

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

February 20, 2016

Saturday: 0800:

Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike

We will hike on the NCT near Alba. Parking will depend on snow cover We plan to start where the NCT crosses Cinder Hill Rd about 2 miles south of Alba and hike up Harvey Rd toward Landslide Overlook. Contact Eugene for details at eugene.branigan@gmail.com or 989-217-8001.

March 5, 2016

Saturday: 0800 thru afternoon:

Quiet Water Symposium, E. Lansing on MSU campus. We staff a JV45 booth. <<http://www.quietwatersymposium.org/>> Contact Duane.

March 19, 2016

Saturday: 1300:

Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike TBD but plan on a continuation from the February hike, starting on Harvey Rd and going towards Jordan River Rd. Contact Eugene.

March 19, 2016

Saturday: 1700:

Chapter Meeting, Boyne Falls Fire Hall

The JV45 Newsletter is published six times per year, every other month

Message from JV45 President Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

I'm baaack! ...but not what I intended. In our annual elections, in the absence of other candidates, I was re-elected your president for a bylaws-breaking third term (but there is plenty of precedence). Thanks for your trust and support. Sort of. Begin thinking now who will be a good candidate to succeed me in two years. I will be.

We also re-elected Mary Campbell as our secretary and Jen Winnell as our (Petoskey) Trail Town Coordinator. Congratulations Mary and Jen. I know you will keep up the good work.

Our dedicated Communications Coordinator, Amy Wilks, has decided to take on other challenges. We are grateful to Amy for her excellent newsletter editing for the last four years...I don't know what we'd have done without her. Thank you Amy!

We elected Bob Haack to replace Amy (he had a momentary lapse in judgement, and accepted). He introduces his—actually impressive—qualifications elsewhere in this issue.

In addition to the frenzy of fun that Hike 100 is bringing to 2016, we have a lot of other stuff going on.

Based on discussion with Paige Perry, DNR Recreation Trails Specialist, after our January meeting, and communications I've had with NCTA HQ, there is quite a bit of Michigan money being allocated to trails in 2016, and we have a chance to obtain some of it.

You may not have heard that our quest to gain access to the Flynn property as the linchpin of our Skyline-to-NCMC (North Central Michigan College) reroute has failed. This forces us to look elsewhere for a route from Skyline to Cedar Valley Rd. Meanwhile trail-building west of Cedar Valley can start, and I can't think

of anything more likely to keep us busy trail-building this year.

The key piece of this section is a new pedestrian bridge across the Bear River between NCMC and the Petoskey River Road Sports Park. Engineering (funded by the new Michigan Iron Belle Trail) should be finished soon, and we'll know what the construction cost will be. At this point I expect something on the order of \$140K, and one funding strategy could be: Apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund matching grant, with a task to raise the matching funds ourselves. Put on your thinking caps for potential contributors to this goal.



Type of bridge for Bear River

Paige Perry also spoke positively about map signs (the "You Are Here" type sign) for the Jordan River Pathway (JRP). The DNR is writing a blanket purchase order to a sign supplier, and Paige will be able to order the signs and then deliver the signs and posts to us to install! Once the map for this sign is finalized, we will also use it on a new JRP brochure, which we will make because the DNR is phasing out of printing materials and apparently switching to mobile apps. See an example on p. 2.

CURRENT JV45 GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – President
delawton@torchlake.com

Eugene Branigan – Vice President
eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Mary Campbell – Secretary
marymcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com

Todd Winnell - Treasurer, and
Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jen@charter.net

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
haack@msu.edu

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

Eugene Branigan and Heidi Shaffer (Antrim County Soil Erosion Control Officer) are collaborating on a DNR/DEQ permit application to fix the JRP beneath Deadman's Hill. Another potential big project. See picture.

In addition, somewhere during the year we'll be putting up more register boxes, and starting our road crossing signpost installations...stay tuned.

Our March meeting will be in conjunction with the March 19th Hike 100 outing, which will be from Landslide to Pinney Bridge—maybe on snowshoes. At this point we don't have a feature presentation, but when we do we'll let you know. What do you have to present? Consider offering a talk at a future meeting. Regardless, we will have fun.

I look forward to seeing ALL of you on the trail.. Duane



Concept for JRP signs;

Bob Haack

Communications Coordinator

I am happy to serve as the new Newsletter Editor and general Communication Coordinator for JV45. It was a relatively easy task to assemble the current newsletter because all the authors (who are all JV45 governing board members) sent me their material quickly. As you know, we plan to publish the newsletter every other month for a total of 6 issues per year. The next issue will be in April, so if you want to contribute stories, send them to me by late March or early April, or anytime during the year and I will get it into the next issue. One feature that we hope to continue is the "Where I Hiked" column. Eugene Branigan contributed a story this month of a recent hike that he took with his son Linus and Duane Lawton. Please consider submitting a story for one of your recent or future hikes, along with some pictures.

