

RIDGELINE

A PUBLICATION OF THE SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2020



Every Step We Take, They'll Be Watching Us

I HAD A COUPLE OF SHOCKS WHEN I FIRST arrived at the Superior Hiking Trail Association in the summer of 2017; they were not electrical.

A county soil conservation official warned me that we may be breaking state wetland law by rerouting the SHT in the vicinity of Gooseberry Falls State Park. (The reroute was compelled by a private landowner who asked us to leave his property.)

Later that summer, a well-intended volunteer attempting to reduce the cost and effort of a board-walk project simply started to build a new trail parallel to the muddy stretch he was building for.

(Continued on page 2)

PHOTO: JARON CRAMER

Every Step We Take, They'll Be Watching Us (continued from cover)

The U.S. Forest Service sent us a friendly but pointed communique that the reroute was not approved through the agency's environmental review process.

As for the Minnesota DNR, they have always paid attention to what we're doing, but it's been generally casual and light-handed.

But casual is out. Increased scrutiny is in. It's important for our supporters and trail users to be aware of this increasing scrutiny: projects will take longer to complete because they will take longer to approve. And we may not get what we want: where the Trail should be rerouted may not be allowed because of resource concerns.

SWCD, USFS, DOT, DNR, LC, SLC, COD, MHS, MPCA

One of the sage observations I heard from Tom Peterson, the man who oversaw the building of the first 200 miles of the SHT, went as follows: "We knew it was easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission." (Tom also told me that it might be impossible to build a Superior Hiking Trail today because of environmental concerns.)



▲ It's thanks to Tom Peterson (pictured) that much of the SHT's route exists—it would be nigh impossible to accomplish that feat today.

We must now be all about permission.

Let's be clear: the Association is NOT opposed to environmental and cultural/historical review and approval of our projects. This scrutiny is all about taking care of the land and water the SHT passes through. We welcome it, in fact: we know the scrutiny will lead to a better-built and less damaging trail.

All public land management agencies are facing the same phenomenon of ever-expanding trail development, to the point that in some places (City of Duluth, Superior National Forest in particular), trails of all kinds are crisscrossing each other and getting threaded through ever-narrower corridors. Trail building is complicated: there are steep slopes to avoid, threatened or endangered plants and habitats to steer away

from. There are dangerous crossings to be mindful of, and there can be no overlap of cross-country ski and hiking trail in winter.

THE LEASE, PLEASE

For many years, we have had formal leases with the Minnesota DNR for where the SHT traverses state-owned land. In the summer of 2018, the agency began to rewrite the lease based on the latest on-the-ground details. We got that fresh data to DNR in early 2019. (That was thanks to a thru-hiker Andrew Gustin in the fall of 2018, whose herculean effort got an updated GPS track for the entire SHT and all its features.) We expect to see the new lease any day.

Updating the lease has inspired a general cleaning up of our interactions with the agency. As the DNR manager of our lease

DON'T HURT THE BAT HABITAT!



The natural resource agencies are concerned that we don't harm bat habitat. That means there's no large tree-cutting during the time of year that bats are nesting. The tree on the left was a possible bat hibernaculum that the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation required that we wait to cut. When that timeline collided with our project to build a boardwalk there (the Lakewalk near Hovland), DOT advised that we watch the tree for a couple of days, at sunset and at dawn, for bat activity. There was none, so the tree made way for the new boardwalk. **Photo by Tamer Ibrahim**

put it diplomatically, “There have been inconsistencies in the administration of this lease by DNR and how trail modifications have been submitted to DNR.” In other words, no more nods of the head or short email messages approving changes to the SHT on state land. And no more spontaneous-combustion trail projects on our part.

The changes DNR wants codified in the lease include, per the same official: “Trail, campsite, parking area, bridge, boardwalk and stairway relocation, construction and maintenance; signage and kiosks; use of earth materials or ‘flattening’ of landscape; temporary or permanent amenities such as bear poles, latrines, and benches.”

