



# Call of the North

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## Come to the 4th Annual North Country Hiking Fest @ Itasca!

By Matthew Davis, Regional Trail Coordinator

Make your plans to attend the **4th Annual North Country Hiking Fest** to be held at Itasca State Park on Saturday, August 28th. This event will feature a variety of activities, including a social hour beginning at 9:30am at the Brower Visitors Center. Park naturalist Connie Cox will give a presentation on North Country wildlife beginning at 10:15am, also at the Visitor's Center.

The Itasca Moraine Chapter will lead a 5-mile hike ("Hike to Itasca") on the North Country Trail from Spider Lake Trail west to the South Entrance trailhead at US Hwy 71. Hikers may also extend their hike to 8 miles if they wish or take

in one of the shorter, afternoon family hikes or activities. At 4:30pm, we'll gather back at Forest Inn and recount the hikes with snacks before enjoying a catered cookout dinner from Douglas Lodge (\$7). Following dinner, we'll pass out door prizes and play some North Country Jeopardy. To close out the day, the 11-member Holker Family from Remer will play some music from 6:30—8:00pm. This event is sponsored by Itasca State Park and the Laurentian Lakes & Itasca Moraine Chapters.

More information (including a complete schedule) is available [online](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/llc/?page_id=92) at [www.northcountrytrail.org/llc/?page\\_id=92](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/llc/?page_id=92).

## 24 Hours of the Chip trail maintenance event was successful! By Barb Pavak

I started dreaming about this last summer. Then I started talking about it. There were some skeptics who didn't think it was possible. Even so, the dream started to take shape. The planning was an important piece, and proved immeasurable. The project was a group effort, made up of the National Park Service, the US Forest Service Walker Ranger District, the local communities, Matt Davis, and of course, the NCTA members/volunteers. The event took place June 26-27, 2010, in the Chippewa National Forest, which is located between Walker and Remer, MN.

Dan Watson (the NPS piece of the puzzle) made sure we had Personal

Protective Equipment for use, and instructed all volunteers on safety and potential hazards that may be encountered. He also gave out bandanas in recognition of our volunteer work. Only one bee sting reported (mine). Thanks, Dan!

The US Forest Service Walker Ranger District (Carolyn, Mitch, Tom, Tasha, Ray, and Wade) made sure we had enough mowers, tools, and gas at our disposal. They also provided transportation to and from trailheads, and resupplied us with gas as needed midway through trail sections.

*See 24 Hours on page 6*

# Odds & Ends

## Arrowhead Re-route update: S. 553 making its way forward in the U.S. Senate

We are getting closer to passage of the Arrowhead Re-route bill in Congress. The Senate bill (S. 553, introduced by Sen. Klobuchar) was voted out of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources committee on June 21st and now awaits movement in the full Senate. It is anticipated that the bill will be wrapped up into another omnibus public lands bill before the mid-term election this fall. Keep checking on the NCTA [website](#) at [www.northcountrytrail.org/arrowhead.php](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/arrowhead.php).



## MN-DNR still accepting online comments on statewide Park & Trail legacy plan

You have probably heard by now that the MN-DNR is currently developing a State and Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Plan. After passage of the historic Legacy Amendment, the legislature required that a plan be developed "to provide guidance for how these funds should be spent, as well as other traditional sources of funding for state and regional parks and trails." According to the Plan's website, "the Park and Trail Legacy Plan will include strategies for addressing the issues, trends, and needs for the state and regional park and trail system." A draft of the plan is scheduled to be released later this fall with the deadline of presenting the plan to the legislature of 2/15/11. Check it out [online](#) at <http://patl.intergov.mn.gov/>

As part of the planning process, the DNR has contracted with the Citizen's League to assist them with public participation, which included a series of public meetings around the state and the use of a lot of online tools—e.g. a blog, forum, ratings, and online surveys. If you haven't already, you should check it out and lend your voice (*hopefully saying some kind words for the NCT*). More info is available [online](#) at <http://www.citizing.org/projects/parkslegacy>.

