

Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment



MI-TRALE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2023 Edition

<https://mi-trale.org>



Board of Directors:

PRESIDENT –Donald Helsel dhelsel1@charter.net

VICE-PRESIDENT – Janet Miesbauer janet.mitrale@gmail.com

SECRETARY – Linda Schulz lschulz@runningbearresort.com

TREASURER – Dave Bishop mitrale49953@gmail.com

DIRECTORS:

Cathy Wainio cndwainio@yahoo.com ; Steve Slater honda400ex2003@gmail.com ;

Jon Fourez jon4ez@gmail.com ; Tim Peacy timothy.peacy@gmail.com

Jim Fooce foocenhaber@yahoo.com

Your new MI-TRALE Board elected at the January 03, 2023 Annual Meeting is:

President: Don Helsel

Secretary: Linda Schulz

Directors: New; Steve Slater, Tim Peacy, Jon Fourez, re-elected Cathy Wainio

For the 2023 election cycle are:

Vice President: Janet Miesbauer

Treasurer: Dave Bishop

Directors: Jim Fooce

Introducing our new Directors:



Steve has been riding or driving anything off-road since his whole life but has been riding the beautiful trails of western Michigan since 2007. While he resides in WI, he has spent a fair amount of time in the UP over the years, going to Gogebic Community College and Michigan Tech during his time here. He promotes tread lightly and courtesy on the trails wherever he goes and tries to leave it better than he found it. Something as simple as picking up sticks and rocks makes a big difference to help out a club. He enjoys trail days and sharing adventures with anyone that he can find. He especially loves the fall color senior citizen ride and looks forward to that every year. Be sure to check it out!



Jon retired from farming in east central Illinois and decided to move north to explore the many wonders of the Upper Peninsula. He has two daughters and a son in law. As a summer

sport he enjoys driving his UTV exploring the many miles of trails In the western UP. Along with that he wanted to stay busy so from advice from Linda Schulz he joined MI-TRALE in 2022 where he spent the summer helping to brush around trail signs and cutting up trees after a wind storm. One unique aspect was learning to run a magnet under the guidance of Dave Bishop to pick up metal that could puncture tires on the trail. The trails have many scenic areas to offer and lots of new friends to meet. Work is never work when you are among friends. MI-TRALE is unique in offering both motorized and non motorized sports through equestrian, UTVs and water sports such as canoeing or kayaking. I look forward to finding out how I can help out in anyway I can, such as joining the board of directors.

Tim Peacy – *Bio Coming soon*

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:

Outgoing President Russ Diethert;



To MI-TRALE Members and Friends,

This is my final newsletter as President of MI-TRALE. What an honor it has been to be a small part of this great organization. Over the last 17 years as a volunteer and board member I have seen MI-TRALE transform from a club to a business. We have gone from a group that was seeking to be heard to an organization that is now sought after for our opinion. We now have a voice in the future of ORV and Equestrian activity in the Western U.P. Also, our activities and stewardship of DNR funding have gained the respect and appreciation of many locally and in Lansing. We are proud of the job we've done for the riding public and grateful for the excellent working relationships we have with our contacts at the Ottawa National Forest and the Michigan DNR. Their support is crucial to your future enjoyment of this very special part of our country.

MI-TRALE today is not the result of the efforts of one person. It takes a dedicated board of directors who devote many hours to this effort. Our board members do a remarkable job and as a result, our sponsored and managed activities today include:

Web Site
 Facebook
 Mobile phone trail map app "Michigan UP Trails"
 Printed map
 Trail counters
 Geocaching
 Equestrian campgrounds
 Scholarships
 Youth safety training
 Fall color ride for seniors
 Scheduled rides and events
 Trail magnet project
 Trail maintenance which will exceed \$300,000 in 2023.



I am proud to have served with our Board and you can be proud of the job they are doing on your behalf.

Please continue to be a member and encourage others to join MI-TRALE. Also, I ask you to consider getting more involved. Every little bit helps and we need all the help we can get to maintain and expand your trail system.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Diethert
 President, Mi-TRALE



Incoming President Don Helsel;



A lot has been accomplished since I was President of MI-TRALE. Russ and his board have made significant gains in what MI-TRALE was able to complete in the last two years. In some very difficult times. MI-TRALE just like every other business has been impacted by the COVID restrictions. You will see some of the accomplishments in the "A Year in Review" article later in this newsletter.

We all need to thank Russ and the board for everything that they did in the last two years to support and grow our recreational sport. Most people do not realize the effort that is required to be a successful volunteer. If you already volunteer for a local group, or organization, then you have a good idea. If you are not a volunteer already that means you should have spare time to support MI-TRALE. If that is not possible due to where you live, then join a local organization and make a difference. Get involved.

2023 will be an exciting year for our recreational sport. MI-TRALE has over \$330,000 of DNR Grant funds to manage, events to support/join/sponsor, and meetings to attend to ensure that our voices are heard throughout Michigan.

With your support and direction, we will all make it a better year.

I am looking forward to serving you, as president, for the next two years.

Thanks,

Donald Helsel

President of MI-TRALE

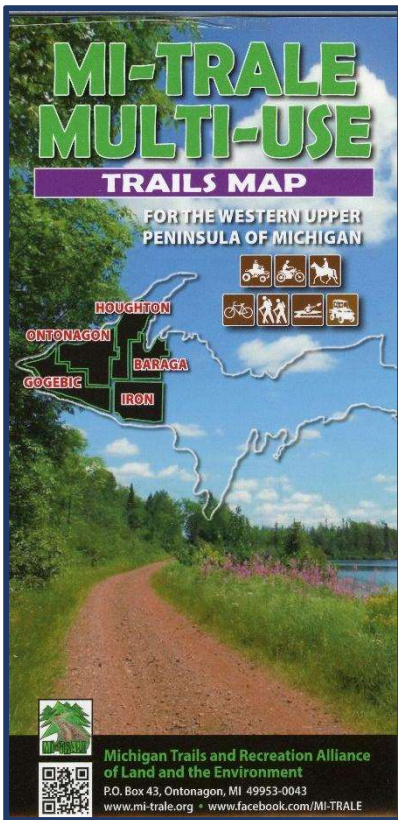


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MI-TRALE Map & App



In 2022, Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE) released their much sought-after Trails map and an update to its free “Michigan UP Trails” map app.

The 2022 release contains over 300 miles of DNR Designated trails, 250 miles of club trails and another 2300 miles of trails open to ORV use on the Ottawa National Forest. It is a large map at “35 by 25” printed on quality paper

The map includes ORV trails, Equestrian trails, Paddling water trails, and Hiking trails in the 5-county area. Ten points of interest are provided for the entire family to experience. The map also provides details for 19 water trails for the paddler to enjoy. This is a must have for the serious recreational trail user.

The map can be ordered at [Maps & App \(mi-trale.org\)](https://mi-trale.org) . It may also be purchased locally from any of our sponsors listed on our website. Advertising opportunities available in the next edition.

