



Welcome the New Year!

**Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore
North Country Trail Association
North Country National Scenic Trail**

~ Your Adventure Begins Nearby ~

January 2012 Newsletter and Events Calendar

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HSS and USFS to Restore and Improve the NCT in Chippewa Country - By Charlene DeWitt

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination ACT was set up to help areas that contain national forests. Part of the act provides funds for special projects within the national forest. HSS presented a proposal for a project on federal forest land in Chippewa County. The proposal had broad base support, fostered collaboration relationships was received and recommended by the Resource Advisory Committee and approved by the US Forest Service.

The goal of the project is to protect wetlands and sensitive environments, address safety issues for the public and volunteers, provide trail information, and safe access to the trail, and construct a shelter. This will be accomplished by restoring, repairing, and improving the recreational environment of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Chippewa County.

At this time HSS is planning the project with the USFS and awaiting the go ahead to begin funding the project. The money needs to be obligated by September 30, 2012. Much needs to be accomplished in a short period of time!

Roll up your sleeves and be ready to learn some new skills! To assist in this project, contact Charlene at dewitt.charlene@yahoo.com.

General Description of the Proposal

- Improve signage
- Provide boot brushes
- Replace boardwalk in the Little Bear
- Build a trail side shelter
- Provide First Aid/CPR and sawyer training for HSS volunteers
- Purchase GPS's, a chainsaw and sharpener for the chapter.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

→ VOLUNTEER

→ HIKE THE NCT → PROMOTE THE NCT

HSS Accomplishments and Events

June through November--Adopt A Section Volunteers maintained and reported--NCT Hikers reported trail conditions

June 16th--Wendy Wagoner Top Ten Invasive Species Presentation

June and July--Let's Get Moving Community Challenge sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield--Stan Kujawa was second and Kay third

July 9th--St. Joseph Island hike with the Sault Naturalists--HSS first hike in Ontario!

July 15th--Pure Michigan team visit to St. Ignace--Brevort Lake hike led by Walt and Kathy Coyler

July--HSS pulled knapweed on US 2 and at the Castle Rock Trailhead with the USFS--Stephanie Blumer--Donna Basset--Stan and Kay

June--to--October--Meetings--President, Charlene DeWitt attended SAC Meetings with the USFS. She secured a \$87,000 grant for work in the East Lake area--Friends of the Forest meeting with USFS--Stan and Kay--Meetings with USFS to plan projects--Monthly chapter meetings

June--to--Labor Day--Fab Fridays in downtown St. Ignace--Louise Anderson, Debbie Durm, Sue Deaner, Meta Geyer, Walt and Kathy Coyler, Stan and Kay

July and August--Work sessions on the Castle Rock Project--Walter Coyler--Marilyn Chadwick, Joan Cox, Stan and Kay

August--The President's Call to Service Award was awarded to Kay Kujawa at the annual conference in Dayton, Ohio.

August 13th--Hike at Culhane Lake led by Louise Anderson and Charlene DeWitt

September 10th--Hike at Soldier Lake Campground--led by Louise Anderson and Bill Courtois

October 8th--Hike Tahquamenon Falls area hike--Led by Jack Olson, Bob and Pat McNamara and Stan and Kay

October 4th to 9th--Work crews cleared, blazed, and maintained the NCT from C 500 to Tahquamenon Falls and from M 123 south to M 28--Larry Bryan, Teri Foust, Jack Gardner, Ruby, Mark and Gail Glendon, Bob McNamara, Stan and Kay

HSS Accomplishments and Events

October 10th--Tread improved at Parsell Lake and maintenance west of C 500--Larry Bryan, Stan and Kay

October 11th and 13th--Planted wildflowers at the Castle Rock Trailhead and at the new Carp River Bridge--USFS Botanist Stephanie Blumer, Walter Coyler, Stan and Kay

October 17th--Blazed, mowed, and chain saw south of Curley Lewis--Ruby, Jack, Teri, Stan and Kay

October 25th--Scoped NEPA study section at Castle Rock--blazed and cleared--Marilyn, Stan and Kay

October 29th--Trail work for hike on the 5th--Bob Berry, Sharon Thompson, Cheryl McCloud, Stan and Kay

November 1st--EUP Weed Management meeting--Charlene

November 2nd--Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Byway--Stan and Kay

November 5th--National Public Lands Day Hike--New Carp River Bridge

November 7th--NCTA Andrea Ketchmark, USFS, and HSS meeting for planning and discussion.

