



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 2

April 2020

Inside this Issue:

Tahquamenon Falls Trip	... 2
February Hike Report	... 3
Box Buzz	... 4-5
Quiet Adventures Report	... 6
Trail Report	... 6
Spring Trail Observations	... 7
40th Anniversary Hike	... 8
Build It	... 9
Where I Hiked:	... 10-12

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

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



Message from JV 45°

President Mary Campbell

mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings JV 45° Members and Friends. Wow, how quickly life has changed. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, much has changed regarding all aspects of life, including our activities as related to the North Country National Scenic Trail. While the situation seems to be evolving on a daily basis, here are some details and links to information currently impacting the JV45° Chapter:

- **The NCT is open!** – Although some support facilities are not. Trail users are urged to only hike with household members, keep it local and practice social distancing with any other users. To check on the current status visit the trail alerts page on the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) website, <https://northcountrytrail.org/the-trail/trail-alerts/>

As many of you may be aware, due to the much higher volume of hikers on the AT, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (and the majority of other AT maintaining clubs) have formally requested temporary closure of the AT for the month of April due to the growing risk of spreading of COVID-19 among hikers, nearby communities and beyond.

- ALL APRIL in-person JV 45° group hikes, meetings or work days are cancelled
- A virtual JV 45° Chapter meeting please join us on Tuesday April 21 at 7pm. This online meeting will include:

1. a training session regarding the use of the available digital NCT maps, the Avenza Maps App, and
2. a tour of the updated NCTA website, focusing on the volunteer resources .

- **Tool Trailer and Maintenance Status.** The tool trailer is currently stored at the residence of our Trail Coordinators Dove and John Day. If you need tools, please make arrangements with Dove and John in advance, in order to minimize tool handling and cleaning. According to the NCTA (outside of Michigan DNR land): NCT volunteers are still permitted to complete routine maintenance tasks as individuals or small groups, so long as work is done in accordance with local land managers and statewide guidance. Practice social distancing techniques and do not share tools, and clean tools and spaces appropriately after use. The National Park Service's VIP coverage remains in place for NCT volunteers.

- **Trail Maintenance Status on State Land**--last week the Michigan Department of Natural Resources confirmed all volunteer work on State land should be suspended for now.
- **Hike 100 APRIL**—In order to promote hike locally and social distancing, NCTA has broadened qualifying miles to ALL miles for the month of April, to include local trails, dog walking and even treadmill miles. If you haven't yet signed up, you can sign up at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/hike-100-challenge/> Happy hiking!

Continued on page 2

Upcoming Events

April 21, 2020, JV45° Virtual Chapter Meeting at 7 pm. Details soon.

May 16, 2020. JV45° Chapter Hike Details to follow.

June 5, 2020. JV45° Petoskey Open House. Details to follow.

June 6, 2020. National Trail Day, Work Day & Picnic. Details to follow.

June 20, 2020. JV45° Chapter Hike Details to follow.

HSS & JV45° Meet at Tahquamenon Falls

For the past several years, NCT members of the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore (HSS) Chapter have stayed a few nights in a lodge at a Tahquamenon Falls State Park (TF) in February. The lodge is actually a duplex, and typically only one side was available for rental. This year HSS was offered the use of the side typically reserved for seasonal staff use. Before releasing their reservation of the rental side, they kindly offered JV45° members the opportunity to join the HSS group for a winter weekend by renting the other side of the lodge.

The weekend provided wonderful opportunities to play in the snow, share adventures, friendship & food with old and new trail friends. Our side of the lodge provided sleeping accommodations for eight, with the costs divvied up among the participants. After a such a fabulous and fun weekend, the duplex unit has already been reserved again for next year (2/11-2/15/21). Anyone interested in joining the fun, contact **Mary Campbell**.



The Sunday-morning snowshoe hikers

Continued from page 1

• Other News

1. Bear River Bridge Project – Prior to the ‘Stay home, Stay safe’ order, the City of Petoskey sent the project bid documents to the State for approval (required by one of the grants), prior to bidding. According to the bid package, the bid package is to be sent out April 21st, with project bids due to the City on May 12th, and with the project to be completed by mid-October 2020. **Note: it is unclear how this schedule may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, depending on how the bids come in, we may be seeking additional funding support.



The mighty Tahquamenon Falls



The TF Lodge



Tammy Krembs, thankful the group doesn't plan to have lunch at this picnic table

2. McDougal Road culvert – the culvert is scheduled to be installed this spring (it was supposed to happen before the end of April, but...).

