



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 3

June 2017

Upcoming Events

June 18. SUNDAY. JV45 Hike 100
Meet at 10 am at the Lakeshore Drive Parking area near: 45.70163, -84.9493166 (on Google Maps go to: <https://goo.gl/OYkhsA>) We will proceed north along the trail and will end our hike Near Swamp Line Rd. For those who wish to travel further, there are additional options. Several of us will likely hike the entire Wilderness State Park Section. Remember to bring plenty of water, bug repellent, lunch, and any other item you might find necessary.

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The JV45° Newsletter is published six times per year, every other month



Message from JV45° President Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com

Great spring, three good hikes, a wonderful Petoskey Trail Town Celebration, and our aid station at the marathon. As usual, dedicated Adopter activity to keep our trail great. Hopefully soon we'll get into projects.

2017 Jordan Valley Projects. Kenny Wawsczyk, our NCTA Michigan Trail Coordinator, joined us for our meeting with the DNR at their Gaylord office on April 18th. It was a productive meeting.

Paige Perry, DNR Trails specialist, committed to writing and submitting the permit application to the DEQ. Kenny, Bob Haack and I surveyed the trouble spots and provided her with complete documentation of the locations, lengths, and proposed treatments for our valley projects. As Kenny summarized: "In the end the entire project will total 505' of puncheon, 92' worth of steps, and 163' of benched trail." We have also inventoried structures that are going away for material that can be reused. There is a lot! Hopefully we'll have a permit soon. I know all our volunteer project leaders are chomping at the bit.

It was determined that the signage planned (You Are Here signs, road crossing marker posts, interpretive panels) all fall under the NCTA/DNR Memorandum of Understanding and need no further review or approval. We can do this now!

The issues with our boardwalk and beaver deceiver at O'Brien Pond has been undertaken by our DNR Liaison Tom Copenhagen (Young State Park manager), who is working with the DEQ to revise our existing permit to allow the work needed. We will be stabilizing and anchoring the boardwalk, and increasing the deceiver capacity by more than three times. Hopefully a work bee in July.

Skyline Shelter. Very close to done, completing the siding and building bunks remain. No work day scheduled yet.

PTTC5. Pictures are on page 3. A great time was had by all.

Loki & Berries. (Our own Mary Campbell and John Larch) 74 days in on the AT, John says: "I've been hobbling along on my bad knee for 200 miles now, and have every intention to continue until it falls off. Then I will hop. We have just passed the 700 mile mark, and are just short of 1/3 of the way there. Thanks for all the love and support from all." Follow them online and wish them well <http://trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=557887>

June Hike100 will be on Sunday, June 18th, see Upcoming Events.

2019 NCT Celebration. In 2019, it is the turn of Michigan's lower peninsula chapters to host the annual gathering. After a fitful start, it appears we have a convoy. Our chapter's rep on the selection committee is our VP Eugene Branigan, and three sites are being evaluated: Shanty Creek Resort, Crystal Mountain Resort and Kettunen Center.

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According to the guidebook, we need to settle on a site by this fall. So far there isn't a lead chapter or person. Site visits are being made in mid-June.

July in Marquette! Speaking of the Celebration, have you registered yet for the 2017 Celebration in Marquette? There's a crowd of us going, and camping.

Reminder of Hike100 2.0: <https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/hike-100-challenge/>
Several of us have already made it! I'm particularly impressed by the fact that Hike100 is an NCTA invention that Andrea Ketchmark and Amelia Rhodes recently presented to the Partnership for the National Trails system for other trail organizations to emulate.

To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58.

To report conditions e-mail Dove and John Day at doveday70@gmail.com or call 231-373-0090 or 231-838-6445

Duane Lawton Speaks at Petoskey District Library

Jim Flick
jimflick0711@gmail.com

On May 22nd our Jordan Valley 45 President, Duane Lawton, and DNR Trails Coordinator, Emily Meyerson gave a very informative presentation at the Carnegie Library Building in Petoskey. The event was very well attended by close to 100 people. Emily concentrated on the history of hiking and bicycling throughout Michigan and recent improvements and additions to the trail network. We all felt a sense of pride when Emily noted that Michigan has the most extensive bicycle and hiking trail system of any state in the country. Duane gave a brief history of the North Country Trail and his presentation was highlighted by a slide show that gave a feeling of the comradery and beauty that hiking in the wilderness offers everyone. Duane also discussed the activities and projects on board for this season in the chapter's quest to continually improve the trail experience. Several attendees signed up for more information at the end of the meeting with intention to become members of our chapter.