November 14th- Scoped Little Bear Creek area for possible reroute--USFS Recreation Director, Lyn Hyslop, Charlene, Bob Mac, Stan and Kay

November 21st--Meeting with Sally Childs at LSSU--Charlene, Stan and Kay

November 22nd--Little Bear Arena complex idea--Wellness Coalition members Mary Swiderski, Jeanette O'Rourke, Donna Norkoli, Stan and Kay, Little Bear Arena Manager--Scott Marshall, and St Ignace City Manager--Les Therrian met at the arena pond to **discuss possible route for NCT and trail around the pond.**

November 28th--Meeting with USFS scheduled to discuss plans for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act funds for the Little Bear Creek Project

HSS Meeting - 17 November 2011 at Pure Country in Rudyard

Meeting format--Business--Trail Reports--Pizza Buffet and Presentation

Dates: Dec. 10th--Hike and Chili Cook-off Potluck--Niagara Escarpment and Kujawas. Jan 14th Winter Trails Day Hike and Hotdog Roast at Soldier Lake

Jan. 19th--Pizza and Meeting

Attendance: Charlene, Marv, Stan Newill, Roger Morrison, Kay Morrison, Bob, Pat, Sue Deaner, Marilyn, Stan Kujawa, Kay

Officers' Reports:

Secretary--October Agenda was given to President, Charlene

Treasurer--Oct. 1 Balance \$1,498,61--Oct. 31 \$1,545.38 and

Nov. Expenses: Carp River Bridge Hike--\$ 72.75 and ink cartridges, paper, envelopes--\$69.02

Hiking Coordinator--worked on 2012 hiking schedule after meeting.

Webmaster: Don requested new information for the website

President: 1. Rural School Grant is moving--\$87,500 to improve the NCT in Chippewa County--includes shelter, boardwalk, and signage--USFS Lyn Hyslop, Charlene, Bob Mac, Stan and Kay scoped for new route--met with USFS and will meet again Nov 28th. 2. Castle Rock--NEPA signed--Work can begin on 3000 ft. of tread

Trail Reports: Stan Newill--hiked Biscuit and Pine River areas--Boy Scouts, Roger Morrison--Pictured Rocks, Chapel Rock area, Pat and Bob--Pine River area and Carp River Bridge Hike, Charlene, Stan, and Kay--Carp River Bridge Hike

Old Business:

1. HSS opportunities

A. Secretary Position

I can't spell--use spell check

I can't be at every meeting--ask someone to take notes for you

I don't know what to write--just the facts

We need someone who will take notes at the meetings and type them up for the next meeting!

B. President Position

I'm afraid of commitments--others help you when you need it

It takes too much time--1 monthly meeting (others sub when needed), Hikes are optional, occasional meetings with USFS--meeting agenda (others help)--think about the future of HSS and the NCT and the roll in the community

I don't know what it involves/to do--others are willing to help and everyone starts some place!

Delegate!

2. ORV signs for trail posts---can't use Jim Brettner's--must be USFS brown and approved by the USFS

HSS Meeting - 17 November 2011 at Pure Country in Rudyard

New Business:

1. Ideas for attracting new members?
2. LSSU--meeting planned for Nov. 21st to work for NCT attracting volunteers and student hikers--work to have the NCT become part of the curriculum
3. Annual Dinner and Hike--April 14th--hike in area and dinner at Pure Country
4. Quiet Waters Symposium--March 3, 2012--MSU--Bob and Pat volunteered to attend
5. Reflective buttons--Marv discussed using deer hunter reflective buttons to place below blazes between the Lower Falls and Tahqua Trail--Field Grant ?--Marv will check on price, get permission from Craig Krepps, and write grant.
6. Boardwalk Safety Discussion--Marilyn--chicken wire, Bob--score the boards--Stan--roofing and place board across the tread--Kay suggested we try each on a section of trail.

