



BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

JUNE, 2011

BOLLARD ISSUE REMAINS CONTENTIOUS

EXPANSION OF THE RAILROAD POINT NATURAL AREA PLANNED

**140 more acres will extend the Area
from Crystal Lake to the Betsie River**

This year the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy begins its third land protection effort at the Railroad Point Natural Area. What started in 1996 with the initial protection of 66 precious acres continues today bringing the Railroad Point Natural Area to more than 200 acres, extending it all the way from Crystal Lake to the Betsie River!

After years of discussions, owners of land near the Natural Area have offered to sell their property, which will be owned by Benzie County. A newer, grander Railroad Point is emerging, one that more than doubles the acreage, adds wetlands and provides a wildlife corridor between Crystal Lake and the Wild and Scenic Betsie River. Plans also call for a new trail creating stunning new access to the bluff overlooking Crystal Lake. The Mary Margaret Johnson Trail will be built this summer thanks to a generous early gift to this project in Mary Margaret's honor from her husband, Walt Johnson. The new trail will be a sustainable one, designed to showcase the full beauty of the natural area and follow the

(cont. on page 2)

The 30 inch high steel posts (bollards), which the Crystal Lake Property Rights Association (CLPRA) has arranged to have placed in the middle of the Trail in the DNR boat launch being constructed on Crystal Lake, remain an unsettled issue. Because bikers frequently strike even easily visible bollards with subsequent injury or death, we have asked CLPRA to join us in signing a Stipulated Order to remove them from the boat launch plan. They have refused, alleging that our concern is "specious" and that "it won't be the bollards that harm the unwary trail users, it will be the vehicular traffic crossing the trail that the users will ignore at their peril."

Bollards also block passage of emergency responders, they violate the terms of the Bigelow et al Settlement Agreement we negotiated with CLPRA 15 years ago and they violate the mandates of the Betsie Valley Trailway Ordinance. Accordingly, we remain opposed to their installation

The bollards became an issue during the negotiations of a lawsuit CLPRA filed against the State to try to prevent the State from constructing the boat launch. The boat launch was not stopped but, unknown to us or the Trailway Management Council, the bollards became part of the Negotiated

(cont. on page 2)

Visit our web page: www.BetsieValleyTrail.org

(Bollards cont.)

Settlement. Unless we modify that settlement, they will be installed. So what are our plans?

We have filed a notice of violation to all relevant parties and the response from CLPRA's leadership is noted above. However, some of their members agree that the bollards are dangerous, do not think fighting for them is in CLPRA's best interest and plan to discuss the issue at CLPRA's Annual Meeting in early July. We will withhold any further action until after that meeting. If they agree to join us in signing the Stipulated Order, a lot of grief and money will be saved. If not, we will immediately file suit to have the bollards removed from the boat launch plan.

PLEASE SCHEDULE TRAIL EVENTS

If you are planning an event on the Betsie Valley Trail, please review the procedure for scheduling the event by visiting our web site (www.BetsieValleyTrail.org) and clicking on "Trail Use" and "Trail Ordinance". This will help you avoid conflicts with other events and comply with Benzie County's Trail Use Ordinance.

There are special restrictions for "organized bicycle groups of 10 or more cyclists" which plan to use the Trail between Mollineaux Rd. and Beulah, and they must be registered before May 15th (Trail Ordinance requirement).

BOY SCOUTS HELP AGAIN

Boy Scout Troop #10 from the Blaine Christian Church built another 50 new bluebird houses for installation along the BVT. The plan was to replace all broken houses this spring, but a few were already "occupied". Working with Audubon member Keith Westphal, ten houses were placed in May. In the fall, after Keith finishes his annual nest tabulation, broken boxes will be replaced and additional boxes added as needed. See the photo of this years Boy Scout crew on page four.

(Railroad Point cont.)

natural contours. "Everyone needs some kind of connection to the land," says Walt. "If you cut people off, you impoverish them. Access is so important. Access to beautiful land."

