Chequamegon Chapter Newsletter – November 2026

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Chequamegon Chapter Volunteers Return to Nelson Lake to Complete New Backpacker Campsite

By Kevin Schram

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, Chequamegon Chapter Volunteers returned to the Nelson Lake Backpacker Campsite to finish construction started in May. Ellie Williams, Kristin Dahl, Kris Wegerson, Mark Belknap, Ed Ronkowski, Rhiannon Harmon, and Kevin Schram built campsite trails from the three tent pads to the cooking area and from the cooking area to Nelson Lake. Afterward, we had lunch at the recently completed Lake Owen Backpacker Campsite where we met a backpacker from Fond Du Lac. He was grateful for the nice campsite and our company. The weather was perfect; the bugs were tolerable and we all enjoyed working together in the woods.







Photos Clockwise, top to bottom: 1. Volunteers tools in hand - left to right: Ed Ronkowski, Mark Belknap, Ellie Williams, Rhiannon Harmon, Kristin Dahl, and Kris Wegerson. Not pictured and photo by Kevin Schram. 2. Crew Leader, Kevin Schram, gives instructions about the days trail building goals before the crew starts. 3. A new Nelson Lake sign made by Kevin Scham and previously installed by Jim Fridsma.






Photos Clockwise: 1. Mark Belknap uses a Pulaski in building a tent pad and trail to the campsite. 2. The ladies take command of the last part of building the trail from Nelson Lake to the campsite. Left to right: Rhiannon Harmon, Ellie Williams, Kris Wegerson, and Kristin Dahl. 3. Ed Ronkowski gets up close and personal with a small stump he is removing. 4. Volunteers at the new Nelson Lake Backpackers Campsite. Register box is waiting for the first backpacker.

Canthook Lake Reroute Has Started

By Mel Baughman



Volunteers In Photo: Keeling left to right: Mel Baughman & Kevin Schram. Standing left to right: Sandy Beeksma, Jim Fridsma, Frank Shaw, Derek Ogle, Katrina Rasmussen, Clair Morud, Jim Crandall, Mark James, and Mark Balknap. Not Pictured: Kris Wegerson, John Ipsen, Ed Ronkowski, JoAnn Ronkowski, and Julia Waggoner. Photo by Julia Waggoner.

For sixteen years a reroute of the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) between West Delta Road (Square Lake vicinity) and Musky Lake Road has been in the planning stages. This winter Katie LeMoine from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest notified our Chequamegon Chapter that the National Environmental Policy Act review had been completed and we now could begin the reroute.

In early summer, Mel Baughman and Derek Ogle from our Chequamegon Chapter worked with Connie Rasmussen and Ali Kreft from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to flag the exact location of the reroute from Square Lake north to Canthook Lake (northwest of the Rainbow Lake Wilderness).

Then Derek Ogle and Jim Fridsma, our Chapter's Western Trail Managers, as well as Kevin Schanning and Sjana Schanning used chainsaws to clear fallen trees from this segment.

The first mile or so from Square Lake heading north is an old logging railroad bed that was overgown with large shrubs. Connie Rasmussen arranged for US Forest Service staff to use a skid steer with a masticator head (rolling, chopper drum) to clear brush. It left behind a layer of chipped wood and sticks mixed with dirt, but the equipment could not reach shrubs growing from higher embankments along the trail.

On June 20 and 21 Chequamegon Chapter volunteers cleared the remaining brush that the masticator could not reach and leveled tread along more than a mile of the abandoned logging trails and railroad beds. There still remains many short, woody stubs from cut brush as well as some steep out slopes that need to be leveled, but the trail is walkable. On this weekend we also cleared trees through 150 yards of forest but still need to bench the trail along a steep slope. Hardworking volunteers this weekend, led by Mel Baughman, included Mark Belknap, Sandy Beeksma, Jim Crandall, Jim Fridsma, John Ipsen, Mark James, Clair Morud, Derek Ogle, Katrina Rasmussen, Ed Ronkowski, JoAnn Ronkowski, Kevin Schram, Frank Shaw, Julia Waggoner, and Kris Wegerson

Next summer the US Forest Service plans to close the existing NCNST between West Delta Road and Canthook Lake Road in order to conduct a timber harvest, so it is necessary for us to create a walkable, if not totally finished tread, on our reroute between those two roads.