# North Country Hiking Fest @ Itasca State Park



Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> 2010



# Scenes from the NCT in Minnesota



**Photo key:** 1) ARW Chapter members at the joint ARW-STN National Trails Day work weekend, 2) Americorps-NCCC crew members, 3) BRTA leader Ed Solstad scouting the proposed Moss Ridge Trail, 4) Tom Moberg assembling his cook table (unfortunately, since burned) at the Milton Lake Campsite, 5) Participants at the May 20th volunteer chainsaw certification training in the Chippewa National Forest

## Reminder: NCTA members and friends asked to join a Meetup group to stay in touch



Last issue, we told you about our use of **Meetup.com** to help keep our members and friends aware of what we're doing. So far, the response has been mixed. We currently have more non-NCTA member participants than NCTA members. While it's great to reach out to non-members, we also hope to see more NCTA members join the Meetup group(s). As was mentioned last issue, there are three Meetup groups for the NCTA in Minnesota. Joining a Meetup group is easy and free...you only need to provide them with basic contact info to start an "account" and then you can search for Meetup groups in your area that focus on particular interests (e.g. hiking, outdoors, environment). Upon joining a Meetup group, you will receive updates on activities and can RSVP for events. Again, NCTA members are encouraged to join one or all of the Meetup groups to stay connected. It makes it easier for Chapters to communicate with you—the members.

- [Chippewa N.F. North Country Trail hikers](http://www.meetup.com/Chip-NCT-hikers/) <http://www.meetup.com/Chip-NCT-hikers/> ~ events in Minnesota with a special emphasis on the Chippewa National Forest and adjacent Itasca Moraine Chapter area
- [MN Arrowhead North Country Trail Hikers](http://www.meetup.com/Arrowhead-NCT-hikers/) <http://www.meetup.com/Arrowhead-NCT-hikers/> ~ events in the Arrowhead Chapter area (Remer to Grand Rapids to Ely)
- [Hike the North Country Trail in Minnesota](http://www.meetup.com/HikeNCTinMN/) <http://www.meetup.com/HikeNCTinMN/> ~ events in the Itasca Moraine, Laurentian Lakes, and Fargo-Moorhead areas
- The Border Route Trail Association also has [their own Meetup group](http://www.meetup.com/The-Border-Route-Trail-Meetup-Group/) ([www.meetup.com/The-Border-Route-Trail-Meetup-Group/](http://www.meetup.com/The-Border-Route-Trail-Meetup-Group/)), which focuses on activities on the BRT.

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## The Minnesota-DNR is looking for public comments for the North Country Trail development project in Becker County

*Editor's Note: As was mentioned in the last issue of the Call of the North, the Laurentian Lakes Chapter will be further developing the NCT within Becker County using a Legacy Trail grant from the DNR. As required by state law, we had to work with the DNR to develop an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the project that dictates the potential environmental impacts and our proposed mitigation measures. You have the opportunity to provide input into this process. Here is how...*

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will accept written comments on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet **before Wednesday, August 25, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.** Written comments should be submitted to Ronald Wieland, EAW Project Manager, Environmental Policy and Review Unit, Division of Ecological Resources, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4025. Electronic or e-mail comments may be sent to [Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:Environmentalrev.dnr@state.mn.us) with "North Country Trail (Becker) EAW" in the subject line. If submitting comments electronically, be sure to include your name and mailing address. Written comments may also be sent by fax to 651-297-1500.

A copy of the EAW is available for public review at:

- MDNR Library, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.
- MDNR Northwest – Region, 2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE, Bemidji, MN 56601-8599.
- Minneapolis Public Library, Government Documents, 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401.
- Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 E Hampden, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.
- Detroit Lakes Library, 1000 Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.



The EAW is also posted on the [MDNR's website](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/north_country/index.html)

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/north\\_country/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/north_country/index.html)

Paper copies may also be requested by calling (651) 259-5157.

## Americorps-NCCC Crew members writing on their NCT trail-building experience this summer

**Greg Amsler (CA)**—Though working on the North Country Trail was a challenging first project for the team, Maple 3 demonstrated tremendous strength and perseverance. I am now convinced that we can handle any project given to us.

**Autumn Last (MI)**—The team accomplished what they could. During this experience it felt like the whole of the team grew closer as a team and stronger in their selves.

**Jackson Madden (ID)**—Bugs ate me today and the work beat me today. But I make more trail. My cot hurts at night. My pillow has basement mold. But I make more trail. We made four whole miles and it felt good to be done. It was a good spike.

