

Chapter Membership Meetings and Events

Many of you may have been wondering what happened to the membership meetings. After amending the chapter bylaws to allow chapter meetings to be held on days other than Tuesday evenings, our president, Werner Veit, has been doing some brainstorming and has come up with the following chapter events that can perform double duty as chapter meetings. While all the details have not been worked out yet, keep an eye out for more information on the chapter web site and make sure you are getting the chapter e-mail updates.

- April 17: All Trail Spring Clean-Up Day
- June 5: National Trails Day
- Aug. 14: Hemlock Crossing Hike
- Oct. 16: Fall Fun Day and Chapter Elections
- Nov. 20: Pine Cone Event
- Dec. 7: Christmas Party

Lowell Trail Team Established

On, January 14, the first meeting of the Lowell Team was held at Engelhardt Library in Lowell. Tom Learmont suggested that Lowell Trail Coordinators, Aaron and Sharon Phipps, develop a team to further trail work in the Lowell area.

The Lowell Team has met monthly since then. Members of the team have hiked with Rob Corbett (see story at right) along

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Rob Corbett, Nan Nickson, and Tom Plochocki scouting out the rail corridor. PHOTO BY AARON PHIPPS

Trekking Along the Tracks

By Rob Corbett

NCTA DIRECTOR OF TRAIL MANAGEMENT

On Sunday, February 15, eight of us gathered at the North Country Trail Association Headquarters under unusually beautiful skies to head out to evaluate the railroad line between Lowell and Elmdale. The NCTA and the Lowell Charter Township Board are in negotiations to purchase the rail corridor from Rail America, Inc. for a multi-use trail which will allow the North Country Trail to continue south from Lowell under Interstate 96.

The data and photos we collected will really go a long way toward putting together a report detailing what needs to occur on the corridor. The report will be used during negotiations with Rail America. John Timpson and the Lowell Charter Township Board will get a copy of this report. The Township Board members have voiced a good deal of nervousness over what would have to be done once the corridor was acquired. The fact that we did not find any sheds, fences, broken culverts or other significant problems will give them relief and added confidence in moving forward. Another significant finding (one that is at odds with the current understanding of both the Township and the railroad) is the presence of the rails on almost all of the section we walked. This is significant in that the value of the rails could be a significant bargaining point in the talks with Rail America.



Mile marker along rail bed.

PHOTO BY AARON PHIPPS

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Western Michigan Chapter Mission

The major purpose of the Western Michigan Chapter of the North Country Trail Association is to promote the North Country National Scenic Trail and to build and maintain the Trail in the counties of Kent and Newaygo in the State of Michigan.

Board of Directors

President	Werner Veit (616) 897-5987
Vice President	Stephanie Black (616) 675-7237
Secretary	Roger Meyer (616) 975-1937
Treasurer	Chuck Vannette (616) 456-9725
Past President	Tom Learmont (616) 984-5917
Membership	Stephanie Black (616) 675-7237
School House	Ginny Wunsch (231) 689-6876
Trail Manager	Tom Learmont (616) 984-5917

Board Members at Large

Alan Adsmund	(616) 453-3069
Max Boyd	(616) 456-2756
Jack Buege	(616) 887-9821
Eric Doyle	(616) 233-3020
Sharon Phipps	(616) 897-0417



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Articles for July edition are due
June 1, 2004.

Please submit your news and dates in writing, limited to 400 words or less. Photo prints and electronic images are welcome. All material may be edited for content or space constraints.



The Rail America, Inc. line just north of Pratt Lake. PHOTO BY AARON PHIPPS

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One of the most inspiring aspects of the walk was the generally secluded and scenic surroundings along most of the route north from Pratt Lake to the Grand River Road terminus. Only a few residences look out onto the corridor with the rest of the route traveling along the back ends of farm and forest. Sure, you could guess that from the aerial photos, but to see there were no junk cars, midden piles, structures, or other human impacts was quite encouraging.

