



GITCHI-GAMI TRAIL RIDER

A publication of the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association

Spring / Summer 2016

16th Annual Ride will celebrate Beaver Bay

The 16th Annual Gitchi-Gami Trail Association North Shore Bike Ride on August 20, 2016, will coincide with the First Annual Beaver Bay “Rhythm and Roots Festival,” August 19-20. The festival commemorates the 160th anniversary of the founding of the city of Beaver Bay—the oldest permanent settlement on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The Beaver Bay Historical Society — right across the street from the new Beaver Bay Wayside — will have exhibits and demonstrations featuring the storied history of the area.

Among notable aspects of that history, Beaver Bay was the home of John Beargrease, who delivered mail along the shore for 20 years, from 1879 to 1899. He and his brothers began the mail deliveries while tending their traplines along the footpath that connected settlements along the shore, which was then the main travel route between Duluth and Thunder Bay. The brothers used various conveyances to deliver the mail, including boats, canoes, and horses. But John Beargrease was most famous for delivering mail in the depths of winter with a primitive sled and a team of four dogs. Today his life, and his pivotal role in the development of the North Shore communities linked by the mail run, is celebrated with the annual John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. His grave can be visited in the Indian Cemetery on the hillside above the town center.

Beaver Bay history is the “Roots” part of the fest. The “Rhythm” part is represented by the music that will fill the air in Beaver Bay. On Saturday, as the

GGTA cyclists ride through town, businesses along the route will feature talented local musicians in sidewalk concerts, in addition to food, concessions and street sales. At the festival tent in front of the Green Door, the Lamont Cranston Band will be the featured act at a concert Saturday evening. Watch the GGTA Facebook page for festival updates.

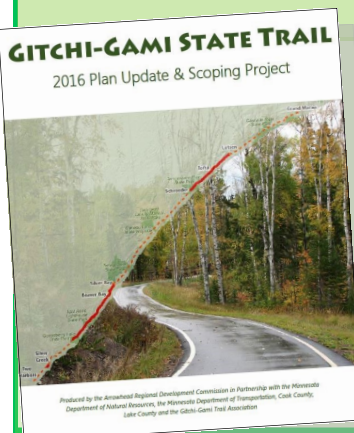
The celebration also gives the GGTA a chance to recognize the role Beaver Bay has played in the short history of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. The 2016 ride marks the eleventh year that Beaver Bay has been the “hub” of the GGTA annual ride. In 2006 and every year since, it has been the main rest stop on the “short” ride on the trail, as well as the longer loops incorporating roads north and east of Beaver Bay. Completion of the attractive wayside at Co Rd 4 and Hwy 61 has provided a lovely and functional location for the ride’s main rest stop.

The GGTA is also celebrating its partnership with Beaver Bay Township, the DNR and MnDOT in completing the Beaver Bay to Silver Bay trail segment of the GGST. The long-awaited West Road project will pave the half mile of gravel road from the west trail terminus to Hwy 61, linking Beaver Bay to Silver Bay on all-asphalt surface this year. Next year, MnDOT plans to reconstruct the bridge over the beautiful Beaver River, including a dedicated bike lane separated from traffic.

GGTA bikers are all invited to experience the “Rhythm & Roots” of Beaver Bay during this year’s Annual Ride. **SIGN UP INSIDE** ➡

The long-awaited Scoping Project report is finally here!

BRAVO CHARLIE! No, that’s not the name of an elite military team. It’s a shout-out to the author of the GGST Scoping Project — the first comprehensive overview of the existing trail and proposed trail corridor, prepared for the GGTA by Charlie Moore, Regional GIS Specialist for the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission. With funding from the GGTA, ARDC, Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program, and others, the massive undertaking was completed earlier this year. For planning purposes, the trail was grouped into completed segments, priority segments, and long-term planning segments — 30 in all, with detailed maps and information. For each incomplete segment, the report includes proposed alignment and length, estimated cost of engineering and construction, benefits to North Shore businesses and visitors from completing the segment, special challenges (including bridges and underpasses needed), unique opportunities, and next steps. See the master chart inside on page 2. The entire 50-page report, including segment descriptions and maps, can be found online. A link is available at “The Trail” page on the website, www.ggta.org.



