

# BootPrints

WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER, NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER, 2009

## *What went on and what's ahead...*

**Trail Crews** removed downed trees from the Rogue River State Game Area and various other spots between Croton dam and the Lake County line at the border of our territory. They installed a small foot bridge over a seasonal drain near Atodal Lake, began an inventory of signage at road crossings, conducted site visits with the engineers designing our new bridges and mowed about 25 miles of trail despite a recalcitrant mower.

On two separate Saturdays, the mowers, some seven members strong, cleaned up sections in the Rogue River SGA, the Sports Park connector and adjacent North Country Trail, stretches near Echo Drive and the Rattlesnake Creek area. They were also active on the Birch Grove Trail, Chuck's Prairie and locations near Pierce Road, Croswell, Nichols Lake and 16-Mile Road. A busy, productive season and more is ahead.

**Trail Work** has been scheduled on **Sept. 19, Oct. 3, Oct. 17** and **31**. On the first two days the work will take place in Fallasburg Park where the crew will build a mile of new trail. Most of the work will consist of sidehill benching on a scenic hillside above the Flat River. Work will begin at 9 AM and continue until mid-afternoon. To participate and to get further details, e-mail Paul Haan at [paulhaan1@gmail.com](mailto:paulhaan1@gmail.com) or telephone him at (616) 734-9443. Details on the last October dates have not yet been finalized.

**The New Bridge project** is right on schedule. Work began in late July on the design of the new bridges in the Huron-Manistee National Forest to be built next construction season. Preliminary drawings were completed in early August. The next steps will be approval of final drawings and specifications by the U.S. Forest Service and the necessary environmental impact studies by the Forest Service. Engineering was financed half from chapter funds and half from a cyclical maintenance grant from the National Park Service.

**Fall Day Hikes** are scheduled on Wednesday, **Sept. 9**, Saturday, **Sept 26** and Saturday, **Oct. 24**. The first one on Sept. 9 will be repeated on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. It features unique coastal marshes and deep woods. It starts at 10 AM on 40<sup>th</sup> Street, west of M37, in the Huron Manistee National Forest and heads northward for just over three and a half miles and returns to the starting point for a total of seven plus miles. If you plan to participate on any of the three hikes, please confirm with the hike leader, Roger Meyer, at [rogmey@aol.com](mailto:rogmey@aol.com) at (616) 975-1937.

Roger will also lead the Oct. 24 hike in the Huron-Manistee National Forest starting at 10 AM from Pierce Drive north to Tank Creek, also a seven plus miles round trip. Hikers will encounter mixed and diverse forests and four crystal clear cold water creeks.

Participants interested in car pooling may meet at 8:30 AM at Westgate Bowling Alley parking lot at 4486 Alpine Ave NW (M-37) in Comstock Park.

**Our chapter election** will be held during our annual Fall Fun Day on **Saturday, Oct. 10.**

As of this writing, the candidates for director-at-large are Kevin Knoll, Drew Storey and Jack Post. Jack once served as vice president of the chapter. No candidates for President have come forward or been nominated. Chapter members will have the opportunity to nominate other candidates from the floor at the beginning. Further nominations, before the Oct. 10 meeting, can also be accepted by the nominating committee: Chuck Vannette, [cvann30643@aol.com](mailto:cvann30643@aol.com), Kathy Holwerda-Carlile, [skyeeyes05@aol.com](mailto:skyeeyes05@aol.com), or Werner Veit, [wv12@aol.com](mailto:wv12@aol.com).

**Annual Fun Day** on Saturday, Oct 10, promises to again be one of the year's highlights thanks to plans put together by Stephanie Black, Lisa Locke and Kathy Holwerda-Carlile. The day begins with a continental breakfast at 10:00 AM, continues with a hike at 10:45 AM followed by a short membership meeting, the annual election and the showing of two videos, one on the trail from New York to North Dakota and another promoting the Wisconsin location of our 2010 annual conference.

Then comes one of Stephanie's fabulous meals, a tradition at Fun Day and always a treat. We'll pass the hat to cover food expenses. The Board of Directors will hold its fall meeting after the meal. Members are free to stay if they wish.

In any event, please let us know whether you are coming and with how many by e-mailing Kathy Holwerda-Carlile at [skyeeyes5@aol.com](mailto:skyeeyes5@aol.com) or telephoning her at (616) 453-4085. Remember: guests are always welcome.

**Equinox**, a family outdoor event featuring hiking, biking, paddling, high ropes, geocaching and a kids' camp and others will be held by Newaygo County, which has been most helpful to our trail constructors, on Sept. 19. To download a brochure or registration form, go to <http://www.newaygocountytourism.com> or call Laurie Supinski at (231) 652-9298.

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