

# Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 3



## Calendar

### SPECIAL MEETING

Sat., July 11, 2015

Joint Meeting with

Harbor Springs NCTA Chapter

2:00 Group Hike to  
Cherry Valley Overlook

Meet at Harmon Rd  
Welsh Rd. intersection  
Google "Welsh Rd.  
Petoskey, MI." for map  
See pg. 3

6:00 Speaker: Luke  
"Strider" Jordan at  
North Central Mich.  
College Library  
Conference Rm.

7:30 Potluck, Meeting  
Campfire at Day's Barn  
3839 Brubaker Rd.,  
Petoskey  
see pg. 2-3

### WORK DAY

Sat. 9:00a.m. July 25, 2015  
Skyline Camp Const.  
Meet at Krause Rd.  
Trailhead Pking Lot  
email Doug Boor  
[dgboor94@gmail.com](mailto:dgboor94@gmail.com)  
see pg. 3

June, 2015



## *President's Editorial by Duane Lawton*

Welcome to our June newsletter! There has been a lot going on in the last two months, and I'm sure you'll enjoy the articles about it.

We'll start with big plans for our July 11 meeting: You won't want to miss hearing and meeting Luke "Strider" Jordan, as he describes his 2013 thru-hike of the NCT...and a group hike!...and a potluck!...and a campfire! see the details below.

We have another work day at Skyline Camp planned! July 25. See the article below.

We had a productive meeting with the DNR folks in Gaylord on April 29<sup>th</sup>. I was joined by Dove and John Day, and Andrea Ketchmark of NCTA HQ. We met with Joyce Angel, Tom Copenhaver, Paige Perry and Ken Phillips of the DNR. The big news was of Ken's impending retirement and relocation, by now he is gone. We will miss his enthusiastic participation and friendship. We wish him well in retirement.

There were several other topics we covered, among them:

O'Brien Pond/Beaver Deceiver: Responding to our request for a revised DEQ permit to cover our actual structures and add flow capacity, Joyce said they have made an approved revised permit that makes our "as built" legal. Good news! Meanwhile, I had just been to OBP and saw that the beavers were back, the water level was up nearly a foot threatening the boardwalk and beginning to run over the trail at the north end. Bad news: If we want to add tubes to carry more water, we need another DEQ permit. Good news: I was back at OBP June 4 and the water level is down a little...perhaps the spring runoff is over.

Jordan River Pathway: Regarding the beaver ponds area, the DNR will not entertain repairing/replacing the collapsed bridge or fighting beavers, they intend to move forward with the Ken Phillips reroute, to open this year. We sadly agreed to participate, though we know the sentiment of you all who have walked the reroute and love the old trail is not to reroute. The DNR did agree there should be some new viewpoints on the reroute. We held a work day on June 4 to "set in" the new trail (See article below). More work needs to be done. DNR also is writing a permit for significant trail repairs below Deadman's Hill, stay tuned for a call to work on that. Paige will be leading the creating and publishing of a new JRP brochure, and Tom will be working on "You Are Here" trail signs to be posted throughout the valley and the Warner Creek Pathway. We will be helping with both.

We are planning to have another meeting to follow up on these activities and others.

National Trails Day was June 6<sup>th</sup> this year, and Jen Winnell has an article below on our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration held then. NTD was also the dedication for Michigan's Iron Belle Trail (MIBT). The Iron Belle Trail is Governor Snyder's vision to cement Michigan as the "Trail State", and consists of separate hiking and biking trails running from Belle Isle near Detroit to Ironwood on the Wisconsin border. The hiking trail IS the NCT from Albion to Ironwood!! The MIBT is the responsibility of the DNR. As part of the dedication, Michigan scouts (and others) were encouraged to hike a section of the trail on NTD, so that the entire trail is hiked in one day. I don't know (yet) if that was successful, but Paige Perry had a group that hiked from Deadman's Hill to US-131. She sent us a very complimentary email about the trail, which is reprinted later in this newsletter.

