

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 3



Calendar

JV45° CHAPTER MEETING

Thursday, July 11, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Boyne Falls Fire Hall

Boyne Falls, Mi

All Welcome

Directions:

East of US 131 in Boyne Falls (Fire Hall is visible from US 131 on East side)

Speaker: Duane Lawton

Topic: "Hiking Kauai" nine day hikes on the Garden Isle..and one overnight.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Thurs., Sept. 12, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Boyne Falls Fire Hall

Speakers: Jen & Todd Winnell

Topic "Long Hike Trail"

Vermont's "footpath in the wilderness", built by the Green Mountain Club, 1910-1930, the oldest long distance trail in the U.S

Thurs., Nov. 14, 2013

Speaker: Josh Berlo

Topic: "Hiking 48

Highpoints of New Hampshire", in the White Mts., at least 4,000 ft.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Aug. 12-17, Slippery

Rock, PA. Info online or

call 1-866-445-3628 ext4

Jill DeCator

PRESIDENT'S REPORT BY DUANE LAWTON

NEWS NOTES:

JUNE, 2013

Little Traverse Wheelway Blazed



Pictured are Emily Meyerson and Jeff Winegard of the TOMTC

The Top of Michigan Trails Council recently installed kiosk signs and way posts along the LTW (Little Traverse Wheelway). The section of the LTW the NCT shares now has "urban blazes" on those signs and posts. TOMTC had begun working on extending the signage to the Petoskey-to-Mackinaw wheelway, which we also share part of, and more blazes will be going up!

Dobleski Reroute Progress

On May 30, Jeff McCusker (NPS), Ken Phillips (DNR) and Duane Lawton (NCTA) met to review the opportunity to reroute our trail off of the 2 mile "US-131" road walk. By means of an "Optimum Location Review" (OLR) NPS process, we can involve NPS land managers in seeking to acquire property or easements to enable the reroute. We determined that the optimal route would move the trail northward west of US-131, to then cross two private parcels and US-131, cross the S. Branch of the Boyne River over the Dobleski culvert then another private parcel to reach DNR land E of Dobleski with is continuous to Giem Rd. and the current trail. Alternatively, a 3/8 mile stretch of Dobleski road walk could be retained, requiring only one private parcel crossing.

As part of this effort, we need to flag and GPS an optimal route from Dobleski to Giem for inclusion in the OLR. ...anybody GPS-talented, trail-building experienced, want to participate? Contact:

Duane Lawton,
delawton@torchlake.com



Duane, Jeff and Ken poring over maps.



Jeff and Ken onsite

You can zoom in on these sections by consulting the Jordan Valley 45* Chapter "Overview Map" at <http://northcountrytrail.org/trail/states/michigan/explore-by-section/jordanvalley45-chapter/>

Group Hike June 15

Six intrepid hikers left Harmon Road promptly at 10:00 a.m., and hiked 5 miles round trip to the Cherry Valley overlook for lunch. The lookout side trail needs serious clearing..the white blazes are just fine.

Pictured are Duane, Lorraine, Max, Connie, Margo (leader), and Jerry.



Mountain Bike Groups Joining NCT Maintenance

We have begun cooperating with the Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association (NMMBA) and Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA)—who use the NCT where it is on state land—to maintain trail.

We are considering NMMBA adopting trail sections in our southern area, and TOMMBA assisting trail adopters nearer to Petoskey. There are a couple of minor trail reroutes (repairs) in the Chandler Hills area that we will jointly address, to make the trail more compatible with both foot and bicycle traffic.

NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

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

http://northcountrytrail.org/jv45/?page_id=57

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

Also, our new WEBSITE is undergoing continuing improvement—check it out!!

And “Like” us on FACEBOOK—

www.facebook.com/pages/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45/129820953759968

NCTA e-Membership Special -- Tell Your Friends!

For a limited time (until August), the NCTA is offering a one-time only “e-Membership” for just \$12! If you are not currently a member, you can join for this bargain price at the NCTA website (use this QR code to access the order page directly). As an e-Member, you will receive no snail mail...the Northstar magazine will be emailed to you.