**Mike Kamen (NY)**—Incessant irritating insects arranged aerial assaults. Illusive immobilizing ivies produced pervasive poisons. Treacherous tricky ticks bit beneath briefs. Roaring red rashes n' bitchin' bug bites. Lasting lessons left on scratchy skin sites. Flora n fauna forest fiends fought fair fights.

**Caitlin Gray (FL)**—The day started out smitten. The sun was a shinin', and we were all smilin' until the clouds started grindin.' First there were sprinkles, so we wrapped our canckles to keep away from the ticks. The mist turned to rain, by then we were in pain. And the mosqueters came. The misters had blisters, the ladies were shady. That's when we started inchin' and bitchin. Because of the ticks, and pricks. But the blood circle was maintained. Yet, we were still in pain. Before long the tools were a slippin' but Toiya was still pimpin, with her cast and Ameri-mask. But wait, can't forget Mike's jokes, and all the pokes. Allie and Mary are the best, as Greg looked silly in his vest. Autumn acted creepy, while Christine was very sleepy. Tom got ahead, and Chris did all the spread. Jackson just had a bunch of action and Marlin had satisfaction. So besides the ticks, pricks, and fits, we haven't failed this trail. No matter what we do it will always be for you. This trail is suppose to keep people entertained, so the Minnesota woods could be retained.

**Chris Roche (ME)**—The project in Ponsford was a great way to learn about trail-building and see how something like a nature trail can affect a small-town community. Since it was our first project together, it was interesting to see how the team operated together and overcame problems.

**Tom Binkley (VA)**—Our time on the North Country Trail was a lot of fun with the team. Joking and playing games like "What if?" "Who would you rather?" and "What is this from?" kept us focused on the trail and not on the heat or the bugs which made it a lot easier for all of us to succeed on our project.

**Allie Hoensheid (MI)**—I really enjoyed our first project in Minnesota. Though it was extremely challenging both mentally & physically it was a great way to begin our service with the corps. If Maple 3 could be so successful constructing new trail, I am confident we can handle anything we are faced with.

**Christine Crowley (PA)**—Trail building in Northern Minnesota was challenging and also very rewarding. We worked in the bugs and heat but we accomplished something. It was really cool to see something you've produced with your hard work.

**Katoiya Crockett (IL)**—Minnesota was very hot and buggy, but what I can say is with the humidity and bugs we still completed our mission and got things done...

**Mary DeMasters (CA)**—The time that we spent on the NCT was incredible. The hours out in the woods were some of the most rewarding and challenging that I have ever experienced. We were able to work hard, learn new skills, and learn to communicate with one another. The knowledge of ourselves, the trail, the world around us, and one another that we gained in Minnesota is something that we will carry with us through the rest of this year...

through the rest of our lives. I feel incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to work alongside our sponsors, who were amazing, to achieve something so incredible. I hope to hike the completed NCT, but more importantly I hope that my children and my grandchildren will hike it as well.

Crew Leader **Marlin Lane (CA)** - I will always appreciate the hard work my team and I put on the trail. Working on the trail was our first project and one in which I was hoping to get for our first round. I felt working in the woods for 9 hours a day building trail was a good way to introduce my team to the NCCC. Once the team went through mosquitoes, horse and deer flies, ticks, heat, humidity, and tough manual labor I knew the rest of the year would be downhill. Watching my team battle the elements and continue to work hard day in and day out showed me how lucky I was to be the team leader for Maple 3. It took some time for us to learn the skills necessary to cover a good amount of distance everyday without sacrificing trail quality, but we developed the team chemistry to create a quality product for the NCTA. Personally, I enjoyed working on a portion of a project of such a large scale. Knowing a piece of trail was built by my own labor and skills I developed from on- the-job training allowed me to leave the project with a sense of accomplishment.

*You may read more about the crew's experiences on the NCTA's Insight blog [post](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/insight/?p=914) at <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/insight/?p=914>. More information on [NCCC](http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/nccc.asp) is at <http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/nccc.asp>.*



## 24 Hours, cont. from cover page

Walker Ranger District gave us radios so we could contact them if we needed assistance. They set up a central command post for check-in, rest time, lunch pick-up, and portable "facilities." The district also arranged for free camping to anyone who wanted to camp that weekend while volunteering. Several of us enjoyed our stay at Mabel Campground in the Chippewa National Forest. Thanks, Walker Ranger District!

