

Upcoming Events

June 18, Saturday, 2 pm. Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike. We will meet at the Subway Restaurant near Elmira at the corner of US-131 and M-32. We will hike from Dobleski Rd to Kuzmick Rd. Distance ~5 miles. Theme: winter hat because this is Michigan so it could snow and it isn't quite summer yet. Bring a friend to this Saturday's hike and you'll receive an awesome NCT decal for your car! If you have questions, contact Eugene at 989-217-8001 or eugene.branigan@gmail.com

July 16, Saturday, 2 pm. Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike. We will meet at the Boyne Falls Fire Hall. We will continue from the end point of the June hike and will walk at least 5 miles. Theme: Choose your own adventure.

July 16, Saturday, JV45 Chapter Meeting. Our Chapter Meeting will be held immediately after the July 16th Hike100 Group Hike, in the field, at the endpoint of the hike. Normal business will be conducted. We can stand (or sit) around and swap stories if the weather and insects cooperate.

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



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

Message from JV45° President Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com

Summer is not yet upon us, but we are already in full swing. This flurry of activity has been headlined by the monthly Hike 100 group hikes organized by Eugene, and by the two Trail Work Days organized by the Days. We also had a very successful Fourth Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration on National Trails Day, June 4th. I am very happy to see all of this going on.

We have another Hike100 planned for June, another for July and onward... What else is going on? Well,

You heard the Skyline Camp yurt shelter did not survive the winter. Now we have a solution: We have been approached by Joe Farley, a Boy Scout who has volunteered to take on the construction of a permanent shelter where the yurt was, as his Eagle Scout project. This is fantastic news. Joe has stated his intention to complete the project in 2016, and there has been one organizing meeting so far. I am sure that when he gets to the actual construction phase, he can count on many of us to pitch in. In addition, the Chapter has committed to donate the money raised at the Trail Town Celebration (\$199) toward materials.

And progress on the Skyline-to-NC-MC reroute: We scouted and flagged a route from the Skyline Trail to Click Rd. Landowners Doug & Pam Boor have decided the best route is in the remote

parts of their property, and it will use the Skyline Trail only as far as the spur to the spring, just south of the Skyline Camp spur junction. The new NCT will follow the current spur trail toward the spring, and then branch off and stay in the woods for about a mile before emerging at the turnaround at the end of Click. We had planned a work day to begin trail construction on June 11. But wait, Doug is concerned that the turnaround could become a de facto parking lot, and be a

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Collapsed yurt



Duane (L) and Doug Boor (R)

nuisance to their neighbors, so he will be seeking participation by his neighbor to the west to continue the new trail in the woods to a point further down Click Rd. That would be welcome...less road. Look for a rescheduled trail-building work day soon.

I have initiated meetings with Kieran Fleming, of the Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC), regarding opportunities to collaborate to get more of the NCT off of roads. We are meeting again on June 21st. Top contender is to get the trail off of N. Conway Rd. and Hathaway Rd. at the northern end of our territory. We would need to cross two LTC Nature Preserves (on existing trails), and two private parcels. We also will be looking at potential opportunities for bypassing the Kuzmik, Camp 10, Baker, Thumb Lake roads slog.

Andrea Ketchmark, NCTA Director of Trail Development, has retained a consultant, Parallel Solutions, to help with trail development planning in Michigan's northern lower peninsula. On June 17, there will be a meeting in Gaylord with reps of Grand Traverse, Jordan Valley 45° and Harbor Springs chapters to start this process. I will keep you informed.

Let's be careful out there!

May Hike 100 and May Chapter Meeting Duane Lawton

On May 21st we hiked from Jordan River Rd. to Dobleski Rd., 6.4 miles. Hikers were Dove Day, Mary Campbell, Kathy Hill, Eugene and Linus Branigan, Jerry Allen and Duane Lawton.



We were prepared to make a minor repair at the puncheon across the O'Brien Pond beaver dam, shoring up the north end with a chunk of white cedar.



We then experienced the detour in effect on the Warner Creek Pathway which the DNR established to bypass this year's logging in the area. When we reached M-32, we planted another pair of road crossing marker posts.

Then on up and over the hills above the gas wells to US-131 and ultimately Dobleski Rd. Shortly Eugene announced that he and Linus had just completed their 100-mile hike challenge!

This time of year is my favorite because the trilliums are out in force, and just west of US-131 is the best. At Dobleski Rd. we planted another road crossing marker post.

