



# Grand Traverse Hiking Club

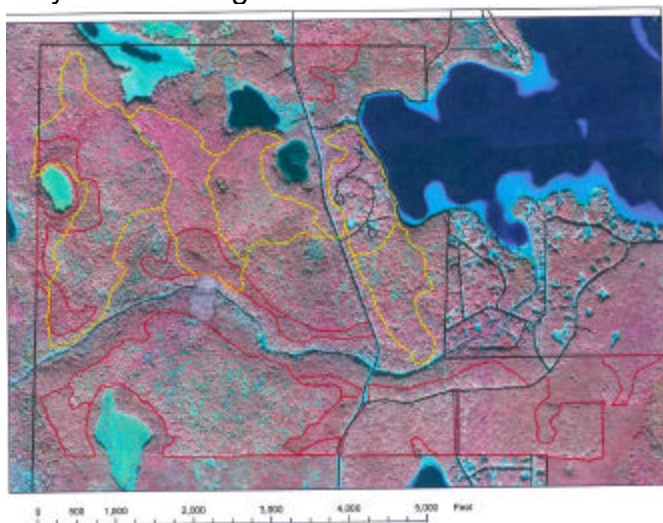
A Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Volume No.12 Issue 4 Dec. 2005

## Notes from the Board

*John Heiam*

Some of you may have heard about the logging that will take place near the Lake Ann trails. I talked to Tim Webb who is the DNR forester in charge of this area, and here are the facts. The trail goes through an area of 75-year-old aspen. These trees are literally falling down. During the windstorm in September a large number of trees fell over the trail and had to be removed. The DNR is now faced with either letting this process continue, which requires cleaning up those trees that fall over the trail, or making some money by selling the trees to a logger. If the DNR lets them fall over, they pose a danger to trail users. When they clean them up, it leaves slash alongside the trail that is both unsightly, and unsafe for skiers. Below is a map of the trail system, and the area they intend to log.



Reynolds Road is the dark blue line running north and south. The yellow dashed lines represent the Lake Ann trails. The solid red lines represent the boundaries of the logging operation. Notice that there are only three segments

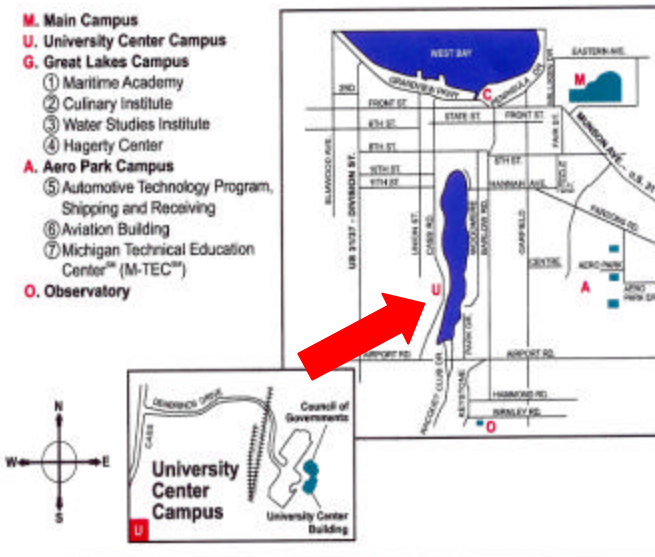
on the outermost loop of the trail within those boundaries. The scale on the bottom of the map illustrates that there are two segments approximately 2,000 feet long and a third about 700 feet long that will be impacted by the clear cutting. The forester agreed with my suggestion that the logging should not take place during the ski season (November - March). Part of the contract with the loggers is that they will be required to restore the trail any place they damage it. They have also planned the access so that the logging operation will not impact other areas of the trail. There is also some logging planned around the VASA Trail near "The Wall". Again, care will be taken to protect the trail. I wasn't able to get the kind of specifics about this operation that I did for the Lake Ann Trail system. This will take place sometime in 2007 or 2008. Logging is a fact of life we have to live with in our state forests. If we oppose every attempt at logging, then the DNR will not approve future trails through their forest, because of the restrictions it places on future logging operations. The current DNR officials, both here and in Cadillac, are very sympathetic to our club's goals, and have supported all our proposed changes to the North Country Trail. If we call them about logging damage to one of our trails, they get it repaired. It is because of their actions these last few years, that I have faith that they will make every effort to protect these two trail systems.

On an unrelated matter, we received some good news at the recent DNR open house. The DNR received appropriations to plow the parking lots at Sand Lakes, Lake Ann, and Lake Dubonnet this winter. Apparently they applied for and received a grant to fund the plowing. In researching this last year, I found that there were federal monies available for such projects, so perhaps that is where they received the funds.

