



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 3

June 2019

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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



Message From Mary Campbell JV 45° Chapter President

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Greetings JV45° members and friends, Summer is here! I hope you are getting out and enjoying the trail. Here are a few updates on recent and current activities.

2019 Celebration –Follow-up. The national NCTA 2019 Celebration held the beginning of May at Shanty Creek Resort was a HUGE success, with 352 participants, from 12 states. From the survey comments, overall people had a great time and enjoyed hiking the JV 45° and Grand Traverse Hiking Club (GTHC) NCT segments, so **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped clear our trails; lead/sweep a hike; coordinate a field trip; provide an educational session; help with the months of planning, as well as all the on-site registration, meals and other details. It was definitely a large collaborative team effort and **JV 45° is a great team!** I truly appreciated the opportunity to get know better many members of JV 45°, GTHC, HS, NCTA staff, as well as many members of other chapters along the trail through this process.

Bear River Bridge. On June 3, 2019 the City of Petoskey accepted the grant agreement from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the construction of the long awaited bridge over the Bear River. This was the final major financial hurdle, so the project can move forward. The City of Petoskey will be the owner of the bridge and will manage the project. JV 45° will continue to coordinate with the Petoskey Parks and Recreation director regarding the construction, and the match funding we will be providing through grants we secure and pledges (remember those pledges...? Expect a note later this summer to request payment). Also, see the projects article regarding the bridge-related re-route projects. So when will the bridge be installed? While there is a possibility of this

fall, it is probably more likely to be 2020 due to construction schedules and costs. As more is known, I will provide updates.

Destination Michigan and Promotion of the NCT. This spring, JV 45° members actively participated in Petoskey area events to promote the NCT and JV 45° Chapter, including working an aid station at the Top of Michigan Marathon and having an informational table at the Downtown Petoskey Open House. These events are fun and help increase awareness about our trail and chapter. I realized at the Open House that these events are often 'staffed' by the same wonderful & reliable folks— but, I really don't want to burn-out these dedicated volunteers. So, if you like talking about the trail and would like to help with future promotional activities, please let me know.

If you were on our chapter hike last September, you may recall that WCMU's Destination Michigan's producer Matthew Ozanich joined us to take some video, which he combined with other chapter events for an NCT segment. The show recently aired, and can be viewed at: <https://www.pbs.org/video/season-10-episode-5-8q3kww/> (Our segment is about 17 minutes into the program).

Next Chapter meeting. Summers in northern Michigan seem to get busier every year, so I am looking to wait until September for the next Chapter meeting. I hope to connect with you on the trail. Safe and Happy Hiking!

Upcoming Events

June 22, 2019. Chapter Hike. See details on p. 4. .

June 29, 2019. Workday to complete reroutes near Springvale Rd. See p. 6.

July 13, 2019. Workday to finish the Skyline Shelter. See p. 6..

July 20, 2019. Next JV45 Chapter Hike. Details to come.

"May" Chapter Hike Report

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator

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Our May Chapter Hike occurred on June 1, National Trails Day. Not only did we have a hike, but we also had a Thank You Cook Out

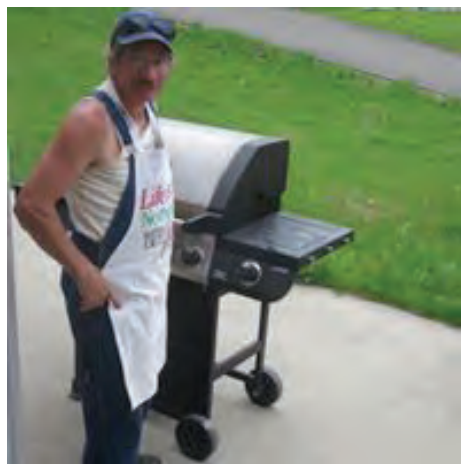
Wow, about 20 people showed up at the Fish Hatchery and we all crammed into three vehicles for the bumpy ride up Pinney Bridge Road. Some rode in the back of Kevin's pickup and managed not to fall out. At Pinney Bridge the water was washing across the road and also part of the trail. At the bridge we met up with Duane Lawton and Jim Howell who started their hike at Landslide Overlook. At the 45-degree marker, they found the stash of Gatorade and snack Bob placed there earlier in the morning.

