



VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEWS

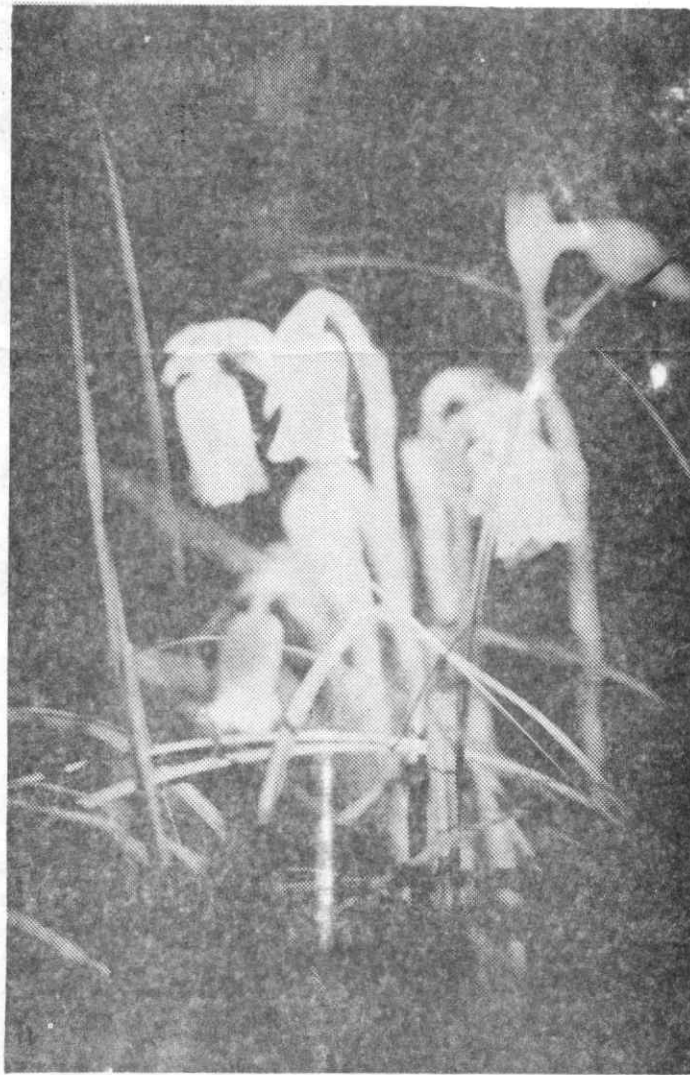
PUBLISHED BY THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL ASSOCIATION, A MEMBER OF F.O.H.T.A.

BOX 66. SAULT STE. MARIE. ONTARIO P6A 5L2

No. 39

EDITOR: GUY K.M. SMITH

SPRING 1988



THE SWEET SONG OF SPRING PIPES

On This Issue's Cover...

The Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora), is a non-green plant which does not photosynthesize, but rather obtains nutrients from decomposing litter on the forest floor. For this reason it is termed a saprophyte. It is common in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region.

1988 VTA EXECUTIVE

President	-Peter Stinnissen
1st Vice President	-Vacant
2nd Vice President	-Paul Syme
Treasurer	-Dieter Ropke
General Secretary	-Kristine Stinnissen
Membership Secretary	-Patrick Capper
Newsletter Editor	-Guy Smith

UPCOMING HIKES

Michipicoten Club

Evening Hikes

Wednesday June 8 Nokomis (Old Woman Bay) Wild Flower hike, 2-3 hours, moderately easy. Meet at the Post office at 6:30 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Wednesday July 6 Scenic High Falls, 2-3 hours, moderately easy. Meet at the Post Office at 6:30 p.m. Agnes Ostermeir leader, 856-4473.

Wednesday August 10 Pot Holes Provincial Park, 2-3 hours, easy. Meet at the Post Office at 6:30 p.m. Phil Egan leader, 856-2226.

Wednesday September 7 Trapper's Trail, 1-2 hours, easy. Meet at the Post Office at 6:30 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Sunday Afternoon Hikes

Sunday June 19 Orphan Lake (bring a lunch or snack) 3-4 hours, moderately easy. Meet at Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Sunday July 24 "Geologist Hike", (bring a lunch or snack). Meet at the Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Ann Whilson leader, 856-7132.

Sunday August 21 Gargantua Bay, (bring a lunch or snack), 4 hours, easy. Meet at the Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Pete Stinnissen leader, 856-4270.

Sunday September 18 Reat Mountain (Rabbit Blanket), 4-5 hours, moderately easy. Meet at the Post Office at 1:00 pm. Phil Egan leader, 856-2226.

Work Parties

If anyone would like to help on these work parties, please call the leader for each month:

June	-Pete Stinnissen 856-4270
July	-Phil & Dorothy Egan 856-2226
Aug.	-Bob Elliot 856-2284 (or 856-4270)
Sept.	-Pete Onchulenko 856-2826

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Penewobikong Club

Saturday May 14 Hike to Intersect Lake from the end of highway 555, a leisurely hike. Meet 9:30 am near the river bank behind Woodward's Hardware Store. Bring a lunch.