3. Trail Scouting/Re-routing – The efforts are continuing to make contact with various landowners to obtain permission for trail routing to be able to move the trail off roads. To learn more and get involved, contact Mary Campbell.

Tahquamenon Reflections Eugene Branigan

eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Linus and I headed North on Friday, Feb. 7, to meet up with the rest of our group (some arrived on the 6th) and when we got to the cabin the JV45 crew was having dinner with the Hiawatha Shore to Shore folks. We had dinner and planned to do the optional extra hike from Country Road 500 to the Upper Falls as these would be new miles on the North Country Trail for Linus and these were more miles towards the Hike 100!

The next morning Bob C, Tammy, Linus and I headed out. Linus's snowshoes failed after about 2 miles and since I had already hiked that section I sent him on with my snowshoes and I post-holed my way back to my vehicle. I drove back around and met up with everyone, and they had a good hike and I had a nice bit of solitude.

Linus and I took in the lantern-lit hike near the Upper Falls and then returned again for fellowship with all of our North Country friends. Sunday morning (the 9th), we packed up and then prepped for a final hike from the cabin up north towards Clark Lake bushwhacking till we reached an old ORV route then we joined up with the footpath for our final walk back to the cabin. It was a weekend with beautiful views, a wonderful place to stay, and great people to share it with.



Jim DeKett surveying the landscape

4. Get involved! If you have a little extra time these days and want to help JV 45°, contact Mary Campbell at mcplanningdesign@gmail.com to discuss appropriate volunteer options during Stay Home, Stay Safe.

Happy Hiking, Mary Campbell

February Hike Report Deadman's Loop & More!

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

Originally, we planned to hike to the Warner Creek Pathway, but due to reports that it was not possible to safely cross the boardwalk over the beaver deceiver on O'Brien Pond, we rerouted the hike to visit the beaver ponds west of Deadman's Hill. We had terrific winter weather for snow shoeing. The snow was fairly deep but not too bad after the pace setter, Jeanne Hough, broke trail most of the way.

We had 14 people join the hike including four new people and Mark Juday's dog Charlie. (Welcome Lori, Shelly, Scott and Robin.) Chapters represented included Grand Traverse, Jordan Valley 45° and Hiawatha Shore to Shore.

From where we parked, which was where the plow stopped on E. Deadman's Hill Rd., it was about a half mile to the overlook. From there we walked a mile southwest to pick up the northwest downhill trail into the valley. We then walked the bowl around the beaver ponds to where the bridge used to be. After a break there, we walked back around the bowl to catch the spur trail back to other side of the pond where the bridge was. From there we headed back via the rest of the Deadman's Hill loop. All the repair work done in 2018 and 2019 seems to be holding up well and this is one of the prettiest sections in the Jordan Valley.

Interesting to note, in two places we found wing marks in the snow and the end of a line of rodent tracks. It was either a hawk or an owl (see the picture). After signing in the trail log, the long uphill out of the valley was pretty tough in the snow and altogether we put in about 7 miles.

Afterwards four of us went to Larry's. It was packed with snowmobilers; the service was very slow but the food was good.

project		
DEADMAN'S HILL		
NAME	#	TO
BOB COURTOIS	248	CRIST
LORI STAFFORD	23	
Tracy T. Nance	269	
Jeanne Hough	289	
Janeen Wadie	231	
Jim + Karen Rein	231	
Mark Juday	231	
Mary Campbell	231	
Kevin Whitley	"	
Susan Miller	2	
Shelly & Scott Crand		
Robin Kruskie		

February Hikers



View from the top



Charlie, ready to go!



Beaver ponds and the former bridge



Survival of the fittest



Getting ready to go into the Valley

**Don't forget to submit your
Volunteer Hours at:**

[https://northcountrytrail.org/
members/report-volunteer-hours/](https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/).

Register Box Buzz



45th Parallel

Bob Haack

haack@msu.edu

I visited the Register Box at the 45th Parallel along the NCT on April 1, 2020, and took photos of all pages in the log book from December 2018 to present (latest entry was on 3-29-2020). I wore protective gloves when handling the logbook just to be safe!

Here is a summary for 2019. The first entry in 2019 was on January 3rd and the last was on December 22nd. Based on the text entries, there were at least 679 distinct hikers who passed the 45th in 2019, but of course this is an undercount because many people did not write how many hikers were in their family or group and many hikers likely did not write anything at all.



