



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 1

February 2018

Upcoming Events

February 17, 2018. JV45 Chapter Hike, 10 am. See details on p. 7

March 3, 2018, Quiet Water Symposium, Saturday, on the MSU campus in East Lansing, MI. See: <https://quietwatersociety.org/>

March 17, 2018. JV45 Chapter Hike and Chapter Meeting, Mary Campbell and John Larch will show photos of their AT adventure. Details to come

April 7, 2018, 9 am. Workday, finish Skyline Shelter. Details to come.

April 26-29, 2018. The 2018 NCTA Celebration/Buckeye Trail Association Trail Fest will be held in the Hocking Hills, Ohio region. See: <http://nctacelebration.org/>

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

To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?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

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



Message from JV45° President Mary Campbell

Email: mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings all! As many of you are aware, Past Chapter President Duane Lawton chose not to accept a nomination for another term as president of the Jordan Valley 45° chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail (JV45°), and our Vice-President, Eugene Branigan, has taken on a primary role in the planning and organizing for the 2019 NCTA Celebration conference, which will be held at Shanty Creek in May 2019, so here I am as your newly elected chapter president.

Since I know some of you, but certainly not all, I thought I would introduce myself. After retiring early, and closing my northern Michigan community planning business (M.C. Planning & Design), my husband, John Larch and I spent just over 6 months of 2017 through-hiking the Appalachian Trail (AT). My professional background includes advanced degrees in both landscape architecture and community planning. Since I was able to walk, hiking has been a significant part of my life and I added backpacking about a decade and a half later. Prior to hiking the AT, I served as Secretary for the JV45°.

When Duane approached me about running for chapter president, I had significant reservations, knowing he had done SO MUCH as president—I was concerned about trying to fill those shoes. After learning of the newly created leadership position, Project Coordinator (to which Duane has been elected!), I was much relieved. I still realize I cannot fill Duane's shoes, but as a hiker, I know hiking in another's shoes will cause blisters! So I propose to use my own well-seasoned hikers and welcome any and all input. I recognize I am not as well versed on all aspects of the JV45° portion of the NCT as many of you, so I respectfully

ask for your assistance and patience. I look forward to hiking, working and socializing with all of you to continue the friendly and cooperative approach that leads to great work on our piece of the North Country National Scenic Trail.

I encourage anyone (yes, that includes YOU!) to get involved, we have plenty of projects of all types with available tasks to fit your available time and skill set (or the skill set you wish to develop). Please don't wait to be asked (we may not know your skills, interests and/or availability). To get involved, join a scheduled hike and tell the hike leaders of your interest, participate in a scheduled work day, and/or contact Dove Day or me. You and any time you have to offer will be much appreciated. This is a *fabulous* group and I am sure you will find your involvement to be very rewarding—I certainly have. Please feel free to contact me with any comments and suggestions.

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Submit Volunteer Hours

Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours on the NCTA website at <https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>

JV45 January 2018 Hike

Bob Courtois

Email: bcourtois@comcast.net

Summary: Mancelona Road to Cinder Hill Road – Five miles. 30-35 degrees and sunny. Decent snow.

There was maybe a foot to a foot and a half of snow; not super deep but enough to require snow shoes. When we planned this hike, we expected maybe a dozen people would show up. On the last snow hike in this section, in 2016, there were only four people. Maybe the warm weather has something to do with it, but we ended up with 35 hikers including a baby who was carried the entire five miles without a peep.



The initial group of hikers.

We posted three cars at Cinder Hill Road so at the end we could ferry drivers back to the ORV parking lot at Mancelona Rd. and Sand Lake Rd. where we started. At the start we had 24 people for Dove Day's first photograph, but 11 more people showed up after the initial group moved out, so a second photo was taken. The group included people both new to the NCT and veterans. New people included Meagan and Simon Rinck of Gaylord, and their children Pierce (5) and Heide (8). In addition to many Jordan Valley 45 members we had representation from the Hiawatha Shore to Shore,



**Bob
McNamara
and a snow
angel**



**The
Rinck
Family of
Gaylord**

West Michigan, Harbor Springs and Grand Traverse Chapters. Awesome.

Before we started, Bob McNamara (HS2S Chapter) gave a well-honed safety speech he delivers frequently at hikes in the UP. (Bob has experience in rescue and recovery.) Especially with large groups, keeping track of everyone becomes a challenge and a few cautions are in order.

