

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 4



Calendar

CHAPTER MEETING

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015
Meeting: Boyne Valley
Township Fire Hall
Boyne Falls
Group Hike also
Times & details will be
announced

NCTA RENDEZVOUS

SEPT. 10-13, 2015
Host: Finger Lakes Trail
Conference
See pg. 5

SAVE THE DATE

Oct. 17, 2015
Adopters Appreciation
Dinner
Details will be
announced.

SKYLINE CAMP ITEMS NEEDED

See pg. 9 for requests
Call Doug Boor
231-330-3759

August, 2015



President's Editorial by Duane Lawton

Hello fellow trail lovers! There has been a lot going on, and I hope that we have covered it all in this newsletter issue.

I think some of you are planning to attend the NCTA RENDEZVOUS in New York, hosted by the Finger Lakes Trail Conference (affiliate to NCTA) on September 10-13. For those who haven't planned yet, there is information elsewhere in this newsletter. These gatherings are always a lot of fun.

In recognition of that, we have moved our September meeting to Saturday, 19th. While we don't have a final program yet (I promise it will be epic), we do intend to have a group hike and planting of yet another register box, this time at the 45th Parallel—our third this year! Mark your calendars.

Doug Boor writes in this newsletter about our work bee at Skyline Camp where we erected the yurt shelter. There is still work to do, though, so another bee should be coming... We need to finish the outhouse, develop the water source, build benches for the campfire, and other miscellaneous.

I'd been thinking that the newsletter could use a catchier title than "Newsletter", so I brainstormed for an idea and came up with "The Parallel-o-Gram". However, not to worry, when I tried it out on a few of you, it was voted down vehemently. Oh well.

Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com 248-496-1869

JULY 11, 2015 MEETING EVENTS

Trail Fun in Petoskey

Members of the Jordan Valley 45° and Harbor Springs Chapters had a busy day July 11th. We were honored with a visit by noted thru-hikers Luke "Strider" Jordan and Ed Talone, up from Lowell. Luke is spending the summer interning with the National Park Service/North Country National Scenic Trail in Lowell, working on trail improvements

First we had a group hike to the Cherry Valley Overlook SE of town, with 22 people participating, during which we planted a new trail register box at the Charlevoix/Emmet county line, and replaced junction signs at the Cherry Valley Overlook spur trail.

Then, Strider presented his “A Thru-Hiker’s Journey”, about his 2013 hike from North Dakota to Vermont, at North Central Michigan College to an enthusiastic crowd of over 60 people, with 30+ minutes of Q&A. We successfully publicized the presentation in the Petoskey News Review.

We then repaired to Dove and John Day’s barn for a potluck and campfire —with s’mores.

JV45 members Bob and Sheridan Haack, Dove Day and Duane Lawton met Friday, 10th to build another six trail register boxes, one of which now graces the county line...



PHOTOS: Top, Luke “Strider” Jordan signing new trail register box. Ed Talone & others looking on

Next, Luke & Ed clowning around w/ old spur signs



PHOTO: above, 22 hikers to the Cherry Valley Overlook



PHOTOS: Top, Campfire and potluck at Dove & John Day’s Barn

On left; Bob & Sheridan Haack, Dove Day, and Duane Lawton building another six trail register boxes



PHOTOS: Above, Luke “Strider” Jordan presents at NCMC to a crowd of over 60.

