

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 2



Calendar

CHAPTER MEETING

Sat. May 9, 2015

Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Boyne Valley Twp. Fire Hall, Boyne Falls

Speakers: Cyndi & Terry Dickey, "Yosemite Wilderness

Backpacking "

Hike 2:00pm

See pg. 3

JAY'S SPORTING GOODS BACKPACKING DAYS

Sat. May 9, 2015

Clare, MI.

See info pg. 6

Work Day May 10, 2015

Spur Loop to Cherry Valley Overlook

Details to come

John & Dove Day

Contact:

johnanddove@gmail.com

"Getting Kids Outdoors"

May 17,

CORRECTED: Pond Hill Farm

PETOSKEY TRAIL TOWN

Sat. June 6, 2015

Details in May

April, 2015



President's Commentary by Duane Lawton

"Intrepid Snowshoe Hikers" by Duane Lawton, March 14, 2015



Welcome to our April chapter newsletter!

Before the March meeting...ten of us hiked around the Warner Creek Pathway (3.2 miles). There was still a LOT of snow in the woods. Those of us who thought “hah, we don’t need no stinking snowshoes”...were wrong. Soggy feet/”postholing” all the way. We stopped by O’Brien Pond, here’s another pic of the boardwalk, still standing.

But now, hurrah!---spring is here! Things are thawing out, and we are “springing” into action.



Photo: O’Brien Pond Boardwalk

At our March meeting we reviewed a whole gamut of opportunities to support the trail in 2015 and beyond. A full report on the March meeting are in the draft minutes included in this newsletter.

Here are some semi-sure things for 2015:

- We will continue development of Skyline Camp. At least one work day will be organized. We need to erect the yurt (shelter), build benches for the fire circle, and develop the spring (water source). At some point we should also plan to have a gathering there—perhaps even a campout.
- The spur loop to the Cherry Valley overlook is being redeveloped. The Days have undertaken this project. They have a work day scheduled on May 10th—details being worked out. Please let them know if you can help.
- We will build and install more register boxes with distance signs. At least two, maybe as many as six. There will be at least one “register box planting” event.
- Look for our updated chapter brochure, and we’re hoping for an updated Jordan River Pathway brochure as well.
- It may be bad luck...but I’m hoping we can build the first phase of our Krause Rd. to NCMC reroute near Petoskey. This is only dependent on a landowner’s agreement, and would entail building a little over a mile of new trail tread. Fingers crossed.
- There are several minor projects needed along the trail on state land. After our meeting with the DNR on April 29th we’ll have a better idea if any of them are potential for this year.
- Outreach:
 - Again this year we have the Petoskey Trail Town Celebration on June 6th. Please come and enjoy this event, and even help out! You will get detailed info in May.
 - The “Getting Kids Outdoors” organization has their spring kickoff at Pond Hill Farm on May 17th, and we will have a NCT table there, in cooperation with the Harbor Springs Chapter.
 - Again this year we are hoping to have a table at the Charlevoix/Emmet County Fair August 25-30 in Petoskey. For the last two years we have not done this, due to lack of folks to organize it.
 - There is also quite a bit that takes long range planning and sloooooow preparation. This comes about when we need permission and money to do something. I know that participating in that up-front work isn’t fun or popular. Hopefully we can make a dent in it and be able to have “too much to do” in 2016. Thankfully, there is enough to do this year, anyway

. Longer term projects:

- Several minor projects along the trail that we didn't get DNR/DEQ permits for in time to do them in 2015.
- Major repairs in the Jordan Valley, hopefully to include: A repaired/replaced bridge, boardwalk/puncheon at major seep/slope collapse, mitigation of beaver damage, repair of a viewing platform, minor puncheon repair/replacement.
- Phase two of the Krause Road-to-NCMC reroute, which entails a pedestrian bridge built over the Bear River. This may take years based on the high cost.
- Dobleski Reroute, after the NPS helps us gain access across a short strip of private land.
- NCT Road signs at major highway crossings, with directions to trailheads, after MDOT issues standards for this signage.

....and then I need to mention the ongoing fine work by our trail adopters and other maintainers, who keep what's already in place neat, clean, and safe. See Dove and John Day's trail coordinator report...