After passing through Pinney Campground we encountered a mushroom hunter who collected a bag full in about 15 minutes. Later in the hike Jane Denay was thrilled to find more for herself. We then encountered John and Dove Day who, although armed with a chain saw, found little opportunity to use it. We stopped for snacks on the river bank about 3 miles into the hike and finished up the last mile to the Hatchery via Jordan River Rd. The weather forecast was for rain but it never materialized and the temperatures were very comfortable.



There were lots of other hikers too (National Trails Day). Most were carrying packs and headed to Pinney Campground for the overnight. They start at Deadman's on the first day, camp, and then complete the Jordan Valley Loop on the second day.

The hike ended up back at the hatchery where Mary Campbell and John Larch had graciously arranged a cook out. We had about 12 more people who weren't on the hike join in the picnic. The food was great and Mary had a drawing for door prizes. She graciously thanked everyone who helped with the NCT Celebration at Shanty in early May.



John Larch grilled burgers and brats



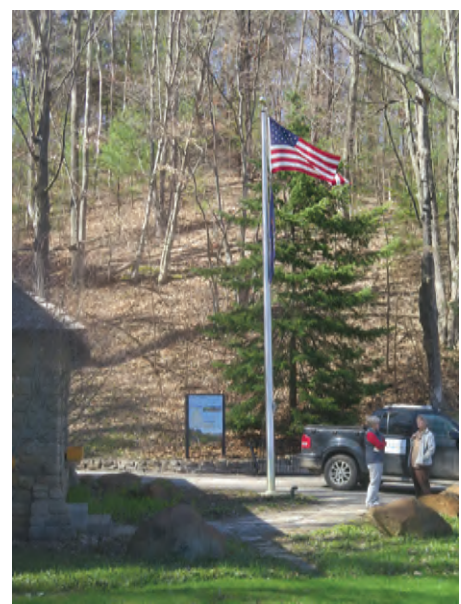
New NCT Signage at TOMTC Dove Day

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Only a few days after the close of the NCTA Celebration, JV45 members Mary Campbell and Duane Lawton planted a new, North Country National Scenic Trail sign at the offices of the Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC). The NCT runs in front of TOMTC's office on M-119 in Petoskey. A huge THANK YOU to Sue Bouwense at TOMTC for helping us put up the new sign.



Duane and Mary



Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

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As soon as the snow melted trail adopters and volunteers were out clearing trees and freshening blazes in preparation for the 2019 NCTA Celebration and this year's hiking season. 80 miles of trail was whipped into shape by the end of April. Well over 200 trees were cleared off the trail! The speed in which this occurred this year was astounding. Two months of spring trail work was accelerated and done in just two weeks! Of course, we had some strong winds come through afterwards, but we all know and understand that clearing trees from the trail is a never ending process!

The April 27th trail work day was a great success! 18 people spread out doing work as far north as Petoskey and in several sections throughout the Jordan Valley. Several groups freshened blazes while others weed whipped and chain-sawed. One group even built more puncheon near Cascade Road. We are very thankful for all who were able to join us. A huge thanks goes out to all who mowed, blazed, weed whipped, chain-sawed, hand-sawed, AND lugged trees off the trail with your bare hands! It was a great team effort!

Trail Adoptions: We are happy to announce that Ellen Whitehead has agreed to become an adopter for section A, our chapter's most southern section near Starvation Lake Road. And Jane and Cliff Denay are the new trail adopters for Section R (Springvale Rd to Harmon Rd). Their dog, Hamilton is very happy with the adoption too! Thank you Ellen, Jane, and Cliff for caring enough to adopt!

If interested in adopting a section of trail, or if you are already an adopter

and would like to share your section with someone, please let us know! We have a few sections that are in need and we would like to get multiple adopters on some of the longer sections. For more information contact Dove or John Day at doveday70@gmail.com or call 231-373-0090

Wonder what it means to be a trail adopter? Being a Jordan Valley 45° trail adopter takes dedication and some hard work, but it is also one of the most rewarding volunteer opportunities out there. You get to be outside, in the woods, hiking and caring for a trail. You get to take pride in the fact that what you do allows others to enjoy a wonderful hiking experience, without having to scramble over downed trees or worry about getting scratched up by overgrown briars and prickles. You get to make the trail safe and enjoyable for all who hike it!

