



## E-Newsletter - May 2011

### In This Issue

May Is National Bike Month

Island Lake Bike Demo

Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day

IMBA Club Program

All Bent Rum Bugles are Online

Newsletter Volunteer Needed

High Country Pathway Volunteers Needed

Chainsaw Operator Course

Trifecta Tour – 50 in 5 Benefit Ride

Trail Guide Poll

Trail Separation at Fort Custer State Recreation Area

Waterloo State Recreation Area

MDNR Wants to Partner and Match Funds with the MMBA

Quarterly MMBA-DNR Meetings

MMBA Advocacy Team

### May Is National Bike Month

By Diane Ursu

May is National Bike Month! The Michigan House of Representatives [passed a resolution](#) making it official in the State of Michigan!

Consider participating in the following advocacy events during May:

- May 16–20: [Bike-to-Work Week and Bike-to-Work Day](#)
- May 18: [Ride of Silence](#)
- May 25: [Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day](#)
- May 27: [Great Lakes Mountain Bicycling Summit](#)



### Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol

By Shawn Murphy, MMBP Director

Joining the Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol is an opportunity for you to give back to the community while doing what you love most: riding! Each patroller carries first aid gear and bike tools, ready to help any trail users including cyclists, trail runners, and hikers.

We know you're interested in becoming a Mountain Bike Patroller, so we are offering a training class on May 7 at 11 a.m. at 495 E. Scripps Road, Lake Orion Township, Michigan 48360. The day begins with a short, classroom session followed by a second session on the trail, where we will practice our skills by roll playing different scenarios.

The MMBP is associated with the IMBA National Mountain Bike Patrol (NMBP). Patrollers must attend this training class and obtain certification in CPR and First Aid. Patroller

### Michigan Mountain Bike Patrol

Participates at State Level Trail Councils

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Mountain Kids becomes Part of MiSCA

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Northern Chapter and GTRLC Kalkaska Connector Thank You Ride

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Glen Lake School Produces Bike Mechanics and Trail Builders

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Manistee Non-Motorized Trail Park

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North Country Trail Adoption – Udell Hills

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Ludington School Forest Trails

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Northern Chapter Hosting the Logsplitter in July

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New and Exciting Things Are Afoot at the Ionia State Recreation Area for the First Time in Years

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### May Calendar of Events

7 - [Mountain Bike Patrol Training Class](#)

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7 - [15th Annual Heritage Park Hare Racer](#)

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7 - Island Lake Bike Demo

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14-15 - High Country Pathway Trail Day

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16-20 - [Bike-to-Work](#)

responsibilities include patrolling one CPS race and patrolling a minimum of 10 hours per year on the trail. Those who cannot obtain certification in First Aid and CPR may join the NMBP's Ambassador Program as a stepping stone to the MMBP.

Visit the [Mountain Bike Patrol Training forum thread](#) for more information.

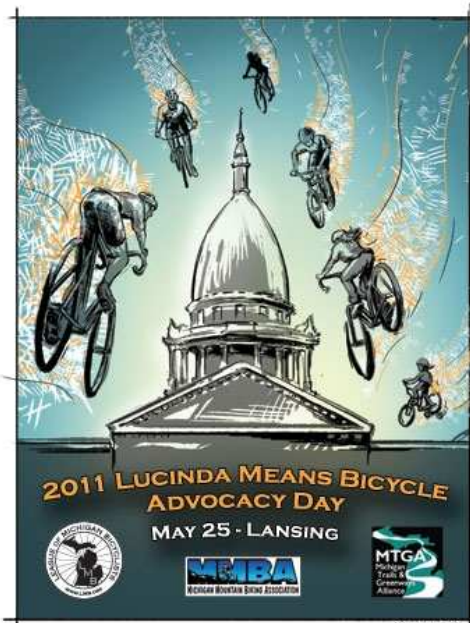
### Island Lake Bike Demo

The annual Michigan Bike Demo at Island Lake is this Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., rain or shine. Once again, leading manufacturers are bringing their demo rigs full of great 2011 bikes to test.

### Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day

By Diane Ursu

The [League of Michigan Bicyclists](#) is teaming up with the [Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance](#) and the Michigan Mountain Biking Association to host the [Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day](#) at the State Capitol building on May 25, 2011. The following are important issues that we will address:



- Protect Natural Resources Trust Fund - Keep the fund for intended purposes
- Oppose Park Acreage Limits - Remove arbitrary cap
- Protect Vulnerable Roadway Users - Enhanced penalties for injuring cyclists
- Revise Right Turn Signal - Make extended right arm legal in Michigan
- Support Bikes on Trains - Roll on bike service for Michigan trains

### Tentative Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. – Bike rally leaves from MSU Bikes to State Capitol

Week

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18 - [Ride of Silence](#)

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20 - [Bike-to-Work Day](#)

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21 - Luton Park Trail Day

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22 - [Chainsaw Operator Course](#)

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22 - [Trifecta Tour 50 in 5 Benefit Ride](#)

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25 - [Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day](#)

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**State Board*****Executive Board***

Nate Phelps, President  
Diane Ursu, Vice President  
Glen Ruczynski, Secretary

***At-Large Members***

Bruce Geffen  
Martin Hall  
Diane Ursu  
Larry Verna

***Chapter Representatives***

Brad Hranach, Holly/Flint  
Nick Shue, Metro North  
Dave Thompson, Metro South  
Chris Mensing, Mid-State  
Troy Gerding, Northeast  
Glen Ruczynski, Northern  
Mark Fraker, Potawatomi  
Cathy Needham, Southwest  
Nate Phelps, Western

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**Contact Us**

For more information:  
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Diane Ursu  
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John Gonway

- 9:15 a.m. – Welcome & guest speaker Rep. Harvey Santana
- 9:30 a.m. – Issue overview & questions
- 10:15 a.m. – Meetings with representatives and senators
- 1:00 p.m. – Lunch on Capitol grounds (guest speakers)
- 1:50 p.m. – Group photo on Capitol steps
- 2:00 p.m. – "Lansing by Bicycle" (self-guided ride)

**Registration**

Registration for Advocacy Day is \$10 and includes lunch. To learn more and to register, please visit the LMB's [Lucinda Means Bicycle Advocacy Day](#) page.

**IMBA Club Program**

By Nate Phelps, MMBA President

In 2010, the state board voted to investigate the IMBA club program. We felt that the MMBA had reached some limits and, in some instances, was over capacity. After several months of discussion, we asked the chapters to weigh in. A majority of chapters have expressed favorable interest in the club program.

Regardless of direction, we now know that the MMBA structure will change. Notably, several chapters are claiming smaller districts and one will disband altogether. Three non-MMBA clubs in Michigan have expressed interest in joining an alliance of clubs under the MMBA.

The MMBA is evolving in a positive way. The board voted to retain legal counsel at the last board meeting. At a minimum, the bylaws will need to be modified, and we need to ensure that all of our I's are dotted and T's are crossed as we move in this new direction.

**All Bent Rim Bugles are Online**

By Nate Phelps, MMBA President

All of the printed issues of the Bent Rim Bugle – from 1987 through 2010 – are now scanned and located online in the [MMBA Library](#) (click "Communications" and then "Bent Rim Bugle"). It's an interesting read to say the least. A special thanks to Bonnie Walworth for coordinating the project.

**Newsletter Volunteer Needed**

By Diane Ursu

Interested in helping out the MMBA? Do you have a working knowledge of HTML? Do you have a knack for grammar? If

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Webmasters  
[webmaster@mmba.org](mailto:webmaster@mmba.org)

Join or renew your  
 membership online!

[membership.mmba.org](http://membership.mmba.org)

so, help with the monthly email newsletter. Responsibilities include:

- sending requests for newsletter content to state and chapter board members and program coordinators via email;
- editing content for grammar;
- placing content into a simple HTML template;
- emailing the draft newsletter for final review.

If interested, please email Diane Ursu at [communications@mmba.org](mailto:communications@mmba.org).

## High Country Pathway Volunteers Needed

By Glen Ruczynski

The Northern Chapter is seeking volunteers to help install signs and perform trail maintenance at the High Country Pathway in the Pigeon River Forest on May 14 and 15 during a work and ride weekend. The MMBA will feed you lunch and pay for your camping if you wish to stay overnight and ride the following day. Come out and see why the HCP is an IMBA Epic Trail! Contact Glen Ruczynski at [gdasher@gmail.com](mailto:gdasher@gmail.com) with questions or comments.

## Chainsaw Operator Course

By Glen Ruczynski

Stihl USA and the MMBA Northern Chapter are holding a chainsaw and trail tool safety training course on Sunday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Kalkaska Michigan. The course will focus on safe usage and maintenance of chainsaws and brush cutters. Training includes both a classroom session and hands-on learning in the field. Participants are required to wear long pants, work boots or shoes (no sandals), and protective eye wear. We advise also bringing a lawn chair. The Northern Chapter is providing lunch and refreshments afterward.

