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*Greetings!*

We have a lot of news for you this month. The SHTA Board has selected a new Executive Director to lead the organization. Registration for Hike Fest 2017 is underway. Supporting retailers are hosting spring events for those of you looking for new gear! The North Shore is finally seeing signs of spring and many eager hikers are anxiously waiting to get out on the trail. Trail crews are starting to clear the winter damage and volunteers are doing section and campsite maintenance checks.

**Trail Conditions:**

Early spring conditions including wet and muddy stretches on the southern sections to knee deep snow on northern sections. Trail may be blocked in some areas by winter blow-down or sagging brush. Far northern access roads (Jackson Lake Road and Otter Lake Road) may be difficult. Although it may not last hikers should remember that late season snow can fall well into May!

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## SHTA HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Superior Hiking Trail Association (SHTA) has hired a new executive director. After a four-month

search, the SHTA is pleased to announce that Denny Caneff will lead the SHTA into the future of maintaining, improving, permanently securing and protecting the trail as well as securing financial resources to support the SHTA and cultivating membership.

"We are fortunate to have found a leader with Denny's depth of experience and dynamic personality," said Tim Kuehn, vice president of the SHTA Board of Directors and chair of the SHTA Executive Director Search Committee, which received more than 70 applications for the executive director position. "With this summer's completion of the trail, the association's focus and needs are broadening. We not only chose Denny for his passion for the outdoors but his big picture thinking and strategic skills and his ability to build relationships with stakeholders. These skills will be key in setting the future direction of the trail for years to come."



Denny on Tabletop Mountain,  
Cape Town, South Africa

Denny comes to the North Shore by way of Madison, Wisc., where he held professional positions in land and water conservation, mostly recently completing a 13-year stint as executive director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. His work at the River Alliance was honored with two recent awards: the "Conservation in Action" award from the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, and a "River Hero" award from the national river conservation organization River Network. As a long-time nonprofit executive and consultant, Denny has raised tens of millions of dollars in grants and donations, developed volunteer and board capacity, managed professional staff, shaped conservation policy and educated the public on complex issues.

"I'm really excited to bring my nonprofit management experience and passion for the outdoors and conservation to the Superior Hiking Trail Association," Denny said. "The North Shore has always drawn me in, and what better way to answer that call than this work to keep the Superior Hiking Trail a regional and national gem."

A Minnesota native, Denny was born and raised in Hastings. He's a graduate of St. Cloud State University and holds a master's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The father of four children, Denny is an avid kayaker and hiker, and has canoed the entire length of the Mississippi River. Well-traveled, he has spent time in over 20 foreign countries, and served in the Peace Corps in West Africa. When he is not on a trail or river, Denny loves to be in his kitchen cooking and sharing those creations with friends.

Members and hikers attending Hike Fest 2017 on May 19-21 will have an opportunity to meet and welcome Denny where he will be formally introduced to the association on Saturday. Denny will start his work on June 1.

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## Hike Fest 2017 - Will you be there?

We hope you have already made your plans to attend; but if you haven't it's not too late to register!

**WHAT:** Three days of hiking, presentations, and other fun activities!

**WHERE:** Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Finland Minnesota

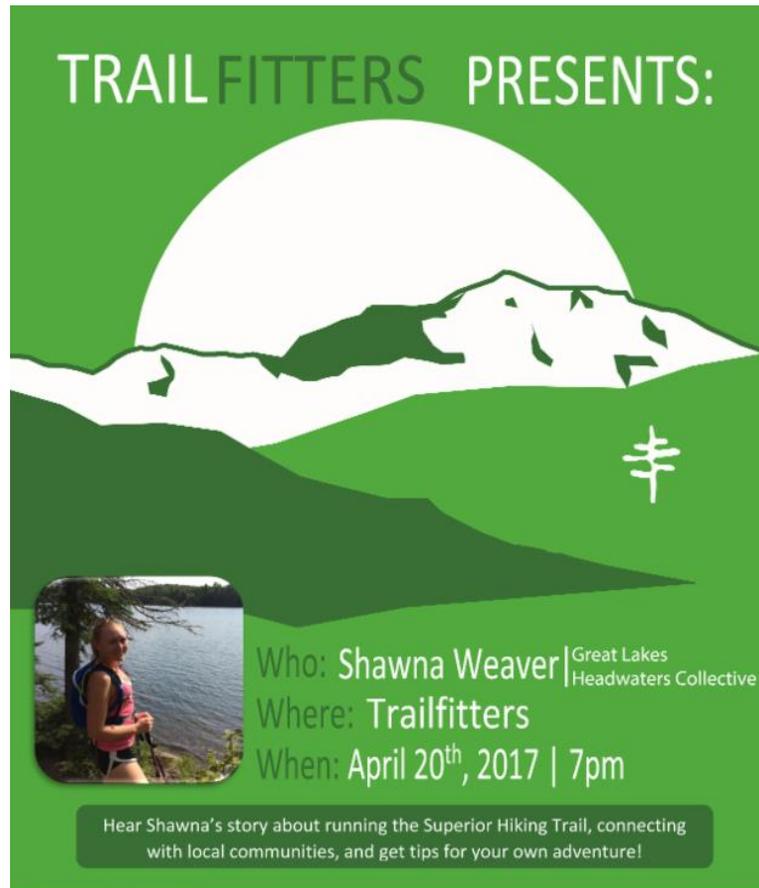
**WHEN:** Friday, May 19th - Sunday, May 21st

All East Dorm rooms have been reserved, but there is still plenty of room in the West Dorm. Don't miss out on this great start to the spring hiking season! Volunteers are also needed to help with the event — lead or sweep a hike, help with a social hour, or silent auction set-up.

