



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

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Note: JV45 typically offers a hike on the 3rd weekend of every month, usually Saturday, sometimes Sunday.

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

Message from JV 45°

President Mary Campbell

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Greetings JV 45° Friends. **WOW! What an exciting time!** If you haven't already done so, please check out the new section of trail from the Petoskey River Road Sports Complex (starting at the site of the future bridge), then passing through the Sports Complex grounds on to various Bear Creek Township properties to Click Road.* (See Duane's Projects Report for more details on the long work weekend that produced this trail). On a group walk of the trail at the end of the work weekend, Duane was heard saying, "Wow, this sure is a lot easier going now than when Kenny and I scouted it." THANK YOU to Duane for organizing this effort and to all who participated. Also, as always Kenny's assistance throughout the planning, permitting and construction was outstanding and much appreciated. For anyone who missed the fun-filled work weekend, have no fears—there promise to be more opportunities coming soon (once we receive our other permit for construction of additional boardwalks and puncheon).

Want to become more involved with the JV45 Chapter? We are a fun group (not just in my opinion, but according to those who came from far afield to assist with our work weekend) and are always looking for folks interested in an aspect

of trail-related and/or support work. We have people with a wide diversity of skills who are willing to share their knowledge if you want to learn to use a new tool or try something new. Contact Mary or Duane to get more involved.

The leadership team will be meeting later in October (17th) to review status and scope our priorities and start planning our calendar for 2020. The results of the meeting will be communicated in a future newsletter and at the annual meeting in January.

If you have an interest in serving on the leadership team, we will soon be seeking nominations. Positions to be elected (or re-elected) for 2-year terms in January are: President, Communications Coordinator; Project Coordinator; Hike Coordinator and Trail Town Coordinator.

Trail Adopters and Volunteers Appreciation Brunch. Please plan to join us November 9th for a brunch in appreciation of the Chapter trail adopters and others who contribute so much to create and maintain the JV45° segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Anyone wishing to assist with this event, please contact Mary or Dove.

* For the record, this new trail is not yet officially part of the NCT and will not become official until the connecting bridge is in place (hopefully in 2020). The trail is blazed blue, but no NCT emblems—yet.

Upcoming Events

October 19, 2019. Chapter Hike. See details on p. 7.

October 19-20, Chainsaw Training, St. Ignace (contact Mary Campbell)

November 9, Trail Adopters Appreciation Brunch, See details p. 6.

November 9, Chapter Hike. See details p. 6.

Also, a possible Workday if we get permission to build more puncheon soon.



JV45° August Hike Report (Deadman's to Jordan River Rd. or the JR Nat'l Fish Hatchery & Materials Recovery Effort)

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

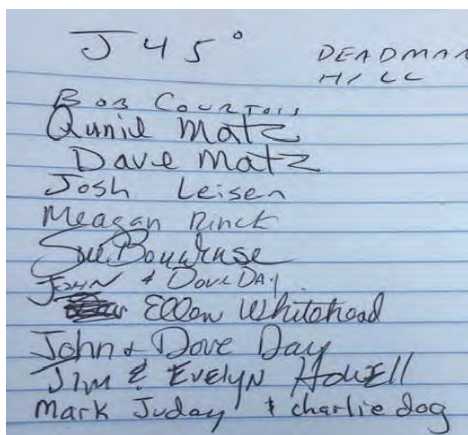
The 17 August 2019 "hike" was also a thinly veiled quest to recover materials needed for the Bear River Bridge project at the end of September (see posting by Duane). Last year a lot of materials were hauled in for projects under Deadman's Hill and we needed to recover the left-overs and move them to Bear River (e.g., 2x4s, 6x6s, planks and scraps).

Eleven people, three with trailers, showed up at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery promptly at 9:30. Evelyn Howell met us later at Deadman's Hill. After wolfing down Mark Juday's cinnamon rolls, the trailer people (Howell's, Day's and Sue B) took the trailers to the "Big Rock parking" where the temporary access and a material cache was located. That group of five walked in from Big Rock and started moving wood back to Jordan River Road (JRRd).

