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Upcoming Events

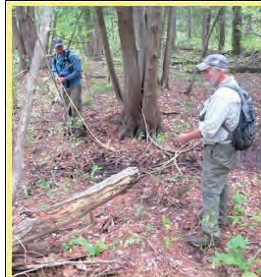
August 17, 2019. Chapter Hike. See details on p. 5.

September 21, 2019. Chapter Hike and Organizing Meeting, Details soon. See Duane's story this page.

September 27-30, Chapter Workday. See story and details on this page.

Note: JV45 typically offers a hike on the 3rd weekend of every month, usually Saturday, sometimes Sunday.

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



BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



September Work Days

Duane Lawton, delawton@torchlake.com

Folks, It is time to get busy preparing for our **Trail-building extravaganza Sept. 27-30**. Note that September 28th is North Country National Scenic Trail Day 2019. We have 14 boardwalks, a fence and 1.75 miles of trail to build. I will be recruiting helpers from Charlevoix, Petoskey (Parks and Rec.) and Bear Creek Twp. to join us. We are recruiting NCT-wide in the North Star. Kenny is arranging for a 5-person SEEDS crew to participate as well, and I've had a feeler from Merrell! Of course we'll have a lot of JV45 folks (you) too. I will be asking those intending to participate to let us know what days they can be there (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday)

There will be several crews (4-6 folks each) working at different spots along the route. We will also need crews to attend to their necessities. **So, I'm looking for folks to volunteer to lead those crews.**

Trail-building Crew (2 or 3 crews): Brushing (mower, weedwhips, loppers), minor leveling, blazing trail (no benching anticipated).

Construction Crew (3 or 4): Building the boardwalks, fence

Logistics Crew (1): Moving material to construction sites (will already be staged fairly nearby)

Personnel Crew (1): Keep track of people, register, answer questions, chase issues.

Event Crew (3): Organize meals (I anticipate we will provide the victuals \$)

At the rallying point (light/continental) breakfast, prepare and hand out bag lunches (4 days)

Friday night dinner/gathering at Skyline Camp. Saturday night dinner/gathering at Day's. Sunday night we will probably go to a local restaurant, dutch).

We have a lot preparation to do for this event, for starters please see "JV45 Chapter Hike - August 17, 2019" on page 5 for details." There will be an organizing meeting on site on Saturday, Sept 21st. & a hike. But you don't need to be there to be a crew leader (I'll brief you elsewhere). **Please let me know which crew you'd like to lead, and which days you're available.**

Thank You! Duane

Mary Campbell Receives State-Wide Volunteer Award

It was recently announced that Mary Campbell, our JV45 President, will be awarded a "Volunteer of the Year" award by the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance. Mary will receive the award in Lansing at the State's Capital Rotunda on Wednesday, September 25th at 9 am. We'll have pictures from the award ceremony in the October JV45 Newsletter. The supporting documentation that was submitted with Mary's nomination pointed out her early service as our Chapter's Secretary and now as President, her efforts to secure funding for the Iron Belle Bear River Bridge, and her leadership in preparing the 2019 NCTA trail-wide Celebration in Bellaire, Michigan. **Congrats Mary!**



June Chapter Hike Report VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

Seventeen of us gathered at Scheck's Place State Forest Campground at 10 am and, after signing in and dishing out rations of crispy treats and chocolate covered pretzels, 16 got underway right at 10:30. Kevin Whitley stopped by to say hi but couldn't hike due to his hurting foot. The weather was perfect, sunny and mid-70s.

There was a good mix among the 16 hikers with some from the Grand Traverse Hiking Club, Jordan Valley 45° and Hiawatha Shore to Shore. The Valley of the Giants was pretty cool and, yes, the trees were big, at least by Michigan standards (see the tree hugger pictures). There were quite a few beaver dams but little sign of recent beaver activity. Some of us got a good look at a Barred Owl perched on a branch about 8 feet above the trail. Most of us walked under it before Tamera spotted it.

Four people turned back after 2 miles and the rest of us made it to about 4 miles south from Scheck's Campground and had a picnic at the foot bridge where most people took the opportunity to soak their feet in the ice-cold water. Three people continued south to Fife Lake and met up with us later in Kalkaska and the Kal-Ho.



One of the big white pines

The remaining nine turned back and arrived back to Scheck's at about 2:30.

