

# Brule – St Croix Chapter

## **MacQuarrie Wetlands.**

From the trail from the parking lot, turn left on the NCT and hike past the many wildlife viewing ponds. The trail eventually takes a right and goes away from the ponds to the Spruce Point Campsite. Go past the campsite for another .7 miles to reach the Mud Creek Overlook, which has a bench. 2.3 miles, 4.6 miles out and back.

## **Pattison State Park.**

From the main parking lot next to the Ranger Station, head east and cross under Hwy 35 using a tunnel. See Big Manitou Falls then go back through the tunnel and head south on the NCT on the east side of Interfalls Lake. Follow the Black River south, cross over a bridge and reach Little Manitou Falls. Head back up to the parking lot next to the Ranger Station. This time you can use the Beaver Trail on the west side of Interfalls Lake. 3.2 miles out and back

## **Scott Rapids (West Mail Road) to Gordon Dam**

From West Mail Road walk east along the St Croix River. Pass Scott Rapids, the Scott Rapids Campsite and the historic Gibson Cabin. There are many long boardwalks in this section. Keep going east and eventually reach the spur trail to the Gordon Dam County Park. If you have 2 cars, park one at the County Park and then you would hike .6 miles along the levee and dam to get to your second car. Otherwise, hike back the way you came. 2.6 miles, 5.2 miles out and back from West Mail Road to the trail junction. 3.2 miles from West Mail Road to Gordon Dam County Park.

## **Douglas County Bird Sanctuary**

From the parking lot on Bird Road, take the trail for 1/4 mile to connect with the NCT then head south to the Rovers Lake Campsite. Or you could head north for a mile to an unnamed lake with a bench and good views. 3 to 4 miles out and back depending on which route you take.

## **Brule Bog Boardwalk**

From the Hwy A Trailhead you can go on the Brule Boardwalk section of the NCT for as it goes through a wet woods. 1.4 miles, 2.8 miles out and back to the end of the boardwalk west of Hwy P. Some of the longest sections of boardwalk on the NCT.

## **Brule – St Croix Portage**

From the Hwy A Trailhead you can hike the Brule – St Croix Portage section. Many historical marker rocks with the names and year explorers came through the Portage. Brule – St Croix Chapter has a guide to the portage on their website. Ends at Chuck Zosel Viewing Platform, named after a founding member of the chapter. 1.8 miles, 3.6 miles out and back.

## **Highland Town Hall to Jerseth Creek Campsite**

The first mile of this hike is through a pine plantation. Then you head along the beautiful rim of the ridge for over a mile going to the Jerseth Creek Campsite. If you wish to hike to the creek, it is a steep descent going down to so you might not want to do that, because if you are doing an out and back you'd have to go back up the hill. 2.7 miles one way, 5.2 miles out and back.

**Honorable mention:** Samles Road to Winneboujou Campsite, Pero Road to Erick Lake Campsite and/or the Morris Pond Campsite

**Nearby Non-NCT Hikes:** Pattison State Park: Beaver Slide Nature Trail and Big Falls Trail

# Chequamegon Chapter

## **Rainbow Lakes Wilderness**

A beautiful section in the Federal Wilderness Area. Starting from Reynard Lakes Road going up past Reynard Lake. Going up to Bufo Lake would be 1.5 miles, 3 miles out and back.

## **Delta Drummond Road to Cisco Lake Road**

Nice Section with lots of lakes: Mirror Lake, Esos Lake and Overby Lake. 2 miles one way, 4 miles out and back

## **Drummond Woods Loop**

From the Old Highway 63 trailhead take the NCT north then head back on the Drummond Woods Trail. Has many interpretive signs about logging and nature. 2.2 miles

## **Lake Owen Loop**

From the Lake Owen Picnic Grounds, take the side trail to the NCT. Take a right on the trail and hike along Lake Owen for 2.7 miles until you reach North Lake Owen Road. There are several great interpretive signs along the way and great views of the lake. Take a left on North Lake Owen Road and hike .9 miles to the NCT and take a left. Hike .2 miles to get back to the trail going to the Lake Owen Picnic Area. This hike is fairly hilly. 3.8 mile loop in total

## **Porcupine Lake Wilderness Loop**

From the Porcupine Lake Trailhead on Porcupine Lake Road head south and meet up with the NCT in 1/4th mile. Then turn left and go down to the Porcupine Lake landing. This is a beautiful spot. Then go back the way you came and when you get to the trail intersection take a left. Go past Eighteenmile Creek Springs and cross over Eighteenmile Creek. Take the side trail going out to Porcupine Lake Road, go right on the road and hike back down to the Porcupine Lake Trailhead. 3.2 mile loop.

## **Old Grade Road (Forest Road 202) To Sallygirl Overlook**

From Old Grade Road hike east. Reach Juniper Rock overlook, the Marengo River, the Marengo River Shelter, the Old Swedish Settlement, the Marengo Valley Overlook and the Sallygirl Overlook. Then turn around and see it all again on the way back. The hike is strenuous going from the Marengo River back up to Juniper Rock, so keep that in mind for your return trip. 2.5 miles, 5 miles out and back.