The Conservance still needs to raise \$325,825 locally. That's in addition to the most recent Trust Fund grant to Railroad Point of nearly one million and other early donations. Like the earlier protection efforts, it will take love and energy from local families to rally around Railroad Point.

Every Saturday this summer from noon-5:00 pm and on June 10th and 17th, July 8th, 16th, and 18th, and August 5th and 19th there will be special events at the area including biking on the Betsie Valley Trail. Times vary. See the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail web page (www.BetsieValleyTrail.org) for details.

To learn more about the Railroad Point Natural Area expansion and events, call Sarah Naperala at 231-929-7911 or visit www.gtrlc.org.

FBVT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Expire July, 2011

Nancy Call, President
John Ester, Vice President
Chris Kitzman

Terms Expire July, 2012

Tom Davy
Terri Jones
Bill Parris, Treasurer

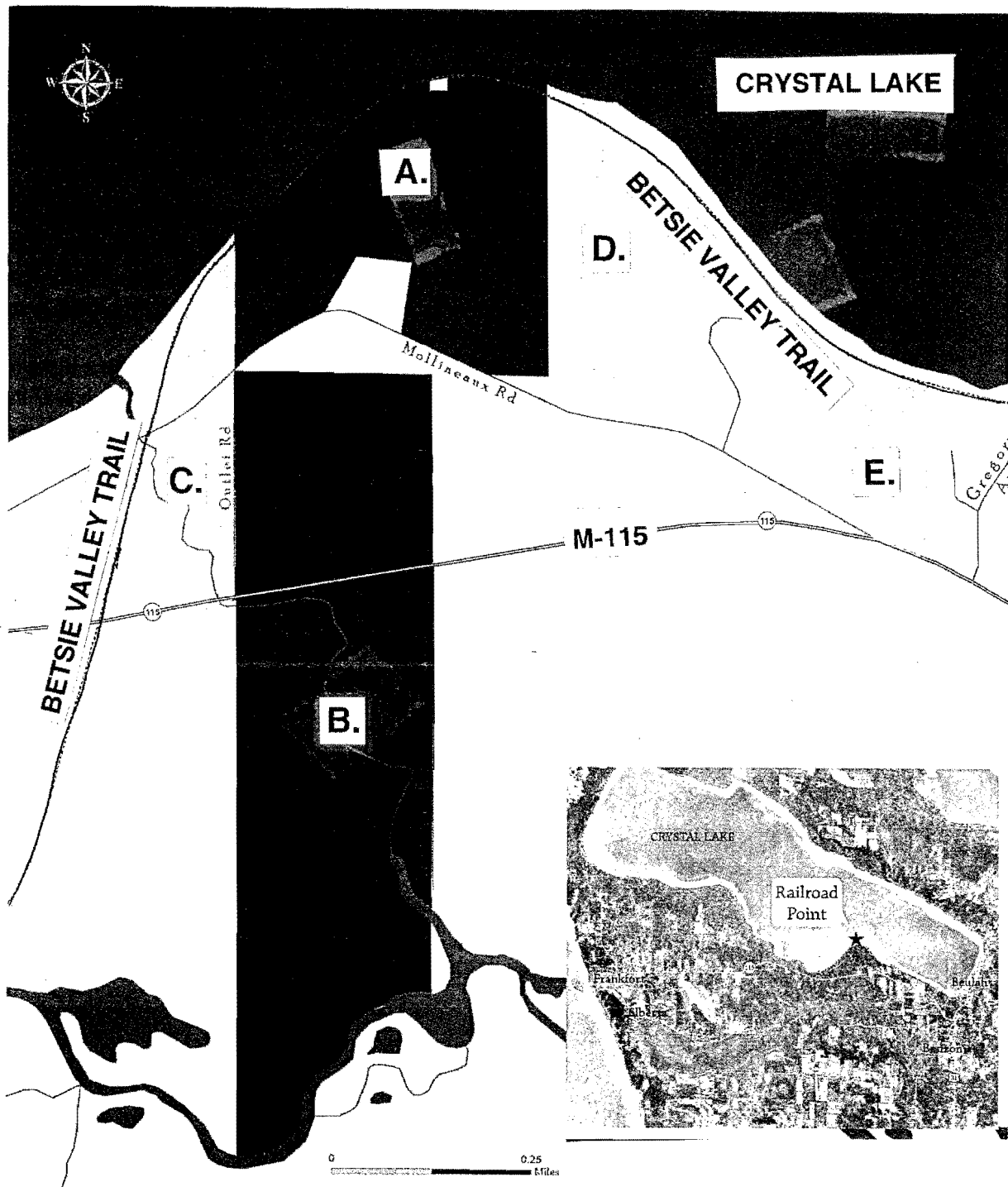
Terms Expire July, 2013

Ed Butt, Secretary
Bryce Dreeszen
Sharon McKinley

ADDRESS CHANGE?

If so, please e-mail akoclark@att.net
or call 231-352-6049

RAILROAD POINT NATURAL AREA PROPOSED EXPANSION



- A. Existing Railroad Point Natural area, owned by Benzie County**
- B. Proposed Expansion, including two small parcels on Crystal Lake**
- C. Outlet property, owned by the Department of Natural Resources**
- D. Existing Railroad Point Natural Area, owned by Benzie County**
- E. Crystal Lake Boating Access Site (boat launch, under construction), owned by the Department of Natural Resources**

BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER



Preparing the fall newsletter: Mary Ellen Miller (end of table, then clockwise), Lucie Kinzel, Dick Robb, Steve Wentworth, Charlie Kinzel, Jan Robb, George Granlund, Gretchen Staub, Catherine Granlund and Peg Lawrenson (missing).



