

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume1 Issue 2



Calendar

June 30 (Saturday)

Continuation of National Trails Project, Jordan Valley
8:00am, Meet at Jordan River National Fish Hatchery

July 21 (Saturday)

Chapter Meeting, Hike
10:00am, NCMC,
Petoskey (see article pg.5)

August 2-5

NCTA National Conference
Augusta, MI
<http://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/conf/>

Notice Board

Send entries to

Amy Wilks at
amywilks47@hotmail.com

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June, 2012

Editorial by Sally Wagle, Vice President: SIGHTINGS ON THE NCT

Talking with people at the Jordan work day , reminded me that it feels good to share our observations of flora and fauna. The sightings of yellow lady slippers, iris, and twin flowers just rounded out the day. "Living On Earth" had a piece on the "USA National Phenology Society". They are asking for people to sign up to record their sightings. You pick what species you want to follow. They are using the data and sharing it with researchers. Their website is www.usanps.org, if you are interested. I need to start noting my sightings since I forgot the showy lady slippers come out this late. The upper photo is along Springbrook.



TRASH

We are having a horrible time with campers along Springbrook. This photo is of a toilet where they left bags of dodo along the creek. They cut trees, left 2 large bags of trash and carpet and threw clothing, cans and firewood in the creek. The DNR can't monitor this since they have one Charlevoix law officer. I did call. I had cleaned up the camp sites last month, too. If anyone has ideas how to help the DNR monitor this, I'd like your input. I did call the DNR Gaylord office, but the officer was on training this week, so I should hear from her next week. Hope to hear your sightings,

Sally Wagle

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Report by Duane Lawton

National Trails Day 2012-----Long-Planned Work in the Valley

This National Trails Day plus one (rain delay), 18 eager trail workers carried, sawed, carried, nailed, carried, and set 205 feet of new puncheon in the Jordan River valley.



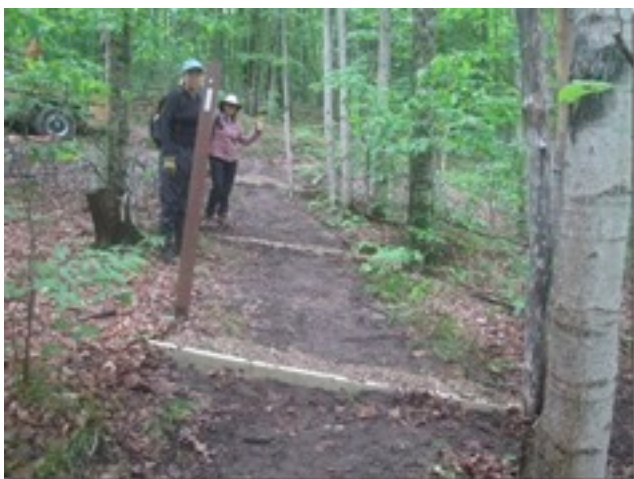
BACK ROW: Jerry Allen, Terry Ryan, Ken Phillips, Jim Flick, Andy Zeek, Larry Wagle

MIDDLE ROW: Eugene Branigan, Connie Allen, Peg Myers, Jessica Flick, Joanne Tracey, Peg Jones, Allen Kelly

FRONT ROW: Duane Lawton, Mary Campbell, John Larch, Sally Wagle, Amy Wilks

On Sunday, June 3, at 8:00am, with near perfect weather, we met at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery, where our materials were waiting. First, a crew began to make sill and footing assemblies, while others hauled materials to two work locations(off Pinney Bridge Road, and at the Cascade Rd. trail crossing) and began carrying lumber into the work sites.

The first area worked on is just S of Cascade Creek, where two sections totaling 45 ft. were installed. We also built three water bars next to Cascade Rd., where rainwater from the road was running down the trail.



Then we all walked about 1/8 mile N of Cascade Rd. to the 45°N parallel crossing, and planted a sign to mark this unique spot. "North Country National Scenic Trail--4600 miles--Only One **45°N** Crossing". After a group picture, we had lunch by the trail.



The second area is close to the hatchery, but across the river. We were able to get the lumber across the river, and carried it to five locations in need of puncheon-the most significant one, a muddy mess, is 100 feet long. We broke from our hard labor at 5:00, and repaired to the hatchery pavilion, where Amy Wilks was preparing hamburgers, brats, and bean burgers to complement the delectable dishes everyone brought.