I could have done the hike on my own, but had a great deal more fun doing it with members

of the Lowell Team. One of the giant perks I get in my job as Director of Trail Management with the North Country Trail Association is the opportunity to hang out and hike with people like you — out there for the love of the outdoors, hiking and making the Vision of the Trail a reality. I gain great energy from your smiles and enthusiasm. It felt good to blow the carbon out of the valves and pump these legs that have been forever lodged under my computer.

Afterwards Nan and I had dinner at the Flat River Grill in Lowell. If you ever get the opportunity try their seared tuna salad with cilantro vinaigrette dressing you will be pleasantly surprised!

Editors' Note

We hope that by sharing the fun we have at chapter events with you in the pages of *Due North*, we can encourage members that have not been active to join us as we build the North Country Trail. Whether it be at a chapter meeting, group hike, or swinging a pulaski to build trail tread, our chapter offers members many different ways to get involved. Join other like-minded people in building the trail from New York to North Dakota.

We are extending an invitation to those that might have the publishing bug to submit a few paragraphs of text and some photos of chapter activities. As you read this issue, you will find all kinds of upcoming events and activities that can be used as source material for exercising



Co-editors Sharon and Aaron Phipps at the 2003 Christmas Parade on the trail in Lowell.

PHOTO BY JOANNE BARON



While out roaming around, Sharon made a unique find of this small sapling that grew up through a deer skull. The skull is about four feet above the ground.

PHOTO BY SHARON PHIPPS

your talents. Let us know if you wish to help and what event you are thinking of attending.

We would also like to say thank you to Paul Haan for his years of faithful service as editor. Thanks also to Max Boyd who will be working on the chapter web page.

Fun Hike in Lowell, Tiny Bit of Work

By *Dave Goodman*

Saturday, March 6, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., 13 people gathered in the city parking lot behind the North Country Trail Association national headquarters. Four dogs also joined the group from a Dalmatian to Rottweilers and a tiny Boston Terrier, easily the dominant dog of the group.

The official purpose of this hike with the Lowell Team was to inspect the trail in the Lowell State Game Area prior to spring clean-up day to be held on April 17, noting trash that needs to be removed, particularly large items such as discarded appliances and motor vehicles, and winter blow downs that needed clearing. But most of us also wanted a break from cabin fever, and I wanted to kick off my 2004 hiking season.

We all piled into four vehicles and headed north into the Lowell State Game Area, to a small parking lot where the North Country Trail exits the game area. After the requisite pictures next to the NCT sign, we began our 4.8 mile hike back to the NCTA headquarters.

The ground was mostly clear of snow, the temperature was in the mid to high 30s and overcast. Truly nice early March weather for Michigan. Needless to say, it felt great to be outdoors moving along a hiking trail. We wound up and down several slopes, arriving on top of a ridge where, through the leafless hardwood trees, we could see over the Flat River 300 feet below and the hills beyond. One hundred feet below us, down a precipitous slope on a bench of land, rested the remains of the cab and engine compartment of an old pickup truck. It had been there perhaps 15-20 years. Four of the team members climbed down to examine the wreck, and brainstorm the best way to remove it. One idea suggested was to cut it up with a welding torch into manageable pieces which could then be removed. Another idea was the possibility of bringing in a boat on the nearby river for the same purpose was also brought up.

We continued on across a small stream which needs puncheon or a bridge, then up a slope, coming out into an area of jack pine covered sand hills of glacial origin. It was almost like being in sand dunes near Lake Michigan. We crossed Flat River Drive, heading up more slopes and came to another

stream needing an improved crossing. We crossed two more roads, walking for ¼ mile along the second one, then entered the final section of off-road trail of today's hike.

After about a mile of road and street walking in the City of Lowell, we returned to the NCTA headquarters after 2.5 hours of walking. I waited while the shuttle vehicles were retrieved and noted with envy to Sharon, who, like me, has a long daily commute to work, what a short commute Rob Corbett has. He lives in an apartment on the second floor of the same building the NCTA headquarters is located in, so he only has to walk a short distance and he's at his desk!