The communities of Hackensack and Longville need a big "shout out." Both towns are located just outside of "the Chip." They provided the T-shirts and box lunches for our weekend. I know I will keep the Red Bird Café on my short list of places to eat when I'm up there. OK, Frosty's too. But you gotta have ice-cream. Thanks, Hackensack and Longville.

Matt Davis was instrumental in logistics planning. Having never done anything like this before, it was difficult to know how long it would take to mow and clear sections of trail. When you add in the variables of weather and trail conditions and various people, it was amazing that things went as smoothly as they did. Some groups finished earlier, some later than expected. We encountered some mower breakdown issues we hadn't anticipated, and this delayed some teams. But overall, the plan came together, and the schedule was relatively intact. Thanks, Matt!

The volunteers/NCTA members are too numerous to mention, estimating about 25-30. People came and went all day, both days, so I regret that we could not get a group picture. But the work done was priceless. The trail was entirely mowed through "the Chip" with the exception of the few miles where logging was being done. Teams of 2-5 were assigned trail sections to mow, two mowers wide. Some went in front to clear fallen branches and other obstacles, while others pushed trimmer mowers. With two mowers, they did longer sections, tandem mowing. Smaller groups with one mower went out and back, doing shorter sections. We were a dirty, sweaty bunch when we got done, but I heard several people remark how nice the trail looked. Tom Schackman (WRD) told me this is the

earliest the trail had been completely mowed in the year. It's like a walk in the park now. Wait---IT IS A PARK! Thanks, everyone for your hard work and dedication to the trail.

*The "24 Hours in the Chip"* is now on the "done" list for this year. We now know some of the obstacles we didn't know to plan for this year, but the groundwork is laid. We plan to make this an annual event, and hope to draw even more local interest in the event itself, along with interest and use of the trail with it being more user friendly. My dream has become a reality, and the skeptics have become believers. Mission Impossible has been accomplished.

**Barb lives in Maple Grove, MN where she keeps her husband (Brian) from getting lost on every hike they go on.**



*NCTA volunteers Joe Chovan and Barb Pavek mowing during the 24 Hours of the Chip*

## Did you know?

The Arrowhead Re-route would more than double the miles of the NCT that pass through Congressionally-designated wilderness areas. Currently, 25.4 miles of the NCT pass through U.S. Forest Service administered wilderness areas in WI (Rainbow Lake and Porcupine Lake Wildernesses within the Chequamegon N.F.) and MI (McCormick Wilderness in the Ottawa N.F. and Beaver Basin in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore).

The Kekekabic and Border Route Trails would add approximately 70 miles within the BWCAW. Learn more about Wilderness [online](http://www.wilderness.net) at [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net).



## Itasca Moraine Chapter Report

By Bruce Johnson, President

The ITM volunteers have had a good summer. This spring three campsite locations were identified. Hubbard County and MN-DNR approved the campsite locations and we were cleared to hire a licensed septic designer to locate privy latrines at each site. After this was done, applications were applied for and permits are in hand (funded by a Challenge Cost Share award from the NPS). As this was going, on fire rings and latrines were purchased and delivered. The MCC will help build the campsites; they will be completed by mid-August.

Another task which is almost finished is the installation of signs along the trail and at NCT and forest road intersections. Seventeen posts with signs have been placed along thirty-five miles of trail with information helping locate trail heads as well as features along the NCT. We have three signs left to install.

A comprehensive maintenance effort has had many of the "regulars" each week out in front of Beth and Jerry Trouts' thru-hike program. ITM members also helped with the "24 hours in the Chip" trail maintenance event in June. We are looking for more trail adopters. Please contact me if you are interested in helping improve the NCT.

Also, the Chapter maintains kiosks at the following five locations: the South Entrance of Itasca State Park, Hubbard Co. Hwy 4 trailhead, Lake Nelson trailhead and MN Hwy 64 trailhead. A brochure box was added to the Forest Service's Cass County Hwy 12 info-map. Earlier this summer several map frames and brochure boxes were built and installed. Also at each kiosk a map of the complete ITM area with a "You are here" indication as well as mileage to nearby features is posted. Jerry Trout put these mileage charts together. We are told they are being suggested as a model for other chapters installing kiosks. Good work, Jerry! Each kiosk has an adopter who checks them on a regular basis ensuring that the brochure boxes are full.