So, based on these 679 hiker entries, there were hikers from at least 15 US states, including California, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. By month, there were at least 2 hikers in January 2019, 0 in February, 1 in March, 23 in April, 207 in May, 106 in June, 72 in July, 72 in August, 83 in September, 91 in October, 17 in November, and 5 in December. Of the 207 hikers that signed the logbook in May, 105 were attendees at the 2019 NCTA Celebration that took place nearby in Bellaire, MI. The Celebration hikers came from eight states (71-MI, 10-MN, 6-OH, 6-WI, 4-ND, 4-PA, 2-IN, and 2-NY).

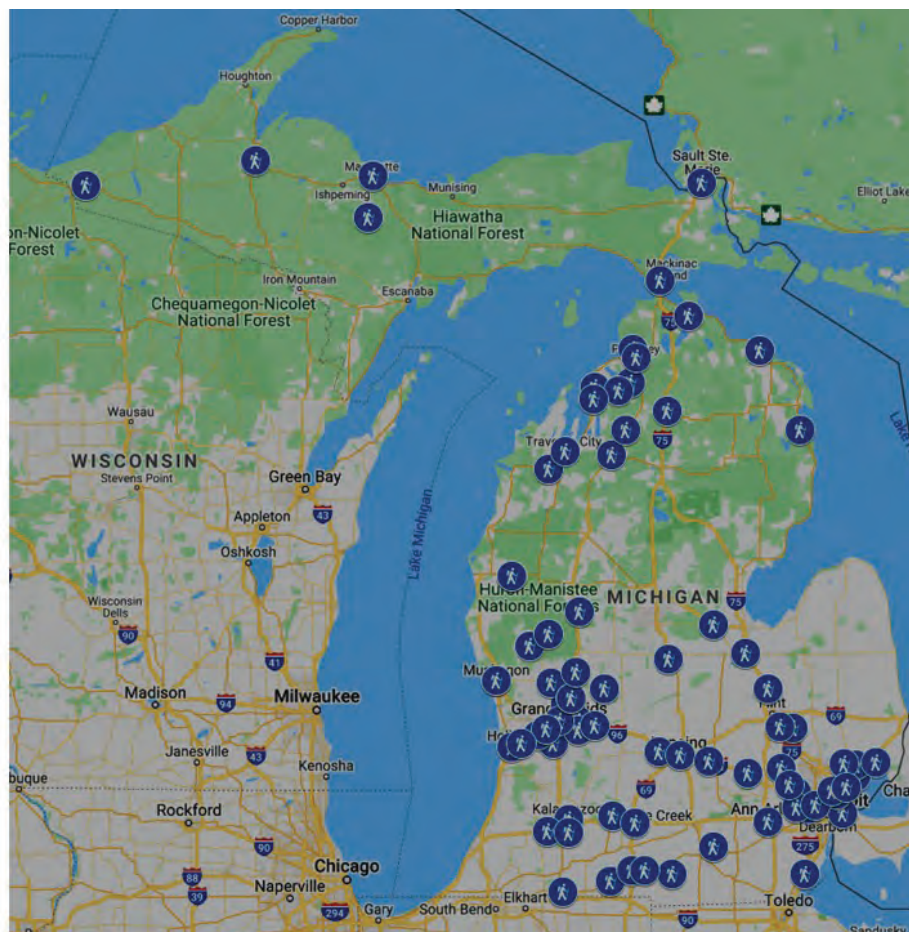
There were hikers from at least 79 towns in Michigan that signed the logbook. In the Michigan UP, they came from Bessemer in the west to Sault Ste Marie in the east. And in Lower Michigan, there were hikers from as far away as White Pigeon in the southwest and Monroe in the southeast. Below is a map that



Bob, wearing protective gloves, cautiously opens the Register Box and reaches for the Log Book

was created in Google Maps that shows the 79 hometowns of the hikers that signed the logbook. As expected, we have many hikers from folks that live close to the JV45 section of the NCT, but we also have dozens and dozens of hikers from southern Lower Michigan and a few from the UP.

The actual towns listed were: Ada Twp, Alberta, Alma, Ann Arbor, Atwood, Battle Creek, Belmont, Bessemer, Big Rapids, Boyne City, Branch, Branch, Brooklyn, Bronson, Byron Center,



Google Map showing the 79 hometowns of hikers that signed the 45th Parallel logbook in 2019 and listed their hometown.