For safety, rather than park on Mancelona Rd, we parked at the ORV lot which is about a half mile west of the NCT crossing. To keep hikers off the road, we short-cut along a power line to where it intersected with the NCT. This is in section B, which is well maintained by Peg Jones. Peg was there and pointed out



**Peg Jones (2nd from R) is the adopter of
JV45 Section B, where the hike started.
Also, Bob C. and Tim and Karen Roth (L),
and Tina Stephenson (R).**



The second group of hikers.

things of interest along the way, such as an area recovering from being clearcut about 6 or 7 years ago. The trail skirts along some large farms which are interesting to watch as they change over the course of the year (revisit this section in the summer and fall).

We encountered a trail angel sitting in a tree and captured pictures of a few more angels standing nearby. Evidence of animals, living and dying, were spotted all along the trail. We found the evidence of an epic battle between coyotes and a deer encounter, Coyotes 1/Deer 0. (see pics on Facebook). Also, saw wing marks in the snow at the end of squirrel tracks.

The first half of the hike was relatively flat and the second half was rolling hills through older growth forest. We crossed into Section-C (adopted by Bob Courtois) at Whispering Pines Rd. and cut across and through hills to the hike end at Cinder Hill Rd. There were so many people we had to ferry drivers back to Mancelona Rd. The two Rinck kids children made it the entire five miles and looked ready to walk back but mom and dad needed the ride. Before the hike Meagan Rinck had run 5K.

We all agreed to rendezvous in Mancelona for lunch but ended up at two different restaurants (neither had beer). Will plan lunch better in the future (maybe with beer).

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CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Todd Winnell - Treasurer
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Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
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Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
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Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
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**Bob Haack – Communications
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Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
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Starting a New Year of Trail Projects

Duane Lawton, Projects Coordinator
Email: delawton@torchlake.com

Welcome from your new old taskmaster! Get ready to be busy. If you need inspiration, remember that we are hosting the 2019 NCT Trail-wide Celebration, and hiking fans from seven states will be tromping the Jordan Valley.

So we are going to have a lot of work days this year. It will be a lot of fun. As many of you heard at our annual meeting in January---WE HAVE A PERMIT! the DEQ has issued the permit we need to build all the structures in the valley that we planned last year.

Plan to join us on the first Saturday of each month (April-November) to help

with a project. Sometimes the work will be enough to spill into Sunday

The plan for April 7th is to finish the Skyline Shelter. Though much of the trail will still be mushy then, this will be dry-ish. Meet at the Krause road parking lot at 0900. We need to complete installing siding, screens, and build bunks. Plan on a cookout lunch.

Coming up (tentative)....

- **May 5**, we will start in the valley, probably near Cascade Rd.

- **June 2**, for National Trails Day, a Petokey Trail Town community project to reroute 0.2 miles of trail between Chandler Hill and Springvale.

- **July 7 and August 4**, big doings in the valley

Mark your calendars! Join us!!

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

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johnanddove@gmail.com



We are very excited that our previous JV45° president Duane Lawton has accepted the new position as our chapter's Project Coordinator. Duane has big plans this summer for scheduled work projects that will greatly improve the trail. With the 2019 NCTA celebration so close to Jordan Valley 45° territory, there will be lots to accomplish to get the trail looking its best. While trail adopters focus on chainsawing, pruning, mowing and blazing, Duane will focus on hosting workdays for improvements such as new boardwalk,

boardwalk repair, and improved re-routes. Thank you Duane!

New Trail Adopters We want to welcome new trail adopters Annie and Dave Matz who have recently adopted section Q2 south of Springvale Rd. They will help the current section adopters with trail maintenance north of Chandler Hill. Thank you Annie and Dave for joining the team! As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have begun assigning multiple adopters to trail sections and are in need of more adopters willing to become chainsaw certified. If you are interested contact Dove or John.



Dave & Annie Matz



Michigan NCTA Trail

Newsletter. See the latest issue of the newsletter published by Kenny Wawsczyk, NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Michigan at https://drive.google.com/open?id=140_H-huE8IKui3nAs2h2OCY62OW0Qa-SJ. Contact Kenny at (231) 250-6779 or kwawsczyk@northcountry-trail.org.



