

## Upcoming Events

**April 16; Saturday: 10 am. Pre-Hike Work Event.** See details on this page.

**April 16; Saturday: 12 noon. Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike.** We will meet at noon at the Subway Restaurant near Elmira at the corner of US-131 and M-32 and make arrangements for shuttling vehicles. We plan to start hiking by 12:30. The hike will start from Pinney Bridge to Jordan River Road, which is about 8 miles. You could also stop the hike after about 5 mi. Early predictions are for 50s and sun! Contact Eugene for details at 989-217-8001 or eugene.branigan@gmail.com

**April 30; Saturday: 9 am. Trail Work Day and cookout.** Meet at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, Elmira. Contact Dove. See details on p. 4.

**May 21; Saturday; noonish? Pre-Hike Work Event.** Details will be sent by email in May. Contact Duane.

**May 21; Saturday: 1 pm. Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike.** Meet at Subway near Elmira at corner of US-131 and M-32 and make arrangements for shuttling vehicles. This will be a continuation from the April hike, starting along the Jordan River Rd to Dobleski Rd, about 7 mi. Contact Eugene.

**May 21; Saturday: 5 pm. JV45 Chapter Meeting,** Boyne Falls Fire Hall. Plan on a pot luck dinner.

**May 28; Saturday: 9 am. Trail Work Day and cookout** Meet at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, Elmira. Contact Dove. See details on p. 4.

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

## Message from JV45 President Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

**W**elcome to spring! If this pesky snow would just give up. My apologies to all you snow lovers, but I'm ready for warm weather.

My, is there a lot in the works. I'll leave it to the many articles to school ya. Check out the table of contents.

## Pre-Hike Event: 4-16-2016

**A**re you coming to the Hike 100 event in April? If so, consider joining us for a REGISTER BOX & ROAD MARKER POST PLANTING. We will be planting these trail fixtures at Starvation Lake Road, which is the southernmost extent of JV45 territory. Meet us at the Subway near Elmira (junction of US-131 and M-32) at 10:00 am to shuttle, or meet us at the NCT Starvation Lake Road crossing at 10:30. Be there or be elsewhere!

This is our first of three register boxes to plant this year, and the first of twenty road marker posts.

Let Duane know if you can help with this event. delawton@torchlake.com



Starvation Lake Road distance sign

With the exception of the Trail Work Days, we don't have work days scheduled yet, but as you will see, there is a lot coming up. Figure out where you want to participate, and dive in!

Our May meeting will be coordinated with the May Hike 100 group hike on May 21st...more details to come. Duane

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

## Report on Hike 100 in March 2016

**H**ere are the nine March marchers who hiked from Harvey Road past Landslide Overlook, Cascade Creek, and the 45th Parallel to Pinney Bridge, about 5 miles. Look, no snow!! No leaves, either. Eugene's theme was "St. Patrick's Day". We're looking forward to the April 16th hike in the heart of the Jordan Valley.



Hikers at 45th (l-r): Eugene Branigan, Bill Courtois, Linus Branigan, Dove and John Day, Mary Campbell, Tim and Karen Roth, and Duane Lawton. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Eugene brought a banner which read "Erin Go Bragh," which is often translated as *Ireland Forever*.

To see the most current JV45 trail conditions visit: [http://northcountry-trail.org/j45/?page\\_id=58](http://northcountry-trail.org/j45/?page_id=58). To report conditions e-mail Dove and John Day at [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) or call 231-373-0090 or 231-838-6445



Along Cascade Creek



At Landslide Overlook

## CURRENT JV45 GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – President  
[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

Eugene Branigan – Vice President  
[eugene.branigan@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.branigan@gmail.com)

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator  
[joshberlo@gmail.com](mailto:joshberlo@gmail.com)

Mary Campbell – Secretary  
[marymcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com](mailto:marymcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com)

Todd Winnell - Treasurer, and  
Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator  
[jen@charter.net](mailto:jen@charter.net)

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator  
[haack@msu.edu](mailto:haack@msu.edu)

John & Dove Day – Trail Coordinators:  
[doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)  
[johnanddove@gmail.com](mailto:johnanddove@gmail.com)

## Petoskey Trail Town Celebration 4th Annual

**O**ur kickoff meeting was held at Petoskey City Hall on April 6th, with Duane Lawton, Dove & John Day, Jim Stamm (Harbor Springs NCTA Chapter President), Al Hansen (Petoskey Parks and Rec. Director) and Sue Bouwense (Top of Michigan Trails Council). We organized. Here are some key facts:

When: 2016 National Trails Day, June 4th  
Where: Petoskey Bayfront Park, Waterfall Area  
(on the Little Traverse Wheelway/NCT)  
What: 10:00 Shuttle to your choice of 3 hikes  
arriving back at the celebration site.  
12:00 Lunch, with musical entertainment  
1:00 Presentations and a Raffle  
2:00 Displays, activities, more entertainment  
Why: Why not? Or, Petoskey is a Trail  
Town of the North Country Trail!