As a trail adopter you vow to check your section at least three times a year. (Spring, Summer and Fall) It never hurts to go out more often, especially after high winds. Winter is the perfect time to check out the blazing on your section as that is the time of year that one really relies on the blazes to stay on trail.

Other trail maintenance would include, cutting back brush and briars to create a 4' wide by 8' tall corridor, hand sawing small trees that might be down over the trail, and making note of how many big trees are down and in need of chainsawing, with a general location as to where they are located on your section. When you make note of the location it will save the certified chainsaw sawyer time and energy when going out to chainsaw for you. You should also report any damage to structures on your section, such as puncheon, boardwalk, or register boxes. If your section includes a register box, you should be sure to keep it stocked with a log book and brochures, keeping at least



Ellen Whitehead

10-15 brochures in it throughout the year.

After each seasonal check you then need to send a simple trail report to your chapter's trail coordinators, letting them know what was done on your section. They need to know the section's status and any needs it may have so that they can update the Adopter Dashboard. The dashboard shows all of the Jordan Valley 45° sections, their adopters, and the current known status and needs. The dashboard is sent out periodically to all trail adopters.

If becoming a trail adopter seems like a good fit for you, please contact us!



Jane and Cliff Denay

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CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

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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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NCTA Awards Presentation

During the Celebration, the NCTA Awards were presented by Executive Director Andrea Ketchmark after the Friday Dinner at Ivan's Restaurant at the base of Schuss Mountain on the Shanty Complex. JV45 Chapter members who received awards that night included Linus Branigan (Rising Star), Bob Haack (Communicator), and Mary Campbell (Leadership). Besides the NCTA Awards being presented that evening, we also had chair-lift rides available to view the countryside, and of course a bonfire with s'mores!



Linus Branigan - Rising Star Award



Bob Haack - Communicator Award



Mary Campbell - Leadership Award

National Park Service Volunteer Time Award Winners

The JV45 Chapter Members who received Hours of Service Awards from the US National Park Service included Mary Campbell (100 and 200 hrs), Karen Roth (100), Josh Berlo (200), Robert Courtois (200), Sheridan Haack (200), Denise DeKett (400), Robert Haack (400), Dove Day (1000), and Duane Lawton (2500 HOURS)!!! Thanks to all.



Marty Samson & Mary Campbell



Jays Backpacker Day Connie Allen

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Jay's Backpacker Day was held on April 13th. It was a great event. Mott Johengen and Tamera Dean helped us (Jerry and Connie Allen) at the NCTA table. We had 47 people participate in the "Guess the weight of the backpack." The highest weight guessed was 75 lbs. and the lowest was 25 lbs. The actual weight was 24 lbs. 9 oz. A young man, Aidan Holmes from Midland, won the one year membership. When Jerry talked with Aidan's mom, to say he won, she was very pleased and said they are all hikers.

Plans for June Chapter Hike

The JV45° June Chapter Hike, will take place on Saturday 22 June 2019.

We will hike the "Valley of the Giants" section that is maintained by the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. We will meet at Scheck's Place State Forest Campground at the Boardman River Crossing on Brown Bridge Rd.. See mile #722 on this map: <http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

We will meet at 10 am and head out by 10:30. We will probably finish by around 3 pm or so. We will hike south about 3.5 miles, have lunch, and then back. Total about 7 miles. This section includes hills, swamps (beaver dams) and old growth forest (Valley of the Giants). Bring lunch and drinks.

As a bonus, after the hike we can paddle on the Boardman River. If interested contact GTHC member Sara Cockrell by email sarac369@charter.net, or phone/text

with name, (231) 620-3543. See details on the Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/481739819246069/>

Our next JV45 Hike will be on July 20th in the Chandler Hills area, details to come. Any questions? – call or text Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699 (put your name in the text so I know who it is).

Submit Volunteer Hours

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

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

Final Work Days in Advance of Celebration 2019

On Friday, April 26, four of us (Duane, Kevin, Doug, & Jim) went into the Jordan Valley with Kenny to prep for the spur trail for the trail-building seminar. We added a few boards, cleared fallen trees, and relocated the “You Are Here” signpost.



