



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

January 2025

President's Message

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Important Links:

[Click here for link to Jordan Valley 45° page on NCTA website](#)

[Jordan Valley 45° is on FaceBook - click here](#)

[Click here for link to Report Volunteer Hours](#)

[Click here for link to NCTA Events Calendar](#)

Hello everyone;

When you are hiking along the North Country Trail / Little Traverse Wheelway along the Petoskey Bayfront, you will notice a new interpretive display for the NCT consisting of two information panels mounted back-to-back on one set of posts. This display closes out a field grant project started a few years ago. The Jordan Valley Chapter also installed signs at the Click Road Soccer Complex, Krause Road Trailhead, Quaintance Avenue, River Bend Park, Three Tubes, and Pinney Bridge. Many Chapter members worked on obtaining this grant, building sign frames, installing signs and gathering information for the signs. Thanks to Staff members at the North Country Trail Association who completed graphics and maps for the signs. The City of Petoskey provided some of the sign posts and installed some of the signs that are located by the Bayfront.



Upcoming Hikes

January 18th Group Hike – Deadman's Hill to Warner Creek
February 15th Group Hike – Starvation Lake area TBD

BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



By Duane Lawton
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We have some potential upcoming projects with no set dates as of yet. Details and permissions are still pending, stay tuned for more info.

The logging that was done west of US-131 destroyed a section of the trail this summer. Kenny W. and Jim H. have GPS'd a reroute that will minimize the disruption and also circumvent the seasonal briar patch over the ridge.

More logging soon on the trail just north of Springvale. I went in with Kenny, Dan and Jim H to see where the trail would be affected and flag reroutes. There are two sections, one to get off a short section of old two-track which is destined to be logging road, and another along a ridge just north of Springvale Road which will be wiped out when the top of the ridge becomes a logging trail.

We will need to move a short (200'?) section of trail off of private land Near Scholl Rd. in Lakes of the North. We were made aware of this by the DNR, the trail will shift to be fully on DNR property.

We were also talking about reducing the road walk between Five Lakes and Landslide. A wild idea is to move the trail so it goes north east of Alba. A lot of the property there is Kitchen potato farms (they have a lot of forest there too). Does anyone have any connections to the Kitchens? ...let me (Duane Lawton) know.

No New News: Dobleski Reroute, Skyline Shelter are both still on the radar but moving very slowly.

November 16th Group Hike Report– Shanley Rd. to Bayfront Park Petoskey

Story and pictures by Dan Dueweke - dandueweke@gmail.com

By 10am we had twenty hikers and three dogs at the entrance to Bayfront Park. At least eight of the group were new people to the JV45. Welcome! The weather was partly sunny, low wind and comfortable in the mid-40s'. Perfect for November.

After introductions, we used four cars to ferry everyone to the start at Shanley & Cedar Valley Rds. where two more hikers were waiting for us. We noted that the trail blazing at Shanley and Cedar Valley Rds. needs freshening up. This hike was only 6.5 miles so we were able to take our time, stop frequently and enjoy the walk.

From the start at Shanley Rd. the view into Petoskey and out toward Lake Michigan is gorgeous. Overall, this hike was on mostly flat terrain, but the first mile was downhill on Cedar Valley Rd. to the trail leading to the Petoskey Youth Soccer Fields.



Aside from the touchup needed at Shanley Rd., the blazing for the rest of the hike was in great shape. Most of this section is maintained by Rich Borowicz (thank you). The mile or so traversing the soccer fields is mostly open and tall grass, which was well mowed, blazed and weed whacked. Missing Carsonites (fiberglass posts) have now been replaced.



After the soccer complex, we crossed the Bear River at Click Rd., where the culvert crossing needs some boards replaced. From Click Rd. to the River Road Sports Complex it is mostly woods including some swampy areas with boardwalks we installed a few years ago. The trail tread is now well established.

The JV45° Chapter has placed a large toolbox at the end of the parking lot in the sports complex. At the toolbox we took a break and were joined by two more hikers and took the opportunity to review the contents. It now includes a new weed whacker with fuel for anyone to use. There are two additional weed whackers in the tool trailer parked at the fish hatchery. In warm weather we will add some paint for blazing.



