

◆ Thunder Bay Trails News ◆

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Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

April 14, 1997

Mission statement: *The mission of the Thunder Bay Trails Association is to promote and protect non-motorized trail systems in Alpena county and adjoining areas so as to reflect its recreational significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure for its area*

Trails Group Formed to Protect Area's Non-Motorized Trails

During the past few years, Chippewa Hills Pathway and Norway Ridge Pathway, two of Northeastern Michigan's celebrated trails, have undergone various changes. The Chippewa Hills area has been utilized for its natural gas, and recent clear cuts and selective cuts have started to scar this small patch of state land in Alpena county. Norway Ridge Pathway has also felt its share of neglect; the trails need maintenance work to alleviate several areas that



Attend the Norway Ridge walk on April 22 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about evening wildlife rituals.

are flooded and impassable in the summer. Many signs need to be fixed or replaced at both Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills Pathway. Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills trails are fantastic non-motorized recreational areas that should be treated as gems for Northeastern Michigan and should be protected, maintained, and promoted, not neglected and forgotten. Vince Call, an avid cross country skier and "silent sports" outdoorsman, decided it was time for the area citizens to gather and create an organization to protect the area's local non-motorized trails. The concept of a non-motorized trail users group has received an overwhelmingly positive

response from Alpena's citizens (80 members strong) and so the Thunder Bay Trails Association was formed. Since the first meeting in February, the group has developed a charter and planned several spring activities. The group meets every second Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at ACC.

Spring Walk Planned at Norway Ridge Pathway

Deb Hautau, a biology instructor at Alpena Community College, will be providing a unique look at Norway Ridge Pathway at 6:30 p.m. on April 22. Deb has worked in the past as a naturalist for Huron-Clinton Metroparks and teaches a field biology class in the summer at ACC. She writes, "The nature walk will provide a fresh look at the first signs of spring with a special look at the sounds of spring. Now is the time when nature comes to life,

National Trails Day Celebrated

On June 7, our nation's historic and not so historic trails are honored; the day is titled, of course, National Trails Day. While many people are unaware of the holiday and the event isn't made famous by Hallmark Greeting cards, the Thunder Bay Trails Association is planning on celebrating National Trails Day at Chippewa Hills Pathway by having a group hike led by a guest speaker from the Michigan DNR. The guest speaker will discuss current forestry practices in Michigan. Please meet at 1:00 p.m. at Chippewa Hills.

Calendar of Events

- **April 22**, 6:30 p.m.
Sounds of Spring Walk - Norway Ridge Pathway
- **May 3**, 7:30 p.m.
Woodcock Spring Mating Rituals - Norway Ridge Pathway
- **May 17**, 1:00 p.m.
Family Mountain Bike outing - Chippewa Hills Pathway
- **June 7**, 1:00 p.m.
National Trails Day Celebration - Chippewa Hills Pathway