



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 1

February 2021

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Note: JV45° typically offers a hike on the 3rd Saturday of every month,

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

WANTED: New Trail Adopters.

The JV45° has two open sections. One involves the new trails recently built in the Petoskey Sports Complex and the other is a 1.5 mile section from Landslide Overlook to Cascade Road. If interested, contact Dan Dueweke at dandueweke@gmail.com

Message from JV 45°

President Mary Campbell

mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings Jordan Valley 45° Members and Friends,

Wow, where did January go? As 2021 is well underway, I am delighted to provide some trail related updates.

Annual Meeting – Follow-up (see minutes, p. 9-10).

Our Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Annual Meeting via ZOOM, while not nearly as much fun as in person, was a success. With the changes in leadership, I want to specifically thank our long-serving and dedicated outgoing Trail Coordinators Dove and John Day for their countless hours communicating and coordinating with trail adopters to keep our JV 45° segment in tip-top shape, especially challenging with windstorms and resulting blow-downs—Thank you! Thank you also to long serving Vice President, Eugene Branigan who among many other contributions, was responsible for initiating our very popular monthly hikes during the first year of Hike 100, and for bringing Celebration 2019 to our area to help us showcase our fabulous portion of the trail to the wider NCT family. Congratulations to Annie and Dave Matz, who received (the well-deserved) NCTA

Honor Award. Welcome to one of newest members Kenny Wawczyk. Kenny is NCTA's Michigan Regional Trail Coordinator and has been an AMAZING resource for our chapter and was awarded our Chapter's Big Foot Award and a gift chapter membership (so we can claim him as one of our own!!), thank you and congratulations! Welcome to our new Governing Board members: Jim Howell (VP), Dan Dueweke (Trail Coordinator) and Trail Events Coordinators Dove Day and Sue Bouwense.

Bear River Bridge

Final project funding: THANK YOU! – We were challenged and WE DID IT together! At the annual meeting I announced an anonymous challenge grant (offered by a JV 45° member!) and within 24 hours we were over 75% and after only two weeks, not only did meet the challenge we generously have now exceeded the challenge. Bridge donations received between the annual meeting on January 13 and January 27 totaled \$1,550, thus we will receive the \$1000 challenge donation—WOW!

A hearty thank you to ALL who have contributed time, effort and dollars to this effort.

This bridge is being funded by individuals like **YOU**, the City of Petoskey and

• continued on p. 2

- Wed, Feb 17th – 10 am, JV45 Workday, see p. 2
- Sat, Feb 20 - JV45 Hike, 10 am, see p. 2
- Mon, Feb 22nd – 10 am, JV45 Workday, see p. 2
- Sat, Feb 27th – 10 am, JV45 Workday, see p. 2
- Feb 16, 18, 23, 25, 27; 7 - 9:30 pm each night on ZOOM. The Quiet Adventures Symposium. Registration required. See pp. 8 - 9. Registration Fee = \$10.
https://www.quietwatersociety.org/virtual_symposium.php



• continued from p. 1

the following sources:

- ◇ Baiardi Foundation
- ◇ Great Lakes Energy-People Fund
- ◇ Petoskey Rotary Club
- ◇ Local Revenue Sharing Board
- ◇ Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Comm. Foundation
- ◇ NCTA Field Grant
- ◇ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- ◇ MDNR Iron Belle Trail Grant

*Anyone who has not yet fulfilled their previous pledge, *please do so*—we have additional boardwalk to build.

Work Days – Help Needed: Jordan Valley 45° Chapter is responsible for cutting and moving of cut trees and brush from the bridge site, equipment staging area and equipment access route. Small advance crews are going in and felling trees in advance of group work days. I have scheduled the following group work

days... ***We will need both certified sawyers and others.***

- Wed, Feb 17th – 10 am
- Mon, Feb 22nd – 10 am
- Sat., Feb 27th – 10 am

If interested and available for any of the above workdays, please contact me, Mary Campbell, to sign up. The meeting locations will be communicated with participants prior to each workday (based on past progress).

Construction Schedule. While the exact timing for the installation is still not known, it will be installed this spring/early summer (depending on weather).