Following the hike Sara Cockrell escorted six of us to Peegeo's for a beer and munchies. Following that Tamera and Bob met up with the Fife Lake hikers at the Kal-Ho in Kalkaska. A terrific day.

Thanks for coming out everyone!



The June Hikers

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

doveday70@gmail.com

johnanddove@gmail.com

You Can Help Too!

Life can be busy, so how do you help out with trail maintenance when the chapter work days always seem to be scheduled when you're not able to attend? Or, you want to help maintain the trail, but adopting a section is just a bit too much of a commitment for you. Many people often ask how they can help with trail maintenance without adopting a trail section or attending a scheduled work day.

All our JV45 trail sections have their own trail adopters, and the adopters do

what they can to keep their sections clear, but some years can be a bit more challenging than others. This year for example, the extra rain has encouraged briars to grow faster and bigger than ever. It's been a challenge keeping up with pruning back the excessive growth, along with the usual chain-sawing and clearing of trees after storms. We've also had some trail sections freshly logged this year, and with the trees gone, more light comes in and the growth of the raspberries and small trees along the trail accelerates; it becomes a challenge to keep the new growth at bay.

So, here's what YOU can do to help. If you would like to give back to the trail without becoming a trail adopter or without trying to fit a work day into your busy schedule, just take a pair of pruning

Join Harbor Springs on Mackinac Bridge Walk

The Harbor Springs NCT Chapter is organizing a Group Bridge Walk on Sept. 2, 2019. Maybe you'd like to join them. Meet in Mackinaw City at the Section 11 Trailhead (behind Burger King) and depart at 7:00 am and also take a group photo! After that some may want to walk across and back again, or just across, or half-way and back. GETTING BACK is up to you! For more information on the Walk see: <https://www.mackinacbridge.org/events/walk/>. If you plan to go, please RSVP to Bill Garlinghouse at wjghouse@gmail.com

Submit Volunteer Hours at:

<https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>.

New Portable Generator

JV45 recently acquired a portable Honda generator to facilitate recharging batteries for the cordless tools during work days. This purchase was made possible by an REI Grant to NCTA that was written by Valerie Bader and Kenny Wawsczyk. Other items purchased from the REI Grant included a brush mower for the Western Michigan Chapter and materials for a boardwalk in the Chief Noondag Chapter's area.

shears with you on your next hike. When you notice branches or briars creeping into the trail, give them a nip. A little trimming and pruning during your hike will help out a lot, especially in areas where growth is difficult to keep up with. You can feel good about helping maintain the trail, and the JV45 trail adopters will appreciate the extra help! It's a team effort maintaining the NCT, and working together will make our little section of it the best it can be!

Dove and John Day
Jordan Valley 45° Trail Coordinators

Register Box Buzz



County Line Trailbox Danyell Minier

danyellminier@yahoo.com

On November 1, 2017 the County Line Register Log was replaced by Dove and John Day because a pesky squirrel had chewed the old one to bits. On November 11, 2017 - Susan M. from Petoskey was still wearing her hunter orange. On December 15, 2017 - David said 18+" of soft snow! Great Skiing. A couple hikers got out on the trail in March of 2018 and there was still snow on the trail. May 7, 2018 - Sampson felt "This section of trail feels very little used. Apart from the Jordan



My friend Sabrina and her sons
Braylen and River

River Valley I haven't seen a hiker in 3 days." May 13, 2018 - Kate and Bret of Petoskey were out mushroom hunting. May 18, 2018 - Spencer and Lindsey enjoyed an "Evening date hike! Amazing!"



