



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

April 2017

Upcoming Events

April 15. JV45 Chapter Hike, 9 am
Meet at parking lot off Krause Rd
(where the shelter is being built).
Coordinates: 45.3272634,-84.8839228
Google Maps link:

<<https://goo.gl/maps/8m81M9nvTzt>>

Hike about 5 miles, rolling terrain.
Bring your lunch. When done, eat
lunch, and then help work on the
shelter.

**April 15. JV45 Work Bee to finish
the Skyline Camp Shelter.** 9 am. For
those who want to skip the hike, and
get right to work, plan to arrive around
9. BYO lunch. Scouts will cook a
Dutch-oven dessert. Location as above.
The shelter needs siding and windows,
so bring appropriate tools and maybe a
generator. Contact Duane if you have
questions.

**April 18. Meeting with DNR in
Gaylord at 1 pm** to discuss projects
in Jordan Valley. See Duane's story on
page 5.

May 20. Hike /Meeting in Boyne
Falls. Details to come later.

May 27. Community Marathon. See
details in Duane's story on this page.

**June 3. Petoskey Trail Town
Celebration.** See details in Duane's
story on this page.

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



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

I think the most amazing thing last year
was how much the "Hike 100" program
galvanized so many of our members,
brought in new members, and even at-
tracted people who still aren't members.
It's exciting to see the program repeated
and enhanced in 2017.

We will continue to have monthly
hikes to help everyone make their 100
miles, and in addition there are many
projects which you will want to par-
ticipate in, because this year there is an
added component: "Build It", wherein
if you complete two activities ("Get
Involved" and "Spread The Word"),
you are entered for a grand prize draw-
ing at year end. All the fine details
are at <[https://northcountrytrail.org/
get-involved/special-events/hike-100-
challenge/](https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/hike-100-challenge/)>

2017 Jordan Valley Projects. We have
a few volunteers, we need more.
And of course even if you don't
lead a project, you'll be solicited to
participate in them. See the article
below.

Skyline Shelter. Our first 2017 Work
Bee is scheduled for Saturday, April
15. Forget about your taxes and
come help. This is also in conjunc-
tion with our April Hike 100 hike,
see the announcement. (p. 1)

PTTC5. 5th Annual Petoskey Trail
Town Celebration! To be held on
National Trails Day, Saturday, June
3rd, in Pennsylvania Park, down-
town Petoskey. Even more fun
planned than in the last four years.
Our morning hike will circle Peto-
skey on and off the NCT. Lunch,
speakers, music, activities, exhibits,
oh my!

Community Marathon. The Marathon
is run on the Little Traverse Wheel-
way from Charlevoix to Harbor
Springs. It is becoming quite a sig-
nificant event. We have volunteered
to staff an Aid Station, located on
the NCT in front of the Petoskey
Historical Museum (in Bayfront
Park, next to City Hall). We will,
of course, be promoting HIKING.
We need folks to staff the station
on Saturday, May 27th, starting at
0730 until 1300 (shifts of 3 people).
Make your reservation now.

News from NCTA headquarters. The
new dues policy is rolling out with
a new membership application form
(which is quite dynamic). The
current form is reproduced below
(p 2) for you to use. But note that
the policy is: *Donate \$20 or more
for your annual membership.* If
you donate \$40 or more you're
eligible to receive the snail mail
paper-version of the *North Star*, in
lieu of electronic only. You can also
join/renew online at the Trail Shop:
[https://northcountrytrail.org/prod-
uct/membership/](https://northcountrytrail.org/product/membership/)

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Loki & Berries. (Our own Mary Campbell and John Larch) I'm pleased to note we have their first post from the AT as they begin their 2017 adventure. Follow them online and wish them well... <<http://trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=557887>>

May Hike /Meeting. ...will be on May 20th, we'll meet in Boyne Falls with a tbd program. Info to follow.