FREE Map App “Michigan UP Trails”

This easy to use app can be downloaded from your favorite app store. It is continuously updated. It will always have the very latest trail information.



DNR ATV Youth Safety Classes

MI-TRALE has been holding youth DNR ATV safety classes for years and years. 7 years ago MI-TRALE was invited to participate in a community effort called Camp Nesbit where local 6th graders learn recreation safety. This training at Camp Nesbit has been happening since the 50's or 60's maybe even earlier. This year MI-TRALE's own DNR certified ORV Safety trainer Jim along with MI-TRALE volunteers taught safety classes at 3 local schools in April and early May so the 130+ students could receive the certificate which allows them to ride ORV's under certain circumstances. Then in mid-May the students go to Camp Nesbit located in the Ottawa National Forest where they camp out for 3-4 days to do hands on training. Training includes ORV, hunting, water, survival and more. MI-TRALE teaches the students how to start the machines, we make sure they know where the brakes, throttle, key, starting button how to put on a helmet and safety glasses, then we take them through a supervised safety course where they learn how to stop at stop signs, maneuver through cones, take corners and ride with others. Big thanks to MI-TRALE's ORV Safety trainer, Jim Fooce, the support volunteers Don, Dave, Russ, Jon, Nora & Linda, and the local business 906 Services, Headwaters Polaris and Pat's Motorsports who donated additional necessary equipment such as ATV's & Helmets. This training is very important to MI-TRALE, these students are the future of our Sport and Trails.



A Review of 2022; MI-TRALE Rides and Events

MI-TRALE was fortunate this year to be able to hold all our planned rides and events as scheduled, after two years of COVID disruptions. It was a welcomed change for all involved. Here are a few of the fun events that we had this year.

MI-TRALE Provides ORV Safety Training

Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment (MI-TRALE) provided “hands on” training in addition to the 1 day of classroom study for the students of Ontonagon, Ewen - Trout Creek, Lake Linden, and Dollar Bay Schools. Total students involved was about 130. The State requires a day long classroom instruction be completed at the respective schools. The hands-on training was done while the students attended the amazing Ottawa National Forest Camp Nesbit facility, located just south of Sidnaw. The Ontonagon and Ewen - Trout Creek was completed on May 11th and the Lake Linden and Dollar Bay was completed on May 19th.

MI-TRALE provided the required classroom safety training by a State of Michigan certified instructor for our young riders to ensure that they have the opportunity to earn the legally required ORV Safety Certificate and expose them to the rules and responsibilities of riding an ORV in Michigan.

In the past 5 years MI-TRALE has sponsored the training of about 600 youth in the Ontonagon, Baraga, Watersmeet, Ewen - Trout Creek, Lake Linden, and Dollar Bay schools through a partnership with the schools and the Camp Nesbit Education Program. Without the support of the schools, Camp Nesbit, and volunteers this program would not be possible.

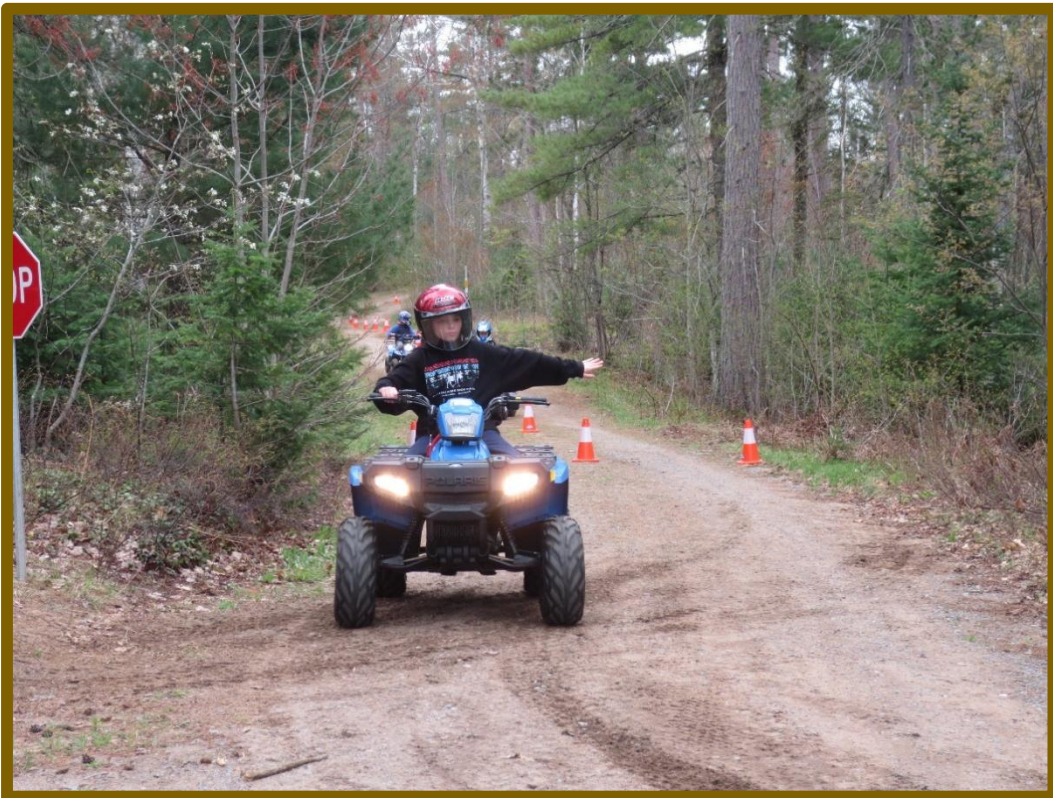
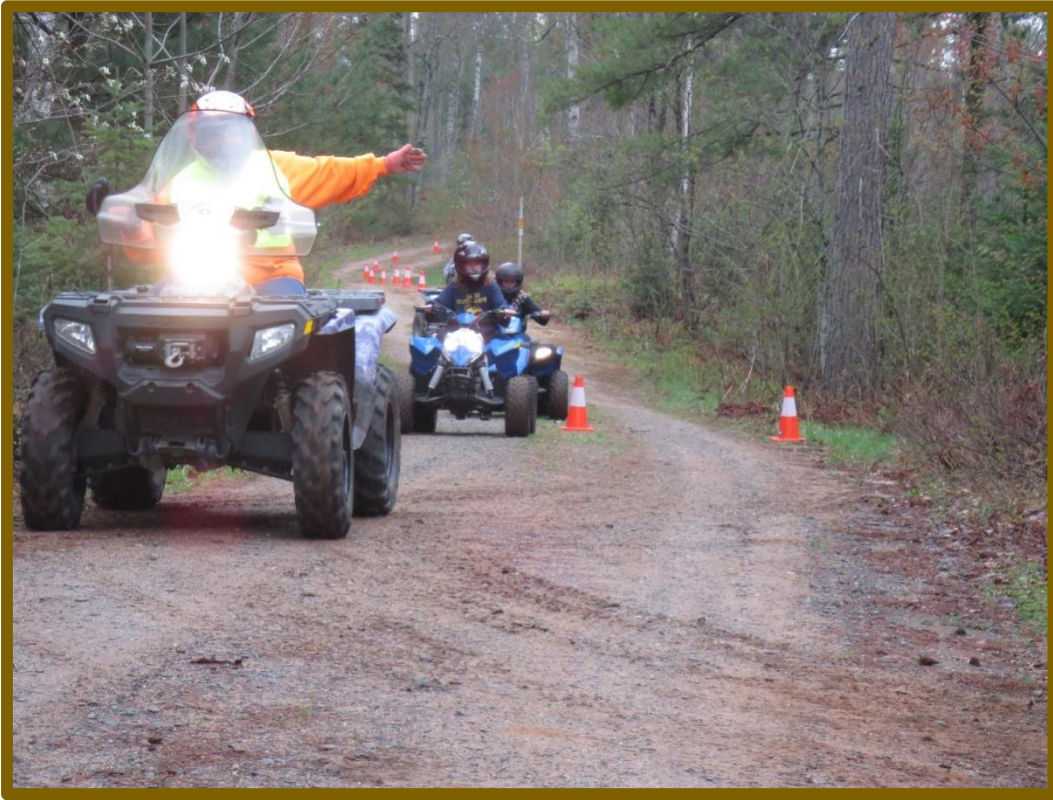
This training on safety, Michigan laws, and resource awareness is critical for the safety of our young riders and the safe continuation of our recreational sport in Michigan.