Here are 2 pictures from the 2015 3rd Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration







Dove Day, Tamera Dean (new JV45 member), and Nancy Kowaleski (soon to be a JV45 member.)

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Quiet Water Symposium

The Quiet Water Symposium was held at the Michigan State University Pavilion in East Lansing on March 5, 2016. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that our chapter has presented information at this day-long show, which celebrates non-motorized outdoor recreation and a shared concern for our Great Lakes Environment.

Dozens of exhibits on the main floor showcased groups that take care of trails, outfit water excursions, give information about travel and parks, sell books and share artistic endeavors. Presentations from authors, photographers and travelers took place throughout the day in various rooms, where knowledge was shared along with experiences of personal adventures.

Our very own Gary Johnson, Bob Schrems, and Dove and John Day assisted in our booth to offer information on our chapter's chunk of the North

Country Trail. Other chapters were there as well, including Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore and the Western Michigan Chapter. We educated many visitors who had not heard of the trail, and others who knew about it but wanted more information. Gary and Bob provided and transported tables, banners, brochures and maps to make our space flow with information. Bob talked to a lot of visitors about Isle Royale, as he has been lucky enough to enjoy the jewel many times.

Our big hit of the day was Bob's "guess the weight of the backpack" where kids and adults alike had to guess the closest weight of his fully stocked pack to win a prize. Bob changes the weight every time, and this year the winner was Scott Rantala of Ada, Michigan. He won an Isle Royale t-shirt with his guess of 32 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations Scott!

Some notable persons that visited our booth were Jim DuFresne, author of multiple books on adventures in Michigan, Dennis R. Hansen, author of "Trail



Guess the weight?

Atlas of Michigan", as well as many other friends and NCTA members. Bruce Matthews, NCTA Executive Director, absolutely loved the design of the Jordan Valley 45° register boxes.

Many of the people that stopped by the booth were attracted by the display of the register box. It was on a stand and included a journal so that people could sign it while we talked to them about the trail. It was a perfect conversation starter! Bruce Matthews even encouraged us to share the plans in the North Star magazine.

All in all it was another great year at the Symposium and another great event for Jordan Valley 45°. John Day



Dennis Hansen visits with Gary Johnson, Bob Schrems,



John Day and Dennis Hansen



## Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day (pictured below)



Spring has arrived and it's time once again to get the trail into shape for the upcoming season. Our dedicated trail adopters have been out doing work and trail reports have been rolling in. Steve Schnell has cleared over 30 trees and 6 big tangles of fallen trees in his section just recently. Thanks to Steve, and to all the adopters who have had numerous trees come down over their section of trail. We are looking forward to another great year on the trail and want everyone to enjoy their experience on it. If you are interested in helping with trail work, we would love your help!

Mark your calendars for two upcoming work days. The Jordan Valley 45° chapter will be hosting two work days the last Saturdays of April and May. By the end of April we will have a good idea of what sections are in the greatest need of repair. Trail adopters have been out on the trail working hard, but some areas will need a little more attention this year, and the adopters could use our help.

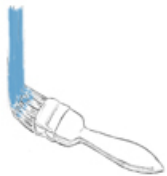
We will meet at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery at 9:00 am on both Saturdays. The address is 6623 Turner Rd, Elmira, MI 49730.

Work will be delegated on arrival, depending on need. Bring a lunch, plenty of water, and your favorite work/paint clothes. We hope you can join us! For more information contact Dove Day at [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) or call John Day at 231-838-6445.



Our dedicated members can't resist trail work while hiking! Here are trail adopters Tim Roth and Bob Courtois clearing a fallen tree.

## Jordan Valley 45° Trail Work Days, Spring 2016 Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup>



Mark your calendars for two upcoming work days! The Jordan Valley 45° chapter will be hosting two work days the last Saturdays of April and May. By the end of April we will have a good idea of what sections are in the greatest need of repair. Trail adopters have been out on the trail working hard, but some areas will need a little more attention this year, and the adopters could use our help.