Cascade Twp, Cheboygan, Clinton Twp, Clio, Coldwater, Detroit, East Jordan, Eastport, Fremont, Gaylord, Goodrich, Grand Blanc, Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids, Greenville, Gwen, Harbor Springs, Hazel Park, Highland Twp, Hillsdale, Holland, Howell, Hudsonville, Interlochen, Jenison, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent City, Lansing, Livonia, Lowell, Macomb, Mancelona, Marquette, Marshall, Mattawan, Midland, Monroe, Muskegon, Muskegon, New Baltimore, Novi, Ossineke, Petoskey, Plymouth, Portage, Quincy, Redford, Rockford, Rockford, Rogers City, Royal Oak, Saginaw, Sand lake, Sault Ste Marie, Shelby Twp, St. Ignace, Traverse City, Warren, White Cloud, White Pigeon, Williamston, Wixom, and Zeeland.

Here are some quotes from the 679 entries made in 2019.

January 3, Heather: Broke trail in heavy, beautiful snow. Love how well marked this trail is.

April 5, Sean: Still snow. Car stuck. Hopefully we make it out.

April 15, Susan: JRP (Jordan River Pathway) full loop #1 for 2019. (Editor's Note: Our JV45 Susan Miller went on to complete the 18-mile-long loop 14 times in 2019).

May 5, Annette: Oh my word, what a glorious day, with bloodroots, ramps, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauties, trilliums, etc!

May 12, Ken: We should have taken an uber!

May 25, Nate & Courtney: First hike as a married couple!

May 25, Peg: 45th Parallel – Huzah! Great job JV45 trail maintainers.

May 27, Anne: Hiking western half of NCT from Croton Dam to ND. Loving the Jordan Valley. Trilliums for miles. Thanks for all you do.

June 2, Mike and Jen : 3rd year backpacking here. Brought our dog Freedom for his first hike. We love hiking this trail. Thank you to those who volunteer to maintain the trails, giving us the opportunity to enjoy nature.

June 4, Sara: Thanks for the new boardwalks!

June 20, Libby & Rob: Out on our anniversary trek!

June 29, Ben: I'm not here for a long time, just for a good time!

July 1, Joni & Lisa: Hiking the NCT from M-22 trailhead to the Might Mac.

July 19, Varwijn & Adam: Pouring rain, soaked through, and loving it. Beautiful day and seems that not a soul is outside except us crazies.

Aug 6, Moonglow: Sunshine on my shoulders makes me happy!

Aug 10, Mark: On a hike with my nephew.

Aug 10, Austin: On a hike with my uncle. First overnight hike. This is awesome!

Aug 23, Cory: Love this trail. Running the downhills is fun!

Aug 28, Kurtis: Thru-hiking Michigan. Slackpacking thanks to Duane.

Aug 31, Helen: Awesome hike. The NCT is Amazing!

Sep 17, Papa Mark: At the 45th! Yea! Mackinaw to Newaygo, Day 9. All is well. Beautiful section. Thank you, maintainers.

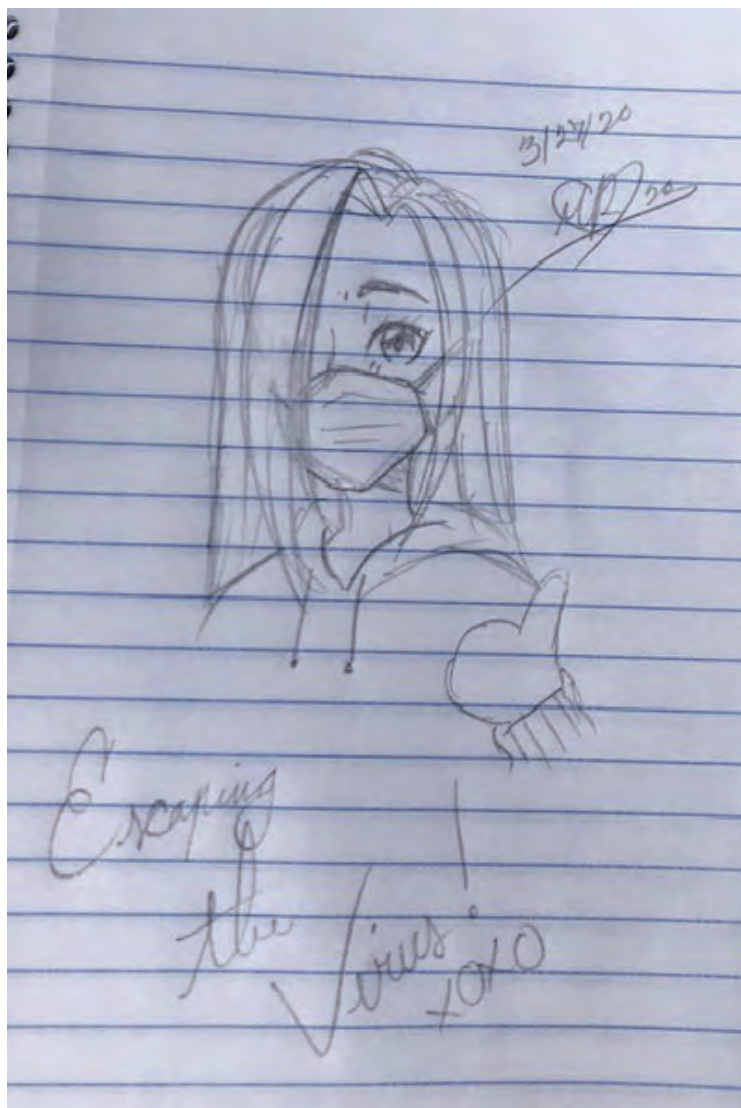
Oct 4, Jay: Beautiful sunny fall day for starting the JRP loop.

