

# BootPrints

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER, NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION MARCH, 2009

## *What went on...*

**Financials:** The Board of Directors has approved a budget of \$4,865 for 2009 even though revenues were estimated at only \$4,250. The reason: we had a surplus of more than \$2,000 last year because of the postponement of a number of major purchases until 2009. The new budget allocates \$2,005 for trail construction and maintenance (mostly tools, equipment, trailer and mower maintenance and road posts); \$570 for communications and public relations, (\$350 for this newsletter); \$1,740 for the Birch Grove Schoolhouse (utilities, supplies and various maintenance); \$400 for outings and events and \$150 for miscellaneous.

**At headquarters:** Mary Meehan, who was hired to run communications and public relations for the North Country Trail Association last year has left the Lowell office. The remaining staff is trying to keep the major projects on track, including the launch of the new web site and the production schedules of the *Blue Blazes Bulletin* and the *North Star*. When filling the open position, Executive Director Bruce Matthews says the Association will look at its broad staffing needs in trail management/administration, advocacy (state and national) and development as well as communications.

## *What's ahead...*

**Trail work:** March starts the busy trail maintenance and construction season. **Most important:** To participate, members must contact Trail Manager Paul Haan before every date. Write to paulhaan1@gmail.com or call him at (616) 734-9443 to get further details on meeting times, meeting places and other instructions. The dates:

**March 28:** Tentatively planned—Newaygo County Sportsman Park Connector Project.

**April 16 or April 18:** Maintainer Training. All maintainers who have adopted a section of trail must attend one of these two dates to remain in good standing. The April 16 date session will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

The **April 18** date coincides with the chapter's **Annual Clean-up Day**. Maintainers will be provided breakfast before the training session. They will be expected to work on their sections in the afternoon. Members not working on the trail may meet at the **Birch Grove Schoolhouse** at 10 AM to help prepare the schoolhouse for the season. As usual Stephanie Black will reward all trail and schoolhouse workers later in the day (about 4PM) with goodies followed by dinner at Long Lake Park lodge.

**April 25:** Tentatively planned—Continuation of Newaygo County Sportsman Park Connector Project.

**May 9 and May 16:** Trail projects and places to be announced.

**June 27-28 and July 11-12:** Mowing and chainsaw work along the entire length of trail in Kent and Newaygo Counties. Participants will camp out on each Saturday night. Members may participate for one day or both days. Those interested may join the group for a camp-out each Saturday night.

**March 25:** Mark your calendar for a membership meeting and watch your e-mail for the announcement of the time and place, which has not been determined at the time of printing.

**Birch Grove Schoolhouse:** While the renovation of the Birch Grove Schoolhouse is nearly complete thanks to the work of Gene Schmidt, Len and JoAnne Baron and volunteers, a few projects remain for completion this summer. Among them: Taping and painting the ceiling in the main room; finishing walls and ceilings in the rear entranceway; removing and replacing damaged siding; basement removal by removing old plaster board and woodwork and painting the inside walls and refinishing the room floor with polyurethane.

### *What's Needed...*

**Office Help in Lowell:** The North Country Trail Association could use volunteers to help out in the Lowell office with data entry, mailings, and miscellaneous office tasks. Headquarters would like someone who can commit to one or two days per month on a scheduled basis. There are also opportunities for volunteers for special projects on an as needed basis. For more information or to sign up please contact Jill DeCator at 616-897-5987.

<b>2009 Board of Directors</b>				
JerriLynn Osmar	Vice President	<a href="mailto:osmarjer@charter.net">osmarjer@charter.net</a>	616	560-7029
Roger Meyer	Secretary	<a href="mailto:rogmey@aol.com">rogmey@aol.com</a>	616	975-1937
JoAnn Baron	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:jlbaron@charter.net">jlbaron@charter.net</a>	616	677-3598
Werner Veit	Past President	<a href="mailto:wv12@aol.com">wv12@aol.com</a>	616	776-130
Paul Haan	Trail Manager	<a href="mailto:paulhaan1@gmail.com">paulhaan1@gmail.com</a>	616	363-3342
Len Baron	Schoolhouse Manager	<a href="mailto:jlbaron@charter.net">jlbaron@charter.net</a>	616	677-3598
Lisa Locke	Communications Chair	<a href="mailto:llocke@sustainableresearchgroup.com">llocke@sustainableresearchgroup.com</a>	616	914-1597
Kathy Holwerda-Carlile	Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:skyeeyes05@aol.com">skyeeyes05@aol.com</a>	616	453-4085
Stephanie Black	Director at Large	<a href="mailto:stephblk@iserv.net">stephblk@iserv.net</a>	616	675-7237
Bill Endres	Director at Large	<a href="mailto:endresabcs@comcast.net">endresabcs@comcast.net</a>	616	361-2956
Aaron Phipps	Director at Large	<a href="mailto:asphipp11@yahoo.com">asphipp11@yahoo.com</a>	616	897-0417
Sharon Phipps	Director at Large	<a href="mailto:asphipp11@yahoo.com">asphipp11@yahoo.com</a>	616	897-0417
Chuck Vannette	Director at Large	<a href="mailto:cvann30643@aol.com">cvann30643@aol.com</a>	616	456-9725