If you are chainsaw certified, we need you!  
If you are good with a paint brush, we need you!  
If you can carry stuff, we need you!

Lets work together to get the trail in tip-top shape!



We will meet at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery at 9:00 a.m. both days. The address is 6623 Turner Rd, Elmira, MI 49730. Work will be delegated upon arrival. Bring a lunch/snack, plenty of water, your favorite work/paint clothes, and all safety gear.

**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!**

At the end of the day John and Dove Day will host a **CAMPFIRE COOKOUT** at their property near Vanderbilt, **CAMP 437**. It is located 6 miles from the Thumb Lake Rd/Slashing Rd. North Country Trail. After a busy work day out on the trail, enjoy conversation and a campfire with hot dogs and campfire chili. Bring your own drinks, tableware, and a dish/snack to share that goes well with chili dogs. ☺ Directions to camp will be handed out on the work day.

If you are a Jordan Valley 45° member traveling to the workday, you are welcome to stay at **CAMP 437** Saturday night. This is backcountry camping with NO modern facilities. Water is available to filter from the West Branch of the Sturgeon River. Pitch a tent or car camp if you'd like. If you want to make a weekend out of it and do more trail work on Sunday, the camp is centrally located approximately 45 minutes from either end of the Jordan Valley 45° section.

For more information contact John or Dove, Jordan Valley 45° Trail Coordinators @ [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) or call John at 231-838-6445.

### A Call for Help

The Friends of the Jordan River Fish Hatchery (FOH) are looking for a chainsaw certified person who would be willing to join FOH (no membership fee) or at least be a NCTA member who would be willing to conduct the chainsawing for their 2-mile-long adopted section near the hatchery. This is section "G" of the JV45 portion of the NCT.

In addition, the FOH are also in need of someone who could weed whip the bracken fern along section G in the summer. Both chores could take place about once a year, with chainsawing in spring, and weed whipping in late June or July.

The FOH would be very grateful to find someone to take on these two chores. The

member would receive a very nice Friends of the Hatchery hat or t-shirt of their choosing, both high quality items. If you are interested in joining the FOH to care for and help with their adopted section please contact Dove Day at 231-373-0090 or [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)



Another fallen tree is being moved off the trail by Karen Roth, Duane Lawton, Tim Roth and Mary Campbell

## Iron Belle Trail Round 2 Funding

Kenny Wawsczyk

NCTA Michigan Regional Trail Coordinator. (The following is copied from the April issue of the "1150" Newsletter)

**A**s you may recall the NCTA received and put in for 11 applications totaling almost \$230,000 worth of projects. With a pot of \$350,000 and all other applicants applying for nearly \$923,000 worth of projects it was obvious we weren't going to get everything we asked for.

We did receive word that three of our applications were funded totaling \$66,500. One of those three applications included \$30,000 for the design and engineering for a bridge over the Blind Sucker River which lies just west of Muskallonge Lake State Park in Luce County in the Michigan U.P. Currently hikers either have to ford the river or follow its banks until you can cross it at the road bridge.

The NCTA applied for three separate route planning projects. Each of these were for \$30,000 to hire a planning firm for the Upper Peninsula, Northern Lower and Southern part of Michigan. These professional firms will be able to assist the chapters to help identify the optimal route and determine what's necessary to acquire access in order to close some of the major gaps along the trail. From the three the NCTA was awarded, one \$30,000 grant allowed us to pick which area we want a planning firm to begin their work. We have decided it would be best to divide this money and spread it over both the northern and southern Lower Peninsula. We still need to discuss with the chapters priorities and with the firms about how much these limited funds can get us. This will be a new adventure and hopefully we can learn a lot from the firms about how to pursue future planning needs. Not to be left out we will use funds from the NPS to hire a planning firm to help connect the gap from the Silver Lake Basin to Little Garlic Falls in the U.P.

The third grant that was awarded was for \$6,500 for informational panels to be placed at trailheads and other key locations along the trail. These 3'x4' panels can showcase the entire state and highlight certain areas of interest or they may be customized to provide more detailed information on a local level.

I want to thank all the chapters for either helping with the applications or making us aware of projects that are in need for funding. Even though all the projects did not receive funding it makes it that much easier to apply for future grants.