Oct 25, Liz & Koren: Back again for fall colors. Magical place any time of year.

Nov 3, Joani: Who knew that snow could be so pretty!

Nov 30, Susan: JRP full loop #14. Wanted to get one more in before the snow really piled up. Wearing lots of orange.

Dec 22, Mark: Made the hike down from Landslide Overlook. About 6 inches of wet snow and 43 degrees. Nice day for a hike with my 4-legged friend Charlie.



Sketch by unknown artist in JV45° log book at the NCMC Natural Area Register Box.
(If anyone knows the artist, please contact Mary Campbell so credit can be given)

COVID-19 Box Buzz

Folks are out on the NCT during the coronavirus pandemic. Here is one comment from the JV45 logbook from Adriene & Chris of Holland, MI, on March 25, 2020: Backpacking from Deadman's Hill to Pinney Bridge for some pandemic respite. Have not met any other hikers, so social distancing maintained. Beautiful trail in any season.

Hiking Responsibly. See FAQs on the American Hiking Society's website at: <https://americanhiking.org/blog/hiking-responsibly-faq-covid-19/>

Quiet Adventures Symposium

Dove Day

doveday70@gmail.com

Another successful event! Many of you have heard of the Quiet Waters Symposium, which the Jordan Valley 45° chapter has participated in for many years down at the MSU campus in East Lansing. This year, the event was renamed to Quiet Adventures Symposium. The name change was to better reflect ALL of the non-motorized outdoor recreation it celebrates. The event was held again at the MSU Pavilion on February 29th, and it displayed over 200 exhibits and demonstrations on paddle sports, cycling, backpacking, hiking, sailing, fishing, and much more. It also included great presentations by many well-known outdoor enthusiasts.

We were there again this year with our Jordan Valley 45° table, passing out maps and trail information and talking with folks about the North Country Trail. We also featured our “Guess the Weight of the Backpack” contest. This year we received 32 written guesses and many unofficial hefting and verbal guesses. The written guesses ranged from a high of 87 lbs to a low of 4.5 lbs. The actual weight was 22.5 lbs and the winning guess was Karri Howe with a guess of 22.7 lbs— Congratulations Karri!

If you have never been to this event, consider it for next year. It IS a great event that never disappoints, and we want to thank this year’s volunteers (Jerry Allen, Mary Campbell, Dove Day, Dan Dueweke, Peg Jones, and Tammy Krembs) for helping us represent the NCT and our chapter again this year.



Jerry encouraging the next generation of hikers



Mary, Peg, and Dan, waiting for the Pavilion doors to open!



Peg trying to convince this Michigan fan that he should be wearing Green & White on the MSU campus

Part of the NCTA displays and the infamous 22.5 lb backpack!

JV45° Trail Coordinator Report

Dove and John Day

doveday70@gmail.com, johnanddove@gmail.com

We have received word from the Michigan DNR in Lansing that “**all volunteer work on State land should be suspended**”. The trails remain open on these State lands but no volunteer work can be done at this time. Hiking is still allowed as long as social distancing is followed and you are only hiking with a member of your household (no group hiking at this time), and please keep in mind that amenities near the NCT may be limited. You may be wondering why the DNR is restricting trail maintenance on **State land**. Basically by restricting trail maintenance the hope is to eliminate any risk of accidents or injuries that could further strain already reduced hospital and emergency resources.