The rest of the "hike group" went to Deadman's Hill parking lot and walked down to the register box and replaced the log book shredded up by critters and put a hook on the box so they can't open it. We then walked to the viewing platform and the "not a bridge" elevated puncheon to get the wood. Someone recruited some passing hikers to help carry a load. Josh Leisen (new guest from Huron Pines) added a new term to our arsenal, "erosion control terraces", which look a lot like steps. Anyway, each person made at least two or three trips and everything was safely moved to JRRd by noon. A special



A portion of the salvaged lumber



List of some of the August Hikers

thanks to Megan and Josh for coming out just to haul wood, they had to leave early for another event.

To add excitement, Evelyn, being unfamiliar with the temporary access trail, missed the turn and kept walking the trail with her 2x4x8. Loyal husband Jim went looking for her and actually made it back to the trail head, but she had not gone that way. Dove Day also went on the search and Evelyn was safely located on the trail around the beaver dam backwaters.

So, having recovered the materials, and Evelyn, we had lunch and loaded the trailers. The trailer people then returned to the Hatchery to grab a few more boards that were still being stored in one of the buildings from all the trail work completed in 2018. The loaded trailers were then moved to the Day's house near Petoskey.

Dave, Annie, Mark and Bob then resumed the hike back to the hatchery. The weather couldn't have been any more perfect. We beat all expectations.

September Hike Report

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

On September 21, 2019, we had 14 people show up at the Sheridan Street parking area on the Bear River end of our chapter hike from Conway to Petoskey. This included two new people, Fay and Bruce McHaney, from a town near Cheboygan.

The weather was HOT but clear skies and a gentle breeze. So, we caravanned four cars of hikers to Conway Road. From there we headed south on the NCT which is also part of the bike trail and parallels US Highway 131. We saw a lot of bikers and had to try to be mindful to keep to one



Top of Michigan Trails Council's office

side of the trail and sidewalks. We did stop at the office of the Top of Michigan Trails Council's office (a beautiful stone structure) for water and an outhouse. Except for about a mile on 131, most of this section is off 131 enough that it is not too noisy from the traffic. Most of the way there are terrific views of Little Traverse Bay and out to the open waters of Lake Michigan. Across the bay you can see Harbor Springs and Boyne Highlands.

After shifting off 131, there is a mile of trail through Bayfront Park with a tunnel up to town where we stopped at Duffy's Garage & Grill for pops and burgers. It was very hot outside so stepping in to the air conditioning at Duffy's was a big relief. Since there were 14 of us, Duffy's opened an upstairs section for us.

Refreshed, we resumed our hike through the park and the last mile of the day was along the Bear River back to Sheridan Street parking for a short meeting to discuss the big Bear River work project scheduled for the last four days of September.



Bear River



Petoskey Trail Building Extravaganza over the NCNST Day Weekend

Duane Lawton

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During September 27-30, we hosted a trail-building event near Petoskey, with more than 35 workers active at one time or another. We used Dove and John Day's barn as headquarters, spread out and cleared over a mile of new trail, built six boardwalks totaling almost 350 feet and a 550 foot fence. That's about half the needed boardwalk--we are waiting on a second wetlands permit from EGLE before we can build the rest. Hopefully there will be good enough weather to have a day or two of fun in the sun yet this year. STAY TUNED.

We had several participants from downstate, including our perennial helper Jeff Fleming from Augusta. Mike, Mary, Tom, Pam and Mark hail from south-east MI, and Lori Luken is from Berea OH, but the distance winner is Dave King from Baltimore MD. Dave said he saw the posting for the event, and being a frequent visitor to the Petoskey area, he jumped at the chance to come and help. We also had a four-person crew from SEEDS, a nonprofit based in Northern Michigan that specializes in a youth conservation corps. They brought a power auger and were able to set the fence in two days, in addition to helping out with other activities.

Everybody had a good time, many out-of-towners want to come back. We had breakfast, dinner and campfires at the barn, and much fellowship. Even though

it rained Friday, the rest of the weekend was nice and we finished Monday before the thunderstorms. When we were done, a large group hiked the whole new trail.