...as part of the MIBT effort, initial funding of \$250K is being made available in 2015 for trail development grants. The application deadline was June 1. Petoskey Parks and Recreation, supported by North Central Michigan College, submitted an application for \$10K for engineering of a pedestrian bridge over the Bear River in Petoskey, which will support new trail between Skyline and NCMC and eliminate (most of) 3-1/2 miles of road walk. Fingers crossed...

We will be building a half-dozen register boxes this month. I need 2-3 people to help me with the construction...one day at my house. Let me know if you're interested, and when you might be able to do it.

*Duane Lawton, [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)*



## **SPECIAL MEETING JULY 11!!**

Joint meeting with the Harbor Springs NCTA Chapter, details below

2:00 Group Hike to Cherry Valley Overlook (out and back)

6:00 Luke "Strider" Jordan presentation at North Central Michigan College library

7:30 Potluck, meeting and campfire at Day's barn

Join Us



## **A Thru-Hiker's Journey: Luke "Strider" Jordan's 2013 thru-hike of the North Country National Scenic Trail**

**Saturday July, 11, 2015 at 6 p.m.**

**North Central Michigan College Library Conference Room**

The Jordan Valley 45° chapter along with the Harbor Springs chapter of the NCTA are thrilled to welcome Luke Jordan, AKA "Strider" to Petoskey! Come hear a story about a hiker's journey over the nation's longest scenic trail, what he calls the "crown jewel" of the national scenic trail system. It's a story of struggle to overcome obstacles and to continue on in the pursuit of achieving goals and personal growth. Follow along as he traverses this trail of great diversity from the vast plains of North Dakota to the high peaks of the Adirondacks. You won't want to miss it! Read more about "Strider" at his website. [www.stridernct.com](http://www.stridernct.com)

Luke Jordan grew up on an old farm in central Minnesota about 30 miles from Minneapolis. During his college years he started getting into backpacking and volunteered on trail construction crews for the Superior Hiking Trail every summer. During a family trip to the Northwest Angle region of Minnesota he even inherited his trail name, when he was asked to slow down because the others could not keep up with his long strides.

In December, 2012 he graduated from St. Cloud State University with a BS degree in Natural Resources. With his college years behind him, he was ready to strap on his pack and pursue a dream of his to attempt a grand adventure over the North Country National Scenic Trail. He succeeded, and became the 4th person to successfully thru-hike the trail.

### **GROUP HIKE JULY 11, 2015 2:00 P.M.**

We're going to the Cherry Valley Overlook, out and back. Our trail crew recently rehabilitated the spur trail, and it will be easier to find than on our 2013 group hike. ☺

Meet at 2:00 at the Harmon Rd./Welsh Rd. intersection.

Google "Welsh Rd., Petoskey, Mi." for a map.

Total hike <5 miles.

If you want to abbreviate your hike, meet us at the Welsh Rd. trail crossing (1/2 mile south) at 2:30, which will knock off about 2 miles. Beware the road.

### **POTLUCK / CAMP FIRE JULY 11, 2015 7:30 P.M.**

Day's barn (3839 Brubaker Rd., Petoskey)

Everyone should bring a dish to pass (main, salad, side, not dessert), there is power for your crockpot AND bring a chair to sit in.

JV45 will provide a variety of beverages and dessert.



### **Skyline Camp Construction Work Day!**

Saturday, July 25. 9:00 am. Meet at Krause Rd. trailhead parking lot.

Led by Doug Boor, who says:

"I would like to get the frame up and canvas tent installed. The benches and a picnic table would be neat. Bring carpentry tools, shovels and rake, chainsaw. Lunch provided. This will be an overnight stay if people are able. The first use of the camp this year and the start of improvements that offer accommodations for many years to come!!"

Please let us know if you're coming, email Doug.