Ben Nickson and Nikita take a break after about three miles of hiking in the Lowell State Game Area. PHOTO BY SHARON PHIPPS



Cabin fever hikers from left, Tiffany Stram, Mark Stram, John Lawther, Ann Ingersoll, Jack Post, Jack Amelar, Gordon Lachniet, Ben Nickson, Nan Nickson, Dave Goodman, and Aaron Phipps. Four legged hikers from left, Angel, Dutchess, Nikita, Odhinn. Two photographers behind the cameras, Sharon Phipps and Rob Corbett. Other Lowell Team members include Tom Plochocki, Carol "Griff" Griffin, and Bill Martinus. PHOTO BY SHARON PHIPPS

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the railroad from Lowell to Elmdale, hiked the Lowell State Game Area (see Dave's story above), and staffed a booth at the Lowell Expo on March 27. We have started planning future trail work dates in the Lowell SGA, and are planning a Private Landowners Trail Development Workshop to be given this summer by Rob Corbett.

Other Lowell Team events are listed on this page. Some activities develop quickly and may be planned on short notice so if you want to get involved, contact Aaron and Sharon Phipps.

Lowell Events

- April 13:** Lowell Team Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce.
- April 20:** Aaron and Sharon will give a presentation at Engelhardt Library about the North Country Trail, 7:00 p.m.
- July 10:** Riverwalk Festival/Health Expo Join us for a parade in downtown Lowell, help staff our booth at the expo.
- Dec. 4:** Christmas Parade on the trail in downtown Lowell. Hand out blue blaze candy sticks to kids.

It's Time to Nominate Candidates for Office

By Werner Veit

Our chapter will be electing a President, a Treasurer and two directors at large during 2004 and thanks to our new bylaws, all our members can participate in the nomination and election process whether or not they're able to attend membership meetings.

You may recall that the bylaws we adopted at our June 2003 meeting call for a ballot to be printed in the July issue of *Due North* that can be used to vote by mail.

Nominations will be made by a nominating committee, appointed by the President, and by any of our members who wish to propose candidates for office.

To nominate a candidate, please send his or her name, along with a paragraph explaining why the candidate would make a good officer or Board member, to Roger Meyer, Secretary of the chapter.

You can send your nominations by mail to:

Roger Meyer
North Country Trail Association
229 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

Or, you can send the nomination by e-mail to: rogmey@aol.com.

In either case, please make it clear who is making the nomination. Nominators must be members in good standing. The nominations must be received no later than June first.

The names of the nominees along with a short biography will be printed in the July issue of *Due North* along with a ballot to be used for voting. The results will be announced at our annual meeting and Fun Day, October 16, and the winners will take office on January 1, 2005.

Once again: please nominate candidates for President, Treasurer and Directors at Large.



Trail Mail

Make sure that you don't miss a single Western Michigan Chapter event by registering for our "Trail E-mail." If you have e-mail and are not already receiving timely alerts, send your e-mail address to Chapter Secretary Roger Meyer at Rogmey@aol.com to be entered into our Trail E-mail database.



Karen Gualandi, her son Daniel, trail dog Maine, and Tom Learmont.

Northwoods Snowshoe(less) Outing

Story and Photos by Paul Haan

Twenty-seven people made their way to the White Cloud Schoolhouse January 10 for the Chapter's annual Snowshoe Outing. It was a perfect day for enjoying the west Michigan outdoors in the Manistee National Forest. Temperatures were in the mild twenties and light flurries were in the air.

After gathering and indulging in some home-baked goodies, those in attendance quickly headed into the woods. In defiance of the outing's name, no one wore snowshoes. Unfortunately, there was only about six inches of powdery snow gracing the forest floor. It was beautiful nonetheless, and hiking without snowshoes was easy in such light snow.

While twenty-three people headed northward on their hike, two energetic souls departed in another direction and made good use of the little snow that was there. They strapped on their skinny cross-country skis and found a track conducive to gliding.

The hikers walked north along Felch Avenue to the Loda Lake Wildflower Preserve where they entered the winter woods, greeted by chickadees, blue jays and a lone pileated woodpecker. A wide loop took the hikers through the best of the preserve before exiting onto Six Mile Road.

From there, the group picked up the North Country Trail and headed south through beech, maple, and red pines. They crossed frozen Mena Creek, climbed and descended some sizeable hills, passed an old

stump fence leftover from the great logging.