As for me, here is some background. I grew up in Wisconsin and completed a BS in Forestry at University of Wisconsin (UW) in 1974, and then served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in a forestry program in Guatemala (1975-78). After returning to the US, I focused on forest entomology and completed my MS in 1980 at UW, and PhD at the University of Florida in 1984. After graduating, I came to East Lansing, MI, and worked as a Research Entomologist in the research

branch of the USDA Forest Service on the MSU campus. For the past 20-plus years I worked primarily on exotic (non-native) forest insects that have entered the US, such as the pine shoot beetle from Europe, and the Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer from Asia. I retired in November 2015, and my wife, Sheridan Haack, and I moved to Central Lake in Antrim County, MI, which is home to part of the JV45 portion of the NCT. We adopted a short section of the trail in the Jordan River Valley. In addition, being an entomologist, I have been a member of the Michigan Entomological Society since the mid-1980s, and in 1988, I was asked to serve as the MES Newsletter Editor for a few years. I accepted that post, and somehow I am still the editor to this day. But Duane has assured me that being the JV45 Newsletter Editor is not another lifelong position! We will see. Bob



Bob, Duster & Shelby



[One morass beneath Deadman's Hill;

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the JV45 Newsletter, please contact Bob Haack at haack@msu.edu



2015 JV45 Awards

Chapter Honor Award

The 2015 Chapter Honor Award went to our heroic mower man, Doug “Kamikaze” Seaney, who goes out and mows vast swaths of the trail in epic solo sessions. Congratulations, Doug! Doug was unable to attend our January meeting, so we snuck in and presented his plaque to him in his place of work.



Eugene Branigan (left) presents plaque and Big Foot Award to Dove and John Day



Duane (left) presenting 2015 Honor Award to Doug Seaney

2015 Annual Big Foot Award

Based on their ardent support of the trail and their superior performance as our Trail Coordinators and progress in our adopter program, the 10th Annual Big Foot Award was presented to Dove and John Day. In addition to the traditional picture certificate and a plaque presented by VP Eugene Branigan, we were honored to be in the presence of the ACTUAL Big Foot trophy, which they will guard for the next year. ...and they will soon have their new NCTA vests. Congratulations Dove and John!

The Jerry Allen Big Foot Award Historical Notes and Early Awardees

Gary Johnson, gwj2@charter.net

Bob Schrems was the creative mind behind the Jerry Allen Big Foot trophy, using my 1965 army boot as the centerpiece. I started this award in 2006 when I was Chapter President (then called the Tittabawassee Chapter). The first recipient of the award was Jerry Allen, who was our first chapter president and served for six years. Jerry gave a volunteer award each year, but it wasn't called "Big Foot" until I became chapter president. Jerry was to keep the trophy, but nowadays it has become a rotating award. After the Big Foot award was given to Jerry, I used to give the subsequent awardees a framed certificate with pictures like the one pictured here, and Duane is continuing this practice. Below is a list of the awardees over the past decade.

2006-2015 Big Foot Awardees

2015 Dove and John Day
2014 Amy Wilks
2013 Ken Phillips
2012 Gary Johnson
2011 Joe Bevirt
2010 Duane Lawton
2009 Bob Schrems
2008 Peg Meyers
2007 Vern Killinger
2006 Jerry Allen



Far left. The original Big Foot Award. Left: Gary Johnson (R) presenting award to Jerry Allen (L). Top: Award certificate as presented to Bob Schrems. Above: our original chapter logo.

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day (below)



We have some exciting news to report... currently ALL sections of the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter have been adopted. This is great news and we are so thankful to all those who have adopted and who help with keeping our section of the North Country Trail in such great shape!

New Trail Adoptions:

A huge thanks to Bob Courtois (right) who has become an adopter for section C. Thank you Bob for adopting and helping care for this section south of Alba!



Congratulations and thanks to Becky and Don Nohel (above). They are the new adopters of the Warner Creek loop, and have adopted the very last available JV45° section.