Note: Stan purchased roofing, found chicken wire, and plans to install them on the boardwalk by the new Carp River Bridge.

Followed by: Photo presentation of "Superior Shoreline Hike" by Marilyn Chadwick and Sue Deaner

Thank You to New and Renewing Members

HSS welcomes five new NCTA/HSS members:

Bob and Ellen Berry--Moran, MI--7/05/11 Bob has spent several hours maintaining the NCT between Castle Road Trailhead and M-123. Thank you, Bob

Chris and Alicia Gostek--Milford, MI--7/19/11

Eve Taulee--Paradise, MI--7/05/11 Eve drove the shuttle bus at Tahquamenon Falls and donated her time. Thank You, Eve

Pete and Judi Chimner--Cheboygan, MI--7/26/11

Susan Kielb--Ann Arbor and Paradise, MI--7/27/11

HSS appreciates your commitment to the North Country National Scenic Trail and for choosing HSS. Do plan to attend a hike, meeting, presentation, or any of our events. Volunteers are needed for many of our projects and events.

Thank you to the following NCT/HSS members for renewing your NCTA membership and especially for supporting the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore chapter.

Robert Courtois--Gaylord, MI--7/15/09

Rod Reamer and Yini Chen--Utica, MI--7/22/08

Jack Olson--Newberry, MI--9/14/10

Fred and Nan Gaunt--Newberry, MI--9/28/01

Robert and Pat McNamara--Barbeau, MI--9/16/03

Joan Leach--Cedarville, MI--3/31/02

William Currie--Huron, OH--9/25/00

Sue Deaner--Hessel, MI--1/25/02

DeWayne and Joan Cox--11/01/93

Chuck, Bev, and Theresa McCready--9/30/03

Jonathan Call--Royal Oak, MI--11/30/05

Stan Newill, Sault Ste. Marie, MI--11/03/05 Stan volunteers with the Boy Scouts on the NCT. Thank you, Stan

Marilyn Chadwick--10/05/95

HSS Calendar of Events



Contacts: Charlene DeWitt at dewitt.charlene@yahoo.com or Stan or Kay Kujawa at 989-350-2826 or kay1940@lighthouse.net

January 14th--Hike--Winter Trails Day and Free Hotdog Roast--Soldier Lake--Meet at 10:00 AM at the intersection of Dick Road and M-28--snowshoes or skis

January 19th--Pizza Buffet and Meeting--6:30 PM Pure Country in Rudyard--Bring a friend

February 11th--Hike and Celebrate Winter at Tahquamenon Falls--Valentine Hike--Meet 10:00 AM at the Upper Falls Fact Shack--skis or snowshoes--Late lunch at the Brewery

February 16th--Meeting--Pizza Buffet and Presentation--6:30 PM at Pure Country in Rudyard

March 3rd--Quiet Waters Symposium--MSU--Bob and Pat McNamara

March 10th--Betchler Ponds Hike--Meet at the North NCT Crossing on Dick Road at 10:00 AM--Sack lunch and Bonfire

March 15th--Meeting--Pizza Buffet and business meeting--6:30 at Pure Country in Rudyard--Officer elections

April 14th--ANNUAL DINNER, HIKE, AND SPEAKER--Meet on H-40 at the NCT Crossing at noon--Celebration begins with hike into the dam, a sack lunch around a bonfire, followed by a hike, and appetizers at 5:00 and pizza buffet at 5:30 at Pure Country in Rudyard

No April Meeting

May 12th Hike--Salt Point Road--Brown bag lunch at McNeary Cabin

May 17th Meeting--Pizza Buffet

June 2nd--National Trails Day and DNR Project GO--Hike between the Falls--Camping an option

June 21st--Meeting Pizza Buffet

July 14th--Hike--TBA

July 19th--Meeting--Pizza Buffet

August 11th--Hike--Haywood School Road

August 16th--Meeting--Pizza Buffet--Social gathering and/or presentation

September--3rd BRING ON THE BRIDGE--Camping, bonfires, hikes, and local tourist destinations--Hike the Bridge on Labor Day