As we head into another active year, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you on the trail... maintaining, building or just hiking! Duane

**Event at the
Petoskey District Library
Carnegie Building
Upper Carnegie Level
451 E Mitchell St,
Monday, May 22 at 7 pm**

Duane Lawton (JV45 President) and Emily Meyerson (DNR trails coordinator) will discuss the NCTA Jordan Valley 45 Chapter, the trails, and upcoming activities and projects.
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Library: 231-758-3100

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day
doveday70@gmail.com
johnanddove@gmail.com



Happy Spring everyone! With melting snow and warmer weather it's time once again to focus on trail maintenance for the upcoming season. We are heading into 2017 with 100% of our trail sections adopted and look forward to another great year on the trail. Our trail adopters are a great group of people and have a good grip on maintaining each of their sections, so this year's focus will be on refurbishing the Jordan Valley Pathway. President Duane Lawton has put a list of projects together and is looking for volunteers to lead them. If you are looking to get more involved with trail work this year, we encourage you to adopt one of the projects Duane has listed for the Jordan Valley. If you are doing this year's HIKE 100 and BUILD IT Challenges, one of these projects is a sure way to meet your BUILD IT Challenge! Be sure to check out Duane's list and contact him to sign up!

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

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

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
haack@msu.edu

Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
doveday70@gmail.com,
johnanddove@gmail.com

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

SUPPORT THE NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL AND GET A FREE MEMBERSHIP

For *first time supporters* of the North Country Trail we have a special program. Make a gift of \$20 or more to the North Country Trail Association and you will automatically receive full member benefits for one year. Benefits include a subscription to the full color *North Star* magazine, discounts in the NCTA Trail Shop, email updates about special events on the trail in your area and more. You can also join a local NCTA chapter if you wish and receive updates about their activities.



To make your donation, please complete this form and send it with a check for \$20 or more to:
North Country Trail Association
229 East Main Street
Lowell, MI 49331

You can also join online at: northcountrytrail.org

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Name(s) of New Member(s) _____ | |
| Address Line 1 _____ | |
| Address Line 2 _____ | |
| City/State/Zip _____ | |
| Phone (____) _____ | Email _____ |
| Please Choose a Chapter Affiliation if You Wish (Check One) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Name _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assign Me to My Closest Chapter | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large (Not Affiliated with a Chapter) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make Me Paperless! Send Correspondence and Magazine to Email Address | |
| Comments _____ | |

The NCTA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. *Thank You for Your Support.*

NCTA at the 2017 Quiet Water Symposium at MSU

Dove and John Day, Jordan Valley 45° Trail Coordinators

doveday70@gmail.com & johnddove@gmail.com

The North Country Trail was well represented at MSU's Quiet Water Symposium again this year. On Saturday, March 4th, three NCT chapters set up tables to pass out information about the NCT. Jordan Valley 45° members Jerry and Connie Allen, Peg Jones, and Dove and John Day handed out lots of information about the NCT's Jordan Valley Pathway and informed and encouraged people to sign up for the 2017 HIKE 100 and BUILD IT challenges. We had our "Guess the Weight of the Backpack" contest with 70 participants trying on a loaded backpack and giving their best guess. Guesses ranged from 21 to 100 lbs. The highest kid guess was 200 lbs! - "like Dad", wrote Derrick, age 7.) Joe Henderson of Grand Rapids was our winner. Joe guessed within 8 oz. of the actual weight at 27.75 lbs. Joe won a \$15 gift certificate to the NCTA Trail Shop!



L-R. Jerry and Connie Allen, Peg Jones, and Dove and John Day



Peg Jones and Connie Allen



Guess the weight of the backpack contest



Minutes of the Jordan Valley 45 Chapter Meeting on 18 March 2017 - 3 p.m., Petoskey, MI

Welcome- The meeting was called to order by the chapter President Duane Lawton.

Agenda- The agenda was passed out to members, it was reviewed and approved. A motion was made by Jim Flick, and seconded by Bob Courtois.

Minutes- The January 2017 annual meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. A motion was made by Bob Courtois and seconded by Jim Flick.

Financial- The financial report was reviewed. As of February 2017 there was a total for the chapter operations of \$3,355.96.