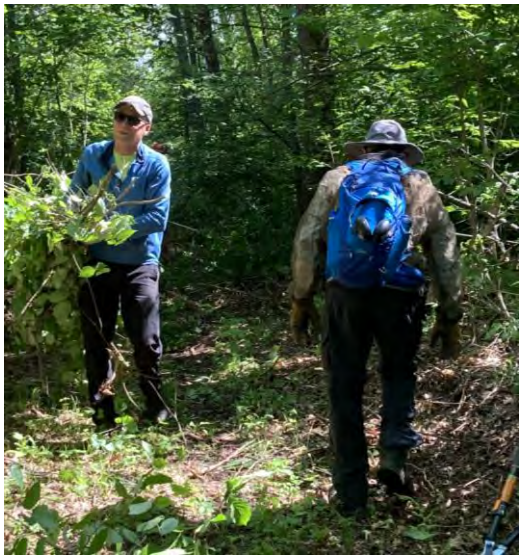
During our next workdays we will begin working from Canthook Lake Road to the southeast until we connect with the trail we opened up on June 20 and 21. The first part of the trail around Canthook Lake will be tough work through forest, but then we reach a system of abandoned logging trails where very little maintenance is needed.



It's a great feeling of accomplishment to build new trail. Put the following workday dates on your calendar and join your friends for some invigorating fun and fitness: July 11 & 12, Aug 15 & 16, Sept 12 & 13, and Oct 17 & 18.







Photos by Julia Waggoner, Ed Ronkowski and JoAnn Ronkowski.

Photos clockwise: 1. Mark James and Sandy Beeksma work at clearing and leveling the trail. 2. Kevin works to remove small obstacle left behind by the masticator. 3. Jim Fridsma uses a gas powered brush cutter to remove brush. 4. The crew on lunch break. 5. Derek and Mark J. cut and remove limbs/brush on the new trail.



July Workdays Extend Canthook Reroute

By Mel Baughman

During July we built 440 yards of new trail and cleared brush from another quarter mile.

On July 10 Mel Baughman and Derek Ogle flagged a new section of the reroute from Canthook Lake up a hill to Canthook Lake Road, then along the roadside for another few hundred yards. Then Derek chainsawed small trees along the previously flagged route to the north end of Canthook Lake where a campsite will eventually be constructed. Meanwhile Mel used the Chapter's powerful new gas-powered backpack leaf blower to clear leaves and small woody debris from about 200 yards of trail. Then he built 30 feet of tread to demonstrate to workday crews how the finished trail should look. In the afternoon Derek manhandled the DR Mower along the flagged trail for half a mile along Canthook Lake up to the campsite spur trail.

On July 11 eleven volunteers built over 200 yards of new trail tread on top of an old horse trail along Canthook Lake. We removed small tree stumps, scraped off grass, and dug out seedlings. While we leveled the tread somewhat, a process known as benching, our goal was to make a walkable tread, but not a perfect tread as we are under time pressure to complete several miles of trail this year. Saturday's volunteers included Mel and Derek, plus Mark Belknap, John Ipsen, Mark James, Tom Piikkila, Kevin Schanning, Sjana Schanning, Kevin Schram, Frank Shaw, and Kris Wegerson.

On July 12 six volunteers continued building tread, bringing the weekend's total to 440 yards of new trail. Besides Mel and Derek, volunteers included Sandy Beeksma, Mark James, Clair Morud, and Tom Piikkila.

Due to extremely hot weather our workdays were shorter than originally planned, but the crews worked hard and we now have a walkable trail for half the distance through this wooded section. Beyond this section, the trail will follow old dirt roads for a long distance before entering a shorter section of woodland. All things considered we are making great progress.



The work crew on Saturday - Pictured left to right: Mark Belknap, John Ipsen, Kris Wegerson, Frank Shaw, Kevin Schram, Derek Ogle, Tom Piikkila, Sjana Schanning and Kevin Shanning.



The Sunday Crew - Pictured left to right: Mark James, Derek Ogle, Sandy Beeksma, Tom Piikkila and Clair Morud.