2018 - National Trails System 50th Anniversary

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act! Many events will be scheduled throughout the year to commemorate the anniversary. On twitter see: #findyourtrail and for a set of ideas, logos, maps, facts videos, event guides and more see: <https://www.trails50.org/toolkit/>.

Submit Your Stories 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.

Register Box Buzz



Petoskey Natural Area Danyell Minier

danyellminier@yahoo.com

I visited the Petoskey Natural Area Trail Box, located just off Krouse Road along the Skyline Trail, in January 2018. This box had a lot of entries! David from Coloma hiked from White Cloud to Petoskey and thanks everyone who built and maintains the trail. Bob completed the entire Jordan 45 Section. Apparently there is a geocache located somewhere near this section of the trail (something I always wanted to try). Dove and Alec were out on the trail in January 2017. In April 2017 Alyssa and Nicole enjoyed getting lost on the trails. April 12, 2017 - Dove and John were out clearing trees and working on the trail! Morgan and Lindsey were adventuring the woods. Tom and Mary Ling celebrated their 29th Anniversary on May 6, 2017 on the trail. The shelter was used for two nights in May. Alice and Karli from South Africa and Ohio were hoping not to get shot by hunters. Dove and Alec were back out on the trail in June 2017. Beth, Betsy and Jean were Grand Canyon Hike training in July. We had visitors from Portland, Oregon in July. Elijah and Colin stayed at the cabin it was awesome. They hammocked and used the fire pit. The coyotes were kind of scary and they say thanks for leaving chairs. Several families were out hiking this section in August. The Carson/Knibbs finished their training for Isle Royale backpacking trip in August. Dove and John and Alec were on the trail on eclipse day, August 21st. Thomas



Crew from Long Beach, Mississippi was backpacking to Petoskey. Kristin from Decorah IA, started hiking August 15th west of Marquette and was now over 300 miles in and only had 1 more week to go. She said this segment is gorgeous and she was loving the hills and pines. She did suggest re-blazing from Petoskey she got a little turned around but ran into Sue and Doug who helped her along. Sarah Jo and Becky from Traverse City, were new to hiking and were doing an overnight trip to see if they liked it. Dove, John and Alec were back out on September 17 for Alec's birthday and he finished his 100 miles. Casey and Cody were on a first date. Harbor Springs Chapter hike had 16 people come through in October. Had a group stay in the shelter overnight and were extremely grateful since it downpoured. And most recently:

**Snow Abounds
Whistling Wind Sounds
Replete with Red Pines
A Winter Hike in Skyline
T.H. 1-17-18**

Some Vandalism

Dove Day

doveday70@gmail.com

The NCMC Natural Area register box has gotten some unwanted graffiti since it was replaced last fall. A big THANK YOU to Molly Pierce for noticing and hiking back with some sandpaper. It took some elbow grease, but Molly made it look as good as new! Thanks Molly for caring and taking the time to fix the box! (Maybe others of us should carry some sandpaper to remove unwanted messages as needed.)



**A freshly sanded Register Box above,
and Molly Pierce below
Have Sandpaper, Will Travel**



2018 Annual Meeting, Elections & Draft Minutes January 6, 2018 Tree Tops Resort, Gaylord, MI

Introductions were made by the members and guests present.

Today's agenda. Approve Agenda, Lunch, Financial Report, 2017 Review, 2018 Preview, Awards, Election, Featured Speakers, and Adjourn meeting.

The Financial Report was reviewed for the past quarter. The total is \$5916.23 as of December 31, 2017, of which \$2000 is earmarked for the Bear River project.

Jordan Valley 45 Membership. We have 82 chapter members as of December 31, 2017, up from last year. Let's be on the lookout for more members.

Projects and Progress of 2017 Reviewed. Our Jordan Valley 45 Annual chapter meeting was held January 6, 2018. In 2017 adopters maintained their sections, and logged and documented their hours, many hikers participated in the NCT Hike 100, the chapter held many organized hikes, the Skyline camp was constructed and is almost finished, the Fifth Annual Petoskey Trail Town Day Celebration was organized successfully and attended.