We proceeded to the new bridge over the Bear River where we paused again for more pictures. After the bridge, we moved onto the trails of the North Central Michigan College (NCMC). Then, from NCMC, it was a little under three miles along the Bear River gorge to Bayfront Park. The water was pretty high, but no kayaks were seen. We arrived at Bayfront Park around 2PM.

Following the hike, and after retrieving cars from Shanley Rd., thirteen of us went to the Mitchell Street Pub for lunch. We were able to get three tables together in the back. A very good day.



December 14th Group Hike Report – Petoskey Brewing Co. to Bayfront Park

Story by Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net

Well, we only had four of us hiking today: Kevin, Bob, Ellen & Emmy. Probably because it was 0 degrees this morning and most people must have decided to sleep in.



It warmed up to the teens by the time we got started and then up to 26 on our way to Bayfront Park. It was a gorgeous bluish day and we were actually sweating by the time we completed a little over 4 miles. The easterly winds, thankfully, were low and there was about 6 inches of snow. The original plan was to hike from Conway to Bayfront Park but with the small group we pivoted and just hiked from the Petoskey Brewing Company. The brewery provided both a convenient parking spot and a place to eat after the hike.

Along the way we diverted a mile or so into the lake shore in Petoskey State Park, which is at the east end of Little Traverse Bay on Lake Michigan. The crisp air and clear blue skies provided for a fantastic view of Petoskey out to the horizon on Lake Michigan, Harbor Springs. Petoskey State Park is sandwiched between dunes along the lake shore and Mt. Baldy (dunes) on the east. Even though close to Lake Michigan, Mt. Baldy is also the watershed boundary for Lake Huron. Water falling east of Mt. Baldy flows to Lake Huron.





After the state park, we made our way back to the cars parked at Bayfront Park and we finished up the day with a yummy lunch and “pops” at the Petoskey Brewing Company.

“Where I Hiked” Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area - NCNST

Story and pictures by Doug Seaney – dseaney@hotmail.com

I met up with 3 other guys to hike this 65-mile section of the NCT. I normally hike solo but this being a pretty remote area and a reputation for lots of blowdowns and no blazing I (and my wife) thought it best to hike with others on this trip. Mike and Wayne, I met last year on the Superior Hiking trail and asked if they wanted to try Boundary Waters hike. Christopher, I met shuttling him here in our chapter on his quest to hike the NCT, and also hiked with him for 15 miles or so in Ohio.

Just prior to this hike I completed the northernmost 100 miles on the Superior Hiking trail also part of the NCT. I finished at Temperance River CG and stayed there a few days waiting on the others to join me. So, I had my “trail legs” all in shape for this hike.

We started out Saturday September 7th and hiked west bound from the 270° overlook. The first 13 miles are not in the wilderness area so we stayed our first night at McFarland Lake CG 12.5 miles today.



South Fowl Lake – I think?



Wayne, Mike, Doug, & Christopher

Sunday 9/8 on the trail at 730am, our second day hiking we got into a better rhythm, Christopher and I hiked together ahead of Wayne and Mike. We waited for them at any intersections or confusing sections. Mike and Wayne ran out of water late in the day. Although this trail is in a canoe area – water sources are usually way down hill and for all intent, inaccessible for those hiking the trail. We finished at lake Gogebic and I loaded up some water and ran it back a mile or so for Mike and Wayne. We met a lady at Gogebic that was hiking east bound and she had skipped all of clearwater lake section, claimed it was really bad and got someone from the fishing resort to boat her ahead on the trail. Later we learned that it wasn't really that bad – I think she may have overreacted. 13 miles today

Monday 9/9 on the trail at 730am again. Trail east of clearwater lake was a major blowdown section, but we took our time and made it through without too much trouble. I used a foldable silky saw to clear a few sections. It took us about an hour to go .75 mile. Met two college age couples carrying their canoes and huge packs on a portage from lake to lake. Best guess is the packs were 50+ pounds. The girls were carrying the packs and the guys carried the canoes; not sure who had the worse end of that deal? Camped at E. Rose Lake. 11.5 miles today