Whew! We'll be busier than the beavers. I hope to see each of you out on the trail.

by Duane Lawton, delawton@torchlake.com

PS: VIP Program Volunteer Hour Awards Deadline Approaching

Time is running out to get your volunteer hours in to be considered for this year's VIP awards program. Get shirts, vests, jackets and more! [Report your hours online](#) today!

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter May Meeting

Saturday, May 9th, 2015 6:00 pm

Boyne Valley Twp Fire Hall, Boyne Falls

- Trail-related video
- Feature Presentation:
Cyndi and Terry Dickey -
Yosemite Wilderness Backpacking
- Fellowship
- Hike!

Bring a treat if you can...don't worry about it if not.

With respect to the hike: I will be going out at 2:00 to flag and GPS the Dobleski Reroute AGAIN (take #4). I'll need at least another vehicle to spot at the end of the hike on Gien Road so let me know if you're coming. Less than 2 miles, may be soggy. Meet at Dobleski Rd. 1/2 mile SE of US131.

July Meeting Teaser

In July we will meet in Dove and John Day's barn and hear from Ed Talone, who will be passing through on his second thru-hike of the North Country Trail. Exact date tbd.

You won't want to miss it.

GPS Class

Dove and John Day, Bob and Sheridan Haack and myself participated in a two-session online class on GPS for the NCT on April 2nd and 9th taught by Matt Rowbotham, who is the NCTA GIS guru. We learned about his new log sheets for capturing trail information, and had the opportunity to go out and make a GPS track ourselves and submit it to Matt. I found it to be quite informative and the GPS app I loaded on my iPhone seemed to do the job just fine.

This is what I'll be using to GPS the Dobleski Reroute on May 9th.



Photos:Upper-Camping in Yosemite
w/"Dickie Yosemite"
Middle-Ed Talone
Lower-Day's Barn



Trail Coordinators' Report by Dove and John Day

Hello and Happy Spring!

Some of you may already know about the adopter dashboard on the JV45° website, but if you have never had a chance to look at it, take a moment when you can to check it out! Duane (JV45° president) created the dashboard, and this is where updates are posted on the trail. The dashboard lists each section cared for by the JV45° chapter by letter and gives a location description. Information also includes the adopter, last report, status and needs. It also shows what sections are now up for adoption, so if you know anyone interested in adopting, have them contact us!

We are trying to keep the dashboard updated as frequently as possible. Josh Berlo (JV45° board member and website coordinator) has been amazing, keeping up with all the recent updates we've sent him. He too has just recently added more JV45° pictures to the website (all taken on the JV45° NCT section). He set up the pictures so that they rotate each time you go to a new page. Thank you Josh!

The dashboard is located on the Jordan Valley 45° website, under "Trail Conditions, Adopters & Alerts". Here is the link:

http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58

With the arrival of spring it never hurts to review safety before going out on the trail. The NCTA website offers volunteers an array of helpful information and has recently made many helpful videos available to volunteers as well. Here is one in particular on Trail Maintenance and Hand Tool Safety. Go check it out if you can!

<https://vimeo.com/101143321>

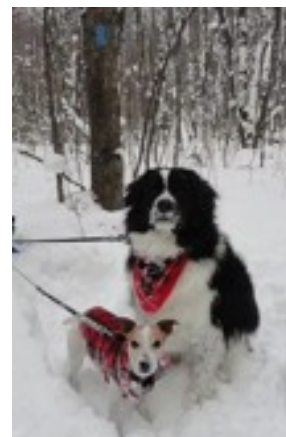
There's lots of other helpful information also available at this link.

<https://northcountrytrail.org/members/volunteer-resources/trail-design-construction-and-maintenance/>

Work days are being planned for the Cherry Valley Overlook spur trail, near Petoskey. There's a group of people interested in getting together to clear overgrown brush and trees down over the trail there. Please keep an eye out of the website for work day dates!

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter hosted a snowshoe hike Saturday, February 21st at the North Central Michigan College Natural Area in Petoskey, MI.

