



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 5

October 2018

Upcoming Events

October 6, 2018, 9 am. Workday,
meet at Deadman's Hill, see p 4

October 13, 2018, 9 am, Workday,
meet at Fish Hatchery, see p 4

**October 20, 2018, 930 am, JV 45°
Chapter Leadership Meeting,** at Fire
Hall in Boyne Falls, see p. 2

**October 20, 2018, 1030 am, Trail
Adopters Appreciation Brunch** at
Fire Hall in Boyne Falls, see p. 2

**October 20, 2018, noon, JV45 Chap-
ter Hike, following the Appreciation
Brunch,** meet at Fire Hall in Boyne
Falls, see p. 3

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://northcountry-trail.org/jv45/?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 Jordan Valley 45° Members
and Friends.

*I am VERY pleased to give you a
positive update on the Bear River Bridge
Project:*

After some delays earlier this summer, North Central Michigan College, at the end of August, approved granting an easement to the City of Petoskey to allow for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Bear River. As you may recall, the installation of this proposed bridge will ultimately facilitate the re-routing of approximately 3.5 miles of trail off of busy local roads.

With the recent College decision, the pursuit of grant dollars to fund the bridge is moving ahead with gusto!—this week NCTA- JV 45° submitted a grant request to the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, and the City of Petoskey submitted supplemental materials for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant request. Later this month I expect JV 45° will be applying the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) *Public Spaces, Community Places* program. We hope to utilize their crowd-granting program to conduct a crowd-funding campaign, which if we meet or exceed a pre-set dollar goal then the State will match our goal amount. Once accepted into the program, we will work with the program staff to develop the publicity plan for our crowdfunding campaign. Given the steps involved, I anticipate the campaign would 'go live' sometime in November and when it does, we will need YOUR help to spread the word and encourage others to support this project. We will be reaching out to other partner organizations to also help us spread the word and encourage financial support.

While there is still much work to be done (and dollars to be raised) I am optimistic that we, in partnership with the City of Petoskey, will have funding secured by the end of 2018, and thus allowing for construction to begin in 2019 on both the bridge and the initial phase of the trail re-route.

Exploring Other Partnership Opportunities.

As some of you may know, Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA) has a narrow excavator that they have been using to develop many miles of mountain biking trails in northern Michigan over the last few years. I had the chance to see the machine in action a couple years ago and was quite impressed. Since we have some cross-over members between TOMMBA and JV 45°, some informal discussions have occurred about whether this excavator might be available for some of our future trail building efforts. Later this month a few of the JV 45° leadership hope to meet

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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/>

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

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The Alba tornado and strong storms in August caused quite a bit of damage to the NCT (see pictures below), and we'd like to thank all who have been out to clear after the storms!



Nature has provided many opportunities for our certified sawyers!



We are happy to announce that in September several more chapter members were able to get chainsaw certified. NCTA members traveled up to the Hiawatha National Forest Ranger Station in Saint Ignace for a two day class. Sawyers



Our newest certified s& recertified sawyers

spent one day in the classroom and one day in the field refreshing their chainsaw skills and reviewing chainsaw safety. Five of the seven sawyers that attended were Jordan Valley 45° members (see picture above). New to certification this year were Jim Howell, Dave Matz, and Andy Zeek. Chainsaw certification lasts for three years and then must be renewed. Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy lives to become chainsaw certified!

You may recall that last year we started adding multiple trail adopters to some of the JV45 trail sections, and as the chapter grows we will continue to add more people. We'd like to announce Jim Howell as our newest trail adopter (picture below). Jim has adopted section J, which runs from M-32 to O'Brien Pond. A big thanks to Jim for helping out with this section!

As the season winds down it's time once again to honor all of our trail adopters. This year we will have a brunch and hike to celebrate all the work that they do to keep the NCT maintained. We hope you can join us for this event on October 20th! Dove and John



Jim Howell is our newest trail adopter

From page 1, President's Message

with TOMMBA representatives to further explore what the possibilities might be...