### Photos of ITM Volunteers at work this summer

Bottom left—the newly installed NCT sign at Spider Lake trail; Top left—Duane Gebhart mowing in Itasca Park with the DR trimmer mower; Top right—Bruce Johnson mowing with the DR brush mower



### *Editor's Note...*

A few weeks ago I was headed out to do some shopping with our two children. Those that know me, even a little bit, can imagine how much I like to shop. But, children grow, so shop I must. I brought along our backpack carrier because of steps at the store that are very difficult to navigate with a stroller.

When we arrived at the store and I pulled the backpack out of the car my son said "Hike! Hike!" He was super excited. I think JC Penney was a bit of a let down.

Just a few days ago, my daughter was walking around the backyard with a stick saying "Look mommy, I hiking!" "Daddy, watcha me, I hiking!"

Apparently, it's a good thing we are leaving tomorrow for NCTA's annual conference in Ashland, WI. Our kids are suffering from hiking withdrawal.

Here's hoping you are finding time to get out in the woods with your children and/or grandchildren this summer. As our children have shown us, a few trips into the woods and even the youngest of children will love an adventure.

Happy Hiking, Stacy "Steady On" Davis

## Star of the North Chapter Report

By Brian Pavek, President & NCTA Board Member

The *Star of the North* chapter's decline in membership has stabilized as the last monthly report showed no further decline. We are grateful to Bruce Matthews and the team for the hard work put forth to reconnect lapsed members. It has been a productive summer for me along with volunteers from CA & VA, providing help in AHS volunteer vacations in Sheyenne National Grasslands and Lonetree Wildlife Area, both in ND. The volunteers from VA and CA thought ND was a wonderfully serene place to be. We have also blazed/re-blazed most of the Chippewa National Forest section of the trail this spring/summer.

Phillip Nimps, a new chapter member, proved invaluable in Lonetree as he single-handedly repaired DR string trimmers on the trail as well as helping in the Chippewa National Forest (24 hours of the Chip). Our own John "Legacy" Leinen continues his advocacy work in Washington D.C., representing all things trail. Off trail but not under the cover of darkness, Ginny Ruppe (our creative webmaster) continues to study layout and workings of the new STN website. I, along with others cannot wait to see the improved results. Jim Weiske desperately tried to train me in the proper use of wood working tools as I helped build register boxes and brochures holders. Harlan Liljequist also lent a supporting role. All in all, I think we may have them done soon.

Last month we relaxed from summer's heat with a potluck dinner and hike here in the metro. It was a perfect day filled with good food, friendship and card game foolery. After conference and when cooler outdoors reappear, the trail dogs of the STN will return to the Chip and do some cleanup work as well as camp at Mabel Lake campground, date TBD. Please plan on joining us at Midwest Mountaineering's Outdoor Adventure expo Nov 19-21. Bring a friend!

Lastly, the *STN* sends a big shout-out to Ray Vlasak, the NCTA newest board member (and Minnesotan) as he is inducted onto the board at the annual conference in Ashland. Thanks, Ray and all of those who use their talents to encourage the world to get outdoors and venture forth.

## Laurentian Lakes Chapter Report

By Karen Stenberg, Communications Director

The Laurentian Lakes Chapter has had a busy and active summer. Monthly hikes beginning in May have introduced new people to our chapter and have helped spread the word of the North Country Trail in Becker County. Twenty six came out for the National Trails Day hike in June. Articles in our local papers and radio interviews covering the Americorps-NCCC group also gave us some much needed publicity.

Hosting twelve enthusiastic members of the Americorps-NCCC was certainly one of the highlights for our chapter this summer. Hailing from urban & suburban areas across the USA, these young people had a quick introduction to the use of hand tools in early June and then continued with "on the job training". Chapter members helped out by supervising each day, encouraging, and offering advice on the ever-present ticks, mosquitoes, and deer flies. The group gained an appreciation for the beauty of "the Northwoods" and their work was a great service to our chapter. Several mentioned how they would like to someday return and hike sections of the North Country Trail. Special thanks to the Vlasaks who housed the group for four weeks. They were to be with us for six weeks but were called away two weeks early to the Gulf for oil-spill response. They were able to complete four miles of treadway south of Elbow Lake Road along with building and placing one boardwalk.

