

Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 7, Issue 1

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

May 2003

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

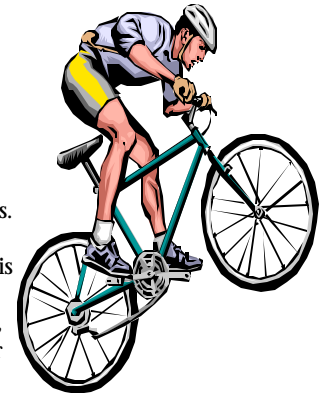
- May 31, Sat. 9:00 am
Norway Ridge trail work bee. Meet at Parking lot. Trail work on west loop down from post #9.
- ◆ June 31st, Sat. 1:00 pm.
3rd Annual Chippewa Hills Mtn. Bike Race.
Contact Randy Fairbanks.
- ◆ August 26th 7:00 pm.
Quarterly TBTA meeting.
ACC, Room 106.
- ◆ Sept. 6th, Sat., 10:00 am.
1st Annual Norway Ridge Trail Trot. Norway Ridge parking lot. Fun run and walk, Cross Country Trail Run.

TBTA on the Web:

www.thunderbaytrails.org

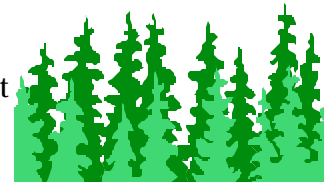
3rd annual Chippewa Hills Mtn. Bike Race Saturday June 21st, 2003

In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, TBTA is hosting the 3rd annual Chippewa Hills mountain bike race. The race will again take place at the Chippewa Hills Pathway, within the confines of the Mackinaw State Forest. Proceeds from the race will go to the TBTA and be used for its stated mission. Custom medal will be awarded to the top five finishers in each division and class. Many mountain bike related door prizes will be given away to the race participants. Dominion Midwest Energy is again providing corporate sponsorship. This year, joining Dominion will be Quicksilver Resources as corporate sponsors. Event sponsors this year are Summit Sports, Tour America Bike Shop, Wal-Mart, Fosters Bike Repair, ABC Ace Hardware, Pepsi-Cola, Thunder Bay Eye Care. For further information contact Randy Fairbanks at rfairban@northland.lib.mi.us or 989-727-3702.



NORWAY RIDGE TRAILS SPRING WORK BEE - SAT. 5-31-03

The annual spring work bee for TBTA will be held at Norway Ridge Trails on Saturday, June 31st at 9:00 am. Lunch will be served at the trail. Meet at the parking lot or head out to trail post #9. Trail improvements on the west loop will be the focus of the project. Bring a hammer and work gloves.



ACTIVE MICHIGAN INITIATIVE FORMED



Many members of Michigan's environmental, biking, horse back riding, paddling and public health groups came together in 2001 to begin advocating as one voice for the improvements of Michigan's environment, specifically for active non-motorized transportation and outdoor recreation. The **AMI** partners under the leadership of the Michigan Environmental Council. TBTA is represented in **AMI** by Randy Fairbanks. He has attended meetings in Lansing and reported back to TBTA. With an ambitious agenda some of the goals are: building an effective citizen advisory board to deal with non-motorized trail concerns. Mandate full reporting of and accountability of public funding now designated to active transportation and outdoor recreation. Active lobbying with the legislature on AMI concerns has been ongoing. Randy will continue to represent northeast Michigan and TBTA concerns at these quarterly meetings.



SKI SEASON END WORST EVER SNOW SEASON IN THE NORTH



Once again mother nature short changed the northeast Michigan area in the snow fall column! The picture shown were the snow conditions for the scheduled January 2003 candlelight ski. No significant snow fell in the month of December or January. Nordic trail grooming was not started until mid February, just prior to the February candle light ski. The candlelight ski was held in artic subzero temperatures. A very poor showing for the event may have been the final effort of TBTA to host an evening ski event. Consideration for possible day time Saturday or Sunday events will be reviewed next season depending on the snow fall and available volunteers. The lack of snow has again taken its toll on paid memberships, the lowest since TBTA was established in 1997. Many of our former members have viewed TBTA as solely a Nordic grooming volunteer operation and with no snow the memberships have diminished. TBTA hopes to branch out to the mountain bike and cross country trail running community of trail users to fill in the void of our drop in memberships. Along with the loss of valuable memberships, the city of Alpena dropped its contracting for Nordic trail grooming at the BIPath, causing another loss in revenues. There is no hope for assistance for trail maintenance or future trail improvements from the MDNR in the near future, as the MDNR is experiencing major funding cutbacks due to the drop in state revenues.

Randy Fairbanks Assumes Leadership Role With TBTA

Randy Fairbanks has recently assumed the role of president of TBTA. Vince Call resigned the post after six years of volunteer service and assisted with the founding of TBTA. Vince felt it was time to turn over the role of president in order to assure continuity of TBTA in the years to come. Randy has been the vice president, active with promoting mountain biking, and a pivotal member in the Nordic ski grooming team. Randy established the Chippewa Hills mountain bike race. This mountain bike race has become a major event for the TBTA. He currently represents TBTA at the state level in the Active Michigan Group and is a tireless proponent of non-motorized trail development and preservation. Randy will provide the leadership and enthusiasm in the coming years necessary to carry TBTA through the challenges facing trail systems in northeastern Michigan. Vince and Mary will continue to work as board members and assist in the production of the quarterly TBTA newsletter.

1ST ANNUAL NORWAY RIDGE TRAIL TROT SEPTEMBER 6TH



Thunder Bay Trails Association will host a trail run/walk on Saturday, September 6th. TBTA has enlisted the assistance of long time DORK BROTHERS team member, Joe Gentry, in the planning and organization of the event. TBTA hopes to attract attention to the Norway Ridge Trail and demonstrate how the trail provides a walking and cross country trail running opportunity in the Alpena area. Not only is Norway Ridge a great skiing and mountain bike system, but a beautiful fall walking and fitness running trail as well.

TRAIL USER FEES ?

The following article was from the Gongwer Capitol News Service: DNR LOOKING TO VOLUNTEERS TO MAINTAIN TRAILS, given the severe budget constraints, the DNR has decided to shift its personnel and resources to the state parks division that generate revenue and is seeking volunteers to help maintain the others. " We are asking volunteers to partner with the MDNR to keep these trails open", said Parks Chief Lowen Schuette, " by enlisting the support of individual trail users, groups and even local government units, the trail system can remain available to users and the MDNR can focus staff and resources in the most critically needed areas".

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!

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$15.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Randy Fairbanks (989)727-3702

Thunder Bay Trails Association

2700 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766



2003 TBTA Contributing Members and Donors

Brian Bailey
Suelyn Bartz
Don and Barbara Beem
Marcia Billings
David and Sandy Blumenthal
Jeff and Amy Blumenthal
Robert Brady
Paul and Mary Bray
Tom and Karen Brindley
Steve and Gina Brochu
Vince and Mary Call
Randy Fairbanks
James Foster
Ronald Fusina
Michael Garant
Joe Gentry
Ben Granlund
Tim and Vicki Gulden
Ed and Mary Hall
Dave Hammerquist
Chuck and Cathy Ingle
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Richard and Jane Silver
Jane and Don Speer
Lloyd and Mary Jo Springer
Susan Thompson
Jerry Trevillian, Sr.
Jon and Sarah Webb
Jim and Sue Weeks
Tom and Judy Woizeschke

*** 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!!