You might be asking, "What projects didn't get funded then?" Well there were the two other planning grants totaling \$60,000 along with another \$30,000 planning project NCTA was asked to submit for Calhoun County and MDOT. There were 3 applications totaling over \$21,000 for puncheon at Laughing Whitefish Falls, Craik Lake State Park, and various locations through-



Interpretive panel design.

out the Ottawa National Forest. One was for material to install 12"x12" aluminum hiker signs at road crossing and install mileage signs at trailheads in order to create uniformity within the Ottawa NF. Then there was the application for a bridge over the Little Iron River in the Porcupine Mountains State Park. We later talked to the DNR and came up with the decision to apply for this in the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant. Hopefully I'll be writing about how this was funded later on this year!

## Submit Your Stories and Pictures

**D**on't forget that this is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues. Also, we want to run a "Where I Hiked" column in each issue of the JV45 Newsletter. Eugene Branigan started off this series with a story in the last issue. I didn't have any submissions for this current issue, so I wrote a "dog-walking story" from our recent trip to the South. I'm sure you don't want any more dog-walking stories, so submit reports of your own adventures! The next issue will be out in early June, so send stories by the last week in May. Bob Haack



# **Jordan Valley 45° Chapter, NCTA**

## **Chapter Meeting Minutes (Draft), March 19, 2016:**

6 pm – Boyne Valley Township Fire Hall  
in Boyne Falls, MI

Meeting preceded by group hike and scrumptious potluck dinner!

**1. Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order by Chapter Vice President Eugene Branigan, with 13 chapter members and visitors in attendance.

**2. Minutes from January 9, 2016.** The Draft minutes were published in the prior newsletter and approved as presented. Motion by Duane Lawton, seconded by Tim Roth, Motion carried.

**3. Financial Report.** Chapter account balance was \$3,212.22 as of Dec 31, 2015, an exact update was not available at the March meeting, but it was noted that the only significant change is the addition of a \$500 grant received for the material costs associated with road crossing posts.

### **4. 2016 Current and Proposed Activities & Updates**

**A. Trail re-routes.** Re-routes are planned for the following areas:  
**1. Conway to Kipp Road.** Possible routing through a Little Traverse Conservancy preserve is being explored.

**2. Skyline Trail and North Central Michigan College.** Various routes have been and continue to be explored. This re-route is likely to be multi-stage process while permission is sought to cross a limited number of private properties. The initial work will likely involve some clearing and blazing of the route across Bear Creek Township property. This effort is a collaborative effort with the City of Petoskey, Bear Creek Township, Petoskey Public Schools and JV45° representatives.

**B. Jordan Valley trail work.** Heidi Schafer (Antrim County Conservation District) and Eugene Branigan are preparing the necessary permit applications for work below Deadman's Hill and between Cascade Creek and Cascade Road.

**C. Skyline Camp Update.** The platform tent/yurt collapsed during the winter. Duane will talk with property owner Doug Boor to discuss whether to repair or replace the structure. There was some discussion of the potential replacement with an Adirondack type shelter to better withstand the weather.

**D. Dobleski Road Re-route.** No change, still planned. NCTA tried to contact one property owner to explore obtaining permission to cross their property, but have not received a response.

**E. Register Boxes.** 3 additional register boxes to be constructed and located during 2016.

**F. Bear River Bridge.** After completion of engineering for bridge is completed (currently underway), pursue funding

sources, including City and College planning to submit a joint grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the 2017 grant cycle (which if awarded would provide up to 75% of the cost for expenditure in 2018).

**G. Group Hikes.** In combination with the NCT Hike 100 Challenge, Eugene Branigan is leading a group hike during the 3rd weekend each month this year.

**H. Trail Town Celebration (June 4).** Jen Winnell coordinating the JV45° chapter involvement and participation in the event with the Harbor Springs NCT chapter and the City of Petoskey to raise local awareness of the NCT.

### **5. Additional Announcements**

**A. Top of Michigan Trail Council Ultimate Trailhead Facility.** New facility on M-119 and the Little Traverse Wheelway (NCT on Wheelway at that location), renovations currently underway but will be available for our meeting use in the future.

**B. NCTA Signage Grant.** Two panel signs are proposed to be located within the JV 45° section; one proposed at Landslide Overlook and possibly the Top of Michigan Trail Council. One such sign already exists in the Bear River Valley.

**C. Quiet Water Symposium (March 6).** JV 45° chapter representatives participated to share information about the NCT and our section.

**6. Featured Presentation:** Information on the Florida Trail presented by Bob and Sheridan Haack. Bob and Sheridan provided a wonderful overview of the Florida Trail, one of the 11 National Scenic Trails, including personal experiences and inspiring photos.