[dgboor94@gmail.com](mailto:dgboor94@gmail.com)



### **Email from Paige Perry, DNR recreation trails specialist and friend of the NCT**

(Paige's group took part in the National Trails Day dedication of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail by hiking from Deadman's Hill to US-131. She was responding to my email in which I gave her some info about that trail section. -Duane]

Thank you for the tidbits Duane. We had a wonderful hike on Saturday... Only 6 of us total but we all made the entire length it with no problems and actually enjoyed that more 'rustic' path between WCP and 131. We had 2 11-year-olds and 1 13-year-old leading the way and they all remarked 'how could anybody get lost?' indicating that there were plenty of clear markings that we could see whenever we needed them. We hiked the whole thing from Deadmans Hill to US131 (we found a little spot just south of where the trail crosses to park a vehicle)- so I appreciated the update on the mileage as that will go toward further advancements and requirements for our scouts- and the adults get credit for an extra mile too!

Hats off to you and the JV 45' chapter of the NCNSTA. Your volunteers along with DNR staff from Young SP, the Gaylord Forest Management Unit and the vigilance of Ken Phillips before he retired really do a bang up job on that trail. And THANK YOU for whomever was responsible for the weather that day! Perfect. For you and your club if you didn't know- the organizer for the DNR, Ray Rustem, wanted everybody to post pics and info to social media with #IronBelle #MiTrails and/or #GetOutdoors attached and they could seek and find that info to market and publicize. I did that with a few photos of our little group so feel free to take a look.

I happened to be in the Hiawatha National Forest Service Office in St Ignace on Friday and purchased NCNST patches that I issued the boys myself after the hike.. I plan to present them again along with the fancy IBT patch at the next court of awards for our Troop 18 in Lewiston.

As a trails professional and the mom of two boy scouts, I was bursting with pride with every step to celebrate National Trails Day, the Iron Belle Trail Dedication, the wonder of the North Country National Scenic Trail and the awesomeness of the Jordan Valley and our beautiful Michigan.

Paige



(Excerpted from Michigan DNR Daily Digest Bulletin, largely quoting Paul Yauk, DNR state trails coordinator.)

## **Scouting groups help inaugurate the Iron Belle Trail**

On June 6, National Trails Day, members of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Michigan took part in hikes across much of the hiking route to recognize both the national celebration and the inaugural year of this showcase trail.

It turned out that there are too many remote stretches of land in northern Michigan where there aren't a lot of Scouts, so we decided to just have groups go out and hike wherever they could. The idea drew significant support. Some 2,100 hikers from 130 Scouting units covered a total of 14,000 miles of trail.

The Iron Belle Trail consists of two routes, one for hikers and one for bicyclists. Much of the biking trail follows roads, but the longer hiking trail was configured by joining many segments of existing trails, including many miles of the national North Country National Scenic Trail.

We worked with the trails systems and met with MDOT, local communities and regional governments, and came up with a plan where we can link existing trails together. No other state has tried this, but we're leading the nation in number of trails anyway, so why shouldn't we be first in doing something like this?

In some areas, the North Country Trail runs along the road, Yauk said. We're working on easements or fee-simple leases to get the trail completed off the roadway.



## *Trail Town Coordinator Jen Winnell*

On June 6th the Jordan Valley 45° and Harbor Springs Chapters of the NCT joined the City of Petoskey to hold their 3rd Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration on National Trails Day at the Bear River Shelter.



In addition to an update on all things NCT from our Chapter President, Duane Lawton, Petoskey's Parks and Recreation Director Al Hansen was able to share information on the city's efforts to preserve the history of the Bear River's economic value to Petoskey while improving the corridor for recreation. Throughout the event everyone was able to enjoy the down-home music stylings of Dr. Goodhart's Home Remedy.

