

# Spirit of the Woods

## Local Chapter of the North Country Trail Association

Lake, Manistee, Mason and Oceana Counties in Michigan



Spring 2011

Skiing at Crystal Valley  
(after a blizzard)!



Above: Ellen Lightle (cut in half, sorry Ellen) Loren Bach, Krista Dornfried, Dave Martus, Joan Young

Left: Ellen Lightle, note the long shadows even at mid-day!  
Below left: Ed Chappel, Loren Bach, Omer and Joan Young, Ed Morse in the trail shelter at Big M.

Below: Loren Bach on the Lumberjack loop of the Big M trails.



Picture by Dave Yarnell

Skiing (and snowshoeing) at  
Big M Chili Feed



Picture by Joan Young

Below: An NCT business meeting. Picture by Joan Young

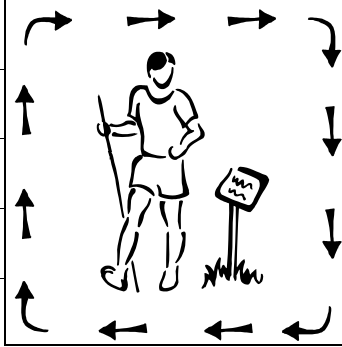
We had a cold ski (7 degrees F) down at Crystal Valley ski area in Oceana County on January 8th. The area had a 12 inch snowfall the night before and getting to Crystal Valley was rather challenging since we were driving before the plows came through. We broke trail and were impressed by the area. I look forward to skiing there again when the trails are groomed.

February 12 we skied at Big M in Manistee County. It was much warmer. We started with a short business meeting in the lodge and then we went in different directions, some snowshoeing, some skiing. The snow was fresh and the sky was clear. What a perfect day! Join us next month!



**These are the trail adopters for sections of trail in our chapter. Kudos to these folks, when you see them, thank them**

Section Description	Miles	Trail Adopters
1. Lake Cty line (96th St) to 76th St. trailhead, incl. connector at 76th	4.1	John Cooley, Vicky Kelly Lindsay McAinsh Boy Scout Troop #345
2. 76th trailhead to Bowman Lake, incl. connector to campground	6.1	Merl and Pat Schlaack, Van Serrell
3. Bowman Lk trailhead (56th St) to 40th St W incl trailhead connector	4.1	Peg Strobel, William Barclay
4. 40th St. West to Timber Creek trailhead	5	Tom and Magie Momenee
5. Timber Creek trailhead to 8th St	3	Mary Jacobs
6. 8th St. to Centerline Rd	3	Ed and Nancy Chappel
7. Centerline Rd to 3 Mile Rd	3.7	Brian and Barb Buchanan
8. 3 Mile Rd. to 5 Mile Rd. South	3.5	Brian and Barb Buchanan
9. 5 Mile Rd. North to Freesoil trailhead (incl. miles of road 2.3)	6.3	Steve and Deb Webster
10. Freesoil trailhead to Forest Rd. 5331 (incl trail to Beartrack Campground 1.3 mi)	3.6	Joan Young
11. Forest Rd. 5331 to 9 Mile Bridge (.5 miles of road)	5	Joan Young
12. 9 Mile Bridge to Udell trailhead (1 mile of road)	6	Ken Blakey Shell
13. Udell trailhead to High Bridge Access (3 miles of road)	5.9	Kurt Schindler
14. High Bridge Access to Tippy Dam Rd. (incl .5 mi connector to Sawdust Hole campground)	5.2	Dave Martus and Loren Bach
15. Tippy Dam Rd. to Coates Hwy.	5.8	Barry Barto
16. Coates Hwy. to Forest Rd. 8060 (incl. 1.5 miles of connector to Manistee River Trail)	5.7	Rich and Judy Ferguson
17. Forest River Rd. to Small Circular Dr. off of River Rd. just s. of Beers Rd. (incl. 1 mi to Marilla Trailhead)	6	Ed Morse



## Newsbits

With the generous support of the National Park Service the NCTA has been able to embark on the development of a Guide to the NCNST. Ron Strickland will be its author. He is a well known guide book author. His other qualifications include getting the Pacific Northwest Trail established and spearheading the Sea-to-Sea Route. He has asked you to support the book by writing to him and answering this question:

**What are the 4 to 5 most favorite hikes on the NCT in your chapter/affiliate/partner area?**

Please respond directly to Ron at [ronaldgstrickland@hotmail.com](mailto:ronaldgstrickland@hotmail.com)

## American Hiking Society Will Sponsor a Volunteer Vacation In July Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>

The AHS will sponsor a volunteer vacation to help both our chapter and the Western Michigan Chapter. The West MI chapter is directly to the south of the Spirit of the Woods chapter. The volunteers will be housed in the Birch Grove School House in White Cloud, MI which is about a half hour drive from our chapter's work site in Sterling Marsh.