Blain Christian Church BoyScout Troop placing bluebird boxes: (l to r), Front row: Corey Larson and Eryk Feala. Back row: Joel Kiskinen, William Richardson. Adam Kaskinen, Pete Nugent, Scoutmaster, Josh Dean and Mike Kaskinen, Assistant Scoutmaster

BETSIE VALLEY TRAILBLAZER

CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES CLEAR TRASH BETWEEN THOMPSONVILLE AND BEULAH



Trash bag ladies
(left to right)
Jordan Lentz,
Alyssa Smith
and Deidre Lentz



Johnston family
(left to right)
Allison, Aidan
and Stephani

TEAM CRYSTAL PICK-UP CREW: Dee Dee Lentz, Jordan Lentz, Deidre Lentz, Cindy Smith, Alyssa Smith, Stephanie Johnston, Eric Johnston, Allison Johnston, Aidan Johnston, Rick Schmitt, Jennie Schmitt, Bennett Schmitt, Cecelia Schmitt, Susan Baynard, Tony Baynard, Michael Call and Nancy Mullen Call

Contributing Members 2011

Terry and Lois Almquist
Marjie Anderson
Robert & Molly Appleford
Jon and Mary Armstrong
Richard and Patricia
Austin
Bob and Nancy Baglan
James & Barbara Baltazar
Richard Beverly Banker
David and Jan
Raehtz-Barber
Dave's Place
John and Mary Bateman
Tony and Susan
Baynard
Bill and Patsy Beck
Loren and Joy Becker
Robert and Carol Beidler
Priscilla Belden
Sally Berlin-Crystal
Crate and Cargo
Jack and Evelyn Beugnot
Keith and Ethel M. Birchler
John and Sharon Blight
Wes and Sharon Blizzard
Nena Bondarenko
Catherine Boshier and
Dr. Jose Perez-Sanz
Don and Barbara Bowman
Gerald and Gloria Boyd
Donald and Marjorie
Braem
Donald Brandt
Pat Brasseur
Larry and Connie Brown
Gordon and Nadine
Brunner
Ed and Leslie Butt
Jim and Luanne Buzzell
Elizabeth Gray Calhoun
Michael and Nancy Call
Keith & Mary Campbell
Bruce and Linda
Campbell
Darrell and Barbara
Campbell
Robert & Mary Campbell
Gabe and Sandra
Campbell