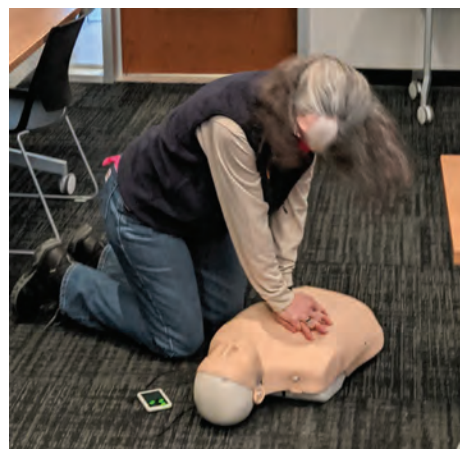
Other Activities:

Eleven chapter members participated in a First Aid/CPR class in January, since some of new sawyers (and their second persons) needed this training to be active sawyers on the trail. Local instructor Adam Peltier, OnSite CPR Solution, LLC (and Emmet County EMS) offered this sawyer tailored class to our chapter volunteers at a much reduced rate, because as he said, "I believe in what you folks are doing"...

Thanks Adam. If you are interested in participating a future First Aid/CPR class, please contact me and I will let you know when another local opportunity is available.

Most of our typical promotional activities are currently on-hold, due to COVID restrictions and precautions. As the situation changes, our new trail events coordinators will be in contact...

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Hike-filled 2021! **Mary Campbell**



Mary counting compressions

February Hike Plans

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

Starvation Lake Rd. to Sand Lake and Back, February 20, 2021

Gather at 10:am; head out by 10:30

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter will be hosting a hike on February 20, 2021. We will gather at the NCT crossing on Starvation Lake Rd. (There is an ORV parking lot a quarter mile east of the trail crossing).

See map at - <http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

- First, from Starvation Lake Rd. (mile marker 675.5) we will hike south a mile to MacNeil Pond (676.5) and then back to Starvation Lake Rd. (This section is maintained by the Grand Traverse Hiking Club). Total 2.0 miles.
- Second, after the return to Starvation Lake Rd. (676.5) we will continue

north 2.5 miles to Sand Lake (673.0) and back. Total 5.0 miles.

Shorter Hike Option – If the total seven miles is more than you want to do, come a little later (about 11:30) and just do the Sand Lake and back portion of the hike.

Getting there - If you are coming from the north or northeast, because many back roads are "seasonal" (not plowed), the best way to the trail crossing on Starvation Lake Rd. is via Mancelona.

Coming from the south or south east/west, come via Kalkaska.

After the hike, if it's not too crowded with snowmobiles, we can try for lunch at the Hideaway Bar (on Starvation Lake Rd. a mile or so west of the NCT crossing).

If the Hideaway is too busy, we will meet for lunch at the Iron Skillet in Mancelona, next to the Rooted Store (stuff made in Michigan).

Snowshoes may be required. Cross Country Skis may work but the trail is not groomed. Dress for the weather, bring water and snacks. Regarding social distanc-



Sand Lake

ing due to the Coronavirus virus threat: If you are not feeling well, please stay home. If you are a high-risk individual, please stay home. Please bring a mask for any shared car rides. We hope you can join us!

The Jordan Valley 45 Degree Chapter trail runs from Starvation Lake Rd. (near Mancelona) to Kipp Rd. in Harbor Springs, about 78 miles of awesome wooded trail.

Any questions? – email Bob at the address above, or call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699



The Courtois twins. Who's Bob?



Duane is thinking of future projects



Getting close to town



Bridge over Bear River in Petoskey

December Hike Report

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

On 19 December 2020, we covered about 7 miles from Shanley Rd. & Cedar Valley Rd. (south of Petoskey) to Bayfront Park in Petoskey. We were happy to receive about 4 to 5 inches of fresh snow overnight, but not enough to require snowshoes. During the hike there were plenty of snow squalls but mild winds and temperatures in the high 20's.

Altogether, we had 11 people, a dog and a snowman. From Shanley Rd we had Bob C, Bill C, Duane L, Kevin W and Annie M. From River Road Sports Complex, we were joined by Mary C and Jane & Cliff D. Up-river and back from Bayfront Park were Dove & John D, Sue B and Hotch (the Day's grand puppy).

Mary Campbell noted that, at long last, the reroute to bypass Greenwood Rd. is nearing reality, with the Bear River Bridge scheduled for installation in spring. So, this hike was an opportunity to test out most of the reroute.

From Shanley Rd., we walked Cedar Valley Rd. and cut across Bert Notstine's field behind the fence we installed in 2018. After crossing the Petoskey Youth Soccer Association property, we hit Click Rd. for about 200 yds. to cross the Bear River and returned to the woods on Bear Creek Twp. property. All of this allowed us to hike most of the new route but, obviously, we skipped around the bridge site itself. Eventually we found our way onto the Petoskey Bear River trail and followed the gorge into town.

The pictures don't do the day justice! After ending the hike at city hall, four of us finished up at Beards for pops and snacks by a fire on the patio. That was it for 2020, but this hike foreshadows a celebration & picnic hike (August 2021?) on this same stretch after the bridge is installed. Note - Once the bridge is actually installed, there will likely be a ribbon cutting (not part of our hike) to include all the stakeholders (community leaders and donors) involved in the bridge project.