The 2 mile loop included a beautiful area of the NCT with scenic views of the Bear River. Bob Haack, Sheridan Haack, Dove Day and John Day attended. We shared great conversation during the hike, and afterwards hot cocoa and cookies were enjoyed by all



Photos: Above--Days Middle-dogs-Junior & Koda,NCT Spirit
Below-Snowshoers, Bob Haack, Dove Day, Sheridan Haack, John Day (not pictured)



We are happy to announce another new trail adopter!

Scott Beal, of East Jordan, is the new trail adopter for Section “J” (O’Brien Pond to the M-32 crossing) Thank you Scott! If you see him out on the trail, be sure to give him a big Thank You!

Also, long time adopters Doug and Kim Seaney, of Eastport recently added section “I” (Jordan River Rd. (north) to O’Brien Pond) to their already adopted section “H” which is located in the beautiful Jordan River Valley. They are now caring for approximately 5 miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail. If you see them out on the NCT be sure to give them a big Thank You as well!



Photos: Upper-Scott Beal
Below-Kim & Doug Seaney

There were many reports of a huge downed tree

East of Krause Rd. near Petoskey and Steve Schnell was a big help recently and got the trunk cut up and what he could of the branches. Soon the trail will be clear to walk again without having to weave around and duck under this mammoth of a tree. Thank you Steve!

Boyd Manges reports on section “T” (Taylor to Johnson Rd) April 4, 2015 “trail is clean and in good shape!” Thanks Boyd for getting this report to us!

Many trail adopters already have a copy of the “**Adopter Handbook**” but we (John and Dove) were able to get more copies from the NCTA recently, so if you no longer have your handbook and would like another copy, please contact us and we will mail one to you.

Dove and John
JV45° Trail Coordinators
Dove 231-373-0090 doveday70@gmail.com
John 231-838-6445 johnanddove@gmail.com



Photos: Above--Krause Rd. Tree
On Left & Right--“Kudos to Steve Schnell for defeating this huge deadfall near Krause Rd.”



Member's Input by Gary Johnson, gwj2@charter.net

Quiet Water Symposium

March 7, 2015

The first Saturday in March, the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter headed to East Lansing at Michigan State's Agriculture building. Our Chapter has had a booth over ten years. The past few years we have been joined with Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Chapter and Chief Noonday Chapter. Our booths were on opposite side of the aisle. This worked well as we could refer people to a specific section of the NCT. Also, it was nice to visit with other volunteers, who share the enthusiasm and dedication to the NCT. Isle Royale had a booth next to ours.

As usual, Bob Schrems had people guess the weight of his backpack. Over 168 people made a guess. The winner was a person from Grand Blanc, MI, who was within two ounces. For this effort, Bob mailed him a tee shirt. Also, Bob made some copies of the popular hiking trails. Most of them were gone by 1 p.m.

It was great to have Dove Day, Duane Lawton and Jerry Allen to help Bob and me. The extra help made it possible to take in some of the seminars. We packed things up and stashed them in Bob's pick up in record time. Since, we were on our feet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. it was nice to finally be able to sit. All five of us stopped at Wendy's on the way, where we continued the conversation about challenges in our section.

The following is from Allen Deming, Event Awareness Chairman, email - "The 20th Quiet Water Symposium is in the books. The numbers have been tallied and the videos have been posted. The good news is that by all metrics used, this year's symposium was a smashing success. For the second year in a row, we achieved double digit growth. Over **2,700** people attended the 20th Quiet Water Symposium, which is nearly 1,000 more participants than in 2012. We have come a long way and this is in no small part due to your participation and support."

Please reserve the first Saturday in March, 2016 for the 21st Quiet Water Symposium. Additional info can be found at <http://www.quietwatersymposium.org> Also they are on Facebook and You Tube.

Photo: Jerry Allen & unidentified person at our booth at "Quiet Water" Symposium



NOTE:

Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare is having their Backpacking Days on Saturday, May 9th. We, Jerry and myself will be there from 9 a.m. to around 5 p.m. If you are in the area, please feel free to join us. Jay's has shoe and hiking equipment vendors there. Also, they run several specials on out door products. It is a fun day; however, we don't see nearly the number of people that we visit with at Quiet Water Symposium. LeeAnne Comer, a department manger, always treats us well. We get to eat with the employees who bring food in from their kitchen.

