

# Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 6, Issue 2

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

DECEMBER 2002

**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.

## TBTA EVENTS:

- January 18/ Feb 15th – TBTA Candlelight Ski – Norway Ridge Pathway, 7:00 pm.
- January 24/25 - [Noqumanon Ski Marathon](#) - Marquette, MI
- February 1: White Pine Stampede, Mancelona. Cross country ski race
- February 8: Subaru North American VASA, Traverse City. Cross country ski races
- February 22 - North American Birkebeiner - Hayward, WI
- March 15 - Wabos Loppet - Stokely Creek, Canada

TBTA on the Web:



[www.ossineke.com/tbta](http://www.ossineke.com/tbta)

## CANDLE LIGHT SKI TO BE RESUMED THIS SEASON.

The annual candle light ski sponsored by TBTA at Norway Ridge trails each January and February will once again be scheduled. Cancelled last season due to the extreme low snow/no snow winter of 2001-2002, will be held on 1-18 and 2-15-2003. Those of you who have participated or volunteered over the past few years at this event recognize this as one of the unique Nordic ski outing in our area during the winter months. This has been a primary membership event for TBTA and without this event last winter our membership roles suffered. It is with optimism that the dates have been set and plans are being made to resume the candle light ski. Please mark your calendar and attend to show support for TBTA to maintain quality Nordic trails in Northeast Michigan.



## WALMART RECOGNIZES TBTA EFFORTS

Wal-Mart provided \$500.00 to the TBTA trails project for the coming year. Without solicitation from TBTA, Wal-Mart recognized TBTA as a local environmental group actively working in the community to better the environment for the residence. A big thanks to Wal-Mart! The funds will be put towards ongoing projects that the MDNR no longer funds with manpower or materials within the Mackinaw State Forest at Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills.



## TBTA LAPEL PINS OFFERED TO MEMBERS THIS YEAR.

In recognition to our members this year the newly designed lapel pins will be given to all paid members as part of membership promotion this year. The pins will be available to all memberships paid for the 2002-2003 year. The pins can be picked up at the monthly meeting, the second Tuesday of the month at ACC 106 or at our scheduled work bees, or candle light ski events in January. The pins will be available for purchase for \$3.00 at local sports shops and fitness centers.

## SPRING WORK BEE A SUCCESS AT CHIPPEWA HILLS

Chippewa Hills trails were the focus of a major all day sign upgrade project this past May. All signs on the trail and directional road MDNR signs were painted and replaced. Over fifteen members worked eight hours on the project, with TBTA providing a picnic lunch provided at Randy's. As you hike or ski Chippewa please notice that the directional post, parking lot board, and outhouse have been refurbished by your local TBTA members. Future plans are for the graveling of the parking lot, which has had no upkeep in many years since the MDNR abandoned the trail as a budgeted non-motorized system.



For more information, please contact Vince Call (989)356-9216 - [www.ossineke.com/tbta](http://www.ossineke.com/tbta)

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**Sunday June 23, 2002**

**The second annual mountain bike race took place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Chippewa Hills Pathway.** The race was sponsored by Thunder Bay Trails Association, and sanctioned by the Michigan Mountain Bike Association as a Championship Point Series exhibition race.

The weather was hot and humid which made for some challenging racing conditions. The racecourse was in excellent condition, well marked and fast. The single-track sections of the course offered some technically challenging areas to compliment the fast hard pack and many hills. Many compliments were

received as to the quality of the course, the excellent organization and the execution of the race.

There were 46 entrants in the race. Racers came from Southfield, Fenton, Lansing, Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills, Lake Orion, Melvindale, Harrison, Grand Blanc, Petoskey, Charlevoix, Walled Lake, Midland, Dexter, Portage, Waterford, Gladwin as well as northeast Michigan. Entrants raced in four divisions, (Elite, Expert, Sport and Beginner). The Elite and Expert Divisions did 3 laps amounting to 27 miles. The Sport Division did two laps amounting to 18 miles. The Beginner Division did one lap at 9 miles. Two separate start times were used. Elite, Expert and Sport riders started at 12:00 N. The Beginner class went off at 2:00 PM.

The overall Elite rider finished the 27 miles in less than two hours. Top sport riders completed the course in less than one and a half hours. Top Beginner finishers completed the course in less than one hour. Tandem riders Dave Connor and his 8-year old son, Kevin, posted an impressive time.



## STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, (Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division), held an open house and compartment review on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the Atlanta Office. The compartment review involved the Chippewa Hills Pathway located in the Mackinaw State Forest. Approximately one-tenth of the compartments of a management unit are inventoried each year. The inventory deals with timber harvesting, wildlife, recreational facilities and other management concerns. The open house is intended to give interested citizens the opportunity to discuss issues and ideas on a one-to-one basis. Randy Fairbanks, representing TBTA attended the open house and had an opportunity to discuss concerns involving the Chippewa Hills Pathway. Randy met with Richard Stevenson, Assistant Unit Manager. TBA requested that the DNR would continue to recognize the importance of non-motorized recreation and the importance of the Chippewa Hills and Norway Ridge as part of the Forest pathway system.

## MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL



**TBTA** along with 20 other organizations has joined forces with the Michigan Environmental Council. Brad Garmon, Special Projects Co-Coordinator MEC has brought together this coalition to form the MRNTC, (Michigan Recreation and Non-Motorized Transportation Coalition). The MRNTC is a network of trail groups, non-motorized transportation and public health advocates, conservationists and environmentalists, educators and quiet sports and outdoor recreation groups working together to improve state recreation and non-motorized transportation; protect open space and recreation lands; and create healthy neighborhoods and walk-able communities that preserve the option to lead an active, fulfilling lifestyle in Michigan.

## TBTA FALL WORK PROJECT A SUCCESS

The weekend of 9-28-02 found a strong group of TBTA members on hand to prepare the Norway Ridge Trails for the coming ski season. Brushing of the trails, sign post upkeep and a badly needed deck repair were completed. Lunch was served in the all day project which started at 9:00 am and was finally completed at 6:00 pm. Many hours of volunteer time during the 2001/2002 trail season were provided by your fellow members, between the Nordic trail grooming, Spring and Fall work bee projects and the Mountain Bike race. Without the volunteer efforts the local trails systems would quickly fall in disrepair, as the MDNR continues to provide no funding for non-motorized trails.



### TBTA 2003 Membership Application

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:**

*Thank You!!*

**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!

- |                                  |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking  | <input type="checkbox"/> X-C Skiing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mtn. Biking        | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback Riding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Running | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Viewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Trail Walks |   |

2002 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 taxdeductible to the extent provided by law.*

for more information, please contact Vince Call I (989)356-9216

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Thunder Bay Trails Association

2700 Beebe Blvd.  
Ossineke, MI 49766



## 2002 TBTA Contributing Members and Donors

James Anderson	Michael Garant	Merl and Karen Melton
Dave Baird	Corky Gates	Mark and Deb Milostan
Richard Barber	Chuck Gauthier	Robert L. Niedzwiecki
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*\*\* If your name is missing or you would like to donate to the TBTA, please contact Vince Call at the number listed below or go to the TBTA web site to get a membership form.*

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