Bearcub Outfitters kicked off the event with a 10 am hike for families. They also brought some fun outdoor toys and a slackline. The YMCA also provided fun and games for kids of all ages. Getting Kids Outdoors in Northern Michigan offered face-painting and sensory activities for kids. Little Traverse Conservancy shared maps of their many preserves as well as some hands-on pelt exhibits. And of course our chapters of the NCT were able to share information, maps and NCT tattoos!

Thanks to the many donations from local merchants in the Petoskey and Harbor Springs area, we were able to raise \$196 through raffle prize ticket sales to split between our two chapters. And John Richey of Dr. Goodhart's Home Remedy came very close to guessing the exact weight of the backpack in our "Guess the weight of the backpack" competition, for which he earned a complimentary one year membership to the NCT.

We were delighted to be joined for lunch by a local Boy Scout troop that was taking part of the National Trails Day hike of the proposed Iron Belle Trail that will form two loop trails, one for hiking and one for biking, around the lower and upper peninsula. They had hiked ten miles into town, starting at the Skyline Trail parking area.

If you weren't able to join us, we'll hope to see you there next year on National Trails Day!

*Jen Winnell/ Todd Winnell*   [jenwinnell@gmail.com](mailto:jenwinnell@gmail.com)



Photos from National Trails Day:  
Volunteers & participants enjoying the activities.



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

## **Chapter Meeting Minutes-DRAFT**

### **Jordan Valley 45° Chapter- North Country Trail**

May 9, 2015- 7pm Boyne Valley Twp fire hall

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with 9 chapter members and visitors in attendance.

#### **2. Review of the Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

Motion by Bob Haack, seconded by Mott Johengen

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes from March 14, 2015**

Motion by Mott Johengen, seconded by Bob Haack to approve minutes as presented.

Motion Carried

#### **4. Financial Report**-Chapter account balance is \$3,837.86 as of April 30, 2015, which reflects a slight increase since February 28, 2015.

#### **5. Upcoming Meetings/Presentations**

Saturday, July 11, 2015 at 6pm-A featured presentation of A Thru-Hiker's Journey by Luke 'Strider' Jordan—who thru-hiked the North Country National Scenic Trail in 2013—at North Central Michigan College. Meeting and potluck to be held at John and Dove Day's barn (see related article for details).

#### **6. News Updates & Recent Activities**

- A. The North Country National Scenic Trail is now part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail Program. The Iron Belle Trail Program is comprised of two trails, the hiking trail on the NCT is approximately 1,259 miles and the bike trail is approximately 775 miles. It is unclear exactly what this will mean, but there is hope that this will raise awareness of the trail and potentially provide additional technical and financial assistance for trail related projects. The State of Michigan has established a grant program (in 2015 for the initial round of funding), with \$250,000 to be fund "shovel-ready" projects to increase awareness, with applications due June 1.
- B. Dobleski Road a revised re-route was flagged (again), in an effort to avoid the Pointless Ups and Downs (PUDs), NCTA will need to review and approve the route. One easement from a private land owner will be required for this re-route. The re-route would move the trail off of US-131, in this area.
- C. O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver—working but needs to allow for greater water flow; another permit will be required to install new tubes or an enlarged tube to allow more water to move through the beaver dam.
- D. Jordan Valley Beaver Pond Re-route- the DNR staff agree to work with the JV 45° Chapter to revise the proposed route to incorporate some viewpoints, with a work day to rough in the trail tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2015. Re-route trail to be built summer 2015.
- E. Jordan River Pathway Brochure – Paige Perry (MDNR) has agreed to prepare the update brochure, effort should be coordinated with North County Trail Association.