September 8th--Hike--Wilderness State Park Hike--Camping an option

September 20--Meeting--Pizza Buffet

September 29th--National Public Lands Day Hike

October 13th--Hike--Curley Lewis Hwy to M-123--Camping an option

October 18th--Meeting--Pizza Buffet--Social gathering and/or presentation

November 10th--Hike--Castle Rock

November 15th--Meeting--Pizza Buffet

December 8th Hike--East Lake Area

Upcoming Events

January 14th --Winter Trails Day Hike and Hot Dog Roast at Soldier Lake Pavilion

Meet at the intersection of M-28 and Dick Road (USFS 3139) at 10:00 AM. We will park on Dick Road for improved safety. The hike in will be about a mile and a half. There will be a snowmobile available if someone is unable to ski or snowshoe that distance. It is all flat terrain and an easy walk.

Dress in layers for cold weather, bring water, camera, and extra gloves.

Hotdogs, chips, and cookies will be served in the pavilion. There will be a fire in the fireplace. Hikes on the NCT will be offered from 11:30 to 2:00 PM. Folks often hike for awhile, return to fire, and go out again.

It is a great way to celebrate winter in the UP. Bring family and/or friends.

We have had weather as cold as 20 below to 10 above when we arrived at the lake. RSVP is not necessary, but very helpful for planning for the hotdogs, buns, and chips.

If you plan to bring homemade or packaged cookies, contact Stan or Kay at kay1940@lighthouse.net or call at 989-350-2826



February 11th Valentine Hike at Tahquamenon Falls State Park

Meet at 10:00 AM at the Upper Falls Parking Lot

Dress in layers, bring water, camera, and extra gloves

Snowshoes or skis or both

Free snack from the "HSS Goodie Bucket"

Lunch at the Brewery or sack lunch on the NCT

There is usually a second hike after lunch.

Optional: spend the night in Paradise and hike again on Sunday!

Make reservations early as the motels fill up with snowmobile crowd!

Best Western, Curley's (takes pets), Paradise Inn other inns are in Newberry.

News From Our Members

Three HSS Members Hike the Superior Shoreline

Those of us who attended either of the October or November HSS Meetings enjoyed a photo presentation by Marilyn Chadwick and Sue Deaner. Marilyn and Joan Cox hiked the Superior Shoreline in Minnesota for three weeks. Sue Deaner joined them for part of the hike. Marilyn noted that it is the best of hikes and the worst and it was the coldest and the hottest. She was wondering if anyone wanted her little tent. She nearly froze to death swinging between two trees on the coldest night. They had a glorious time--connecting with nature--renewing friendships--exploring! The photos of the sun rises and sun sets are wonderful. The gals did a great job of sharing their story. HSS thanks them for entertaining us with their hiking tales.

Hiking on the NCT - From Don Stidman

I frequently hike around the Niagara Escarpment, taking in the seasons there, although I have yet to be able to get in there in the deep of winter due to parking. (I have a small get-away place in downtown St. Ignace). In October a hiking friend and I did the NCT/Manistee River Trail Loop and it was absolutely marvelous! Last summer another friend and I did the 10 mile or so hike between Brevort Lake and Kenneth Rd. and was disappointed that the bridge was out on Carp River; would have waded across but looked too deep. Missed a sign where the trail was changed at some pt. but soon corrected ourselves. All in all trail is very good. I am all the way through Mackinac Co. and hope to say I have gone all the way from the "Bridge" at St. Ignace to at least Taqu Falls. (Have done lower to upper falls a couple times; Pictured Rocks; most of Porcupine; not much of lower peninsula but hope to do some of that soon. Now if I just had more time; hope to retire in about 4 years; maybe then I will do a lot if health allows. Thanks again for pulling me out of your file; looking forward to information.

"It's North Dakota or Bust!" Joan Cox alias Grandma Fargo

The Superior Trail: what can I say? It was the most challenging hike I've done in my 20plus years of exploring the NCT. Much of the trail is a woodsy walk just like here in Michigan, but with extreme hills thrown in. The rest ranges from boulder climbing to mile long, ankle twisting rubble. The views were glorious and the rivers and falls breathtaking. The trail is expertly maintained and very well used. Everyone was out on the weekends and many for a week or more. This trail is a real jewel for long-distance hiking and many have discovered it. Considering we only did 60 miles out of 280-will we go back and finish? Who knows. God willing we will be out there somewhere again next year, heading west. As Granny M would say, "It's North Dakota or bust!" Joan Cox alias Grandma Fargo

North Country Trail--A premier hiking footpath!