The reroute will eventually take the trail from the NCMC trail across the Bear River into and through the Petoskey River Road Sports Complex, across vacant township land, through the Petoskey Youth Soccer Association fields to private parcels that connect to Skyline, eliminating over 3 miles of roadwalk.

In cooperation with the City of Petoskey and the NCMC, we now have the funding in place for a pedestrian bridge over the Bear River, and enough access agreements so we could build about 2/3 of the reroute. The bridge project, led by Petoskey Parks and Recreation Dept., should be completed in 2020, when we expect the partial reroute to become official. Funding for this event was provided by the NCTA using grants from the DNR and NPS—thank you, Kenny Wawsczyk!

Don't forget to submit your Volunteer Hours at:

<https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>



Group photo in front of the Day's Barn of many of the Extravaganza Volunteers

Matt Wesling (SEEDS), Mark Stevens, Mike Woloszyn, Evan Wallace (SEEDS), Connie Allen, Jim Howell, Mary Campbell, Tom & Pam Gardner, Annie Matz, Jeff Fleming, Evelyn Howell, Brandon Crouch (SEEDS), Bob Courtois, Kenny Wawsczyk, Jerry Allen, Adam Manninen, Lori Luken, Duane Lawton, Morgan Vondruska (SEEDS), John, Dove and Koda Day.

Other participants not present: John Larch, Bob Haack, Eugene Branigan, Dave King, Dave Matz, Mary Woloszyn, Bill Courtois, Andy Zeek, Susan Miller, Bob French, Kevin Whitley, Ken Johnson, Tammy Ryder, Judy Conrad, Doug Boor, Marcus Quintiliano

A Few Extravaganza Photos



Chainsawing completed by Dave Matz and Bob Haack. Also present are Bob Courtois and Pam Gardner, who handled the loppers



Some of the wood used for boardwalks



Relaxing after dinner



Andy Zeek cleared the forbs and brambles with his DR Mower. Also shown are most of the key lopper-crew members who cleared the trail behind the chainsaw crew.



Working on a boardwalk



Dinner time!



The SEEDS Crew and the fence they built



The **Blue Line** indicates the new trail that was built



Building puncheon. (L to R): 1st placing sills, 2nd attaching the stringers, and 3rd adding deck boards and curb

Register Box Buzz



Warner Creek Pathway

Danyell Minier

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Warner Creek got a new log book at the end of April 2019. First entry was cleaning Warner Creek Loop with Becky and Don, Dove and John. April 28, there were ticks down near O'Brien Pond. Stompin Stash and Ramblin Rose had a Great hike on May 2nd. Also on May 2nd there was a NCTA outing with hikers from Ashland, WI, Duluth, MN, and Alleghany National Forest, PA. May 12th saw Mark Juday and Charlie Dog from Petoskey out for a nice hike with Dry,

nice weather around 60 degrees. On May 16th Lisa and Barb say: "Beautiful trail. Great walk! Thank you for taking good care of the trail." On May 28th Annie Nelson from St. Paul, MN was here on her half-way through hike. There were too many mosquitos for a longer message. Apparently the end of May saw a lot of mosquitos, they were horrible and awful to quote a few entries. On August 2, B. Mania says: "Love the woods!! Buds and ever the mud." On August 28, Kurtis Kares and Rebel the dog were thru hiking Michigan. On August 30th, Thomas Vallie from Okemos, MI said "Great signage. Wet along the pond. Beautiful. Thanks for your hard work." And on September 20th there was a group of 6 working on their 100 mile patch and staying at Otsego State Park. Happy Hiking,

A visit by a TRULY long distance hiker. In September a delightful individual travelled the length of the Jordan Valley 45° segment of the NCT. Ron Dobra (trail name 'zen quake') is 72 years old and has backpacked over 15,000 miles! Ron is from Maine where he has been an AT volunteer for 30 years. So when he joined us for dinner and a night off the trail, we had much to talk

about, including comparing and contrasting the well-established AT with the young NCT, where we are still working to move trail off the roads. Ron started in ND last summer, and then picked up at the Border Route Trail (MN) in June this year. Amazingly last season, Ron did not see another hiker until his last week before he stopped for the season. When we hiked the AT in 2017, we couldn't go a day without seeing others. As of his last email, (4 Oct 2019), Ron had made it to Rockford with only 211 miles to the Ohio border and had already travelled 1,574 miles this season. We wish him safe travels and hope our paths cross again! **By Mary Campbell**



Ron Dobra as he stopped by the Day's Barn.

