heiam

Join us to enjoy fresh spring mornings at the Reserve: 420 acres along the Boardman River established for nature study and quiet recreation. We'll hike for an hour, and then go out for

Outings and Activities (Continued)

breakfast. These hikes will be an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourself with activities of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club and meet staff from the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and to learn more about the future Boardman River Nature Center.

We will meet at the Meadows Pavilion trailhead on Cass Road at 8:00 AM. This trailhead is located 2.1 miles south of South Airport Road, on the east side of Cass. In general, the hikes will take place rain or shine; just bring appropriate clothing. If you have any questions about the hike, call John Heiam at (231) 938-9655. For more information about the Boardman River Nature Reserve, please call Rebecca Teahen at (231) 941-0960

Saturday, April 24

Lasso Loop of Platte Plains Trail - Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Leader: Barbara Vockel

This seven-mile hike takes us along the Lake Michigan shoreline for approximately one and one-half miles, then through a pine and hardwood forest. If luck is with us, the day will be gorgeous and the wildflowers in bloom. Bring a sack lunch. You'll need a National Lakeshore pass for your car.

Call Barbara Vockel at 941-1680 for meeting time and place.

Sunday, May 2

Breakfast hike at the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve

Leaders: Rebecca Teahen and John Heiam

Join us to enjoy fresh spring mornings at the Reserve: 420 acres along the Boardman River established for nature study and quiet recreation. We'll hike for an hour, and then go out for breakfast. These hikes will be an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourself with activities of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club and meet staff from the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and to learn more about the future Boardman River Nature Center.

We will meet at the Meadows Pavilion trailhead on Cass Road at 8:00 AM. This trailhead is located 2.1 miles south of South Airport Road, on the east side of Cass. In general, the hikes will take place rain or shine; just bring appropriate clothing. If you have any questions about the hike, call John Heiam at (231) 938-9655. For more information about the Boardman River Nature Reserve, please call Rebecca Teahen at (231) 941-0960

Sunday, May 9

Afternoon hike at Fisherman's Island State Park

Leaders: John Heiam & Lois Goldstein

This park is about six miles south of Charlevoix, and has some interesting topography. The hiking trails traverse forested dunes, cross small streams, and go along the beach. We will spend about three hours exploring this area, looking for signs of spring. It's Mother's Day, so come out and enjoy Mother Nature with us! Call John or Lois at (231) 938-9655 for meeting time and directions.

Wednesday, May 12

Breakfast hike at the Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve

Leaders: Rebecca Teahen and John Heiam

Join us to enjoy fresh spring mornings at the Reserve; 420 acres along the Boardman River established for nature study and quiet recreation. We'll hike for an hour, and then go out for breakfast. These hikes will be an excellent opportunity to familiarize yourself with activities of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club and meet staff from the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and to learn more about the future Boardman River Nature Center.

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Trail Tread Ways

Arlen Matson/Dick Napperala

Volunteers Needed!



Adopt-a-Trail

Assignments for our 15 sectors of the NCT are in process. If you have an interest in adopting a 3 mile sector for this year, leave a message on the phone or email.

Shore to Shore Trail Reblaze

We are responsible for reblazing the NCT from the Cadillac feeder trail to a point just south of Manistee Lake. The NCT utilizes the Shore to Shore Trail for this distance. For starters

we need someone or a team to blaze the section from Walton to Kalkaska. This would involve some great exercise and the using the related paint equipment.

Brush Hog Work

There are certain sections of the NCT that a particularly grassy or high density fern areas. Case in point is the trail south of Dell Road. The work involves mowing this section and/or others during the month of June. The brush hog is a large self-propelled mower.

Tool Trailer Manager

This is an opportunity to periodically (spring & fall) sharpen the tools, change the oil, and clean our tool trailer. A coat of polish on the outside would help also. You could even store the trailer on your property, or we could deliver it to your residence for the maintenance.

Please consider volunteering your time to the Club. There are many opportunities for you to help.

- Lead a hike or outing
- Bring treats to a monthly meeting
- Write an article for the newsletter

If you are able to lend your time, please contact a board member or come to our next board meeting; Tuesday, Apr. 20th at 7:00 PM in the basement of Horizon Books - Traverse City.

Last Minute Outings

Our web site now has a link to the NCTA bulletin board! If you would like to have some company on a hike, you can post a notice on the bulletin board. You should also get in the habit of checking this bulletin board to see if others are leading a hike you would be interested in. The latest URL address is:

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org/phpBB2/>

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Classified

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As a member of the NCTA and Grand Traverse Hiking Club, you're entitled to advertise free in this newsletter. Submit your items (Less than 50 words per ad please) to Brian Cox at (231)275-9833 or email at: tcbrian@chartermi.net