JV 45° Chapter Leadership Meeting

9:30a October 20, 2018, Fire Hall in Boyne Falls. The chapter leadership will meet prior to the Appreciation Brunch to review the status of planning for the 2019 Celebration and share updates on other projects.

Appreciation Brunch for Trail Adopters

10:30 am October 20, 2018, Fire Hall in Boyne Falls. **Thank you to all who have been working on the trails.** Please join us to express our appreciation to those who maintain the JV 45° segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Trail adopters, please come and bring your appetites. Others, please come and bring a dish to pass. Any questions, please contact Mary Campbell or Dove Day. Happy (& Safe) Hiking,

Mary Campbell, JV 45° President

On Saturday, September 22nd, Matt Ozanich, WCMU producer of 'Destination Michigan' joined JV45 members on the monthly chapter hike as we celebrated North Country National Scenic Trail Day. A video clip can be seen on the *Destination Michigan Facebook* page (posted Sept 25, 2018).

<https://www.facebook.com/WCMUDestinationMichigan/> or complete link:

[https://www.facebook.com/WCMUDestinationMichigan/videos/2304049046483466/?hc_ref=AR_SphCyJUcELiARz1zGX8sIF_36IZgzk0k3EZaxT_XmYaBeBTsmaioin4u9LofviG7c&fref=nf&_xts__\[0\]=68.ARAQP-rq-Fh-kbpNAFbTKWor4a9wLQSS_eSc3rH9Ki4e4mjm7JWNkyBY1YVgbx-VIXOV2gozXhJU2RPIH7HoAjfpxUd-v7sBY28GvSIStm6tG9UzHfT2e17qyd9Te-b78jhQtZppUmXzo5MoOI2bUUVCa7kIW-C0AICDt1kjQnJ7u3fzr-dEkqjekRo&tn__=kCH-R](https://www.facebook.com/WCMUDestinationMichigan/videos/2304049046483466/?hc_ref=AR_SphCyJUcELiARz1zGX8sIF_36IZgzk0k3EZaxT_XmYaBeBTsmaioin4u9LofviG7c&fref=nf&_xts__[0]=68.ARAQP-rq-Fh-kbpNAFbTKWor4a9wLQSS_eSc3rH9Ki4e4mjm7JWNkyBY1YVgbx-VIXOV2gozXhJU2RPIH7HoAjfpxUd-v7sBY28GvSIStm6tG9UzHfT2e17qyd9Te-b78jhQtZppUmXzo5MoOI2bUUVCa7kIW-C0AICDt1kjQnJ7u3fzr-dEkqjekRo&tn__=kCH-R)

JV45 September Chapter Hike on North Country National Scenic Trail Day

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
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On 22 September 2018, some of us first met at 10 am at the Day's home (where the hike was going to end) and then drove to the Springvale Road trail crossing. We were impressed that Matt Ozanich (host for "Destination Michigan") was already there waiting for us. Matt is filming different sections and events on the NCT for a future episode of Destination Michigan. So, after loading Matt up with maps and other background on the NCT, we had a group photo and split into two groups. A 12-mile (9 regulars & Matt) hike and a 6-mile hike (5 members).



The weather was perfect for a change (we had rain hikes in May, June and July). We started out with temperatures around 50 and it warmed to the mid-60s by mid-afternoon. Sunny all day.

This portion of trail is definitely one of the best of the entire JV45 section. Hilly and mostly dry, there are lots of long climbs and descents. Of note today was



the number of downed trees following the high winds the day before, so we did a bit of trail maintenance as we went. Actually, people had been out earlier in the week to clear trees downed from storms the previous week.



Added excitement on this hike was a cow running loose on Harmon Rd. A downed tree collapsed the electric fence and the cow got out. We blocked the road when a neighbor (and his two big wiener herd-dogs) came by to chase her back into the corral. She easily hopped the fence back into the corral. We then helped clear the tree and restrung the hot wire.

