

Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 5, Issue 2

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

April 2001

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 and reflect their recreational significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure to area citizens.*

- May 5, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.—Norway Ridge Pathway—Sounds of Spring Hike
- May 7, Monday, 7:00 p.m.—TBTA Monthly Meeting, 19th Hole, Alpena, (Board Elections)
- June 2, Saturday, 3:00 p.m.—Norway Ridge Pathway, National Trails Day Commemoration
- June 4, Monday, 7:00 p.m.—TBTA Monthly Meeting, ACC Center Building, room 106
- June 23, Saturday, 1:00 p.m.—Chippewa Hills, Mandjidiwin Days Mtn. Bike Race

TBTA on the Web:

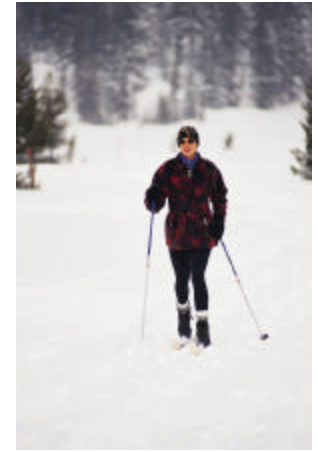


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Ski Season, Best Yet!

Reflecting on this past ski season, it's easy to state that we enjoyed one of the most *normal* winters that we've had in a long time. We had snow on the ground for cross-country skiing mid December through March, with both ample snowfall and normal temperatures. As a result of the normal snowfall, the TBTA hosted two candlelight ski evenings at Norway Ridge Pathway and a family ski day at the City Bïpath—both received full press coverage and were well attended. The irony of the normal winter is that the Thunder Bay Trails Association had a hard time keeping up with the grooming at the Norway Ridge Pathway, Chippewa Hills Pathway, and the City of Alpena Bïpath. Our two key groomers, Ron Anderson and Randy Fairbanks, spent over 100 hours grooming and maintaining the three ski trails in Northeastern Michigan. If you see either Ron or Randy, make certain to 'pat them on the back' and say 'thank you' for all their help and hard work. Also, the TBTA would like to recognize Bruno Hirzel of Hirzel Signs for donating a specially designed sign to warn skiers that the trails are being groomed.



We had plenty of snow and great skiing on area groomed trails this past winter.

Spring Events Planned

The TBTA has several events planned for everyone this spring. Starting Saturday, May 5th at Norway Ridge Pathway, Deb Hautau, a biology instructor with Alpena Community College, will lead people on a casual nature hike at Norway Ridge Pathway. On June 2nd, the dedication and recognition of National Trails Day at Norway Ridge Pathway will convene. See the events calendar for a complete listing of the dates and events scheduled.



TBTA Takes on Strategic Planning Focus

The monthly meetings planned for this spring will include revisiting the Thunder Bay Trails Association's By-laws, election of an official Board of Directors, and a strategic planning approach for the TBTA. The TBTA intends to engage in long-range planning for Northeastern Michigan trails; some of the long-range issues include sign improvement, trail improvements, and trail renovations and/or expansion. During the next series of monthly meetings the TBTA Board of Directors will also develop a plan for future events, trail projects, communications, trail ski grooming, and general operations. Another topic of discussion will be how to increase the TBTA's endowment fund created by Chuck and Kathy Ingle. If you would like to participate in planning for the future of the TBTA, then plan on attending the monthly meetings for May and June. We will keep you posted on this topic.

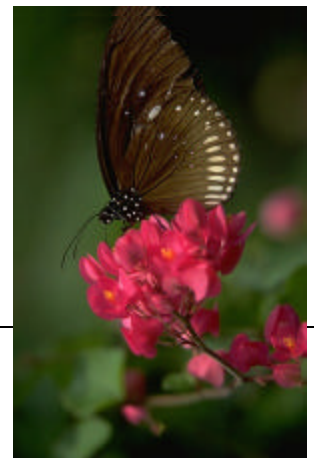
Board of Directors Elections to be Held

A slate of board of directors was selected at the April meeting. The TBTA by-laws outline the process of maintaining a board of directors. Revisiting of the bylaws at the past meeting has led to the recognition that an active board with committees is necessary for the continued progress of TBTA. Elections of the board will occur at the May 7th meeting which will be held at the 19th Hole on US 23 N. at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be a social gathering and planning meeting for the upcoming National Trails Day and the Mandjidiwin Days Chippewa Hills Bike Race. Listed below is the slate of the board members. The board members will be responsible to elect the officers for the coming year and establish the necessary committees. Questions and comments can be directed to the board members at the May 7th meeting

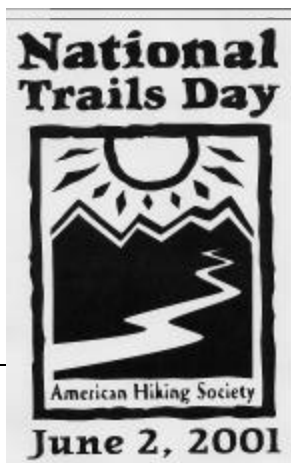
Dave Blumenthal	Jeff Blumenthal	Steve Brochu	Vince Call
Elise DeMerell	Randy Fairbanks	Jerry Keen	Bob Niedzwiecki
Dave Sedlow	Al Spafford	Tom Woizeschke	

Sounds of Spring Walk

Once again TBTA will host a Sounds of Spring Walk at Norway Ridge Pathway on Saturday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. Alpena Community College biology instructor, Deb Hautau, will once again volunteer to host the walk and provide the enhanced eyes and ears of the forest community as it awakens for another season of life! Plan on attending for this informative and fun filled walk at the Norway Ridge trail system.