It looks as though 2016 is going to be another great year! To see the most current trail conditions visit the web-site at: http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58. To report conditions e-mail us at doveday70@gmail.com or call 231-373-0090 or 231-838-6445

Message from Irene

Most of you may not be aware that our good friend **North Star** editor, Irene Szabo, went in for some serious planned surgery late last year. We're happy that she is doing very well in recovery. We circulated a get-well card at our annual meeting, for members to sign and wish her well.



Irene has responded: "Duane, please convey to everybody who signed the card that I appreciate getting the card, and that y'all were thinking of me. I'm recovering, and have been back home for two weeks, but I remain SO tired that it amazes me. So progress is slow.

"Your chapter map was sent along with the card, and it was good to see your territory, since I have sampled parts of it south of Petoskey, along the Jordan River, and it was just outside Mancelona where Joan Young and I spent several nights in a snow fort over New Year's 2000. Irene"

Where I Hiked

Eugene Branigan

Along the NCT near Alba, MI

We started the day with a stack of waffles. A good warm breakfast before crosschecking our gear is always a good idea.



We met Duane Lawton in the parking lot near the ORV trailhead shortly after 8:00 AM. We waited and discussed the weather, nuclear energy, and his now dear departed truck.

At 8:30 we piled into my truck and made our way to the intersection of the NCT and Cinder Hill Rd. Our snowshoes sunk into the snow yet kept us 5 or 6 inches above the ground, leaving the truck behind amid the buzzing snowmobiles we set out. Duane was constantly taking photos and I was taking photos of Duane taking photos as we made our way, meandering through the snow covered branches.



Our conversation died as it left us as the fresh virgin snow absorbed

all sound around us and we heard nothing but the whipping wind far above in the treetops and the occasional whine of an engine in the distance.

Linus broke trail for us for the first half mile or so and exhausted plopped down for a rest and we took a photo op. Shortly thereafter Duane





popped down on accident because his snowshoes were less familiar to him than his feet.

Picking our way along the trail relying heavily on the blue blazes we found them often snow covered or difficult to pick out and at one point we completely lost the trail in a section that badly needs reblazing.

Once we reached Whispering Pines Drive we took a selfie because that's just what you do these days... right?



We stopped at Bocook Rd to have lunch. Linus and I had Cheese and Crackers and I had a Frosted Gingerbread Cliff bar (which by the way is very, very good) and Duane had some bars of the Cliff variety. By this point, I had stripped and stowed my outer layer as we proceeded into a section that I had reblazed. I

constantly pointed out to Duane my handiwork until we came across one blaze that some-one was unhappy with.



Shortly thereafter when crossing a snowmobile trail, we stopped for a drink of water and heard voices.



Coming up the trail behind us we saw Bill and Bob Courtois.

We chatted a bit and they commented on how nicely we had broken trail for them. We graciously allowed them to lead and those guys can move, that or we were tired.

They had left their car near the Scholl Rd Trail Crossing. We ventured on through the snow until we crossed a Snowmobile Highway. Knowing we were nearly back we trudged on to the car. We drove back to the truck and took our funny hats picture.



This story was adopted from Eugene's Blog "TheWalkingDude" at <<http://www.thewalkingdude.com/>>. Eugene has summaries of many other hikes at this site.

Summary of the same hike by Linus Branigan

Me, my dad, and Mr. Duane where on a hike that we used snowshoes. I started out in the front, but my shins where hurting a lot but I didn't tell them later. I soon was at the back of the group. It was a lot easier at the back than in the front because I could literally fallow in Mr. Duanes or my dads footsteps. I got a good break of lying down because my dad was talking to Mr. Duane about something. After we took our half hike break we meet some nice people that where following us and my dad made a joke that the people where hiking after us so that they could go on already hiked on trails. We made the people go ahead of us so that they cleared the way for us to go. They left at the next road and we kept going. We came to a open area that snowmobiles drove around like crazy. We decided that we would go to the road that lead to the spot that Mr. Duane owned.

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter

Annual Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2016:
11 am – BJ's Restaurant, Gaylord, MI

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with 20 chapter members and visitors in attendance.
2. **Review of the Agenda.** The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Jerry Allen, seconded by Peg Jones, Motion Carried.
3. **Financial Report**-Chapter account balance is \$3,212.22 as of Dec 31, 2015, which reflects a net decrease of \$202.34 since the last reporting. The chapter had \$179.50 in income, but incurred \$382.34 in expenses. It was noted that the actual dollar expenses were relatively modest due to donations associated with the Adopter Dinner and donated welding service to repair the brusher.