May 20th JV45 Draft Minutes

Present: D. Lawton, E. & L. Branigan, D. Day, J. Day, B. Courtois, J. and J. Flick. After the hike on May 20th a brief but spirited meeting was held. Most discussion centered on preparations for the Trail Town Celebration to be held in Petoskey on June 3, 2017. Other topics included the 2017 celebration in Marquette and various trail maintenance projects to be undertaken this year. Duane also provided a financial report. As of March 31, 2017, there was \$3,342 in the checking account. Pending expenses included \$150 for marker posts, \$320 for the skyline shelter, \$180 for the Trail Town Celebration and \$100 for Puncheons.



JV45 Assists in Marathon

Dove Day
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The second annual Stafford's Top of Michigan Community Marathon was held on Saturday May 27th. Part of the marathon takes place along the North Country Trail in Petoskey. This year there were over 400 runners, and Aid Station Mile #17 was staffed and ready with North Country Trail volun-

teers! The Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K and Relay were all along the shores of Lake Michigan, from Charlevoix, through Petoskey, and ending in Harbor Springs. Our volunteers passed out water and snacks to runners as they came through the North Country Trail section near City Hall in Petoskey. Thanks to all who came out to support the NCT and the Community Marathon!

Aid Station Volunteers included

Connie and Jerry Allen,
Connie and Larry Beaubien,
Kim Beaubien,
Dove and John Day,
Russ Carpenter,
Bob Diepeveen,
Jim Flick and Jessica Flick.
Margo Hodder, and
Janeen Wardie



The JV45° Chapter is on facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45-636045479799699/>



Eugene Branigan preparing to roast hotdogs

Petoskey Trail Town Celebration

Saturday June 3rd was National Trails Day and NCTA members from the Jordan Valley 45 and Harbor Springs Chapters celebrated that event by co-hosting the Petoskey Trail Town Celebration. Hikers were shuttled to the trailhead by the Petoskey Downtown Trolley, where participants hiked along the North Country Trail and then headed downtown to Pennsylvania Park to enjoy music and a free lunch. Participants had a chance to check out all kinds of cool activities in the park, and after several awesome presentations, prizes were drawn for the "guess the weight of the backpack" contest and the Trail Town Raffle. It was a beautiful day and we want to thank all of our sponsors and all who came out to celebrate National Trails Day with us! Here are a few pictures from the 2017 PTTC.

Dove Day, doveday70@gmail.com



Mark Weaver,
Superintendent,
North Country
National Scenic
Trail, NPS



Joe Farley, our Eagle Scout (to be) who is leading construction of the Skyline Shelter

Matt Claucherty,
Tip of the Mitt
Watershed
Council



Raffle Prize Winners



Boarding the trolley to go to the trailhead



Engaging the public at the raffle table



Listening to the folk stomp sound of Lee Dyer

2017 PTTC Sponsors

Many thanks to our local sponsors who supported the 2017 Petoskey Trail Town Celebration

- City of Petoskey
- Oleson's Farm Fresh Markets
- Top Of Michigan Trails Council
- Getting Kids Outdoors
- Headlands Dark Sky Park
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- National Park Service
- Natureology
- The Outfitter Harbor Springs
- Petoskey District Library
- Skydive Harbor Springs
- Corner Scoops
- Crooked Tree Breadworks
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council
- The Walking Dude
- Bearcub Outfitters
- High Gear Sports
- Latitude 45
- Roast & Toast
- Parks Place Café
- D & W Fresh Markets
- American Spoon Foods

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

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Our section of the NCT looks to be in pretty good shape as we roll into the summer months. Thank you to all our trail adopters AND to everyone else out there who took the time to pick up a stick every time you went hiking!

Our Chandler Hill section was hit quite hard again this year. In the 2½ mile stretch north from Chandler Hill Road, we cleared over 100 trees off the trail this spring. Just as last year this section took a little extra effort to clear, but hard working volunteers got it done (see photos)! Now we cross our fingers and hope for no strong winds anytime soon!