Calendar of Events

- PTTC5 Kickoff meeting, 10 am, March

28, 2017 at the Petoskey City Hall

- Skyline Camp Work Bee 9 am, April 15, 2017
- JV Rehab Kickoff meeting 1 pm, April 18, at the DNR in Gaylord
- Community Marathon Aid Station, May 27, 2017. There was discussion regarding trail members volunteering to support the marathon and work at a table to support the runners. It was agreed that we would. More details later regarding this.
- 5th Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration June 3, 2017

Topics

- 2017 Celebration July 27-29, 2017 in Marquette
- JV Projects- still looking for leaders to guide projects. Volunteers so far:
 - Doug Seaney: Repair spring viewing platform below Deadman's Hill
 - Denise & Jim DeKett: Trail structures to fix messy spots below Deadman's Hill
 - Duane Lawton: Build road

crossing marker posts

- Tamara Dean, Dove Day and Nancy Kowaleski: Plant road crossing marker posts
- Iron Belle Trail Grants discussed

Other business- None

Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Denise DeKett, and seconded by Bob Courtois. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2017 at Boyne Falls.

Respectfully submitted
Denise DeKett, JV45 Secretary
dedekett@gmail.com

To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: <http://northcountrytrail.org/jv45/?page_id=58>.

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

Register Box Buzz



Chandler Hill

Danyell Minier

danyellminier@yahoo.com

Initially I was going to check the Deadman's Hill trail box, but that turned into a grand adventure (with my Jeep stuck in the snow) and I never made it to the trail box, so I am going to save that one for when the snow is all gone. I ended up checking the Chandler Hill trail box on March 19,



One of many broken trees that needs attention

2017. This trail box was planted on July 16, 2016, and since that date 45 people have signed in and all the pamphlets had been taken! Eric from Ann Arbor rode his fat-tire bike on this portion of the trail. Carolyn from Grand Rapids was starting her 200 mile run/walk and had gone 30 miles so far that day on August 8th. Susan M. from Petoskey used this portion of the trail several times to prepare for a trip to the Grand Canyon, she logged quite a few hill miles! Susan also thanked the Sawyers for taking care of the downed trees. On February 2, 2017, Spencer from Saginaw, MI was breaking trail in fresh snow. Most hikers were from all over Michigan including Macomb, Boyne Falls, Livonia, Ann Arbor, Saginaw, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Traverse City. Katherine and Heather from Traverse City on August 3, 2016 say: "Awesome Day! Beautiful hike, no issues – Great Trail compliments on map boxes! ☺"



Chandler Hill trail box

Happy Hiking, Danyell

February Hike 100 Snowshoe Hike

John Day & Dove Day

JV 45° Trail Coordinators

On 19 February 2017, Jordan Valley 45 hosted a snowshoe hike in the Natural Area at North Central Michigan College in Petoskey. After a count-off of 17 persons, and meeting another hiker just down the first boardwalk, 18 strode off to complete an in-and-out hike of 3 miles, turning around at McDougal Road.

It was in the mid-40's throughout the hike, the wind was low and the sun was shining, which provided for a beautiful stroll through the woods. The boardwalks were packed with about 6 inches of crystalline snow, melting just enough so it was not slippery ice. The path was mostly packed down snow from previous walkers, except for about a half mile of trail that few had traversed before. Some wore snowshoes, others opted for Yak-Trax, and the rest, their trusty hiking boots.

The highlight of the two hour hike was the singing of "Happy Birthday" to Addy, who turned 6 that day. What a perfect way to celebrate! She and her sister Kayla are quite the hikers, adding three more miles to their HIKE 100 Challenge!

We encountered about 4 deer on our way back to the start, and they ran and stopped several times in front of us as we marched on. The trail sidles up to the Bear River in a couple of places, and the water level was quite high with all the snow melt of the last few days.

It was a perfect day for a hike. Thanks to all who showed up for a sunny and pleasant Sunday afternoon! Our chapter plans hikes every third weekend of the month. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for announcements, and subscribe to our events so you know where and when the next one is. And don't forget, try to bring a friend who has not hiked the North Country Trail before!



February group photo

Submit Your Stories and Pictures for the JV45° Newsletter

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

Jordan Valley Pathway 2017 Projects.