UPDATE: New Skyline-to-NCMC Trail

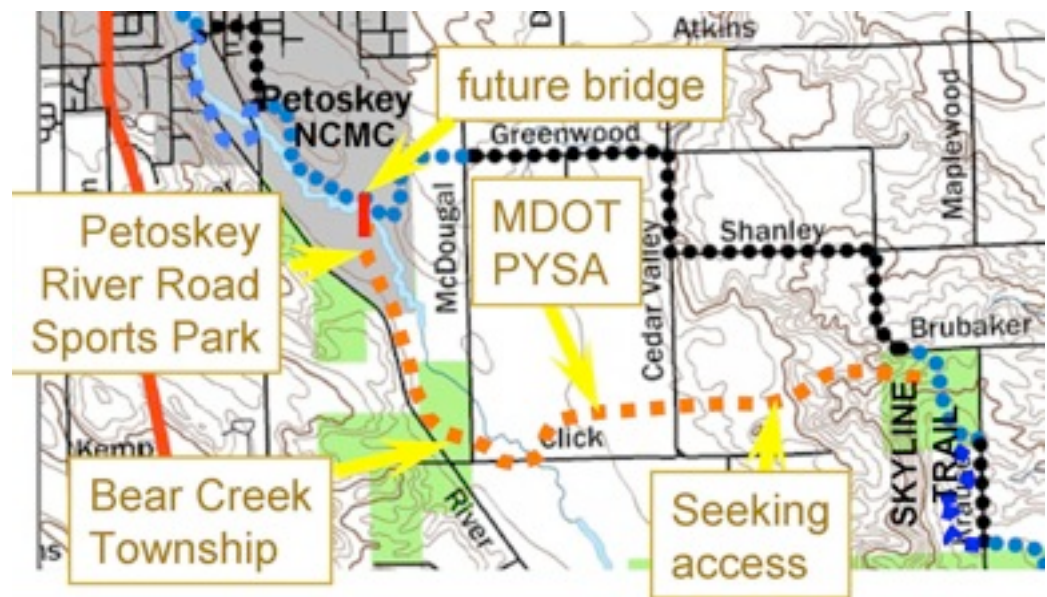
Things are moving slowly. To recap, we are planning to replace the 3+ mile road walk from Brubaker to McDougal with an actual trail. Working east-to-west:

- Descend through forested private land to Cedar Valley Rd. The landowners have yet to be convinced to support us. Jim Stamm (HSS) is planning another meeting with them. As an alternative, we can continue road walk around this area (Brubaker/Shanley/Cedar Valley).
- Cross Cedar Valley Rd. onto private land, for which we have access permission, and thence along the edge of a mitigation wetland owned by MDOT, which DEQ has agreed we can use.
- Across the Petoskey Youth Soccer Association complex, we have agreement with them, to Click Rd.
- Cross the Bear River on Click Rd. (300 yds), then into Bear Creek Township undeveloped property, following the west bank of the Bear River, crossing McDougal Rd. in the process.
- Enter the City of Petoskey River Road Sports Park, and eventually reaching a point across the Bear River from the existing NCT sharing the North Central Michigan College's Natural Area Trail.
- Cross the Bear River on a to-be-built pedestrian bridge.

Petoskey Parks and Rec., and the NCMC are agreed on the desirability of such a bridge. PP&R submitted a grant application to the DNR for money from the 2015 Iron Belle Trail development fund. The request is for \$10K to supplement \$5K of Petoskey money to engineer the bridge.

That grant HAS BEEN APPROVED! Next step—find a variety of sources who together can pony up \$100+K to actually build it. Ideas?

I'm hopeful that in 2016 we can start to build portions of this new trail.



FEATURE: WHERE DID YOU HIKE?

I'd like to start a series of articles in our Newsletter about hiking—hikes our members took, and others can enjoy hearing about. Please consider submitting your stories to our newsletter editor, Amy Wilks, (please email contributions to ameliawilks1@gmail.com. Photos need to be in jpeg and small image size.)

To get the ball rolling, here is my contribution-----

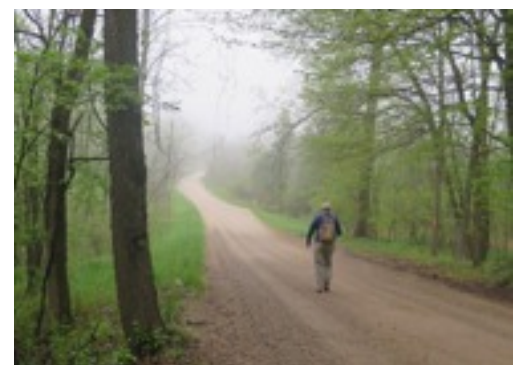


PHOTO: Duane Lawton, 108th St., Early Morning

Yankee Springs-to-Lowell, May 11th-15th

Jim Flick and Duane Lawton day hiked on the NCT for four days in May... picking up 58 miles in our all-of-Michigan campaign. We camped at the State Park campground at Yankee Springs SRA on Gun Lake. With two vehicles, we could spot one, and hike from one to the other.

Actually, Jim missed the first day's hike, which was from 108th St. and Coldwater Ave. SE to the Boy Scout Cabin north of Lowell, 16 miles. This was almost all "temporary connector"—i.e. road walk. However, it was very interesting, the roads are rural and the early morning weather was cool and serene. After crossing the Coldwater River, a carsonite and NCT blazes lured me onto a scenic trail along the north bank. After about ½ mile, it dead-ended. I was able to bushwhack north to a road and get back on track. I hope the local chapter marks that better, as a spur. It was thought-provoking to cross over I-96 and think about all the bustle that was occurring below while I was enjoying the countryside. There are a lot of major dairy operations in this area. Upon reaching Lowell around noon, it began to rain. Not a problem, because I carry a golf umbrella, which to me is superior to raingear, in which I get wet anyway (sweat). We spent some time at NCTA HQ with Matt Rowbotham, talking about maps and trail data.

