

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume1 Issue 3



Calendar

JV45° CHAPTER MEETING

Friday, Sept. 28

Board: 1:00pm

General: 2:30pm

Oden State Fish Hatchery

Conference Room

8258 S. Ayr Rd.

Oden (Alanson PO)

All Welcome

Hike on new re-route
following

Directions & Details pg.6

BRING ON THE BRIDGE

Aug. 31-Sept. 4

Mackinaw Bridge

Hike & Camp

Directions & Details pg. 3

MICHIGAN DNR

Trailusersurvey@michigan.gov

LAST CHANCE HIKE

Nov. 10, see pg. 7

August, 2012

Editorial by Sally Wagle, Vice President:

PROPOSAL & COMMENTS

Proposal for regular meetings to be the 2nd Thursday every other month (odd months) at Boyne Falls Fire Hall at 7:00 p.m. Hike timing to be discussed at the September meeting.

Comments on attending Friday at the NCTA Conference: this includes trail layout, trail construction and part of land navigation.

Jeff McCusker, the NPS Trail manager ran the trail seminars. He was passionate about proper trail construction and gave good information, especially for a novice like me. The main things I took away were to plan for water to exit and keep your slopes low. He wanted the 24" tread area to be out sloped at 5% with a gradual back sloped area uphill from the tread. He also planned ups and downs to slow down the bikes and water.

NCTA's Matt Rowbotham and Western Michigan member, Chuck Hayden ran the land navigation. It was very detailed, more than I could input, but they gave great web sites for follow up. Also Matt will change formats from longitude and latitude to the UTM or Universal Transverse Mercator and he is always available for general questions. They suggested using the UTM with GPS devices. The more recent GPS units like the Garmin 62 series can take your track, which you can download to your computer and then superimpose it to a map on one of the free web sites. You can print off maps with the track superimposed on it. The only catch is you might need to use an oversize printer. The web sites they suggested were: National Geo Compass, which interfaces well with GPS, Terrain Navigator Pro, which has the best quality,

Notice Board

Send entries to

Amy Wilks at

amywilks47@hotmail.com

Garmin Base Camp, Google Earth, USGS TOPO, and NOAA for coastal areas. The national Geo Compass has good map use instructions.

Sally Wagle sally.wagle@gmail.com

Report by Duane Lawton, President

National Trails Day 2012----It's a Wrap!

After our successful NTD project June 4 constructed 205 feet of new puncheon in the Jordan River Valley, we had 100 feet left to go, near the beaver ponds and the phragmites. We did it on June 30!

First, on Friday, June 29, we were assisted by the YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) from the fish hatchery, who carried our lumber from Jordan River Road in to the sites. This was a BIG help, and we appreciate their efforts!



Left to Right: Top: Dylan Ordway, Megan Kujawa, (Kay & Stan's granddaughter)
Bottom: Austin Sumner (Hatchery Volunteer), Holley Carson, Luke Smigielski

On Saturday, we met at the hatchery and made our sills. At the worksite, we installed puncheon in 5 locations, notably below the upper beaver pond, in the Phragmites (where the trail is always sloppy in the Spring with the overflow), and to the N of the long boardwalk, where you often had to step into a puddle.

With the big boards already on site, and our deep experience in building puncheon, this wrapup of the project was quickly accomplished.



Back: Peg Myers, Ken Phillips, Bob Bennett, Dan Sutherland, Terry Ryan, Duane Lawton
Front: Eugene Branigan, Kelly Branigan, Linus Branigan

We used every scrap of lumber!!!!!!

2012 NCTA Conference, Augusta, Michigan: “Back to the Woods” 2012

For my first ever NCTA Conference, I was impressed by the comraderie and energy level of the participants. I was able to meet the HQ team again, and many others from other chapters whose names I recognized. From our chapter, Jerry and Connie Allen, Sally Wagle and Josh Berlo were also there. Events that I was able to take in:

- Hike Lowell trail north—6.0 miles from Fallasburg Rd. along the Flat River to the Boy Scout cabin on the N outskirts of Lowell. This involved a 1 hour 20 minute school bus ride from Yarrow to Lowell. We had a brief stop at the NCTA HQ office in Lowell. This was a very nice trail section, mostly woods on rolling sandy hills, with occasional views of the river, and about a mile of road walk. I was with about 25 other conference attendees...
- Thursday evening program—NPS volunteer awards given, and the official NCTA Annual Meeting held. In addition to the formal election of directors, the Trail Town and Trail Protection programs were introduced. New NCTA President Larry Hawkins has selected Trail Protection as his signature initiative.
- Trail Construction Workshop—Jeff McCusker, NPS Trail Manager, gave us a 90-minute tutorial on trail construction techniques, and then we constructed a short (100 ft.) loop trail. Watch out for the poison ivy!
- NCTA Trail Towns—Bruce Matthews, NCTA Executive Director, made a presentation on the new Trail Town program.
- Trail Protection Workshop—Andrea Ketchmark, Director of Trail Development, led the workshop. Trail Protection is the process of legally ensuring trail continuity through easements, purchase and written agreements. The NCTA has recently established a fund from which grants can be made for trail protection. We conducted a role play about contacting a landowner and seeking agreement to traverse their land.
- Chapter Leadership Workshop—Andrea Ketchmark took us through the new “Chapter Leadership Handbook”. I was given a copy, but the content is all online.
- Friday evening program—The NCTA Annual Awards, followed by Joan Young’s presentation “The NCT and the Kitchen Sink” slide show highlighting the NCT from end-to-end.

BRING ON THE BRIDGE 2012

Labor Day Weekend—August 31 to September 4
Hike the “Mighty Mac” on Labor Day!

Brought to you by the Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore Chapter of the NCTA

NCT Hikes, rustic camping, community bonfires, forays into town, Mackinac Island, and much more! Camp at the Fairgrounds in Moran. Hike the North Country National Scenic Trail. Meet other NCT members and friends. Stroll the streets of “Trail Town” St. Ignace! “Bring on the Bridge” T-shirts available!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHARLENE DEWITT dewitt.charlene@yahoo.com

REGISTER NOW @ northcountrytrail.org
Click on "Get Involved" then "Special Events"!

Government Meetings

Duane Lawton, Sally Wagle, and Peg Myers met with Ed Eisch, Oden State Fish Hatchery and Jon Spieles, Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center on July 25. Purpose of meeting: to chart the NCT route through the VC/Hatchery grounds in preparation for our 2013 reroute--**mission accomplished!**

In addition, we determined new trail features that will eventually appear on our map: Visitor Center Parking an NCT trailhead, VC washrooms and water available seasonally (May-Oct) during operating hours, Hatchery washrooms and water available year-round during operating hours. Having these attractions on the NCT is a big win for the NCT and for them.

We also met with Al Hansen, Petoskey Parks and Recreation Dept. (PPR) Director, in his office at city hall. PPR is in the process of re-terracing Grimes St. so there are switchbacks and “landings”, and the slope of the trail will thus be reduced. When this is done, we’ll need to re-blaze.

There is an Eagle Scout who has a project to build a two-sided kiosk next to the restroom building near the Bear River park entrance. Al invites us to supply the sign for one side of the kiosk! They intend there to be another kiosk, same idea, at the River Bend Skate Park (where the NCT crosses the Bear River below Grimes St.

Al said he is meeting with Little Traverse Wheelway to finalize the details of their signpost project, which is now funded and imminent. We asked him to thank them on our behalf for including the NCT logo on the signage in the NCT portion of the LTWW sign project (Bear River mouth to M-119).

Al is very receptive to any/all joint publicity possibilities, including Trail Town. We have sent a letter jointly to him and the Petoskey City Manager, proposing Petoskey as a Trail Town.

Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

231-547-5105

Trail Coordinator Report by Peg Myers

Jordan Valley 45° is looking to fill the following positions:

Tool Coordinator

Ridge Runner Coordinator

Hiking Coordinator

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering.

The Last Chance Before Deer Season Hike will take place on November 10, 2012. For those that don't know, participants hike the entire 18 mile Jordan River Pathway/NCT in one day. After the hike, some say the mileage is closer to 20 miles. ☺ This hike is gaining in popularity and now sports several hikers who return year after year!

We are looking for someone to lead this hike on November 10. If you are interested, please contact Peg.

Answering a call for help in June, Bob Bennett went over to the hatchery, installed the battery in the DR Brusher and made sure it was in good working order for Doug and Kim Seaney who spent the weekend mowing many of the needy areas on our trail. Bob also volunteered to learn the ropes from Doug. We are looking to build up a larger mowing crew. Please volunteer if you can.



QuikClots

At the July meeting, members supported purchasing 4 QuikClots, a first aid item designed to stop bleeding fast in moderate to severe wounds. These will be kept in the tool trailer and are available for checkout by members.

PLEASE take one with you when you do your trail work... whether you're sawing, mowing, weed whipping or using hand tools. You can sign them out using the sign-out sheet on the inside of the trailer door. Be safe. ☺

Boundary Blue Paint We've purchased 2 gallons for blazing. **Please stir well and pour into another container for your use.**

For you tech savvy folks: Below is an excerpt from a monthly email sent out to Chapter Leaders by Andrea Ketchmark, Director of Trail Development, NCTA.