Duane Lawton

As previously announced, this year we will focus our trail building efforts on refurbishing the Jordan Valley Pathway. This will take a concerted effort, and I need our trail-lovers to step up and take charge of pieces of the puzzle. We have some volunteers so far, listed below—Thank You! There are many opportunities remaining. If you need more information on a particular challenge in order to decide to take it on, please email me!! See map for locations.

The JV45 chapter leadership team stands ready to support your efforts... We can provide advice, publicity (e.g. seeking participants for a work day), funding (from chapter account, or through grant application), help with the procedures working with the DNR/DEQ to get permits. Permit applications take time to process, so planning work for some projects needs to start very soon.

We are meeting with the DNR people at their office in Gaylord on April 18th at 1:00 pm to discuss these projects. If you're interested and able, you're welcome to join in. Please let me know if you are coming. This is a great opportunity to find out what project you'd like to head up.

1. Cascade Creek boardwalk repair. Could end up being a reroute above the ravine. Our DNR Parks & Rec liaison Tom Copenhaver has this on his radar...we'll participate in their decision whether to repair the boardwalk, or reroute. Then do it.
2. Structures to solve messy spots below Deadman's Hill (including one small stream crossing). 4 to 6 structures. Maybe 200-300 feet of boardwalk. We have a lot of data (measurements, photos), which need to be converted into a proposal and submitted to the DNR/DEQ via a permit application. Then the planning and executing...**Jim and Denise DeKett**.
3. Structures to solve messy spots between Cascade Road and Cas-

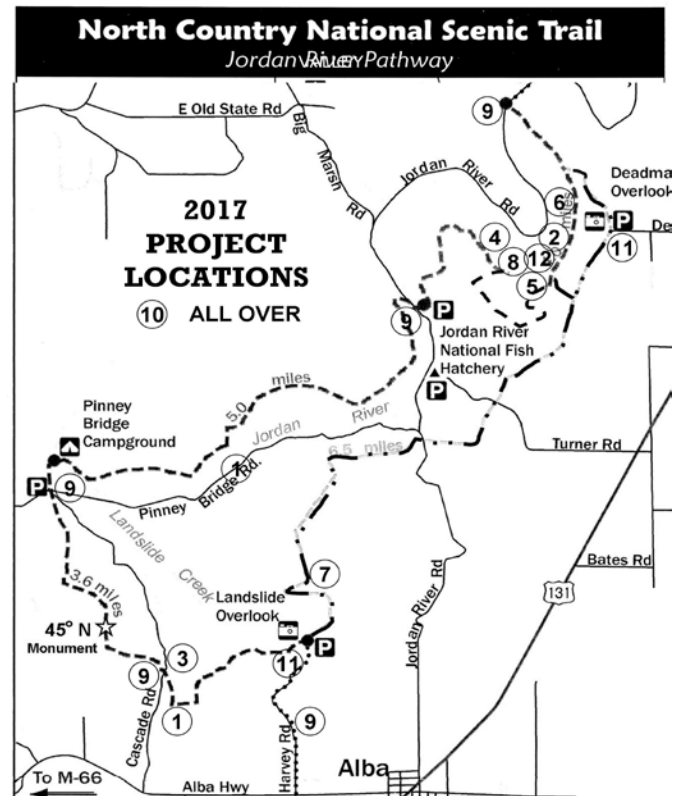
cade Creek bridge. There are persistent seeps along this slope which make the going treacherous and devising a solution difficult. Make a plan, convert into a proposal and submit to the DNR/DEQ via a permit application. Then the planning and executing...

Bob & Sheridan Haack

4. Boardwalk beyond beaver ponds—repair (shore it up). This should be fairly simple, as there is a strong tree against which it can be braced. May require some additional structural strengthening. This is a repair, no permit required.