Front to back: Mark Belknap and Kevin Schram do some finishing work with McLeods on the new North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) as part of the Canthook Lake Trail Reroute.

July Workdays Extend Canthook Reroute (Continued)













Photos Clockwise top to bottom: 1. Volunteers work on another section of new NCT. Front to back: Mark James, Sandy Beeksma, Tom Piikkila and Derek Ogle. 2. Tom Piikkila using a cutter mattock and Derek Ogle using a pick mattock to remove rocks and roots. 3. Volunteers doing more finishing work. Front to back: Clair Morud, Mark James, Sandy Beeksma and Tom Piikkila. 4. A closeup of Sandy, Tom and Derek. 5. A finished section of new NCT! 6. Front to back: Kevin Schram and John Ipsen smooth out the new trail with McLeods.

North Country Trail Fun Hike Explores Water Features

By Joyce Cielecki

On Saturday July 25th, three intrepid hikers, led by Chequamegon Chapter member Janice Nelson, hiked from the Mineral Lake Road trailhead to the Brunsweiler River and back. The hikers enjoyed beautiful Lake Three and the Brunsweiler River, and numerous Ghost Pipe plants (Monotropa uniflora), a parasitic plant that lacks chlorophyll, were spied along the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT).



Hiker Jim also noticed that if you listened closely to the bat house by Lake Three, you could hear the bats inside the house scurrying about!

The hikers agreed that this was a beautiful section of the North Country Trail and a wonderful hike, and even though there had been many strong storms in the area recently the trail was in excellent shape, thanks to the hard work of trail adopters Dennis Weibel and Lynn Krueger. Thank you!





Photos: 1. Beautiful Lake Three! 2. Ghost Pipe. 3. Bats in the bat house.

Photos by Joyce Cielecki.

Canthook Reroute Continued During August Workdays

By Mel Baughman



Pictured kneeling: Mark James. Front Row, left to right: Mel Baughman, Mark Belknap, Tristan Blackman, Tony Blackman, Derek Ogle and Kris Wegerson. Back Row, left to right: Noah Houck, Jonah Houck, Issac Jakaitis, Paul Houck, Ed Jakaitis, Jim Fridsma, and John Ipsen. Not pictured: Kevin Schram, Clair Morud, Tom Piikkila, and Julia Waggoner. Photo by Julia Waggoner.

On August 15 and 16 Chequamegon Chapter volunteers and members of Ashland Scout Troop 342 continued building tread on the hillside around Canthook Lake and ended only about 100 yards from an old roadbed where only mowing will be required for the next 0.87 miles. Wielding mattocks, McLeods, pulaskis, and loppers, our Chapter volunteers on Saturday included Mel Baughman, Mark Belknap, Jim Fridsma, John Ipsen, Mark James, Derek Ogle, Kevin Schramm, Julia Waggoner, and Kris Wegerson. Boy Scouts and their leaders included Tristan Blackman, Tony Blackman, Jonah Houck, Noah Houck, Paul Houck, Ed Jakaitis, and Isaac Jakaitis. Volunteers on Sunday included Mel Baughman, Mark James, Clair Morud, Derek Ogle, and Tom Piikkila.

Here's a recap of the great progress we've made this year.

Canthook Reroute During August (Continued)

Following mechanical work by a skid steer with a masticator head that chewed up brush along 1.2 miles of an old railroad grade, we finished clearing woody debris on that section, then removed small trees on a wooded stretch for another 0.10 miles. We still have some tread work to do, but the trail is very walkable for 1.3 miles.

Then we moved to Canthook Lake and worked southward building 805 yards of tread through the forest. There's just another 100 yards of tread to build before we meet a system of old dirt roads that lead us 0.87 miles forward to a 0.20 mile section of woods where more tread needs to be constructed. We also need to build about 0.2 miles of new trail from Canthook Lake up to Canthook Lake Road, then westward until we reach the trail heading north to Happles Lake.

To support our volunteer effort the US Forest Service has lined up a Student Conservation Experience crew (5 or 6 young people) to help us build trail for five days starting August 31. I previously worked with youth groups in their early 20s. They were enthusiastic folks with stamina that most of our chapter members can't match. I'm really looking forward to their contributions.