Thankful for a well-marked footpath, they followed the blue blazes for a peaceful walk through the winter woods. Their journey left nothing behind but boot prints in the snow.

When the trail crossed Five Mile Road, the hikers turned to the east and found their way back to the warmth of the schoolhouse. Inside, the group quickly laid out a potluck spread and dug into various chilies, salads, brownies, cookies and homemade raspberry pie.

The hours spent in the north woods passed all too quickly. Even without being able to strap on their snowshoes, everyone seemed to go home well satisfied and looking forward to another Chapter outing.



Julie Nietling trudging through snow.

Partnering With Lowell Community Wellness

By Sharon Phipps

You read about it every day, Americans are out of shape and overweight. The community of Lowell is taking this fact to heart and are trying to improve on this situation. A "Lowell Community Wellness" program has been established. LCW is a grant-funded program through the Lowell Area Community Fund and a partnership with the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids. Their mission is to promote wellness by inspiring individual responsibility through affordable accessible programs. Encouraging physically active lifestyles for all residents.



The NCTA was contacted by the Lowell Community Wellness program director, Jessica Johnston, to see how the NCTA might fit in with this new program. I met with Jessica Johnston in February to discuss this further. We did some brainstorming about some possible partnering ideas. We exchanged brochures and pamphlets at the Lowell Expo on March 27, where the Western Michigan Chapter once again had a booth. We will also have a booth at the Lowell Health Fair on July 10 and participate in the Riverwalk Festival Parade being held that same day. Other possibilities will be hikes in conjunction with Trails Day on June 5. Monthly family hikes on the NCTA are also being discussed. The LCW will be coming out with a "Community Resource Directory" later this year. The NCTA and the Western Michigan Chapter will be listed in that directory.

Since physical inactivity is a risk factor for many diseases and health conditions, making physical activity an integral part of daily life is crucial. Both the public and private sectors will need to band together to promote more healthy habits for those of all ages. Programs which get people to take advantage of existing opportunities, such as hiking trails, must be encouraged, strengthened and expanded. Sounds like we're right on target. Now go take a hike!

Get your Feet Moving! Spring Day Hikes and Two Multi-Day Trips

Spring Saturday Hikes

Led by Mary Payne (231-773-6986) and Dave Sheldon (231-689-1584, shelly@riverview.net)

April 10 — A 10 Mile hike at Pines Point on the Scenic White River near Hesperia.

In Oceana County. We will meet in White Cloud at Sally's Restaurant at 9:00 a.m., bring lunch and water.

May 1 — A 5 or 10 mile hike at North Muskegon State Park. We will meet at Snug Harbor at 9:00 a.m. This will be a smorgasbord outing. Everyone bring a dish to pass. We will hike the easiest five miles of the hike in the morning then at noon eat lunch and those who want to continue go the hardest part through the dunes and along the channel.

May 15 — An 11 mile hike from High Banks to Pierce Road in Newaygo County on the North Country Trail. Meet at Sally's Restaurant at 9:00 a.m., bring lunch and water. This is a very scenic hike and one that everyone seems to enjoy.

May 29 — An 11 Mile hike at Beautiful Ludington State Park. We will meet at the park located in Ludington at the end of M116 at 10:00 a.m., bring lunch and water. We will hike from the State Park entrance to the Light House and back.

June 12 — A 5 mile hike around Deerfield County Park near Mt. Pleasant. This will be a leisurely hike cross a covered bridge and a wire bridge. For those who like casino's afterwards Mt. Pleasant is only 5.5 miles east of the park on M20. We will meet at the park at 10:00 a.m., bring lunch and water.

Jordan River Pathway Women's Backpacking Trip

June 26-27

Come hike a very scenic part of the North Country Trail along the Jordan River. Meet Saturday 9:30 a.m. at trail head in Antrim County. This is a moderately difficult trail where we will backpack 10 miles on Saturday and 9 miles on Sunday. No water filter needed since there is a well at the campsite. Parking area near the campsite makes it possible to drive backpacks to site and hike without carrying a pack.