MI-TRALE would like to thank 906 Services in Ontonagon for loaning the program 2 youth ATVs for the hands-on training. This ensured the success of the program.

MI-TRALE encourages ORV safety training for all ORV riders. If you have any questions about ORV safety training, please contact mitraletrainer@gmail.com.







Annual Senior Fall Color Ride

13th Annual Senior Citizen Fall Color Tour was held September 29th. We are happy to report it was a complete success! In total, from both the morning and afternoon rides, we were able to treat about 40 seniors to a ride in a side-by-side to view the stunning colors of Autumn in the Western UP of Michigan.

The MI-TRALE Officer in charge of this event was Dave Bishop. He said, "It is our pleasure to provide senior citizens, that don't often have the opportunity to get out into the woods, a day out in the fresh air to really see all the natural wonders the UP has to offer. We were very lucky to have such a gorgeous, sunny day this year in which to do so." Dave elaborated, "We had seniors from all over the UP, lower Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Florida attending this year.

The route traveled was on the Bill Nicholls Trail aka BN Route, starting, for the morning ride, from Adventure Mountain in Greenland. Stops to picture-take and leisurely view the colors occurred along the East and West Branch of Firesteel famous triple trestles. The Michigan DNR, Forestry Division had 3 staff people at the trestles to explain the reason for the fall colors and answer any questions that the group had. The morning ride concluded at Twin Lakes State Park. where the Park provides a lovely setting for the lunch by "opening their doors" to the Park's pavilion, they also help to serve the lunch and even more, lend their efforts in gathering volunteers to donate their time and/or machines for the ride. MI-TRALE greatly values their yearly contributions to this event.

At the Park, the seniors who signed up for the afternoon ride were gathered so both groups could meet and mingle. Then all the senior citizens, tour drivers and organizers enjoyed a lunch courtesy of Troy and Tina owners of Krupp's Mini-Mart in Twin Lakes serving their famous pasties. Everyone also enjoyed several types of homemade cookies, baked by Joyce and Rich who is one of the Park's employees. A very special treat this year was ice cream provided by the Ontonagon County Fair Committee. Any lunch leftovers are gladly distributed among the senior citizens. With lunch finished, the seniors from the morning ride were then transported back to the fairgrounds by Ewen-Trout Creek School who provided their bus and driver. The afternoon group traveled the same route along the BN Trail in reverse back to the fair grounds.

MI-TRALE President Russ Diethert stated, “Dave Bishop is to be commended on the wonderful job he did organizing this year’s Senior Ride. It is our honor to share with the seniors a taste of the sport and the out-of-doors we love so much and he made sure that all the bases were covered.” He continued, “MI-TRALE also extends an enormous ‘THANK YOU’ to all the generous businesses, Pat’s Motorsports Greenland, MI. Hamilton’s North Coast Adventures White Pine MI, Lake Gogebic Motel & Rentals Bergland, MI, Headwaters Polaris Watersmeet, MI who each donated one, or more, side-by-sides for the ride and to all the caring individuals who came with their machines to be drivers. We had almost 25 machines and almost 40 volunteers. Also, a thank you to Kristin Ojaniemi from the TV show Discovering who came along on the ride to film a show for Discovering to be aired Monday Oct. 3rd TV6 at 7:30 ET. MI-TRALE may have created this event 13 years ago, but without the concern and help of the entire ORV community, it would never have grown and been more and more successful each succeeding year. ‘Thank You’ to all our partners that made this such a memorable day!”