JV45° Trail Report

Dove and John Day, doveday70@gmail.com and johnanddove@gmail.com

It was another great year of maintenance along our little section of the North Country Trail! Thank you to all who have helped out in one way or another this year. You are what makes the NCT so great!

We are happy to announce that we will head into the 2020 season with almost all of our trail sections adopted. With the exception of the new trail that was just built in late September, we now have at least one adopter for every section we maintain. We are now currently looking for one or more volunteers who are willing to adopt this newly built trail in the Peto-skey area. This section is already being used by hikers and will become the official NCT route when the bridge over the Bear River is completed, hopefully in 2020. In the meantime, it is going to need a lot of TLC! We are looking for trail adopters that can tackle this 1.75 mile long section. It will need a lot of lopping and mowing, so we are looking for someone who has the capability to haul the JV45° tool trailer in order to use the brush mower. If you are interested in joining our team of trail adopters, please contact Dove or John Day.



Bob French

With that said, we are excited to announce two new Jordan Valley 45° trail adopters to you!. They are Robert French of Gaylord, the new trail adopter for the Geim Rd to Kuzmic Rd. section just south of Boyne Falls, and Dan Dueweke of Charlevoix as the new trail adopter for the section from Pinney Bridge to the unnamed stream in the Jordan Valley. A big THANK YOU to Bob and Dan for adopting these sections; we know they will be in good hands!



Dan Dueweke

TRAIL ADOPTER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

It's that time of year again when we want to thank our Jordan Valley 45° trail adopters for all that they do to help maintain the NCT. On Saturday, November 9th at 10:00 am we will hold our annual Adopter Appreciation Meal. It has been decided that this year we will enjoy a brunch at the Chandler Hill Township Hall (7620 Chandler Hill Rd, Boyne Falls 49713).

We will honor and thank our trail adopters with a meal and then head out to enjoy a NCT hike in the afternoon.

Trail adopters come as you are, and if you are not a trail adopter but would like to join in on thanking them with us, please come too and bring a dish to share. Please RSVP and let us know how many will be coming with you and what dish you might bring.

We look forward to seeing you and honoring our JV45 Trail Adopters! RSVP to doveday70@gmail.com

Some details for the November Hike.

There is a LONG hike option: Springvale Rd. to Brubaker Rd. -12.0 Miles. Or shorter options by starting at Welsh Rd (8 miles) or Johnson Rd (5.5 miles), or even starting at Brubaker and hiking South to meet people heading North.

We will meet at the trail crossing on Springvale Rd. following the Trail Adopter's Brunch (noonish) and then head out. We need to post some cars at the hike's end at Brubaker Rd., about 12 miles north by trail. After the hike we will ferry drivers back to the start at Springvale Rd. Be a little early if you want to spot your car. Come prepared for the weather. Don't forget plenty of water and snacks for the trail.

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

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Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
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Bob Haack – Communications
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Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
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Mary Campbell receives MTGA Volunteer of the Year Award

Kenny Wawsczyk

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On September 25th the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance recognized several people at the State Capitol Building in Lansing, MI, for their leadership and support of Michigan trails. One of this year's recipients was Mary Campbell who received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Mary first served the NCTA's Jordan Valley 45° Chapter first as Secretary and now as President. Recently Mary has served as the nexus between numerous bodies of government, private businesses, charitable foundations and the NCTA to secure funding for the Iron Belle Bear River Bridge, which when completed will be a stupendous improvement to the NCT south of Petoskey. In addition, when things looked



The Award Ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the Michigan Capitol Building

pretty tenuous in the preparations for the 2019 NCTA trail-wide Celebration in Bellaire, Michigan, Mary stepped in and worked full time-plus hours for several weeks, assuring that the event went forward successfully. Besides achieving these logistical challenges, Mary helps out on the trail doing typical maintenance, participating in hikes, taking part in work days and promoting the NCT at community events. Mary has also organized and prepared food for the Chapter's annual Trail Adopter Dinners for several years. Given Mary's enthusiasm and dedication in support of the NCTA and JV45° she is certainly deserving of the 2019 MTGA Volunteer of the Year Award!