Make sure anybody who takes us up on this offer designates “**J45**” as their chapter of choice.

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSN.
One Time e-Membership



This Just In!!!.....Jordan Valley Projects Permit Approved by the DNR/DEQ!

Ken Phillips has just received the approved permit for the work we plan in the valley—two puncheon bridges and replacement of a washed out culvert. The DNR is cooperating in that the culvert replacement will involve gravel and rock they provide, as well as some DNR heavy equipment. We are procuring the culvert pipe with a grant from the NPS, and we will help to “re-landscape” the area. The DNR is also looking for available timbers to reduce lumber requirement for the puncheon bridges, which we also have NPS funding for. We will be setting up work bees in July to do these projects—please stay tuned and come out to help!!

...Ken is also working on getting a permit to resolve the beaver problem at O'Brien Pond.

Keep your fingers crossed.

National Trails Day 2013--Petoskey Trail Town Celebration

We had a very successful National Trails Day event this year, held in the Petoskey Bear River Recreation Area, celebrating the recent designation of Petoskey as a Trail Town of the North Country Trail.

Pictured: Jerry Allen, Peg Myers, of the JV45° chapter and Anne Billiard of the Harbor Springs NCTA chapter at information tables.





Pictured: Al Hansen, Petoskey, Parks & Rec. Director, Duane Lawton, JV45° Chapter President, and Jeff McCusker, National Park Service Trail Manager of the NCT

There was very significant participation by local businesses and organizations. We had 11 sponsors who donated prizes and/or set up information tables. We served a light lunch (hot dogs, potato chips and water). There were articles before and after in the Petoskey News-Review. Ron Fowler of the Petoskey District Library entertained us with his banjo music. The sponsors were (* had an information table):

- High Gear Sports
- Latitude 45 Cycle and Sport
- Bearcub Outfitters *
- Top of Michigan Trails Council
- Getting Kids Outdoors *
- Petoskey District Library *
- The Outfitter Harbor Springs
- Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians *
- Beards Brewery
- Petoskey State Park *
- North Country Sports

We held the event jointly with the Harbor Springs NCTA chapter, and shared their canopy for our information table. We also displayed the J45 tool trailer.

The weather was iffy, but to our relief it did cooperate. The event was modestly attended, but we still collected 70 sign-up forms (for prizes) that are contacts for potential new members. We awarded over a dozen “Trailhead Prizes”, many more “instant winners” prizes, as well as “Guess the Weight of the Backpack” contest winners.

We were honored to have remarks by Bill Fraser, Petoskey Mayor; Jeff McCusker, National Park Service Trail Manager of the NCT; and Al Hansen, Petoskey Parks and Recreation Director.

Al unveiled a kiosk sign that highlights the NCT as it passes through Petoskey via the Bear River Valley..

The sign is temporary, pending determination of appropriate content. Potentially it will provide information on Petoskey hiker services for backpackers, as well as information about the North Country Trail and its local features for the casual passer-by. For now, it is headed “Across this Footbridge Passes America’s Longest National Footpath”.



Pictured: Sponsors’ information booths, attendees enjoying lunch , and entertainment by Ron Fowler of the Petoskey District Library

Many thanks to those of you who helped in the event—who staffed our information table, who helped with the food, who helped set up and clean up! Special thanks to Amy for her leadership organizing the food.

It was suggested this could become an annual event. We'll see. There wasn't any organized hiking, which would have been nice. When we discovered a health department permit was required, our food budget was blown. It will be interesting to see how much growth we experience as a result of this outreach. We have a very good relationship with the City of Petoskey, and continued recognition of our synergy is very positive.

Now we begin planning for staffing a table at the Emmet/Charlevoix County Fair in August...



Pictured: Pat, Joann, & Amy preparing the light lunch.

ROAD SIGNS

Tom Copenhaver, our DNR Parks & Rec. liaison, has ordered lettered signs for us to erect on state land at trail crossings/trailheads at C-38 (Mancelona Road), M-32 (Warner Creek Pathway parking area) and US-131. While we await those signs, we have the NCT logos that will accompany them, and plan to pre-erect the signposts with the logos attached. We will be setting up a work bee in July to do this—please stay tuned and come out to help!!

Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com cell 1-248-496-1869

Trail Coordinator Report by Peg Myers

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

Tool Coordinator

Hiking Coordinator

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering. pmyers@freeway.net

Trail Adopter Training Held May 19

Peg Jones and Andy Zeek hosted a "Trail Adopter Training" session on May 19 that was well attended, including a half-dozen mountain biking folks. We split into three groups and cleared a lot of trail between Starvation Lake Rd. and Five Lakes. Participants got to experience trimming, blazing, and clearing deadfalls. The TOMMBA/NMMBA mountain bike club contacts are very positive and we look forward to increased cooperation in trail maintenance.

Thank you, Peg and Andy!!

Pictured: Amy, Duane, Dan, Peg, Andy, and Glen



VOLUNTEER SURVEY

To all chapter members and non-members: As we work to improve and enhance our beautiful section of the North Country Trail, we have a lot of opportunities pending and could use your participation supporting the trail. At this time we need an idea of how deep our team is so we can plan a successful schedule of activities. We want to know about your interests and abilities. Please respond to our VERY SIMPLE survey.

You have three options:

1. Print this out, mark your answers, mail it in.
To: Amy Wilks, 1947 Korr Rd. Mancelona, MI 49659
2. Copy the questionnaire into an email, fill in your answers, email it.
To: amywilks47@hotmail.com
3. Go to www.northcountrytrail.org/j45 where we will have a link to an online version of the survey.

THE SURVEY

NOTE: Any “YES” does not commit you to do anything. We will contact you when an opportunity of your choice(s) comes up.

1. Name(s):
2. I/we are generally/occasionally able to participate in chapter activities (“NO” would be due to limitations such as distance, physical constraints, just too busy, lack of interest, etc.) YES/NO/MAYBE
2. I/we would be interested in volunteering to lead an activity (schedule, organize, conduct). YES/NO/MAYBE
3. I/we would be interested in adopting a trail section (clear, maintain blazes on 2-3 miles of trail 2-3 times per year, alert others to special issues such as deadfall, erosion, mowing needs, etc.) YES/NO/MAYBE
4. I/we would be interested in participating in a trail project (a day on the trail doing repairs, construction, etc.). YES/NO/MAYBE
5. I/we would be interested in working at an event (e.g. Fair Booth, Picnic, etc.). YES/NO/MAYBE
6. I/we would be interested in participating in a group hike, just for fun! YES/NO/MAYBE
7. Do you know of any other group or organization that might be interested in participating with us in any of these activities? YES/NO
8. Preferred contact method: Circle--- email or phone (make sure we have contact info)

THANK YOU so very much for responding!

Communication Coordinator Report by Amy Wilks

Membership Report:

At present, Jordan Valley 45° Chapter has 53 members.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR THE WORK DAY MAY 19 AND ALL WHO JOINED US TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAIL DAY IN PETOSKEY JUNE 1

Interested in joining Jordan Valley 45°?

2 possibilities: 1. One time \$23 membership

2. E-membership \$12

Both are available on northcountrytrail.org for a limited time.

Member's Input by Gary Johnson

Jay's Sporting Goods "Backpacking Days"

Jay's Sporting Goods at Clare held their annual backpacking days on June 8th. There were several vendors displaying latest shoes, socks and camping equipment. Jerry and Connie Allen along with Gary Johnson set up a display promoting the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter of the North Country National Scenic Trail. As usual we had visitors guess the weight of the backpack. Jerry donated a book to the winner. We had 30 entries in the drawing. No one guessed the exact weight. Several people took the handout about the electronic membership. Jay's treated us to lunch. Overall, it was a rather quiet day, but we were able to share with several people about the NCNST and hiking.



Pictured above: Jerry Allen explaining the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter of the North Country Trail.

Pictured on right: A mom comparing weight of her daughter to the weight of a backpack. She wants to hike with her children.