Saulteaux Club

Saturday May 7 In conjunction with the Sault Ste. Marie and Region Conservation Authority, there will be a hike beginning at the Conservation Authority Sugar Shack at 10:00 am. Duration of hike approx 2-3 hours.

Sunday May 8 Spring wildflower hike. This hike will also kick-off the Heart Valve Hike-A-Thon. Easy to moderate, 7 km in the One Horse Lake - Two Horse Lake area. Boots are recommended. Meet 9:00 at Churchill Plaza* beside the gas bar with a lunch. Steve Taylor leader.

Saturday May 14 GO TO BLAZES DAY. Come out and help make our trail "First Class" for the summer. Bring a lunch. Meet at 9:00 beside the gas bar in the K-Mart Plaza. Contact Virve Squire (942-2370) for details.

Sunday May 15 Hike and weiner roast. Easy hike of 4 km. Meet at Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. Horst Wetzel leader.

Saturday June 18 Hike Walls Lake Road area to the top of the Hill Extension. There will be an opportunity to practice compass skills. Moderate difficulty, about 8-10 km. Bring compass if you wish, and a lunch. Meet at Market Mall by the gas bar at 10:00 am. Tom Allinson leader.

July 1-3 Weekend backpacking and camping on Penewobikong Section.

Spectacular views and several picturesque lakes. First time offered. Contact Steve Taylor (759-2480) or Virve Squire (942-2370) for details by June 20. Enrolment is limited.

Thursday July 14 Thursday evening hike and Lake Superior Sunset view. Meet at Market Mall at 6:00 pm. Easy. Steve Taylor leader.

Saturday July 23 Hike Walls Lake Road along lake to Red Rock Road. Meet 10:00 am at the Market Mall by the gas bar. Easy to moderate. Tom Allinson leader.

Sunday August 21 Hike Brule Road to Glenview. Easy to moderate, 6 km. Meet at 9:00 am at Market Mall. Tom Allinson leader.

Saturday September 24 Hike Echo Lake-Echo River area. A moderate to easy hike of about 9 km. meet at Churchill Plaza by the gas bar at 9:00 am, with lunch. Check out those leaves! Steve Taylor leader.

Sunday October 2 Ontario hiking Day Hike. Easy hike of about 8 km in the Crystal Creek to Mabel Lake area. Meet at 10:00 am at the K-Mart Plaza gas bar. Good chance to see Fall colours. Tom Allinson leader.

Work Parties

Dates of Spring work parties are May 7, 14, and 28. The times and places are to be announced closer to the dates. If you would like to help out, contact Virve Squire for details, 942-2370.

*Market Mall- Second Line west at Farewell Terrace

K-Mart Plaza- Great Northern Road and Northern Avenue, north-west corner

Churchill Plaza- Trunk Road just east of the Trunk Road-Wellington Street intersection.

The Thunder Bay Hiking Association

VTA members are invited to join in the Thunder Bay Hiking Association's annual Pukaskwa National Park Hike, September 3, 4, 5th, 1988. For information contact: Seth Kerr (807) 622-3141 or write him c/o Thunder Bay Hiking Club, Box 952, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7C 4X8.

Please Note

All hike leaders are unpaid volunteers. Participants do so at their own risk. You should bring insect repellent from May to September, and always bring rain gear. Sturdy footwear and a second pair of socks are recommended. Wet ground and rocky terrain are often encountered.

It is not easy to assign a difficulty code to a trip because weather conditions often dictate the degree of difficulty. Moreover, one person's easy hike is another's difficult hike. In general, however, an easy hike is one of 6 km or less on relatively level ground. Moderate hikes are ones usually less than 12 km. Usually, there are some sharp hills of over 20 m in height if the hike is less than 8 km. Relatively level terrain is encountered on an 8-12 km hike. "Difficult" means that participants should be in good physical condition, and previous hiking experience is required. Such hikes can include major climbs

and drops over a distance of greater than 8 km.

DOES YOUR CLUB HAVE TRIPS TO ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER? Send your information to Guy Smith, Editor, by September 23, 1988.

TRIP REPORTS

Michipicoten Club

The "Algoma News Review" in Wawa, carried an article on the last of the winter hikes in the Voyageur Trail's Lake Superior Park Section. The hike was originally planned as a snowshoe-ice fishing trip to Orphan Lake in Lake Superior Provincial Park. However, 50 km per hour winds whipped-up a blizzard that altered the destination to a much closer and safer lake, Treeby Lake. The winter storm raged on, but the four brave hikers enjoyed their shoreline wiener roast nonetheless. (They couldn't catch any fish because the snow kept filling the holes in the ice.)

Saulteaux Club

Four ski outings were planned by the Saulteaux Club during this past winter. The December trip was cancelled because of wet conditions. The other three trips all went ahead with much colder conditions and a mixture of sun and snowflurries for each trip. These events were well attended with 21, 12, and 19 people respectively on the outings. Highlights included a pause for a porcupine north of Nettleton Lake, the beautiful boreal larch and spruce-scapes just west of Mabel Lake, lunchtime campfires on Walls and Mabel Lakes, skiing the hills around Nettleton Lake, and the exhilaration of being

"a little unsure as to exactly where we we going". The latter highlight occurred quite frequently.