National Trails Day Event at Norway Ridge



TBTA will host a National Trails Day Event at Norway Ridge Pathway on June 2nd at 3:00 p.m. Dedication of the new welcome/map sign and installation of new parking lot barriers will be a part of the event. Representatives from the Boys Scouts of America, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and state representative Andy Neumann will all be present. Louisiana Pacific of Alpena will assist with sponsoring a live radio broadcast from the event. Plans are underway for a local sporting business to have a display of non-motorized recreational equipment and the latest mountain bikes. Refreshments and door prizes will also be provided. This is an opportunity to recognize the efforts of the local trail volunteers so please plan on attending.

Nordic Grooming Team Recognized

The ski grooming team of Randy Fairbanks and Ron Anderson were recognized at the past TBTA meeting. A dinner gift certificate to the Italian restaurant, Jeppetos along with a fill up of gas for their truck was provided as a small token of appreciation of a job well done! Over 100 hundred hours of grooming time and trail maintenance was completed by these two members at the Norway Ridge Pathway, Chippewa Hills Pathway, and the City BiPath. If you are an avid Nordic skier and have not joined our association please consider joining. It is only through our volunteers both working and funding that we can continue to provide the quality of trails that exist today in our area. If you see Randy or Ron be sure to let them know that you have joined the Association and appreciate their hard work.

CHIPPEWA HILLS MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE SCHEDULED

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has granted a special event permit to run the first ever Chippewa Hills Mountain bike race on June 23, 2001. The race will be held in conjunction with the Hubbard Lake Lions Mandjidiwin Days festival. As many 'locals' know, Chippewa Hills is the 'Lemans' trail of mountain biking, with great hills, rolling flats, and steep uphill all in a beautiful hardwood forest. The fast terrain changes in the course should lend itself to a very fast, challenging race venue. Randy Fairbanks is spearheading the planning and will need numerous volunteers to assist in planning the event and volunteers for race day. Please volunteer to assist in this event being sponsored by TBTA by coming to the May membership meeting or calling Randy Fairbanks (727-3702) to join one of the event committees being formed.



TBTA Joins with MMBA and IMBA

At the April meeting the Association voted to reestablish membership with the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) and the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). The MMBA is a key player at the state level in non-motorized trail development and the TBTA needs the support of the MMBA for our entry into the mountain bike race arena and for the scheduled Chippewa Hills bike event. Reestablishment of MMBA and IMBA membership was unanimous at the last monthly meeting. Joining arms with this statewide group will place TBTA at the forefront of non-motorized trail advocacy.



IMBA is a non-profit, public supported organization working to keep trails open and in good condition for everyone.



Northern Michigan Trail Summit

TBTA will be represented at the Northern Michigan Trail Summit May 31–June 1 at Sylvan Resort in Gaylord. The Top of Michigan Trails Association, Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Rails to Trails, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will co-sponsor the summit. Future funding issues and directions for the development of non-motorized trails will be highlighted at the conference. Randy Fairbanks will make sure that TBTA is recognized as a key player in the trail planning process for Northeast Michigan.

TB Watershed Council to Host Races

TBTA member Jon Webb wishes to extend an invitation to all TBTA friends and families to attend and participate in the canoe races along the Thunder Bay River in Alpena. TBTA will host a fun canoe/kayak waterway tour of the Sanctuary Park during the event weekend set for June 30 & July 1. The Thunder Bay Watershed Council works to protect and preserve the Thunder Bay River and its watershed and has hosted the canoe races for many years. Proceeds from the event will go towards funding to construct and maintain the Sytek River Park at the Bagley Street Bridge.

TB Watershed Council to Host Races

TBTA member Joe Gentry wishes to invite TBTA members to the 5 k fun run and a 10 mile bike ride at the second annual Thunder Bay River Festival held on the river banks in downtown Alpena. Last year's event was an exciting and fun filled celebration of the beginning of the summer festival season and a celebration of one of Alpena's natural resources - the Thunder Bay River.

Thunder Bay Trails Association

2700 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766



2001 TBTA Contributing Members and Donors

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Cary and Donna Bautel
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Kristin Benghauser
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Jon and Sarah Webb
James Weeks
John and Rita Wilberg
Tom and Judy Woizeschke
Bob and Darlynn Wysocki
Dan and Janine Zielaskowski

*** If your name is missing or you would like to donate to the TBTA, please contact Vince Call or Jeff Blumenthal at the number listed below.*

Thanks so much to all that donated and paid dues!!