Mary Campbell receiving her award from Bob Wilson, MTGA Executive Director

12,500 miles of state-designated land trails and close to 4,500 miles of coastal and inland water trails.



Dome of the State Capitol Building

Note: The MTGA awarded 14 individuals and organizations at the Capitol on September 25 for their leadership as trail advocates across Michigan. Bob Wilson, MTGA Executive Director, believes that volunteers and local and state trail leaders are the lifeblood of Michigan's trail work. "There is simply no way that Michigan could ever build or maintain the thousands of miles of trails, both land and water without the unique and enduring commitment that our dedicated trail workers have made to this state!" Michigan has over

Chapter Hike Plans for October 19, 2019

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

This will be our Fall Color Tour Hike – Gather at 10:30 and move out by 11:00. Kuzmik Rd to Giem Rd.

Meet at Kuzmik Rd. and Camp Ten Rd. (just South off of Thumb Lake Rd., mile marker 635) to Giem Rd. just East of US 131 (mile marker 641). Total distance ~ 6 miles. See this map for mile markers: <http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

This hike starts on a pretty road section before moving through some rolling hills and ending up at the rail crossing just East of 131. Most of this section is high and dry. Over the summer some of this section was thinned by loggers but the blazes have been touched up. It will be interesting to see how it is recovering. Of course, dress for the weather. Afterwards, pop and sandwiches somewhere in Boyne Falls.

Any questions: please call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699



Along the new trail, no stump was safe from Jerry Allen and his tools during the Extravaganza

Where I Hiked

Hiking the NCT in Southern Lower Michigan

Doug Seaney, dseaney@hotmail.com

Jim Howell and I hiked 120 miles from Yankee Springs north to just past Croton Dam in September. We drove down on Thursday, September 5th, and hiked a short bit that evening, as we knew we'd have a short day later in the week so we could move the Howell's camper. Did I mention we were "slackpacking"? We had decent weather, got rained on a bit but no day was a complete washout. Lots of road walk in this stretch of the NCT. It was very helpful having two cars (Evelyn helped shuttle us each day) and a campground to shuttle back to each night. Camping along the trail would be difficult in this area otherwise. We did a bit of hopping around on some sections so that we could stop at the NCTA HQ on Monday. We were surprised they didn't have a trail register book in the



Doug and Jim at NCTA Headquarters

office. One highlight of the trip included getting directions from a real live grave digger in the cemetery just north of Lowell. He was in the hole doing his thing as we walked past. No blue blazes in the cemetery for obvious reasons, so we were not positive we were on the trail. We were on the trail, and he directed us through the next few turns. Another highlight was that the trail went directly through a soybean field near Cedar Springs. Jim soldiered through, I went around and ended up in a Taco Bell parking lot. We managed to meet up and then did a nasty little bit of

road walk on White Creek Road – I may never forget that stretch. Very narrow shoulders on the road and lots of cars zooming by. Had to step off the road and stop hiking to let cars pass safely. Almost at the end we had a post hike pasty just south of Croton Dam – wasn't quite post hike but it sure hit the spot.



Croton Dam

Mount Mitchell

Josh Berlo, joshberlo@gmail.com

Where: Mount Mitchell, Blue Ridge Mountains, Mount Mitchell State Park, Pisgah National Forest, Western North Carolina

When: June, 2019

Trail: Mount Mitchell Trail, South Toe, NC

Stats: 16 miles round trip, 3,850 vertical feet

Highest peak in the United States east of the Mississippi River. Continuous climb over 7 miles through dense forest, occasional creek and power-line crossings. Similar to Mount Washington in NH, there is a road (Blue Ridge Parkway) to a visitor's center at the summit with facilities and viewing tower. I started the hike from Black Mountain Campground mid-afternoon and finished late at night in the dark with a headlamp in light rain. It was a steep and rugged hike with only occasional views until the summit. Even in June, temperature dropped 20 degrees from trailhead to summit. Impressive Mountain.