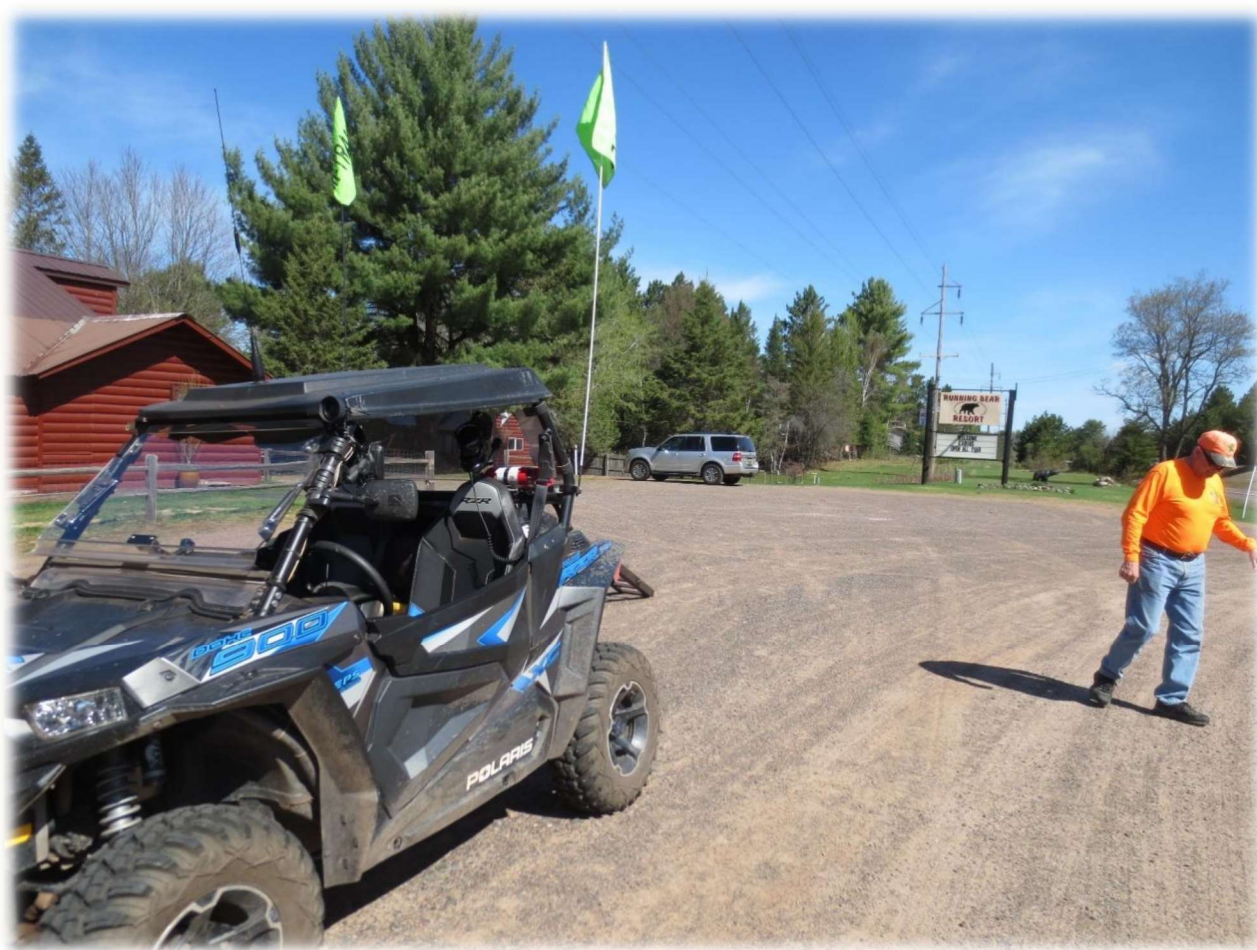
Officer Dave Bishop concluded with the following, “Seniors, thank you for the stories and wisdom you gave us on this year’s rides! Please make a note that plans are already being made for next year’s Senior Fall Color Tour. Go to the MI-TRALE website, www.mi-trale.org, to make comments or suggestions or volunteer. Your input is valued. It’s the many diverse communities coming together that makes this event so special! We truly appreciate everyone’s contributions.”



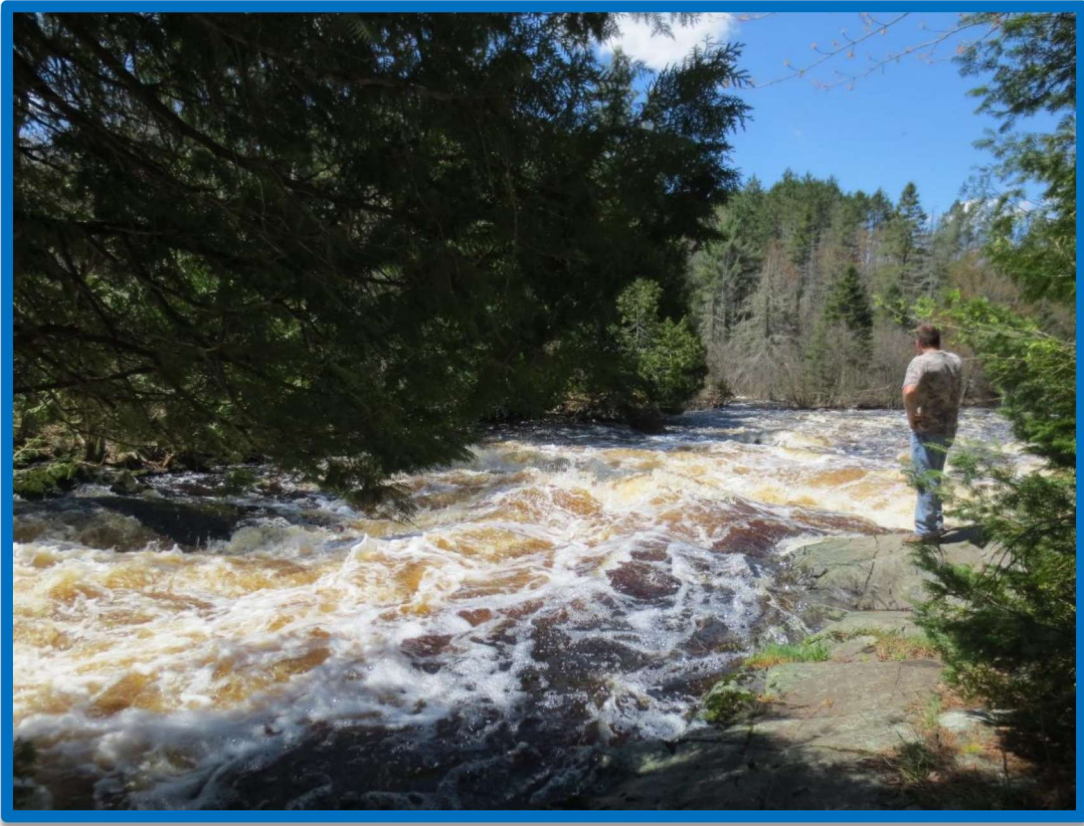


Spring Waterfall Club Ride

The ride departed from the Running Bear resort in Paulding, Michigan. We used mostly Ottawa National Forest Roads that were recently open to ORV use. A “Thank you” goes to the Ottawa National Forest folks for listening to MI-TRALE and others to open many new roads to ORV riders. We covered about 50 miles, saw beautiful carpets of wildflowers and fast flowing water falls due to the spring melt. We may make this our first spring ride of the year. Come join us in 2023. Here are a few photos:







Copperfest Guided Historic ORV Ride

The Copperfest ORV Guided Historic Ride is supported by MI-TRALE during the annual Ontonagon Copperfest Days. We start the ride from Ontonagon at the old railroad depot and ride the Ontonagon – Rockland (OR) trail to Rockland to spend the day learning and visiting some old mine sites in the surrounding area such as the historic Old Victoria Village with lunch at Lake Victoria. Riders get to share the beautiful scenery, while learning about the copper mining history of the area. These photos are from this year's ride:







Parades we joined in 2022

MI-TRALE also participated in the **Ontonagon County labor Day Parade** which seemed to set an all-time attendance record. The crowds lasted forever, and the participants were amazing. I would show you some photos, but someone forgot their camera this year! Come join us next year in the parade with your ORV and bring a camera. We also had great fun at the **Ontonagon Christmas Parade** this year. It started at 5:00 pm which means that the more lights you have on your entry the better. We have now leaned to add more lights for next year. Our plans are already started. We are looking forward to the Christmas lights going on sell later this year. Look at our lighting this year and you will see where improvement is required.



