


BootPrints

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER, NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION MAY, 2009

What went on and what's ahead...



Bridges Replacement: The Board of Directors voted to commit up to \$5,000 as our chapter's share of the cost of engineering needed to design the replacement of three bridges in the Huron Manistee National Forest. The rest will be financed by an expected grant from the National Park Service. Actual construction by our volunteers of the structures over Rattlesnake, Cole and Tank Creeks will begin in 2010. We hope to get some help for materials from the U.S. Forest Service and from another grant from the Park Service. In a letter supporting our grant application, the Service's district ranger wrote to the Park Service: "The Western Michigan Chapter of the NCTA has been a highly productive and organized partner... To its credit, it has accomplished many wonderful projects that would not have been accomplished without their support and dedication..."

More Trail Work: Nearly 20 people showed up twice in March to continue work on the connector trail between the NCT and the Newaygo County Sports Park. The connector will provide hikers with a secure parking area right next to the Newaygo County Visitors Bureau, which is open 7 days a week in the summer months. In addition, this trail will provide a scenic view of Little Placid Lake as it winds its way down a hillside towards the NCT. Work will continue on **May 9** and we invite everyone to join in by e-mailing or telephoning Trail Manager Paul Haan. See the back page for his particulars. Other trail work scheduled to date:

May 16—Further work on the connector if needed; otherwise another project in the Huron-Manistee National Forest. E-mail or call Paul Haan for details.

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. But again, you must let Paul know you will participate.

Scheduled Hikes:

Friday, May 8 - Full Moon Night Hike on the North Country Trail, about 9 ½ miles from Croton Dam to 40th St. Meet at 8:30 PM at the 40th St. Trailhead. No RSVP necessary, but please contact Matt Hahnfeld at matth@everysoft.com or 616-363-0368 if you have questions or want updates.

Saturday and Sunday, June 20-21 - Manistee River Trail "Choose Your Own Adventure". On Saturday, we'll all hike the 10 miles or so on the Manistee River Trail from Red Bridge to the suspension bridge just south of Hodenpyl Dam. On Sunday, it's your choice! Either hike the North Country Trail or paddle the Manistee River back to Red Bridge. We'll shuttle cars and boats to the north end of the trail, but please come prepared to carry your camping gear about a mile to a campsite, especially if the designated sites are full. For details or to sign up, please contact Matt at matth@everysoft.com or 616-363-0368. RSVP by June 12, and specify "Paddle" or "Hike" in the subject line.



Other Dates:

June 6—National Trails Day. Members are each urged to bring at least **one non-member guest** to the annual celebration of National Trails Day. Activities will begin at 10 AM at the Birch Grove Schoolhouse. We'll have a presentation on the North Country Scenic Trail from New York State to North Dakota and a hike starting from the schoolhouse. ***What's Needed...***

Your E-Mail Address: We still are missing e-mail addresses for about a third of the members of the Western Michigan chapter. *Boot Prints* can only inform you of events scheduled a month or two in advance and schedules do change. If you do have e-mail and have not been receiving e-mail from the chapter, please send your name and e-mail address to our Secretary, Roger Meyer, at rogmey@aol.com.

2009 Board of Directors				
JerriLynn 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
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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