Landmarks along the way included the Cherry Valley Overlook, the free camp shelter near Krause Rd, and the viewing platform.



After arriving at the Day's home, drivers were ferried back to Springvale and Welsh roads to recover their cars.

John and Dove Day graciously hosted a pot-luck dinner and camp fire at their cool barn. We did a little NCT business and planned the October hike.



Next JV45 Hike October 20th, 2018

The hike will follow the Trail Adopter's Brunch in Boyne Falls, Join the hike even if you can't make the Brunch. We will gather around noon at the Fire Hall and start out by 12:30. We will hike from Kuzmik Rd. to Geim Rd. about 6 miles. More details will be posted and emailed later.

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WHAT WE DID

Below Deadman's Hill Work Day, September 8th

At least 16 hardy workers showed up for the September Work Day, including 4 from the Chief NoonDay Chapter (CND; Bob Cooley, Jeff Fleming, John Fomusa, and Larry Pio). We really appreciate all the work and leadership the CND members contributed this summer! Besides clearing a few fallen trees and placing a second railing on a "bridge" constructed earlier this summer, we mainly built puncheon, and more puncheon, and even more puncheon.



Lunch time for half the workers



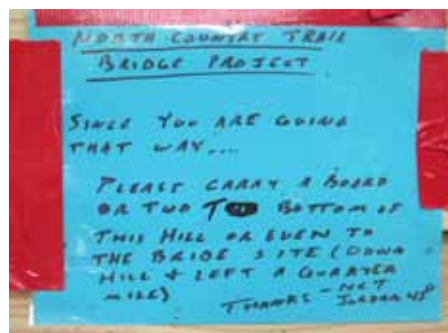
Punchon and more punchon

Below Deadman's Hill Mini-Work Days, September 27-28

We were preparing for the Oct. 6 workday by staging material below Deadman's Hill. Thursday Doug Seaney and Jim Howell got some 6x6s for sills from our cache by Jordan River Road, cut them, drilled them, and carried them to the site. Friday, I and the Bobs (Courtois & Haack) picked up the rest of the bill-of-material from our stash at the Fish Hatchery, transported it to Deadman's Hill, and began carrying it to the site. When it started raining we left the rest at the top of the trail, and Bob Courtois left a sign asking hikers to carry the remaining pieces in for us. Big success! Almost all was taken in within 24 hours!



Duane and the Bobs wondering how they will take three 20-ft-long boards down Deadman's Hill



Bob Courtois' plea to hikers to help carry wood for the bridge project.

Work Day Saturday, October 6th

We will venture again below Deadman's Hill, to build a bridge over a creek. Most of the material is already there! (see above). **Meet at Deadman's Hill parking lot at 9:00 am**, bring a lunch. If we have more than enough eager beavers to build the bridge, there are a couple of spots a little further on where short sections of puncheon can be built, with material that is still located at our two-level bridge. Weather forecast (as of 10/1) is for low 50's and chance of rain.

Work Day Saturday, October 13th

Just before the raised boardwalk beyond the collapsed beaver ponds bridge is a mud hole, which many of you experienced at our first group hike this year. Needs 40' of puncheon. Plan is to salvage the puncheon on the old route, just past the beaver ponds viewing boardwalk, and move the material to the new location. **Meet at 9:00 am at the Fish Hatchery**, we'll carpool in. Bring warm clothes, claw hammers (if you can) and lunch. Weather forecast (as of 10/1) is for low 50s and mostly dry, maybe some sun! ... but who knows that far into the future?

A big THANK YOU to all of you for helping to get our trail in shape for the 2019 NCTA Celebration next May!!



Only a few pieces of wood were still at the top of Deadman's Hill by mid-day. Thank you hikers!

Register Box Buzz



Deadman's Hill

Danyell Minier

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I visited the Register Box at the bottom of Deadman's Hill in early October, 2018. There were mushrooms everywhere. Since June of 2017, when I last checked this box, there were about 500 new entries! There were several family groups, groups of friends, Boy Scout and other group hikes. Here are some of the entries.