MI-TRALE Improved Map App

MI-TRALE is always looking and listening on how to improve the free MI-TRALE Map App (Michigan UP Trails). We have made major changes this year to the base map format and upgraded the application to be more responsive. You will find improved resolution and more graphic content as you zoom in. We will continue to make upgrades to this map in the future to ensure it meets and exceeds the user's needs. Please share your comments with us.



The MI-TRALE Super Trail Magnet for 2022

In 2022 the magnet was used several times on our trails as well as trails maintained by other trail sponsors. This year we covered about 60 miles with over 300 rail spikes and other metal recovered. A surprising number is that since MI-TRALE purchased the SuperMagnet in 2018 we have recovered over 6,500 (3,300 pounds) of spikes and other iron debris that is a hazard to your tires. If you see any hazards on the trail please mark them or remove them and place along the trail, or carry them out if possible.

This Year 2022 was a very slow year for the SuperMag. We only used it three times this last year. It may have been the weather or timing with our grading contractors or other things going on in our lives that made scheduling Magnet days difficult. Or a combination of all of the above.

The first trip out was July 1st to take it to Twin Lakes State Park in preparation for the 4th of July parade. Well it rained on their parade, so it didn't happen. I finally got back to Twin Lakes on August 15 to run the Magnet on the BN trail from Twin Lakes to Waboose Rd. about 7.5 miles. After all day on the trail we only got 20 RR spikes.

Two days later August 17th Jon and I went down to Watersmeet to run the Mag on the LL trail. We went South on the LL from Watersmeet , after 3.1 miles we stopped in the middle of nowhere to unload the magnet 28 spikes and other trash. After three trips back and forth in 5 plus hours we picked up 131 spikes and several buckets of other magnetic trash.

Our last trip out on August 19th to Marenisco on the SL trail. MI-TRALE had been asked by Gogebic Range Trail Authority (GRTA) to run our Super Magnet on their part of the SL trail West of Marenisco. GRTA had just had the trail graded and that turned up lots of spikes. Jon and I got an early start and drove from Ontonagon to Marenisco, it takes about 1.5 hours at a max speed of 50 MPH that the Magnet can travel on the highway. After a very long day, 169.6 miles traveled we picked up 143 spikes and three buckets of trash, from about 11.4 miles of trail.



Thanks to the "Two Fat Guys Bar and Grill" for a terrific lunch.



What is Next?

As 2022 winds down and we remember all of the great events of the year we begin thinking about 2023 and what rides we can plan, and the trail work needs to be done. Our 2023 DNR Grants (your license money being applied to your trails) amount to over \$330,000. We need to select the projects to use these funds based on trail usage and current trail conditions. Then we need to prepare the multiple bid packages, award the projects, and then manage the projects through to completion. This process will take most of the summer months. While this work is being done, we also need to fit in our riding events and trail rides that we never get enough of. If you would like to support any of these efforts MI-TRALE is always looking for members to share some of your time with us. This can be by riding or working with us. Either way, it provides us an opportunity to get to know you.



2023 EQUESTRIAN NEWS / MI-TRALE

CONVERSION PROJECT ONGOING

If you have visited The Courtney Equestrian Trails and Courtney Lake Campground, you have already seen the improvements: 6 campsites open and improved for equestrians. There are high-lines, corrals, clear enjoyable trails, beautiful river crossing, new kiosk with valued information, new latrines, new fire rings, picnic tables and lantern poles. The Forest Service did repairs to the pumps for potable water within the campground. There is only one remaining active logging project, which is on a small stretch of the trails south of the river. Once that is complete, we will be re-posting markers and maps there.

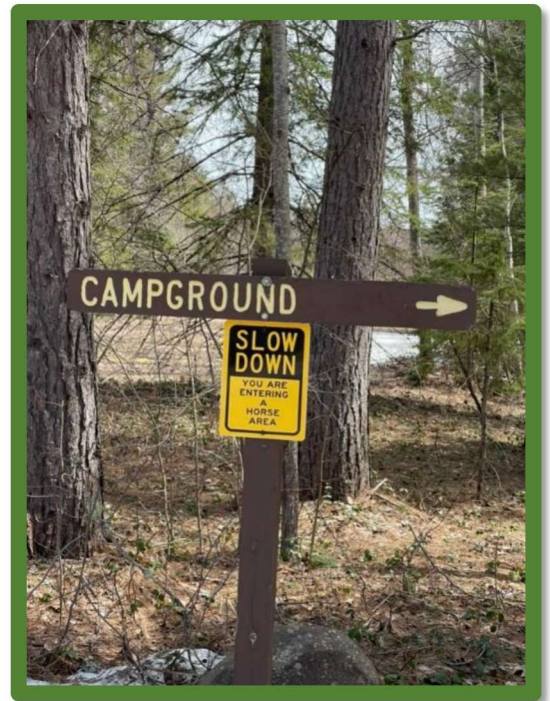
MI-TRALE EQ CAMPSITES GRAND OPENING – MAY 21, 2022

If you have been following our Equestrian news you are aware of this happy event. It was great to share the accomplishments with both the MI-TRALE volunteers and The Ottawa National Forest.



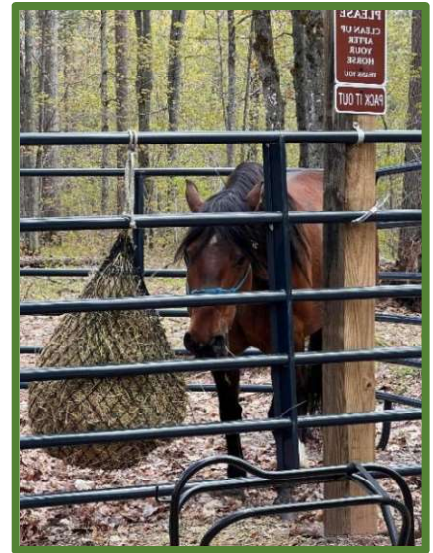
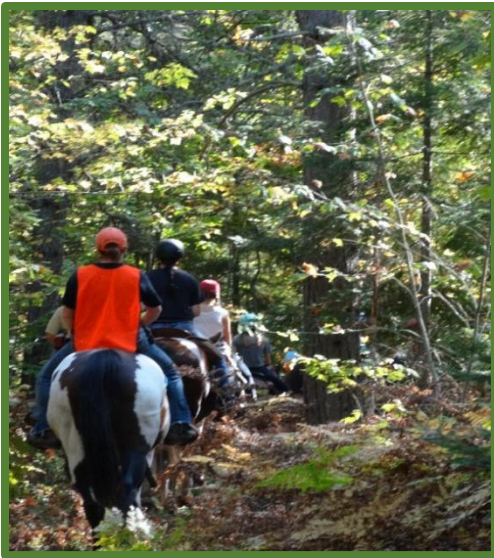
NEW VOLUNTEERS

We have appreciated the help of a few more dedicated trail users and volunteers, this summer that help to get the trails in tip-top shape. We spent approximately 180 hours of our personal time at the table and on the ground to make these trails and amenities available. A huge THANK YOU to you all.