The work in preparation for this project is also of note. There have been several treks to the sites to take pictures and record GPS coordinates. Last winter, Peg Myers organized a very successful meeting with the DEQ to discuss our request and the permitting process. Heidi Shaffer, Soil Erosion Officer at the Antrim Conservation District, was also a major contributor to preparing and submitting the application. Folks involved in pursuing the permits include Gary Johnson, Peg Myers, Eugene Branigan, Bob Bennett, Heidi Shaffer, among others.

In May, we were pleased to receive the long-sought permits for this work from the DEQ and the DNR. We already had acquired some materials for this project with a grant from the NCTA. Doug Bedell had been storing this material for us, and it was hauled to the hatchery in advance for our project. In addition, we required more material which we procured with chapter funds from Home Depot, who provided us with the best price, and we are grateful to John Ledig, Petoskey Store Manager. (We're hoping to defray some or all of this cost with another matching grant request, made possible by the contribution of valuable time by our volunteers).

On Saturday, June 9, Josh Berlo re-activated the Ridge Runners by walking the trail in the valley and talking with hikers along the way. He received comments that the trail improvements are much appreciated.

We're not done!! There is a third area of work covered by our permits, and the hatchery is storing our material. We have scheduled another work day to install about 145 feet more of badly -needed puncheon near the beaver ponds below Deadman's Hill.

The good news-this site will be fairly easy to access!..and, YCC kids from the JRNFH have volunteered to carry in our puncheon decking lumber on Friday, June 29, so we will meet at the hatchery at 8:00 am, June 30, Saturday, to finish the job! JOIN US! This is one day event with no dinner planned (but we may go out to celebrate after!).

Our thanks to all the volunteers whose efforts made these trail improvements possible.



Duane Lawton

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Trail Coordinator Report by Peg Myers

REPORTS:

Reports keep coming in from adopters and others with updates on trail work. One of my favorites is from Ken Phillips...talking about the huge popple, dubbed "Reroute" by Bob Bennett, that fell directly on the trail in Bob's section, near the crossing at the Jordan River Rd., northeast of landslide. Those of us who took a look at "Reroute" opted to do just that, reroute the trail. But not Ken. He surprised me one day with this message: ..."that big old aspen is taken care of. That tree fell in the exact position where it could do the absolute most disruption to the trail--what luck! The old trail tread has been recovered except for a very small jog around the root ball where it pulled out of the ground when it tipped over." Removing that tree was NO EASY TASK. Thank you, Ken BTW..."Reroute" was blazed with the Boundary Blue DNR circle last fall by Sally Wagle. The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter maintains the non-NCT portion of the Jordan River Pathway as a friendly gesture to our MDNR partner.

RIDGE RUNNERS:

The Ridge Runner Program is up and running. Contact Peg if you're interested in being a trail ambassador in the JordAn Valley on a Saturday or Sunday, now through Labor Day weekend. Josh Berlo kicked off this program on Saturday, June 9 while hiking the 18! Hikers were grateful for the info and maps he provided. Josh sparked interest in our chapter, which may result in a few new members!

TRAIL TOWN:

Check out the new Trail Town Program on www.northcountrytrail.org/trail/trail-towns/. Duane is working on adding the City of Petoskey. It's a win-win-win situation for the city, hikers and the NCTA. Stay tuned.

SAFETY:

Allan Kelly attended the Chainsaw Safety Course at Sleeping Bear Dunes in May. He came back enthused about a product that anyone who chainsaws should include in his/her First Aid Kit. It's called Quik Clot and is designed to stop bleeding FAST in moderate to severe wounds. Check it out at www.quickclot.com. It may save a life on our trail! QuikClot is available at Cabelas, REI, EMS, Amazon and several other websites.

MOWING:

Mowing time is upon us. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Peg. We'd like to form crews of 2 or 3 that can haul the mower and spend a portion of a day on the trail.

Thanks to all adopters and others for your work on the trail!

Peg Myers

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Communications Coordinator Report by Amy Wilks

MEMBERS INPUT:

Margo Hodder from Petoskey sent this photo of a Pink Lady Slipper. She "enjoyed a beautiful hike..on the NCT SE of Maxwell/Harmon Rd. down to Springvale Rd...I was rewarded with many wildflowers,a few Trillium still in bloom, Canada Violets, Foamflowers, Marsh Marigolds, Tansy and many more, but the highlight was a surprise finding of a cluster of Pink lady-Slipper!" on May16, 2012. Thank you,Margo.