Danyell & Frank Minier

5. Wet spots in first part of beaver ponds reroute—fill or puncheon. Assess the low spots, determine if fill or puncheon is most appropriate, submit a permit application to the DNR/DEQ. It is possible that puncheon that is along the abandoned trail section ("phragmites area") which is nearby, could be re-used here.
6. Viewing platform at spring below Deadman's Hill—major repair. It has been "listing" for several years. Major structural work. This is a repair, no permit required. **Doug Seaney**.
7. Repair puncheon E of Landslide Creek. Minor project, really old puncheon needs replacing, maybe 50'.
8. Remove remnant material of collapsed Beaver Ponds Bridge. DNR may be doing this...
9. NCT road crossing marker posts: Pinney Bridge Rd. (2), Jordan River Rd. (4), Cascade Rd. (2), Harvey Rd. (1) I will fabricate them, we'll need to go out and plant them...probably



Map showing the locations of the 2017 proposed work sites (by number) in the Jordan Valley

at the same time as other work in the valley. **Tamera Dean, Nancy Kowaleski, Dove Day**

10. "You Are Here" signs. About 20 to spot around the Jordan Valley and Warner Creek Pathways. DNR will be supplying them, we get to install. Probably coordinate some of them with our road crossing marker posts.
11. NCT Interpretive Panels: Landslide Overlook and Deadman's Hill. NCTA is providing two 48" h by 36" w weatherproof panels, we need to design "kiosk" structures to house them, fabricate them, and install them.
12. Spur trail from beaver ponds reroute to existing abandoned boardwalk (it is sound, and becomes a beaver ponds viewing platform). Probably less than a couple hundred yards. Scout a route, make a plan, submit a permit application to the DNR/DEQ. Hold a work bee to build it.

Pick a project, send me an email at delawton@torchlake.com

Where I Hiked

The Port Dolomite & Woollam Preserve Areas Near Cedarville, MI

Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

When going to our cabin in the eastern UP, we always look for interesting spots to take a short hike with our dogs. One of our favorites is about 5 miles east of Cedarville along Highway M-134 on the Lake Huron shoreline. Look for a parking lot about ½ mile east of the Port Dolomite overhead bridge on M-134. You can park there or go east another 1.3 miles to the John Arthur Woollam Preserve parking lot, a TNC property.

From the Port Dolomite parking lot, the trail basically follows the Lake Huron shoreline for about 2 miles. It is beautiful, rugged at times, with large lichen-covered rocks along the shore. When

Lake Huron water levels are high, like in 2016, portions of the trail can be water-covered. You can try to hop from rock to rock to stay dry, or use footwear that can get wet. Note, for dog owners, if you start at the Port Dolomite parking lot, the trail is dog-friendly. However, if you start on the TNC side, dogs are restricted.

The Woollam Preserve itself is 185 acres in size, and has 4,300 feet of Lake Huron cobble shoreline. The land transforms from coastal wetlands, to conifers and finally northern hardwoods. Two useful websites include: <<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/united-states/michigan/placesweprotect/john-arthur-woollam-preserve.xml>> and <<http://www.northhuronbirding.com/woollam-nature-preserve.html>>.



JV45 March Hike 100

Duane Lawton

Email: delawton@torchlake.com

At least nine JV45 members set out on March 18, 2017 for the March “Hike 100” group hike. We hiked a little over 6 miles, under calm and cloudy conditions, with air temperatures in the high 30’s. We hiked out and back on the North Western State (multiuse) Trail—which the NCT shares on this segment—from M-119 to Conway. We had the trail to ourselves (Duane, Denise, Jim, Jessica, Connie, Bob, Tamera, Dove, & John) — the bikers weren’t out yet because there were still many snow-piles!

One mile in, we came upon the Little Free Library, and Dove donated a couple of NCT books. In Conway, we came upon the entrance to the Hailand and Helstrom Preserves, which we hope one day could serve as a NCT reroute to get us off 2 miles of busy roadway. After doing a one mile lollipop through the woods, we returned to the bike trail and returned to our starting point.

There is a rare occurrence along the NCT at the starting point of today’s hike: a brewery named “Petoskey Brewing.” So as we unwound with burgers and beer, we held an informal chapter meeting.