# IMPORTANT !!! MEETING PLACE CHANGE

NMC is refurbishing the Oleson Center again, so we have to use another room at the college. **From January through May we will meet at the University Center off Cass Road, in room 05** in the lower level. Because of schedule conflicts we also have to change the time of our meetings from 7:00 to **7:30 PM**. We chose this facility because it offers easy parking, and a relatively central location. See the map below:

## NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

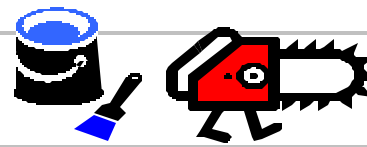


## Submit Your Hours

If you work in some volunteer capacity for the club, whether it is bringing goodies to a monthly meeting, leading a hike, or doing trail maintenance, you should report the hours you spent on club activities to the NCT headquarters. It is important that we report these hours because this information is used in justifying grants from various funding sources.



By far the easiest way to do this is online through their web site, or go directly there by using this address: <https://cerulean.site-secure.net/northcountrytrail/voluntrs/rephours.htm>



## Adopt-a-Trail Betsy Duede

Thanks to a group of dedicated GTHC volunteers, the North Country Trail in our neck of the woods and four local DNR pathways (Lost Lake, Lake Ann, Sand Lakes, Muncie Lakes) are kept in pleasurable hiking condition. These volunteers work behind the scenes in the Spring and Fall, checking trail conditions and taking care of problems as they develop. They remove downed trees and limbs as well as litter. They cut back growing ferns and branches. They refresh the trail blazing when needed. They send in reports and indicate when help is needed for tasks they cannot handle.

The following club members (sometimes with their friends or family members) were our Adopt-a-Trail volunteers for 2005. Please appreciate the work that they do as you enjoy your next hike.

- |                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Bob Rudd                             | Rit Portuesi        |
| Steve Hector                         | Dick Parks          |
| Jerry Freels                         | Fred & Kathy Sabel  |
| Larry & Donna Dodd                   | Pete Ostrowski      |
| June Thaden                          | Jim Heffner         |
| Mike Schaeffer                       | Debby Page          |
| Jodie Hoffmeister                    | Bob & Marty Johnson |
| Bill & Bonnie Mathias                | Steve & Betsy Duede |
| Dennis Hansen                        | Jerry Heiman        |
| Fred & Kathy Sable                   | Bud Ward            |
| Jack & Sandy Wilsey (& 12 grandkids) |                     |

Because of the new reroute off the Shore to Shore Trail this year, **four new sections** have been added to the Adopt-a-Trail program. If you are interested in adopting a section of the trail for 2006 (or want to find out more about it), please **contact me** by phone, email, or at the next GTHC meeting.

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

## Programs & Meetings

**Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006 - 7:30PM**

### **“Backpacking Rim-to-Rim in Grand Canyon National Park”**

**NMC-University Center Campus  
Traverse City - Room 05**

Last October Donna Hagan and Jim Heffner backpacked from the North Rim to the South Rim in Grand Canyon National Park and to Havasu Falls, which is on the Havasupai Indian Reservation in the western part of the Grand Canyon. Jim has talked Donna into giving a presentation on trip preparation and the actual hikes. Donna will have lots of great pictures to show and stories to tell.

**Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006 - 7:30PM**

### **“Hiking in Yosemite National Park”**

**NMC-University Center Campus  
Traverse City - Room 05**

Join us for a photo presentation of the beautiful and glorious Yosemite National Park. Kim Steffes and Jan Ealy will show us skies of cobalt blue and bright, sunshine filled mountains. This hike consists of 2 days of day hiking and 5 days in the back county. See sights like El Capitan, Half Dome, the Vernal and Nevada Falls. See awesome camp spots on Upper Mersed Lake, Lower Ottaway Lake then on to Red Peak Pass.

**Tuesday, Mar. 21, 2006 - 6:30PM**

### **“The Latest in Backcountry Gear”**

**Backcountry Outfitters Store  
227 E. Front Street- Traverse City**

Sandy Graham, the owner of Backcountry Outfitters, has graciously invited us to his store for a private showing/hands-on presentation of the latest in backcountry gear including the jet boil stoves, the light hiker boots, LED head-lamps, titanium cookware, etc.

We will enter through the lower, rear door off the alley (after 6:30 PM). There is a convenient

parking lot directly across the river. We will have a brief business meeting in the lower level where the boats are displayed. Please bring a folding camp chair for this portion.

Then, we will reconvene upstairs, push the clothing racks back out of the way, and have Sandy walk us through the store, showing us all the latest gear, answering our questions, and allowing us hands-on examination of this "must have" gear in a relaxed atmosphere.

