

Lake Country Legends

Newsletter of the Lake Country Scenic Byway

www.lakecountryscenicbyway.com



EXPLORE THE ROAD TO
ITASCA...AND BEYOND

Youth volunteer to build trail

BY LU ANN HURD-LOF
Park Rapids Enterprise

One recent morning seven young people donned gloves and yellow helmets, threw axes over their shoulders and - like the Seven Dwarfs - filed through the woods to work.

Six high school students and two college students were camping in the Paul Bunyan State Forest and reconstructing a loop trail from the Gulch Lakes Campground around Nelson Lake to the North Country National Scenic Trail and back.

The project is one of several the youths will accomplish in the coming weeks as volunteers in the Student Conservation Association (SCA)

program, designed to introduce kids to careers in conservation. Roughly 60 percent of SCA alumni go

on to careers in the conservation field.

Matthew Davis, North Country Trail Association (NCTA) regional trail coordinator for Minnesota and North Dakota, worked at the Appalachian Trail before taking his current position and moving to Detroit Lakes.

Davis said working on the trail may not seem meaningful to the young people now, but, based on his experience, "You don't get a lot of opportunities in life like this one. The trail will be here forever."

He expects someday the students may come back to visit as hikers or as tour-

halfway across the country to put sweat equity into a conservation project. He said only one of the eight had heard about the North Country Scenic Trail before they were assigned.

The NCTA was selected to receive a highly competitive grant from the National Park Foundation to pay for the crew of Student Conservation Association (SCA) volunteers.

The students began work in the Paul Bunyan State Forest July 9. The loop trail will allow campground users interested in taking a hike to leave right from the campground and long-distance North Country Trail hikers to access the campground, Davis explained.

Next, the crew will be completing maintenance on the North Country Trail between the Chippewa National

Forest boundary and Akeley Cutoff Forest Road.

As part of the experience, volunteers from the



ists.

Meanwhile, Davis said, he admires the students for leaving home and traveling

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **August 1, 2007**
Monthly meeting at Smokey Hills Wilderness Retreat, Osage, 8:30 am-11:30 am
- **September 26, 2007**
Fifth annual Fall Color Tour along the Byway
- **October 30-31, 2007**
9th annual MN Scenic Byway Workshop at Stillwater

NCTA's Itasca Moraine Chapter, which has members from Hubbard, Beltrami, Cass and Itasca counties, will work alongside the students.

Since 2000, the chapter has built and maintained more than 25 miles of the North Country Trail in Hubbard County between the Chippewa National Forest and Itasca State Park.

More information on the North Country Trail can be found online at www.northcountrytrail.org or by calling toll free 866-445-3628.