June 1, 2018 - Mike was on "Day 5 south from Mackinaw cooled down great day. Started Day at Skyline shelter." June 5, 2018 - "Tim Kim hike walking to Wisconsin started at Starvation Lake Road. There was a terrible beaver out. Other than that Great trail. Have a Great Day." On September 16, 2018 - "Jeff, Peggy, Gidget and Ziggy - Chief Noondag Chapter. Day Hiking". September 22, 2018 - There was a JV45 Group Hike. October 23, 2018 - "Continuing my MI thru hike (WI to OH) Peace, love, and pumpkin pie. Shayna, Golden, CO. Christmas Day, 2018 say the "Groskopf and Gray Family Christmas Hike. Lovely snow and sunshine. Fox and ruffed grouse tracks and lots of deer trails. How blessed we are. Merry Christmas! April 21, 2019 - Dave Lesh, Petoskey "Beautiful Run! Thank you to the Trail Coordinators for clearing Trees!" May 4, 2019 - "Troop 7, Petoskey, MI, training for Philmont trip. God bless, May the 4th be with you! Beautiful trail." Also on May 4, 2019 NCTA Annual Celebration Hike saw a group of 8 hikers. 5-11-19 - Nice day for a bike ride. Thank you to the folks who help keep the trail clear. 5-30-19 - Annie Nelson St. Paul, MN, Hiking half the NCT. Croton Dam to ND. Loving this section. Please tell me the mosquitoes are just this bad already because of the giant marsh to the west! To follow my journey (blog and video) go to www.wildstory-site.com. Thanks for all you do!" 7/5/19 - Joni Jeffery Grand Ledge, MI Thru hiking M20 to the Bridge! 350+ miles!"

August 5, 2019 - I (Danyell) came out to check the box and brought my friend Sabrina and her sons Braylen and River (pictured here) who have never been on the NCT before.



Trim boards were added to the gable

July Workday at Skyline

Bob Haack haack@msu.edu

On the July 13th Workday, three JV45 members (Mary Campbell, John Larch & Bob Haack) along with Doug Boor and a couple of his nearby neighbors and down-state friends added many finishing touches to the Skyline Shelter. We added everything from more exterior siding and trim to porch railings, a new step, and a real toilet seat in the outhouse! Some interior work was also done as well as repairs to the entrance gate. We started a little after 9 am and worked until nearly 4 pm. Although a small group, we worked well together and accomplished a lot. There are still a couple projects left, such as staining the shelter. So be prepared.



More siding was added to finish this wall



A new base step was added

July Chapter Hike Report

Bob Courtois bcourtois@comcast.net

On July 20, 2019, after gathering at Thumb Lake Rd. (hike's end), we drove to the Springvale Rd. trail crossing and hiked 8 miles south, back to Thumb Lake Rd. This area is about 15 miles south of Petoskey. There were 11 of us plus two campers we encountered at the start. The trail is improved from a year ago from when a beaver dam backed up water that was washing down the trail. One of the highlights is Jerry's reroute around a sink hole and then the dreaded trudge up hill the better part of a mile. But the woods are older growth and provide relief from the sun. Jim Flick got a little heat stroked but was better after some Gatorade and food at the Matz's.

The weather was warm and threatened rain, but that held off until we were under cover at the Matz farm. Annie and Dave grew up in this area and are also trail adopters for parts of this section. We very much enjoyed the cool rain. At the farm we loaded up on burgers, dogs and various pot luck items. Annie Matz has a marvelous "She Shed" with a panoramic view of their house, outbuildings, corn and hayfield and a terrific garden.



Cutting the trail through the blowdown



July Hikers



Large split tree. A good test for the sawyers



Ironwood (or hophornbeam) with developing fruit clusters, which look like hops and thus the common name.



Some huge blowdown



Dave Matz, master of the grill



Edge of beaver pond. Re-route anyone?



The "She Shed" of Annie Matz

Where is Mary Campbell?

We didn't have our traditional "Message from the President" in this issue because Mary and John are out hiking. Last we knew they were at the start of the NCT in North Dakota. They will be back for sure for the workdays in late September!



Plans for JV45 Chapter Hike - August 17, 2019

(Hike + Materials Rescue & Recovery)
Deadman's to Jordan River Rd., or the Hatchery. See map at: <http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

Besides the hike, we plan to recover materials needed for the Bear River Bridge Project (see cover story). These are mostly leftover 2 x 4 boards from our 2018 projects at the bottom of Deadman's Hill. We need to move these boards about a half mile to the Jordan River Road (JRR), where later they can be loaded on a trailer and taken to Petoskey. [If some trucks are available on August 17th, we could move some of these boards (plus others that are still stored at the Hatchery) to Petoskey.]

Hike & Materials Recovery – We will gather at the Hatchery (hike's end) at 9:30am on the 17th, take a head count and ferry everyone to Deadman's trail head. From there we will go under Deadman's to rescue the materials and move them to JRR (via a temporary spur trail). Depending on the group size, we will make one or two trips to JRR and then complete the hike to the Hatchery

Another possibility, if some want a longer hike, some could start at the Warner Creek trailhead (instead of Deadman's) and walk to the hatchery. Let me know if you want to do this.