For more information call or e-mail:

Lisa Symons..... 616-942-6549
greensymons@yahoo.com
Barbara Niemi..... 810-664-0304
Barbaraniemi@msn.com

South Manitou Island Camping, June 25-27

Camp right on the bay at one of Michigan's most beautiful campsites! Spend the weekend hiking the island or just taking it easy. We've reserved a group campsite for 20 people, and additional individual sites may be available on a first come first served basis. Unless you have your own boat, you will need to reserve a place on the ferry from Leland. You can ride out either Friday morning or Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. The return boat arrives Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. Camping will be under \$5 per person. The ferry is \$25 round trip. Saturday dinner will be provided. Sign up now!

More information online at <http://www.hahnfeld.org/manitou/> or call Matt Hahnfeld at 616-363-0368.

Hoogterp Thursday Hikes

Jim and Gladys Hoogterp will be leading hikes on May 13, June 10, July 8, and August, 12. These will be morning hikes. Place will be determined the week of the hike. To join Jim and Gladys call 616-677-1621.

Treasurer's Report

ACCOUNT	BALANCE
Operations	\$4,986
Development Reserve	\$5,124
Schoolhouse Operations	\$723
Schoolhouse Capital Improvements	\$1,913
Total	\$12,746

There's a Big, Busy Trail Building Season Ahead



By Tom Learmont
TRAIL MANAGER

The year, 2004 will be an exciting year in our efforts to upgrade and build new segments of the North Country Trail in Kent and Newaygo Counties. Your help will be urgently needed to complete the scheduled projects.

Our annual "All Trail Spring Clean-Up day" will be on April 17. The "clean-up" means that all our chapter's adopters will visit their segments to clean up winter debris and check for damage that needs further attention.

Members who have not adopted a section can participate on three separate projects:

- Continue with trail construction at Bigelow Creek to complete a major reroute to get us off a dangerous road.
- Further work in the Rogue River State Game Area.
- Erect signs on 5-Mile Road and blaze a link route between the schoolhouse and the North Country Trail.

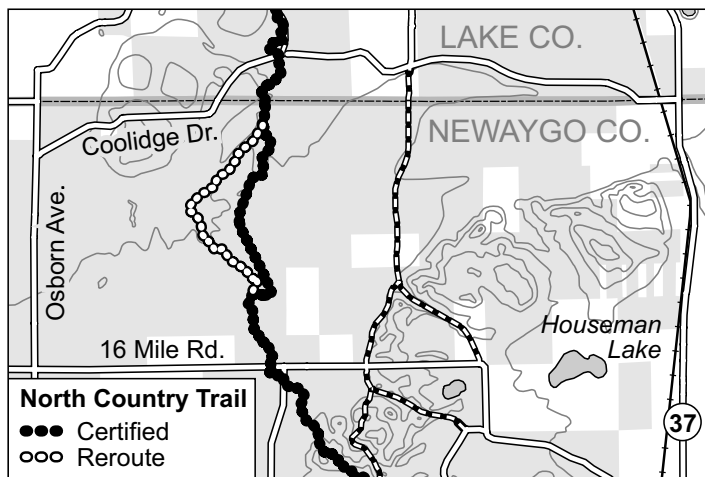


A section of turnpike built in the wet areas leading to the bridge at Bigelow Creek. PHOTO BY AARON PHIPPS

If you wish to volunteer, please contact either Tom Learmont or Paul Haan to be assigned to one of these projects.

At the end of the day, our incomparable chef, Stephanie Black, will again prepare a sumptuous meal for a post-work get together in the shelter house of Long Lake Park.

The Trail Coordinators and I thank you for your support on past projects and look forward to working with all of you again this year.



The map shows the location of the 16 Mile reroute to be built on May 8 and 22. MAP BY TIFFANY STRAM

Trail Work Days

For more information contact person listed with each event.

Saturday, April 3

Rogue River Trail Work

Brushing new trail. Meet at Red Pine trail head just north of Eighteen Mile Road at 9:00 a.m.. Bring lunch, water. Tools provided.