Norm and Peggy
Campbell
Robert C. Campbell
Denis and Eileen Cannaert
Harold and Marsha Case
Kristine Clark
George and Hollie Clay
Todd Climie
Timothy and Mary Clulo
Jeryl Colby
Dan and Cindy Collier
Rob and Diane Collier
Robert and Jan Condon
Howard and Anne Cooper
Richard Cooper and
Jan Tennant
Bill and Linda Cornell
Richard and Joyce Cosaro
Bill and Barbara Cragg
Betty Croft
Jennifer Crossen and
Joan Callahan
Karen Dahman.
Tom and Sherry Davy
Ralph and Lee Dean
Adrian DenHaan
Les and Karen Dennis
Roger and Helen Dewey
Preston and Mary Dilts
Dennis and Cheryl Downs
Bryce and Paula Dreezen
Earl and Anne Dryden
Vic and Peg Dubrowski
Maggie Duncan
James and Linda Durling
Roger L Duval
Robert C. and Sheila Dye
Ned and Barbara Edwards
Harry and Kathy Eiferle
Marge Elliott
Richard and Laurel Elsea
Ray and Mary Emerson
Mike Espeland and
Miki Topinka
John and Char Ester
Nick and Cynthia Fant
Janice Faulkner
Henry and Jackie Fett
Ethel (Kay) Fischer

Charles and Barbara Fisk
Ruth Forrest
Fred and Carolyn Forsythe
Mary Franco
Joseph and Gail Frank
Mary Jane Franklin
Suzanne Freshour
Stephen and Susan Fry
Terry and Linda Frysinger
John and Mary Gall
Al and Karen Gallup
Bob and Chris Gamble
Leif Garrison
Byron and Sheila Gay
David and Helene Gidley
James and Joan Gilbert
Roger and Sarah Gilbert
Anthony and Elizabeth
Gish
Bill and Sarah Gittlen
Al and Jo Glantz
Thor and Susan Goff
George and Catherine
Granlund
Dave and Judy Grant
Douglas and Trudy Green
Robert and Lacey Greer
Ward and Pudge Griffen
Matthew Grossman
Kreg and Jennifer Gruber
Lowell and Mary Gruman
Marian Gyr
John and Penny Haddick
Larry and Virginia Hale
Robert and Carolyn
Harmon
Barry and Evelyn Harper
Robert and Margaret
Hawes
David and Dorothy Hawley
Mark and Jennifer
Heidbreder
Terry and Jo Herban
Hugh and Pat Hessler
Roger Hewitt and
Patricia O'Rorke
Dee and Nancy Hewitt
Philip and Elizabeth Hill
Sharon Hillquist

Richard Hitchingham
Tim and Anne Hoban
Nancy Honchell
Carl and Cynthia Hood
Joe and Julia Horlings
Marty and Jackie
Hornacek
Alma Penfold House
Ralph and Peggy Jackson
David and Heide James
Gary Jarrold
Jerry and Pat Jehle
Steve and Peggy Jensen
John and Patricia Jimenez
Barbara Johnson
George and Anne
Kaminski
Khalid and Cynthia
Karimullah
James and Eileen Kelly
John and Lonnie King
Bob and Susan King
Susan Kirkpatrick
Jack and Beth Kloskoski
Peter and Roberta Kohnen
Richard Kosinski and
Deb Ochs
Bill and Claire Kropog
George and Betty Kuhn
Stephen and Helene
Kunkel
James and Kristina Kunz
James and Patricia
Laarman
Dennis and Pat Lamb
Steve and Mary Lou
Laske
Caroline and Martin
Lavanhar
Connie Lawler
Peg Lawrenson
Robert and Rosemary Lee
Dick Lewis
Joyce Lincoln
Erich and Joan Luedtke
Jim and Julie Luginbill
Roy and Asta Lynch
Will and Barbara Lynch
Edward and Nancy Lyon
Jim and Chris MacInnes
Patrick and Sally Manke
Peggy Martin
Anthony and Jo McDonald