Next meeting: May 21, 2016

Chapter meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Campbell



January 23. Three of the 5 hikers at the 1st "Hike 100" hike:  
(l-r) Linus Branigan, Duane Lawton, and Eugene Branigan.  
Not shown: Bill & Bob Courtois.

## Skyline to North Central Michigan College (NCMC): New Route Update

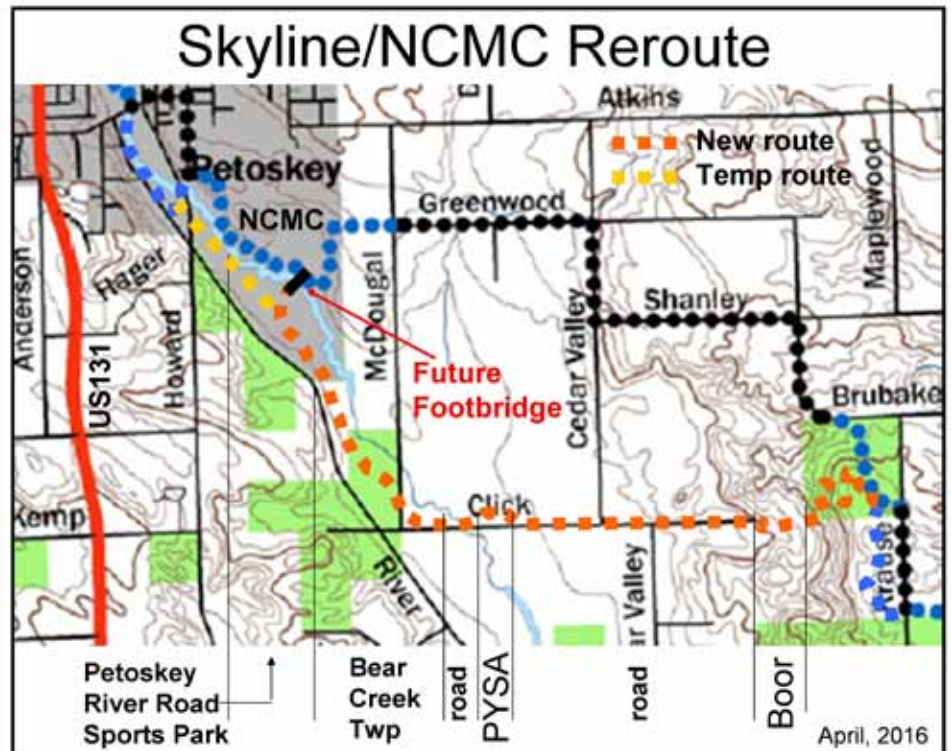
The saga continues. Our final settled route corridor descends from the existing Skyline Trail to Click road, with the last little piece crossing land belonging to our landowner/benefactors Doug and Pam Boor. It then follows Click Road until just after it crosses the Bear River. We then dive into vacant land owned by Bear Creek Township, and together with a short walk on McDougal Road, this gets us to the south end of the Petoskey River Road Sports Park. It is in the sports park that we will build the pedestrian bridge to cross back over the Bear River into the North Central Michigan Natural Area, where we rejoin the current trail.

Our intended timetable is:

2016—Build the trail from Skyline to Click Rd, across the Bear Creek Township property and Petoskey River Road Sports Park, and temporarily bypass the NCMC Natural Area by a shortcut to Howard St and thence to Riverbend Park.

2017—Complete the preliminary work for the pedestrian bridge MNRTF grant application process and matching funding, work with landowners along Click Rd to get as much off Click Rd as possible.

2018—Build the pedestrian bridge.



We met with the Boors on April 6th. They are supportive, and we expect to have a written agreement this month. We will jointly walk their property and define a route. We also have to flag a route on Petoskey Skyline property from the current trail down to the Boor property boundary. That will probably involve some switchbacks, as it is a nearly 300' descent. Hopefully we can have a trail-building project in June.

We have met with Bear Creek Township officials twice (Rec. Committee, and the Board of Trustees). They are supportive, and we should have a jointly agreed route and a written agreement shortly. I'm told there isn't much trail building required, mainly blazing, we'll see. Trail work for July-August. See map. Duane Lawton

## Skyline Camp Damage

This mild (but interminable) winter dealt us an unwelcome blow at Skyline Camp. Our "yurt" suffered a collapse, which was probably a combination of snow load and wind. The canvas shell is severely ripped, and the ridge beam and several of the other members are broken. There is a hole in the deck caused when the roof collapsed. Dove and John Day have salvaged what could be (thanks).

