

There's so much happening on the SHT -- check it out!



Bursts of spring green are starting to brighten the Sawtooth Mountains this week. Carlton Peak is in the distance. Photo taken on the Levaux Mountain spur by Jo Swanson.

Greetings!

The variable weather of spring -- jackets, hats, and gloves one day, short sleeves and sunburn the next! As we prepare for the 2016 hiking season we want to encourage all Superior Hiking Trail users to remember these four simple rules for safe and sustainable trail use:



1. Follow blue blazes for main trail, white blazes for spur or overlook trails.
2. Respect private landowner rights by staying on the trail.
3. Camp only at designated campsites; campsites and fire rings must be shared by parties.
4. Dogs are allowed on leash only.

Current Trail Conditions

- Trail is generally dry, with some wet spots in areas with poor drainage.
- Trail crews are out clearing trees and brush, but some sections may still be difficult.
- Current detours, bridge outages and other trail issues can be viewed on the [SHTA Conditions Page](#).
- Spring green-up is underway but fire conditions are dangerous, particularly on hot and windy days. Fire restrictions are not in place at this time but hikers are urged to skip the campfire entirely or to limit fires to small fires in established campsite fire rings only. Take steps to properly extinguish all fires when leaving the campsite. Monitor the [Minnesota DNR](#) website for fire conditions.
- The Superior Hiking Shuttle is now accepting online reservations for scheduled and custom shuttle services. [Visit their new website to learn more!](#)

SHTA maps can be purchased after hours or on weekends

Purchase maps at the Houle Information Center in Two Harbors (the log cabin on the northeast end of town) or most North Shore State Park stores.

Please Note: SHTA is looking for 1 or 2 individuals to work weekends at the SHTA retail store in Two Harbors. If you would be interested in this part-time summer job please contact the office by email office@shta.org or phone 218-834-2700.



A Record Number Attend Hike Fest 2016!

Not discouraged by a cool weekend forecast, just over 300 people attended the

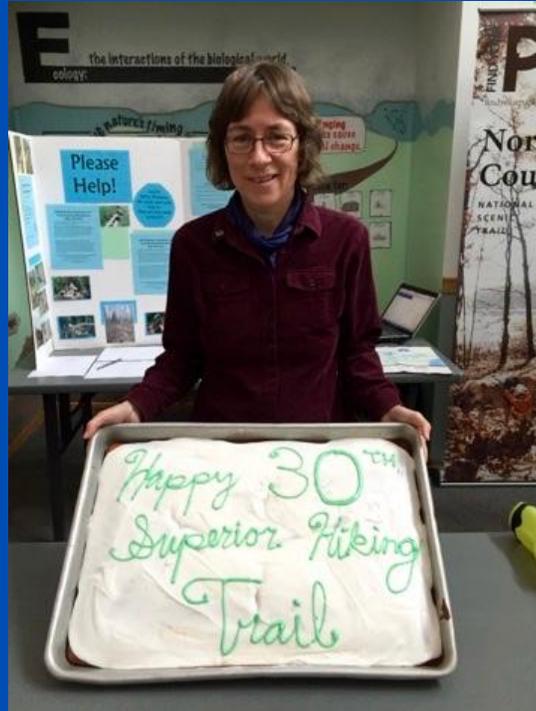
Superior Hiking Trail Association's spring event May 13-15 at Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. Many were attending for the first time, but two members, Frank and Maxine Frucci, have attended all 30 gatherings!

Days were spent hiking or attending a variety of workshops. On Friday evening naturalist Larry Weber shared just how much more we can see when we "back-track" on an out and back hike. Saturday night was a look back at the SHT's first 30 years as former board president Rudi Hargesheimer shared stories and photos that chronicled the building of the trail.

The Silent Action was once again a great success with sales topping \$8000. Thank you to all who donated items, and to all those who bid generously. Proceeds from the auction support trail maintenance.

We'd like to hear from those of you who attended -- what was good about the event and ways we could make it better? Please send your comments and photos by email to communications@shta.org.

Thanks to Roberta Schneider and Amy Schwartz for these photos: SHTA Executive Director Gaye Coyer with the 30th Anniversary cake; 30 years of SHT logo apparel; a rousing old time dance on Saturday night; traversing the ropes course on Saturday afternoon.





A great crew of sawyers and swampers cleared more than 70 miles of trail near Schroeder during our first work weekend, May 7-8. Photo by Roberta Schneider.

Volunteer Weekends - Work Hard, Have Fun!

Our 2016 volunteer trail construction projects include building the new trail that will replace the detour north of Gooseberry State Park and completing the final section of trail to meet the North Country Trail in Wisconsin. For 30 years volunteers of all sorts

have worked together to build and maintain our trail. We're looking for volunteers to help with again this year and we hope you'll be one of the crew!

Sign up for any of these project events by contacting Jo Swanson by [email](#) or by calling the SHTA office at 218-834-2700. Make sure that you are on our active volunteer email lists by clicking on the "Update Profile" link at the bottom of this newsletter.

North of Gooseberry Re-route Trail Construction - June 4-5

Let's get the trail off the detour that was established last year! This National Trails Day project will be headed up by Trail Supervisor Han Taylor. Work will be to haul lumber, brush and lop trees, and build treadway so a variety of skills are needed. Training and tools will be provided. When complete the re-route will be 3.2 miles of new trail.