We are well on our way to creating a walkable tread for 3.36 miles of new NCT. That was our goal for the year and it's in reach!

The NCTA and USFS also are in discussions to provide substantial funds to the NCTA that would enable us to hire youth or professional trail crews to complete about 1.62 miles of new tread from Canthook Lake Road north to Musky Lake Road. Our goal is to complete that work in 2027.









Photo Captions Clockwise top to bottom: 1. Boy Scouts and other Volunteers listen intently to Mel as he demonstrates the use of various tools. 2. Mel leading the crew in trail building 101. 3. Front to back: Mark James, Tom Piikkila and Clair Morud build new tread around a corner (Lake in the background). 4. Jim Fridsma, Mark Belknap, Mark James and other Volunteers work at "benching" a new North Country National Scenic Trail above the lake.





Photo Caption, left to right: 1. Boy scouts Jonah Houck, Isaac Jakaitis, Noah Houck, Tristan Blackman take a break. 2. Ed Jakaitis and Tony Blackman, Scout leaders, discuss the Volunteer effort. 3. The Volunteer crew takes a well-deserved break on NEW North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT)!

Chequamegon Chapter Holds Fun Hike in the Porcupine Lake Wilderness

By Joyce Cielecki

On Saturday, August 22 eleven hikers traversed a portion of the Porcupine Lake Wilderness area, located approximately four miles southeast of Drummond, Wisconsin. The hikers were regularly challenged by numerous downed trees, but they enjoyed beautiful scenery and wonderful camaraderie.

The Porcupine Lake Wilderness area is suffering from extreme drought which has resulted in a nice dry trail, but the drought has also resulted in extremely low pond water levels. A highlight of the hike included an entomology lesson: one of the astute hikers spotted a pesky Japanese Beetle in the forest and upon further inspection found an egg of the parasitoid Winsome Fly on the beetle's head! (How cool is that!)



Another highlight was spotting a large cluster of young Chicken of the Woods fungus on a downed tree; this lovely mushroom is considered a choice edible. At the end of the hike, the hikers enjoyed treats from fellow hiker Rhiannon--thank you! Photos by Joyce Cielecki.



Photo Captions: 1. Happy Hikers on the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) with beautiful Porcupine Lake in the background. 2. Rhiannon Harmone by one of about a dozen recently downed trees.





Photo Captions, left to right: 1. Dryer than normal have left very low water levels in ponds along the trails. 2. Japanese Beetle with Winsome Fly egg. 3. Chicken of the Woods, AKA Sulfur Shelf.

Student Conservation Association Helps Build Canthook Reroute

By Mel Baughman

From August 31 through September 4 the Chequamegon Chapter was blessed with a crew from the Student Conservation Association. Three young people in their twenties plus an experienced crew leader worked with Chapter members to move beaver-cut trees, dig out tree roots and rocks, clear surface vegetation, and build a smooth tread on the Canthook Lake Reroute. They arrived with clean, sharp, well-oiled tools and three days of prior trail-building experience. By noon on the first day SCA members needed little further instruction on how to build the trail.

Starting at Canthook Lake on Monday, Karen Katz from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Headquarters in Rhinelander gave a brief overview of the National Forest's origin and mission. Katie LeMoine from the Great Divide District Office led us through a hazard analysis so we would understand personal safety issues and mitigation strategies. Mel Baughman briefly described the North Country Trail Association and our role in building and maintaining the trail. We then collected hand tools and hiked a half mile to begin trail building. We completed about 100 yards of new tread and began removing small tree stumps from the next section. SCA crew members included Eden Fox, Kai Morgan, Westwood Sutherland, and leader Joe Lentino. Karen Katz and Katie LeMoine represented the USFS. Mel Baughman, Jeff Laney, and Derek Ogle were volunteers from the Chequamegon Chapter.

On Tuesday we continued onward building two more short sections of tread interspersed with sections of old road that needed little work, then finished by removing tree roots on a third section. We hiked out at least 1 ½ miles at the end of the day. The only incident occurred when Mel disturbed a ground nest of yellow jackets or hornets while operating a backpack leaf blower. He endured at least nine stings and hiked out in early afternoon with no significant after-effects. Besides the SCA crew, volunteers included Mel Baughman, Clair Morud, and Derek Ogle.