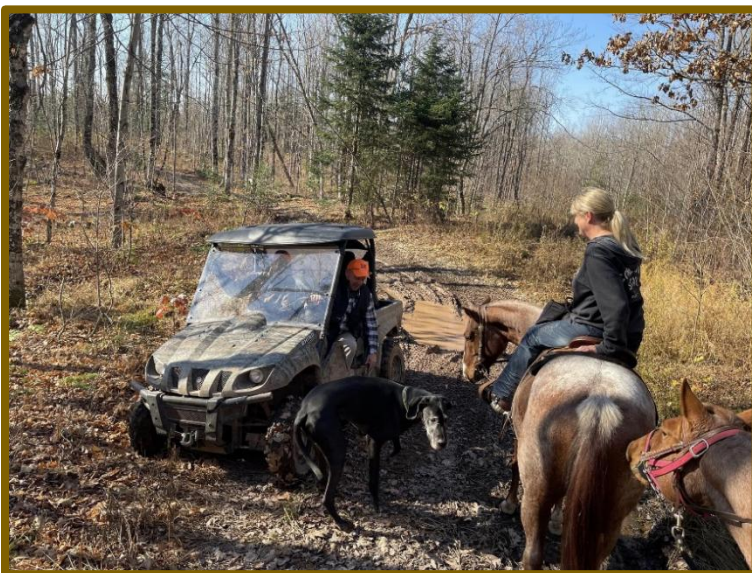
For people visiting the trails for the day, you are welcome to park at the pull through parking area near the Day Use Area. There will be more improvements to come as the Ottawa National Forest moves through the red tape and reviews. MI-TRALE will get news on this in the near future. And work will resume in the spring.

Any suggestions and offers to help are important. Feel free to contact our EQ committee. Thank you! Trails at Courtney are multi-use, yet quiet and very relaxing. It is a place where folks are happy to be.



TRAILS NORTH OF HWY M-38 CONSIDERED

These trails are not marked, but are easy to follow. They are mainly DNR roads that are sandy and quiet. Cross the highway from there and you are at The Courtney EQ Trails. Here is the newly repaired bridge on the route. It is also a good place to offer your horse a sweet cool drink of water.



THERE ARE LOTS OF NICE FOLKS OUT ON THE TRAILS. ENJOY!

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H# 906-988-2232 Email: cndwainio@yahoo.com

Janet Miesbauer, Vice President, EQ Committee & Public Relations
Cell/Text: 906-231-6424 Email: MITRALE.PR@GMAIL.COM

Linda Schulz, EQ Committee and MI-TRALE Secretary
Email: mitrale@runningbearresort.com



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME



- From your MI-TRALE Membership Committee

We have begun our annual membership drive. Membership applications for 2023 have been sent out via post mail. Applications are also available on the last page in this Annual Newsletter and can also be found on the MI-TRALE Web Page at: [Membership \(mi-trale.org\)](https://mi-trale.org) We have received some quick replies.

Your support is very important and very appreciated. You help to cover administrative and trail maintenance costs, and equipment needed to maintain nearly 600 miles of various types of trails. Feel free to share sources from the Membership Application with your friends and businesses that would like to support the trails.

New members will receive a package to show our thanks: the attractive 2023 decal that you can proudly use to display your support, your membership card and a free MI-TRALE paper trail map. You can also find MI-TRALE's popular "map app" Michigan UP Trails in "Goggle Play: or the "APP Store." All of MI-TRALE's members are notified via email of our monthly meetings, which are open to the public and very informative. You can also consider how else you might become involved to help keep this vital trail group going for future generations of trail enthusiasts. Visit our website to learn more. Feel free to contact us if you need more information. Thank you for your interest and support of the recreational trails here in the beautiful Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. We could not do this without you.

Here are just a few of the successful projects accomplished, due to your support:

- ✓ ☐ Allocated \$1.3 million from the DNR for Trail Maintenance in the last 7 years, all moneys come from ORV Licenses fees

- ✓ ☐ Brushing and signing 300+ miles of DNR designated trails and 200+ miles of club trails
- ✓ ☐ Representing you on all Governmental Levels-Local, State & Federal
- ✓ ☐ Annual Senior Citizen Fall Color OHV Tour
- ✓ ☐ Annual S.P.O.R.T Ride (State Park Off Road Trek)
- ✓ ☐ Developing, signing and mapping new trails for all types of recreational users
- ✓ ☐ Development of the Free Map App & Trails Map showing 500 + miles of MI-TRALE maintained trails and over 2,200 miles of Ottawa National Forest roads for ORV use
- ✓ ☐ Offered the popular Senior Fall Color Ride for our Senior citizens
- ✓ ☐ We have also completed the long-awaited improvements on The Courtney Equestrian Trails and at the Courtney Lake Campground. See the Equestrian article within this newsletter for more information.

We spurred the membership drive on October 31st. Currently, MI-TRALE's membership committee reports that we are "two thirds" of the way toward membership goals for 2023. We are excited and appreciate all the support from our members and volunteers. You are very important.