June 1, 2017 "Carley and Jeff Koop more than 1/2 way done with the 100 challenge. Joined up with great hiking buddies :)"

June 18, 2017 "Hiking OH/MI border to Bridge on last leg :) CND Chapter Jane N"

June 21, 2018 "Ferris Family Hike trip Happy Birthday Mom!"

July 1, 2017 "Allison & Brandon Boatman, trying out new Christmas presents, backpacks, etc. :)"

July 24, 2017 "Anne and Ian from Kalamazoo, MI. First hike as an engaged couple!"

July 27, 2017 "Bill, Renee, John, Duffy, Dick, Nancy Out for a nice hike. Wow that's a long way down! Beautiful tho."

August 1, 2017 "First hike together Zach and Natalie -so far so good :) Richmond, MI"



August 11, 2017 "I'm hiking the 18 mile loop on my 50th birthday. Dani Shaw Elmira, MI" "Following the Birthday Girl David Shaw"

August 11, 2017 "Erica and Michelle First girls only backpacking trip"

September 13, 2017 "It's been 10 years since I was last on this trail - looking forward to a great hike Thanks 45!" Jan S

September 18, 2017 "First time hiking this trail. So quiet - from Wakeman, OH Go Buckeyes!!"

September 29, 2017 "Weekly 13 Chad D and JK Awesome Day!"

October 5, 2017 "John and Jennifer McKay Honeymoon Hike!"

October 8, 2017 "23 year anniversary hike Randy and Lisa Zipp Boyne City"

October 14, 2017 "Beckman family loved our fall day walk!"

October 21, 2017 "Perfect fall day! Go green! Hannah and Maddy East Lansing"

October 21, 2017 "Klevorns Go Blue!! Boyne City"

October 21, 2017 "Kala, Natasha and Heidi Go Green! So beautiful here"

November 2, 2017 "Hiking the snow-covered trail. Such a beauty! Your favorite downstate boys! B & J"

March 23, 2018 "Danielle, Codi and our dog Fern. How about that slippery ride down?! Our first hike of the year and our first trip here simply beautiful"

May 12, 2018 "Jessie and Carolyn Mom and daughter adventure to celebrate Mothers Day! :)"

May 19, 2018 "JV45 NCTA May Group Hike in the rain"

June 17, 2018 "Makayla Curtis, Ann Curtis and Mike Curtis Happy Fathers Day"

June 15, 2018 "Allysa and Jeremy do Jordan River Valley loop. It is our first backpacking trail. From metro Detroit"

June 22, 2018 "Training for three week backpacking trip out west. Two brothers and their father! Chris, Zach, Gabriel"

July 24, 2018 "Tim Hendershott From Eastport, MI. Live in Denver CO. Work in Dubai, UAE +Excellent trail!"

July 26, 2018 "My name is Madeline and I am from Fenton, MI and I am hiking with 9 of my cousins who are from NJ -very good trail. It is raining"

August 11, 2018 "The Bols Alex Megan Abby 9 Liv 3 Loved the babbling brooks stopped for a picnic"

August 14, 2018 Michael R. Meyer, Brooke H. Meyer fresh off the PCT! father and daughter team"

August 18, 2018 "A beautiful day for a hike! Just showing off Northern MI to my Detroit City girlfriend. Hope she likes the woods! -Parker M"

September 8, 2018 "Steve Barrows North Branch MI. Thanks to all the volunteers for keeping the trail in good condition"

September 9, 2018 "Ted and Ellen Peto-skey Sunday hike in the nice weather! Love the new bridge!"

September 25, 2018 "Jim and Sherry Bailey Beautiful hike - thank you!"