END-TO-END HIKERS : E2E

How far have you hiked on our section, Jordan Valley 45°, of the trail? How far have you hiked on Michigan's trails? What about the North Country Trail National Scenic Trail End-to-End? Start keeping track. We would like to recognize hikers in our newsletter on our section of 79 miles. The NCTA also recognizes three opportunities ; 1. Long-distance Hike/Trip, 2.End-to-End Trip, and 3. End-to-End Hike (see pg. 26 of "The North Star" April-June 2012)

Send me your mileage and I will publish it in the December issue of the JV45 news.

End-to-End (E2E) hikers: Doug Seaney -Across the Upper Peninsula

Duane Lawton-2011 Jordan Valley 45° Trail

Eugene Branigan-Continuing, Landslide to Mackinaw Bridge

Our Youngest Hiker: Linus Branigan

JULY CHAPTER MEETING/HIKE

Saturday, July 21,2012

Student and Community Resource Center

North Central Michigan College (NCMC), Petoskey

8:30 am Board meeting

10:00 am Chapter Meeting

After the meeting we will do lunch, and then hike the NCT through the NCMC Natural Area, the 2011 Grimes Street Reroute, and the new Bear River Recreation Area (City of Petoskey) to Lake Michigan, about 3-1/2 miles.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:

Northbound on US131 or US31: They merge, and US31 continues into Petoskey. Turn right on Mitchell St. (2nd light after merge), go 3 blocks. Turn right on Howard St. Proceed on Howard St. to its end at the college. It curves to the left and on the left is the Student and Community Resource Center (Gym & Fitness Center). There will be a sign directing you....

See you there,

Amy Wilks

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HISTORY FEATURE:

Note: Jerry Allen told me about the following article that was originally written for the NorthStar in 200x, but never published. Here it is... (Duane)

Favorite Section of the North Country Trail

Playing Tag with the Jordan River – Hiking the Exclamation Point Trail

By Lorna Brown, Tittabawassee Chapter NCT

Twelve miles, as the crow flies west of Gaylord, Michigan is a deep wooded valley known as the Jordan River Watershed. Meandering through its hills and across its streams and rivers is the Jordan River Pathway, a section of which is shared by the NCT as it covers the northern area of the Lower Peninsula of the state.

Non-crows will have to access the trail off US-131 to the end of Deadman's Hill Road on the northern end, or off Alba Highway to the parking lot at the end of Harvey Road where the NCT separates from the Jordan Pathway and heads south.

The Jordan Pathway is marked with blue dots and the NCT with the standard two by six stripes, so a hiker will on occasion find himself following blue exclamation points through the woods.

A hike between the two parking areas showcases the best that Michigan nature has to offer. The leisurely well maintained trail escorts the hiker through lush lowlands of seeping springs, juicy bogs, grassy fields, a game of tag with trout streams, and enough rolling hardwood hills to make his heart pump. Look for antique railroad spikes where the trail follows abandoned railroad grades, tour the Federal Fish Hatchery that provides lake trout to Great Lakes fisheries, immerse yourself in the frigid Jordan at the swimming hole, cast a fly and catch a trout, or step off the trail at any one of a thousand places and savor the silence.

You will share the valley and highlands with a few hikers, fishermen and women, native wildlife, abundant plant species, fish, and butterflies. Only the gnats swarming your face will remind you that the garden you are hiking is named Jordan, not Eden.

Heading south, the hike can be accomplished in a day but a sleepover at Pinney Bridge walk-in campground with its rustic amenities at the site of an old CCC camp is a welcome rest. Bring your tent.

The next day will take you from the valley and up into the hills with side trips to delightful brooks, ending with a climb to a world class overlook of where you were the day before.

The Jordan Valley segment of the NCT is the favorite of many who have hiked its trails and agree it deserves its blue exclamation point designation.

See you on the trail!

PHOTOS:

MAY, 2012

After the May meeting, a group hiked from Dobleski Rd. to the M-32 Warner Creek Parking area. This is Eugene Branigan's section. His son, Linus, led the hike. He is pictured here, resting after lunch.