GGST Scoping Project Segments Master Chart

Segment Number	Segment Name	Year of Completion	Status	Miles
1	Two Harbors Visitors Center to Superior Shores Road	TBD	Unfunded	0.96
2	Superior Shores Road to Flood Bay	TBD	Unfunded	0.30
3	Flood Bay to Silver Creek Cliff	TBD	Unfunded	2.97
4	Silver Creek Cliff	2004	Completed	0.60
5	Silver Creek Cliff Tunnel to Lafayette Bluff Tunnel	TBD	Unfunded	2.78
6	Lafayette Bluff to W Castle Danger Road	TBD	Unfunded	2.73
7	W Castle Danger Road to Gooseberry Falls	TBD	Unfunded	2.40
8	Gooseberry Falls to Beaver Bay	2001-02/ 2006/2008	Completed	14.14
9	Beaver Bay Trailhead (non-trail facility)	2014	Completed	0.00
10	Beaver Bay to Silver Bay Segment on West Road	2016-17	Partially funded, planned	0.78
11	West Road to Silver Bay	2013	Completed	2.29
12	Silver Bay to Tettegouche	TBD	Unfunded	7.31
12 ALT-1	Silver Bay to Palisade Head (ALTERNATE ROUTE)	TBD	Unfunded	(2.91)
12 ALT-2	Palisade Head to Tettegouche (ALTERNATE ROUTE)	TBD	Unfunded	(2.39)
13	Tettegouche to New Beach	TBD	Unfunded	3.45
14	New Beach to Little Marais	TBD	Unfunded	3.12
15	Little Marais to Caribou Falls	TBD	Unfunded	5.20
16	Caribou Falls State Wayside	2017	Planned	0.23
17	Caribou Falls to Sugarloaf Cove	TBD	Unfunded	2.60
18	Sugarloaf Cove to Taconite Harbor Launch	TBD	Unfunded	3.52
19	Taconite Harbor Launch through Schroeder	TBD	Unfunded	2.42
20	Schroeder to Tofte	2004	Completed	2.87
21	Town of Tofte	2018	Funded (TAP & State)	1.11
22	Tofte to Lutsen (Ski Hill Rd)	2013	Completed	7.30
23	Ski Hill Road to Lutsen Town Center	TBD	Unfunded	1.55
24	Lutsen Town Center to CR 97 West Intersection	TBD	Unfunded	2.80
25	CR 97 West Intersection to CR 97 East intersection	TBD	Unfunded	4.40
26	CR 97 East Intersection to Cascade River	TBD	Unfunded	1.61
27	Cascade River to Good Harbor Bay Pull Off	TBD	Unfunded	4.11
28	Good Harbor Bay pull off to Cut Face Creek	TBD	Unfunded	0.31
29-A	Cut Face Creek Ped/Bike Bridge	2015	Completed	0.10
29-B	Cut Face Creek to W. Limits Grand Marais	2016-2017	Partially Funded	3.29
30	W. Limits Grand Marais to Downtown Grand Marais	2004	Completed	1.91
	(TBD = To Be Determined)		Total Mileage	89.16



Completed Segments



Priority Segments



Alternative Route Segments



Long-term Planned Segments

16th Annual GGTA North Shore Bike Ride

The 16th Annual Gitchi-Gami Trail Association North Shore Bike Ride will take place on Saturday, August 20, on the spectacular Gitchi-Gami State Trail and connecting roads. Once again this year we will offer three ride options — 28-mile, 37-mile, and 55-mile recreational rides — all beginning and ending in beautiful Gooseberry Falls State Park, on scenic Hwy 61. As an extra added attraction, Beaver Bay, the "hub" of all three rides, is celebrating its First Annual Rhythm & Roots Festival on the day of our ride, with music, history presentations, street sales, food, and fun.