Other land managers may not have restricted volunteer work, so don’t be surprised if you hear of other volunteers still being able to do trail maintenance. NCT volunteers are still permitted to complete routine maintenance tasks as individuals, so long as work is done in accordance with local land manager and statewide

guidance. The rules are different depending on where you are and what type of land the NCT is on. In areas that have not been restricted NCTA is still strongly recommending chapters there reduce on-trail tasks to light duty maintenance to minimize the risk of accidents or injuries that could further strain emergency rooms and hospital resources. They are asking that everyone check in advance with your local land manager to ensure that maintenance activities are currently permitted. Also keep in mind that these messages are changing frequently. NCTA will continue to send updates throughout the weeks ahead. Please refer to their “Frequently Asked Questions” for the most up-to-date information, which can be found at the top of their [Trail Alerts page](https://northcountrytrail.org/the-trail/trail-alerts/). <https://northcountrytrail.org/the-trail/trail-alerts/>

The NCTA has also recently taken over the chainsaw certification process from the National Park Service. NCTA is excited about the opportunity to work closer with the chapters and volunteers to provide this much needed service. If you are interested in becoming a certified sawyer you may now contact Kenny Wawsczyk (NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Michigan) at (231) 250-6779, kwawsczyk@northcountrytrail.org

Creek Crossing on Pinney Bridge Rd. and Logging near Mancelona Rd

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

Last year, creek water was crossing the Pinney Bridge Rd near where the NCT crosses the parking lot and over to the bridge. The water was washing down the road, covering much of the parking lot and then washing down the trail. So, we moved sand and gravel onto the downhill side of the creek to dike it up. That dried up the parking lot and trail pretty well. However, on March 29th of this year, I went in to see how the dike held up over the winter. Overall, it actually did pretty well but there was a breach in the dike and the trail and parking lot were wet again. The DNR helped by pulling debris out of the creek along the trail so it is draining much better now. On April 4, I returned and did some repair work and that helped dry the trail even more. And since last week, the DNR dumped a load of stone to fill a hole that allows service vehicles to drive into the campground.



A break in the dike



Water over the road and parking lot



Water going down the service road to the bridge over the Jordan River

Below: Service Road as shown above, but after some repairs were made. Already showing evidence of drying up.



On the way home, I stopped to check out the fresh logging along the NCT trail just north of Mancelona Rd. The loggers were not very careful and heavily cut-over a beautiful red pine forest that WAS one of my favorite spots. When will the logging slow down? As of April 4th, there was still snow in this section.



Some trees with blazes had been cut along the NCT



Active logging taking place along NCT in April 2020.

NCT 40th Anniversary Hike

Annie Matz

amatz57@yahoo.com

On March 5th, in recognition and celebration of the 40th anniversary of the signing of legislation establishing the North Country National Scenic Trail, we gathered at Lakeview Manufacturing on McDougal Road near Petoskey. There were 13 of us, 11 members of JV45, 1 from Hiawatha Shore to Shore, and 1 newcomer from the Charlevoix area. Shortly after 2 p.m. the group started trekking west, it was a warm day for early March at about 40 degrees with a threat of rain in the forecast. The trail was hard packed snow for the most part with a few icy areas where I regretted leaving my Yak-Tracks at home. We continued through the pine forest where the trail follows the Bear River for a bit, then took a little detour to view the location of the new bridge, which will hopefully be constructed this fall. The new bridge will join the NCMC trails to the newly cleared section of the NCT south of Petoskey. Once leaving the woods and crossing the NCMC parking area the trail turns west and crosses Standish Avenue, then follows the Bear River again. The next section of the trail is quite scenic and takes us north to the Petoskey waterfront where we had staged several vehicles. From there we walked up the hill to Beards Brewery where we enjoyed a delicious meal and great conversation.



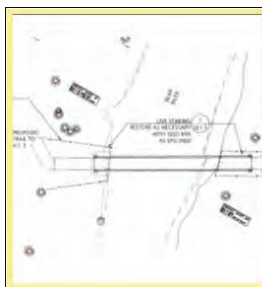
Above & Below:
Heading out and encountering a bit of snow, ice and water.



Left: The Bear River
Above: On their way to Beards Brewery



The hikers, L to R: Karen, Tim, Mary, John, Jim (back), Evelyn, Richard, Dan, Annie, Jane (back), Nancy (insert), Sue (kneeling), and Cliff



BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men Gang aft agley—Bobby Burns

Yep. Obviously, the near future is cloudy indeed. So take all of this with a grain of salt. OK, enough clichés.

