



Grand Traverse Hiking Club

A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association Volume No.9 Issue 5 Nov. 2002

The President's Trail Notes

As you may know we no longer have a president! That means that all of us have to pull together and do a lot of little jobs that were done by the president in the past. So please consider volunteering your time to the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. There are many opportunities for you to help in big and small ways.

For instance, would you:

- Lead a hike or snowshoe/ski outing
- Bring treats to a monthly meeting
- Assemble the newsletter for mailing
- Be Club President
- Write an article for the newsletter (about a hike, a trip, equipment, etc.)
- Bring our lending library books to the monthly meetings.
- Organize the picnic for National Trails Day (first Saturday in June)?

If you are able to lend your time, please contact a board member or attend our next board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00 PM in the lower level of Horizon Bookstore, downtown Traverse City. Thank you!

Outings planned at the last minute

Our web site now has a bulletin board! If you would like to have some company on a hike, you can post a notice on our 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 address is:

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

Programs & Meetings

Monthly program meetings are held at the Oleson Center of Northwestern Michigan College, on the third Thursday of the month and begin at 7:00 P.M unless otherwise specified.

Thurs., Nov. 21, 2002 -7:00PM

Bud Ward

“Hiking the A.T.”

Bud Ward will have a presentation and slide show of his recent hike of the Appalachian Trail. Bud spent four months hiking from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine (2144 miles).

Tues., Dec. 10, 2002 -7:00PM

Board Meeting

T.C. Horizon Books – Lower Level

This is the place where the business of the club gets conducted. Everyone is invited. We have a lot of small administrative jobs that need to be done. Come and lend a hand. It is a lot easier than building trails!

Club Outings and Activities

Sat. and Sun., Nov. 9-10

Fall Backpack and Overnight

Sleeping Bear N.L.S.

Join us the weekend before deer season for some hiking and overnight camping. We will meet at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore visitor center in Empire at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, Nov. 9. There we will register and pay our fees, then head for the White Pine Back Country Camp located in forested dunes near Lake



Club Outings and Activities (Continued)

Michigan in the Platte Plains area of the park. Bring cold weather gear, your food and water or water purification kit. It is a short hike into the camp so we will set up camp then do some hiking on Saturday. Sunday morning we will have breakfast and hike out. *Please call (231-947-8485) or e-mail Rick Halbert (homes5@chartermi.net) if you plan to participate.* Plans may change at the last minute so be sure to let Rick know if you're coming so he can notify you of any changes.

Sun., Dec. 8 – 12 Noon to 3 PM

Hike, Bike, Ski, Snowshoe Muncie Lakes Trail

NOTE: this event is shared with the bike club and is hosted by Mike Schaeffer and Debby Page

Hike, mountain bike, snowshoe, or cross country ski at Muncie Lakes Trail. Who knows what the weather will be like this year and what type of activity we'll be able to do. With skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking and hiking activities available, we'll definitely be able to do something. We'll even wear our rain gear if necessary.

Bring your skis, bike, hiking boots, snowshoes or whatever the conditions call for. The weather might determine what we can do on the trail, but it can't get bad enough to cancel the event. The important thing isn't what we do on the trail, but what happens afterward. After we ski, bike, hike or whatever on the trail, we'll go over to Mike and Debby's house, a very short drive from Muncie, for a pot luck. Mike and Debby will provide the brats and a grill. Bring a dish to pass, and your own beverage. We should have a real feast. If you aren't interested in hitting the trail and would rather go shopping or something else, you can still come join us afterward. We should be back at the house around 3:00 p.m. for lunch.

Directions to Muncie Lakes: The trailhead is located on the north side of Ranch Rudolf Road, one mile east of the intersection with Rennie Lake Road.

Directions to Mike and Debby's house: The house is located at 1431 Hobbs Hwy at the intersection with

Harold's Road, 3.5 miles south of Supply Road. If you need directions to either the trailhead or the house, *call Mike or Debby at 947-9379.*

Sat., Dec., 14 - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Cross country ski or hike Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Otter Creek, Platte Plains, Beach

Meet at the Lake Michigan end of Esch Road. Follow M-22 south from Empire for approximately 3.5 miles; turn west onto Esch Road and follow for approximately 1.5 miles. Look for green Toyota pickup with boot on hood.

NOTE: This is a SBDNL fee area. Vehicle permits are available at the Empire Visitor Center and cost \$7.00 per day or \$15.00 per year.

The center is open 9 - 4. Bring trail snacks, lunch, and beverage. Facilities along our route include pit toilets at Otter Creek, Bass Lake, and White Pine Camp; no drinking water. Terrain is flat to hilly; trails include hard and soft sand. Approximately one third of the six-mile loop is along the Lake Michigan shore. Highlights include the Otter Creek cedar swamp, the marl spring, old settler's well and berry patch, beaver activity, Bass Lake, White Pine Camp, dunes, cobble pavements, and views of Platte Point and Empire Bluffs. *Questions? Call Dick Parks at 946-7098.*

Sun., Dec., 22 - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Snowshoe Hike Boardman River

Celebrate the first day of winter with a snowshoe hike through the woods along the north branch of the Boardman River. This is a beautiful area you may not have seen before. After working up an appetite, we will go out to lunch at a local restaurant. *Contact John Heiam or Lois Goldstein for directions: Phone: (231) 938-9655 e-mail: johnheiam@aol.com*