Trail Town sign



Mary pacing herself



A round of pops at Beards



Hikers wishing for a new bridge



Waterfall on the Bear River

A Blue Blaze Mystery

Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

On January 15, 2021, several members of the JV45 Governing Board were sent an email by JV45 member John Porter, porterjm17@gmail.com, asking the following innocent question: "Why are there blue NCT markers at the intersection of Osmun Road and M-68 just east of the M-33 and M-68 intersection?" We told John that the NCT does not go that far east, so it couldn't be our trail. Others started doing some online searches and soon discovered the *Midland to Mackinac Trail* was in that area and was the likely trail using "our" blue blazes. John then drove out to the site and took the picture shown here.

Next, Bob Courtois contacted JV45 member Jerry Allen, and asked if he had any knowledge of that trail and the color of their blazes. Jerry responded with this history lesson: "*The Midland to Mackinac (M2M) Trail predates the NCT, having been established in the mid 1950s with the blessing of the Conservation Department (now DNR) and the Huron National Forest (USFS). The M2M has been using the 2" by 6" "Boundary Blue" blazes since that time. The M2M also nails up triangles of several types as approved by DNR and the diamond shaped road crossing signs. It should be mentioned that the M2M shares trail with the Shore to Shore equestrian trail, who also use the blue blazes. THE M2M DID NOT COPY THE NCT blazing scheme.*"



Photo from John Porter of some of the blue blazing at the southwest corner of Osmun Rd. and M-68. The triangular symbol is for the Shore to Shore Equestrian Hiking Trail, with US Dept. of the Interior and DNR logos at the bottom.

Much more information about the Midland to Mackinac Trail is found online. Here is some text from a US Forest Service website. *The Midland to Mackinac Trail is a historic 210-mile Native American footpath. This hiking and cross-country skiing trail stretches from Midland County to Mackinaw City at the tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. For hundreds of years, this trail was used by Native Americans as a seasonal path for hunting, trapping and gathering foodstuffs. The trail is relatively isolated, passing through parts of only two communities -- Cheboygan and Mackinac City. With few organized campsites along the way, hikers and riders are urged to carry water.*

Camping is allowed on National Forest land, however, no developed campgrounds occur near this segment of pathway. Camping along the trail on public lands is free, but Michigan DNRE permits are needed on state land. The pathway weaves through a variety of forest types and landforms. The trail is marked with blue paint and does not provide a return loop. Users must retrace their steps or shuttle.

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

Mary Campbell - President
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Jim Howell – Vice President
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Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
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Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer
amatz57@yahoo.com

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
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Bob Courtois - Hike Coordinator
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Sue Bouwense & Dove Day – Events Coordinators
sbouwense@gmail.com
doveday70@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator, haack@msu.edu

Dan Duweke – Trail Coordinator
dandueweke@gmail.com

January Hike Report

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

With the recent warm weather and below average snowfall, we had no idea what to expect for conditions or attendance for the JV45 hike on January 16, 2021. It is January after all. So, although we did not need snowshoes, we did get 3 or more inches of fresh snow that also coated the trees in fairy dust. With the slick roads some people were no-shows and missed out. We did have 12 people, including three new hikers: Rick from Saginaw, Wil from Charlevoix and Mary from Petoskey. The last time we did this section, two years ago, we had 35 people.

Nine of us met at the ORV lot on

Mancelona Rd. ("Rock Star Parking") and then ferried to the Cinder Hill Rd. trail crossing where three more hikers were waiting. After introductions and a group picture, we went west about 0.7 miles to Five Lake and then back to Cinder Hill Rd. (Does anyone know for sure where the name "Five Lake" came from?) From Cinder Hill Rd. to Landslide Overlook is, perhaps, one of the least hiked sections in the JV45 portion of the NCT. Most of that is decent road walk (low traffic and pretty), but the section to Five Lake is mostly woods.

After looping back to Cinder Hill Rd., we continued South to Mancelona Rd. The first mile to Whispering Pines Rd. is a bit hilly but after that it becomes fairly flat and bumps up against farm fields. East of the fields, the snow blows into the woods

and it gets quite a bit deeper.

In the last two years there has been a LOT of logging in this section. Where the loggers just thinned the woods, it is not too bad and it opens the undergrowth to the daylight. But the areas where they clearcut just look devastated. Even with the logging this is still a beautiful stretch. Along the farm fields, over the course of the year, it's interesting to watch the changes as the crops are sown, grow and are harvested. If you can, visit this section in the summer.