While we hope to do some scouting in May, our first hopeful gathering will be on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6th, as part of our 2020 National Trails Day observance (and a picnic hopefully). For the work part, we intend to lay the puncheon (176') just south of Sheridan St. in Petoskey. If we have sufficient help we may also head over and lay puncheon east of McDougall Rd. (70'). We already have the material, in storage at Days.

At this point the only other probable event will be a Beaver Bash at O'Brien Pond in September to repair the boardwalk and mitigate the beavers. Hopefully by then we'll have a plan, DNR approval, funding, and materials ☺.

I know that several road crossing marker posts and register boxes have been ravaged by critters. Should you encounter any such on your jaunts, I would appreciate an email so we can get them fixed.

Beyond that, we will be working on potential reroutes, seeking feasible routes, landowner contacts and agreements, and permits as required. So a slim chance we could be working on another reroute this year. The two least unlikely areas are:

Dobleski Rd. to Gien Rd.—Today there is a two mile road walk including ¼ mile on the shoulder of US-131. There

are two primary alternatives to get into and through State Forest east of Dobleski Rd. One involves a ¾ mile road walk on Dobleski, a ~100' crossing of private land, and an unlikely agreement with MDOT Safety for a railroad crossing on a curve. The other involves building a significant bridge over the S. Branch Boyne River and a really minor landowner agreement. We'll see which can get over the finish line. Oops, cliché.

Conway to Kipp Rd.—Today there is a two mile road walk. The reroute: Leaving the North Western State Trail in the northern suburbs of Conway, we enter the Hailand Natural Preserve of the Little Traverse Conservancy on their outstanding existing trail, thence into the Helstrom NP, then we build new trail out onto West Conway Rd. After less than ¼ mile north on the road, we are ½ mile S of the Kipp Rd./E. Hathaway Rd. junction, of which half is Harbor Springs Area Sewage Authority property—which unfortunately is low and wet. We need one of several landowners to allow us to cross their property for the rest to connect. North of Hathaway is public land we can cross.

TMI, right? Stay safe in there....

Where I "Ran"

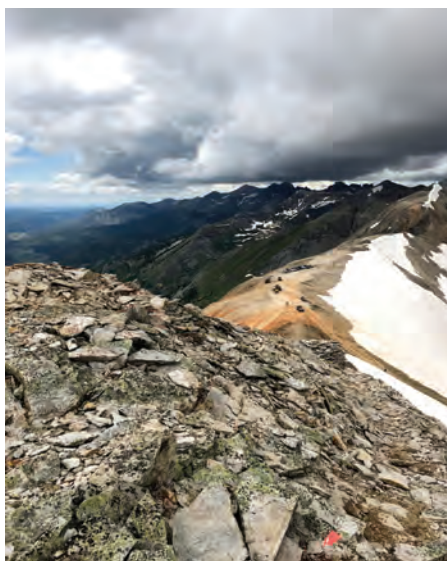
Ouray, Colorado

Paul Hagan

paul.w.hagan@gmail.com

In July, the Ouray Endurance runs take place in Ouray, Colorado. Ouray is a mountain town known mostly for ice climbing in the winter and off-roading in the summer. It sits at about 6,700 feet of elevation. Imogene pass goes from Ouray to Telluride and you can see all variety of 4x4 vehicles traversing this mountain pass.

In July 2019, I participated in the 100 mile event. (A 50 mile option is available and it is as taxing as some 100 mile events.) We covered a variety of terrain. First, from town, up the rough dirt road of Imogene pass (up to a bit over 13,000 feet elevation) and then to a few other peaks nearby. The prior winter provided much snow in this area. The Hardrock 100 shares some of the same course and



Imogene Pass

was cancelled due to all the snow and avalanche debris. Imogene Pass had been plowed open at the top only the day before.

Next, we crossed over Richmond pass to the Corkscrew Mountains, making two loops and coming back over the



Corkscrew Mountains



Paul and Family

pass. The route back to town was slowed by a thunderstorm over Richmond pass. (I was not going to win the race and being struck by lightning would be embarrassing.) Fortunately, I spent most of that 40 minute wait at an aid station out of the rain, eating mashed potatoes. As the lightning slowed I moved toward the tree line and waited a few more minutes before coming back over that snow-pack. The way back to town involved a few out and back hikes up some of the steepest trail I have ever experienced. But, I also saw some amazing alpine meadows and mountain vistas.



