

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 6



Calendar

ANNUAL MEETING 2016

Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016

Time 11:00 a.m.

B.J.'s Restaurant

990N. Center Ave.

Gaylord, MI.

Elections, (see pg.3&5)

Guest speakers

Awards

Buffet available

KEEP IT 100 HIKES

Jan.1, 2016 and every

3rd. weekend

Contact: eugene.branigan@gmail.com for details

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December, 2015



President's Editorial by Duane Lawton

Holy Cow it's December. Another full year is behind us. I mean "full" in the full sense [☺]—we did a lot. I was happy to participate with all of you in projects and hikes. Now we can start thinking about what 2016 will bring.

2016 is the centennial year of the National Park Service. Eugene Branigan is leading our chapter's activity observing this milestone—Hike 100—see his article.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 9th at BJ's in Gaylord (11:00 am, buffet lunch). I hope you can join me. Elections, Speakers, Awards, Oh My!

The Absent Ballot for our election is in this newsletter on pg.5.

We are honored to have the DNR Trails' Staff as our speaker at the meeting. I don't how many of Paige Perry, Emily Meyerson and Paul Yauk will join us, but be prepared to learn a lot of what the Michigan DNR is up to with regard to trails, especially the hiking ones.

I am ecstatic that our Trail Adopters Dashboard is now ALL GREEN! A big kudos to our Trail Coordinators Dove and John Day—and to you adopters. Details

We had an enjoyable if small Last Chance Hike on November 14th. The dusting of snow was beautiful before it evaporated, and the weather was mild. A couple of pictures below...

We got quite a lot of attention as a chapter in the October-December NorthStar magazine! I hope you saw it. I've made my contribution—in this newsletter—of "Where I've Hiked", recounting the July trip mentioned by Lorana Jinkerson in her NorthStar article on page 25.

I hope to see you on January 9th! *Duane Lawton*, delawton@torchlake.com



Photos: "Last Chance Hike Before Deer Hunting"

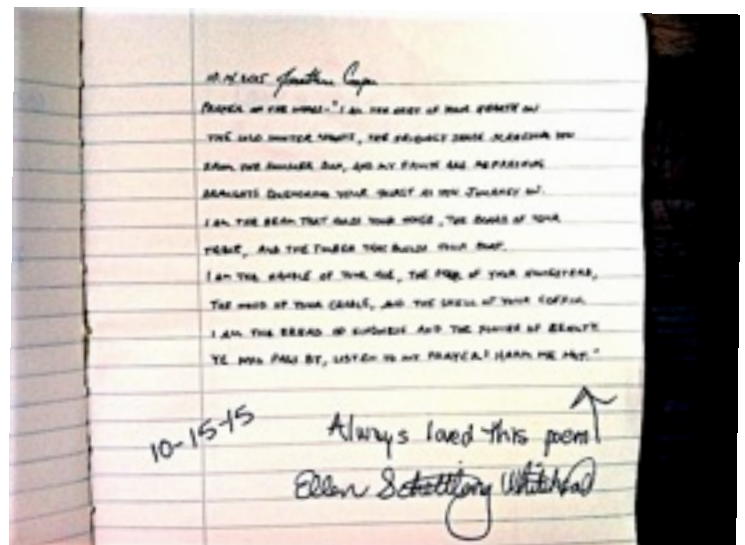
Prayer of the Woods

Sometimes what we get in our trail logs is mundane, sometimes it's impolite, but sometimes it's inspiring. For example:

10-15-2015 Jonathan Cooper

Prayer of the Woods—"I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun, and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on. I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, and the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin. I am the bread of kindness and the flower of beauty. Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer and harm me not."