Robert and Jane McElroy
Robert and Janice McKee
Sharon McKinley
Jackie and Susan
McLaughlin
Sue McNutt
Bob and Judy McQuilkin
Greg and Rosie Miller
Peter and Elizabeth
Edwards
Mobility Now
Physical Therapy
Andy and Martha Mollema
William and Nancy Moran
Richard and Laura Morey
Van Cleave and
Cathy Morris
Richard and Elizabeth
Morris
Joe and Kathy Mortensen
Eldon and Sally Moss
Tom and Julie Mountz
Dick and Dianne Munt
Sharon Murphy and
Sharon Montoyne
Daniel and Victoria
Murphy
James and Mary Jane
Murray
Bob and Diantha Naftali
Richard and Sharon Nash
Don and Janet Nelson
Bill and Sallie Nelson
Larry and Jean Newhadt
Ray and Paula Nichols
Greg and Monica Nowell
Ronald & Ruth Nugent
K. Marie Oliver
Bill and Joan Olsen
Sandra Olsen
Jim Olsen
Dexter and Carolyn Olsen
Daniel and Mary Lee Orr
Paul and Ann Osborn
Dennis Pace
Peter and Mary Parmater
William and Joetta Parris
Delbert and Sharon
Parsons
Moore Peregrine
Roger and Heather Perry
David and Kathy Peters
Althea Petritz

Edward and Patricia
Petrick
George L. Petritz and
Renate Podegracz
Jay Pettitt
Alfred and Elaine Pischke
Arden Poole
Ruth L. Post
Annis Pratt
Louis and Barb Pray
David and Sharon Pugh
Emerson and Elizabeth
Pugh
Jane Purkis
Richard and Susan
Rausch
David Reid and
Katherine Houston
Suzanne Reising
Dan and Susan Remahl
Doug and Karen
Richardson
Dennis and Patricia
Ritchie
Richard and Jan Robb
Mark and Renate
Roberts
Paul and Julie Robinson
John and Katherine
Rodes
Bob and Sue Rodgers
David and Ann Rogers
Art and Cheryl Roth
John and Barbara
Rothhaar
George and Nancy
Rubenson
Faith Sanders
Gregg and Chelin
Satherlie
Rick and Jennie Schmitt
Roger and Jane Schultz
David Scott
Ed and Pat Scott
Bill and Kathie Seitz
Helen Sharp
Michael and Luveda
Skimin
Barbara Skurdall and
Ann Strehle
Robert Skurdall and
Debra Eller
Ronald Smeltzer

Mark and Sue Smith
Virginia Sorenson
Richard and Diana
 Sosnowski
Lorry Spitzer and
 Diane Young-Spitzer
James and Donna
 Stevens
Bea Stone
Harriet Stone
Larry and Carolyn Storie
Larry and Sarah Stump
Gregory and Judith
 Sutton
Rick and LuVon Taylor
Kelly and Carolyn
 Thayer
William and Christine
 Toole
Tom and Mary Torbet
Tom and Laura Trudeau
Toby and Christy Tull
Beau Vallance and
 Jack Carpenter
Carol Van Senus

Walter and
 Janet Vandermeulen
Irwin Venick and
 Jeanne Bellinger
Gary and Jodi Vinch
John and Lynn
 Vinkemulder
Suzy Voltz
Linda Vorce
Eric Walline, Gold Coast
 Charter Service, Inc.
Robert and Elsie Walton
Gary and Linda Ward
Bonnie Warren
Ernest Weaver
Keith and Judy
 Westphal
Steve and Amy Whitlach
Don and Susan Widman
Nancy E. Williamson
Mark and Jane Wilson
Bart and Patty Wilson
Rand and Cindy Winters
John and Margaret Witt
Chuck and Susan Wood

David and Ann Wood
Will Wuerthele
Tom and Lisa Wyatt
Dennis and Jan Wyckoff
Mark A. Wyckoff
David and Janet Wynne
Bob and Mary Young
Bernie and Julie Zahm
Robert & Greta Zwinck

In Memory of

Dean Fales
by Dr. and Mrs. William
 Toole

In Honor of

Benjamin and Pat Quigg
by Carl and Cyndie
 Hood,

Adam Strauss
by Jerry and Pat Jehle

Thank You 2011 Volunteers!!!