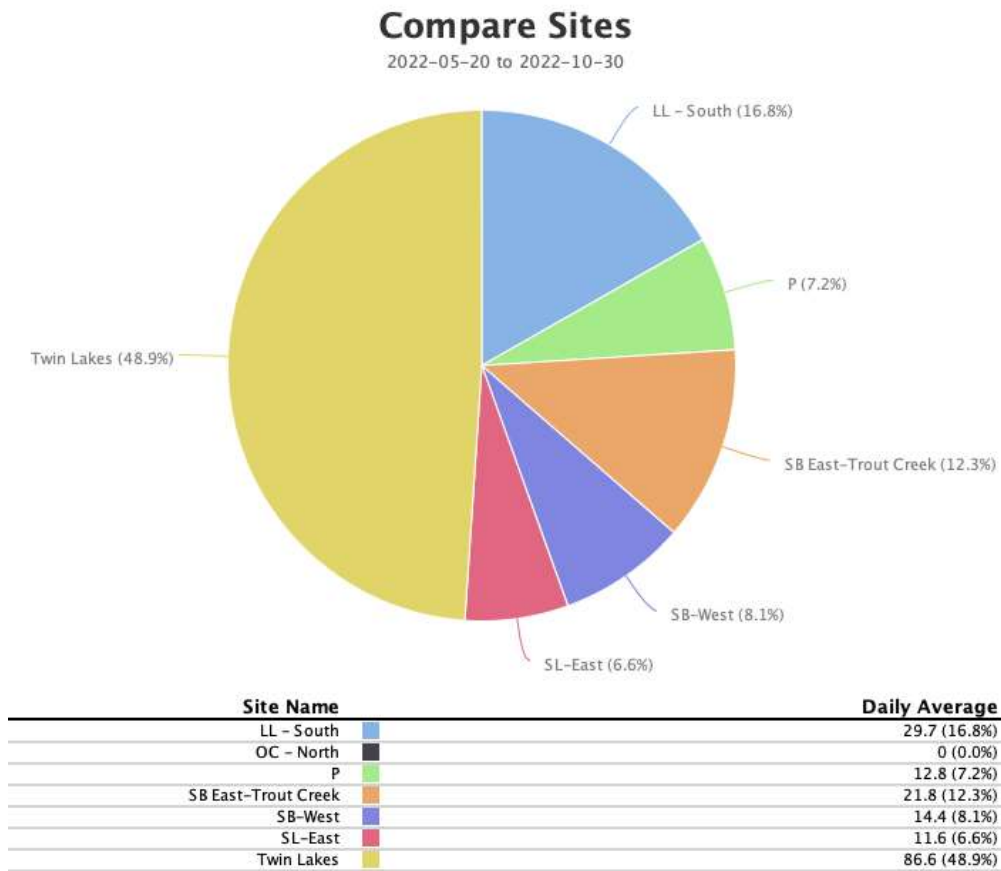
TRAFx Counters



As you may remember from last years news article, MI-TRALE is responsible for managing over 500 miles of designated and Club ORV routes in the Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The club has installed a traffic counter system manufactured in Canada by TRAFX Research Inc. throughout the trail network. MI-TRALE uses information from these counters to develop a management schedule for the trails. The major advantage of the installed TRAFx trail counters is that we can analyze rider usage by time of day, day of the week, and many other formats, to help schedule the routine maintenance and grading projects the trails need to keep them in the best shape. Besides the scenic beauty of the UP, our area of the UP is also known for some of the best OHV the trails in the Midwest (and we think the best). The Club also use this data to support Club **grant requests** and to show the economic benefits in real time to local communities, local business services, and to MI-TRALE Land Owners. This information also aids the club in obtaining much needed income in the sale of map adds from our sponsors. To learn more about the vehicle and trail counters we use please visit our web page or WWW.trafx.net.

Below are some samples of the information we can collect. The pie charts show for the '21 and '22 riding season (May 20 thru Oct 30) the daily average. If you compare the 2 years you can see the overall slight increase of 2022 over 2021 in the daily average.

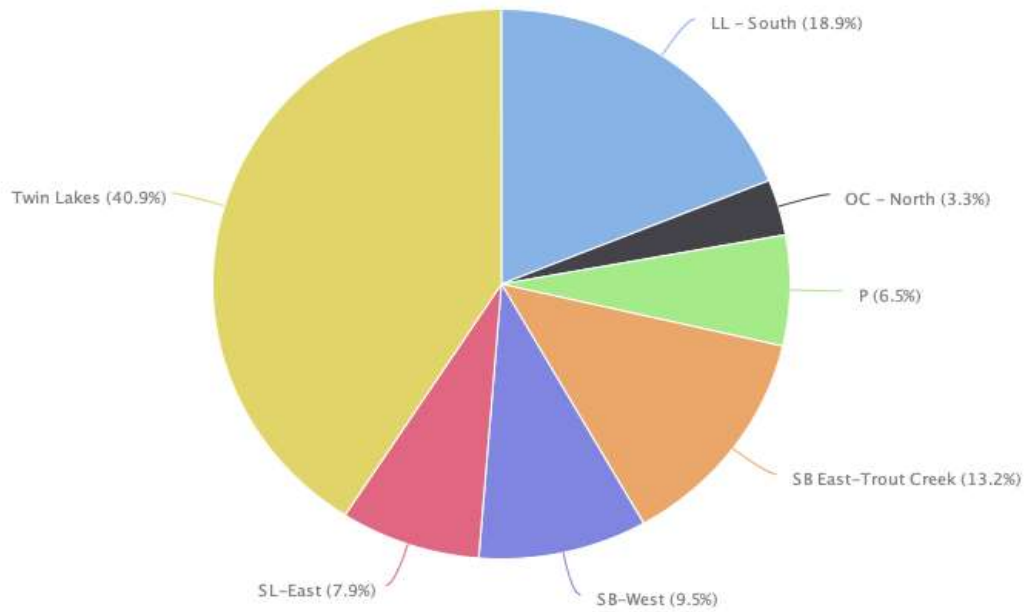
The Spreadsheet charts show the monthly totals for the designated trails (based on counter location). While this information may be confusing or perplexing to look at there are explanations for what you can see. Obvious is OC in 2022 with 0 in all months- reason the counter was pulled due to Forest Service Gate construction and trail alignment being done early this year. Another obvious thing is the huge Twin lakes number.



With OHV access at the popular UP State Park campsite traffic of our younger riders goes back and forth enjoying there time on the 4-Wheeler! thus a high count!

Compare Sites

2021-05-09 to 2021-07-16



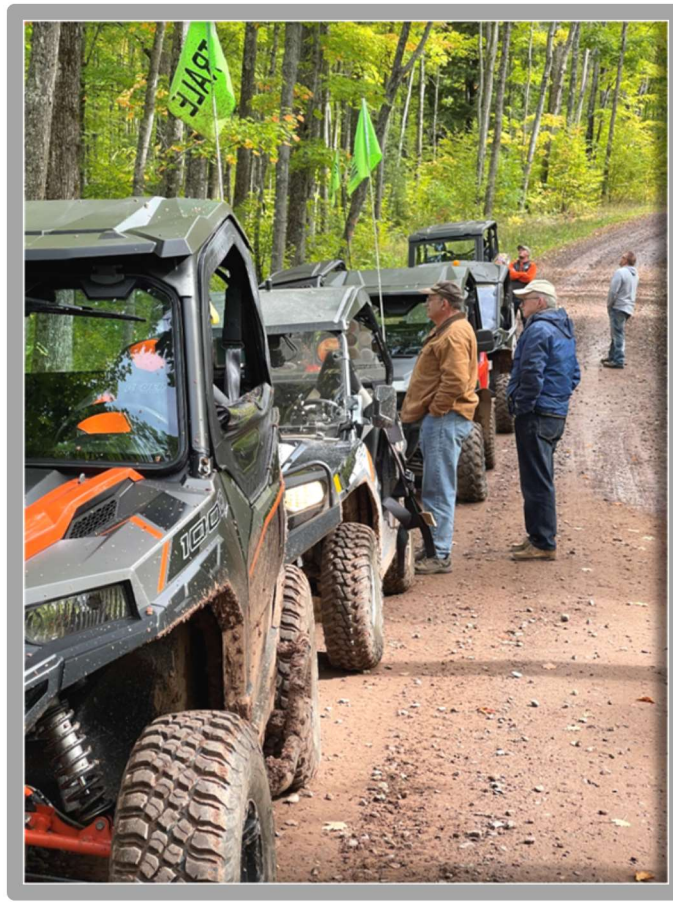
Site Name	Daily Average
LL - South	24.9 (18.9%)
OC - North	4.3 (3.3%)
P	8.6 (6.5%)
SB East-Trout Creek	17.4 (13.2%)
SB-West	12.5 (9.5%)
SL-East	10.4 (7.9%)
Twin Lakes	54 (40.9%)