Since restaurants are still closed down for Covid, we snacked on the trail and did not have an after-hike rendezvous. We had hoped to go to Mancelona (Shirley's or Iron Skillet).



Susan Miller taking the lead



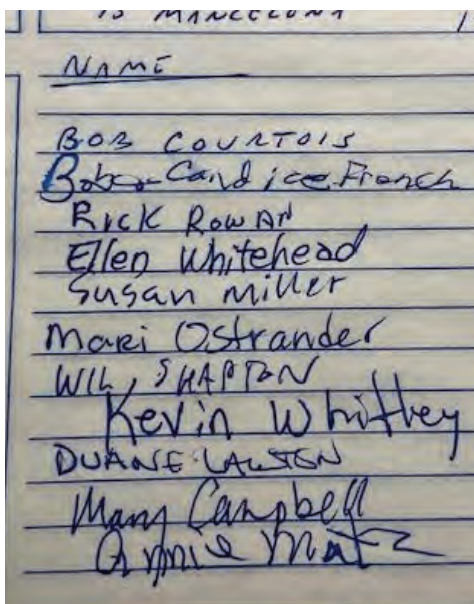
Group 1 of January hikers



Group 2 of January hikers in area with recent logging



Fresh snow clings to the trees



The sign-in page on the Log Book



This tree is still displaying its blaze



Dan Dueweke

A Welcome Message

January's annual meeting brought the usual board member elections, and we are happy to announce that a new JV45° Trail Coordinator was elected. After 6 years (3 terms) John and I will have stepped down and are excited to welcome Dan Dueweke to fill this position. Dan has many years of experience working on the Appalachian Trail and we are confident that his experience will bring in new ideas and great leadership. A big thanks to Dan for agreeing to be our new Trail Coordinator!

John and I have enjoyed working with so many great JV45° volunteers and we will continue to be involved with the chapter, managing our adopted trail section as well as attending work days and hikes as much as possible. I (Dove) will be moving over to a new board position working with Sue Bouwense as the chapter's new Event Coordinators.

Thanks to all of the trail adopters that have spent so much time and effort maintaining the trail, it was a pleasure to work with you so closely over the years. Here's to a great 2021 for our chapter, and we'll see you on the trail!
Dove & John Day

Dan was recently interviewed on "Trail Maintainers" which is a podcast focused on interviews with trail volunteers throughout the country. Dan was episode 21. This episode starts out with a reading of "Myron's Trail" as reprinted here and then goes on to

Dan Dueweke, the new JV45 Trail Coordinator

With each new NCT milestone (first mile completed, first thru-hike recorded, initial designation as a National Scenic Trail) a piece of history is acknowledged and the next trail event is anticipated. I would hope that somewhere the NCT has an archive of reporting from the "early days" of our trail as a reference for future adopters. My previous trail club had a library of old reports dating back to the dawn of the Appalachian Trail and they found a volunteer to scan them into a database for posterity. One of the reports written in 1936 was from Myron Avery, the person most responsible for the building of the AT. Reading his story allowed me to reflect on what it means to be a trail maintainer and led me to pen the following article.

discuss Dan's start with the AT and how he became a certified chainsaw and cross-cut instructor. Here is the link.

<https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/trail-maintainers/trail-maintainers-21-dan-1d6wZ2587D/>

Myron's Trail

Dan Dueweke

dandueweke@gmail.com

Every trail maintainer inherits his or her section from a previous adopter. They walk the trail admiring the lay of the tread or wondering why the previous overseer didn't put a checkdam here or a grade dip there, and then they get on with the job they promised to do. When I first walked

my new section of the Appalachian Trail in 1998 – Thornton Gap to Mary's Rock Overlook in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park -- I surveyed its condition, cut back some overhanging vegetation and noted places where blazing could be improved. I submitted my first work report and received a note back from the Supervisor of Trails mentioning that I had taken "Myron's Trail" and that I had some big boots to fill.

Though new to Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, I was familiar with Trail history and tended to think of the whole AT as Myron Avery's trail. Although the AT had been Benton MacKaye's grand idea, Myron was the man who put out the sweat and effort to see it constructed end-to-end. It had not occurred to me that



View from Dan's former section of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia



Dan and his trusty axe clearing his past section of the AT

like all PATC Presidents, he would've had a section he personally maintained. Now the history was apparent. I'd seen iconic photos of Myron Avery with his "mileage wheel" en-route to Maine's Mt. Katahdin in the 1930s, holding an axe and pointing the way ahead. And now I had *his* trail section. It seemed to need a lot of work. Gypsy moths had killed many oaks, blowdowns were frequent, and the absence of canopy had turned the trail into a weed patch. But then I thought about how Myron Avery would've had to deal with the remains of the chestnut blight and the loss of canopy in that era. It was like I was reliving his effort, and now we had something else in common.