## Trip Report

**Nov. 26, 2005 – Michigan Legacy Art Park  
Leaders: Lois Goldstein & John Heiam**

Seven of us met at Crystal Mountain to tour the art park. We debated whether we actually needed our snowshoes since there was only 6 - 8 inches of snow on the trail. Mike Terrell said he wanted pictures of people on snowshoes for his article, so that tipped the scales, and most of us wore them. We had a lot of fun wandering



among the art pieces, trying to figure out what they were, and why they qualified as "art". It was a great excuse to get outside and work off some of the food we ate on Thanksgiving. **Submitted by John Heiam**



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Newsletter!!**

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

# Trail Tread Ways

Arlen Matson



## NINE MILE REROUTE FINISHED

In January of this year John Heiam, Arlen Matson and Dick Naperala presented 66 pages of documentation compiled by Dick to the DNR office in Traverse City. After a review by this department and the Cadillac office, approval was given by the DNR Headquarters in Lansing by mid-summer. Work began immediately on a 9-mile reroute off from the Shore to Shore Trail (SST) beginning at the northeast corner of the Muncie

Lakes Pathway and rejoining the SST at Boardman River Road. After many sessions of brushing-out, benching, tread work, and finally painting the blue blazes the reroute was finished in October. A multitude of signage; 4x4 treated posts and carsonite markers are strategically located on the new section of the NCT. There are 2 trailheads available for parking; the parking lot at the north end of the Sand Lakes Quiet Area, and the snowmobile parking lot (Dollar Lake Trailhead) located on Supply Rd just west of Williamsburg Rd. There is also some room for parking on Broomhead Rd where the trail crosses adjacent to the N. Branch of the Boardman River. This latest reroute continues the NCT from last years reroute ended at the gas line-- SST location. The impressive observations about this latest addition to the NCT by many hikers are its scenic beauty, ease of hiking, and parking. It also utilizes 2 pathway systems already in existence; Sand Lakes Quiet Area and Muncie Lakes Pathway. Dollar Lake, North Branch of the Boardman River, Sand Lakes No 1 & 4 and the lakes north of Guernsey Lake are gems to view. This area is also well forested with preservation status for much of it. GPS readings have been made, mileage measurements completed and the certification papers filed with the National Park Service in Madison, WI. This was a sizable project undertaken by our chapter

with a list of workers that would fill a page of this newsletter. Thank you all for a dream come true.

## NCT SIGNAGE

In October of this year, the DNR installed 3 new info stations in the proximity of the NCT reroute of the past two years. Two are located at the north end of the Sand Lakes Quiet Area and the other is at the Muncie Lakes Pathway Trailhead. These two-sided structures on mounted on new concrete pads. We are grateful to the Traverse City DNR in granting us the use of one side of these well-built stations. The blue blazes are all in place, but remember that we use 2"x 6" vertical blazes and the DNR uses round blue paintings or plastic triangle symbols. When you come to two vertical blazes with the top one offset in a direction, that indicates a sharp turn and the location of the trail. In the Guernsey Lake area, Sand Lakes Parking Lot (not blazed yet) and at the Old US 131 Campground we use white 2"x6" blazes to indicate that this is a spur trail which will take you to the NCT or to a trailhead. On occasion you may even find the same white blazes taking you to a tent site. In the early summer while engaged in flagging and scouting new reroutes, a team of us blazed the SST corridor we use from Boardman River Rd to M-72. Signage was also placed at key road crossings.

## NORTH KALKASKA COUNTY

This more recent area of concern for us has been the maintenance domain of Dennis Hansen. Last year he transferred his NCTA membership into our chapter. For many years (10 at least), he has been the lone adopter of 10 miles of the NCT from CR 612 to the Antrim County Line. Now he has a team of workers whom either live or summer in the area. We welcome them to his team. They are Karl Pearson, Bernie Senske, and Greg Walker. Betsy Duede, our Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator, has been receiving his trail reports.



Join the NCTA *online* @

[https://cerulean.site-secure.net/northcountrytrail/ncta/join\\_us.htm](https://cerulean.site-secure.net/northcountrytrail/ncta/join_us.htm)

## Club Outings and Activities

*Note:* Please consider leading a hike or backpack.

Contact: **John Heiam**

email: [johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net) or phone 938-9655.

**Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005**  
**X-C Ski at Sand Lakes**  
**Time: Call for exact time**  
**Leaders: John Heiam**  
**Lois Goldstein**



We will ski for three hours at a relaxed pace around the outer loop at Sand Lakes and then go out for lunch afterwards. If the conditions don't look good for skiing, call us anyway and we will probably plan some other outdoor activity. Contact us for further details. Lois Goldstein or John Heiam email [johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net) or Phone 938-9655.



**Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006**  
**Overnight Camping at Sand Lakes**  
**Time: 1:00 P.M.**  
**Leaders: Rick Halbert/Dave Williams**

Join Dave and Rick for moonlight XC skiing and overnight camping at Sand Lakes Quiet Area. This will be the seventh year that Dave and Rick have enjoyed this winter activity and this year they decided it would be fun if others joined them. We would prefer to offer this activity on a weekend, but our planning must center on the dates that the moon is just right. **Call Dave Williams (231- 271-3230) or Rick Halbert (231-947-8485)**

**Saturday, Jan. 14, 2006**  
**Snowshoe at Bahle Park Suttons Bay**  
**Time: Morning-Call for exact time**  
**Leader: Marty Johnson**



Join Marty and Bob on a two-hour snowshoe hike around the trails at Bahle Park in Suttons Bay. Directions from Traverse City: Drive north on M-22, and turn left on Broadway at the blinking light just as you enter town. Drive two blocks to Lincoln, and turn right and follow that straight into the park. You may **contact Marty or Bob at (231) 271-8778 or [ubatuba@charter.net](mailto:ubatuba@charter.net)**.

**Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006**

**Snowshoe Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive**

**Time: 11:00 A.M.**

**Leader: Priscilla Walmsley**

Joint outing with the Sierra Club Traverse Group. Moderate to Strenuous. Most of this 4-5 mile snowshoe hike will be on a wooded trail rather than the drive itself (which is unplowed and used for skiing in winter.) We will climb to the stunning Bar Lake Overlook, and optionally continue on to the Lake Michigan Overlook. These dramatic views look completely different in winter! Dress warmly so that you can enjoy the overlooks. Meet at the first parking lot (to the right) as you enter Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive. The drive is located off Route 109, approximately 5 miles north of Empire. For more information, **contact Priscilla Walmsley at [priscilla@walmsley.com](mailto:priscilla@walmsley.com) or 231-929-1658.**

**Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006**

**Snowshoe North Branch of Boardman River**

**Time: Morning-Call for exact time**

**Leaders: John Heiam**

**Lois Goldstein**

Snowshoe hike along the North Branch of the Boardman River on the North Country Trail. This very scenic area is only about two miles from Sand Lakes, but very few people visit this area. After the hike we will go out to lunch. Contact Lois Goldstein or John Heiam email [johnheiam@charter.net](mailto:johnheiam@charter.net) or Phone 938-9655.

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**Classified**

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### FOR SALE

Atlas Snowshoes model 1022, like new. \$100  
Bivy Sack: Pertex Epic top and silicone coated nylon bottom. Comes with removable netting,\$30  
Call *Rick Halbert*. [rhalbert1@mac.com](mailto:rhalbert1@mac.com) or by phone 231-947-8485

### WANTED

Backcountry Cook for 3-4 day photo expedition to Isle Royale. First week of August 2006. Need to supply cooking utensils and assist with planning and preparing meals for 6 to 8 people over a fire or campstove. Supply references and list of experience. Salary negotiable. Contact: Tom Haxby – Email: [thaxby02@yahoo.com](mailto:thaxby02@yahoo.com) or by phone at 231-620-0521.

## 2006 Officers

### President:

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

### Vice President:

Bev Cuthbert Tel. (231) 929-9022  
Email: [bjcuthbert@aol.com](mailto:bjcuthbert@aol.com)

### Secretary:

June Thaden Tel. (231) 947-8476  
Email: [jthaden@traverse.net](mailto:jthaden@traverse.net)

### Treasurer / Membership

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Email: [mlis@localnet.com](mailto:mlis@localnet.com)

### Advisors:

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

## 2006 Committees

### Administrative Trails Coordinator:

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

### Field Trails Coordinator:

Dick Naperala Tel. (231) 223-7903  
Email: [napper@coslink.net](mailto:napper@coslink.net)

### Adopt-a-Trail Coordinator:

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

### Tool Trailer Supervisor:

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### Publicity:

Barb Kennedy Tel. (231) 932-9733  
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### Hospitality:

Kim Arbour Tel. (231) 271-6450

### Newsletter & Web Page:

Brian Cox Tel. (231) 275-9833  
Email: [tcbrian@chartermi.net](mailto:tcbrian@chartermi.net)

Our Sponsored Membership Program allows current members to sign up new members at an introductory rate of just \$18.00. To qualify, Sponsored Members must be new to NCTA, or not have been members for at least two years. The \$18 rate is good only for the first year of membership.

To use the program, just fill out the form below and mail it with a check for \$18 payable to the North Country Trail Association.  
The address is : NCTA, 229 East Main Street, Lowell, Michigan 49331.



Member of a specific Chapter: Grand Traverse Hiking Club

Sponsored by <b>John Heiam (NCTA #5951)– President Grand Traverse Hiking Club</b>		
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