We made updates to the trail such as nine road crossing signs/posts, two Jordan Valley interpretive panels were installed, as well as twenty "You Are Here" signs, and our own Beaver Deceiver was updated and improved this year. We had a successful 3rd Annual Adopter Appreciation Dinner at the Boyne Falls Fire Hall,



Steve Schnell was awarded the J45 Chapter Honor Award for his service in maintaining our tool trailer, being a Trail Adopter and helping others with their sections.

honoring all of our chapter trail adopters and we had great fellowship and meeting with fellow adopters. Our social media has improved by leaps and bounds. The NCT website (<https://northcountrytrail.org/>) was redone and very well maintained. Our JV 45 chapter newsletter offers much news, reviews, pictures, stories, updates and events by our fabulous editor Bob Haack. And we have many followers, updated information and posts on the NCT (North Country Trail) Facebook page.

2018 Preview. We will begin another challenge of NCT Hike 100 miles and a New NCT Hike of 50 mile to earn patches this year. We will likely again participate in the Petoskey Trail Town Celebration the first weekend in June, or modify into a trail workday. We are planning another JV45 Adopter Appreciation Celebration in 2018 for all their efforts and hard work and we hope ALL chapter trail adopters can come this year. We will continue our regular meetings, and everyone is encouraged to submit ideas, pictures and articles to our newsletter and other media sources. We will be conducting a GoFundMe page for the Bear River Bridge fund and perhaps other fund drives, and we are going to finish the Skyline Camp construction project, as well as add 17 new road/trail crossing marker posts. We are planning to rehabilitate the Jordan Valley Pathway which will consist of 505 feet of boardwalk, two bridges, two stairways (92 feet), and 192 feet of new benched trail tread, and several structure repairs. We have acquired our DEQ permits to begin work. In 2018, we are going to do reroutes at two different areas between Chandler and Springvale trails.

We are also preparing, planning, designing, and assigning the 2019 NCTA Celebration being held at Shanty Creek in Bellaire on May 2-5, 2019. All members and friends are welcome to volunteer to help with chairing committees and working the weekend of the celebration. See Vice President Eugene to chair a committee or help with as much time as you can offer! This will be a great event, and it will bring great attention and awareness to our trail.



A delicious buffet lunch was served to over 30 attendees!

Thus far we have the following committees and chairs and are looking to fill the remaining open chairs of the 2019 NCTA Celebration.

Hikes and Trips: Duane Lawton

Publicity and Marketing: Dove Day

Sponsorship: Jennifer Winnell

Programs: needed

Auction (if we decide to hold one): needed

Registration Coordination: needed

Logistics: needed

On-Site Hosts/Information: needed

Camping Coordination: needed

2018 Award Ceremony.

The NCTA Jordan Valley 45 Chapter Honor Award went to the Honorable Tool Trailer Man (drum roll) Steve Schnell. Congratulations Steve!



The annual meeting was held for the first time in the Oak Room at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord.



Mary Campbell (left) and John Larch described their adventures thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail. To see the pictures, attend our March chapter meeting.



BigFoot: Communications Coordinator Bob Haack was awarded the Jerry Allen Big Foot plaque for his outstanding work on our newsletter.

The 12th Annual Jerry Allen Big Foot Award was presented to the absent (in Florida) Bob Haack for his outstanding and dedicated service to the chapter. Great Job Bob! (Be on the lookout for the Big Foot Award which has walked off and is currently missing)

Elections. The following Leadership Committee members were voted in for two year terms: Mary Campbell as our new JV45 Chapter President; Bob Haack

as our Communications Coordinator; Jennifer Winnell as our Trail Coordinator; Bob Courtois as our new Hike Coordinator; and Duane Lawton as our new Projects Coordinator. Thank you all for stepping up and congratulations to all.

Speakers. We were treated to stories from two successful Thru-Hikers, Mary Campbell and John Larch, who hiked the whole 2190.3 miles of the AT in 2017 and educated and entertained us on their expe-

riences. Thank you for sharing your story with us.

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Denise DeKett

Where I Hiked

Starvation Lake Road to Sand Lake

Ellen Whitehead

Email: twinlakede@gmail.com

Hello JV45 peeps! I am new to your chapter, having been a member of the Grand Traverse Chapter for a couple of years. I then met Dove Day, Denise DeKett, and others at a ladies' gathering that Dove had set up last summer. Well, that did it! I could sense the enthusiasm of your group through these wonderful women. Also, I live almost on the border of these two chapters—how blessed am I?



As most of you know, the Jordan Valley 45 Chapter begins at Starvation Lake Road and heads north from there. Since I am a beginner with your chapter, I'd like to start at the beginning and share my experiences on the first section from Starvation Lake Road to Sand Lake. I've hiked this section in all seasons the past few years, enjoying a large stand of red pines, open meadows, lush hardwoods, and the pristine and secluded Sand Lake. In all these hikes I have never encountered another person and that is okay by me.