10-15-2015 Always loved this poem...Ellen Schettlong Whitehead



Chapter Elections

Following the Nov. 30 deadline for nominations announced in the October newsletter article about our upcoming annual elections, we have the following results:

President (incumbent Duane Lawton)

Candidates: Duane Lawton, nominated by Dove Day, seconded by Eugene Branigan

Communications Coordinator (incumbent Amy Wilks)

Candidates: Bob Haack, nominated by Duane Lawton, seconded by Eugene Branigan

Leadership Committee Member at Large—Trail Town Coordinator (incumbent Jen Winnell)

Candidates: Jen Winnell, nominated by Duane Lawton, seconded by Dove Day

Secretary (incumbent Mary Campbell)

Candidates: Mary Campbell, nominated by Dove Day, seconded by John Day

(Note that Mary has agreed to serve during 2016, but not 2017, due to other plans)

The incumbents who are being nominated (and accepting nomination) do so mostly because there were no other nominations tendered. According to our bylaws, a person can serve in one position for at most two terms, and in multiple positions at most four terms. Unfortunately, we have a proud tradition of violating this rule.

The election will be held at our January Annual Meeting. Those of you who cannot attend still have an opportunity to participate, by voting with the absentee ballot below, which must be received by December 31st. You can write-in nominations on the absentee ballot, and you can nominate additional candidates in person at the January meeting. All chapter members in good standing (I don't know of any otherwise) can vote and can hold office. Nominate yourself, or nominate someone else. A "second" to any nomination is also required. Do not nominate someone unless they have agreed to fulfill the responsibilities of the position if elected.

Send your absentee ballots to Dove Day, by Dec.31. If you write-in a nomination, the candidate can submit a brief statement which will be read at the meeting/election (max. 100 words).

doveday70@gmail.com or 3839 Brubaker Rd., Petoskey, MI 49770

Postion Responsibilities

These positions are members of the chapter's Leadership Committee(Board of Directors), for 2-yr. terms,
President

The President shall preside at all meetings, direct the activities of the Chapter, and act as spokesperson and chief liaison to the national NCTA for the Chapter. The President and/or Leadership Committee may appoint or remove as necessary ad hoc committees with agreement of each other. The president is a voting member of all standing or special committees. [Further duties could be added here.]

Secretary The Secretary shall be responsible for the following:

1. Maintain a written permanent record of Leadership Committee meetings which shall be reviewed and approved at the next Leadership Committee meeting.
2. Carrying out general correspondence relating to club activities.
3. Providing copies of printed materials dispersed to the public or members to the national NCTA.
4. Custodian of all properties and titles thereof other than the monies of the Chapter.

Communications Coordinator shall be responsible for the following:

1. Maintain contact with membership regarding renewals, etc.
2. Maintain membership information including volunteer hours
3. Editor of bimonthly chapter newsletter
4. Initiate publicity/recruitment activities

Leadership Committee Member at Large—Trail Town Coordinator

The chapter bylaws have no official duties for this position. In general, the TTC should:

1. Maintain contact with government and business within the Trail Town to further promotion of the NCT.
2. Organize Trail Town activities.
3. Be the chapter focal point for coordination with the Trail Town.

ABSENTEE BALLOT ON NEXT PAGE-PLEASE VOTE IF YOU AREN'T ATTENDING MEETING

A 2016 Project – Road Crossing Markers

While hiking downstate this fall, I was impressed by the road crossing marker posts erected by the West Michigan Chapter. They have the road name and a blue blaze routed on the side of the post seen approaching the road, and a 9" NCT emblem facing the road. We have some roads marked with carsonites, but this is nicer and more visible.

I propose that we set out to do this at all our road crossings. Perhaps 50 required, so not all in one year. Interested in helping?

Duane delawton@torchlake.com



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter, North Country Trail Association
Annual Election of Officers, January 2016

Absentee Ballot

Vote for one candidate for each office.

President

☐ • Duane Lawton

Candidate Statement: It has been an honor to serve as president for the past four years. I am willing to serve another term while someone else summons the inspiration to seek this office.

☐ • Write-in Candidate _____

Secretary

☐ • Mary Campbell

Candidate Statement: I am willing to be nominated as secretary for 2016, but would need someone else for 2017 as we will be on the AT for +/- 6 months.