Feel free to send us information about hikes you may have taken year! We enjoy your stories. We hope to post some of your emails in future newsletters. Many thanks to Don and all of you who have turned in reports on the condition of the trail. That information is extremely helpful to the Roving Work Crew and to Adopt A Section Volunteers. It is great to know where work is needed. So keep up the good work of reporting the good, the bad, and the ugly to Bob McNamara, Charlene DeWitt, or Stan Kujawa!

Snow Shoeing Tips

from <http://www.backpacking.net/winter.html>

- Always check your gear, before you go.
- Are your snow poles telescoping okay ? Maybe a squirt of silicone is in order.
- Any suspicious cracks in your snowshoe bindings ?
- Survival gear & knowledge intact ?
- Familiarity with the terrain you're going to ? Map ?
- Don't leave home without the 14 essential-gear items !
- Make sure someone at home knows where you are (in case of your emergency).
- Duct tape for emergency patchwork on snow shoes & snow poles
- Breaking the Trail:
 - If you are snowshoeing with other people (safer than going alone) take turns leading. It gets very tiring breaking the trail.
 - If you have energetic, want-to-go-fast young people in your group, put them in front and leave them there for as long as is practical and safe. Good for them, good for you.
 - When leading, take into consideration the pace of the slowest member of the group.
 - When leading, make your steps short enough so everyone in the group can follow in them.
 - When following, try to stay in the leader's footsteps whenever possible. This conserves your energy and retains a better, well-defined trail for those who follow you.
- Take breaks, as necessary, to make adjustments to your clothing--try to stay dry--avoid chills.
- Take frequent breaks to drink water and eat something. Snowshoeing is strenuous and burns off calories and uses up body fluids in the form of perspiration. REMEMBER: In the winter, because of the cold, you may not always get the obvious signs of perspiring, but you are, nonetheless, and those fluids must be replaced.
- If you must go where the snowmobiles play, stay out of their way !

Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Contact Information

We suggest that you print this page, or copy this information, for easy access.

The North Country Trail Association develops, maintains, preserves and promotes the North Country National Scenic Trail through a trail-wide coalition of volunteers and partners.

We encourage hikers to contact us for information about hikes and/or for volunteer information.

Visit Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore website: www.northcountrytrail.org/hss/index.htm and/or the NCTA website: www.northcountrytrail.org.

Please note the following contacts for reporting illegal use of the NCT, for informing us of your hiking experience on the NCT, and for volunteer work reports.

Contacts for reporting ongoing ORV use and other trail infractions:

Report all unauthorized use of the North Country Trail to proper authorities listed below and to dewitt.charlene@yahoo.com

Contact dewitt.charlene@yahoo.com for more information, questions, and any suggestions that you may have. HSS will need to know when and where the illegal use of the trail transpired.

Hiawatha National Forest

- Joe Orsini, USFS Law Enforcement Officer906-643-7900
- If no answer, call **Central Dispatch**. 906-495-2142
 - they will contact Officer Orsini.

Lake Superior State Forest and Tahquamenon State Park

- Luce County Sheriff Kevin Erickson.906-293-4261
- In the Superior Forest call Newberry DNR Office. . . . 906-293-3293
 - or the Michigan DNR Hotline Number at. 800-292-7800
- Tahquamenon State Park-Craig Krepps.906-492-3415

Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore

- Charlene DeWitt, President. . . . dewitt.charlene@yahoo.com
- Stanley Kujawa, Treasurer. . . . 989-350-2826
- Kay Kujawa, Communications Coord. kay1940@lighthouse.net
or 989-350-6790
- Bob McNamara, Adopt-A-Section and Maintenance Coordinator,
rjmcnamara@hughes.net

If you know of someone who would like to be on the HSS mailing list or if you do not wish to remain on the list, contact Kay Kujawa.