Secretary's Report by Mary Campbell, Chapter Secretary March 14,
2014- 6pm Boyne Valley Twp Fire Hall
Chapter Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with 15 chapter members and visitors in attendance

2. Review of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes from January 10, 2014

Motion by Jerry Allen, seconded by Amy Wilks to approve minutes as presented.

Motion Carried.

4. Financial Report- Chapter account balance is \$ 3,797.93, as of end of February, which reflects an increase since end of 2014, when the account balance was \$ 3,666.68.

5. Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, May 9, 2015 – 2pm Hike (location to be announced), followed by Meeting in Boyne Falls at 6pm, with a featured Yosemite presentation by Cyndi and Terry Dickey of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club.
July 2015-actual date to be announced. Potluck dinner to be held at John and Dove Day's barn, with a featured presentation by Ed Talone as he passes through the area on his Thru-hike of the NCT (again). Ed Talone is recognized as being the first person to through hike the NCT in 1994.

6. Work Session Notes and Possible Projects for 2015

A. Petoskey Trail Town Celebration – June 6, 2015 in celebration of National Trails Day

This will be the 3rd annual celebration and is coordinated with the Harbor Springs Chapter of the NCT, and the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Department.

Volunteer Needs:

- 1) Organizer/Coordinator- Jen Winnell
- 2) Register event with American Hiking Society-Duane Lawton
- 3) Park location and shelter reservation-[confirmed.]
- 4) Interpretative Panel (to be used at multiple events) –Trail map highlighting the JV 45° area, local services for hikers and connection to Iron Belle trail.
- 5) Solicit Sponsors (booths, prizes and in-kind donations);
- 6) Recruit Entertainment and Presenters (Blissfest provided music last year)
- 7) Coordinate food & obtain necessary food related permits
- 8) Promotions and Media
- 9) Signs & Banners
- 10) Plan a hike
- 11) DO IT!!! Questions? 1) Raffle-regulations 2) open fire for marshmallows-City?**

B. Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair – August 25-30, 2015

Public Outreach Opportunity Questions/Information Needed

- 1) Booth Fee for non-profits? If yes, how much?
- 2) Do booths need to be staffed during all fair hours?
- 3) If pursued—check with HS Chapter to share booth, Reservation, Enlist volunteer staffing

C. Krause Road/NCMC re-route

Seeking Private landowner (Flynn Property) access easement to Cedar Valley Road

City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Dept. pursuing a Bear River Pedestrian Bridge between the Sports fields (River Road complex) and NCMC

- a. Other Interested Parties –MDOT, Petoskey Youth Soccer Association, Bear Creek Township, City of Petoskey, Petoskey Public Schools, Others?

Phase I – Trail building to Cedar Valley Road

Phase II- Cedar Valley to NCMC

Phase III- Awaiting pedestrian bridge—cross school property to Standish Ave., bypass NCMC Natural Area

D. Dobleski Re-route

Draft Optimum Location Review (OLR) is awaiting review by the new National Park Service NCNST trail manager's to determine if the proposed route is acceptable, and re-flagging of the route will be needed.

Suggestions

- 1) Approach landowner directly [most of the property is public, just need to cross small section of private property fronting on Dobleski Road].
- 2) Contact Little Traverse Conservancy to see if they might partner/assist.
- 3) Explore options for a trailhead/parking lot
- 4) Confirm who holds to deed and explore any zoning issues.

E. Chapter funded pizza supper (Pi Day).

F. O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver - Follow-up

1. Drift pins need to be installed to keep puncheon in place.
2. DNR permit revisions need to be prepared and submitted.
3. Work session needs to be scheduled to install larger pipe.

G. Jordan Valley Bridge Repair & Beaver Deceiver

1. Contact Ken Phillips (DNR & member) to explore options
2. Persuade DNR to support existing more scenic route and thus consider a beaver deceiver and bridge repair
3. DNR/DEQ permit application & design approval –will DNR assist with permits and funding?
4. Funding –apply for grants

- 5) Procure materials
- 6) Work project organization
- 7) DO IT!

