

# Mid-Trail Property Owners Association (MTPOA)



## 2025 Spring Newsletter

### Mid-Trail updates – John Craddock, President

\* Save the date for the **MTPOA annual meeting** on Saturday, **July 12**, from 10:00-Noon at the Schaap Community Center, in person and via Zoom. Agenda will include a one-hour business meeting with Mid-Trail Updates, Treasurer Report, Officer Election (need volunteers for President, Co-Vice-President & Treasurer), and discuss follow up on ideas from the MTPOA survey. We are also inviting speakers from Cook County & others to present updates and have Q&A.

\* Brave souls raised funds for the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department at the Poplar Plunge on March 15 (at right)!



\* Winter provided many outdoor opportunities along the Trail!  
(Skating, Gunflint Lake)



(John Beargrease sled dog race, White Pine Lodge)

\* Construction on the south end of the Gunflint Trail (the dog park to Hedstrom's) will start in late April and continue most of the summer. Here's a link for updates:

<https://www.co.cook.mn.us/government/departments/highway/projects.php>

### Treasurer Report: 2025 Annual Dues - Austin Danicic

Your annual association dues are very important in supporting the Mid-Trail community. MTPOA maintains a Mid-Trail Directory to distribute to property owners as a helpful resource to contact neighbors (updated every two years). Please complete the enclosed Contact Information sheet with any changes and mail with your dues (or you may email **contact information updates** to Bill Keller at [billkeller50@gmail.com](mailto:billkeller50@gmail.com)). Please send your **2025 annual dues of \$30** per "cabinhold" (multiple owners of one cabin pay membership of \$30), along with the Contact Information sheet with any changes, to our MTPOA Treasurer, Austin, at this address and make check payable to MTPOA: Austin Danicic, 195 Loon Lake Rd, Grand Marais, MN 55604. You may also pay your dues through Venmo (Venmo to: @Austin-Danicic, austindanicic@gmail.com or 952-237-3199. Please note what your Venmo payment is for: MTPOA Dues and/or GTVFD Donation). Thank you for your support!

## **2025 Fundraising for the GTVFD – MTPOA Board**

As noted in the winter newsletter, based on feedback from property owners in the MTPOA survey, it was agreed that in the "odd" years (beginning in 2025), property owners are encouraged to make direct donations to the Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department (GTVFD). It is hoped that fundraising through this direct donation promotion will allow MTPOA and Mid-Trail volunteers to focus efforts on implementing some of the new activities suggested in the survey results (e.g., create new property owner "Welcome" packet of resource information, organize "meet and greet" opportunities).

In "even" years (i.e., beginning in 2026), traditional fundraising activities will be conducted by Mid-Trail volunteers such as what we have done in the past (e.g., quilt raffle, online auction, selling GTVFD caps, and promoting direct donations) to raise support for the fire department and other select organizations (as agreed to by members at the annual meeting).

To help track direct donations submitted to the GTVFD in response to this promotion, please note with your contribution, "Mid-Trail GTVFD fundraising". There are a couple of options for direct donations:

1. Give online by going to the GTVFD website: <https://www.gunflint911.org/>
2. Send a check to: Gunflint Trail Fire Dept, ATTN: Barb Tuttle, 7401 Gunflint Trail, Grand Marais, MN 55604. To receive your receipt electronically, include your email with the check.

In addition, there are other GTVFD fundraising events being held this summer such as the **Shrimp Boil** (June 8 from 4:00-6:00 at Fire Hall #3) and the **Gunflint Trail Canoe Race** (July 16 at Gunflint Lodge).



Thank you for your support of our well-trained firefighters and EMT personnel serving our community through the GTFD!

### **Fun Things to Do**

The Schaap Community Center (next to Mid-Trail Fire Hall #1) calendar is posted at:

[http://www.gunflint911.org/comm\\_calendar.cfm](http://www.gunflint911.org/comm_calendar.cfm)

EVERYONE is always welcome to join in.

Yoga: Contact Barbara Platnick at

[bplatnick@gmail.com](mailto:bplatnick@gmail.com) Check the Gunflint Trail Fire Department website calendar for updated schedule.

Mah-Jongg: Thursday afternoons 1:00-4:00 PM, May 8 - October 16. Contact Biz Clark at [bizclar@gmail.com](mailto:bizclar@gmail.com) or 218-388-0115.

Fiber Group meets monthly. To add your name to notification list, *contact* Cherlyn

Morrison [redpinemorrison@gmail.com](mailto:redpinemorrison@gmail.com)

Book Group meets monthly. Read any books you like. *Contact* Cherlyn Morrison as noted above.