Paul Haan at 616-363-3342, siler@voyager.net

Saturday, April 17

All Trail Spring Clean-Up Day

Dozens of volunteers will turn out to conduct an entire trail clean-up and work three other projects. More details in story on this page. Volunteers will want to pack a lunch. 9:00 a.m. start.

Tom Learmont, 616-984-5917, uper76@pathwaynet.com

Paul Haan, 616-363-3342, siler@voyager.net

Saturday, April 24

Bigelow Creek Trail Construction

Complete April 17 construction of the new trail east of Bigelow Creek.

Tom Learmont, 616-984-5917, uper76@pathwaynet.com

Saturday, May 8

Sixteen Mile Road Trail Reroute

Volunteers will begin building a two-mile reroute of the trail north of Sixteen Mile Road.

Max Boyd, 616-456-2756, maxboyd@mac.com

Saturday, May 22

Sixteen Mile Road Trail Reroute Continued

Complete Sixteen Mile Road reroute begun two weeks earlier.

Max Boyd, 616-456-2756, maxboyd@mac.com

Saturday, June 19

Rogue River Trail Work

New trail construction, 9:00 a.m. start. Bring lunch, water. Tools provided.

Paul Haan, 616-363-3342, siler@voyager.net

Saturday, July 17

Rogue River Trail Work

New trail construction, 9:00 a.m. start. Bring lunch, water. Tools provided.

Paul Haan, 616-363-3342, siler@voyager.net

Saturday, August 21

Rogue River Trail Work

Trail repairs and improvements, 9:00 a.m. start. Bring lunch, water. Tools provided.

Paul Haan at 616-363-3342, siler@voyager.net

Saturday, September 18

Bridge Construction

Volunteers will build a new bridge across Cedar Creek just south of Sixteen Mile Road in northern Newaygo County. Bring battery-operated power drills to screw down bridge decking.

Tom Learmont, 616-984-5917, uper76@pathwaynet.com

Scouting Trail Improvements



By Paul Haan

In preparation for the this year's trail construction season, I went out to the Rogue River State Game Area Sunday, January 11, to scout a route from Red Pine Avenue (north of 18 Mile Road) east to Division Avenue. I was to met Tom Learmont at noon, but he was running late.

While waiting for Tom, I scouted a possible reroute around the parking area for the main trail (as suggested by Dave Goodman during a hike on New Year's Day). As I entered the woods along the trail, I was pleased to find only dog and x-country skier tracks — no horses or snow machines. The trail twisted sufficiently within 100 feet to hide the parking area from view, so I started there and flagged a reroute around the north side of the parking lot.

By the time I go to the road, Tom still wasn't there. So I went back to the car and left a note telling Tom my planned route. I figured he could easily catch up following my footprints in the snow. I headed directly east into the woods. Following a straight east bearing took me to a high bluff overlooking a scenic wetland. Along the way, I noted some pines, hemlocks and an interesting beech tree that should be passed by the trail.

At the bluff, I turned south and followed an excellent ridge along the western edge of the wetland. At one point, the ridge ended at an area where the wetland drained to the west. Fortunately, decades ago there was an earthen berm built across the drain, forcing the wetland to exit elsewhere. I crossed the drain on high ground and regained the ridge for another 500 feet or so.

I stopped to check my maps and I heard Tom holler, so I waited for him to catch up. From the end of the ridge, we headed east-southeast through a low area that seems as if it will stay dry regardless of its lowness. This area will have to be looked over carefully in the spring after snow melt, but appears very promising.

Soon we crossed the one abandoned woods road that traverses the wooded section, and it was well worn with snowmo-

bile tracks. Yet we know that it has not been accessed by trucks for more than a half dozen years, as it is well barricaded and rather overgrown by witch hazel. To the woods road, the walk was mostly through oak, beech and cherry, with some random red and white pines and various other trees. Three wetlands are passed by. It will make a beautiful walk.

From the woods road, we headed east-southeast and quickly encountered a red pine stand. We gained a small hill there and soon crossed a clearing where a gas line right of way heads due northeast. We crossed the clearing and followed our walk east through a red pine plantation with copious undergrowth.