[View the flyer for schedule and registration information.](#)

[REGISTER FOR HIKE FEST](#)

## Ladies Night at Trail Fitters in Duluth



TRAIL FITTERS PRESENTS:

Do you need a new pack, trail shoes, clothing or other gear? Thursday night will be a great time for SHTA members to check out this fun event at Trailfitters in Duluth!

SHTA volunteers will be there before and after the presentation to answer your questions about the Superior Hiking Trail. The SHTA will benefit from store sales made that night.

**More info:** [www.trailfitters.com](http://www.trailfitters.com)

Who: Shawna Weaver | Great Lakes Headwaters Collective  
Where: Trailfitters  
When: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | 7pm

Hear Shawna's story about running the Superior Hiking Trail, connecting with local communities, and get tips for your own adventure!

**TRAIL FITTERS** 

More info: [www.trailfitters.com](http://www.trailfitters.com)  
Fitter's Complex | 600 E Superior Street | Duluth, MN | 55802

## Volunteers Needed for Spring Trail Clearing Weekends

There are many opportunities to volunteer on the trail this spring! Please plan to join us at one of our three trail-clearing weekends! They are:

- Schroeder area, May 6 & 7
- Finland area, May 13 & 14
- Grand Marais area, May 27, 28, & 29

More information about these weekends can be found online at <http://shta.org/news-events/volunteer-trail-projects/>

Save the date: Our North of Gooseberry Re-route Trailbuilding Weekend will be June 3 & 4!

If you have questions or want to sign up, please [email Jo Swanson!](mailto:Jo@SHTA.org)

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## SHTA Partners with Midwest Mountaineering for Grant

### PATAGONIA AWARDS \$5000 FOR HABITAT AND TRAIL RESTORATION ON THE SPLIT ROCK RIVER LOOP

This much-loved 5-mile segment of trail has been severely impacted by the combination of growing numbers of trail users and riverbank erosion as a result of the changing pattern of heavy rain events. The worn trail presents both safety concerns for trail users and a pathway for increased sediment to be released into the river and lake.

The project proposal includes using native plants to restore disturbed soils and stabilize trail structures, replacement of rock steps, the addition of water bars to move water off the trail, re-benching areas of treadway to improve drainage, and re-routing the trail in an area subject to frequent flooding.

Many thanks to Rod Johnson from Midwest Mountaineering for supporting our grant request, and the Patagonia company for its funding of the grant program!



Rod stops by the SHTA to share the great news!

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## Outdoor Expo April 28th - 30th at Midwest Mountaineering

The Superior Hiking Trail Association  
will be at the Spring Outdoor

Adventure Expo to talk about trail conditions, sell guides, maps, patches, and other merchandise!

Please join us on Sunday, April 30th at 3:30 in Hanson Hall Room 103 for a **Volunteer Training with Han Taylor!** This training is for potential volunteers as well as returning volunteers. Learn trail maintenance tips, share your experiences, and meet other volunteers. Don't miss it!



Han Taylor, Trail Maintenance Supervisor

[Learn More](#)

A poster for the Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo. The top half shows a scenic view of a tent on a rocky shore next to a lake at dusk, with a person sitting by a campfire. The text on the poster includes: "MIDWEST MOUNTAINEERING OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EXPO APRIL 28-30 2017", "Now! Camping Expands to the Exhibitor Tents: - ongoing trail clinics - backpacking food samples - ideas on where to go for your next adventure", "OutdoorAdventureExpo.com", "PLUS: Thursday, April 27th Canoe, Kayak, and SUP Demo and Pre-Expo SALE", "EVERYTHING ON SALE! 120 FREE Presentations", "OVER 80 Exhibitors, Radical Reels Film Festival, Beer and Gear Social and Raffle", "DETAILS INSIDE and at OutdoorAdventureExpo.com", "Full Expo Hours: 2 pm - 9:30 pm Friday, 9 am - 5:30 pm Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm Sunday", "Late Mornings Canoe, Kayak, and SUP Demos, 9:30 am Thursday", "Non-Midwest Mountaineering stores will be closed Wednesday after dark, closed all day Thursday and closed Friday until 2pm. Many Outfitters, suppliers, will remain open and offer an extra 10% OFF during these hours.", "Featured Presenters: Lonnie Dupre, Mike Libeck, Cliff Jacobson, Alyce Kuenzli, Amy Freeman, Rod & Sharon Johnson, Brian Block, Lisa Pugh", "SPONSORED BY: TRAILTOPIA, GEARHEAD GEAR, TRAILTALK, NORTHSTAR, MSR, patagonia, WENO-NAH, THERMAREST, Current Designs, OSPREY, platypus, WESTERN HORN, CITY PAGES, THUS, WILDERNESS, PRANA, and others."/>

**OutdoorAdventureExpo.com**

PLUS: Thursday, April 27th Canoe, Kayak, and SUP Demo and Pre-Expo SALE

**EVERYTHING ON SALE!**  
**120 FREE Presentations**

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**Featured Presenters:**

Lonnie Dupre	Mike Libeck	Cliff Jacobson	Alyce Kuenzli
Amy Freeman	Rod & Sharon Johnson	Brian Block	Lisa Pugh

**SPONSORED BY:**

TRAILTOPIA	GEARHEAD GEAR	TRAILTALK	NORTHSTAR	MSR	patagonia	WENO-NAH	THERMAREST	Current Designs	OSPREY	platypus	WESTERN HORN	CITY PAGES	THUS	WILDERNESS	PRANA
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## Superior Hiking Trail Association

218-834-2700  
volunteer@shta.org  
www.shta.org

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