F. DNR with help from JV 45° chapter will place 'you are here' signs in key locations.

**1. Upcoming Events & Work Needs**

- A. Skyline Camp Work Bee to be organized, leader needed.
- B. Cherry Valley Overlook Spur loop—trail clearing and marking, work project May 10, 2015.
- C. Register Boxes (additional boxes) to be built and located at: 1) junction of westbound NCT with Warner Creek Pathway; 2) 45<sup>th</sup> Parallel; 3) Starvation Lake Rd (just north); 4) junction with Cherry Valley overlook spur.
- D. Road Crossing signs- MDOT intends to standardize NCT hiking trail sign for placement on highways. Signs would cost \$750, each installed. Concept still under study.
- E. Outreach Efforts & Opportunities:
  - 1) May 17<sup>th</sup>—kids day at Pond Hill Farm, Chapter to representatives on hand with information and a display.
  - 2) June 28 – Waganakising Bay Day in Petoskey
  - 3) Aug 25-30<sup>th</sup> Emmet & Charlevoix County Fair—booth? – leader needed.

**2. NCT Trail Building Video** - viewed with refreshments

**3. Featured Presentation:** Terry and Cyndi Dickey of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club, shared inspiring photos and stories of their Yosemite Wilderness Backpacking experience.

Chapter meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Campbell, Chapter Secretary* [mccampbell@mcplanningdesign.com](mailto:mccampbell@mcplanningdesign.com)



*Member's Input by Gary Johnson*  
**Jay's Backpacking Days (Clare, MI.)**

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, Jerry, Connie and Gary attended Jay's Backpacking Days. As usual there were several outdoor vendors present. Jays had several camping, and hiking items on sale. It would have been very easy to empty your wallet. Jerry brought his backpack along for the visitors to guess the weight. There were approximately 50 people in the drawing. The winner was within two ounces. It is always nice to talk to people about hiking. As usual Jay's treated us to a nice lunch. I did find out why Backpacking Days are held so late in the Spring. The vendors are busy attending other venues around the country earlier in the year. (Pictured are Jerry with Emily, camping manager in the middle with an unidentified visitor.)

*Gary Johnson* [gwj2@charter.net](mailto:gwj2@charter.net)



## *Trail Coordinators' Report by Dove and John Day*

JV45° has some of the best adopters! Thank you all for reporting the conditions of your sections and for all your work out on the trail. Everyone has been very busy getting their sections up to par for the summer season, and many have helped others with their sections. It has been a huge team effort all around and the trail is looking good! Reports on trail conditions are so important in keeping the trail in good shape. John and I are now looking forward to summer reports coming in. Please let us know if there are any conditions on the trail that need to be addressed and we will get the adopter dashboard updated as soon as possible. To see the most current trail conditions visit the website at:



[http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page\\_id=58](http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58)

To report conditions e-mail us at [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)

or call [231-373-0090](tel:231-373-0090) or [231-838-6445](tel:231-838-6445)

On May 10<sup>th</sup> a group of JV45° trail adopters met on the NCT southeast of Petoskey to clear a spur trail to the Cherry Valley Overlook. This spur off the NCT was in desperate need of some attention. Many trees had fallen over the trail and it was beginning to get so overgrown that it was difficult to see where the trail actually was. Thanks to this dedicated group, trees were cut and cleared, brush was moved away, and white blazes were touched up. Thank you all for your help with this project!



### Cherry Valley Overlook Workday

Photos: Top left: Bob Haack, Sheridan Haack, Steve Schnell, Betsey Schnell, and John Day  
Top middle: Off to Cherry Valley Overlook  
Top right: Steve Schnell  
Right: Lunch





On May 12 and 13 Dan Watson, National Park Service Volunteer Coordinator, arranged for five JV45° members to join other NCTA members from the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore chapter and the Harbor Springs chapter for a two day chainsaw certification training. Members met in Brimley, Michigan for one day of classroom instruction and another day of field training and testing. Upon completion of additional CPR and First Aid certification these NCTA members will be certified as sawyers on the North Country Trail. JV45° members included Jerry Allen, Brad Moffatt, Darwin Costello, John Day and Dove Day. Recertification is required every three years to remain active.