☐ • Write-in Candidate _____

Communications Coordinator

☐ • Bob Haack

☐ • Write-in Candidate _____

Leadership Committee Member at Large—Trail Town Coordinator

☐ • Jennifer Winnell

☐ • Write-in Candidate _____

Return your ballot no later than December 31, 2015, to

doveday70@gmail.com or 3839 Brubaker Rd., Petoskey, MI 49770

Trail Coordinators' Report by Dove and John Day

To see the most current trail conditions visit the website at:

http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58

To report conditions e-mail us at doveday70@gmail.com or call [231-373-0090](tel:231-373-0090) or [231-838-6445](tel:231-838-6445)

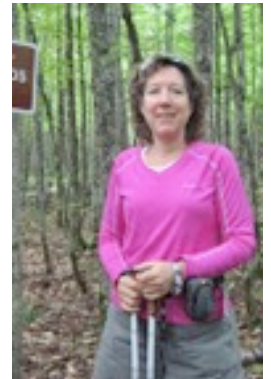


2015 was a great year! The Jordan Valley 45° adopters worked hard this year to keep the trail clear. Their effort and teamwork really showed in the condition of the trail, and the chapter received lots of thanks and gratitude from many hikers using our section. Thank you to ALL who helped out on the trail this year. The NCT wouldn't be what it is without you!

New Trail Adoptions

Congratulations to Susan Miller! She has adopted section E1 of the Jordan Valley Pathway. Welcome Susan to the Jordan Valley 45° group of trail adopters, and thank you for adopting this section!

Congratulations and thanks also goes out to Gene and Steve Dawson! This father/son team has adopted section F in the Jordan Valley. Thank you so much for caring enough to adopt!



Up For Adoption

There's currently only one section of trail up for adoption. Wow! The Warner Creek loop, section J1, is now open for adoption. Contact John or Dove Day if you have any questions or are interested in becoming a Jordan Valley 45° Trail Adopter!



Photos: Above, Susan Miller
Below, Steve&Gene Dawson



Short Note about Hikes *by Eugene Branigan, Vice President*

eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Keepin' it 100

The park service has been in existence since 1916 and to celebrate 100 years of our natural heritage the North Country Trail Association has, with the help of a grant from REI, created an exciting program for 2016! All who hike 100 miles along the North Country Trail will receive a special patch and certificate of accomplishment.

We want to share our special piece of the the trail with all of you, and your friends, and we want to help you get your 100 Miles in! To assist in this we will be organizing Monthly Hikes totaling at least 100 miles to include all of the 80+ Miles of the Jordan Valley 45° chapter's section.



So come out with us and show us your trail feet!

To get things started off we will be hiking on the 1st of January and, will hike on the 3rd weekend of every month thereafter.

Stay tuned for additional details as they solidify, and KEEP IT 100!

Communications Report by Amy Wilks

This is my last issue designing and editing the JV45° News. I will see you on the trail.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:David Swanson, Karla Sherman,Kathy Hill, and Lani Shooks

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

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

“Where I Hiked” by Duane Lawton

North Country Trail, Michigan, Munising to Marquette

July 16-20, 56.5 miles

This is my continuing quest to hike all of the NCT in Michigan. Accompanied by faithful cousin Jim Flick. ...and part-time hikers Jessica Flick, Eugene and Linus Branigan, Connie and Larry Beaubien.

Thursday: Arrived early in Munising Thursday afternoon, 175 miles from Charlevoix (Duane, Jim, Jessica), and decided to get right to it!! We hiked the road from M-94 SW of Munising to Munising Falls (Visitor Center for Pictured Rocks NLS) 5.1 miles.

Eugene and Linus picked us up, we retrieved our vehicle and proceeded to camp. ...Bay Furnace Campground, Hiawatha National Forest. So named for the historic (and restored) iron smelting furnace there.

Friday, we spotted at the MDOT Visitor Center near Marquette, and then went to Sand River on Railroad St. and started hiking west., soon arriving at the hiker shelter graciously provided by Mr. Lakenen of Lakenenland.