The volunteers will have a free day to explore the area. We will not need to provide food for the group but we will need members to volunteer to work alongside the group in the Sterling Marsh boardwalk and/or accompany the group during the free time to show them the area. For further information contact Ed Chappel at [ed.chappel@goldcommcable.com](mailto:ed.chappel@goldcommcable.com) or see the AHS website <http://www.americanhiking.org/ProjectRegistrationDetail.aspx?projectId=509> for details.

## Healthy Active Manistee

Manistee has a Non-Motorized Transportation Committee which is working on planning activities for the third annual Healthy Active Manistee (HAM) week during May 2011. **Our chapter has a hike scheduled for May 14 (our second Saturday hike) so we are going to list this event as a part of the Healthy Active Manistee week.** We will be hiking on the section of trail that is between 9 Mile Bridge Road and M55 just west of Fire Tower Road. This is about 5 miles east of Manistee. We plan to have cars at the M55 trailhead and carpool to 9 Mile Bridge Road.

What part can you play? Please come out and hike with us and let the participants know that this is not a special event just for HAM week but that we host hikes every second Saturday. Let others know what a treasure is in our own back- as the Northcountry Trail. We and we also need to enlist new we do. Please put May 14, join us!



Wintergreen



Lady's Slipper



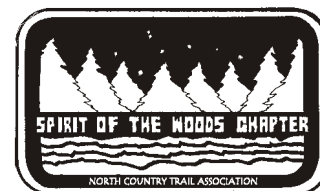
The week-long event is endorsed by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness. Various community organizations are sponsoring events including other activities such as bicycling, swimming, tennis, skateboarding, running and many more. These activities will interest our outdoor minded membership so please consider participating in other events during the week. After all, which seems more fun to you, exercising...or instead of thinking of it as exercise, having fun outdoors!



## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Everyone is welcome to attend our activities.**

For up-to-date information and maps to events, visit our website at [www.northcountrytrail.org/spw](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/spw) or contact Ed Chappel



### Hikes and Other Outings

FFI see [www.northcountrytrail.org/spw](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/spw)

*Please put these dates on your calendar for outings. Join Us!*

**Saturday, March 12, 2011-10 AM**-Hike Sawdust Hole to the switch backs to review the beaver dam and the new bridge site and return. FFI Contact Ed Chappel 231 231 266-8008 [ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com](mailto:ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com)

**Saturday, April 9, 2011-10 AM-Saturday** Hike a lovely section of Silver Creek Pathway north of Luther. Meet at the Silver Creek Bridge (the lower end of the loop). It's a 4-mile hike. Contact Joan Young at 231 757-2205 or [jhy@t-one.net](mailto:jhy@t-one.net) See <http://myqualityday.blogspot.com/2011/02/ellen-and-joan-go-to-silver-creek.html> for a description of Joan and Ellen's winter hike at Silver Creek.

**Work Days: April 15 & 16, Friday and Saturday:** We will be working in Leitch Bayou to create new boardwalk to repair beaver damage to the trail. FFI Ed Chappel (see above)

**May 14, 2011-10 AM-Healthy Active Manistee Hike:** We will park cars at the trailhead at M55 and Fire Tower Rd and carpool to 9 Mile Bridge Road. FFI Loren Bach or Dave Martus 231 266-8584, cell 231 729-0544, email [lobach@hughes.net](mailto:lobach@hughes.net)

**Saturday, June 4, 2011-10 AM-Trails Day.** We are tentatively planning to ask the Forest Service to waive fees at Fire Tower Rd. trailheads in Manistee and Timber Creek trailhead in Lake counties. We will have members available at those trailheads to hand out informational materials about the North Country Trail and our Spirit of the Woods chapter. We will need volunteer help for this endeavor. FFI Contact Ed Chappel 231 231 266-8008 [ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com](mailto:ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com)

**We are trying a new approach to having our meetings to encourage more participation. Meetings will often now be held in conjunction with a hike or activity, usually on the second Saturday of the month.**