On Wednesday Derek Ogle led the SCA crew to another section of trail where earlier this summer Chapter members removed tree stumps and surface vegetation. On this day the SCA crew continued benching and flattening the tread along a steep, rocky slope. This is the most difficult section of tread work we've encountered.

Thursday was a repeat of Wednesday--continuing to bench and level the tread on a steep, rocky slope. We were relieved to complete this section—YEA! Derek Ogle and Mel Baughman again joined the SCA crew.

On Friday we built the last section of tread needed on the southern half of the Canthook Lake Reroute! Using a brush saw borrowed from the USFS, Derek Ogle cut small trees along 0.2 miles of an old roadbed, then mowed that section and finally blew loose vegetation off the trail. Meanwhile other crew members moved cut materials off the trail and dug up stumps. Then we built about 130 yards of tread from Canthook Lake Road downhill to a previously built

Student Conservation Association Helps Build Canthook Reroute (Continued)

section of trail adjacent to Canthook Lake. Besides the SCA crew and Derek, other Chapter volunteers included Mel Baughman, John Ipsen, Kevin Schram, and Kris Wegerson.



Returning to Canthook Lake, volunteers will improve the first half mile of hastily built tread by benching, removing edge berms, and removing matted vegetation in scattered locations. Spur trails also need to be constructed to two campsites if time permits. Photos by Mel Baughman.

We were grateful to have the SCA crew this week; they were fun to work with and significantly helped our progress with the re-route

More Chapter workdays are planned on September 19 and 20.













Photo Captions, clockwise top to bottom: 1. Conservation Experience Crew, Left to right: Eden Fox, Westwood Sutherland, Kai Morgan, Joe Lentino. 2. Volunteers and USFS Pictured left to right: Derek Ogle, Eden Fox, Jeff Laney, Westwood Sutherland, Kai Morgan, Joe Lentino, Katie LeMoine, Karen Katz. 3. Westwood Sutherland walks down the new trail. 4. Joe Lentino benches a rocky hillside with a rogue hoe while Kai Morgan works in the background. 5. Kai Morgan benches the tread with a pick-mattock. 6. Derek Ogle removes a vegetation mat with a pick-mattock. 7. Clair Morud removes an old birch log with a pick-mattock.

Fine-tuning a Portion of the Canthook Reroute

By Derek Ogle

On the wonderfully cool 19-Sep-2026, five volunteers returned to the portion of the Canthook Reroute trail along the western shore of Canthook Lake and applied finishing (hopefully?) touches to the tread that was roughed-in a few weeks ago. Our goals were to further remove organic material from the tread, shape the tread to the desired out-slope, remove berms from the downhill side of the tread, and create dips and diversions to shed water.



We missed the eagle-eye leadership of our President, Mel Baughman, but we all felt that the tread was improved by the end of the day. Volunteers led by Derek Ogle included the steadfast Mark James and Clair Morud and newcomers (to our chapter and this work, but seasoned trail hikers) Bryan and Brenda DeVries. Photos by Derek Ogle.



Photo Captions, left to right: 1. Clair with a Pulaski (foreground) and Mark with a McLeod (background) finishing the trail. 2. Brenda with a rake (foreground) and Brian with a McLeod (background) finishing the trail.

Long Mile Lookout Fun Hike

By Ed Ronkowski

This morning with perfect hiking weather several Lake Owen residents joined the Chequamegon Chapter of the North Country Trail weekly hike with this week's hike from the County Highway D Trailhead 5 miles east of Lake Owen eastbound on the North Country Trail, going past East Davis Lake, East Davis Lake Campsite, the location where the birch bark was removed from the tree according to Chippewa tradition, past a section with many large outcroppings of rock, and to the decommissioned fire tower where we at our lunch before hiking back to the parking lot. What an enjoyable hike at the start of the Fall colors. Photos by Ed Ronkoswki.



Photo Caption: Hike participants have Lunch at the base of the Fire Tower. (The ladder has been removed from the bottom part of the tower so that no one will climb up into the decommissioned tower.)