On Saturday, April 27th, as part of Chapter Workday, Kathy, Tim and Karen and I (Duane) went to Cascade Rd. to add more puncheon over the muddy areas. We used up ALMOST ALL of the lumber left over from the bridge that we demolished in 2018, and built three short puncheons, as well as removed the Carsonites at Cascade Rd., and applied the stickers to the road marker posts.



JV45° Helps at a Marathon

The JV45° Chapter hosted an aid station on Saturday, May 25th, at the “2019 Stafford’s Top of Michigan Festival of Races” marathon in Petoskey. We passed out water and snacks to the runners right where they merged onto the NCT (in front of the Little Traverse Historical Museum). We had 10 wonderful chapter members help out this year: Connie and Jerry Allen, Jane and Cliff Denay, Doreen Jagodnik, Bill Shelton, Emily Meyerson, Harry Kitchen, and Dove and John Day. Thanks to all!





"Build It" June 2019

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
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Well, things are starting to ramp up for the summer in a big way. On May 3rd, at Celebration 2019, we built the long-promised spur trail from the Jordan Valley Pathway reroute to the beaver ponds boardwalk, with help from 14 of our friends from across the NCT. Kenny Wawczyk and Bill Menke schooled us on trail-building best practices, and suggested we re-do ~200' of trail below Deadman's just before the collapsed viewing platform because it is too steep. So stay tuned for that...



On May 7th we finally planted the interpretive panel provided by NCTA at the Top of Michigan Trails Council HQ on M-119.

The Petoskey City Council approved the DNR Project Agreement for the Iron Belle Bear River Bridge on June 3rd. On June 5-6 Kenny Wawczyk, Jim DeKett and I scouted and flagged a route for the new trail from the site of the new bridge to Cedar Valley road across City of Petoskey and Bear Creek Township properties, etc. There will be quite a lot of puncheon/boardwalk required. Kenny will submit a permit application for these structures to EGLE (formerly DEQ) as this is wetland. There will be more trail planning and trail-building prep in the next couple of months leading up to a four day trail building extravaganza around North Country National Scenic Trail Day, September 27-30. We invited participation from anyone anywhere along the NCT



to join in (see the North Star). Save the date—it should be epic!

Doug Boor is hosting the Finish The Skyline Shelter workday on July 13th, 9-4, bring a lunch. We'll finish siding, roof for outhouse, and trim for porch and staining if we get to it.

There will be a trail work day on Saturday, June 29th to complete the two re-routes south of Springvale Road. The first one, beavers motivated, is already blazed and in use but needs some touchup...and maybe a short puncheon. Jerry's bowl bypass will be another matter, with major deadfall clearing and benching needed. There is a shortcut in to the site from Harmon Road, but we'll plan to first meet at the Springvale Road trail crossing at 9:00 am.

Welcome summer!



Glacial Hills in Bellaire was the site for two Celebration events. There was a wildflower walk during the week led by JV45 member Sue Holtzmann & Lyn Petty (right), and of course the early morning Sunday run led by our Saturday evening guest speaker, Mirna Valerio (left). About 15 people joined Mirna on a 4-mile run. Glacial Hills has over 30 miles of trails that are open to hiking, biking, and snowshoeing.



Where I Hiked

The traditional "Where I Hiked" column is being substituted in this issue by a series of stories and pictures from the 2019 Celebration.



Above is Dave Matz (2nd from R) leading a hike in the Chandler Hills area from Springvale Road to Slashing Road.



Petoskey Hikes

Several of us visited the Petoskey area, spending the morning hours on the NCT near the North Central Michigan College Natural Area & Petoskey Bear River Recreation Area, and then in the afternoon near the Petoskey Skyline Trail. We visited the Arden Johnson memorial bench (a trail-building legend who largely led the development of the JV45 section of the NCT). We had lunch at Beards Brewpub, which is nearly on the NCT. On the Skyline portion, many of us signed the register box log at Krause Rd and visited the hiker shelter.