Nancy Kowaleski clears the trail (no chainsaw required)



(L-R): Tamera Dean, Nancy Kowaleski, Dave Johnson, Dove and John Day



Tamera Dean and Dave Johnson clearing brush with loppers

April Hike 100

The April 15th "Hike 100" hike started out gloomy with intermittent sprinkles. We began at Taylor Road and headed north.

The hike was beautiful even through the rain and it was a good first early season hike.

When we finished at the Skyline Trailhead Parking we met up with Joe Farley and helped him move closer to finishing his Boy Scout Eagle project, which is also our beautiful trail shelter. I put up siding boards with Dove and John. John and I tried to nail them up as fast as we could before Dove would,

with all of her aesthetic powers in full focus, reject the current siding board we were working on only to select another or another. Our strategy was somewhat successful. Duane meanwhile was overhead trying to cut out the loft window and mumbling something inaudibly to himself.

We buttoned up the shelter for the time being, boarding over the windows to protect the inside from the elements until it is finished and then we all enjoyed some cobbler that Joe had made for us in a Dutch oven.

Eugene Branigan
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April Hikers (L-R): Bob, Eugene, Linus, Dove, John, & Duane



Dove and Bob C putting up siding



Duane cutting windows



Joe Farley keeping the JV45 members organized and on task

Register Box Buzz



Deadman's Hill Trail Box

Danyell Minier

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Since January 2016 over 280 people have signed in at the Deadman's Hill Trail box. Apparently I was not the only one to get stuck in the parking lot this spring. Based on the comments left it appears that at least two others experienced the same fun! Several entries stated they were there for peace or to reset themselves. Several people came from nearby towns such as Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Charlevoix, Petoskey, Gaylord and East Jordan.

In February 2016, Mitch and Erin wrote: "Tobogganed down from the trail head. We recommend trying it!"

We also had people make entries who were from all over Michigan,



Husband Frank Minier, dog Ace, son Pierce Minier, and two friends who are Girl Scouts and hope to hike 100 miles this year: Serina and Megan Trarop. Danyell was behind the camera.

including Clarkston, Alma, Traverse City, Esseville, Lewiston, Grayling, Brighton, Ann Arbor, Grandville, Holland, South Bend, Hudsonville, Bellaire, Eaton Rapids, Waterford, Marquette, Jonesville, Garden City, Fremont, Buckley, Mt. Pleasant, Grand Rapids, Spring Lake, Johannesburg, Saginaw, Canton, Alden, Clare, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Lake Orion, Marshall and Okemos.

From outside Michigan, we had Rodney from Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Eisch's from Magalia,

California; Steven from Waynesville, OH; Dave, Brenda and Kyle from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Janice from Fort Wayne, IN; Kate from Tucson, Arizona; and we even had Chloe and Josh from Bath, United Kingdom here on Holiday.

Zach U. stated: "On a hiking date :) We've been dating for almost 13 months and I can already tell she's the love of my life." Brianna M. responded: "(that's adorable) (p.s. this is Brianna now, and I know he's the one)"

Rich B. went up the hill 12 times to get ready to climb Mt. Whitney. Frank and Jill "Thought I saw Big Foot, but it turned out to be Tim Hanley from Gaylord." I can sympathize with Alsira "I like all the nature. I dislike the steep up hill." In October/November several people were close to finishing their 100 Mile Challenge. But on March 25, 2017, Bob was "getting my 100th mile in today".

We also checked out the Jordan Valley project we had signed up for, which was to shore up the boardwalk beyond the beaver ponds.



Our upcoming boardwalk project

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – President
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Eugene Branigan – Vice President
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Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
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Denise DeKett – Secretary
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Todd Winnell – Treasurer
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Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jenwinnell@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
haack@msu.edu

Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
doveday70@gmail.com,
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Submit Your Stories and Pictures for the JV45° Newsletter

Don't forget that this is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues, and that includes stories for the "Where I Hiked" column. Bob Haack <haack@msu.edu>.

Blazing Kit Ideas

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

Everyone has their own preferences but the following works for me. Nest the following in a two-pound plastic coffee can:

- A 1-quart paint can (buy one cheap at hardware store)
- Nelson Boundary Blue paint (get from your NCT Chapter)
- Disposable brush (cheap at hardware store, no more than 2" wide)
- Small zip lock bags for brushes.
- Rags

Carry the coffee can in a plastic grocery bag (double bag it) along with other tools, such as wire brush with paint scraper, pruning shears, paint can opener, and folding hand saw.