As a practical matter, we will still check in with the local DNR land manager with a proposed trail project. If they’re cool with the new idea, it then goes into the review process by various DNR specialists (including an archaeologist for trail projects in state parks). The local manager can also veto a project if they think it’s wrong for the land they manage—and we will not proceed.

LOOKING INTO LOOS

As our colleague Jo Swanson put it, “The latrine reckoning has come.” It turns out that SHTA’s latrines, located at each of our 94 campsites, are subject to—ready for this?—Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Administrative Rule #7080.2280. This may mean that new latrines (last year, we dug over 50 of them) may need to be approved by a “licensed septic designer.” While we have kept a deep setback of our latrines from surface waters, we now need to be sure they’re



▲ Volunteer Will Nordmark and the rest of the Elite Latrine Digg-ing Squad may have new pollution control rules to follow for future digs.

at least 300 feet from a stream or 1,000 feet from a lake. And there must be soil at least 3 feet deep between the bottom of the pit and any groundwater underneath it.

It’s very tempting to get funny/punny with the topic of latrines. For example, should we alter the headline of this article with a different noun than “step?” We don’t want to wipe out our goodwill with you, dear trail supporter, so we’ll leave it there.

ALL’S WELL THAT’S DONE WELL

The increased scrutiny, time-consuming and delay-causing it may be, means a better and more resilient Trail. It means you can use the SHT confident that its design and maintenance comply with conservation standards. There’s peace of mind in that.



— By DENNY CANEFF

The Superior Hiking Trail Association is dedicated to building, managing, renewing and promoting the Superior Hiking Trail.



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VOLUME 35, ISSUE 1

PEOPLE.
NATURE.
FOOTPATH.

FROM THE OVERLOOK



HIKE, EXPLORE, AND CONNECT: 2020 GUIDED HIKES

This year, we've organized our Guided Hikes into back-to-back hike weekends to make it easier for everyone, especially those travelling from far away, to enjoy a full weekend of hiking on the Trail. All hikes are free and open to all (as long as you're physically up for the challenge), and they're a great way to connect with new friends and fellow hikers.

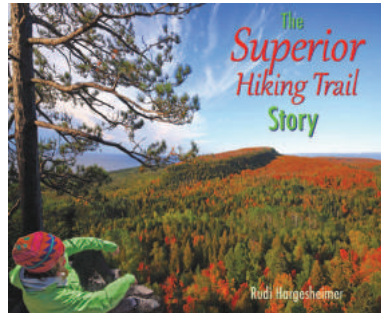
Highlights of the 2020 schedule:

- A four-hike weekend to celebrate National Trails Day (June 6) in and around Duluth.
- A chance to stay cool in Cook County during the heat of July.
- An August adventure on the lesser-known gems of the Trail.
- A tour of the Finland's finest fall colors in September.
- A Spooky Full Moon Night Hike on Halloween—costumes encouraged, flashlights required!

New this year, we're asking participants to pre-register for hikes so we can send pre-hike information, provide updates if plans change, and know who's joining us on the Trail. Head to superiorhiking.org

to find the full schedule and get registered to explore the SHT with us.

THE SUPERIOR HIKING TRAIL STORY, TOLD BY SOMEONE WHO KNOWS IT



Learn how the SHT came to be in "The Superior Hiking Trail Story," by Rudi Hargesheimer.

New! *The Superior Hiking Trail Story*, a 160-page hardcover book by Rudi Hargesheimer, is now available. You may recognize Rudi's name, as he helped develop the SHT as a member of the SHTA Board of Directors for over a decade. In the new book, Rudi shares his knowledge, award-winning photos, and information gleaned from numerous interviews to tell the

story of how the Trail came to be. Pick up your copy and meet the author on National Trails Day (June 6th) at Zenith Bookstore in Duluth from 2pm to 4pm.