One time in late spring, my friend Janeen Wardie and I hiked along the water's edge at

Sand Lake and as usual looked for some nice photographic opportunities. Peering into the water, we noticed not a few, not a dozen, but hundreds and hundreds of tadpoles swimming along the shore. The water was so clear, and the sun was at its full splendor, so those little polliwogs shone like glittering pieces of life in miniature. Alas, I can't locate a photo from this special day, but it reminded us that spring does indeed return to the north country!

On another occasion, I came upon a chipmunk that was none too shy. He kept peeking out of a hollow tree stump look-





ing at me as if to say “Hi! What are you doing here and why are you so big?” So, soon those little mischief makers will be once again waking up from their long winter naps and checking us out.

I’ve seen deer, one of the largest white pine stumps I’ve ever seen, and the crazy oddity of two very different shapes hammered on a tree at a road crossing. I would highly recommend this nice 2.5 mile hike (I usually do 5 as I hike in and back) to all who enjoy simple beauty. Bonus: afterward you are just down the road from The Hideaway bar on Starvation Lake Road where you can enjoy a burger and a cold beverage. Namaste!

JV45 February Hike (2-17-2018)

The JV45 February Hike will occur on February 17, 2018. Meet at 10 AM at the NCT crossing on Starvation Lake Rd. and hike north to Sand Lake and back. The terrain is mostly flat and will be great even if snow shoes are required. The round trip will be about 5.0 miles. If we still have energy, we may hike south a mile or so to MacNeil Pond (this section is maintained by the Grand Traverse Hiking Club). Afterwards, we will meet for lunch at the Hideaway Bar at Starvation Lake, which is about a mile west of the NCT crossing (hopefully this month we will all show up at the same restaurant). Cross Country Skis may work but the trail is not groomed. Dress for the weather, bring water, a snack and a camera. If you don’t bring a friend, one (at least) can be provided! Any question? - Call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699 or email <bcourtois@comcast.net>.

Where I Hiked

Fort Pickens: Western End of the Florida Trail
Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

The Florida Trail (FT) is one of 11 National Scenic Trails in the US. Over 1000 miles of trail are completed with another 300 miles planned. The FT runs from Fort Pickens within the Gulf Islands National Seashore in northwest Florida to Big Cypress National Preserve in south Florida. Work on the FT began in 1966 and it was designated as a National Scenic Trail in 1983. The FT uses orange blazes.



Information at start of the Florida Trail at Ft. Pickens (note Orange Blazes)



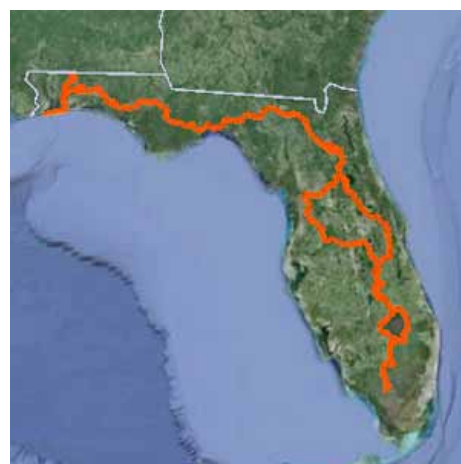
Signage along road to Ft. Pickens (nps.gov)

We recently spent a few days in the western Florida Panhandle and visited Fort Pickens, which is located at the western end of Santa Rosa Island, a barrier island within the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Fort Pickens is one of three forts built in the early 1800s to protect the Pensacola Bay Harbor. Construction occurred during 1829-1834, and it remained active until 1947. The fort is pentagon shaped, with walls about 1000-ft long, and designed for over 200 cannons.

The FT starts at Fort Pickens and travels along the length of Santa Rosa Island for some 32 miles through pines, oaks, marshes, and white sand beaches and dunes. The Fort Pickens Campground is about a mile from the fort along the FT and offers 200 sites. Although the white sand beaches are beautiful, there is little shade, so bring your NCT hat for sure!



Shelby, Bob and Duster



Florida Trail



Florida Trail near campground at Ft. Pickens



Western wall of Fort Pickens with a 15” Rodman Cannon. Photo by John Stanton. http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Pickens