I've talked the situation over with Doug Boor, who donated the yurt and the use of his land for Skyline Camp, and we have agreed that the best course of action will be to replace the yurt with a stick-built/permanently roofed structure on the existing platform.

It will take us a while to figure out a construction plan and source the materials. I'm hoping we can have a build event in the fall. It looks like for this summer, the campsite is open and available....for tenting. Duane Lawton



Feb 20, 2016. JV45 Group Hike along the NCT from Cinder Hill Road up along Harvey Road near Alba, MI. Hikers were (l-r): Dove Day, Linus Branigan, Tamera Dean, Bob Courtois, and Eugene Branigan.



# Where I Hiked

## The “Palmetto Trail” at the Crooked River State Park near St. Marys, Georgia.

Bob Haack

**B**ack in February and March, Sheridan and I took a few weeks off from shoveling snow in northern Michigan and traveled with our two dogs, Duster and Shelby, to the southeastern USA. Our first stop was near St. Marys, Georgia, where we rented a dog-friendly cabin at Crooked River State Park. This 500-acre park is located on the intracoastal waterway near the Georgia-Florida border, and across the river from Cumberland Island, now a “National Seashore” managed by the National Park Service that is well-known for its secluded beaches, wild horses, and several mansions of the Carnegie family who once owned about 90% of the island. There are about 50 miles of hiking trails on Cumberland Island, but dogs are not allowed!



“Plum Orchard” was to be a simple house built in 1898 for the son George Carnegie. Now, about 21,724 square feet after the 1906 additions. It was donated to the National Park Foundation in 1971, which helped gain congressional approval for establishing Cumberland Island National Seashore. There are daily tours.

As all dog owners know, it is mandatory to walk your dog daily, the more often the better.



Close-up of teeth along leaf stem of the saw palmetto.

Photo: <http://idtools.org/>

The 1.5-mile-long “Palmetto Trail” ran close to our cabin and we walked it nearly every day. The trail wound through the pine flatwoods, an ecosystem adapted to periodic fire, which is dominated by longleaf pine, saw palmetto and wiregrass.

Longleaf pine is the dominant tree in this

habitat, having 10-15 inch-long needles in bundles of 3, and the largest cones of any eastern pine at 6-12 inches long. The wood of longleaf pine is very resistant to termites and decay fungi, and therefore was commonly used in construction and shipbuilding. In addition the resin of longleaf pine was collected and distilled for the naval stores industry to make pitch, tar, turpentine and rosin. Only a small fraction (< 3%) of the original longleaf pine ecosystem still exists today, but there is now a major push to restore this tree to many parts of the South. An endangered species of woodpecker, the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW), forms cooperative breeding groups, and nests only in living pine trees, especially longleaf pines. We didn’t see any RCWs, but we were looking. However, our dogs did encounter a few armadillos along the trail, and thought they’d be fun to play with, but it was the wild hogs that really caught their interest.

The understory of the pine forest is dominated by Saw Palmetto, which gives the trail its name “Palmetto Trail.” The saw palmetto is a palm with a largely prostrate trunk and often forms dense thickets and only grows 6-10 feet tall. The word “saw” in its name refers to the saw-like teeth that run along the outer edges of the leaf stem. This was a great plant to force our dogs to stay on the trail!

Wiregrass is a native, warm-season, perennial grass common to pine flatwoods in the Southeast. It grows in clumps that often reach 2-3 feet tall. This grass is well adapted to fire in that it grows back quickly after fire, and flowering is stimulated by fire. Today, land managers often use prescribed fire to maintain the longleaf pine ecosystem, which helps maintain the plants mentioned above as well as many associated animals such as the gopher tortoise and indigo snake.

As we traveled from Crooked River State Park to our next destination in the Florida Panhandle, we saw several active prescribed burns occurring in longleaf pine stands. While in Florida, our dogs took us on several more interesting trails on both state and federal lands. Sheridan and I made a short



The “Palmetto Trail” meanders through the pine flatwoods ecosystem, which is dominated by longleaf pine, saw palmetto and wiregrass. The last prescribed fire used in this stand was in 2003.

presentation on some of these trails at the last JV45 Chapter meeting, including the Florida National Scenic Trail. But alas, all good things must come to an end, and soon we were driving back to Michigan where our dogs were happy to see snow again! The South was much too warm for them.



Longleaf pine cone.

