

# Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 5



## Calendar

**General Meeting**  
**NO MEETING IN**  
**NOVEMBER, 2014**

**Annual Meeting**  
**January, 2015**  
**Gaylord, MI**  
**Saturday luncheon**  
**Details to come**

**Need Hike Leader**  
**Nov. 8, 2014**  
**“Last Chance Before**  
**Deer Season”**  
**Jordan River Valley**  
**Contact: Duane Lawton**  
**[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)**

**October, 2014**



*President's Report by Duane Lawton*  
**Commentary**

**Welcome to our October chapter newsletter!**

I'll get right to it—we had a very enjoyable September meeting, with a fascinating presentation by Mary Campbell and John Larch about their recent trek on Isle Royale, and their fantastic refreshments. ...attended by seven people. Total. We have had similarly interesting meetings for some time, with attendance never exceeding twelve.

I'm very concerned about the level of participation at the meetings, and I wonder if we need to amend our practices to improve it. It echoes light participation that we are experiencing for our other activities...beyond a small core group.

For this reason, I am asking you please to respond to my questions (yet again), that are listed below. Note that the first question is whether you read the newsletter. That should be obvious if you respond to the questions and accordingly, if you don't respond to the questions AT ALL, we will have to assume that you do not read the newsletter.

**Questions.** Please respond to [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

1. Do you read the JV45° newsletter?
2. Are you interested in attending JV45° Chapter Meetings?
3. Is our current meeting schedule impractical for you? (2<sup>nd</sup> Thur, odd months, 7:00 pm, Boyne Falls)
4. What are convenient dates/days/times and locations for you to attend?
5. Have you participated in a chapter project or a group hike in 2014?
6. Any other comments or suggestions.....

## November Meeting

There will be no November meeting this year. We hope you all can come to our Annual Meeting in January, which again will be a Saturday luncheon held in Gaylord, with awards, door prizes and a special speaker.

## LCBDS Last Chance Before Deer Season

It's getting close to time for our annual Last Chance Before (firearms) Deer Season hike (LCBDS). It will be on the last Saturday, before November 15<sup>th</sup>, which this year is November 8<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally the hike is the 18 mile circuit of the Jordan Valley, with shorter options. At this point we do not have a hike leader...so unless someone steps up, no hike. Please let me know. When we have a leader, we will send out a notification to all...

## North Country National Scenic Trail Day

The First Annual North Country National Scenic Trail Day which was on National Public Lands Day, Saturday, Sept. 27 was celebrated with more work on the Skyline Camp Project. The effort was led by Doug Boor, and he reports that there was a lot of brush clearing (after some tree clearing he did), the ground beams and some joist work for the yurt platform were installed, and the fire rings contributed by us (J45) were moved to the site. If you participated, Thank You.

## Michigan Governor's Showcase Trail

You may have heard of Governor Snyder's initiative to establish a hiking/biking trail from Detroit to Wisconsin. Now the final corridor is established, and it includes US!! There will be two trails from Belle Isle to Ironwood, but the hiking one will be: Belle Isle to Grosse Ile, then westerly to tie into the NCT near Marshall, then the NCT all the way to Wisconsin! Here's the route: <http://www.freep.com/graphics/dnr-trail-map-DRAFT-081314.pdf>

With the NCT an official responsibility of the DNR, we can hope for even greater support in our efforts to develop and promote the trail. Here's the DNR website page: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365\\_16839-337434--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_16839-337434--,00.html)

A contest to name the new trail just closed entries, we'll hear in December what the new trail will be called.

## Beaver Deceiver Project

We held a very successful long work weekend September 5-8, based on the DNR/DEQ permit obtained by Ken Phillips for construction of a "Beaver Deceiver" (BD) and up to 100 feet of puncheon at O'Brien Pond, to repair and stabilize the trail as it crosses the impoundment (old railroad grade). We also obtained a DNR "Application/Permit to Use State Land", which authorized our encampment. (see photo)



The materials were provided by a Field Grant of \$1000 from the NCTA, and a contribution of \$1028 by the National Park Service.

We were fed like royalty by Connie Allen who volunteered to be our “Chief Cook”.

We managed to lower the water level of O’Brien pond by about 22 inches, which will help tremendously in preserving the remaining railroad grade. The railroad grade in the vicinity of the primary beaver dam was so overgrown and broken up that we built 56 feet of puncheon along the shore of the pond to reopen the trail. The beaver deceiver went together as hoped, and recent reports are that it is functioning as intended.

I would like to recognize all the folks who participated, a super work crew!!

Jerry and Connie Allen, Bruce and Sandy Davis, Jim DeKett, Jim Flick, Gary Johnson, Vern & Cora Killinger, Josh Kolasa, Todd and Jen Winnell, Duane Lawton.

Photos:

Upper right: Lowering O’Brien Pond

Middle right: “Chief Cook” Connie Allen

Lower middle: Construction of “Beaver Deceiver”





# *Secretary's Report by Mary Campbell, Chapter Secretary*

Jordan Valley 45°- North Country Trail  
September 10, 2014- 7pm 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 7 chapter members in attendance.