Our meeting at the Boyne Valley Twp fire hall in Boyne Falls was notable



for several reasons: One, it was dominated by the potluck—mostly we ate. Two, there was no formal presenter, so Duane tried to entertain with a hike he took on a volcano. Three, this was the least-attended meeting in recollection. But we had fun.



To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: http://northcountry-trail.org/j45/?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

Register Box Buzz



Duane Lawton

We introduce here a new newsletter feature, “Register Box Buzz” in which we hear what our register boxes are telling us. This month, we start with the register box at: **PETOSKEY NATURAL AREA**.

The Petoskey Natural Area (aka the Skyline Trail) register box was planted in August 2014. Just our luck in August 2015, it was infested by a critter, who got in under the eaves. This prompted us to revise the reg-box design to block those openings. Well, guess what? ...they're baaack. Dove and John Day found the box again invaded last week, the critters had to eat a hole in the swing-out to get in and trash our brochures and logbook. I repaired the box on June 9th. ...and added some mothballs to discourage the miscreants.

Fortunately, the logbook wasn't too badly damaged, so we can present our first “Register Box Buzz.”:

The Petoskey Natural Area register box is located at the intersection of the NCT and the short spur trail to the Krause Rd parking area. Since August 2014, it has had approximately 130 entries; since Jan 2016, 37 entries. Here are some interesting or amazing ones:

10/10/2014 Ed Talone, NCT '94. Headed to Ohio. [Ed is a NCT thru-hiker]

10/18/2014 I came to Michigan to visit cousins, and we took this beautiful trail. Sofija from Serbia.



August 2015

5/24/2015 Sarah and Luke. Slashing Rd.-->Brubaker Rd. Awesome Hike!!! Goshawk (8) Veery Hermit Thrush Barred Owl Scarlet Tanager Raven Red Winged Blackbird Red-Crested Flycatcher Red Eyed Vireo Beaver Dam Coyotes Sandhill Cranes Whip-poor-will Indigo Bunting Rose-breasted Grosbeak Crows Deer Meadow-lark Red Squirrel Ovenbird Robin Chipmunk Wood Warblers Chickadee [Holy Cow!!—no, just an exclamation]



June 2016



4/24/2016 The WOW ladies (Women Outdoors on Wednesdays) 11 ladies—sunny and 40's 11:30 am No snow from Brubaker Rd. Trout Lilies, some Bleeding Hearts out. Blazed very well!!

Sign up Your Register Box for a Future Issue of the JV45° Newsletter!

As you see on this page, we have started a new feature that highlights some of the entries hikers make in the logbooks placed in each register box. Our chapter now has 7 register boxes installed throughout the JV45 section of the NCT, and an 8th will soon be placed near Chandler Hill. We would like to include some stats from each logbook, such as the number of entries since a specified date, the log entry from furthest away, any other interesting items and a few of the most interesting or inspiring log entries. Please sign up for a future issue. We already have a volunteer for the August Newsletter, but need more authors for future issues. Alternatively, we could include entries from two boxes in each newsletter, which would allow us to cycle through the boxes every 8 months. Contact Bob Haack to sign up <haack@msu.edu>.

Trail Coordinators' Report Dove and John Day



2016 JV45 Trail Workdays Dove and John Day

On 30 April and 28 May 2016, a total of 26 trail volunteers joined forces to help the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter with trail work. THANK YOU ALL! We flagged a new reroute, cleaned up trail damage from last fall's logging, freshened up blazes, chainsawed over 100 trees that had fallen across the trail, put up two new road crossing signs on Cinder Hill Road, and cleaned out a beaver decoiver. A huge thank you to Tony Sokol, Don and Becky Nohel, Bob and Sheridan Haack, Doug Seaney, Jake and Luke Seaney, Bob Courtois, Betsy and Steve Schnell and their friends, Peg Jones, Susan Miller, Tamera Dean, John Oom, Connie and Jerry Allen, Cora Killinger, Duane Lawton, Eugene Branigan, Gene Dawson, and Doug Boor for helping get the trail ready for the 2016 hiking season.

After each workday we got together to enjoy some food and conversation at a campfire cookout. We swapped stories and spent some time getting to know one another. We are so thankful to have such a wonderful group of volunteers. It's all of YOU who make the NCT as great as it is!