Starting at the trailhead, my (our) section started up and just kept rising to a granite outcropping that offered a 360° view of the Park. I tried to count all the waterbars and cribbing structures I'd need to care for, but lost track after 70. I wondered if I'd be up to all the work and whether I could make it better than it was. Part AT, part day hike, and part social trail with easy access from a highway, this section clearly got a lot of hikers. Certainly there had been other overseers on this section since Myron Avery's day,



Another view from Myron's Trail

and I was just the next pair of boots to hike it with tools, but as such, I became part of the AT continuum that kept the Trail hikeable. But he was the one who'd championed the AT and I was following in *his* footsteps. This was going to take more than a few brushstrokes of AT white.

More than 60 years had passed since Myron Avery had posted a work trip report clearing the treadway in this newly designated National Park (paperwork even then.....). I thought of all the technological advancements this country had seen since that time, but here I was out on the Trail with a crosscut saw and axe from my club's tool room, possibly the same ones that Myron had used on this same section. Something about that felt right. The trail that had been built with sweat and muscle was still being maintained the same way. A good sharp axe is timeless and though adopters will pass, well cared for tools live on. It is a point of pride for me that most of my work on the AT was done with traditional tools, easily carried and quiet in operation.

I continued as a maintainer on Myron's trail for 21 years, long enough to see the return of some of that lost canopy. Statistically, I'd been the maintainer for 1/5 the life of the Appalachian Trail and had been cutting sidehill and clearing blowdowns since before some of those passing thru-hikers were born. Occasionally I'd mention the Myron Avery connection to hikers passing by, as it made a good conversation starter. Older hikers were more familiar with AT history or had been hiking long enough to absorb some of the lore. Younger hikers though hadn't a clue. They were in the moment and only knew that the AT existed for them as they passed over it. That apparent disconnect nearly halfway to

A note from Dan Dueweke, JV45° Trail Coordinator

dandueweke@gmail.com

Even if the groundhog sees its shadow on Tuesday, Spring is on its way. As the new Trail Coordinator I will be working with our adopters and seeking new ones for our orphan trail sections. I come to NCT from Virginia where I spent over 20 years as an AT maintainer, District Manager, and axe and saw instructor with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. I'm looking forward to hiking this beautiful north country with an eye out for places that could use a little TLC. If you've thought about adopting a trail section or just helping out on a weekend project, contact me directly and we can talk trail.

Katahdin seemed a shame given their immersion in all things Trail for months and months.

Every new trail maintainer inherits their section from the previous maintainer, just as every hiker's steps fall over the boot prints of those who walked before them. This sequence is acknowledged by maintainers who read of the challenges and adventures that hikers post in registers or make on Facebook. They also know that every hiker's journey traverses their little piece of treadway and its condition is a reflection of their effort.



Bob Haack asked Dan if the axe that he was using in the picture at the top of this page was his only axe. Dan replied with this photo, so the answer is "No!"

JV45's New Trail Events Coordinators

The *Trail Events Coordinator* is the newest position on the JV45 Governing Board. Our Chapter was lucky to have two of its fine members step forward to fill this position – Sue Bouwense & Dove Day – and just a few weeks ago they were both duly elected by unanimous vote. Dove joined NCTA in 2009 and Sue became a member in 2016. Welcome to the Governing Board, Sue and Dove! As most of you will recall, Dove and husband John were our Chapter's Trail Coordinators for the past six years. Sue was most recently the Administrative Assistant at the Top of Michigan Trails Councils.

Sue and Dove will help organize our members to participate in various events that will promote the NCTA/NCT and our Jordan Valley 45° Chapter. Historically, some of the annual events that our Chapter participated in were the (a) Quiet Adventures Symposium on the MSU campus, (b)



Dove and John Day

Top of Michigan Marathon in Petoskey, (c) Jay's Backpacking Day in Clare, and the (d) Petoskey Open House. Because of COVID-19, we're not sure how many of these events will take place in 2021. We will see when things normalize again. At the moment, there are no firm dates for any in-person event (Except the Quiet Adventures Symposium, which will be virtual this year. See details below), but when there is a scheduled event you will get an email from Sue and Dove that describes the event and how you can assist.