## **Copper Falls Doughboy Loop**

From the Copper Fall Pavilion, hike to the right and do not cross the bridge going across the Bad River. Hike along the gorge and see Copper Falls and Brownstone Falls. Cross the Tyler Forks River Bridge and hike to a platform to see the Cascades. Then you get to the point where the NCT splits from the Doughboys Loop. You can turn back here and have a less strenuous hike back to the Pavilion. Otherwise, take the long descent down to the Bad River and cross the bridge. Then on the other side of the river there is a long ascent to get back to the top. See Brownstone Falls and Copper Falls again from the other side of the river. Head back to the bridge over the Bad River near the Pavilion. 1.7 mile loop

**Nearby Non-NCT Hikes:** Red Granite Falls Hike in Copper Falls State Park, Morgan Falls and St Peters Dome

# Heritage Chapter

## **Copper Falls Pavilion to Heritage Creek Ravine**

From the Copper Falls Pavilion take the NCT going to the right instead of taking the bridge over the Bad River. After seeing Copper Falls and Brownstone Falls cross the Tyler Forks River Bridge. Eventually you get to a spot where the NCT splits off the Doughboys Trail. Take the NCT going north to the backpacking campsite. Continue on the NCT past the Campsite Trail. Continue on and pass 2 overlooks of the Bad River. Then get to a spot where the trail goes down into a ravine. At the bottom is a beautiful creek with a trail bridge. 4 miles one way, 8 miles out and back.

## **Hwy 169 to Northern Point Overlook**

From the 169 Parking lot head west and hike steadily uphill to Sticker Road, then steadily downhill to Peters Driveway (private drive.) All of this so far is on private land easements; so don't stray from the trail. West of Peters Driveway cross a long boardwalk and then you reach the northern section of Copper Falls State Park. Eventually you reach the Dispersed Camping Area Trail going to the left. Continue on and you will cross an A Frame Bridge over a creek. Then go .4 miles to reach the Northern Point Overlook. 3.7 miles, 7.4 miles out and back

## **Wren Falls to Porcupine Hill**

From the Parking Lot on Wren Falls Road, take a forest road going to the right going up a small hill. Continue on the road to the Wren Falls Overlook. From there, take the NCT around the escarpment and go down and cross the Bill Thomas Bridge over the Tyler Forks River. Eventually you reach a forest road that you can turn left on and reach Wren Falls from the west side of the river. Continuing west on the NCT eventually you reach the Porcupine Hill East campsite Then you start making your ascent up to the top of Porcupine Hill, where there are the footings of an old fire tower. 1.8 miles, 3.6 miles out and back.

## **Wren Falls Parking Lot to Casey Overlook**

From the Wren Falls Parking Lot head south on Wren Falls Road and reach the NCT. Take a left and soon you will reach a large A Frame Bridge over a creek. After the bridge, the NCT goes up over a rocky hill. Continue on past a long beaver dam to the right of the trail. From there go another half mile to another rocky hill with a trail going up to the overlook. This vista looks in the direction of Casey Sag Road, but you can't see the road due to the trees. 1.2 miles, 2.4 miles out and back.

## **Casey Sag Road to the Gold Mine West Campsite**

At the Casey Sag Road Crossing of the NCT park on the side of the road. Head West on the NCT and immediately you will cross a creek with a large bridge. Continue hiking in the mature woods and .6 miles you will reach a big piece of machinery about 5 feet tall and 8 feet long. This was the boiler for a steam drill they used in the Gold Mine. Next to the machine there is a big hole going down to a smaller hole. That smaller hole is 135 feet deep so don't mess around by it. It is usually filled with water. There are also some other air holes in the area so watch out for them. Continuing west on the NCT you will reach a side trail for the Gold Mine West Campsite in .2 miles. You travel up a hill to the campsite. .8 mile hike. 1.6 miles out and back.

### **Upson Lake Overlook/Potato River Loop**

At the Casey Sag Road Crossing of the NCT park on the side of the road. Head east on the NCT through the mature woods. Eventually, you reach the Upson Junction where there is a bench and a logbook box. Take a left on the NCT, go up a hill and eventually you get to a spot with a geographic marker pipe. After the pipe the trail goes downhill and up another hill. At the top of the hill the trail makes a sharp turn to the right, then soon you are at the Upson Lake Overlook. Continuing on the NCT you travel on top of the hill for a ways then go down the hill in a big sweeping S pattern. Continue on for about .4 miles until you reach some rock faces on the left side of the trail. Then the trail goes downhill in a series of switchbacks to the Potato River. You hike along the Potato River for over 1/4 mile and reach the Tilted Gabbro Campsite. After the campsite there is a long boardwalk heading away from the river. After the boardwalk you go up a small hill and when you get to the top you can see Casey Sag Road to the west. There is a small maintainers trail going to the left that you could take out to the road. Then hike .8 miles back to your car on Casey Sag Road. The road can be hot and dusty in the summer. 4 mile loop

### **Potato River Hike from the Sullivan Fire Road.**

Park in the parking lot near where the Sullivan Fire Road dead ends at the river. Don't block the road because sometimes ATVs and Trucks cross the river here. Head south on the NCT starting at the Sullivan Fire Road. It is a great hike next to a very pristine and wild river. Hike 1.4 miles along the river and eventually you reach a large boardwalk and the Tilted Gabbro Campsite. 1.4 miles. 2.8 miles out and back

**Honorable Mention:** Foster Falls, Middle Foster Falls and Lower Foster Falls: Trail not built here yet so there is a lot of bushwhacking. Upson Lake Road to Upson Lake Overlook

**Nearby Non-NCT Hike** – Corrigan's Lookout, on Hwy 122 north of Upson