Alpine meadows and mountain vistas

In the afternoon, I made it back to town. I had twenty some miles to go, but the 2nd and 3rd place finishers could be seen lounging in camp chairs, their task completed after only 34 or so hours. Something looked familiar about the guy who got 3rd. Later, I realized that he is one of a handful of finishers of the Barkley Marathons.

Anyway, I started the last three out and backs. First, up the Twin peaks trail. It was on this section that my family greeted me with some previously requested macaroni and cheese and kombucha. I wasn't counting on them to meet me, but it was nice to see them. The people who personally support you during an ultramarathon are referred to as "crew". Some people organize an army of friends to accompany them at events. Personally, I'm not a fan of this method. Anyway, the second climb was up to the Chief Ouray mine and back. Last, the Bridge of Heaven trail with endless switchbacks in the dark(again!). With only mild hallucinations, I was able to ascend those 4,844 feet, over about 5 miles, and make it back down in one piece. This last out and back took about 5 hours.

The time cutoff for the race is 52 hours. 2 miles per hour. That's how long you have. You can do what-ever you want with your time, but if you don't keep that pace, you will be pulled from the course. All of the aid station's have strict cutoff times and if you don't make it, your race is over.

Some people are into napping. I am not one of those people. I would consider it if I was falling apart and had time to spare.

In 2019, 73 people started and 32 finished the race. Most of the 41 DNFs (Did Not Finish) were due to missed cutoffs; although, there are a myriad of things that can go wrong. One of the people who missed an early cutoff came back to the start/finish and did the last two climbs with me. I was glad to have his company, and his ride back to my hotel.

This part of the San Juan Mountains has some fantastic trails that I would like to go back and see in the daylight. Next time I'll just have to run faster so I finish in the daylight!



Paul "running" up the snow-packed trail

Where We Hiked

Kauai

Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

Here are three of the hikes Eugene Branigan and I did on Kauai in February 2020. Kauai is the northwestern-most of the major Hawaiian Islands, and is known as the “Garden Isle” for its scenic beauty and for having the “wettest spot on earth” (Mt. Waialeale, rained 683 inches in 1982). Rain means mud.

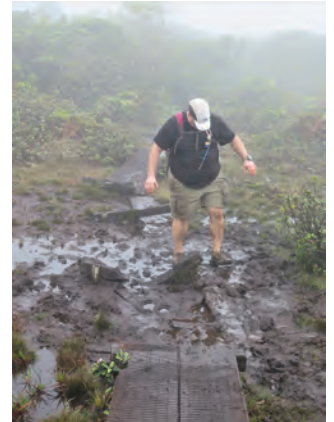
Below: Kilohana vista

Alakai Swamp Trail to Kilohana Vista.

You can almost drive around the island, but not all the way. 72 miles by road. At Kilohana Vista you can see the remaining 7 miles (and 4000’ drop). We crossed the Alakai Swamp, 7 miles round trip, partly slippery muddy (“janky”), partly boardwalk—in various states of repair. At Kilohana, Mt. Waialeale is 8 miles SE and 1100’ higher. The “Alakai Swamp” is actually a montane wet forest (stunted) containing alpine bogs.



Right: Eugene in the Alakai Swamp



Kalalau Trail to Hanakapi’ai Falls.

One of the most dangerous hikes in America, 11 miles along the Na Pali coast to Kalalau Valley. It was dry(!), but we chickened out anyway and only did a side trail (2 miles and 3 more stream crossings each way) to 300’ Hanakapi’ai Falls. Total hike 8-1/2 miles round trip. Up the valley it was still damp, and in addition to the mud there were places the trail was merely rock faces to traverse. Lots of colorful flowers.



**Left
Na Pali Coast**

**Right
Hanakapi’ai
Falls**



Waipo'o Falls in Waimea Canyon. "Grand Canyon of the Pacific" certainly isn't on the same scale as it's namesake, but it is amazingly scenic. The four mile round trip hike took us to the top of the falls, from which you could only see the top of the falls. There was another smaller waterfall above Waipo'o we did see.



Duane, above Waipo'o Falls



Duane & Eugene at Kauai Brewing Co.



Waimea Canyon, Waipo'o Falls in distance.

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
amatz57@yahoo.com

CURRENT JV45^o **GOVERNING BOARD**

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
delawton@torchlake.com

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

Open – Events Coordinator

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator, haack@msu.edu

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