



CHAPTER MEETINGS

Meetings are at **7:00 PM** at the Barry Township Hall on Orchard Street in Delton the second Wednesday of each month, and are open to the public. Meetings through the Fourth Quarter of 2008 are **October 8, November 12, and December 10.**

Special event for our **October 8** meeting, with **Tom Garnett** presenting a program to update us on developments with the **Calhoun County Trail Alliance.**

The CCTA is working for a multi-use trail from Battle Creek to Marshall, Albion and Homer.

REMINDER: For all the latest information on chapter events, especially toward the end of the quarter, please visit our web site: **www.northcountrytrail.org/cnd/index.htm**

October 11; Work Day at Kimball Pines, Battle Creek

Our October 11 work day is some rescheduled work from early this summer, and will begin at **9:00 AM**, and will include some blazing, and construction of a small bridge at Kimball Pines in Battle Creek.

We will meet for breakfast at **8:00 AM** at the McDonalds next door to Kimball Pines, at **1160 East Michigan Avenue.** To get to the Kimball Pines area, you can take I-94 to the I-194 penetrator, and follow the Columbia Avenue exit east until you get onto Michigan Avenue, and then continue east to the McDonalds.

October 18; MOONLIGHT HIKE at MSU Kellogg Forest

Our hike on October 18 will begin at **8:00 PM**, as we meet at the Hutchinson parking lot on Augusta Drive in Augusta. We will leave some of our cars behind, and drive to the Kellogg Forest, and hike back to the Hutchinson parking lot. To get to the Hutchinson parking lot from downtown Augusta, go East from the Shell station to Augusta Drive. Turn north on Augusta Drive, and drive about 0.4 miles north to the Hutchinson trailhead parking lot, which is on the west side of the road.

Before the hike, there are some folks gathering at Duda's Deli and Pizzeria in Augusta at **6:30 PM** for dinner. There may be another dinner gathering in Hastings for the northern hikers. Please let Mick Hawkins know if you plan to attend, and we will make sure the ship does not leave without you. Mick can be contacted at: webmaster.ncta-cnd@comcast.net

November 1; Workday Blazing

Our tentative plan is to do one of our flex jobs, which we schedule unless something comes up which is more important. In this case it is to do some blazing on sections of our road walk. More info will be posted later on our web site.

The Chief Noonday Chapter welcomes anyone to join us for any of our meetings, hikes, or workday events. For more information, please contact Larry Hawkins at hawkeyemd@cablespeed.com, or 269-945-5398 or see web site for other contacts.

November 8; Hike on Portage Creek Bicentennial Park

The hike on November 8 will be on the 4 mile trail following Portage Creek in Portage, MI. We will meet for breakfast at **8:15 AM** at the Uncle Ernie's Pancake House on 4005 Portage Street. To get to Uncle Ernie's, use exit 78 off of I-94, the Portage Road, Kilgore Road exit, and head north about 6 blocks.

We will then proceed to the parking lot on Kilgore Road, which a little over a mile from Uncle Ernie's. To get to the parking lot, go west on Kilgore Road from the I-94 exit. From Uncle Ernie's, return south to Kilgore Road, and then turn right. The parking lot is about 0.8 miles from Portage Road. We will begin the hike at **9:30 AM**.

November 13; 2008 Trails Workshop for Southwest Michigan in Middleville

The village of Middleville will be the host community for a Trail Workshop promoted by the Southwest Michigan Alliance for Recreational Trails (SMART) and the Thornapple Trail Association (TTA) on **November 13** from **12:30 PM to 4:30 PM**.

The focus of the workshop will be on bringing trails to your community, and how to fund the planning, development, and implementation. Discussions will include state trail funding sources, regional and local funding, trail maintenance and marketing. Registration is \$5, and closes on November 7. For more information, see www.swmpc.org/smart_workshop.asp.

December 6; Hike in Allegan State Game Area

The December hike will be in the Allegan State Game Area at **10:00 AM**.

We will initially meet for breakfast at **9:00 AM** at the **Village Inn** on the southwest side of Allegan at 1520 Lincoln Road (which is also M-40 and M-89).