Long Mile Lookout Fun Hike (Continued)







Photo Captions, clockwise top to bottom: 1. Closeup of East Davis Lake Campsite. 2. The decommissioned Long Mile Lookout Tower with bottom of ladder removed. 3. Another rock outcropping. 4. One of a number of rock outcroppings along this section of North Country National Scenic Trail.



Canthook Lake Reroute Fun Hike

By Julia Waggoner



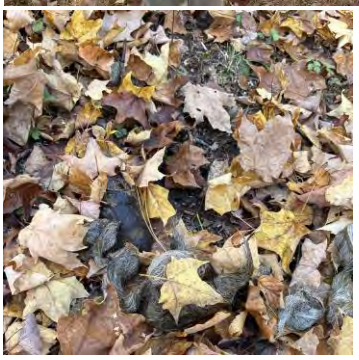
On Saturday October 10, 2026, the Chequamegon Chapter held a fun hike on the partially finished Canthook Lake Trail Reroute on new North Country National Scenic Trail in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. A number of the hike participants where Volunteers in the trail building event days.

Julia had this to say: “It was a lovely day. The group included Ed Ronkowski, Jim Fridsma, Jill Meilahn (in pink), Kevin Schram, Tom Matthiae, Don Quick, Mel Baughman, Jim Jensen (next to Mel), Joyce Cielecki, and Joyce's friend Mic Pelech. Nice group. Kevin, Ed, and Mel, all filled us in on the land acquisition and the summer's work on the reroute. And twice we saw wolf scat in the middle of the trail--very cool!”

Photos by Julia Waggoner

Canthook Lake Reroute Fun Hike (Continued)







Photos clockwise, top to bottom: 1. The participants listen intently to one of Mel's informative interpretive stops. 2. A break along the NEW North Country National Scenic Trail with a view of a very scenic fall lake. 3. The fall leaves provided the smell and crunch of a beautiful fall hike.

Two Backcountry Campsites Constructed

By Mel Baughman

During our Chequamegon Chapter's October 17 and 18 workdays, an experienced volunteer crew constructed two backcountry campsites on Canthook Lake and Steelhead Lake. At each campsite we cleared vegetation from the campfire area, leveled three tent pads, installed a registration box and campsite sign, and built connector trails from the North Country National Scenic Trail to the campsite and to a nearby water source. We hope the US Forest Service recreation staff will be able to use a snowmobile this winter to transport two log benches and a steel fire ring to each campsite.



Saturday's awesome Chequamegon Chapter Volunteers, left to right: Ed Ronkowski, Derek Ogle, Kevin Schram, Sandy Beeksma, Rhiannon Harmon, Jim Fridsma, Mel Baughman, and Mark James.

Volunteers on Saturday included Mel Baughman, Sandy Beeksma, Jim Fridsma, Rhiannon Harmon, Mark James, Derek Ogle, Ed Ronkowski, Kevin Schram, and Julia Waggoner. Sunday's crew again included Mel, Sandy, Jim, Rhiannon, Mark, and Derek. We owe special thanks to Jim Fridsma for making campsite signs and assembling the registration boxes on posts and for transporting those items to both campsites with the aid of a hand cart. That was about a three-mile round-trip route pushing the cart! Jim will also build log benches for each campsite.

Next spring we will complete the southern half of the Canthook Lake reroute when we install

directional signs and blue blazes. We will then begin building the north half of this reroute between Canthook Lake Road and Musky Lake Road. We anticipate receiving a large financial grant from the US Forest Service to hire either youth or professional crews to support our volunteers in building that last segment of the reroute. Photos by Julia Waggoner, Mel Baughman and Derek Ogle.















Photos clockwise, top to bottom: 1. Mel giving instructions before staring a campsite. 2. Sandy Beeksma, Ed Ronkowski, and Kevin Schram clear a fire ring location. 3. Volunteers work on trail to one of the campsites. 4. Jim Fridsma uses a mattock to clear vegetation from a tent pad. 5. Derek Ogle uses a rake to level a tent pad. 6. Mark James blows leaves off a fire ring location. 7. Jim Fridsma installs a registration box.









Photo Captions, clockwise top left to right: 1. Rhianna Harmon uses a McLeod to level a fire ring location. 2. Sandy Beeksma uses a mattock to remove an old stump from the campsite trail. 3 Steelhead Lake campsite trail, registration box, and fire ring location. 4. Spur trail to Steelhead Lake Campsite.