Year in Review – 2015 Activities and Accomplishments

- **Jordan River Beaver Pond Re-route** (June 4)– members of the JV45° provided assistance to DNR trail for the construction of a reroute trail (to skip the submerged trail due to beavers and the sloped/failed bridge)
 - **Trail Town Celebration** (June 6) ☐ Jen Winnell coordinated the JV45° chapter involvement and participation in the event with the Harbor Springs NCT chapter and the City of Petoskey to raise local awareness of the NCT.
 - **Skyline Camp** (July 25) ☐ members of the JV45° chapter participated in a workbee to establish the camp with the location of the platform tent, in coordination with private property owners, Doug and Pam Boor.
 - **Register Boxes** – 3 additional register boxes were constructed and located during 2015, at the following locations 1) County line between Charlevoix and Emmet Counties; 2) Warner Creek Pathway; and 3) 45th Parallel—oriented to provide a platform to take photos with the 45th Parallel sign in the background.
 - **Group Hikes** – many group hikes were enjoyed, some included the “planting” of the above referenced register boxes and social gathering after the hike.
 - **Thru-hikers Visits** – A few people attempting thru-hikes and some who previously completed through hikes of the NCT visited the area. Luke ‘Strider’ Jordan and Ed Talone joined members on a hike and Strider gave a well-attended presentation of his NCT thru-hike at North Central Michigan College.
 - **Trail Adopter Dinner**- In October, the first (annual-?) dinner in appreciation of the heroic efforts put forth by our trail adopters was held. Coordinated by our amazing trail coordinators, Dove & John Day.
4. **2016 -Preliminary Plans and Thoughts**
 - Register Boxes- construct and locate three more
 - NCT Hike 100 Challenge to promote hiking 100 miles of the NCT in 2016, JV45° monthly hikes are scheduled typically on the 3rd weekend of the month, led by Eugene Branigan. T-shirts are available for order by contacting Eugene. A Labor Day hike of the bridge was discussed as was a certificate for hiking the entire JV45° segment of the NCT
 - Road Crossing Posts, to identify roads and indicate the

trail with the triangle emblem, a potential prototype was reviewed.

- Jordan River Pathway (JRP)-Assist DNR with the location of You Are Here signs at key locations.
 - Interpretive Signs—explore future grant opportunities
 - Bear River Bridge—after completion of engineering for bridge is completed (currently under way), pursue funding sources.
 - Dobleski Road Re-route—continue Optimum Location Review Process with NCT/NPS. NCTA will need to review and approve the route. One easement from a private land owner will be required for this re-route. The re-route would move the trail off of US-131, in this area.
 - Skyline Trail – explore/pursue re-route with future bridge.
5. Elections
 - President: **Duane Lawton**, nominated by D. Day seconded by: E. Branigan. *One additional nomination was received at the meeting, Jim Flick. Duane Lawton was re-elected with majority vote. Jim Flick received 2 votes.*
 - Secretary: **Mary Campbell** nominated by D. Day seconded by: J. Day. *No other nominations received at the meeting. Mary Campbell was re-elected by majority vote.*
 - Communications Coordinator: **Bob Haack** nominated by D. Lawton seconded by: E. Branigan. *No other nominations received at the meeting. Bob Haack was elected by majority vote.*
 - Trail Town Coordinator: **Jennifer Winnell** nominated by D. Lawton seconded by: D. Day. *No other nominations received at the meeting. Jennifer Winnell was re-elected by majority vote.*
- Appreciation was expressed to retiring Communications Coordinator, Amy Wilks for all her hard work and dedication.
6. **Awards**
 - **2015 JV45° Chapter Honor Award** ☐ awarded to **Doug Seaney**, aka ‘Kamikaze’ mower man
 - **10th Annual Big Foot Award**-awarded to Dove and John Day for their superior performance as Trail Coordinators.
 7. **Lunch** and Door Prizes were enjoyed by all.
 8. **Featured Presentation:** Michigan Trail: Jordan River Valley and Beyond, by Paige Perry, DNR. Paige Perry presented the status of trails in Michigan, including an update on the Iron Belle Trail and potential funding opportunities for the NCT as part of the Iron Belle Trail. The DNR is very interested in continuing to work closely with JV45° chapter for NCT and Jordan River Pathway improvements and signage.
 9. **Upcoming Events**
 - Quiet Water Symposium – March 5, 2016 in Lansing.
 - Next chapter meeting – March 19, 2016 at the Boyne Falls Fire Hall, after the monthly hike.
 10. **Adjournment:** motion by Peg Jones, seconded by: Jerry Allen to adjourn the JV45° Chapter annual meeting, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,; **Mary Campbell**