Here's some more great news! Dan Watson of the NPS arranged for the Jordan Valley 45° to get a brand new chainsaw for the tool trailer. We want to thank Dan so much for doing this for us. Thank you Dan!



Photos: Top, JV45°'s New Chainsaw  
Middle left, Group at Chainsaw Certification Training  
Middle, Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Pres. Dennis Peronto, JV45°'s John Day & Brad Moffitt  
Middle right, JV45°'s Jerry Allen  
Lower right, JV45°'s Darwin Costello being evaluated for certification



## New Jordan Valley Reroute

In response to the DNR wanting to get the new Jordan Valley re-route done as soon as possible, a small group set out on June 4th to get started. There had been reports of people getting lost trying to detour around the collapsed bridge, so for safety it was important to get the re-route "set in" ASAP.

The group of five, which became eight as the day progressed, cleared and blazed a brand new trail. DNR officers Jeff and Lyndel chainsawed their way through while the rest of the team followed. More work needs to be done, but at least now the trail is safe and easy to follow. The best view in the valley is not lost as many feared. Just 50' from the collapsed bridge you will still see the beautiful view of the Jordan Valley beaver pond area, and as an added bonus, as you hike around the beaver ponds you will get a view of the other side that you have never seen before!



Photos: Top, Back of Beaver Pond

Middle left, Original team: Jeff, Lyndel (DNR), Dove Day, Peg Myers, & Duane Lawton

Middle middle, DNR sawyers at work

Middle right, Site of a viewpoint..needs a bench

Lower left, Joined on the trail by Jerry Allen, Boyd Manges & Bob Bennett

Lower right, Dove Day ended up looking like a Smurf from blue blazing

**JV45° hosted a hike at the Skyline Trail in Petoskey Saturday, May 2.** Special guests Dan and Ruth Dorrough, who are section hiking the entire NCNST, were passing through our area and invited us to join them for part of their adventure. Ruth is an NCTA board member. When she retired in 2013, she and Dan set out on an adventure to hike the entire NCNST. In 2014 they began hiking in April and hiked all the way into October. This year's adventure started in April as well. They hope to finish hiking Michigan this year, and have already hiked over half of the 4600 mile long trail. The hike with the Dorroughs was on a beautiful 70° day. We saw many signs of spring such as blooming Spring Beauties and Trout Lilies, budding Trillium and Dutchman's Breeches. Dedicated members couldn't help but stop to do some trail maintenance along the way, dragging some fallen trees off the trail. At the end of the hike we enjoyed a cold drink, a snack, and more wonderful conversation.





The Dorrough Hikers & Greeters:  
Cindy Burns, Tom & Nancy  
Kurkowski, Larry & Connie Beaubien,  
Jen & Todd Winnell, Ruth & Dan  
Dorrough, Duane Lawton, Dove &  
John Day (photo by Duane Lawton)  
Log Entry by Dorrough (photo by  
Dove Day)



## New adoptions and sections “open” for adoption:

Welcome new adopter and new member Nathan Wasylewski. He adopted road sections M and O in early May. Thank you Nathan!



In late May to early June sections C, F and EI came open for adoption. The NMMBA (Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association) stepped up and adopted section C, and we are so grateful to them! Thank you NMMBA!

Sections F and EI are still open, along with two added spur trails, the Cherry Valley Overlook and the Warner Creek loop. If you or anyone you know might be interested in adopting a section, please have them contact us.

[doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)

or call [231-373-0090](tel:231-373-0090) or [231-838-6445](tel:231-838-6445) *Dove & John Day*, Trail Coordinators

## NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

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

[http://northcountrytrail.org/jv45/?page\\_id=57](http://northcountrytrail.org/jv45/?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: Cindy Burns, Jean Van Dam, Paul Brown (did I miss anyone?).  
For Newsletter corrections, please email me.**

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

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

# **A Thru-Hiker's Journey:**

## **Luke "Strider" Jordan's 2013 thru-hike of the North Country National Scenic Trail**

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