This pileated woodpecker just watched as I walked nearby



A rainbow seen during the climb

Where I Hiked

A Sister Hike on Isle Royale

Becky Bruin-Slot

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I had never been to Isle Royale before, and I'm so happy that my patient sister, Annie Matz, invited me to tag along! My hard-working husband prefers to take a camper with his own bed and bathroom when he goes on a camping excursion, so it was not ever on our radar to do this sort of trip.

We bought our house in Hancock in 2005, and it's my husband's favorite place to be. He relaxes completely when we're there, and we were blessed to live there full-time for several years. It quickly became "home" to us (and it still is), even though we now spend most of our time in Charlevoix County. My husband, Jan, is a builder, who works with our youngest son (Tim), and they are very busy working in Northern Lower Michigan. We tell people that you can't go to the UP without passing our house, it's right "over" the Portage Lift Bridge as you drive into Hancock. As a side note, when I'm home, I often see the seaplanes flying over on their way to Isle Royale, and I absolutely love that sight.

Going to Isle Royale was a grand adventure for me in many ways. I was struck by how similar a lot of the terrain was to the terrain in other parts of the Keweenaw. I've done a fair amount of hiking in various parts of the Keweenaw, so it seemed very familiar to me.

However, in all my hundreds of trips between Petoskey/Charlevoix and Hancock, I've only seen one moose, and



Annie and Becky ready to fly out from the portage in Hancock.



Day 2 Annie leading the way to McCargoe Cove.

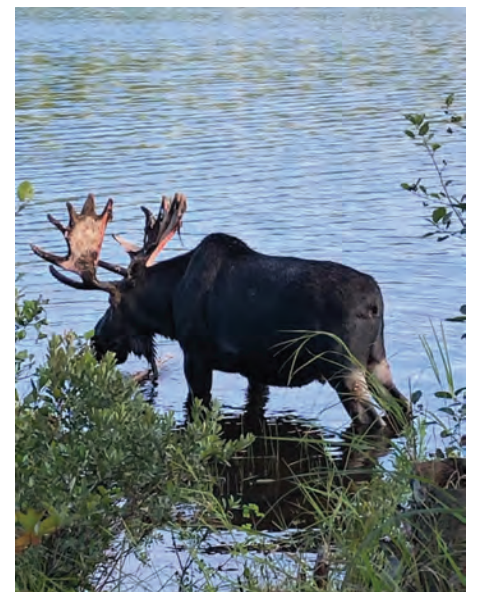
that was a juvenile in May of this year. Finally! But, to go to the island and see four of them, wow! I was glad to be told by the ranger at orientation that their eyesight is poor, so "just step behind a tree if you see one". Okay! We'll just do that! We were dubbed "moose magnets" by fellow campers. Annie figured out that it was probably because we were fairly quiet going through the woods; she very quickly forged way ahead of me on our hikes, so we weren't making a lot of noise. She and her two companions visited with each other as they all stayed together on their hike last year, and they caught occasional glimpses of moose, but not up-close and personal, so to speak.

Our fellow hikers were a delight, also. Some we only met up with once, and some we met up with several times as we arrived at campgrounds along the way. Annie's pack was hurting her hip that first day of hiking, and a fellow camper adjusted it for her. She was comfortable for the rest of the hike. I had to adjust my pack on my shoulders, and once that was done, I had no more pain in my shoulders. I made sure that I never simply dropped my pack on the ground; I always found a convenient rock or log a couple feet off the ground. There was a group of eight hikers from all around the Detroit area, two of whom shared our flight over to the island. We shared the same campground several times during our trip. We com-



Day 5 Annie demonstrates the importance of a perfect sized rock.

pared trails, and they asked us where our other eight siblings were, which made me laugh! They said none of them had trained for the trip, which reinforced what I had figured out; I wasn't the only one who was out there in less than prime hiking form. Isle Royale attracts people from all walks of life and from all over the map, and they are all tired at the end of the day!



Bull moose feeding in Hatchet Lake - Day 4.