Where I Hiked

Isle Royale

Annie Matz

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Isle Royale is one of Michigan's greatest treasures. After several years of listening to my friend Ruth Skop share stories of her backpacking adventures on Isle Royale it was finally my chance to join her. On August 29th of this year, Ruth and I drove to Petoskey where we met her friend Elly Pascoe and from there we began the 6 1/2 hour drive to Hancock, Michigan. Upon arriving in Hancock we saw firsthand the devastation from the torrential rains the area experienced earlier this summer. The road to our hotel had been washed away as well as several streets downtown.

The next morning after a brief mechanical delay we enjoyed a scenic 40 minute flight via Isle Royale Seaplanes to the remote island 61 miles to the north in Lake Superior. We chose to land near Windigo Visitors Center as this area on the western end of the island sees fewer hikers. After a quick orientation at the Ranger Station we submitted our planned itinerary, donned our packs, and hit the trail. We needed to cover 11.3 miles to reach our first campsite at Lake Desor. Following Greenstone Ridge through the center of the island the single track is well traveled and easy to follow, no blue blazes needed here. As we climbed the ridges the day became warmer and it was not long before we were removing our pant legs. Even though the forest were quite thick, we were fortunate to catch two brief glimpses of some of the 1500 moose that inhabit the island. Arriving at our campsite about 4 p.m. We enjoyed a refreshing dip in the crystal clear water of Lake Desor, then set up camp and prepared our evening meal.

Day 2. We awoke just prior to daybreak to the pitter-patter of raindrops on our tents.



Ruth, Elly & Annie



Elly, Annie & Ruth

After dressing in rain gear, we ate a quick breakfast, packed up and started hiking. The thunder boomed and the lightening flashed, the sky remained so dark that we needed our headlamps to see the trail long into the morning. After backtracking about 4 miles on the Greenstone ridge we turned south and did not meet another hiker until about 11 a.m. Despite the rain the trail was in good shape (nothing like the Jordan Valley). As we approached the Lake Superior shore on Siskiwit Bay the trail became difficult to follow due to the tall grasses but we could see our destination across the water. The beach was covered with moose tracks but the large animals were not to be seen. Arriving at the campground early, we grabbed an available shelter and hung our gear to dry while we took a swim. Later on, confident that the rain had passed we moved to a tent site up the hill and set up camp. **BIG MISTAKE!** Sometime during the night we were awakened by the worst thunderstorm any of us had ever experienced in a tent. Thankfully we stayed dry, a good testament to our REI tents.

Day 3. The sun was out and once again we packed soggy tents and dressed in rain clothes. It was 10.3 miles to the next campground at Feldtmann Lake. The thimbleberry bushes were chest high and we brushed against the wet plants as we hiked. About noon following a grueling climb up, up, up the rocky trail we were rewarded by spectacular views of Lake Superior and Feldtmann Lake below. Five miles into the hike the forest gave way to a beautiful meadow where a fire tower stands. Elly was able to get just enough signal on her cell phone to allow us to contact our families. Using the nearby bushes as a clothes line we spread out our gear to dry. Here we took time to enjoy a leisurely lunch lounging in the sunshine. Too soon it was time to repack and begin the descent to the campground. The trail was a



bit challenging and I am now grateful for the hiking poles I have rarely used for the last 30 plus miles. The swim at Feldtmann Lake was brief as the leeches wanted to munch on our toes but a 1 mile walk to Lake Superior for a beautiful sunset completed the day. Day 4. The 8.8 mile hike to the Washington Creek campground goes by uneventfully as we daydreamed of microwave popcorn and cold beer we heard was available at the camp store. The only hikers we saw on the trail were a father and son team from the Detroit area that we've been playing leap frog with all day. Once we reached the campground and enjoyed the beer and popcorn we took advantage of the available showers and then settled in to a shelter. While preparing our evening meal our camp neighbors ran over to let us know a cow moose is grazing in the river just upstream! The cow continued to dine on the river plants and eventually walked downstream past our site! That was definitely the highlight of the trip.

Isle Royale National Park is certainly one of Michigan's greatest treasures. As we drove away from Houghton the next day we began to make plans to return next year.