We will then proceed to the ASGA by going north 0.5 miles to Monroe Road, and then west for 5 miles just past where Swan Creek goes under the road. The parking lot is on the south side of the road. Monroe Road is also called 118th Avenue for part of this journey.

Chief Noonday Hike Schedule in 2009

Our Hiking Committee of **Joe Higdon** and **Charles Krammin** has been busy setting up this lineup of hikes for 2009. To help your planning:

- 1/17/09**; Saugatuck Dunes; Allegan County (Think of the frozen Lake Michigan landscape!!)
- February 2009**; Ott Preserve, Battle Creek
- March 2009**; Norris Road to Hall Lake, Barry Co.
- April 2009**; Baker Sanctuary near Marshall, MI
- May 2009**; Fort Custer National Cemetery
- June 2009**, Ludington Dunes
- July 2009**; Moonlight hike at Otis Sanctuary, perhaps with telescopes
- August 2009**; Lowell State Game Area
- September 2009**; Peets Road to M-179, a follow-up to Summerfest
- October 2009**; Fall Color Hike in Lost Nations State Game Area

Chief Noonday Officers Elected at July 9 Meeting

The Chief Noonday Board of Directors was elected at our July 9 meeting to serve for the next 2 years. Our Board:

- President: **Larry Hawkins**
- VP for Trail Management: **Steve Hicks**
- VP for Administration: **Larry Pio**
- Treasurer: **Ron Sootsman**
- At large: **Dave Cornell**
- Tom Garnett**
- Joe Higdon**
- Mick Hawkins**

Congratulations to all of you, and thank you in advance for your commitment to our Trail.

Chief Noonday Volunteers Recognized at NCTA Conference in Cazenovia, NY

Several members of our Chapter were recognized for passing milestones in cumulative hours of volunteer service:

- Steve Hicks: 1000 hours**
- Mick Hawkins: 1000 hours**
- Ron Sootsman: 400 hours**
- Jeff Fleming: 100 hours**
- Steve Chapman: 100 hours**

In addition to being recognized at our annual conference, these volunteers join all of the past honorees with listings on our Volunteer Recognition page of the Chief Noonday web site.

Web Site Trail Log Reports

Mick Hawkins has included detailed reports, with pictures, at the TRAIL LOG page on our web site on some of our recent activities. In the last quarter he has included reports on:

- ? The July 12 hike, which was held in the YSRA, instead of the Gun Lake Track, due to trail conditions. Mick notes all who arrived for breakfast decided against hiking in the rain, except **Charles Krammin** and **Jim Studt**, from the West Michigan Chapter.
- ? Our July 19 workday, with volunteers **Chris Vreeland (and his son), Ron Sootsman, Dave Cornell, Terry Meden, Larry Hawkins, Mick Hawkins, Jim Heaton, Mike Wilke, Jeff Fleming,** and **Tom Garnett**.
- ? Events at the NCTA National Conference in Cazenovia, NY including reports on proposals to extend the Trail's length on both ends. **Dave Cornell, Jan Cornell, Larry Hawkins,** and **Mick Hawkins** represented our Chapter at the conference.
- ? A missing 73-year old-hiker in the Upper Peninsula, whose van was found at an NCT trailhead.
- ? Our booth at the Hastings Summerfest, with much help from our volunteers: Manning the booth: **Jerry Pattok (with family Sandy, Laura, and Anna), Mick Hawkins, Larry Hawkins, Joe Higdon, Jean Lamoreaux, Jeff Fleming, Tom Garnett, Josephine Miller, Steve Hicks, Tom Warner, and Chris Sweeney.** Booth set-up and tear down: **Larry Hawkins, Jerry Pattok, and Joe Higdon.**
- ? A notice on the DNR ban on deer baiting due to Chronic Wasting Disease.
- ? An August 26 donation of help to our Chapter from **Kellogg's Kashi Division**, producers of **Bare Naked Granola**. Bare Naked has been promoting the National Scenic Trails with their products. **Chris Sweeney**, a member of our Chapter, was joined by co-workers **Tamila Williams, Larry Williams, Ben Williams, Rachael Williams, Jon Warner, Monjur Hossen, Hway-Seen Yeoung, Diane Seevers, Maria Ruhlman, and Roger Wenk.** Our **Jim Heaton, Charles Krammin, Larry Hawkins,** and **Mick Hawkins** joined them. The group changed the orientation of one of our kiosks on Robinson Road, and did some trail maintenance.