A very special thank you goes out to Connie and Jerry Allen. Their adopted trail section alone had over 100 trees down. It was the hardest hit section this winter. Jerry and Connie drove up from their home 2 ½ hours away, three different times to clear trees. On their first trip they cleared over 30 trees and barely made a dent. They came back a second time and cleared over 50 more and they still weren't finished! A third trip brought their total to over 100 trees cleared. Many of the fallen trees had blue blazes on them, so Connie's sister Cora joined them on the third trip up to help re-blaze. This was a record number of trees to clear, and we can't thank you enough for your "drive" and dedication to the trail!



Jerry Allen with his chainsaw



Cora Killinger painting



April 30th workday, Jerry Allen, Eugen Branigan, Connie Allen, Dove Day



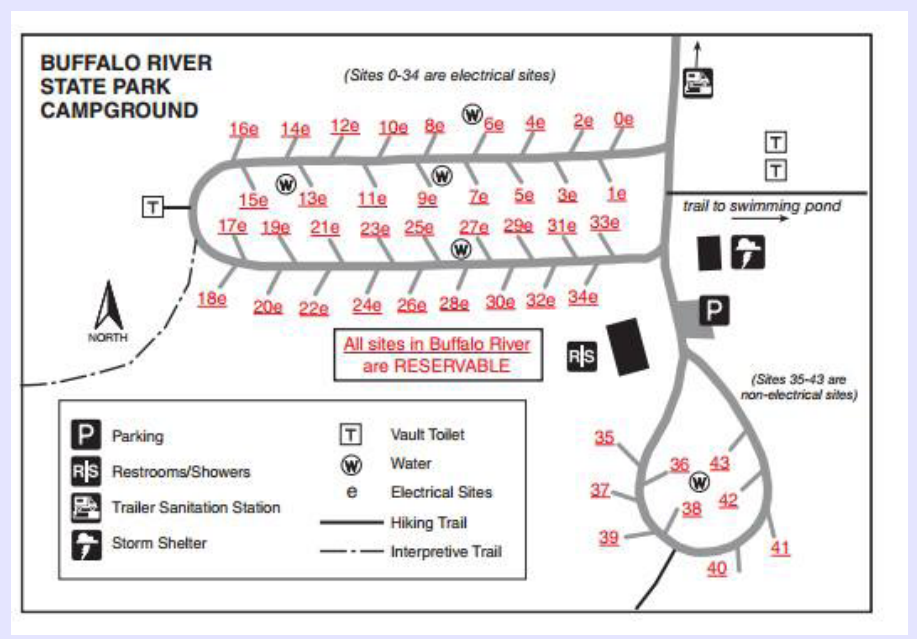
May 28th workday Jerry Allen, Connie Allen, Cora Killinger, Susan Miller

2016 NCTA Annual Meeting Fargo, ND: September 15-17

The NCTA annual celebration is in Fargo, ND on Sept 15-17. Several Jordan Valley 45° members will be attending. Many will stay at Buffalo River State Park, MN. John and Dove Day, Connie and Jerry Allen, and Tamera Dean have all made reservations to camp there. Join us! Register with NCTA to attend the event, and make your camp site reservation today! See these links:

<https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/2016-celebration-fargo-nd/>

<https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/2016-celebration-fargo-nd/camping-option/>



Jay's Backpacking and Hiking Extravaganza

Dove and John Day

On 14 May 2016, the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter set up another table at Jay's Backpacking and Hiking Extravaganza in Clare, MI. The chapter has been attending this event for over 10 years! Jay's provided a delightful potluck lunch for their employees and other attending vendors and allowed us to join in as well. If you have never been, it's worth the drive! There are some great educational presentations on backpacking and lots of vendors with great new innovative gear to show. There are prize drawings, store discounts, and free giveaways. Many thanks go to Gary Johnson, Jerry Allen and Connie Allen for setting up our JV45 table



and display boards again this year. They handed out lots of NCT information and encouraged all to "Guess the Weight of the Backpack." Nearly 50 people entered the drawing and one lucky person guessed the exact weight of 28 lbs. 8 oz. This was the first time someone had guessed the exact weight! The winner was from Shepherd, MI and is involved in Boy Scouts. He won a copy of Ron Strickland's book, "The North Country Trail", and he will put it to good use!



(L-R) Connie Allen, Jerry Allen, and Gary Johnson at Jay's

Jordan Valley 45°

Chapter Meeting Minutes (Draft),

May 21, 2016:

6 pm – Boyne Falls Fire Hall

Potluck Dinner

1. Welcome and Introductions

Following the potluck dinner, the meeting was called to order at 6:45pm by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with 6 chapter members in attendance.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

The minutes from the March 19, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved as published.