Two NCT Navigators Maintain Trail in The Rainbow Lake Wilderness

By Sara Balbin

After yesterday's serious storm that took down numerous trees and damaged buildings in Cable, Jackie Kruse and Sara Balbin hiked their adopted Rainbow Lake Wilderness section of North Country National Scenic Trail in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest on 10/30/26 to check for damage. It was a beautiful blue sky day, and we cleared the path of one tree. There is still one more to cut, otherwise the trail looks good.

Sara and Jackie had this to say about the trail maintenance: "Yes, it is Jackie sawing and we both said, "Good Omen" when we saw the eagle." Photos by Sara Balbin.

Photo Captions, left to right: 1. Jackie Kruse using a handsaw on a downed birch tree on the North Country National Scenic Trail. This is a designated wilderness section and only hand tools can be used. 2. A bald eagle joins in on the trail maintenance. Both Sara and Jackie considered this a good omen.





Chequamegon Chapter Holds Annual Fall Meeting

By Marty Swank

The Chequamegon Chapter of the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) held their Annual Fall Meeting on Saturday, November 7, 2026. Highlights of the meeting included reports by Mary Stenberg, Julia Waggoner, Jim Fridsma, Marty Swank, Joyce Cielecki, and Ed Ronkowski. The meeting was led by Chapter President Mel Baugman who gave updates on the numerous Chapter gains this past trail maintenance/building season. One major gain was a partial (3 ½ Miles) of the long anticipated Canthook North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) reroute.

Katie Le Moine represented the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Service with future goals and praise for the Volunteer work done so far on the Canthook Reroute and the excellent leadership of Mel Baughman in this effort. The Chequamegon Chapter works closely with the USFS, NCTA, and DNR in their NCT efforts.

Awards were handed out to Chapter Volunteers. Jim Fridsma was awarded the NCTA Chapter Honor Award and Mary Swank received the Major Contributor Award. Other important outcomes of the meeting: Tom Piikkila agreed to become a Co-Eastern Trail Manager and Ed Ronkowski became the Chapter's new Hike Coordinator.



The meeting closed with an outstanding presentation by Matt Ostrander who recently completed a hike on Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail.

Photos by Julia Waggoner.

Participants at the Chequamegon Chapter's Annual Fall Meeting, kneeling left to right: Mary Stenberg, Mel Baughman, Don Quick, Joyce Cielecki, Katie LeMoine, and Diane Menard. Standing: left to right: Bob Lind, Matt Ostrander, Jill Meilahn, Tom Matthiae, Kevin Schram, Marty Swank, Brian DeVries, Vickie Swank, Jim Fridsma, Jim Crandall, Colin Tingo, Tom Piikkila, Mark Belknap, Lynn Kruger, Dennis Weibel and Ed Ronkowski. Not pictured and photo by Julia Waggoner.





Photos left to right:

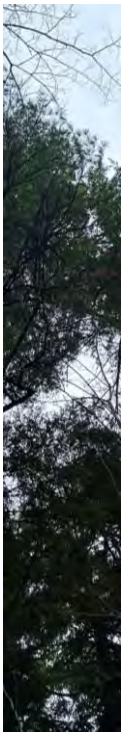
1. Mel presents the NCTA Chapter Honor Award to Jim Fridsma for all the many dedicated Volunteer efforts this past year including the Canthook Trail Re-route efforts.

2. Mel presents Marty Swank with the Chapter's Major Contributor Award for past and present efforts.

NCT NAVIGATORS at A Glance








President's Notes:

By Mel Baughman



Our Chequamegon Chapter has had a very successful year with trail adopters clearing brush after a tough winter and windy summer, shuttle drivers performing their trail angel role to assist long-distance hikers, hike leaders providing opportunities for hikers to enjoy the trail, and volunteers building over three miles of new trail—a huge accomplishment. At our recent fall meeting we presented the NCTA Honor Award to Jim Fridsma and Chapter Major Contributor Award to Marty Swank, but there were dozens of volunteers who contributed to our activities. We sincerely thank all of you. Enjoy your winter off but stay in shape for next year's hikes and trail building!