Exploring the NCT digitally www.northcountrytrail.org

Along with our published maps for sale, NCTA offers several ways to explore the trail online.

- **Google maps:** Each section of trail (New York and Ohio excluded) is mapped in google maps and can be explored at the state or chapter level. Click on [Explore by State](#) and then click on the "Web Mapping App" to see the trail in detail.
- **GPS data:** You can also download the GPS data for any section or for the entire trail (New York and Ohio excluded) by downloading our distribution pack from the [GPS/GIS Data Depository](#) page.
- **Google Earth:** Another option in the data distribution pack is a KML file, which will allow you to view the NCT in Google Earth. Find the data and instructions in the [GPS/GIS Data Depository](#).
- **Free maps!** Several kiosk or brochure maps are available for download for free! <http://northcountrytrail.org/trail/get-maps/promotional-maps/>

Happy Hiking!

Peg Myers, pmyers@freeway.net

Communications Coordinator Report by Amy Wilks

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

At present, Jordan Valley 45° Chapter has 41 members which is a 2.4% increase.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Pat Gombos, Nancy Wilks, and Josh Berlo!!!

Josh Berlo was elected to become a member-at-large at our July meeting. Josh sent this information about himself: "Here is my hiking/Michigan ties resume: Grew up in new England and visiting family in Grand Rapids area and have always loved the outdoors. Avid hiker, alpine skier and mountain biker since I was a kid. Have hiked nearly 200 miles of the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire and Maine, Have hiked extensively in the United States and have climbed all 48 peaks above 4,000 feet in New Hampshire. Since living in the Midwest for the last decade, I have had the pleasure of hiking more than 100 different miles of the NCT in Michigan, many over and over again. Very excited to be part of the JV45° board and hope to continue the great work of improving our section of the NCT!

Here is my bio from the Notre Dame website: <http://www.und.com/genre/berlo>

Josh Berlo, Senior Assistant Athletic Director

of Event Marketing and Guest Relations, University of Notre Dame
Department of Athletics

TRAIL TOWN OF THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL:

Our President Duane Lawton has sent an invitation to the Petoskey City Manager and the director of Petoskey Parks and Recreation "to join with the NCTA in a Memorandum of Understanding establishing Petoskey as an official 'Trail Town'". The goal is "to cooperate to publicize both the NCT and Petoskey's attractions to current and potential NCT hikers through signage and other activities". A future meeting will occur.



JV45° CHAPTER MEETING SEPT.28,2012

BOARD MEETING 1:00P.M.
GENERAL MEETING 2:30P.M.

Oden State Fish Hatchery, Conference Room. 8258 S. Ayr Rd., Oden (Alanson)

Directions: From US31 in Conway..N. on N.Conway Rd. to Powers Rd./Hathaway Rd. (stop sign), turn right on Powers, 1/2 mile to S. Ayr Rd., turn right, Hatchery entrance on right).

HIKE: After the meeting led by Larry Wagle....Try our planned 2013 Re-Route through the Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center grounds, the Fish Hatchery, and private and county land to our Kipp Rd. terminus (about 2 1/2 miles).

Amy Wilks, amywilks47@hotmail.com

Member's Report:

NCTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE, AUGUST 2-5,2012

AUGUSTA,MICHIGAN

Connie and I attended the 2012 conference in Augusta along with five others from our chapter. We camped at Fort Custer State Recreation Area due to the high cost of housing at the conference center located at the Yarrow Country Club. I must say that the Chief Noonday folks did things up in fine style, but nearly priced the event out of reach for us common people.

I attended two workshops; Trail Protection 201 and Membership. Trail Protection was a rehash of many things covered in recent years but included some newer ideas on negotiation with private land owners for access to their lands. The Membership session, on the other hand, was quite informative and will be an ongoing program with Mary Coffin offering monthly updates on what other chapters are doing to recruit and retain members. (I will attempt to attach her first monthly update).

We went on two hikes and were impressed by the knowledgeable and helpful hike leaders, especially because we hike with our dog which can present a transportation problem for linear hikes. We especially enjoyed the Paul Henry Trail which has just recently become part of the NCT. The Ott to Bridges hike visited an area which was virtually demolished by gale-force winds recently. It also followed a proposed reroute which looks promising.

All in all, it was a good time visiting with old hiker friends and with office staff from NCTA. Next year's conference in Pennsylvania promises to be less expensive and the PA folks are already working on hikes and other activities to keep us all busy and happy.

Jerry Allen