Monday 9/9 on the trail at 730am again. Trail east of clearwater lake was a major blowdown section, but we took



Resting at Mountain Lake

Tuesday 9/10 on the trail at 7am today. Some amazing overlooks and waterfalls today. Took a .4-mile spur to Patridge lake for a lunch and water resupply. We are learning that we need to plan our day around water resupply points as they are not as readily available as one would think. Another significant blowdown East of Mucker Lake, Christopher and I cleared quite a bit of trail and built a few cairns to help other find their way, while waiting for Mike and Wayne to catch up. I got stung on the head by a wasp and chased down the trail today. Camped at Topper Lake tonight, a very sloped camping area. About dusk a group of 5 guys showed and up we all managed to squeeze in 7 tents and one hammock in an area best suited for 3 or 4! 10 miles today.



Bridal Falls

Wednesday 9/11 on the trail at 7am today. We lost Mike and Wayne today! They missed a turn and took a cutoff to Crab Lake, which added about 3 extra miles for them! Christopher and I waited a really long time for them to catch up and were getting to the point of figuring out plan B or C... I ran back about a half mile hollering and whistling with no luck. Back to our waiting point and Christopher and I studied the map to see if we could guess where they may have missed the trail. Decided to both start hiking back and just after we got started, they appeared out of the bush! Was really hot today, 86 degrees per Christopher's Garmin In Reach. We had to go on a .7-mile spur to get to Brice Bean camp – the only option to camp with our 11-mile day. We took a swim in the lake at camp. Excellent campsite today, had the place all to ourselves.

Thursday 9/12 on the trail at 7am again today. Christopher is out of food and I have 1 granola bar and two spam singles left. Today is our final day of hiking. We all got water at a bridge crossing, we are out of the wilderness area. Was very foggy today. I hiked right past magnetic rock, a significant landmark; must have had my head down watching my footing. Christopher was a half mile behind me and when he caught up, he told me I missed it. I hiked back a half mile to see it. As I got to it Mike and Wayne showed up. Mike had fallen down just back the trail a bit and whacked his head pretty badly. Checked him for signs of

concussion and seemed okay, and he claimed he was okay. We now have a trail name for Mike – “Goose Egg”.

It was a great hike and once we got our rhythm and water resupply figured out, we had pretty good days. The views were amazing, a lot of the trail is high up on bluffs overlooking many lakes. Saw lots of moose track, bear track but no live critter sightings. Saw eagles and lots of spruce grouse. A beautiful area that I would like to return to in a canoe next time.



Overgrown Trail



Goose Egg



Magnetic Rock

Trail Maintenance Update

Dan Dueweke - dandueweke@gmail.com

It's winter, and the snow is deep, so not much opportunity for trail maintenance. But now IS a good time for sawyers to have their chains sharpened, non-sawyers to clean and oil their hand tools, and everybody to open their med kits and replace expired ointments, soggy bandages, and their misplaced tick keys.

Considering adopting a trail? JV45° has two sections available: Send me a note if interested.

Mancelona Rd to Whispering Pines Dr, a pleasantly wooded section with little elevation change.



Brubaker Rd to Click Rd, mostly a road walk with some grass to mow behind the soccer fields.



Jordan Valley and 3 Tubes bridge Project

Story by Doug Seaney, pictures by Dan Dueweke and Bob Courtois

There has been some logging action in the Jordan Valley. Location is west of O'Brien Pond, where we moved the trail from an old two track into the woods a few years ago in anticipation of this logging. When I was there in mid-November it appears that it is more of a select cut than a clear cut, although the road was pretty destroyed from all the heavy equipment use.



Bob Courtois and Dan Dueweke have both been on site since then and pictures are from them. The other project is two bridge replacements, one of which is the “3-tubes” bridge. We have been told that the locals used to call it “Plank Bridge” back before it was 3-Tubes, so may have to figure out what to call it going forward.