APPLY FOR THE END-2-ENDER PROGRAM

Anyone who has hiked, walked, run, or sauntered on the Superior Hiking Trail knows how significant of an accomplishment it is to complete every section of our rugged footpath. Now, SHTA is pleased to offer the End-2-Enders Program to recognize those who've survived the mud, bugs, and grueling ups-and-downs all the way from Wisconsin to Ontario, whether in one trip or over the course of many trips. SHT End-2-Enders can apply online to receive a Certificate of Completion and a magnet designed by volunteer graphic artist Jennifer Anderson.

And don't sweat: if you hiked the entire SHT before it was completed from border to border or you took a detour along the way, you are still eligible to apply. Apply for recognition today at: superiorhiking.org/end-2-ender-program

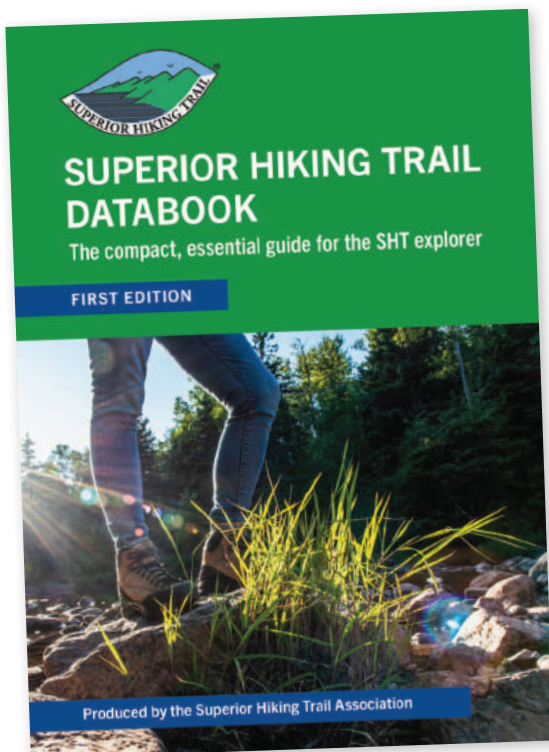
RULES REMINDER: Respect Landowner Rights by Staying on the Trail

Private lands on the SHT are often unmarked (though we aim to improve our signage this year), yet the Trail passes through over 80 parcels of private property. SHTA's agreements with these landowners—and our public land managers—have promised that SHT users will remain on the Trail at all times; continued access to these fine lands depends on you to respect this simple rule. **Bonus points:** Remind your furry friends to follow the same rule; keep your dog on-leash and on the Trail with you at all times.



Connect with nature and members of the trail community by joining us for a Guided Hike!

NEW DECADE, NEW DATABOOK (AND MAPS!)



Easy to pack, easy to plan—the new *Superior Hiking Trail Databook* is the pocket-sized guide to your next trek on the Trail.

Ever been at the end of a long hike and asked “How far to the next campsite?” or “How much longer until that promised view of the big lake?” Those questions, and so many more, are answered in the pages of the new *Superior Hiking Trail Databook*, a compact, easy-to-carry guide written for the SHT backpacker,


thru-hiker, trail runner, and occasional saunterer.

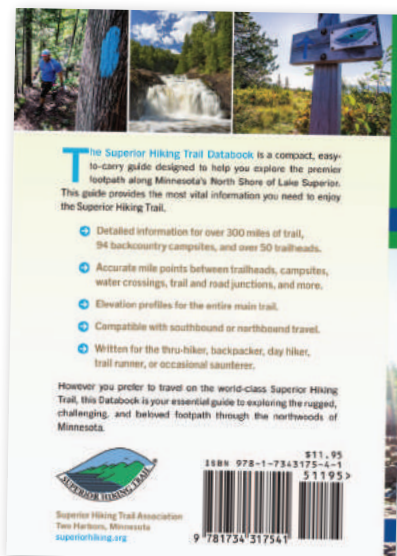
Our first ever *Databook* provides essentials-only information, helpful for planning trips and referencing on-trail. Inside, you’ll find accurate mileages between many points of interest (including campsites, trailheads, road and trail crossings, and more) on the main SHT, and elevation profiles to give a snapshot of the terrain that lies ahead (roots and rocks not included). And when you find you can’t do math at the end of a long day on the Trail

(we’ve been there too), don’t fret—indexes for mileages between campsites and trailheads will make it easy to know how far you have to go.