Motion by Eugene Branigan, seconded by Jerry Allen, Motion Carried.

3. 2016 Recent Activities and Accomplishments

- ✓ **Register Boxes** – 1 additional register boxes has been constructed and located at Starvation Lake Rd in 2016.
- ✓ **Road Crossing Posts** (to make the trail more visible from the road with emblem on post and to identify the road for hikers) have been installed at 5 locations thus far in 2016.

- ✓ **Hike 100 Challenge Group Hikes** are occurring monthly, typically either the Saturday or Sunday of the third weekend of the month, organized by Eugene Branigan with information on the website and Facebook.

4. Upcoming Activities and Project Updates

- ✓ **"You are Here" Signs** in Jordan River Valley – Chapter is working with the DNR on this project, and we are currently waiting to hear back from the DNR on the status/timing for implementation of such signs.
- ✓ **Interpretative Signs** are being prepared based on a grant and are anticipated to be installed in early summer, 3 of the sign locations are along the JV 45° section.
- ✓ **Trail Town Celebration** (June 4) – Jen Winnell, along with Duane Lawton and Dove Day are coordinating 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.
- ✓ **Bear River Bridge** – the engineering for a bridge over the Bear River is currently being completed, after which cost estimates and/or construction bids will be obtained in order to explore and pursue funding

sources including potential grant opportunities.

- ✓ **Skyline Trail** – re-route being pursued to include future bridge, initial phases of re-route to be built this season — many volunteer opportunities — watch for details!
 - ✓ **Skyline Camp** – Eagle Scout to lead a project to re-establish a camp shelter, after the previous platform tent collapsed last winter with the heavy snow load.
 - ✓ **Trail Work Day** — May 28th to re-blaze and clear trails.
 - ✓ **Dobleski Road** — no change in status, continue Optimum Location Review Process with NCT/NPS.
5. **Hikes in Hawaii** – Duane shared inspiring photos and stories from his travels in Hawaii.
6. **Adjourned** – Chapter meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Campbell

Petoskey Trail Town Celebration

June 4, 2016 by John Day

Against the backdrop of Petoskey's Bayfront Park waterfall, folk music drifted through the warm summer air while people visited, laughed and told of their adventures along the North

Country Trail. A lunch of hot dogs, potato chips and lemonade provided the perfect picnic food for the many hikers that had walked several miles of the trail that morning.



The Fourth Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration was again held on National Trails Day, a day established by the American Hiking Society 24 years ago to recognize and celebrate America's trails. Petoskey is a NCTA-designated Trail Town, a community through which the North Country Trail passes that supports hikers with services, promotes the Trail to its citizens and embraces the Trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated. Trail Towns are built on a relationship between a town, the Trail and its volunteers.

The Celebration was made possible by our own Jordan Valley 45° Chapter, in conjunction with the City of Petoskey and the Harbor Springs Chapter of the North Country Trail Association. Petoskey's trail town celebration started at 9:30 A.M. with a hike starting from McDougal road and ending back at the Bayfront Park waterfall. Twenty people attended the 4 mile hike and took about 2 hours to complete it, including a boy scout troop! The plan was to have the Petoskey Trolley shuttle people to the trail-head, but it broke down that morning... as all good trail volunteers do, members jumped in their personal vehicles to shuttle people up to McDougal road, the smiles and jokes abounding.



Another hike started about an hour later, this time leaving from North Central Michigan College parking lot, winding down the Bear River Recreation Area and ending up at the waterfall. Eleven people attended, and transportation was provided by the City, using a big yellow school bus complete with an accommodating driver. A third shorter hike had been planned, but everyone who wanted to hike had already left to hike. Thanks to Jake ??? who came down from Bearcub Outfitters to lead a kids' hike at 11.



After the hiking, Dr. Goodhart's Home Remedy Band performed with support of the Blissfest organization, and kept people entertained throughout lunch and later into the afternoon. Al Hansen and Todd Winnell made sure the hot dogs were hot and plentiful from the generous use of Jim Stamm's grill. The "Guess the Weight of the Backpack," always a hit, was won by Don Kellogg who had the winning guess at 29.5 pounds. He is an avid NCT hiker and has hiked many sections north and south of our chapter's trails. The prize was a large basket of hiking goodies such as a NCT hat, compressible day pack, butt pad, t-shirt and other valuable stuff.

