

Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 2, Issue 3

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

December 1998

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.*

- **Monthly Meeting,**
1/11/99 – 7:00 p.m.
ACC Center Building, Room 106
- **Moonlight/
Candlelight Ski –**
1/30/99 – 7:00 p.m.
Norway Ridge Pathway
- **Monthly Meeting,**
2/08/99 – 7:00 p.m.
ACC Center Building, Room 106
- **Valentine's Day
Ski –** 2/13/99 – 1:00 p.m.
Chippewa Hills Pathway
- **Moonlight/
Candlelight Ski –**
2/27/99 – 7:00 p.m.
Norway Ridge Pathway
- **Monthly Meeting,**
3/08/99 – 7:00 p.m.
ACC Center Building, Room 106

Ski Groomer Purchased

The TBTA finalized the purchase of cross-country ski grooming equipment in December. The heavy-duty snowmobile, purchased from Big Jim's Sports Unlimited of Alpena is valued at \$6,000.00, while the Tidd-Tech cross-country ski groomer/track-setter is valued at \$3,000.00.

The TBTA decided to take on the task of acquiring and purchasing a cross-country ski groomer because of decreased grooming being done by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The MDNR has had a decrease in funding and staffing for cross-country ski trail maintenance in the past few years. Our organization felt that it was important that we assist the MDNR with

their grooming efforts; therefore, the TBTA worked out an agreement to allow our organization to assist with ski grooming at Norway Ridge Pathway of Alpena and Chippewa Hills Pathway of Hubbard Lake.

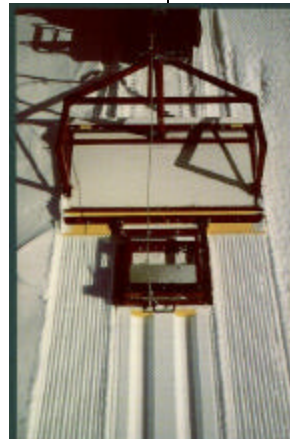
Ski Grooming is Costly...

We are entering into the ski grooming business very cautiously as the venture is very costly and will take much dedication and financial commitment from our organization. We are thankful that Dave Sedlow has stepped forward to offer his snowmobile trailer for transporting the equipment and Randy Fairbanks has of-

While Alpena General Hospital staff members along with other benefactors in the community have supported our efforts through donations towards the purchase of the grooming equip-

ment, we still will have to pay off the balance of the loan for the equipment. Also, each year the TBTA will have to incur \$150 to \$200 for gas for the groomer, \$350 for insurance and other miscellaneous costs associated

with maintaining mechanical equipment. Therefore, we will be promoting a series of fundraising events and will have to enlist in the financial support of our members and the community that will benefit from the ski grooming. We need your support!



The TBTA purchased a cross-country ski groomer and snowmobile for the maintenance of area ski trails.

Why Groom X-C Trails?

Cross-country skiing on ungroomed trails for an inexperienced skier is like driving a two wheel drive car off road through loose sand. Cross-country skiing on ungroomed ski trails can be frustrating for the beginner or young skier. The essence of cross-country skiing is the glide and without a properly set track for skis, the skier spends more effort trying to plow through snow and keeping the skis together than gliding. Young skiers benefit from groomed ski trails as they are able to ski more easily and faster and learn proper techniques. Regularly groomed ski trails not only help people ski more efficiently, but the packed snow helps hold snow on trails longer into the ski season. Well groomed ski trails can make cross-country skiing much more enjoyable and effortless for both young and old.



1999 Membership Dues

Please observe that TBTA membership dues are now due for 1999. If you paid your dues last year – Thank You! Our goals and trail maintenance efforts are dependent upon paying members. Please use the enclosed form to submit dues.