### **Dining Options on the Trail**

\*Clearwater Lodge:

<https://clearwaterhistoriclodge.com/food-retail/clearwater-bakery-menu/>

\*Gunflint Lodge: <https://gunflint.com/dining/>

\*Hungry Jack Lodge:

<https://hungryjacklodge.com/dining/>

\*Loon Lake Lodge: <https://visitloonlake.com/>

\*Loons Nest Coffee: Season opens in June. Updates available at [www.loonsnest.coffee](http://www.loonsnest.coffee)

\*Poplar Haus: <https://poplarhaus.com/restaurant/>

\*Trail Center: <https://www.facebook.com/Trail-Center-Lodge-174036197719/>

\*White Pine Lodge :

<https://www.whitepinelodgemn.com/restaurant>

**Chik-Wauk Museum and Nature Center** – Bonnie Shudy, Mark Hennesey

Opening day is eagerly anticipated on May 24, 2025. There is a lot of exciting news that will take place at Chik-Wauk this summer. Two new exhibits will be displayed. The temporary exhibit will feature an anniversary celebration of 20 years of the GTHS, and 15 years since the opening of Chik-Wauk, which will be on display for the 2025 and 2026 seasons. A celebration is planned for July 5th.



The Current Resort Video has been updated. The completed project preserves the film’s core elements, including interviews, historical images, video footage, and narration about the businesses along the Gunflint Trail. The update expands the videos to include the stories of eighteen new proprietors. A Live Stream for the Loons Nest will be coming in May as soon as the ice leaves the Chik-Wauk Bay. A generous donation has paid for the purchase of a live feed loon camera that will be attached to the nest and streamed to the GunflintHistory.org website. Fingers-crossed, we will have the nesting pair of loons back. All the staff are returning for the 2025 season! The Newsletter should be in folk's mailboxes around the middle of May.

**USFS Updates**– Kyle Stover

The Superior National Forest held several public meetings in Cook County (including a session at Schaap Community Center on May 1) with a short introduction about projects planned on the ground for this spring and summer including fire staffing, fuels reduction, reforestation work, timber sales, recreation, and forest road construction. There were opportunities to view project maps as well as ask questions and talk with USFS staff about the projects. They do not have the ability to post the open house materials on-line, but the parent planning project files can be found on the USFS website under “Projects Archive” (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/superior/projects/archive>). Information on current alerts and notices can be found on the Forest webpage: (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/superior>).

**Gunflint Clean Up 2025** – Andrea Hofeldt

This year’s Clean Up takes place Saturday, **June 7** from **9am-11am**. Afterwards, we will meet at the Schaap Community Center 11am-12 :30pm for food, activities, and PRIZES from various Gunflint Trail businesses. From 12:30-2pm we have the opportunity to plant trees along the Gunflint Trail with the USFS. More information at <https://gunflintcleanup.wordpress.com/> T-shirt order deadline is **May 11**. A request of \$10 donation per person is being made this year to help cover the costs of t-shirts, food, and supplies in order to keep this impactful event going. Questions? Contact: 218-388-2232, [loonlakelodgemn@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakelodgemn@gmail.com)



**CCCoLA Update** – Kathy Bogen, Patti Craddock

With the open water season just around the corner, the Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCoLA) is looking to engage lake, road, and property association members and others in a variety of hands-on projects this summer that address water and shoreland quality. One of the most important ways we can make a difference is through educating residents and visitors about what they can do to reduce degradation of the pristine environment in Cook County. CCCoLA members will be

participating in hands-on projects that improve lake and shoreland quality. Please see the volunteer flyer (below) for dates and times of these events. For more information or to sign up, contact Margre at [CookCountyCola@gmail.com](mailto:CookCountyCola@gmail.com).

We are fortunate to have the expertise of County and organizations as the leaders of several events. CCCoLA welcomes others interested in promoting environmental stewardship to join us in these efforts. Please contact us at [cookcountycola@gmail.com](mailto:cookcountycola@gmail.com) or go to our web site <https://cookcountycola.mnlakesandrivers.org/> to learn more about our organization. This year's work efforts will focus on four key areas: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), Water Quality, Surface Water Uses, and Lands & Trails. CCCoLA meets on the second Thursday of each month from 10-11:30 a.m. Meetings are virtual October-May and in-person June-September. If you'd like to learn more about CCCoLA, feel free to come to any of the summer in-person meetings:

- June 12, 10-11:30 Schaap Community Center 7401 Gunflint Trail
- July 10, 10-11:30 Cook County Community Center 317 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Grand Marais
- August 14, 10-11:30 Schaap Community Center 7401 Gunflint Trail
- September 11, 10-11:30 Cook County Community Center 317 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St. Grand Marais



### **2025 MTPOA Officer Contacts**

President: John Craddock, [craddock.irnp@gmail.com](mailto:craddock.irnp@gmail.com)  
Co-Vice President: Deb Meyer, [meyerdj@me.com](mailto:meyerdj@me.com)  
Co-Vice President: Vacant  
Past President: Carol Berg, [carolyberg@gmail.com](mailto:carolyberg@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Austin Danicic, [austindanicic@gmail.com](mailto:austindanicic@gmail.com)  
Recording Secretary: Maggie Arko, [tmako502@gmail.com](mailto:tmako502@gmail.com)  
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