Opportunities to hike and volunteer will continue with guided hikes on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> (location yet to be determined) and on Oct. 9 in Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge. Wednesday workdays are continuing and you can volunteer by calling or emailing Ray Vlasak. More participants are always welcomed and encouraged!

Check out the NCTA Insight Blog [post](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/insight/?p=959) (www.northcountrytrail.org/insight/?p=959) about the Chapter's "Boundary Waters-esque" trail clearing trip in Itasca State Park on July 21st.

Why, those are chainsaws in that canoe!!!



## ITM Chapter's "NCT thru-hike" Program Capturing Interest by Jerry Trout

Thru-hikers have met each Saturday since "The Fishing Opener" (mid-May) to hike the forty miles of NCT just completed by the Itasca Moraine Chapter as well as twenty miles of trail in the Chippewa National Forest.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the Thru-Hikers came upon a spot known as "Trail Central" a few miles north of Hackensack (see picture at right). The Thru-Hikers are standing on a trail shared by the NCT and the Chippewa Snowmobile Trail to Longville. Immediately to the hikers right is the Paul Bunyan State Trail which the NCT shares for a short distance with the bicyclists and snowmobilers. As the hard surfaced trail pictured bends to the left, the trail going straight is the Shingobee Connector Trail to the Heartland Trail. On it, bicyclists and walkers can go north to the Shingobee Island area and eventually into Walker.

On August 28<sup>th</sup> the hikers will enter Itasca State Park, completing their exploration of the newly completed trail which links the Chip to Itasca. *Editor's Note: This will be the signature hike of the 4th Annual North Country Hiking Fest (see cover page).*

The hikes have introduced new persons to the NCT because of excellent publicity utilizing newspapers and radio. The participation level of Itasca Moraine members and friends has increased as several have hiked more miles than in previous summers. *Learn more about the ITM thru-hike program [online](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/itm/thru.htm) at [www.northcountrytrail.org/itm/thru.htm](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/itm/thru.htm).*



## More scenes from the NCT in Minnesota



12) A mowing crew takes a break along the trail during the 24 Hours of the Chip; 13) a crew change & refueling point during the 24 Hours of the Chip; 14) The LLC chapter with the Americorps-NCCC crew pose in front of Ida Lake by Zhateau Zorbaz following the crew thank you dinner; 15) Snow blankets the trail on the ARW Chapter's May 8th maintenance hike in the Chippewa National Forest near Remer.



## 2010 Minnesota late summer & fall activities schedule

**You're invited!**

- **August 5-8: NCTA Annual Conference in Ashland, WI**
- August 7: LLC Chapter hike, location TBD
- August 14-15: SHTA trail building weekend near Two Harbors, MN
- August 28: 4th Annual North Country Hiking Fest at Itasca St. Park, MN
- September 11: LLC Chapter hike, location TBD
- September 11: ITM Chapter Mushroom Hike & "Softies" overnight hike, location TBD
- September 11-12: SHTA trail building weekend near Two Harbors, MN
- September 25: National Public Lands Day
  - SRV Chapter campout & hike at Lonetree Wildlife Management Area near Harvey, ND
- October 2: Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge's Fall Festival
- October 3: ITM Chapter's Hike for Hope near Lake George, MN
- October 9: LLC Chapter's Autumn Hike at Tamarac NWR near Rochert, MN
- October 9-10: STN Chapter's Fall Color Hiking weekend near Solon Springs, WI
- October 23: Joint LLC & ITM Chapter End of Season Celebration, location TBD
- November 19 - 21: STN Chapter staffs the NCTA booth at the Outdoor Adventure Expo in Minneapolis, MN

Keep up-to-date on these and other activities by visiting the NCTA's online calendar at <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/events.php> or visiting the Meetup group pages (see article on page 4).

You should also check the [SHTA](http://www.shta.org/Events/index.php?) (www.shta.org/Events/index.php?), [KTC](http://www.kek.org/) (www.kek.org/), and [BRTA](http://www.meetup.com/The-Border-Route-Trail-Meetup-Group/calendar/13837936/) (www.meetup.com/The-Border-Route-Trail-Meetup-Group/calendar/13837936/) websites for listings of their activities.