Sue and Doug Bouwense

A message from Sue Bouwense

I'm pleased that Dove and I can put our heads together to plan events that will promote our glorious chunk of the trail in Northern Michigan. It's an awesome thing to think about: someday we'll be able to have events again! I have hope. And I'm excited about event planning on a *volunteer* basis after a few years of planning events as an employee of Top of Michigan Trails Council. I retired in 2019 and it's been great to have more time to enjoy the awesome trail that Doug and I are privileged to have in our front yard! While we enjoy our frequent forays into the woods on the Skyline Trail (the true meaning of pandemic relief), we are also pretty determined that in our lifetime we will cover the entirety of the NCT in the Upper Peninsula. Fifty miles down, only five hundred to go!

Sue Bouwense sbouwense@gmail.com

2021 Quiet Adventures Symposium

The Quiet Adventures Symposium will be a virtual experience this year on Zoom. There will be five evenings of talks: Feb. 16, 18, 23, 25, and 27 from 7-9:30 pm each night. On the first four nights there will be two concurrent sessions. All talks are scheduled to be 30 min long. You need to register online. There is a modest fee of \$10 for the entire event. The talks will be recorded and all folks who register will be sent a link to view any missed talks or something they want to see again. There will be one NCT talk by Luke Jordan on Feb. 18. And one of the other speakers is "local" to the JV45 area – Deana Jerdee who is the Executive Director of Paddle Antrim (Feb 25; www.paddleantrim.com).

Here is the link to register and the titles of the talks. Much more information is online.

https://www.quietwatersociety.org/virtual_symposium.php

FEB 16 (two parallel sessions)

Bug Proofing your Camp and Body
Outdoor Songs for Kids of all Ages

Beginning Birding and Birding Close to Home

Almost Forgotten Portages, Paths, and Paddles of the Great Lakes

Carved by Nature: The Ice Age National Scenic Trail

The Batchewana River

Hazardous Waters: Identifying and Managing the Risks

Paddlers Who Motivate Us

Universal Kayaking - Summer Fun at Bay Cliff Health Camp

FEB 18 (two parallel sessions)

SUPERior to Sea-Paddleboarding from Duluth to the Arctic Ocean

Canoeing Magic: Function and Style!

Preparing for Backcountry Canoe

Camping: Simple and Satisfying
Food Solutions

Ultralight Canoe Camping in the Boundary Waters

A Thru-Hiker's Journey: 2013 thru-hike of the North Country Trail by Luke Jordan

All Boats Float: Welcoming People of Color into Paddling

Build a Wooden Boat (You Can Do It)

Polymet and the Great Lakes: Sulfide Mining's Potential Effect on Lake Superior

Birds, Berries, and Bugs!
Motivation of the Grand River
Expedition'90 and Why It Matters

FEB 23 (two parallel sessions)

Introduction to the Wooden Canoe
Heritage Association
Cold Water Paddling Safety Tips to
Prevent Hypothermia
RUNYAKING: Combining Paddling and
Running
Top Paddling and Hiking Trips on
Canada's Lake Superior Coast
Damn, I'm Hungry...Backcountry
Appetizers for a Quick Stoke
Pathfinder ~ Fifty Years & One Hundred
Rivers (Parts 1 & 2)
Birding 101: Learn the Basics and Refresh
Your Birding Skills!
Paddling Destinations Worldwide!
Missouri River 2,456: Yellowstone to the
Arch by Kayak

FEB 25 (two parallel sessions)

The Updated "Ten Essentials" Gear List
for Outdoor Enthusiasts
Hiking Kentucky's Red River Gorge
Outdoor Songs for Kids of all Ages
*Experience Northern Michigan's Chain
of Lakes Water Trail - Deana Jerdee*
What's in Your Backpack?
A Huron River Renaissance:
The Huron River Water Trail
Third Coastin': One Lady's Bike Tour
Around Lake Michigan
Canoeing Secrets: How To "Tune" Your
Canoe for Casual and Wilderness
Travel (Parts 1 & 2)
Paddling into History: Exploring the
Shallow Shipwrecks of Lake Huron

FEB 27 (1 session)

Paddlers Who Motivate Us

*Verlen Kruger Award (to Deana Jerdee,
Director of Paddle Antrim)*

Songs About Paddling and the Great
Outdoors

Live chat with icons Kevin Callan and
Cliff Jacobson

NCTA JV 45° Annual Meeting minutes

January 14, 2021; 6:30 pm

Annual Meeting was held on Zoom.

Members present: Mary Campbell, John
Larch, Annie Matz, Jim Howell, Evelyn
Howell, Duane Lawton, Bob Courtois,
Kevin Whitley, Emily Meyerson, John and
Dove Day, Bob and Sheridan Haack, Bob
Schrems, Kenny Wawczyk, Gary Johnson,
Andrea Ketchmark, Jerry and Connie Al-
len, and Josh Berlo

President Mary Campbell presenter:

2020 year in review.