TBTA Fall Work Completed

This past fall has been busy for the Thunder Bay Trails Association. Several members of the TBTA along with MDNR and Boysville/Huron House kids spent several weekends at Norway Ridge Pathway repairing and fixing the trails. One weekend was spent trimming the trees and brush back from the trails, removing downed debris, painting trail markers on trees, and putting up new



TBTA members feverishly pounded nails and fit boards for a new boardwalk at the Norway Ridge Pathway beaver pond.

signs and maps on sign posts. Three weekends were utilized by TBTA members to complete a major construction project at a low-lying wet spot near the Norway Ridge Pathway beaver ponds. The MDNR, through a state recreation grant, purchased \$7100.00 worth of treated lumber for a 420 foot boardwalk. The boardwalk, also known as a floating deck,



The Boysville/Huron House kids put in some long, hard days under the direction of MDNR's Rich Barber.

is eight feet wide and took approximately 220 volunteer hours to complete.

Joe Soncrainte of the MDNR Alpena

field office trucked the treated lumber within a quarter mile of the construction site. The Boysville/Huron House kids and other volunteers helped move the treated lumber with a trailer and four wheeler the rest of the way. Rich Barber of the MDNR and Robert Niedzwiecki helped provide the technical knowledge and leadership for the project.

Fortunately, the weather was very

cooperative for the series of weekend work bees and the camaraderie was fantastic. Joe Soncrainte and Rich Barber have also reported that the

parking lot at Norway Ridge has been redesigned to accommodate more parking

and new gravel has been put down to fix the parking area surface.

While the decking will be hard to notice now that winter is here,



The completed boardwalk is 420 feet long and utilized 220 volunteer hours to build.

please be certain to take a walk and observe all the hard work and beauty of the decking in the spring.

****Please be certain to pay your 1999 membership dues. Also, please assist us by offering an extra donation for the cross-country ski grooming equipment. Thank You!**



TBTA 1999 Membership Form

THUNDER BAY TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Please take the time to fill out the form completely. This information will help to better assist our individual members needs and assist with planning and grant writing for trail maintenance and improvement.



PLEASE PRINT!

Please send form to:
TBTA
2700 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766

Name: _____ **Names of Household Members:** _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone Number: _____ **Work Phone Number:** (Optional) _____

Occupation: _____ **E-mail Address:** (Optional) _____

What activities do you participate in? PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY!

- Hiking
- X-C Skiing
- Mtn. Biking
- Running
- Nature Viewing
- Family Trail Walks
- Horseback Riding

1999 Membership Dues:

Please check one category!

- Student \$5.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Household \$20.00

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Groomer Donation: \$ _____

Thunder Bay Trails Association is a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization. Donations and membership dues are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

Thank You!!

Thunder Bay Trails Association

2700 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766

Postage



First Name Last Name
Address
City, State Zip Code

1998 TBTA Contributing Members and Donors

Bernie Lamp	Alpena High School
Summit Sports	Al and Carla Kurzenhauser
Vince and Mary Call	Art & Sharon LaBrecque
Jeff and Amy Blumenthal	Joseph Swallow
James and Cecelia Bullen	Jerry Keen
Steve Brochu	Alpena General Hospital
Stu and Gail Stuber	Joyce Smigelski
Tom Brandt	Sharon Rickard
David Blumenthal	Philip and Rosanne Schultz
Richard Barber	Robert L. Niedzwiecki
Jon and Sarah Webb	Brad Vauter
Ron and Fran Anderson	Steve Conradson
Dwain Abramowski	Peg Seguin
John A. McVeety	Al Spafford
John Wilberg	Michael and Suzanne Ferguson
Bevin Clayton	Steve and Amy Tongue
Kent Kirkland	Gregory Adamus
Dave Hammerquist	Kathryn Bianchi
Tim Gulden	Jim and Carey Rapin
Joe Gentry	Mark and Deb Milostan
Michael Garant	Elise DeMerell
Randy Fairbanks	Dennis Hansen
Chad McDonald	Tom Brindley
Clint Kendziorski	Berne and Ruth O'Brian
Mike Mandrick	Mavis DesRocher
John Divney	James Anderson
Todd Dewell	

*** If you feel 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!!