

Thunder Bay Trails News

Volume 8, Issue 1

Newsletter of The Thunder Bay Trails Association

November 2004

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

- December 4, 2004, 10:00am - Chippewa Hills Trail work bee. Pre-ski season Trail brushing and sign repair.

REGIONAL EVENTS

- Nov. 6, 2004 - ICE-MAN Mountain Bike Race, VASA ski Trails, Traverse City.
- March 19, 2005 - Wabos Loppet ski touring event, Stokely Creek, Ontario.

www.thunderbaytrails.org on the WEB

www.thunderbaytrails.org




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Upcoming Ski Season Anxiously Awaited

Thunder bay Trails Association is preparing for another cross county ski season at its two trails, Chippewa Hills and Norway Ridge. TBTA continues as the only group providing full up-keep and trail grooming for Alpena county. After a very successful 2003/2004 ski season, hopes remain high for a replay of continued great snow conditions for setting track. The addition of a Nordic skating loop at Norway Ridge drew renewed enthusiasm from the Nordic community. Plans remain to continue ski skate grooming. It is with your memberships that TBTA is able to continue to maintain the quality of trails that we have all come to expect!



Trail Work Bees Set in Preparation of Early Ski Season

 Plan on spending some time helping out at one of the trail work bees set for the 30th of October at Norway Ridge and at Chippewa Hills on the 4th of December. Trail edge brushing, sign post and map repair, along with general trail preparations will take place on both dates. Contact Randy Fairbanks for more details. Dress for the weather and bring along pruning shears, or weed whackers. Your volunteer assistance in these trail work bees can make a difference, so please consider volunteering your time.

Winter Days at Norway Ridge with Friends

This past ski season found many of our TBTA members on the trail at Norway Ridge on a regular basis due to the wonderful snow conditions. The great grooming, and abundant sunshine made for a perfect Nordic season. Vince Call, Mary Call, along with Marsha and Joe Hoppe took advantage of many those weekend afternoons on the trails.



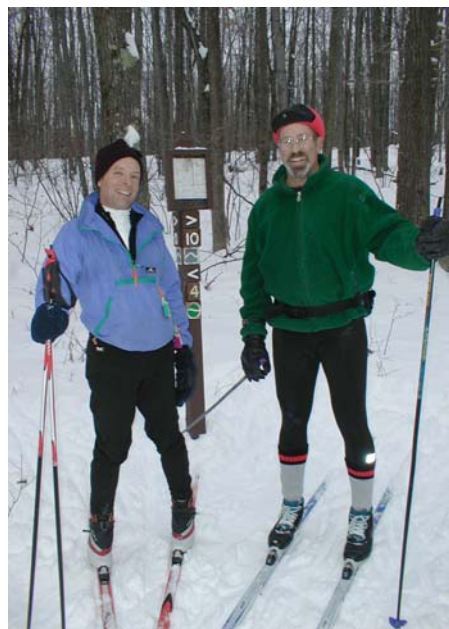
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT RANDY FAIRBANKS (989)727-3702
On the Web: www.thunderbaytrails.org

Please Recycle



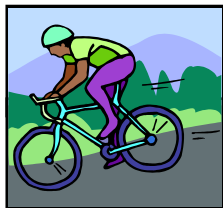
RANDY FAIRBANKS TO HEAD UP NORDIC GROOMING ONCE AGAIN THIS SEASON

Randy Fairbanks has once again volunteered to provide the time and service for the Nordic ski community in Alpena County. His solo efforts for most of the season has provided those using the Norway Ridge Trail and Chippewa Hills with the quality of ski experience most take for granted. Often Randy will be out on the trail late into the evening setting track for the weekend skiers. Some may tend to believe that either the snow falls that way or that the MDNR provide this service!! Last season in an effort to meet the trail user needs of a wide variety of experiences, a single track for walking, snow-shoeing, or dog walking was set next to the Nordic track on the front loops at Norway Ridge. Also, a skating lane was added to the loops out beyond Post #9 at Norway Ridge. The



hope is that those using the trails will respect the time and effort that go into setting up an enjoyable winter trail and attempt to avoid damaging the track for other users. It can be very disappointing to Randy and those planning on using the trails during the week to find out that the track have been destroyed after many hours of preparation after one or two users fail to make an effort to avoid damaging the track. Please, if you see others who may be unaware of the efforts that have gone into grooming the track, respectfully inform them of the fact TBTA and its members take pride in the quality of the winter trail and hope that they also will make an effort to assure that the trail will be there for other users. Better yet, ask them to consider joining TBTA as a member. Applications are available at Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills trail heads.

TBTA SUCCESSFULLY HOLDS MOUNTAIN BIKE RACE AND TRAIL TROT



This past summer TBTA once again hosted the only local mountain bike race at Chippewa Hills Pathway. Many local riders have discovered the fun time and many prizes awarded at this challenging event held the last weekend of June each year. The ongoing efforts of Randy Fairbanks has made this into an important fundraiser event for TBTA. The Norway

Ridge Trail trot hosted jointly with the Dork Brothers racing team and coordinated by Joe Gentry was held for the second year the weekend after Labor Day. As a new event, the word continues to spread that this is a challenging cross country event!



A LOCAL NORDIC ACTIVIST IS GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

After over a two-year battle with cancer, Gil Boilore passed away on April 5, 2004. Long before TBTA existed, Gil was extremely active in the sport of cross country skiing. In fact, he actually was married at the Norway Ridge Trail on the first day of winter in 1985. Many may remember seeing him driving his Swix Wax mini van around the area. Others remember he always had a smile on his face. Some of Gil's contributions to the ski community included involving young children in the sport by running a Bill Koch ski league and coaching an Alpena High School Cross Country Ski Club team. He also developed and maintained a groomed trail with his own equipment on the west side of the Bagley street adjacent to the Thunder Bay River. His drive and determination resulted in many of the trail modifications by the MDNR at Norway Ridge and Chippewa Hills Pathway. His involvement with the MDNR Trails committee provided the lone voice for non-motorized trail users at a time that snowmobiles and off-road vehicles held the economic upper hand and ear with the MDNR. He is remembered and sadly missed as a new cross country ski season is about to begin in Northeast Michigan.



TBTA 2005 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
2703 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!

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <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 | |

2005 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT RANDY FAIRBANKS (989)727-3702
On the Web: www.thunderbaytrails.org

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Thunder Bay Trails Association

2703 Beebe Blvd.
Ossineke, MI 49766



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Bob and Marylou Wagster
Jon and Sarah Webb
John and Rita Wilberg
Chris Wright

*** 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!!