Pack a lunch for on the trail.
Questions? Call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699

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

Where I Hiked

Marblehead, Drummond Island
Bob Haack haack@msu.edu

Back in July, Sheridan and I decided to go out to eastern tip of Drummond Island, an area known as Marblehead for its limestone cliffs that drop over 100 feet to the beach below. Marblehead is the easternmost point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Drummond is Michigan's 2nd largest island, covering 87,000 acres and about 20 mi E-W and 13 mi N-S.

Drummond is an interesting place, with 140 miles of coastline, 36 inland lakes, over 60 nearby islands, and is about 68% state-owned. Drummond also has over 100 miles of ORV/ATV trails, which are also open to hiking and biking. The trails are often rugged, rocky, and if it has rained recently, low areas are filled with water. (Note the two limestone quarries on the west side of Drummond, the white areas in the photo.)



One of the cliffs at Marblehead (S. Walker)



Yellow arrow points to Marblehead

So on July 17th, a Wednesday (it is best to avoid weekends on these ORV trails), we took our bikes to the eastern side of Drummond, parked, and rode our bikes when we could, and hiked when too difficult to ride. Overall, we hiked more than we rode and concluded that next time we'd simply hike. From Glen Cove Rd there is a 6-mi-long loop trail that goes out to Marblehead. The view from Marblehead is fantastic with the Ontario shoreline to the north, Cockburn Island (part of Ontario) to the south, and the North Channel in between. There is a trail to the bottom of the cliff that goes out to a shale stone beach.

Drummond is well worth a visit. Besides Marblehead, many people visit the Maxton Plains Alvar (where plants grow on flat exposed limestone) and the Fossil Ledges, both on the north side. Transportation to Drummond is easy, with ferry service year-round from Detour on nearly an hourly basis. There are many places to camp at as well as cabins to rent.



Trail to Marblehead. Hmmm, ride or walk?

Mary Campbell - President
mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Eugene Branigan – Vice President
eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer
amat57@yahoo.com

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
delawton@torchlake.com

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

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

Where I Hiked

Pico Duarte

Susan Miller slmiller150@gmail.com

"Where in the world is Pico Duarte?" I get this question a lot when I talk about a recent hike. Pico Duarte is located in the San Juan Mountains in northwestern Dominican Republic (DR). At 10,300 ft, it is the tallest peak in the Caribbean, and is contained in one of the Dominican's national parks. While Pico Duarte may never attain the fame of Kilimanjaro or the Inca Trail, it carries a character all its own. "Why Pico Duarte?" this is an easier question to answer. I had the opportunity once again to join in a CauseTrek through *Compassion International*. I could combine my love for hiking and exploring new places with the passion that I hold for the children and ministry of Compassion, since one of the purposes of this trip was to raise funds for Compassion's Youth Development Program. The hike took place in February 2019. I boarded the plane in Kinross to the thermometer reading of -9°F. I received a "warm welcome" (86°F.) for my overnight stay in Miami, and met up with the rest of the group the following day for travel to the DR. The first couple days in the country were spent visiting several churches that are the basis for child development centers that are part of the Compassion's programs. The second project we visited was high up in the mountains, accessible only by truck (leaving the bus behind). Hiking the mile up from there to the remote park entrance,

we got a taste for what the trek was going to be like. (Can we say "hills")? The following is a description of the trek.

DAY 0: We walked a mile up the hill from the center to the southwest edge of the park. I felt a little like the Pied Piper, as we were trailed by local children from the surrounding communities, perhaps attracted by the novelty of white women, and the possibility of gifts. We entered a small fenced-in compound where workers from the guide company were hard at work setting up several large tents, sorting and packing supplies, and preparing snacks. We helped as best we could, but still felt a little at a loss. Settled into "his" and "her" tents for the night. I am awakened by roosters, braying mules, and the dripping of water on my face (condensation!). What in the world am I doing? Reminded that many people of this world pack even more people into an even smaller living space.