What you won’t find in the *Databook* are narrative descriptions, directions, or maps; those details will remain in our *Guide to the Superior Hiking Trail* (which we aim to update for the 2021

hiking season). Pick up your copy of the new *Databook* online now at shop.superiorhiking.org, at the SHTA Trail Information Center, or at a fine retailer near you!

And in the spirit of new and improved offerings, we’ll soon debut a completely redesigned series of trail maps. These maps will feature more details, like mile-markers, points of interest and useful topographic lines, and will be available soon in full color prints and digitally through the mobile Avenza app. 



Whether you start at Wisconsin or Ontario, you’ll find the information you need to explore the wonders of the SHT.

LEAVE A LEGACY ON THE SHT

Individual supporters like you provide the largest source of funding that powers SHTA’s work to build, maintain, and renew the Trail. In addition to a yearly or monthly gift, you can also leave a legacy to protect the SHT long into the future with a planned gift to SHTA.

A planned gift—through your wills, retirement plans, or real estate and insurance policies—is a powerful and thoughtful way to share your dedication to the SHT with future trail users and ensure what you have already invested in the Trail will endure. Learn how you can leave a legacy at: superiorhiking.org/legacy-gifts

TIME OF THE SEASON (FOR TRAIL LOVIN')

There's a fun dance of art, science, politics, and sociology in our selection of trail renewal projects. Back and forth go SHTA staff, our Volunteer Crew Leaders, and contractors to winnow the many priorities and possibilities. A few key criteria:

- Really heavily damaged trail (we know, there's a lot of that)
- Dangerous to use (see Sawmill Creek boardwalk)
- Landowners' request (the Forest Service wanted a reroute at Pincushion Mountain which we'll complete in August)
- Rich training opportunity for volunteers (see Britton Peak, Bean and Bear Loop)

The projects below are a snapshot of the trail renewal projects ahead in 2020. If you're ready to pick up the pick mattock and hit the Trail, you can sign up to help by heading to our new Volunteer Portal at: superiorhiking.galaxydigital.com

FOURTH FRIDAY PROJECTS NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

This new series of trail projects is designed with new volunteers in mind—simple and non-strenuous, with a good chance of being completed in a day. Plans are in the works for these outings scheduled for the fourth Fridays of June through October. An example: On June 26, we'll plant native sedges and shrubs to prevent erosion near the Encampment River. More details will be shared for the rest of the Fourth Fridays as the trail season progresses.

MAY 7–8 NEW DECKING FOR KIMBALL CREEK BRIDGE

Volunteer Crew Leader Michael Loscheider takes charge of this effort to patch up this bridge so your feet don't end up in Kimball Creek.

JUNE 4–6 BEAN AND BEAR REROUTE

About 1,200 feet of this much-loved and much-worn section gets some love this summer, wrapping up work that began in the summer of 2019.

Sawmill Creek Boardwalk
SUMMER 2020

Bean & Bear Reroute
JUNE 4–6

Trail Plumbing,
Bean & Bear Loop
JULY 8–11

Fourth Friday
OCTOBER

Fourth Friday
JUNE 26

138 Steps
LATE JULY

Fourth Friday
AUGUST 28



On complicated construction projects, volunteers drill the details—and the decking.
Photo by Steph Hoff.



"Trail Eyes" Tim Malzahn will return to teach us more ways to move water off the Trail at his "Trail Plumbing" workshop in July.