The second day was from Bowens Mill Rd. to 108th St. and Coldwater Ave. SE, 16 miles through Middleville. We shortly encountered the Paul Henry Thornapple Trail—a rail trail which the NCT follows into Middleville. It is boring walking on a flat level trail, but it is nicely screened from the adjacent farmlands and residential areas, and approaching Middleville it crosses some impressive and very scenic floodings on the Thornapple River. Middleville is a Trail Town of the NCTA, and a great place to grab lunch. Beyond Middleville we had a couple of street miles (ok four, with two unnecessary due to missing a turn) before going into the woods. The trail through the Middleville Game Area is pleasant, through sandy terrain. We emerged on a rural gravel road, and were on it until 108th St., the portion of which to our endpoint was an unmaintained two-track, and thus a secluded walk.

Day three was the Yankee Springs Recreation Area primarily...from Bowens Mill Rd. south for 14 miles to Keller Rd. North of the Rec. Area the trail crossed private land skirting fields in bordering forest. Once in the Rec. Area the trail was very scenic, including passing several lakes. We noted that the trail had been rerouted S. of Gun Lake Rd. since our 2006 map was published, and took a more direct route to Yankee Springs Rd. We suspect that the original trail became problematic from equestrian traffic. Another map snafu—the trail emerged at McKibben Rd., our old map showed it crossing into the woods. There was a sign that said the trail was unmaintained, and it was recommended to follow the road southward. However, that would take us beyond where we had parked our car. We managed to get through on McKibben Rd., even though the last mile was abandoned and overgrown. Lesson: Check the current trail conditions before setting out—or have an adventure. ...not that adventure is always bad.



PHOTO: Duane Lawton & Jim Flick camp at Gun Lake



PHOTO: Coldwater River Trail



PHOTO: Paul Henry Trail/
Thornapple River Flooding



PHOTO: Duane & Jim hoofing
it

Our fourth day was elsewhere. We had been rained out of our trek last fall, and missed a day. So we headed north to 76th St., near Baldwin, and hiked 13.5 miles south to Cleveland Drive to complete that section. This trail in Manistee NF is a continuation of what we experienced further north—beautiful. This section had two special features: First, a series of 13 boardwalks, an impressive building feat to make crossing an extensive area of wetland comfortable. It was particularly interesting to see a section that had been rebuilt after the original was devastated by toppling of huge trees by a windstorm. Second, an area of pristine lakes which we encountered one after another... We have yet to encounter a part of Michigan's NCT that isn't scenic, interesting, and impressive. *by Duane Lawton*



PHOTO: Manistee National Forest Below, Pano Boardwalk replaced



HSS HIKE [Sunday, September 6](#)

Here is an invite from our sister chapter Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore...for your consideration:

Let's take a hike to get warmed up for the Labor Day Bridge Walk. [Sunday, September 6](#)

at 2:00pm. The Labor Day Mackinac Bridge walk is on Monday, September 7. We will meet at the Trout Brook Pond trail head off H-40 between Rudyard and Trout Lake. We will leave most of our vehicles there and ride together to the Escarpment (where we started last year) and hike back to the Pond and our vehicles.

We will be hiking a trail re-route, new boardwalk installed August 1st by an Eagle Scout and some other volunteers, get to see an active beaver dam, cross several creeks yet keep our feet dry, and end the hike at a picturesque pond! Bring a friend!! Meet NCTA members from all over Michigan! Bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, clothing appropriate for the weather, comfortable hiking footwear.

Suggested "after hike" gathering at the BuckHorn in Trout Lake: Best Fries in the EUP! www.facebook.com/TroutLakeBuckhorn/info?tab=page_info

Camping close by: Pine River Campground (Rustic), Soldier Lake USFS Campground off M-28 near Raco and Strongs, East Lake Campground and Cabins, others near Rudyard and Trout lake.

NCTA RENDEZVOUS -- September 10-13, 2015

Registration has closed (on Aug 6)—if you want to attend, ask Chair Irene Szabo, [\(585\) 658-4321](tel:5856584321), treeweenie@aol.com.