New Spur Trail

Building a Spur Trail during the Celebration. We held an all-day training practicum on how to build a new trail during the Celebration. Working with Kenny Wawczyk and Bill Menke, we instructed 21 attendees. We presented several trail building pointers, and then constructed the new spur trail, installed a new sign and new blazes, and took a group picture of course. Above is the view from the end of spur trail. Duane Lawton



Petoskey Open House

The Petoskey Downtown Open House is a fun and festive annual event, where JV45 members help raise awareness about the NCT. Several members staffed the JV45 Table and shared our trail enthusiasm with the public as we enjoyed

a Petoskey High School Steel Drum Band concert. Thanks to Dove & John Day, Connie and Jerry Allen, Mary Campbell, Duane Lawton, and Nancy Kowalski and her two granddaughters, Michaela and Addison Bova, who staffed JV45 table this year. I hope some of our new chapter recruits will join us for our June 22nd hike!

Pre-Celebration Hike Along the Manistee River

On Wednesday, May 1, there was a Pre-Celebration Manistee River Trail Hike. A paddle on the Manistee River was also planned, but given the rain and cool weather, the participants only hiked. There were 10 hikers in all, led by Sara Cockrell. They all had a great time!



Thanks to Our 2019 Celebration Financial Sponsors

Trail Champion
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Trail Leaders



Trail Blazers



Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore Excursion

A bus with 39 participants went on a day-long bus tour of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on Saturday during the Celebration. The weather was perfect with clear blue skies. The excursion included a stop at the visitor center, hiking the Empire Bluff Trail, and a choice of the Dune Climb or Sleeping Bear Point. The trip was led by JV45 members Jane Denay and Annie Matz. For some, the highlights of the trip included finding Petoskey Stones on the beach and skipping stones for the first time in their lives!



The Post Celebration Hike

Shari Sanderson

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We offered a 3 day, 24 mile, hike through half of the NCT section maintained by the Harbor Springs Chapter. We had car shuttle drivers spotted at each road crossing in case someone needed to stop their hike, as well as a checkpoint for those who were continuing on.



We started our 3 day adventure on Sunday, May 5th at 1:00 pm with 25 hikers. We hiked from Kipp Road in Harbor Springs to Stutsmanville Road, a total of 7 miles for the day. This was a moderate hike. The trail passes Little Traverse Bay Golf Course and goes through red pine plantations and hardwoods, ascending the first mile to the back side of Nub's Nob ski hill and descends the last mile to Brutus Road and the end of our Section #1. We continued our hike for the day by crossing Brutus Road and ascending a small hill into a beech and maple forest. We descended to a river and crossed a bridge, walking over some puncheon covered with shingles that made our hike safer because they were not slippery. We had a big climb shortly after crossing the river and ended our day with a long downhill to the shuttle drivers waiting to take us to our vehicles and then had 18 of the hikers meet for dinner at Northwoods Fish and Chips. We finished our day ahead of schedule, but Northwoods was ready for us and we had a great dinner.

Our second day of our 3-day hike was cold and rainy all morning so we didn't make many stops to rest. We had 16 hikers brave the weather and most did all 14 miles. We had check in/opt out spots at 2 miles, 6.2 miles and 8.2 miles. Our hike for the day was rated moderate - difficult due to some elevation changes but mostly for the distance. We started our day at the trail head



on Stutsmanville Road (our Section #3) and hiked north towards Larks Lake Road. This section of the trail is flat and passes through logged coniferous wetlands with boardwalks and puncheon. We only have shingles on half of this section so traveling was fast until we ran out of shingles, then the pace slowed down until we got off the boardwalk. Then we had a surprise when we reached Larks Lake Road. They were grading the dirt road and the pile of dirt was a couple feet deep, so our car shuttlers couldn't drive over it. The hikers did walk over it, and continued their hike, heading towards Robinson Road (our Section #4). This section of the trail ascends through hardwood forest and red pine plantations and then a big descent to Robinson Road. Still raining, a few people took a quick snack break near the trailhead (our Section #5) and continued hiking toward Van Road. We met a few backpackers heading south as we continued north through flat land with conifers and ascended through beech, maple and then into red pines with a slight descent to Van Road. We were shuttled through our 5 mile road walk with the exception of 2 hikers who wanted to hike the road walk. It was at this point that I, as sweep, found out that a couple of hikers got lost as they went ahead of the group and didn't follow the blazes! They found their way back to be shuttled through the road walk where we passed the two hikers about 2 miles into their road walk. It finally stopped raining by the time we reached Levering Road (our Section #6). This section begins in coniferous wetlands, then heads through mixed forest to a dam at Wycamp Creek. We spotted an eagle's nest, which didn't look occupied this year and enjoyed a long break at Wycamp dam in hopes that the road walkers would catch up to us. Just as we were packing up to leave the dam, our road walker came walking down the path and informed us that it was just