H. Skyline Camp

- 1) Camp continued development
- 2) Procure or build picnic table /bench

I. Cherry Valley Overlook Spur Trail (S. of County Line Rd)

- 3) Need to re-route and flag route (not currently maintained)
- 4) Prepare signage
- 5) Organize a work day
- 6) Re-clear and blaze—Dove and John Day, and TJ volunteered
Question-should this area have a separate trail adopter? What improvements are needed at the Overlook? Bench? Picnic table? Fire ring?—Note, this is not a campsite.

J. Re-route Opportunities

- 7) Jerry Allen's Bowl
- 8) Creek crossing repair south of Harmon Rd
- 9) Re-route off 2-track by Chandler Hills

Volunteer needs

- 1) Flag route (off 2-track) –east side of 2-track
- 2) Prepare puncheon
- 3) DNR & DEQ permit application and approval
- 4) Procure material
- 5) Organize work days

K. Slashing/Thumb Lake Rd Trailhead Parking and signage

- 1) Consider establishing trailhead parking and signage
- 2) Explore options of a gate to limit equestrian access

L. Additional register boxes

- 1) Need to determine appropriate locations-siting criteria?
 - a. NCT/westbound jct with Warner Creek Pathway
 - b. 45th Parallel—consider a cairn with one rock from each chapter
 - c. Sand Lake parking spur jct
 - d. Just N of Starvation Lake

- e. TBD campsite, Chandler Hills area
- f. Jct with Cherry Valley overlook spur

- 2) Build more boxes – involves minor chapter expenditure, suggestions for design improvements?
- 3) Design Signs
- 4) Procure Signs
- 5) Maintenance and Stocking—volunteer needed to re-stock brochures and photograph register logs

May/June-Volunteers for register boxes: Duane Lawton, Eugene Branigan, Bob and Sheridan Haack

M. Re-route trail off NW State Trail in the vicinity of Hathaway Rd and the Oden Fish Hatchery.

N. Jordan Valley Loop Signage

- 1) Suggestion to add #s and add location # on post (i.e. you are here)
- 2) Add next number & directional arrows for orientation on posts
- 3) On signs, add website or QR code to bring up website for reporting trail conditions

Better pricing if 16 identical signs are ordered.

O. Chapter Brochure JV45° –need to re-print soon

Suggestions

- 1) Layout-is there any need to re-design?-cover titling, fold, logo, map
- 2) Add Facebook address
- 3) Add rules for camping
- 4) Add DNR contact info?

P. Jordan River Pathway brochure—need to re-design/re-print

- 1) Duane will check with Peg Jones, who prepared the original brochure to see if she will assist.

Q. Miscellaneous

- 1) Highway signs (US-131)—awaiting approval MDOT /NCT NPS
- 2) Petoskey State Park—pursue sign for bike/pedestrian entrance,

R. Meeting with DNR

- 1) Duane to org meeting with DNR to review all joint topics.

[Meeting scheduled with DNR in Gaylord, April 29, 2:30 pm. Attendees to include DNR: Joyce Angel, Tom Copenhaver, Emily Meyerson, Ken Phillips; NCTA: Jerry Allen, Dove Day, Andrea Ketchmark, Duane Lawton, Ken Phillips.]

Chapter meeting adjourned ca. 8:30.

by Mary Campbell,

mcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com

NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

...is completed, and printed. You can also view it on our website:

http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=57

The two sides are **TRAIL MAP** and **TRAIL INFO GUIDE**

And “Like” us on FACEBOOK address

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45/636045479799699>

Communications Report by Amy Wilks

Welcome New Members: Mike & Cathy Atchinson, Julie Bradford, Cindy Burns, Dennis & Lynn Cowles, Mark Isken, Linda Mansfield, Emily Meyerson, Susan Miller, John Roe, Karla Sherman, & Gloris Tiglas (did I miss anyone?).

[Email----ameliawilks1@gmail.com](mailto:ameliawilks1@gmail.com)

“Our vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail is that of the premier footpath of national significance.....” NCT