The Finger Lakes Trail Conference will host a long weekend of fun, hikes, tours, and training centered at the luxurious Hope Lake Lodge across from Greek Peak ski hill in the center of upstate New York, a few miles south of Cortland. This will be a time for ALL members from all EIGHT states of our eventual trail to gather for a good time, visiting old friends from the far ends of the North Country Trail, and making new ones.

Program, Training, Hiking, Awards, Oh My!

I know Connie and Jerry Allen are going, I look forward to their article in the next JV45 Newsletter.

Trail Coordinators' Report by Dove and John Day

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

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

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



As Trail Coordinators for JV45°, we receive periodic reports from the adopters of our sections. Below is a report from one of many of our very dedicated and committed adopters. As you read, you can appreciate Doug's trials and tribulations as an NCT trail adopter, even if you aren't familiar with the locations and roads he is referring to. He was out doing work the days before the big storm hit on Sunday, August 2nd. His hard work was rewarded with a handful of raspberries.

“Mower Man”

Friday 7/31 and Saturday 8/1 I didn't get as much done as I'd have liked (life has a way of interfering). I mowed both ends of my section in the Jordan Valley. Both sections start at Jordan River Road, one at the “3 tubes” and the other near the two track heading toward O'Brien pond. The section from Jordan Valley road heading to the base of Deadman's Hill seems to be my nemesis. In the spring I started at the Warner Creek parking lot and hand sawed my way nearly to the base of Deadmans Hill, about a mile? To find a huge poplar that I couldn't hand saw. I finished my entire section (one way thanks to my wife spotting my car at the 3 tubes end) then drove to the top of Deadman's Hill, hiked down with the chainsaw and took care of the poplar.

Friday night mowing in from Jordan River road – I got to within about 100 yards of the base of Deadman's Hill, and again, a huge poplar is down and no way to get the mower around it. Parked the mower, jogged out to my car, retrieved chainsaw, and jogged back about a mile each way, thank you very much! Chopped the tree, finished mowing to base of hill, then mowed back out one handed carrying the chainsaw (it wasn't running). I have been known to run with scissors but NOT with chainsaws! It was “0-dark thirty” by then, so home I went.

Saturday I mowed both gates at Warner Creek, from the parking lot gate all the way to O'Brien pond. That was a rough stretch of hip high weeds on the spur section where it is NCT only (not the loop). At the other gate I mowed through several fern fields, and also the stretch along M-32 (ate about 3 handfuls of raspberries along the way). Children, in need of dad, so had to end early; youngest needed help buying a laptop for his first year of college.

Had grand thoughts of returning Sunday afternoon to do the other side of O'Brien pond but time and weather didn't cooperate. I could see it from the Warner Creek side on Saturday, but didn't trust that I could drive the mower across the boards without losing the mower into the drink. As I ran out of time Friday night due to the tree, didn't have enough daylight that night to do the section from Jordan Valley Road in to O'Brien pond, and it is a long drive down into the valley. It was raining on and off by the time I got back on Sunday so I returned the mower.

I am guessing with the storm we had on Sunday, there is another tree down at the base of Deadman's Hill – next time I will carry the chainsaw in on the first trip (nearly guaranteeing that no trees will be down).

Doug



As you can see from reading this, trail work is truly an ongoing project. Many adopters saw lots of challenges this season, especially with recent storms bringing trees down over the trail. Our chapter is very lucky to have so many dedicated and committed people out working on the trail. Many spend holidays and anniversaries doing trail work. To show appreciation for our adopters' hard work and time on the trail, Jordan Valley 45° would like to host an **Adopter Appreciation Dinner** on **October 17th**. The time and place is yet to be determined, but JV45° adopters, please mark your calendars!

Thank you again to all the adopters out there who give their time so that we can all have enjoyable hikes on the NCT.

New adoptions and sections “open” for adoption:

We are happy to announce that both the Cherry Valley Overlook and Warner Creek spur trails have been adopted!

Congratulations and thank you to **Luke and Sarah Gray** of Petoskey. They are the new adopters of the Cherry Valley Overlook spur trail off the NCT.

And a big thank you to **Gene Dawson** of Central Lake for adopting the east side of the Warner Creek loop! If you see them out on the trail, be sure to give them a big "Thank You" for caring for these sections!