-Steve Taylor

* THIS SPACE COULD BE YOUR'S *
* FREE OF CHARGE, FOR REPORTING ON *
* YOUR CLUB'S OUTINGS *

Just send in your report to "Guy Smith, Editor, VTA Newsletter, Box 66, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5L2" All Club members are eligible to enter. Deadline, September 23, the day after the Autumnal Equinox.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the past 18 months, I have attended a variety of meetings and conferences related to trails and hiking. Inevitably the topic of conversation at these gatherings turns to the theme of volunteer appreciation.

In almost all volunteer organizations, the membership has a stable core of dedicated, hardworking men and women. On the fringes, there is a continual turnover, with the drop-out rate of members being equalized by the recruitment rate. Somewhere along the line a person interested enough to join a club, eventually drops out due either to boredom, lack of appreciation, unfulfilled expectations or in some cases, overwork. Taking people for granted, the very people upon whom we rely, is often an organization's most serious deficiency.

How does the Voyageur Trail Association rate on this issue? You can be the judge but I believe

there will always be room for improvement, especially when it comes to each one of us personally recognizing a fellow member's achievements. We have many quiet and unassuming volunteers who excel in administration, trail building, hike leading or provide expertise in outdoor activities.

Do we appreciate their efforts enough? Do you want to know more about such efforts? Should we look at more rewards such as crests, certificates, plaques, gifts, trophies or publicity, etc.? Let's get some dialogue going on this important issue and make your views known to club presidents, the newsletter editor or to the Voyageur Trail Association executive.

Now that an economic boom is expanding to the north and a population increase will soon follow, let's capitalize on these potential new members and have in place a volunteer appreciation system that will make us grow as an organization.

Good Hiking,

Pete Stinnissen
VTA President

* "HIKE FOR THE HEALTH OF IT" *
* The Third Ontario Hiking *
* Conference *
* May 19 to 22, 1989 *
* University of Western Ontario, *
* London, Ontario *

Presenters are needed for the Hike Ontario! Conference in London. Conference organizers are looking for people to share their knowledge, experience, or talent in a wide range of topics including

the benefits of hiking\walking, bird watching, canoeing, history, nutrition, orienteering, podiatry, wildlife, and any other pertinent areas of interest to hikers and walkers. If you would like to get involved, contact a member of the VTA Executive, or the following conference organizer:

M. Davidson
1483 Roland Crescent
London, Ontario
N5Y 1E6
(519) 660-0942

HEART VALVE HIKE-A-THON INFORMATION BULLETIN

Step forward and save lives! The goal is to raise over \$100,000 for heart valve research at University Hospital, London and McMaster University, Hamilton.

Step 1: Get your Hike-A-Thon Pledge Kit by contacting Steve Taylor, VTA, or by writing to:
University Hospital Foundation of London
P.O. Box 2602, Station A
London, Ontario
N6A 4G9

Step 2: Get your pledges in your pledge book, (or send a donation to the above address).

Step 3: Start walking! You can hike anywhere, for any distance of up to 240 km, covering your distance in any number of hikes. Note that the Saulteaux Club is kicking-off the Hike-A-Thon with the Spring Wildflower Hike on May 8, 1988. If you hike the full 240 km before June, 1989, you will receive an award.

All hikes lead to the Ontario Hiking Conference in London, May 19-22, 1989. Hike For the Health of it!

TRAIL MIX

-Canoeing on clear northern waters, soaking-up the Spring rays, doing a little fishing, and, what, clearing hiking trail? That's right, trail clearing doesn't have to be all sweating and straining, at least not when you're out with Jack Smit of the Elliot Lake Section. Jack will be clearing and flagging trail west of Elliot Lake April 29 - May 6, and anyone is welcome to join him. Bring flagging tape and a fishing pole.

-Dedicated VTA Newsletter readers should recall from the Winter '87 issue the article, "South Meets North". This was an account of the valiant efforts of a hardy band of hikers from southern Ontario, led by Bill Savage. They challenged the tangled underbrush and overgrown trail of the Thessalon Section, armed with axes and chainsaws, and cleared six km of trail in two days of steady work. Well, Bill and his philanthropic crew are ready for another bout with the northern bush. The following notice has been circulated to all Ontario hiking trail newsletter editors:

"THE VOYAGEUR TRAIL NEEDS YOU!"

-Join the Thames Valley Trail wrecking crew on its second annual work party and holiday on the Voyageur Trail. Last summer, we helped the Voyageur Trail Association by clearing a section of the lengthy trail north of Thessalon and about 100 km east of Sault Ste. Marie. It's a beautiful trail, but difficult for their numbers to maintain. Won't you help? You'll enjoy the rugged beauty and have the satisfaction of helping out another hiking