JUNE 19–24 LUTSEN-TO-CARIBOU TRAIL REHABILITATION

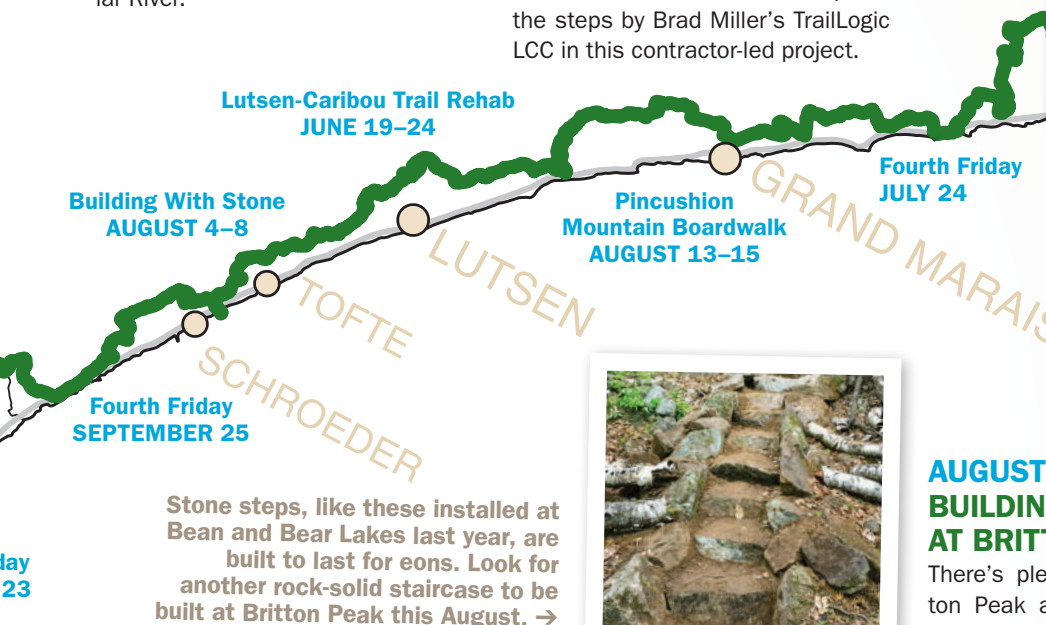
Led by VCLs Todd Rowe and John Storkamp, this project will replace failed and sagging puncheon (boardwalk that sits on the ground) in a soggy part of the SHT near the Poplar River.

LATE JULY 138 STEPS IN DULUTH

We don't know if anyone has actually counted the steps of a failing stairway on the east side of Spirit Mountain Recreation Area near Knowlton Creek. It's been dubbed that by the many people planning this project. A new route will be created to replace the steps by Brad Miller's TrailLogic LLC in this contractor-led project.



Our Volunteer Crew Leaders, like Michael Loscheider (pictured), lead projects with infectious positivity and serious dedication to the work. Michael will lead a project to re-deck the bridge over Kimball Creek this May. Photo by John Storkamp.



Stone steps, like these installed at Bean and Bear Lakes last year, are built to last for eons. Look for another rock-solid staircase to be built at Britton Peak this August. →



AUGUST 4–8 BUILDING WITH STONE AT BRITTON PEAK

There's plenty of rock around Britton Peak and plenty of reason to move it around into stairways. This is a learning-by-working project led by Willie Bittner of Great Lakes Trail Builders LLC.

AUGUST 13–15 PINCUSHION MOUNTAIN BOARDWALK

We can see the end of this long-anticipated reroute. VCLs Stephanie Hoff and Michael Loscheider will lead the effort to build new boardwalk and complete this new piece of the SHT.

JULY 8–11 TRAIL PLUMBING AT BEAN AND BEAR LOOP

Don't bring your pipe wrench to this learning-by-working event, but be ready to learn how to shape and sculpt the Trail so water gets along with it better. Led by master trailman Tim Malzahn, trail operations director of Ice Age Trail Alliance, doing business, appropriately, as "Trail Eyes."

SUMMER 2020 SAWMILL CREEK BOARD- WALK REPLACEMENT

Like 138 Steps, this will be a contractor-driven project to replace the boardwalk that sits on top of a beaver dam and cleverly described by stalwart volunteer Nicole Halgrimson as "hokey-pokey Frankenstein." Whatever she means, she's right! Trail users will be much safer with new boardwalk there.