Filling the coffee can

There is no fighting it, the paint gets everywhere. You might want a plastic tote box to carry it all in your car.

Other comments: The correct color Nelson Boundary Blue is vitally important. Don't damage trees scraping too deep. Don't over blaze. Size matters, dollar bill size blazes are perfect. A must read is "Blazing for Beginners" on the NCTA site (https://northcountrytrail.org/docs/resources_docs/Blazing%20For%20Beginners.pdf).



Put the coffee can and tools in plastic bags



Place everything in a plastic tote

May Hike 100: The Eagle Hike

OK, so we didn't see the eagle's nest. Duane was in a big hurry because I (admittedly) put everyone behind. Linus was finishing up his forestry merit badge at the Otsego County Demonstration Gardens. We met up with Duane, Jim Flick, and daughter Jessica Flick at Levering Rd.

On May 20, we headed north along the trail and spring was peaking through the forest floor with thousands of spring flowers and plants poking through last fall's leaves.

Bob C put his jeep at the north end of our trek parking near Lakeshore Drive and hiking south to meet us. He met us at about the 2 mile marker and said that he had seen an eagle near Wycamp Lake.

Shortly after we met up with Bob we discovered some trail friends. We continued on and



Trail friends



Walking along the dunes

gazed out over the lake once we reached its southern reaches ultimately arriving at the dam for a quick water break and photo opportunity.

As we traveled onward we climbed the dunes and enjoyed the view into the distance.

The weather was perfect, the attention of biting insects remained in abeyance, and the rain waited till we made it to our vehicles.

We followed up at the Moose Jaw Junction for a pint and something to eat concluding with our chapter meeting.



May Hikers (L-R): Jessica F, Jim F, Linus B, Bob C, Eugene B, & Duane L.

There is a rather extensive video of the hike that can be found at www.thewalkindude.com click on the channel link. Or here:

<https://youtu.be/C6e1FGPuUVc>

Eugene Branigan
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Dinner at Moose Jaw Junction (L-R): Eugene, Linus, Jessica, Duane, Jim, & Bob

Where I Hiked

Carrauntoohil (Corrán Tuathail) and Cnoc an Toinne, County Kerry, Ireland

Highest Point and Peak in the Republic of Ireland (3,406 feet above sea level)

Josh Berlo

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Trail: Ascended the Devil's Ladder, Descended via the Bothar na Gige (The Zig Zags)

Distance: 7.3 miles round trip

Time: 4.5 hours

Route: Parked at Cronin's Yard (paid 2 Euro) and hiked the gravel two track through Hag's Glen where it narrowed to a single tread. Crossed several streams, passed dozens of sheep and hiked between the lakes of Lough Callee and Lough Gouragh. Reached the base of the Devil's Ladder, a steep and rocky ascent, 75 minutes. Tough scramble up the Devil's Ladder which



Lakes of Lough Callee and Lough Gouragh.



Devils Ladder



Cross at Summit of Devil's Ladder

is a steep and badly eroded section with a lot of loose rock. At the top, turned right for the steep ascent to the summit marked by a large 15 foot cross. Had a snack and enjoyed the views and solitude. I then began the descent, passed the top of the Devil's Ladder and continued over the Cnoc an Toinne summit turning left to

follow a switch back trail down that reconnected with the route I came in at the base of the Devil's Ladder. A beautiful day, bluebird skies until I returned to the car and the summit was clouded in. Fun to hike abroad to a national high point. Met some great folks from all over Ireland and the world on the trail.

ATTENTION: CERTIFIED SAWYERS NEEDED!

If you own a chainsaw and are interested in becoming chainsaw certified through the National Park Service there is a certification class coming up in July. It is the policy of the NCTA that all volunteers chainsawing on the North Country Trail be certified sawyers. The training course is free and all your PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is supplied;

leather gloves, logger's hard hat (including eye and ear protection), logger's first aid kit, and chaps. The only cost to you is transportation, lodging, and meals. to attend the class.

The National Park Service (North Country Trail) will host the chainsaw training course at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore during July 7-9, 2017. Friday July 7, will be in the Classroom. And then either Saturday July 8 or Sunday the 9th will be in the field. Your choice.

Classroom size is limited. The deadline for registering is June 27th.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Dove or John at doveday70@gmail.com. We will then forward you all the information you need to get signed up. Thank you!

Dove and John
Jordan Valley 45° Trail Coordinators