Status: 123 members

Account balance: \$9289 of which \$5100 is
designated for the Bear River bridge.

Promotional Events in which JV45 partici-
pated:

2/29/20: Quiet Water Symposium

All other events were cancelled due to
COVID-19

2021 Chapter Elections:

Vice President: Jim Howell

Secretary/Treas: Annie Matz

Trail Coordinator: Dan Dueweke

Trail Events Coordinator: Dove Day
and Sue Bouwense

Website Coordinator: Josh Berlo

All candidates agreed to serve. Mo-
tion was made by Duane Lawton to elect
all which was seconded by Jim How-
ell, Motion Carried. Appreciation was
expressed to long-serving vice president
Eugene Branigan and outgoing Trail
Coordinators Dove and John Day for their
many contributions to the chapter. New
members of the leadership team were
welcomed.

Awards:

NCTA Honors Award for chapter
volunteer(s) who demonstrate loyalty,
commitment, and hard work annually to
the chapter activities was awarded to Dave
and Annie Matz

The JV45° Big Foot Award for out-
standing service to JV45° was awarded
to Kenny Wawczyk, NCTA Michigan
Regional Trail Coordinator and newest
JV45° member!

It's time to start thinking about
nominees for awards to be presented at
the NCTA celebration in Clarion, PA to
be held August 5-8, 2021. Nominations

can be submitted at northcountrytrail.org
under the volunteer tab.

2021 Year of the Bridge! – Update:

Construction should begin in April
2021. Site clearing will begin soon and if
you are interested in helping please notify
Mary Campbell.

Funds Needed: We are still in need of
\$2000 for bridge expenses (but now see
p 1). An anonymous donor has agreed to
match up to \$1000! If you are interested in
helping us fulfill this need please donate
on northcountrytrail.org and write in the
notes section "JV45 Bear River bridge".

Work Projects 2020 Review by Projects Coordinator Duane Lawton:

6/6/20: Puncheon completed south of
Sheridan St in Petoskey

6/13/20: Puncheon completed near
McDougal and Click Rd

6/17/20: Repairs to O'Brien pond and
Dobleski Rd were scouted

9/13/20: Several sawyers attended
Chain saw certification class in
Kalkaska.

9/26/20: Repairs to the trail were done
near Cascade Rd

Planned Projects for 2021:

Clear trees for Bear River Bridge
Finish NCMC-Shanley Rd reroute
Improve and mark trail through
and behind Click Road soccer field
property
Replace O'Brien pond boardwalk

Future projects:

Reroute Dobleski to Gien road
Reroute Conway to Kipp road

Hike report by Bob Courtois:

Bob has prepared a tentative hike
schedule for the whole year and is looking
for feedback regarding any known con-
flicts with the dates selected, see attached.

Possible and Pending Trail Promotion Events for 2021:

Quiet Adventures Symposium—not
this year, virtual event. Recommend-
ed that NCTA submit a video.

Top O'Michigan Marathon- status
uncertain.

6/4/21 Petoskey Open House

6/5/21 National Trails Day/possible
bridge celebration?!

9/25/21 NCT Day

Trail Adopters Appreciation Gather-

ing: Due to Covid-19 we were unable to have our annual appreciation brunch so we would like to send a big Thank You to all trail adopters for their hard work throughout the year! The NPS has updated the requirements for certified trail sawyers. If you have any questions regarding the changes please contact Dan Dueweke, our new trail coordinator. If you need to get First aid/CPR certified, a class is being held on 1/23/21 at 9:00a.m. at the Emmet County EMS station on Eppler Rd. Petoskey. Contact Mary Campbell if you are interested. (But now see p. 2)

Guest Presentation by Andrea Ketchmark:

Andrea gave us an informative update from the national NCTA. In 2020, 988 volunteers contributed 91,086 hours, which is valued at \$2,477,539. Without all of our help the trail would not be possible.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by Annie Matz
Secretary/Treas. JV45 chapter

Where I Hiked

Isle Royale 3.0: August 2-7, 2020

Annie Matz

Email: amatz57@yahoo.com

Even though this is my 3rd trip to Isle Royale, my excitement has not diminished. This year's group was myself, two of my sisters Becky and Tina, our much younger cousin Lydia, and her friend Ana. We were super lucky to have booked our flight in early March not even knowing that the ferry would not run all year due to Covid-19. The upside of having no ferry service was that the number of visitors to the island was down to 15% of normal, no problem social distancing there!