The first part of the hike was scenic.....

Photo below: Overlooking Lake Levasseur]



Jessica, Duane, & Jim
on M-94



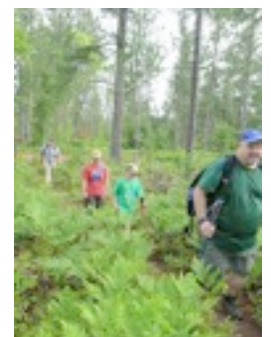
Bay Furnace Campground



Historic Bay Furnace Iron
Smelting Furnace

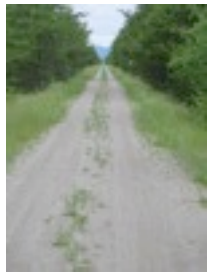


Hiker Shelter at Lakenenland



On the trail

...then we busted out onto the rail trail, which went on for miles...finally crossing over M-28 and catching a glimpse of Lake Superior just before the MDOT Visitors Center



Rail Trail Infinity

OK, that was 13 miles. Then we went to AuTrain Lake Rd., met Connie and Larry and did another 5.1 miles (to Rock River Rd.). Then back to camp.

Saturday...back to Sand River. But first—had to check out Lakenenland.

An amazing drive- or walk-through forest of gigantic eclectic metal sculpture.



Cherry Creek and Lake Superior on Iron Ore Heritage Trail/NCT

We started our hike just N of the actual trailhead parking lot, and very shortly thereafter we encountered a trail maintenance crew of the North Country Trail Hikers' Chapter, working on the trail, led by North Country Trail Hikers' Chapter President Lorana Jinkerson. They had done some valuable sprucing up, as we found all the blazes on our hike were fresh.



NCT at Rock River Rd.

A little road, a lot of woods, a rugged trail, it was hot and buggy.



Metal Sculpture at Lakenenland.



Duane meets Lorana Jinkerson, NCT Hikers Chapter President

As a consequence, 9 miles in, we arranged an emergency extraction from “Mosquito Valley” (Connie and Larry were elsewhere today, but in cellphone range).

But wait, I’m not going to stop now. So I hike the remaining 3.7 miles to Rumely Road alone, passing through the Laughing Whitefish River gorge. Lots of steps down, cross the river, lots of steps up. Then they pick me up, and back to camp. Regret: Didn’t make it to Laughing Whitefish Falls this trip (long spur trail).

Sunday. Jim and I start at Rumely Road, and head east into the Hiawatha NF.

We encounter beaver flooding blocking the trail. However, we were warned in advance, and knew of the detour that was a simple “go downstream below the dam”.



Into the woods after meeting Lorana Jinkerson



Foxgloves



Some two-track



Jim seeking relief from mosquitos.



Stairway to Laughing Whitefish Falls



Laughing Whitefish River Bridge

At this point the trail becomes Superior Shoreline Chapter territory.

We took a spur trail (1 mile each way) to Rock River Falls.

Out on Rock River Road, after a 10 mile hike (6 of which were road after Rock River Falls), we are picked up by the sightseers. And back to camp.

Monday. Start at the trailhead at M-94, head west to Valley Spur mountain bike trail area, 2.6 miles, and a group shot.

Then Jim and I hiked the remaining 8.3 miles to AuTrain Lake Rd. Unlike the DNR, the National Forest allows NCTA chapters to establish camping sites along the trail. And we encountered some prodigious blow-down...

Once again celebrating a successful hike, at the Barge Inn bar in Munising!!! I had envisioned this stretch of trail as a connector between Pictured Rocks and the wilderness west of Marquette, but it has its own charm and points of interest, and is well worth a trip.



Hiawatha National Forest



Beaver Flooding



Rock River Falls



Group Shot at Valley Spur



Campsite at National Forest near AuTrain Lake Rd.



Prodigious Blowdown



Celebrating End of Hike at Barge Inn at Munising--Duane, Linus, Eugene, Jim, and Jessica