We should have checked our compass bearing after crossing the gas line, as we changed from an easterly direction to southeast and emerged on 18 Mile Road. Our target was Division Avenue just north of 18 Mile. We were off by about 300–500 feet. A lesson was learned there about route finding technique. Always check your compass both before and after crossing a clearing. Our miscalculation came from the logical desire to cross the right of way at a right angle, and then we continued on the same course. Instead, we should have corrected our direction after crossing the clearing.

We briefly scouted the edge of a wetland on the opposite side of Division before retracing our steps. As we turned around, frozen rain began to fall lightly. By the time we got back to our cars at 3:00 p.m., the frozen pellets had changed to flakes.

I'm excited about the new route. It looks like we will be able to build this section of about 1.3 miles of trail without the need for much benching and no trail structures like puncheon. The undergrowth is also rather thin and does not look like it will provide much difficulty for maintenance. It will be a pretty section of trail, will eliminate a 0.5 mile road walk, and will move the trail into an area not accessed by four wheeled vehicles (the trail to be replaced is a favorite 4 x 4 track for 90 percent of its route).

We will be looking for lots of volunteers come March and April! If we can get energetic crews of enough people, this reroute could potentially be completed in two work days. It can easily be achieved in four days with smaller, less energetic crews.

Trail Adopters

The following lists each section of existing trail and who has volunteered to maintain it. If the information isn't current, please notify Tom Learmont of any changes.

Trail Manager

Tom Learmont 616-984-5917
uper76@pathwaynet.com

Newaygo County

Croton to Poplar Street

Pat Loomis 231-652-3606
ploomis@triton.net

Poplar Street to 40th Street

Roger Meyer 616-975-1937
rogmey@aol.com

40th Street to Echo Drive

Mitzi Beckman 231-652-1611

Echo Drive to M20

Eric Doyle 231-887-8557
ericdoyle@mac.com

Walt Clawson 616-676-2037

M20 to 5-Mile Road

Ginny Wunsch 231-689-6876
wunschee@mail.riverview.net

Darlene Snyder 616-784-5050
dsnyder4067@hotmail.com

Jules Hanslosky 517-351-5527

5-Mile Road to 7-Mile Road

Sue Norman 616-891-9055
Snorman942@aol.com

7-Mile Road to 8-Mile Road

Chuck Vanette 616-456-9725
cvann30643@aol.com

Kathy Brehm 616-538-6739
rosecity@kvi.net

8-Mile Road to 11-Mile Road

Jim, Gladys Hoogterp 616-677-1621

11-Mile Road to 13-Mile (Cleveland)

Werner, Marianne Veit 616-776-1630
wv12@aol.com

13-Mile to 16-Mile Road

Adam Niemur 616-261-0798
aniemur@gfs.com

Bill and Joanne Gerke 616-791-4247

16-Mile Road to 96th Street (Harding)

Max Boyd 616-456-2756
maxboyd@mac.com

Jennifer Tripp 616-456-2756
spudgirl@mac.com

Kent County

City of Lowell

Nan Nickson nannickson@yahoo.com

Lowell State Game Area

Lowell Team 616-897-0417
ashipps11@yahoo.com

Fallasburg Park Area

Jack Amelar 616-897-6885
jamelar@localnet.com

Rogue River State Game Area

Paul Haan 616-363-3342
siler@voyager.net



Western Michigan Chapter
229 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

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U.S. Postage
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Grand Rapids MI
Permit 340

due north

Western Michigan Chapter

www.northcountrytrail.org/wmi

All Trail Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 17 — More Details Page 6



The bridge over Bigelow Creek built last year. PHOTO BY AARON PHIPPS



Located just 1.5 miles from the North Country National Scenic Trail, the school house makes an excellent base for groups out to discover this recreational treasure. It makes a great location for family reunions, church outings, or just a weekend get-away for family and friends. We can also offer assistance and advice on planning hikes as a part of your group's activities. For rental rates and facility descriptions, visit our web site:

www.northcountrytrail.org/wmi

To learn more about the historic White Cloud School House or to reserve your event, contact:

Ginny Wunsch
(231) 689-6876
wunschee@mail.riverview.net