The ride begins at 9 am. Riders are requested to depart by 10:30 am. Parking for the ride is in a lot inside Gooseberry Falls State Park. Vehicles must display an annual state park vehicle sticker or a daily vehicle pass (a daily pass will be provided by the GGTA as part of the registration fee). The daily permit is also good for entry to other state parks on this day only.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided at rest stops and post-ride. Mechanical, emergency, and sag support will be available. All adult riders will receive t-shirts, and younger riders will receive water bottles. All riders must sign waivers and wear helmets.

Registration can be completed by mail, using the registration and waiver form on this page, and the self-addressed envelope enclosed in the newsletter. **Online registration is also available**, at the Annual Ride page on our website, www.ggta.org (through secure PayPal payment). Registration postmarked or made online by August 1 is \$40; after August 1 it is \$45. Registration for a child under 15 years old is \$5 with a paid adult.

Members of the GGTA receive a \$10 discount from these prices! Anyone who joined the GGTA in 2015 or 2016 is a member. If you are not a member, and would like to support the work of the GGTA in building and promoting this North Shore gem (and, of course, to receive the discount), you can join when you register for the ride. Just fill out the information on the membership envelope if you register by mail. Online, you can join at the same time as you register and will qualify for the discount.

Don't know if you're a member? You can contact us at membership@ggta.org.

Questions? Contact ride director Bill Blank at annualride@ggta.org or 218-370-1003.

Registration and Waiver Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Registration by Aug 1: \$40 (\$30 for members)

Registration after Aug 1: \$45 (\$35 for members)

Children under 15: \$5 with paid adult

Circle shirt size: M L XL Second rider: M L XL

Ride options: ___ 28 miles ___ 37 miles ___ 55 miles

I agree by my entry into this event to accept its inherent risks, and absolve the Gitchi-Gami Trail Association (GGTA), its officers and employees, and all other sponsors, organizers, volunteers and associated entities, with their heirs and assigns, singly or collectively, of all blame or liability for any harm, inconvenience, injury, loss, or other misadventure suffered as a result of taking part in the GGTA North Shore Bike Ride.

Any qualified doctor or medical technician is hereby authorized to provide me medical treatment in response to an accident, injury, or illness during this event.

I give permission, without obligation or liability to me, for the use of my name, image or other record of my taking part in the GGTA North Shore Bike Ride for any promotional or publicity purposes.

I will obey traffic rules, heed officials' advice, and ride and conduct myself with due caution and respect, so as not to endanger anyone or disrupt the enjoyment of fellow cyclists, motorists or others. I agree to wear a properly fitted hard shell bicycle helmet at all times when riding a bicycle at this event.

My signature indicates that I have read this waiver and agree with its intent (**all riders must sign**):

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Under 18? Sign above, and have adult sign below:

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed Registration and Waiver form and check for ride registration (including membership fee, if any) in the enclosed envelope.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

- Arrowhead Cooperative
- Bluefin Bay – Tofte Management
- Birch Grove Foundation • Cedar Coffee Company
- Cooperative Light and Power • Cove Point Lodge
- Grand Marais Hotel Company • Grand Marais State Bank
- Lamb's Resort • Lutsen Resort •
- Lockport Marketplace & Grill
- North Shore Federal Credit Union • Northshore Mining
- Solbakken Resort • SpokeNGear Cyclery & Outdoor
- Superior North Outdoor Center
- Superior Shores Resort • Thrivent Financial
- Two Dogs in the Web
- Two Harbors Area Chamber of Commerce

[YOUR NAME HERE: become a Business Member and sponsor the ride — see the website Membership page!]

Ride to Beaver Bay . . .



on the road less traveled!



Gitchi-Gami Trail Association

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Silver Bay, MN 55614

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Nothing compares
to the simple
pleasure of
a bike ride.

~John F. Kennedy

When I see
an adult
on a bicycle,
I do not despair
for the future
of the human race.

~ H.G. Wells



Photography by Michelle Pierson