Jeff and Gail Snyder are our hosts at the Kalkaska RV Park and Campground and are offering discounted rates for camping. Campers will be close to excellent trails such as Hanson Hills, the North Country Trail, and Jeff may even take you out on the fantastic, hidden gems west of the village. Ride, camp, cut. Sounds like a fun weekend in northern Michigan!

Please RSVP by emailing Glen at [gdasher@gmail.com](mailto:gdasher@gmail.com) or posting in the [Chainsaw Operator Course forum thread](#).

Call Jeff and Gail at (231) 259-9863 to make camping or

mini-cabin reservations. Visit the [Kalkaska Campground website](#) for more information.

### Trifecta Tour – 50 in 5 Benefit Ride

The Western Chapter is hosting the Trifecta Tour – 50 in 5 Benefit Ride on Sunday, May 22. Riders may choose from 12-, 30-, and 41-mile routes starting and finishing at the Cannonsburg Ski Area.

Preregistration is only \$25 and ends on May 8. Day-of registration is \$30. Children 16 and under pay only \$5 and must be accompanied by an adult.



Funds from this ride will go toward building 50 miles of singletrack in five years. Visit the [Western Chapter website](#) for more information and to register.

### Trail Guide Poll

By Richard Hogle

We want to make trail information easily accessible for you! Let us know how we can help. [Click here visit the poll in the forum](#). If you do not have a username for the forum, it is easy to set up. Simply click "[Register](#)," here or in the upper right corner on the forum page, fill out the information, and follow the instructions.

### Trail Separation at Fort Custer State Recreation Area

By John Gonway

The separation of the mountain bike and equestrian trails at Fort Custer State Recreation Area is in the final stages. After many months of planning, negotiation, and toil, the trail separation should be complete between May 15 and July 15. The exact date is uncertain because the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is so eager for its

completion that it is trying to schedule a ribbon-cutting ceremony now, even though the last essential tasks of the field work may not actually be done until just prior to the ceremony.

### **Waterloo State Recreation Area**

By John Gonway

We have gained forward momentum on the trail planning process at Waterloo State Recreation Area, the largest state park in the Lower Peninsula with over 20,000 acres. Its topography is quite similar to that of the Pinckney Recreation Area, home of the Potawatomi Trail. A kick-off meeting is in the planning stages for May. We are developing a management plan and stakeholder input will be sought in Summer 2011. This will be a very important stage for the mountain biking community.

### **MDNR Wants to Partner and Match Funds with the MMBA**

By John Gonway

The DNR has expressed an interest in matching funds raised by the MMBA to provide for the development of mountain bike infrastructure at state parks. If you have a fundraiser and project in mind, let this be the vehicle to help push this forward.

### **Quarterly MMBA-DNR Meetings**

By John Gonway

Members of your MMBA Advocacy Team continue their quarterly meetings with the DNR in Lansing. The goal of these meetings is to provide a more proactive relationship with the DNR. They have been helpful with recent developments at Fort Custer and Waterloo as detailed above. We are hopeful that these meetings will facilitate new trail development, including the acquisition of a written DNR permit process for new trail building. We expect that it will bring some uniformity and predictability to trail development.

### **MMBA Advocacy Team Participates at State Level Trail Councils**

By John Gonway

Members of the MMBA Advocacy Team and State Board are working with other trail users to develop a trail network plan for the State of Michigan. This important work centers on the principle of organizing the trails into a resource useable and highly accessible to all trail users, fostering tourism and

providing a shining example of the trails Michigan has to offer to its citizens and tourists. This may include involvement in the Pure Michigan tourism campaign.

### **Mountain Kids becomes Part of MiSCA**

By Steve Kinley

The Mountain Kids program is now a part of the Michigan Scholastic Cycling Association. The Mountain Kids trailer and bikes will continue to be used to support MiSCA initiatives such as after school programs, cycling clinics, MiSCA races, and youth group outings.

MiSCA is currently accepting reservations for the equipment. If you are interested in reserving the trailer or wish to discuss ideas for the equipment, please contact MiSCA at [info@miscabike.org](mailto:info@miscabike.org).

### **Northern Chapter and GTRLC Kalkaska Connector Thank You Ride**

By Glen Ruczynski

The Northern Chapter and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy would like to thank you for your donation to purchase the Kalkaska Connector with a group ride that crosses the connector and explores some of the newly planned routes in the Pere Marquette forest. Join us on June 11 at 9:00 a.m. to ride one of two routes – 10 miles and 25+ miles.