**Meetings will also be listed in the Manistee News Advocate community section and in the Community Happenings in the Ludington newspaper.**

### Board Meetings

#### (Open to All)

**Saturday, March 19, 2010 2:00 PM** Ed Chappel's home on 8153 Blue Gill Drive, Irons MI  
Contact Ed Chappel for more info. 231 231 266-8008 [ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com](mailto:ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com)



## SPW Tentative Work Plan & Schedule for 2011

### There are two major trail work projects this year.

- Construct a new bridge over the small creek at the west end of Lietch Bayou to replace the bridge, which was made unusable by the beaver dam. This is a major project and must be completed as soon as possible in the spring. In addition to the bridge s new trail must be cut into the side of the back to the existing switch back, which takes the trail to the top of the ridge. A major task here will be getting the Material to the work site It will have to be transported down river by boat to near the work site and carried by hand to the site.
- Complete the boardwalk through Sterling Marsh. This is a two part project. The 1<sup>st</sup> part will consist of two sections with approximately 100 yards between them going south from the two track to the hunt club. The first section is 176 ft. long and commences approximately 75 ft. from the two track. The second section is 288 ft. . long with a slight bend at 144 ft. From this area we will also complete a 72 ft. section , which is approximately 75 yds. Past last year's construction. This will be a total of 536 ft. for area. It will also require some re-benching of the trail.
- The rest of the project will be done off the two track from Jenks rd. It will consist of five small sections of boardwalk the longest being 64 ft. and the shortest being 32 ft. for a total of 248 ft. This section will require some major re-benching of the trail.
- The total combined length will be 784 ft.

### Tentative work schedule for April through August

We will work in Lietch Bayou until the planned work is completed.

Then we will work in Sterling Marsh the rest of the year.

Work Days: Fri. April 15<sup>th</sup> Sat. April 16<sup>th</sup> and Thurs. April 28<sup>th</sup>  
Sat May 7<sup>th</sup> Fri. May 20<sup>th</sup> and Sat. May 21

#### Sat. June 4th is National Trails Day

Wed. June 8<sup>th</sup> (tentative work day)

#### Sat. June 11<sup>th</sup> NCT Relay

Work Days: Fri. June 24<sup>th</sup> and Sat. June 25<sup>th</sup>

Thurs. July 7<sup>th</sup>

FRI. July 15<sup>th</sup> and Sat July 16<sup>th</sup>

Mon. July 25<sup>th</sup> through Fri. July 29<sup>th</sup> (Tentative work week with the American Hiking Society 6 to 12 people to be split with the West Michigan Chapter

Work Days: Fri. Aug 12<sup>th</sup> and Sat. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>

Fri. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> and Sat. Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>

Remember  
how much  
fun this was?  
Photo by  
Tom Alber-  
son



### Chainsaw Certification

All of you who need chainsaw certification and Red Cross certification please let me know as we are attempting to set up a schedule. For those who have a current chainsaw certification the training will be one day. If you have never been certified it is two days, usually a Saturday and a Sunday. My phone number is 231 266-8008 Email: [ed.chappel@goldcommcable.com](mailto:ed.chappel@goldcommcable.com)



*The September and October work schedule will be provided in the next newsletter.*

### Spirit of the Woods Chapter Officers

#### **President and Trail Coordinator**

**Ed Chappel** (Irons)

231 266-8008 NOTE NEW EMAIL  
[ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com](mailto:ed.chappel@goldcomcable.com)

#### **Treasurer**

**Brian Buchanan** (West Olive)

616 786-2945 [nctrelay@nctrelay.org](mailto:nctrelay@nctrelay.org)

**Joan Young** (Scottville)

231 757-2205 [jhy@t-one.net](mailto:jhy@t-one.net)

#### **Trail Work Assistant Coordinator**

**Ed Morse** (Grawn)

231 276-7901 [ed Morse@charter.net](mailto:ed Morse@charter.net)

#### **Vice President and Newsletter Editor**

**Loren Bach** (Irons)

231 266-8584 [lobach@hughes.net](mailto:lobach@hughes.net)

#### **Manistee National Forest Liaisons**

**Baldwin District** (south of Freesoil TH)

**Dave Jaunese**

231 745-4631 ext. 3122 [djaunese@fs.fed.us](mailto:djaunese@fs.fed.us)

**Manistee District** (north of Freesoil TH)

**Brian Belt**

231 723-2211 x 3107 [bbelt@fs.fed.us](mailto:bbelt@fs.fed.us)