Visit superiorhiking.org/calendar and follow along on Facebook (@suphike) to learn how you can show up to make a difference on the SHT.



NIX IS IN THE MIX

Tim Nix has already shown his mettle on several trail projects in Duluth last summer. And don't let this picture fool you—he's usually very happy.

We have a new trail renewal consultant and contractor for the Duluth area.

Arriving in Duluth last summer, when his wife Fran Smith became commanding officer of the U.S. Coast Guard unit there, Tim Nix volunteered on the Trail and impressed our stalwart long-time contractor Larry Sampson. And Tim found he really enjoyed trail work.

He is veteran of the U.S. armed forces who grew up “in the sticks” of Georgia. He got his northern Minnesota baptism-by-blizzard last November and became cozy with a snowblower very quickly. He clearly hasn't been scared off by our cold climate; he volunteered for the Ski Patrol squad at Spirit Mountain over winter.

Tim brings a variety of skills, both technical and people, to trail renewal work. We're doing our best to temper his enthusiasm for taking on a slew of projects this summer, but we figure a baptism-by-mud is inevitable in the realm of trail renewal.

We're most pleased to welcome Tim to the SHTA team! 🏔️

COVID-19 AND THE SHT COMMUNITY

While producing this issue of the Ridgeline, we found ourselves in the midst of the COVID-19/Coronavirus global pandemic. As SHTA responds to evolving health concerns, our priority will be the health and well-being of our trail users, volunteers, staff, and the broader trail community. We will adapt to and follow the recommendations of public health agencies to prevent the spread of the virus. It is unclear how this will impact our activities this spring, but we will keep you updated on any changes to our plans and policies at: superiorhiking.org/coronavirus

FROM THE SHTA EXPERIMENTAL LABS: BEAR POLES



SHTA trail development director Jo Swanson wields the stick (looks like a big wrench, doesn't it?) you'll use to hoist your food up onto the new bear pole once it's installed

Last fall, SHTA hired “Roger That!” a Two Harbors-based powersports repair shop, to weld up three custom bear poles based on a design perfected on the Potomac section of the Appalachian Trail. These experimental poles will soon be installed at a few SHT campsites where bears and campers too often share meals.

If you camp at a site with one of these new poles, USE IT and let us know how they work for you. If all goes well, more poles will be deployed to sites where bear activity is commonly reported. 🏔️

BE MINDFUL ON MUDDY TRAIL THIS SPRING



Spring brings the SHT, and the rich ecosystems that surround it, back to life.

Spring in northern Minnesota is a time of rebirth, rejuvenation, and renewal. From raging waterfalls and ephemeral creeks to flowering bunchberries and trilliums, there is much to enjoy on the SHT this time of year.

Yet spring is when the SHT is most susceptible to damage, even by well-intentioned trail users. When winter snowpack melts and spring rainstorms saturate soils, much of the SHT turns to mud or ends up submerged under water. Our prescription for dealing with mud on the Trail has always been to go right through it, not around it, to avoid widening the tread and trampling sensitive vegetation. That remains sound advice—please keep following it!

However, we're learning that there's more to be done to protect the Trail when it's wet. In Duluth, the City's Parks and Recreation Department has begun to close the SHT and all other natural surface trails during the spring melt to avoid damage when trails are too wet. And while the rest of the SHT remains open, popular routes up the Shore are being "loved to death" by excited hikers and runners before the Trail has a chance to dry out.



Hiking or running through mud pits, like this one near Gooseberry Falls State Park, is neither enjoyable nor beneficial to the long-term health of the Trail. When it's wet like this, please stay off and enjoy a higher, drier route.