There are currently 3 other JV45° sections now up for adoption. If you or anyone you know might be interested in adopting a section, please contact us at

doveday70@gmail.com

or call [231-373-0090](tel:231-373-0090) or [231-838-6445](tel:231-838-6445)



PHOTO: Luke & Sarah Gray are adopting Cherry Valley Overlook



PHOTO: Gene Dawson is adopting the East side of Warner Creek

Work Day, Hike from Warner Creek Pathway to Dobleski Rd., and Pig Roast

Ten NCT members and guests enjoyed another great hike on the North Country Trail on Saturday, August 8th. The group planted yet another register box near the M-32 NCT crossing, and then enjoyed an almost 5 mile hike through a beautiful area of the trail. Beech trees filled the woods and the trail was lined with Indian Pipes. We climbed several big hills; one rewarding us with a nice view of the area. Previous president of the NCT Heritage Chapter of Wisconsin, Dan Willshire, happened to be in our area and joined us. Dan is hiking his way home on the NCT this summer, from New York to Wisconsin. After our hike we were invited to a pig roast hosted by Jordan Valley 45°'s Secretary, Mary Campbell and her husband John. Many from the group attended and the dinner was wonderful! Thank you to all who participated!

by Dove Day doveday70@gmail.com



PHOTO : Hikers&Workers; Back row left, Dan Willshire, Dove& John Day, Linda, Cathy, Jim, Duane Front left , Eugene, Amy & Linus

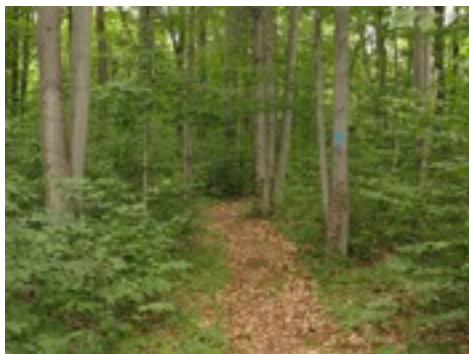


PHOTO: Sights along the hike from Warner Creek Pathway to Dobleski Rd. - beech woods and Indian pipe wildflowers



PHOTO: John Day & Duane Lawton hauling the register box.



PHOTO: John Day & Dan Willshire digging the hole.



PHOTO: John, Duane, Jim, & Dan setting the post w/ new register box.



PHOTO: Dan Willshire "first" to sign in log.

Member's Input by Doug Boor

Skyline Camp, Saturday July 5, 2015

A capable crew of neighbors, trail supporters, and friends gathered to make a campers dream come true. We inherited a canvas tent from Ben Doornbus with 16x12' ft platform. Its new home is adjacent to the observation platform on the Skyline trail off Krause Rd. An attached deck area looks over a tranquil view of the Bear River valley. Situated at about 1220 feet elevation it is one of the highest campsites in the county.

We spent the morning assembling the frame. We used all hands on deck as we raised the canvas and rolled it over the ridge pole. The canvas rain fly was next and after a lunch break the pre-assembled 8x12' deck was fastened in place.

After the tent assembly we worked on framing the outhouse walls. This needed improvement is still currently in progress. Some folks stuck around to enjoy a campfire in the new fire ring. At sundown we roasted delicacies and dessert was served. (hot dogs and s'mores)

We discussed future amenities which include an improved spring for water source down the hill, bunks and furniture, deck benches, fire ring benches, solar cell for phone charging, and picnic table. It is also hopeful to establish some loop trails to nearby vistas. If anyone has items to donate contact Chapter president Duane or landowner Doug Boor [231-330-3759](tel:231-330-3759).

This site is available for use by trail users or others. It is currently available first come first serve. We have plans in the future to have adjacent tent sites for overflow. We also may provide online booking for reservations in the future. The site will be set up with a place for donations to fund future improvements. Many thanks to those who have contributed their time and effort to make "a campers dream come true".



PHOTO: Gary Johnson, Dove Day, John Day, George Bradley, Mike Mychkovsky, Doug Boor, and Duane Lawton



PHOTO: Doug Boor and John Day



PHOTO: Gary Johnson, John Day, Doug Boor, & George Bradley



PHOTOS: Left; Raising the canvas
Right; Carrying the outhouse walls



NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

...is completed, and printed. You can also view it on our website:

http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=57

The two sides are [TRAIL MAP](#) and [TRAIL INFO GUIDE](#)

And “Like” us on FACEBOOK address

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45/636045479799699>

Communications Report by Amy Wilks

Thank you for all renewing members!

For Newsletter corrections, please email me.

For your hiking stories for the newsletter, please email me. Please send photos as JPG attachments and small for downloading.

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

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