We will provide lunch and refreshments after the ride. Park at the 4H fairgrounds by the [Kaliseum Recreational Complex](#) off of M72. Look for the tent. Check the [Northern Chapter Forum](#) for updates, or contact Glen Ruczynski at [gdasher@gmail.com](mailto:gdasher@gmail.com) with questions or comments.

### **Glen Lake School Produces Bike Mechanics and Trail Builders**

By Glen Ruczynski

The MMBA Northern Chapter teamed up with [BikeLab](#)

[TraverseCity](#) and

the [Cherry Capitol Cycling Club](#) to develop singletrack behind the Glen Lake School in Leelanau County, this past April. Jeff Barrett teaches a mountain biking class at the school in



which the kids learn how to build bikes from the frame up, repair the bikes, and even build trails!

The students began the trail building process on Sunday, April 16, constructing bridges, clearing deadfall, and finalizing the flagged route. The following Thursday, they hit the woods under the guidance of MMBA-certified trail builders. Despite the rain and cold weather, the students pressed on to complete the initial loop. The rookie trail builders are happy riding their new singletrack, but they are also looking forward to creating a second loop.

### **Manistee Non-Motorized Trail Park**

By Glen Ruczynski

The [Shoreline Cycling Club](#) worked with the City of Manistee Non-Motorized Transportation Committee to develop a plan for mountain bike trails on a 170-acre city parcel, located a few miles out of town on M55. The Manistee City Council unanimously approved the plan on April 19.

The tentative plan is to create 10 miles of singletrack and a mountain bike skills park. The skills park will include a pump track, dirt jumps, skinnies, and other man-made features. Due to limited changes in topography, the singletrack will be enhanced with optional lines over man-made features similar to those in the skills park. Wide multiuse trails for additional activities, such as walking, running, and skiing, are also included in the plan. These trails will be groomed for skate and classic skiing in the winter.

Work is slated to begin this spring. The pump track and some sections of singletrack are expected to be completed by winter.

The IMBA Trail Crew will help design the trail August 25—28 during the IMBA Trail School. This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to participate in this free trail school.

### **North Country Trail Adoption – Udell Hills**

By Glen Ruczynski

The [Shoreline Cycling Club](#) recently adopted the Udell Hills section of the North Country Trail. This section runs from Nine Mile Bridge at the Little Manistee River north to M55. This is a great opportunity for us to improve relations between the NCTA and mountain bikers. We will work with the National Forest Service and the NCTA to fix some sections of trail on the north and south ends of Udell Hills where water erosion has been a big issue.

## Ludington School Forest Trails

By Glen Ruczynski

The [Shoreline Cycling Club](#) received a \$3,500 grant from the District 10 Health Department through the Healthy Communities Program. Combined with \$1,500 from the Ludington Area Schools, the money will be used for signs as part of trail development project on school forest property. The singletrack project is along an existing foot trail system and is expected to exceed five miles in length. Once complete, this will be one of the finest beginner and family friendly urban trail systems in West Michigan.

## Northern Chapter Hosting the Logsplitter in July

By Glen Ruczynski

The Northern Chapter fundraiser race, the Logsplitter, is back in 2011 with a new date, a new start location, and a new course. On July 16, the party starts at North Higgins State Park and ends up with a grinding loop at Hanson Hills, roughly 28 miles of mixed terrain consisting of fast flats, grinding climbs, and some super sweet singletrack that is the very definition of *flow*. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## New and Exciting Things Are Afoot at the Ionia State Recreation Area for the First Time in Years

By George Trowbridge

The DNR is very excited about a proposal to build a new, log kiosk for the trail head at the Ionia State Recreation Area. We have also proposed a reroute for a rock garden, a half pipe decline, an up-and-over oak tree crossing, and raising the trail out of a flat, wet area. The DNR Unit Manager will shortly receive another proposal to expand the trail by approximately 2.8 miles. If accepted, this will increase the trail length from 7.5 to more than 10 miles. The new trail proposal includes the following:

- Stephan's Point Connector
- Ridge Line Trail Expansion
- Pond Side Trail Expansion
- Gravel Pit Trail Expansion
- Finish Trail Expansion

After approval from the DNR, the trail expansions are expected to take less than two years to complete.

Currently, the Ionia trail system includes a beautiful view of the beach on Sessions Lake, the wonderful picnic area at the trail head, and the 7.5 miles of conscientiously maintained mountain bike trails. Make Ionia one of this year's destination

rides with your friends and family. You won't regret it. . . and you *will* be back.

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