## **2. Review and Approve the Agenda**

The agenda was approved with a motion by Amy Wilks, seconded by Tim Roth. Motion carried.

## **3. Approval of the Minutes from July 10, 2014**

Motion by Tim Roth, seconded by Amy Wilks to approve minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

## **4. Treasurer's Report-** Chapter account balance is \$ 4,131.91, as of end of August.

It was noted that this includes a \$1,000 field grant for the beaver deceiver project, and various recent expenses are not yet reflected, including boardwalk expenses, register boxes, beaver deceiver costs and road sign. Additionally, it was understood that the mountain bike group had made a donation to the chapter that is not yet reflected, Duane will follow-up on this.

## **5. Membership Report**

The chapter membership stands at 66, including the following recently received memberships:

- 2 Introductory Memberships (1 past e-membership lost)
- 1 Individual Membership
- 1 Household Membership

## **6. Recent Activity**

- a. Register boxes installed at two locations, 1) Krause Road area-Petoskey Natural Area and 2) North Central Michigan College Natural Area near McDougall Road
- b. Beaver Deceiver- A fun and productive work weekend (Sept 5-8) resulted in the successful installation of the beaver deceiver at O'Brien Pond, and the installation of an approximately 56 foot stretch of puncheon to bridge the wet area. The project participants were: Duane Lawton, Jerry & Connie Allen, Bruce & Sandy Davis, Jim DeKett, Jim Flick, Gary Johnson, Vern & Cora Killinger, Josh Kolasa, Todd and Jen Winnell. The work crew much appreciated the great food prepared by "Camp Cook" Connie Allen and her assistants to fuel the efforts.
- c. Dobleski Road Re-route A revised route has been flagged which minimizes the PUDs (Pointless Ups and Downs), and it is believed that this revised route will be better received for approval by NCT. A limited number of easements will be required, as most of the route is on publicly owned property.

## **7. Coming Up**

North Country National Scenic Trail day, Sept. 27, 2014—Chapters have been encouraged to organize an event to celebrate the trail, such as a work bee, trail hike or other trail focused event. Nothing is currently, finalized—volunteers to take the lead are being sought. Ideas floated are a work bee at Skyline Camp or a Trail Hike.

Last Chance Hike: The chapter typically leads a hike in the Jordan Valley on the last Saturday prior to deer season (firearm hunting season), thus the hike will be November 8, 2014. A leader is needed.

## **1. Trail Coordinator Report**

Duane provided an update on the status of Trail Adopter program, and indicated there are still trail sections available for adoption. Anyone interested in adopting a trail section should contact Duane Lawton.

## **2. Featured Presentation:** Exploring Isle Royale-Mary Campbell & John Larch

Mary and John shared a video about Isle Royale, as well as their experiences and photos from a recent backpacking adventure.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary H. Campbell, Chapter Secretary*

[mcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com](mailto:mcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com)

# *Trail Coordinator Report by Duane Lawton (acting)*

The updated dashboard is posted on our website: [http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page\\_id=58](http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58)  
("Trail Conditions, Adopters & Alerts")

Duane ([delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)) – Trail Coordinator (acting)

PS: If you are interested in possibly becoming our actual Trail Coordinator, PLEASE contact me.

## **Dobleski Reroute Update**

Jim DeKett and I went with Jeff McCusker on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, to again (take 3) flag a proposed trail route from Dobleski Rd. to Giem Rd. This time we followed a general route suggested by Jeff, that avoided the "PUD" (Pointless Up and Down) that we had previously chosen.

This route plan is a requirement to complete the National Park Service's "Optimum Location Review" document, that will enable the NPS to get involved in acquiring property access needed for the reroute.

## **Trail Adopters Report October, 2014**

- Trail from M-32 to Dobleski has been adopted by Bob Schrems!!
- Jerry and Connie Allen report their trail section (Chandler Hill Rd. to Springvale Rd.) is clear, but for several large deadfalls that will require chainsawing.
- Trail at O'Brien Pond is now OPEN!
- Trail in Jordan Valley at Beaver Ponds is nearly impassable (beaver activity) and collapsed bridge. Detour in force.

Photo: Trail at O'Brien pond is now OPEN! The work crew built 56 ft.-100ft. of puncheon!



## NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

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

[http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page\\_id=57](http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=57)

The two sides are [TRAIL MAP](#) and [TRAIL INFO GUIDE](#)

And “Like” us on NEW FACEBOOK address

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

*Communications Report by Amy Wilks*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBER Caroline Dill

Willing to lead a hike? Let me know and I'll send out the email with time and place.

Willing to become a chapter member? **INTRODUCTORY RATE FOR FIRST TIME MEMBERS**-\$23 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL & \$30 FOR A HOUSEHOLD-email me & I will send you a coupon in the mail.

**NOTE:** New map updates by Matt Rowbotham, NCTA's GIS Coordinator. See website: [northcountrytrail.org/trail/maps](http://northcountrytrail.org/trail/maps)

**Check out:** New Videos on Volunteer Resources, Adopters Training, etc. on website <http://northcountrytrail.org>

*Amy Wilks*

**NOTE:** New [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