- ? A request for help on a couple of work projects, one held in August within CND trail, and another in September in the Tittabawassee Chapter
- ? Our September 20 workday at Kellogg Biological, with mowing, trail maintenance, sign relocation, and kiosk installation. **Steve Hicks, Larry Hawkins, Mary Armitage, Jerry Pattok, Larry Pio, Jeff Fleming, Ron Sootsman,** and **Mick Hawkins** were our crew.

NCNST Databook for Hikers

A new addition to our web site is intended to be a resource for long distance hikers, but also will be useful for many of us. It is a meticulous listing of trail landmarks, segment by segment. Each landmark listing includes:

- ? Eastbound directions on the trail
- ? Westbound directions on the trail
- ? Codes for services and resources
- ? GPS coordinates
- ? Mileage from the last landmark
- ? Cumulative miles from east end of CND
- ? Cumulative miles from west end of CND
- ? Internet links to camping, restaurants, lodging, groceries, gas, and hospitals.

Mick Hawkins has been the leader on this pilot project for the whole North Country Trail, and **Ron Sootsman** has also set up the Google link system.

To give you an idea on the work Mick and Ron have put in on this project, there are 349 landmark listings so far in the Chief Noonday Chapter trail sections.

This project is a work in progress, and your review of this progress, and your feedback, will be very helpful in maximizing the usefulness this work will provide.

Report Your Volunteer Hours

PLEASE report your volunteer hours on a quarterly basis, either by mail, or by filling out the form on the NCTA web site.

<http://www.northcountrytrail.org> Go to the Volunteers heading, and click on Report Hours. Or, you can report them to Larry Hawkins, and he can submit a group report to headquarters.

SEGMENT SPOTLIGHT; W. K. Kellogg Experimental Forest

One of the Kalamazoo County segments of the North Country Trail crosses the W. K. Kellogg Experimental Forest, one of 14 Agriculture Experiment Stations of Michigan State University. See their web site for more information on the work done at these stations: <http://www.maes.msu.edu/ressta/kelloggforest/index.htm>.

The Forest hosts several open houses each year, including the maple syrup demonstration in the spring. Visitors are welcome to jog, bicycle, hike, horseback ride (bring your own horse), walk your dog, trout fish, bow hunt (you must sign in at the office), and cross country ski.

This segment of trail is 2.4 miles long, and shares portions of several wooded loop trails which can be enjoyed on this property. There is convenient parking (as well as picnic tables) at the main facilities on 42nd Street, about a mile south of M-89. This location also features the covered bridge, which can be seen from the parking area.

This segment begins from the north on M-89, about 0.3 miles east of 42nd Street. Continuing north, our trail follows M-89 west for 0.7 miles before entering the Cheff property.

From the south end of this segment, the trail crosses the Sackett property to the south for 0.5 miles, then follows EF Avenue to the west for 0.2 miles, before heading south on the Hutchinson property for 1.5 miles to the trailhead on Augusta Drive. **Our Moonlight Hike on October 18 will cross these 3 segments.**

Items of Interest

The Kalamazoo Gazette featured a hiker from Kalamazoo who participates in Hike for Discovery, which is a 14 to 18 week hiking and fundraising program benefiting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. After the training and fundraising portions of the program, there is a final hike, which this year was on the Appalachian Trail. If you are interested in more information, see www.hikefordiscovery.com.

Also of note is an update in the Kalamazoo Gazette noting the completion of the first segment of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, from the Kal-Haven Trail, to downtown Kalamazoo. Scheduled for 2010, the eight segments will extend to the Battle Creek Linear Park (and of course the North Country Trail).

Joining the North Country Trail Association Interested in joining the North Country Trail Association? The easiest way is to go to the SUPPORT NCTA link, JOIN / RENEW section, and do it online. Memberships start at \$10 for students, and are \$46 for a regular membership. Your support is appreciated.

Receive the Chief Noonday Chapter newsletter via email. Contact Larry Pio at nalcoman1@aol.com. Please share your newsletter with a friend, and tell someone about Chief Noonday and the NCT.

**North Country Trail Association
Chief Noonday Newsletter
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