We know there are some design flaws out there. Much of the SHT was not built to modern trail-building standards that help shed water. That's why we're working to reroute the Trail to drier land, installing boardwalks,



New punchon (a simplified boardwalk) like this is one solution we'll employ to improve the trail user experience and protect the Trail corridor from damage during wet conditions.

and improving "trail plumbing" to move water off the Trail and keep people on it. In the face of climate change-induced downpours and more users than ever, we need your help to keep the SHT in great shape. [AA](#)

YOU CAN HELP US PROTECT THE TRAIL

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR SPRING TRAIL USE AND CAMPING:

- Follow the principles of Leave No Trace.
- Check our Trail Conditions page to avoid trail closures and problem spots. You can also use the Trail Problem Report on the page to let us know of new issues.
- If the Trail is soggy and saturated, stay off to avoid causing further damage. If the Trail is mostly dry but you hit a mudhole, go right through it, not around it, to avoid widening the tread and damaging vegetation.
- Consider using a hammock at SHT campsites to limit your footprint. Be sure to hang your food to keep critters away.
- Visit our Volunteer Portal to find opportunities to help with trail maintenance and construction projects, and donate what you can to support our trail renewal efforts.

YOUR SUPPORT ADDS UP

The SHTA is in good financial shape, and we have established broad-based support from thousands of members, donors, and businesses. Here's a look at our 2019 fiscal year (October 2018 through September 2019).


In 2019, our team continued to improve the financial viability, transparency, and sustainability of the Association. A few highlights of our efforts:

■ **Increased grant revenue** from the MN Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, Federal Recreational Trails Program, Lake Superior Coastal Program, and others to power big projects.

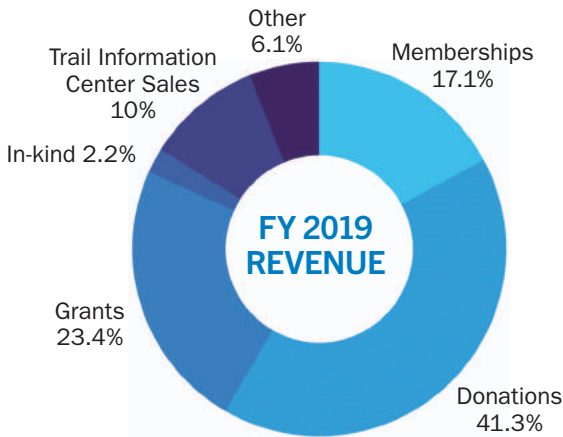
■ **Expanded ways to give back** to include Legacy gifts, gifts of stock, auto-renewal of memberships, and Facebook fundraisers.

■ **Raised funds and awareness** by partnering with local and national brands, like REI Co-op, Trailfitters, Larabar, and Whole Foods Co-op.

■ **Secured critical year-round funds** by expanding our Monthly Sustainer program by over 50%.

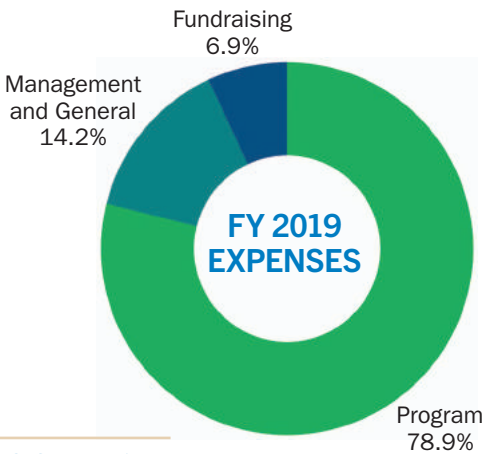
Questions? Contact development and communications director Jaron Cramer at jcramer@superiorhiking.org 

FISCAL YEAR 2019 REVENUE



TOTAL: \$773,918

FISCAL YEAR 2019 EXPENSES



TOTAL: \$664,434

QUICK STATS:

- \$367,967** — Total donations and memberships from 3,255 individual contributors
- 78.9%** — Percent of spending on program activities
- \$9.80** — Amount raised for every dollar spent on fundraising activities
- 7.1** — Months of cash on hand to survive sudden drop in income

BOTTOM LINE:

Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, SHTA has more capacity than ever before to care for and improve the Trail we love.

SHTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO STEP DOWN



Denny, a self-proclaimed “river guy,” admires one of the cutest waterfalls along the SHT at McCarthy Creek.

