

BootPrints

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER, NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION JULY, 2009

What went on and what's ahead...

National Trails Day was well attended. More than 30 members showed up at the schoolhouse to greet their friends, hike Loda Lake and the Birch Grove Trail behind leader Roger Meyer. After the hike, most stayed for a potluck. Great food! Those who attended noted the great condition of the schoolhouse. If they peeked down the basement, they noted that the lumber is ready for replacement of some of the damaged siding. If you want to help, contact Len Baron. His particulars are on the back page.

It's not too early to mark your calendars for the next big event at the Birch Grove Schoolhouse, our annual Fun Day and Dinner on Saturday Oct. 3. We'll have our annual election for officers and board members then, too.

Update on Bridges: The National Park Service has approved the Western Michigan Chapter's request for a cyclical maintenance grant to help finance engineering needed to replace the badly damaged Rattlesnake Creek, Cole Creek, Tank Creek bridges in the Huron Manistee National Forest. All three are either badly damaged or washed out. The expectation is that the drawings will be completed this summer to allow actual bridge construction to get underway by our trail crew in 2010.

Link Completed: Our trail crew has completed the link between the North Country Trail and the Newaygo County Sports Park. It provides hikers with a secure parking area right next to the Newaygo County Visitors Bureau, which is open seven days a week in the summer. As the new trail winds its way down a hillside towards the NCT it offers a splendid view of Little Placid Lake.

Other trail work scheduled to date:

July 11-12: Mowing and chainsaw work will continue along the entire length of trail in Kent and Newaygo Counties. Participants will camp out on Saturday night. Members may participate for one day or both days. To participate, you must let Trail Manager Paul Haan you will be coming. His e-mail and telephone number is on the back page.

Day Hikes: Because the final list of hike leaders isn't ready, please confirm participation in any of the hikes with Dave Goodman, by e-mailing davehiker2@aol.com or telephoning him at (517) 669-1621. The July dates are: Wednesday, **July 8**, a 4 1/2-mile hike to visit Chuck's Prairie from Pierce Drive. Saturday, **July 18**, from Newaygo Sports Park north to the Roadside Park and return via Twinwood Lake. In August, a seven-mile plus hike starting at Walkup Lake Campground and skirting three highbank lakes, is scheduled on Saturday, **Aug 15**. September day hikes take place on Wednesday **Sept. 9** (repeated Saturday, Sept. 26). There will be at least one October day hike, as well, probably on Saturday, **Oct. 24**. Fun Day on **Oct. 3** will probably include a traditional hike, as well.

In each case, you may meet for carpooling at 9:00 AM at the Westgate Bowling Alley, 4486 Alpine Avenue NW (M37) in Grand Rapids.

Nominations: There is still time to nominate yourself or fellow members for President or for a seat at large on the Board of Directors. To nominate an individual please e-mail or phone a member of the nominating committee. These are Chuck Vannette, Kathie Holwerda and Werner Veit. Again, see the e-mail addresses and phone numbers below. The slate will be voted on Saturday, Oct. 3. As of the date of printing, we do not yet have a candidate for President. Kevin Knoll has agreed to run for one of the open Board seats. Former director Jack Post is running for the other.

2009 Board of Directors				
JeriLynn Osmar	Vice President	osmarjer@charter.net	616	560-7029
Roger Meyer	Secretary	rogmey@aol.com	616	975-1937
JoAnn Baron	Treasurer	jlbaron@charter.net	616	677-3598
Werner Veit	Past President	wv12@aol.com	616	776-1830
Paul Haan	Trail Manager	paulhaan1@gmail.com	616	734-9443
Len Baron	Schoolhouse Manager	jlbaron@charter.net	616	677-3598
Lisa Locke	Communications Chair	llocke@sustainableresearchgroup.com	616	914-1597
Kathy Holwerda-Carlile	Membership Chair	skyeeyes05@aol.com	616	453-4085
Stephanie Black	Director at Large	stephblk@iserv.net	616	675-7237
Bill Endres	Director at Large	endresabcs@comcast.net	616	361-2956
Aaron Phipps	Director at Large	asphipps11@yahoo.com	616	897-0417
Sharon Phipps	Director at Large	asphipps11@yahoo.com	616	897-0417
Chuck Vannette	Director at Large	cvann30643@aol.com	616	456-9725