As of now the trail no longer needs to be re-routed. The bridge will be closed again this spring for a shorter duration to pave the deck, install guardrail on the approaches and other final restoration items. The second bridge further upstream will be built, although that shouldn't impact the trail itself but will impact those driving the Jordan River Road closer to US-131.

JV45 Annual Meeting January 4th, 2025
Charlevoix Public Library

JV45 Annual Meeting 1.4.2025

Location: Charlevoix Public library

Attendees: Kevin Whitley, Annie Matz, Dave Matz, Dan Dueweke, Susan Miller, Will Shapton, Jane Denay, Cliff Denay, Doug Seaney, Bob Courtois, Duane Lawton, Dove Day, John Day, Doug Bouwense, John Larch, Mary Campbell, and Amy Kuczynski a first-time attendee from Charlevoix.

Kevin brought the meeting to order at 12:18pm with a slide show and summary of 2024 in review. The chapter hosted monthly hikes and several events throughout the year.

Break for potluck lunch

Elections were held and the following incumbents were unanimously voted in.

Vice President James Howell

Secretary/Treas Annie Matz

Events Coordinator Sue Bouwense

Trail Adopter Coordinator Dan Dueweke

NCTA award went to Jennifer Reynolds for her hard work over the last year and the Big Foot award was presented to Dave and Annie Matz for their trail work.

Ellen Whitehead has earned her "Hike the Chapter patch" but was unable to attend the meeting.

Duane Lawton did a presentation/slide show on the trail projects for 2024 and his plans for 2025 projects which include:

Minor reroute west of US-131

2 minor reroutes north of Springvale Rd due to upcoming logging

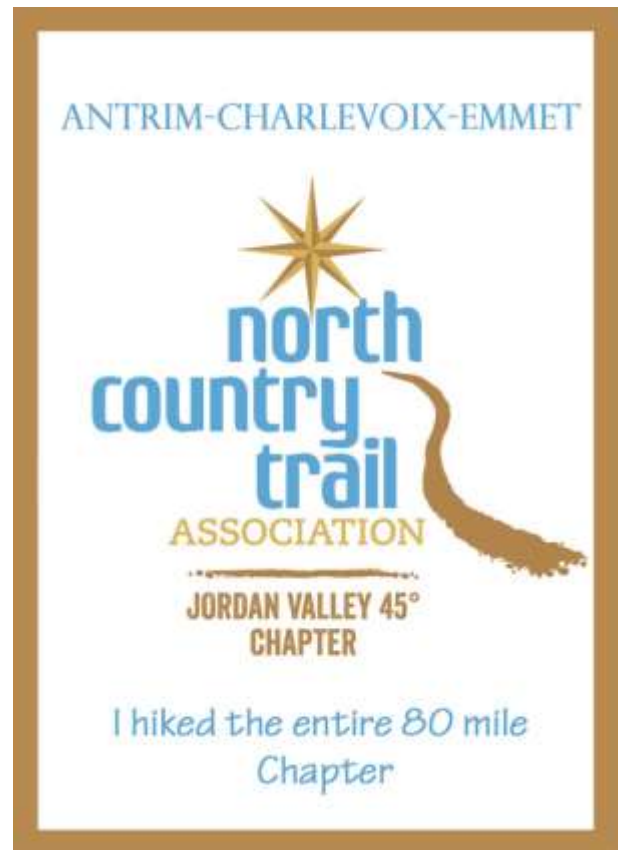
May need to build a new shelter if the one on the Boor property is no longer accessible.

Hopefully begin Dobleski-Giem Rd. reroute

Duane also presented a slide show on WRTC (Wisconsin roving trail crew) which he has helped over the years. The WRTC organizes trail projects once a month all summer for 2-3 days at a time. If you are interested in helping let Duane know.

Bob Courtois gave a hike report. The January hike is planned for Warner Creek and February he plans to hike near Starvation Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm
Minutes typed by Annie Matz



Patch for hiking entire JV45° Chapter

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin Whitley – President kjwtorchlake@gmail.com	James Howell - Vice President pattenlake2620@gmail.com
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