Year	Site	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Days with data
2021	LL - South	510	708	1,209	803	805	645	182
	OC - North	121	130	147	200	276	241	182
	P	190	262	355	390	548	295	182
	SB East-Tr	399	513	736	658	764	544	182
	SB-West	307	332	505	469	631	480	182
	SL-East	321	264	400	349	482	783	182
	Twin Lakes	2,044	2,372	3,323	2,675	2,794	3,089	182

Year	Site	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Days with data
2022	LL - South	1,912	654	989	1,040	958	830	182
	OC - North							0
	P	420	316	343	343	448	509	182
	SB East-Trout Creek	639	521	780	690	753	562	182
	SB-West	563	360	467	358	515	447	182
	SL-East	393	251	321	355	417	437	182
	Twin Lakes	1,600	3,329	3,182	2,526	2,684	1,683	182

If you are interested in any of this or additional data or to further understand the data meaning and how the club can utilize it, feel free to contact any one of the club officers. If they don't have an immediate answer they can get a person who may have the answer contact you.

If you have a desire to help the Club with the collection and management of this data please contact the club secretary.



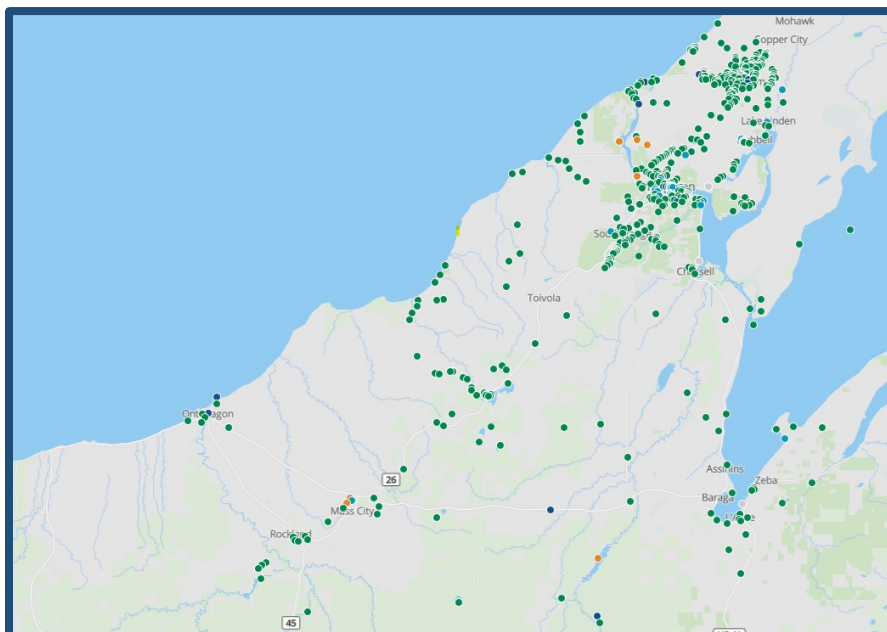
Geocaching



Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a GPS device or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches," at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and sometimes a pencil. After finding the cache, participants record their findings in the logbook and online, and can also trade trinkets or small items with other geocachers.

Geocaching has become a popular activity for people of all ages, as it combines elements of treasure hunting along with hiking, ORV's, horse riding, etc.. and technology. It can be enjoyed in urban or rural areas, and there are millions of geocaches hidden all over the world. Some geocachers prefer to find caches in areas with beautiful views or interesting landmarks, while others enjoy the challenge of finding caches in difficult or remote locations.

If you're interested in trying geocaching, you can start by visiting the official website of the sport, geocaching.com, and creating a free account. From there, you can search for geocaches in your area and get more information on the activity, including tips and guidelines for finding and hiding caches. Mi-TRALE has caches hidden on some of it's trails for you to enjoy. The map below will give you an idea of what is cleverly hidden around you...



New Communications Committee Chair

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to let you know I will no longer be the Communications Committee Chair. Beginning in February, Donna Wolf will be your "go to" for these duties in Mi-TRALE. In 2014 Donna handed me the "reins" and now in 2023 we have come full circle as she returns to the position.

I have had a good time keeping in touch with so many of you! I am still the Vice-President and you will likely continue to see some of my posts on Facebook as well.

I truly appreciate all the support you continue to give to Mi-TRALE. This organization is made up of so many incredible people who all have the same goal of enjoying the great outdoors here in the western U.P.!

Thank you!

Janet Miesbauer
janet.mitrale@gmail.com



New Communications Committee Chair

Hello, I am Donna Wolf, your "new" Communications Committee Chair. I previously held the position, before Janet Miesbauer took it over in 2014, when I moved back to San Diego, California. It got to be too hot and too expensive there, so in 2017 I headed back to the friendlier Great Northwoods, and landed in Eagle River, Wisconsin in November of that year. In July of 2022, I finally made it back to the beautiful UP of Michigan.

Janet has been doing double-duty for eight years now and wanted to relinquish the Communications position. At the 2023 January 2nd MI-TRALE Annual Meeting, Janet resigned her position as Chair of the Communications Committee. I expressed my interest in taking up that position and was duly appointed as Chair by the Board.

I am looking very forward to reporting all the positive actions and accomplishments of MI-TRALE to both our membership and the public in the coming year. Any pertinent pieces of information you feel need to be shared, please send them to me in care of the MI-TRALE Communications email address (Mitrale.pr@gmail.com) beginning in February. I will endeavor to include them in the appropriate news outlet. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance in helping me to promote our wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

Donna



Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment

P.O. Box 43 – Ontonagon Michigan – 49953-0043 www.mi-trale.org

Membership Application

Annual Memberships - January 1st to December 31st

Check one

Individual \$25.00 _____ Family \$30.00 _____ (each family member will receive a decal be sure to list their names below)

Small Business \$50.00 _____ Large Business \$75.00 _____

To renew; if your *information has not changed in the past year*, you can mail a check (please mark check with "membership renewal") or use PayPal found on our website's membership tab to renew.

Mailing, please mark "membership" on the envelope and use the P.O. Box address shown above. If your *information has changed in the past year*, please complete the application and mail with your check to the P.O. Box address shown above.

Please make checks or money orders payable to **MI-TRALE**

With your membership you will receive a MI-TRALE Membership Card, MI-TRALE decal (that we ask you to proudly display on your ATV. Business receive Membership Card, MI-TRALE decal for ATV and business window or door decal with year decal)

Please Print Clearly

Name(s) _____ (family memberships include family member names)

Mailing Address

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Business Member website _____

☐ I would like to receive email updates ☐ I would like to receive the Email Newsletter

☐ I would like to purchase extra decals @ \$2.00 each # of decals _____

PLEASE send your membership dues to **Total Enclosed** _____

MI-TRALE

Donations are received with enthusiasm!

PO Box 43

Ontonagon, MI 49953-0043

Membership contact – Cathy Wainio - cndwainio@yahoo.com