DAY 1: After a breakfast that included porridge (akin to warm tapioca pudding in taste and texture), the 8 of us trekkers plus 2 DR Compassion staff members, lined up for a photo before heading uphill. The path was rocky in places, and reminded me a lot of the terrain around my hometown of Prescott, AZ, only a little more tropical. Martin led the way on his mule. A good thing, as there were no blue blazes or any other markings, and the trail was criss-crossed by a number of cow paths. Many dramatic views and vistas as we traversed this portion of the park. But that also meant a LOT of up and down. And up.... and down. Think ascents and descents akin to Deadman's Hill, added together and multiplied! I really wish I knew just what the elevation change was. Finally the valley where we



The 8 CauseTrek Hikers and 2 Staff

would be camping appeared. One more LONG descent, a river crossing, and, after 17 miles, we had arrived. A place called "Valle Del Tetero," elev. 4800 ft. The porter mules had long since passed us, and our tents had been set up, campfire was blazing, and we were served a popcorn appetizer before dinner. All was quiet, except for the sound of night creatures and the nearby river. (And the sight of SOMETHING hanging in a nearby tree...).

DAY 2: A scheduled "day of rest." Highly welcomed!! A chance to wash up in the river, attend to hotspots on the feet, and visit with each other and some of the guides. Turns out the "thing" in the tree was actually a whole pig, now being slow-roasted over the campfire. About midday, other guests and groups began arriving. Turns out we had come in the back door, and they came via the main trail. They brought a lot of spirit (or shall I say, "spirits"?), with them, which really livened things up. Made for a "festive" night. Our group left the main camp area for a visit to a nearby waterfall, and got to ride the mules to a scenic meadow we would be hiking through in the dark the next morning. Riding the mules this short distance made us all glad we could walk on our



Scenic side trip on the 'porter mules'



The Up's and Down's of the DR Landscape



A ridge-top village



The DR shares the Island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Much of the country is covered in Hispaniolan Pine, a subtropical pine.

own two feet! Dinner was the best roast pork I've had in a long time, accompanied by rice and pineapple.

DAY 3: After a breakfast of porridge and assorted energy bars of choice, we started up the trail. And I truly mean UP. Other than a few spots where it leveled out, and a descent to the final base camp, it was a climb with a distance of about 12 miles. Rocky, muddy,yet some incredible views. A rest stop at the origin of two rivers. We arrived into a camp, "La Compartición" appropriately named, as that means "the sharing." Elev. 7932 ft. It was also packed with people, but a much quieter crowd than the night before since these people had summited that day. Needed to watch out for the dried grass.... as it may be mule droppings....the mules are staked out around the area, and some

quite vocal about it! Popcorn snack, and leftover pork for dinner. Time spent around the campfire again, hearing the stories of a couple of our guides who had been sponsored children as part of the Compassion program. Inspiring!

DAY 4: Up early for a 4:30 am departure. Ascend the last 2400 ft., arriving at the peak in time to watch the sunrise. Breathtaking! It is just us and a couple other people at this time. Once back at a saddle ("Valle de Lilis, ele. 9440 ft), some of us then opt to ascend La Pelona, a sister peak to Pico Duarte, that was once thought to be the highest peak, until GPS touted it as 6 meters lower. Returned to camp that was pretty much deserted and all ours. Yea! Total hiking distance of about 10 miles. Hung out playing cards, resting,

visiting, etc. The only rain of the whole hike came on this afternoon. Nice that we could hang out in our tents, or at the shelter by the fire. Since this is also part of the National Park, there were kitchen and restroom facilities (manual flush) in addition to the shelter and some dormitory-like buildings. And a pay phone (no longer connected).

DAY 5: Up early again for a 6:30 am departure ("Dominican time", which meant it might be 6:30, might be 6:45...). Retrace our steps from 2 days prior, until a fork in the path which led down the main trail to the official park entrance (elev. 3552). Down, down, down! 13 miles down. My downhill muscles were really screaming. Much more humid as we reached the end. More flowers too. We said thank you and good-bye to our guides and mule handlers, and head by bus down a very winding road to reach the hotel, where a hot shower, meal, and soft bed awaits.

What can I conclude with? The peak offered some incredible views, especially with the rising of the sun. But the hike was much more than reaching the peak. As with any hike, it was about the journey. The journey that views each phase of the trail with open eyes and with anticipation of what might be around the corner. The journey of enjoying each moment and new experience. The journey that brought strangers together to end as friends. And the journey of joining with Compassion to help change young people's lives.



At the summit on Pico Duarte