her, the other hiker decided to stop. Giving her a minute to catch her breath, we hiked on, still ahead of schedule for our final destination that day on Sturgeon Bay Trail. The trail follows Wycamp Lake for a while, then ascends through dunes where we find a large wet area that we had to find our way around. Thankfully, we had a couple of our hikers ahead of us, that met us, and led us through it and out to Sturgeon Bay Trail and the car shuttlers that were waiting to take us to dinner at Moose Jaw Junction. We arrived to dinner ahead of schedule again, but they were also ready for us and we had another great meal.

Our day 3 was only 3 miles long, but rated vigorous due to the ascents and descents through sand dunes containing pine, oak and balsam fir stands. We had a



total of 12 hikers on day 3. We all drove to Lakeshore Drive in Sturgeon Bay to the parking lot at the trail head. Then were shuttled to the start of our hike where we climbed for about 1 mile and saw farm fields at a well placed resting bench and a view of Lake Michigan because the leaves weren't on the trees yet. Walking along the bluff for a while, I led the hikers through a small unmarked side spur to the top of Sturgeon Bay sand dunes where we had a nice 15-20 minute break and enjoyed a beautiful view of Lake Michigan. Approximately another mile of hiking brought us out to the parking lot where we had another surprise. A new sign had been placed in the parking lot that stated you needed a Michigan State Park Sticker to park here! Thankfully the workers didn't ticket anyone, but a note of warning to anyone who parks their car here in the future. This parking lot is located in the Wilderness State Park area and requires a State Park Sticker. It was a great 3-day hike with the "Softies" (and some new friends) who will end their trek across the Upper Peninsula at the Mackinaw Bridge this Fall.



Mancelona Students Helped Clear the NCT

Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

In mid-April, I was contacted by a teacher at North Central Academy in Mancelona, asking if some of their junior and high school students could help JV45 with any trail projects. It turns out that the NCT travels along the road (Corey Rd) right in front of their school, so they are well aware of the NCT and the blue



blazes. Given that the Celebration was only 2 weeks away, we agreed to have the students help us clear a few miles of trail on Thursday morning, April 25. Three JV45 members (Sheridan & Bob Haack, and Ellen Whitehead) worked with over 30 students and several teachers. We talked with the students about the NCT, provided some outdoor nature education as we hiked, and of course, cleared the trail. It was fun for all!

Clearcutting along the Trail

On June 2nd, Ellen Whitehead went out for her first hike as a new Trail Adopter. As she hiked from Starvation Lake Road to Sand Lake, across state DNR land, she was shocked to find a large and recent clearcut that she estimated was 3/4's of a mile on a side. A narrow buffer of trees was left on each side of the NCT for much of the trail in this clearcut, but not all of it.

Ellen alerted several JV45 Governing Board members as well as Kenny Wawczyk from NCTA HQ. A few days later Kenny, Duane, and Jim visited the site and will discuss their findings with the DNR in the near future. They want to see



how we can improve notification about planned logging operations in areas where the NCT occurs.

Although seeing a clearcut is upsetting to many people, they are the standard method of harvesting pioneer tree species, like aspen, which require full sunlight when young. By contrast, selective harvesting of individual trees is practiced for climax tree species, like sugar maple, that will regenerate in deep shade. Our section of NCT goes through DNR lands that have both early and late successional tree species, so we will see a variety of logging practices over the years. So as you hike from Starvation Lake Road to Sand Lake in future years, take note of the rapid changes in forest stand structure that will occur.

(This story was compiled by Bob Haack from a series of email messages.)



Register Box Buzz



45th Parallel

Bob Haack

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For many people that attended the 2019 Celebration, making it to the 45th Parallel Marker was a true destination. I added up the entries made in the Log Book where people included their home state and came up with a total of 105 individuals. There were over a dozen more people that did not write the state that they were from, and of course, there were likely many others that never signed the book. So of the 105 total signatures, 71 were from Michigan, 10 from Minnesota, 6 from Ohio, 6 from Wisconsin, 4 from North Dakota, 4 from Pennsylvania, 2 from Indiana, and 2 from New York.