Our chapter President Duane Lawton took the stage and informed everyone attending about what the trail is, what it stands for, and about the relationship between the trail and the community. Next was Al Hansen, Director of Parks and Recreation in Petoskey. Al did an outstanding job coordinating this celebration with Duane and others. It cannot be emphasized enough how important Al is for maintaining a strong relationship between the Trail and the City. Al also reflected on the historic character of the city parklands. Chris Loudenslager, Trail Planner for the NCT from the National Park Service (NPS), talked about how important volunteerism is, and was very complimentary of our community cohesiveness and value to the trail.



Guest speakers (L-R) Chris Loudenslager, Al Hansen, and Emily Meyerson.

Other speakers included Emily Meyerson, DNR Trails Coordinator for Northern Lower Michigan, who spoke of the importance of the relationship of the North Country Trail with the Iron Belle Trail, along with the use and idea behind Governor Snyder's showcase trail. Michigan is THE Trails State. The message of the day was "Two routes, one great trail" which refers to the fact that there are two separate portions of the Iron Belle Trail, one for hiking and one for biking. The hiking route of the Iron Belle Trail shares the NCT from Albion to Ironwood.

Mary Stewart Adams gave a presentation about the Headlands Dark Sky Park, a unique place—one of the first ten such parks in the world. She told the audience the Native American legend of how stars were placed in the sky to show people natural laws, and about how confusion arose. A compelling storyteller she is! "Maps not apps" was a message she also wanted to share.

A great raffle was held after the presentations, with loads of great prizes from our sponsors. A very special thank you goes to Jen Winnell, Jordan Valley 45° Trail Town Coordinator, who was key to securing sponsors, amazing raffle prizes, and the food for this special day. The success of this celebration could not have been achieved without her great dedication to this event!

The Hike 100 Challenge finishers present were given recognition as well. This is a challenge to hike 100 miles on the North Country Trail this year, in commemoration of the NPS centennial. In fact, Tamera Dean and John Oom completed their final miles to 100 on the trail that day! Congrats to all who have completed their challenge, and here's encouragement to those who are on their way to finishing.

Many thanks also go to the sponsors who set up display booths, including Getting Kids Outdoors, Natureology, The Headlands Dark Sky Park, Petoskey District Library, and Top of Michigan Trails Council. We love



Hike 100 Challenge finishers

to see displays of all the great things available from these organizations!

Petoskey's fourth Trail Town Celebration was a great success – it turned out to be a lovely 80ish degree day, and threats of thunderstorms that morning and afternoon did not materialize. Huge thanks to all of our Volunteers, including Jim Stamm of the Harbor Springs Chapter who provided us with the tent to keep us in the shade!

Many thanks go to all of our many sponsors, including American Spoon Foods, North Perk Coffee, High Gear Sports, The Rocking Horse Toy Company, Getting Kids Outdoors, Bearcub Outfitters, Headlands International Dark Sky Park, Top of Michigan Trails Council, Petoskey District Library, Corner Scoops, The Outfitter, Horizon Books, Natureology, Latitude 45° Bicycles and Fitness, The Sunglass Shoppe, Beards Brewery, Blissfest Music Organization, Oleson's Food Store, Crooked Tree Breadworks, and D&W Fresh Market. This event could not happen without the support of these fine businesses and organizations so please go out and support them.

April "Hike 100" Hike

Dove Day

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter hosted a hike on Saturday, April 16th in the beautiful Jordan River Valley. It was a warm, sunny, 70° day. Fifteen of us met and hiked various distances from 5 to 9 miles along the Jordan River Pathway. We headed out from Pinney Bridge and enjoyed the nicest spring weather anyone could ask for. With the sun on our faces we enjoyed the sounds of the rushing Jordan River, and took in the beauty of spring.



The hike started at Pinney Bridge that crosses the Jordan River



A beaver pond with Deadman's Hill in the background



The 15 hikers that started out on the first five miles of the April hike.



The four intrepid souls that finished the 9-mile stretch: Mary Campbell, Linus Branigan, Eugene Branigan, and Duane Lawton



Grand Opening Celebration of the Packy Offield Trail Center and Top of Michigan Trails Council's Annual Meeting. Thursday, June 23 at 6:00 pm. The new Trail Center is located at 1687 M 119, Petoskey, MI. Food, drink, and music will be available. Note that there is limited parking at the Trail Center, so bike or hike if you can.