A Tribute to Townships

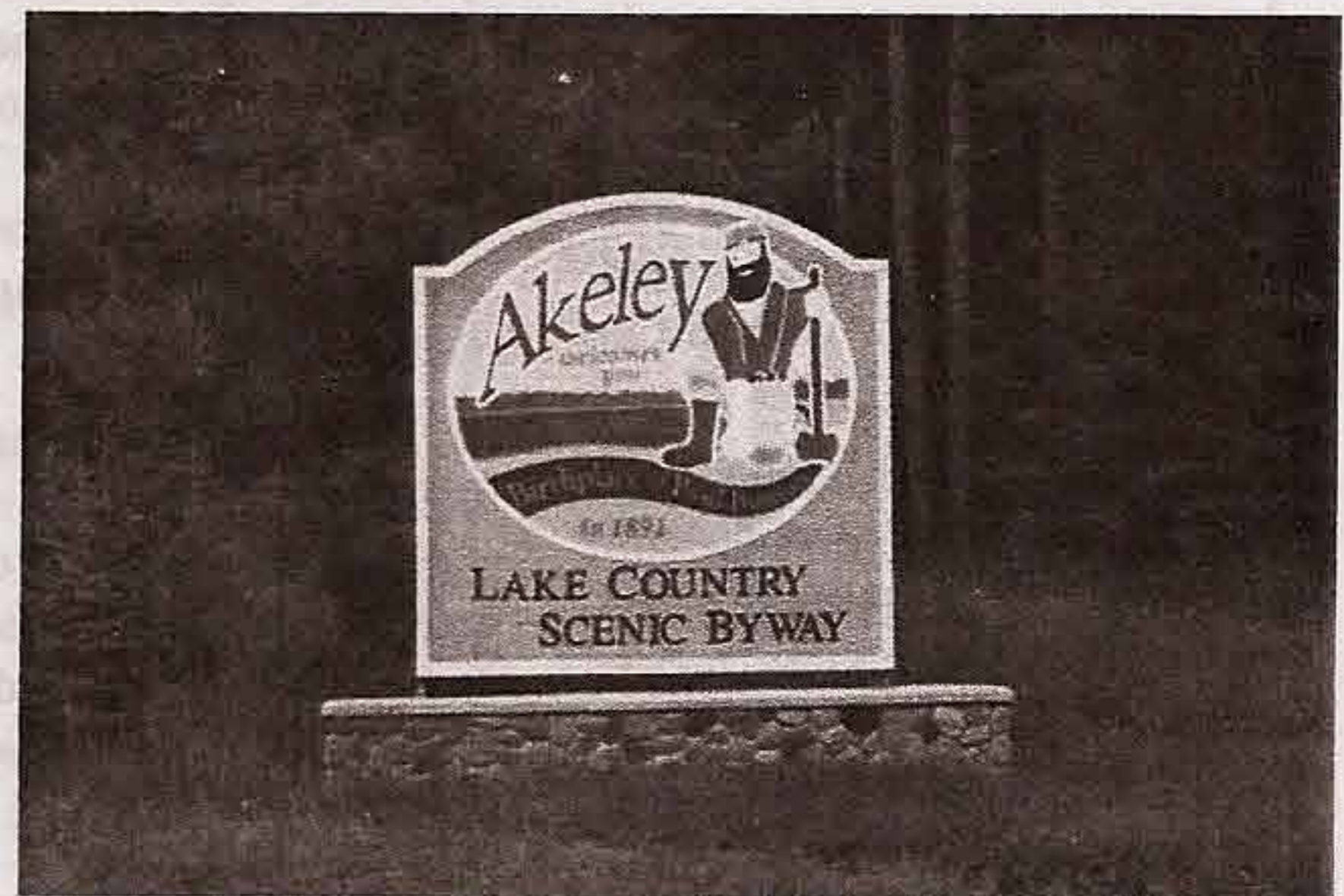
By Frank Mitchell, Historian

There is a place in the land,
 Where there is wood, clay and sand.
 A place where the pioneers,
 Lived through heartache and tears.
 The land they did hold,
 Because they were bold.
 The land that we love,
 Under blue skies above.
 Through snow and rain,
 They endured the pain.
 They lived and they stayed,
 With eyes lifted they prayed.
 This land is up north,
 Where travelers go forth.
 Some come and they stay,
 Others just come to play.
 The fish and the deer,
 Brings many up here.
 The land where we smile,
 Is marked mile by mile.
 All the squares that we fix,

Are measured six by six.
 There are 28 of them,
 You know that we love them.
 Ones that we learn,
 Is a township called Fern.
 There's Steamboat River and Rockwood,
 They'd fly if they could.
 Then Helga and Farden,
 Where they say "beg your pardon".
 Lake Hattie and Lake Alice,
 There's nary a palace.
 There's Schoolcraft and Nevis,
 Just don't try to leave us.
 There's Guthrie and Hart Lake,
 Where snowballs they make.
 In Henrietta and Lakeport,
 The summers are short.
 The town board of Hendrickson,
 They always have fun.
 There's Thorpe and Clay,
 Where people come to play.

There's Akeley and Todd,
 Where the horses are shod.
 In Straight River and Badoura,
 There's fauna and flora.
 In Hubbard and White Oak,
 The pipes they do smoke.
 When it snows in Crow Wing Lake,
 There's many a flake.
 Arago and Clover,
 The sod is turned over.
 In Lake Emma and Mantrap,
 The maples they tap.
 But up in Lake George,

They heat up the forge.
 In this county called Hubbard,
 Is an old mother's cupboard.
 When the county was founded,
 No corners were rounded.
 1883 was the year,
 The people made it clear,
 They wanted to govern,
 In that they weren't stubborn.
 No one was rejected,
 When the people elected,
 The town board to rule.
 So they met in the school.



COMMUNITY SIGN FACES GO UP!

The first of the sign faces and bases have gone up as part of the Byway Community Entrance Signage project.

Why become a member of the Lake Country Scenic Byway Association?

"Being a member of the Lake Country Scenic Byway Association is important to me. I believe that tourism is a large part of our future and the Scenic Byway is the avenue to that tourism.

Jack Murray

Membership Levels

- 88 Mile Benefactor \$88/year
- Scenic Sponsor \$25/year
- Friend..... \$10/year
- Ambassador \$5/year

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: Lake Country Scenic Byway Association
 PO Box 249, Park Rapids, MN 56470

Benefits of Membership

- Newsletter subscription
- E-mail announcements
- Opportunity to attend monthly meetings
- Input in key Byway Association issues
- Stakeholder in sustainability of the Byway
- Opportunity to attend Annual banquet and State Byway meeting
- Stay abreast of latest Byway developments