Little Free Library



March Group Photo



Business Meeting at Petoskey Brewing



On the trail

Where I Hiked

Culebra, Puerto Rico

Sue Bouwense

sbouwense@gmail.com

In early March, my husband Doug and I joined another couple on a trip to Culebra, an island located 20 miles east of Puerto Rico and 15 miles west of Saint Thomas. It is accessible by ferry from the port of Fajardo in northeast Puerto Rico. The ferry is very inexpensive (under \$4.00), so this little side trip is very doable for most travelers to PR. Many folks go over just for the day, and someone compared Culebra to Michigan's Mackinac Island as a nice, accessible escape. The island is small: seven miles long and four miles wide.

We had the advantage of traveling with another couple that had visited the island before, and they knew the lay of the land. We stayed for four nights: two in the island's only town, Dewey; and two on Flamenco Beach, which we heard has ranked in the top ten of the world's beaches.

Since enjoying beaches and snorkeling were our primary objectives for our visit, we learned early on that some of the best beaches and snorkeling were accessible only by trail. Accustomed as we are to blue blazes, Doug and I were disappointed to learn that there are no marked trails on the island! But our friends knew that two "must-see" beaches had odd little trails leading to them that they had scouted out on their previous visit. It's great to have knowledgeable, FREE tour guides!

Our first hiking adventure was on our "Day of the Beaches" tour. We had rented a Jeep for the day, and started early to circle the island in search of awesome beaches. We were not disappointed. Our first stop was Zoni Beach, a beautiful,



Found on Brava--someone constructed this hut out of materials found on the beach.

secluded stretch of white sand that we had to ourselves (except for the occasional flyover of a V formation of pelicans).

Next stop, Brava Beach. No parking area for this one, except for a dead-end of a dirt road, next to a sheep farm. We gathered up our beach attire and our lunch and started hiking: first up, then down a dusty trail that crossed dry creek beds and passed by a number of strange-to-me tropical plants (some bearing long thorns that I grew to respect). Interspersed close to the "trailhead" were some clucking free-range chickens. When they disappeared, I knew we were entering the wilds of Culebra. There had been no attempts by anyone, government- or tourist board-related, to maintain this trail. Its rugged presence made me realize that Brava Beach was probably worth the effort I was taking to get there.

The trail was not long, but as we neared the ocean the sound of the surf made me ever more anxious to see this magical beach. And magical it was. The waves were big, but not too big, and we quickly rushed to the brush to change into swimming attire so that we could try out our body surfing skills. The water felt great after our hot, dusty hike. After a couple of hours of picnicking, hiking on the beach, and enjoying the solitude (there were only about four other souls on this beach), we packed up to hike back to the Jeep to visit three other prime beaches that day.



Brava Beach, the reward at the end of the trail.



Time to take up the beach mat and walk! the trail out of Brava.

During our stay at Flamenco Beach, we rose early one day to hike with our snorkeling equipment to Tamarindo Beach, where we knew sea turtles awaited early risers. We were in the water by 8:30 a.m., and saw quite a few of these graceful creatures as they fed on the sea grass of the bay. We also saw spotted eagle rays that morning. Well worth getting up early!

Our hiking adventure continued after we left Tamarindo and hiked to the Flamenco Beach parking area, with the goal of finding the trail to Carlos Rosario Beach, another snorkeling mecca. This trail, which emanates from a chain-link fence at the corner of the parking lot, is again unmarked, except for a few cryptic signs about staying on the path to avoid the danger of unexploded ordnance. It seems that the Culebra Archipelago became the primary gunnery and bombing practice site for the US Navy after the outbreak of World War II, and the Navy continued to use it for this purpose until 1975. The four of us were extremely compliant and stayed on the trail to avoid any unexpected explosive disruptions of our snorkeling adventures.

The reef at Carlos Rosario was lovely, and full of beautiful coral formations that swayed and shuddered with the currents. There was such a variety of fish, large and small, that my head was swimming with the color and motion of it all. After about 90 minutes in the water, we dragged ourselves back up the trail to return to the "real world" of beer and "pinchos" at the kiosks of Flamenco Beach.

I loved hiking Culebra, what with the visual delights at the end of each trail. We hope to get back to this island paradise soon, to discover a few trails that we didn't have time for this trip. There's nothing more rewarding at the end of a hike than a good beach!



Sea turtle at Tamarindo Beach.