Upcoming Harbor Springs Chapter Hikes

Our NCTA neighbors to the north offer monthly hikes as well, often on the same day as JV45. To participate in these hikes, meet at the Pleasantview Township Hall in Harbor Springs, MI at the corner of Stutsmanville Rd and Pleasantview Rd at 10 am.

Saturday, July 16, 10 am Section 8
In and back. ~ 4 mi.

Saturday, August 20, 10 am Section 6
Zmiky Rd. to Wycamp Lk. Dam & back ~ 4 mi.

Saturday, September 17, 10 am Section 5
Robinson Rd. to Van and Back ~4 mi.

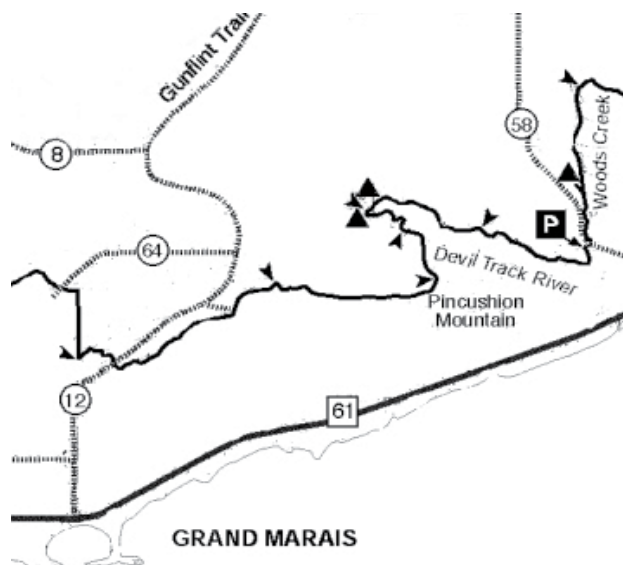
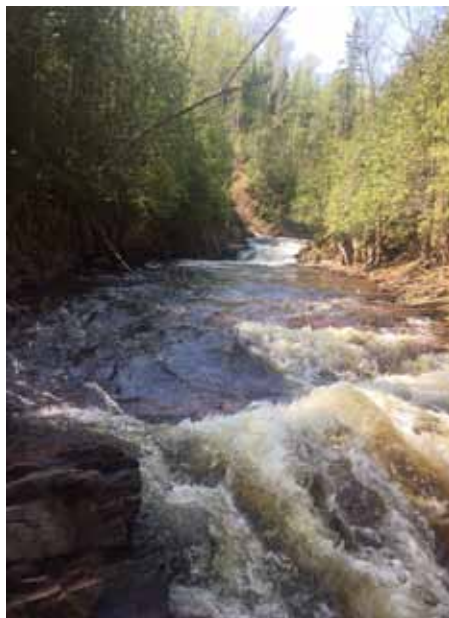
Saturday, October 15, 10am TBA

Where I Hiked

Pincushion Mountain, MN

Josh Berlo

On 21 May 2016, my wife, Meg, and I hiked a section of the North Country Trail in Minnesota within the Superior Hiking Trail portion just northeast of Grand Marais, MN, a few miles inland from Lake Superior. From the trailhead parking lot off of County Road 58 it is an 8 mile round trip hike with about 1,000 foot of vertical rise to the summit of Pincushion Mountain, a large granite dome rising 1,200 feet above Lake Superior. There are several viewpoints along the trail of the river gorge, opposite ridge, waterfalls and Lake Superior. The trail runs along a ridge above the Devil Track River then drops into the gorge and crosses the river by some falls and campsites then climbs steeply out of the gorge to some rolling highlands before a spur trail takes you to the summit of Pincushion Mountain. See the map as well as some of the scenic views.



CURRENT JV45 GOVERNING BOARD

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Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
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Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
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Recent Improvements at Deadman's Hill

In early June, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) made several improvements to the parking area and entrance road to Deadman's Hill in Antrim County's Warner Township. The MDNR added about 270 cubic yards of gravel to the existing entrance, parking lot and exit of the trailhead to help with erosion issues and poor road conditions. The project was funded by grants from the MDNR's Recreation Improvement Fund and Recreation Trails Program. The overlook serves as the trailhead for the 18-mile Jordan Valley Pathway.

As of June 12, there were a few guardrails at the overlook that were in need of repair, so be careful. People likely climb the boards to get a better view of the valley. Bob Haack

Submit Your Stories and Pictures for the JV45° Newsletter

Don't forget that this is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues, and that includes stories for the "Where I Hiked" column. Bob Haack <haack@msu.ed>.