Denny Caneff, executive director of the Superior Hiking Trail Association, recently announced he will step down from his position at the SHTA on August 1, 2020. He will be moving back to Madison, Wisconsin, where he lived for more than 30 years prior to joining the SHTA team.

“We are grateful for Denny’s leadership of the Association and his enthusiasm for the Trail these past three years,” said Amy Schwarz, chair of the SHTA Board of Directors. “His depth of experience, passion for the outdoors, his big picture think-


ing and ability to build partnerships set the Association in a dynamic new direction.”

Denny began at the SHTA in June 2017 and quickly took his outdoors experience and leadership from river health to trail renewal and developed plans and processes and raised funds for this major effort.

“We set the Trail and the organization

on the path to renewal and resiliency,” said Denny Caneff. “As an organization, we are nimbler and more willing to adjust to challenging times.”

Denny will be with the Association through most of the 2020 hiking and trail building season. “There’s work to do this spring and summer, and I look forward to swamping, hauling, blazing and flagging with our volunteer teams,” said Caneff.

SHTA will begin the search for the organization’s next executive director, and a search committee has been formed. Updates on the hiring process will be shared at superiorhiking.org. 

HERE'S A HOLE FOR A BLURB...

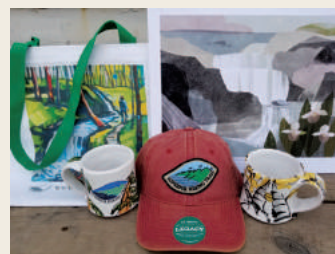
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ART + TRAIL = LOVE

Need a gift idea for the Trail lover in your life? Want something to remind you of your experiences exploring the North Shore? Just like fine local art?

Look no further than the SHTA Trail Information Center (TIC). Our team has collaborated with several local artists, whose works are featured in new products in the TIC and on-line store.




shop.superiorhiking.org

▲ Find yourself back in the forests of the northwoods with a handmade Duluth Pottery mug, looking totes cool sporting an Enviro-tote bag featuring Adam Swanson’s “Superior Days” print, or keeping your wall decorations timely with seasonal prints from Tin Cup Design. You’ll feel good buying local art to support the Trail!



shop.superiorhiking.org

▲ And if graphic T-shirts are more your style, check out this one designed by Jake Lehto, the winner of our recent T-shirt design contest, and printed by Seek Dry Goods on a shirt made in the U.S. with a blend of recycled polyester and organic cotton and printed with environmentally-friendly inks. 




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LOVE THOSE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTERS TOO

Members and supporters make our world go 'round, but these granting agencies and foundations make it possible to tackle the big projects that will define our world in the years to come. We thank them—and thank the voters and policymakers who created these programs to begin with. 

■ **Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB):** \$60,000 to build the “Gooseberry Gap.”

■ **Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund:** A \$100,000 grant for trail evaluation and a trail database, and a \$191,000 grant for trail renewal projects. What's more, another \$450,000 grant for trail renewal is in the pipeline.

■ **Federal Recreational Trails Program** (administered by Minnesota DNR): \$85,140 in 2020 for trail maintenance and building materials.

■ **Minnesota Coastal Program:** Three grants totaling \$38,208 for new signs, training volunteers in conservation-minded trail practices, and for developing our new Databook for the Trail.

■ **Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation of Duluth:** \$10,000 to support volunteers to learn conservation-minded trail renewal.

DAM THOSE BEAVERS AT SAWMILL CREEK

Twenty years ago, SHTA built a long stretch of boardwalk over a beaver dam at Sawmill Pond to help complete the SHT through the so-called “Finland Gap” between Section 13 and George Crosby Manitou State Park. What an idea to make good use of the beavers' dam fine work!

While that boardwalk has been maintained and pieces have been replaced, it's beginning to fail and is now at the top of our list for dangerous structures to replace. A new boardwalk will be installed there later this summer in one of our grant-funded, contractor-led trail renewal projects. Flip to page 6 to learn how we're emulating our busy beaver friends with a suite of renewal projects up and down the Trail this year.