**Bob Appelford, Jerry Boyd, Harold Case,
Tom Davy, Nick Fant, Dick Hitchingham, David
Lyon, Phil Mix, Bill Olsen, Rick Taylor and
Steve Wentworth**

for
Clearing downed trees this spring

Dan Remahl and Jane Gary
for
distributing the Trail maps

Brad Plat, CENTURY 21 Northland
for
letting FBVT to use their Beulah office
for Board meetings

**The group that folded the November newsletter
see photos**

Chris Kitzman and Shaun Johnson
for
folding and mailing the May newsletter

Mei Pierce
for mowing the Trail shoulders
between River Rd. and 10th St.

Our Adopt-a-Trail Volunteers
who keep the Trail clear of trash;

Connundrum Cafe
Rob and Michele Cannaert

Friends of Betsie Bay

Elberta United Methodist Church

Benzie Bicycle Club
Margaret and Doug Wozniak

Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail
Mary Ellen Miller, Julie McKnight, and Jan Robb

Crystal Mountain Employees
see photos

Clearing Fallen Trees; a Continuous Job



Tom Davy, Phil Mix and David Long (l to r)



Bob Appleford, Dick Hitchingham and Jerry Boyd (l to r)

Enjoying the Trail on Easter Sunday Afternoon



Faith Sanders, her nephew John Stamm, great granddaughter Trinity Wiencek and daughter Beth Sanders (l to r)



The Thayer family (l to r), Kelly, Alex, Carolyn and Quincy

We need your help to continue to develop and maintain the Betsie Valley Trail.
Contributions are appreciated.



Name(s) _____ phone _____

Primary address _____

_____ e-mail _____

Seasonal address _____

_____ dates _____ to _____

Membership levels: Single (\$10) Family (\$15) Donor (\$25) Patron (\$50) Benefactor (\$100) Sponsor (\$250)

Operating Account \$ _____

Betsie Valley Trail Capital Account \$ _____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

Please send this form and your tax deductible contribution to:
Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, P.O. Box 474, Beulah, MI 49617
or use pay pal



Dear members,

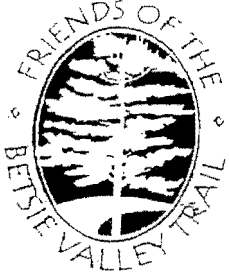
In July, I will conclude my 2nd term on the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail board. As a member of that board, I've had the pleasure of working with a wonderful group of skilled & committed individuals, and under the leadership of this capable board, your organization is in excellent shape going forward.

Through the generosity of our members, we've been able to support Trail maintenance and operations, as well as fund capital improvements. Being on the board for any non-profit would be very difficult without strong membership support. In that respect, you've made the job easy.

I anticipate that our organization will be filing suit against the Crystal Lake Property Rights Association (CLPRA), because of the bollards they have insisted upon being placed in the Trail at the new Crystal Lake Boat Launch site. The bollards are dangerous to Trail users and your board is adamantly opposed to their instillation. We are hopeful that logic will prevail and the bollards will be removed from the Boat Launch plan. However, the CLPRA organization has taken a firm stance against removal of the bollards. Unless that changes, our organization will be forced to fight this issue in court. Please know that your board has not arrived at this decision lightly, and it will be careful and respectful about expenditure of the membership dollars you have entrusted to the FBVT in support of your Trail.

Thank you for opportunity to serve you as a board member and happy trails!

Nancy Mullen Call
President



P.O. BOX 474
BEULAH, MICHIGAN
49617-0474

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Non-Profit
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Beulah 49617
Permit No. 22

A green line on your address
label indicates that your
2011 dues have been paid
Thank you!!!

BOLLARDS REMAIN CONTENTIOUS

ANNUAL MEETING

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2011
Crystal Conference Center
Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa
Thompsonville, MI

AGENDA

Financial Report
Progress and planning reports
Bollard Issue
Comments from members
Election of three directors