After the 35 minute/61 mile slightly rocky flight to the island in light rain, we had a brief orientation with the park ranger. We were instructed to take note of



Annie, Tina, Lydia, Ana, Becky.

any wolf scat or tracks, since being reintroduced in recent years an estimated total of 14 wolves now call the island home. For Covid-19 precautions, we were told if we met anyone on the trail we were to step 6 feet off the trail and let them pass, this was not an issue as we never met more than 10 hikers in a day. Next, we happily packed our masks into our backpacks and hit the trail. Isle Royale maintains over 100 miles of trails, there are 36 campgrounds scattered throughout the National Park with campsites accessible only by foot or watercraft. All campgrounds have tent sites, outhouses, and are near a water source, however the water is not potable so a water filter is required. Hammocks are not recommended as it is very difficult to find proper trees for installing them within the campsites. Some campgrounds also have shelters, which are available on a first come first served basis. This year we flew into Windigo at the west end of the island and we planned to hike 7-11 miles a day and arrive at the east end of the island to catch our flight back to Hancock in 5 days.

Day 1. Here we go climbing up to the Greenstone Ridge Trail, the rain from this morning had cleared and the temperature was comfortable and in the 70s. We are all getting our backpacks adjusted for the most comfortable fit. The packs ranged in weight from 27 to 40 pounds as we needed to carry everything we required for

the entire hike. The trail was easy to follow but could be quite challenging when skirting rocks and tree roots, and the canopy overhead provided good protection from the sun. We had a full day ahead as our first campground was 11.3 miles away on Lake Desor. After an exhausting first day we arrived at our campsite about 8:00 p.m. By the time we set up our tents and cooked our meals the mosquitos were looking for their dinner so we all scrambled into our tents for an early night. There were no complaints.



The trail on day 4.



Suzy's Cave day 5

Day 2. Oooh, the muscles were sore, thankfully it was just 8.1 miles to the next campground on another inland lake. So, we packed up and climbed back up to the Greenstone ridge and continued on through the dense forest. Again, the weather was sunny but we had the trees to keep us cool. Occasionally we broke out of the forest canopy to enjoy beautiful views of Lake Superior. Soon we were descending from the ridge to the shores of Hatchet Lake for the night.

Day 3. More of the same, back to the Greenstone then 7.9 miles of beauty and quiet. The thimbleberries were in season so if I got ahead of my sisters I just stopped for a snack along the trail and looked for the proper sized rock or tree trunk to rest my pack. The tranquility was addicting. Our younger hiking mates

had gone ahead and were taking a longer route since their pace was much faster. We reunited at our campsite on the shores of Chickenbone Lake within a few minutes of each other. No moose sightings yet.

Day 4. Chickenbone Lake to Daisy Farm. We again started on the Greenstone but this section had more openings in the trees where we traversed over vast rocky terrain with spectacular views of Lake Superior and inland lakes below. For the last mile or so the trail turned south until we came to Daisy Farm located on Lake Superior, where a shelter was available so we decided to forego the tents and take it.

Day 5. We awoke to a beautiful sunrise and headed to the nearby shore of Lake Superior where we watched the loons and enjoyed our morning coffee. Life is good! Only 7.1 miles to go! That day's hike took us on the Rock Harbor



Trail side snacks.



Resting on the Lake Superior shoreline

trail, which follows the Lake Superior shoreline. Although the trail remains at low elevation this was the most physically challenging trail so far because we had to climb up and down over boulders for the majority of the day and were thankful for our trekking poles. It was sunny and actually hot at times but so spectacular!! We stopped several times to enjoy the lake views and soak our feet in the pristine waters of the Big Lake. Arriving at the Rock Harbor campground about 4:30, we settled in to enjoy our last night in paradise. Even though we did not have any moose sightings this year we all had a great time and started making plans for another visit in 2021. I have heard that Isle Royale has the lowest number of visitors per year of any national park but the most repeat visitors.

JV45 Newsletters Posted

Josh Berlo, our JV45 Webmaster, has posted all JV45 Newsletter back to 2012 under CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS on the NCT website. Josh wrote: *"You can learn more about the chapter's history and all of the work that has gone into our section of trail. A lot of folks have contributed to and led the newsletter effort over the last decade and it is great to have them all in one place. I wasn't planning to be an archivist, but glad saving was worth it."* The link is here: <https://northcountrytrail.org/trail/michigan/jv45/>

Interested in Chainsaw Certification? Or Re-certification?

Anyone interested in sawyer training, please contact Dan Dueweke to be notified of future classes in the area. Please note, current First Aid/CPR certification and completion of the NPS Trail Safe Video training are prerequisites for the sawyer training as of May 2021 www.nps.gov/noco/trail-safe.htm

Don't forget to submit your Volunteer Hours at:
<https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>