SHTA will host free camping and meals at Gooseberry Falls State Park. Again we also need volunteers to help prepare and serve meals for our trail crew.

Wild Valley Road to MN-WI Border Trail Construction - June 11-12

Be one of the volunteers to help with the construction of the final SHT section south of Jay Cooke State Park. The project will be under the direction of Trail Supervisor Larry Sampson. Work will be to haul in lumber, brush and lop trees, and build treadway.

This will not be a hosted weekend. Volunteers may find Jay Cooke State Park a convenient place to camp for the weekend.

Larry will also be scheduling workday work projects and a few work weekends to complete this 2 miles of trail.

Final Trail Clearing Weekend - May 28-30 in Grand Marais

Teams of volunteers will work together under the direction of Trail Supervisor Han Taylor. A certified chainsawyer will be partnered with 2-3 "swampers" (assistants who remove log chunks, brush the trail and lop tree branches). Training and tools will be provided. Volunteers should be prepared to hike a few trail sections each day carrying their gear and tools for the day.

SHTA will host volunteers with camp sites with indoor dining and gathering at Grand Marais. We'll also provide breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday and Monday, and Saturday and Sunday supper. We also need volunteers to help with the preparation and serving of meals, jobs for everyone!

Start Building Your Volunteer Hours in the 30 for 30 Program.

This year, we invite you to help celebrate 30 years and 300 miles of trail by contributing 30 hours on SHTA volunteer activities. Hours must be performed as trail adopters, as part of an official SHT volunteer event, or as coordinated with the SHTA office.

Volunteers who donate 30 hours this year can stop in the office and pick up a free trail

poster of their choice as a thank-you.

To join the 30 for 30 program or to learn more about volunteering, contact Jo Swanson at volunteer@shta.org or 218-834-2700.



Find Your Adventure at the Nation's Largest Trails Celebration

The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day[®] kicks off the summer season of good times outside on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Now in its 24th consecutive year, National Trails Day provides fun opportunities for adventure on nearby trails.

Superior Hiking Trail Association Hikes

The SHTA will host two guided hikes in the Finland area with opportunities for everyone to enjoy the SHT. Both hikes meet at 10:00 AM at the Clair Nelson Community Center (Finland Recreation Center). Enjoy treats before the hikes to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the trail!

Short Hike: Community Center Trailhead to Egge Lake and Back - 4.6 miles total. A great choice for families or hikers wanting fewer miles. Hike through maple forest to gorgeous Egge Lake, then return on the same trail.

Long Hike: Sonju Lake Road Trailhead to Community Center Trail Head - 7.6 miles. Hike past the Baptism River, Sonju and Egge lakes, and take the boardwalk out to Lily Island. (Hike leaders will organize a shuttle to the starting point. When the hike is complete all hikers should be prepared to share rides to make sure that

everyone gets back to their cars.)

Driving Directions: At Highway 61 milepost 59.3, turn left on Highway 1 and go 6.0 miles to Lake County Road 7 (Cramer Road). Turn right and go 1.3 miles to the trailhead parking lot past the ball field at the Community Center.

Check the [American Hiking Society](#) website for a list of other NTD events!

Join the SHTA Staff - We're looking for an Office Manager

The Superior Hiking Trail Association needs a full-time Office Manager for for our busy office/retail store in Two Harbors, MN. The starting salary is \$35,000 with benefits. We're looking for someone with:

- One to three years office manager experience using Microsoft Office, including Access.
- One to three year experience in accounting/bookkeeping in an office setting using Quickbooks or similar program.
- Our preference is for a candidate with experience operating an integrated system for retail/online sales, membership/donation database, and accounting. The new manager will take the lead in updating our office systems.
- Experience in retail sales is a plus.
- Enthusiasm for the Superior Hiking Trail is a plus.

[Go to the SHTA website to learn more about this job.](#)

If this describes you or someone you know send cover letter with resume to SHTA, PO Box 4, Two Harbors MN 55616, or email to hike@shta.org. Deadline is June 10.

And what about Wendy?

After 18 years Wendy Ruberg, SHTA's office manager is hoping to spend less time in the office and more time on the trail, or in her kayak, or on her bike! She will transition to a interim role as Membership Coordinator while a new Office Manager is hired and trained.



Upcoming Dates: Put these on your Calendar!

May 26 - Superior Hiking Trail, Kim Fishburn
6:30 PM at Midwest Mountaineering, Minneapolis, MN

June 4 - National Trails Day Hikes (see article for details and location)

June 4 - National Trails Day Work Project - North of Gooseberry Re-route (see article for details and location)

June 11-12 - Weekend Work Project - Wild Valley Road to MN/WI border (see article for details and location)

June 25 - Guided Hike - Skyline Parkway at Highland Street to Twin Ponds at Enger Park, 7.4 miles.

The Superior Hiking Trail is built, maintained, and supported by volunteers.

- Donate or become a member [online](#) or by calling the SHTA office at 218-834-2700.
- Volunteer for a project or campsite.
- Help us find others like you -- share this message with your friends and family.

| EMAIL hike@shta.org | PHONE 218-834-2700 | WEBSITE shta.org

STAY CONNECTED:

