



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 3

June 2018

Upcoming Events

June 6, 2018, 9 am. Workday, finish stairs and puncheon at Cascade Road/ Cascade Creek. Meet at 9:00 am at the Pinney Bridge Parking lot. Bring your own lunch and insecticide! See details on p. 5.

June 14, 2018, Walk in materials for July workday. Meet at the Fish Hatchery pavilion at 1600 hrs. See details on p. 5.

June 23, 2018, JV45° Chapter Hike. Thumb Lake Rd. to Springvale Rd. See details on p. 7.

July 7, 2018, 9 am. Workday, Below Deadman's Hill. See details on p. 5.

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 JV45° President Mary Campbell

Email: mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings Jordan Valley 45° Members and Friends.

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter (JV 45°) has been very active this spring. **Hike It!** Our monthly hikes continue to attract great participation from near and far, providing a chance to enjoy the trail, see old friends, make new friends and add miles toward the Hike 50 and Hike 100 Challenge –Come join us!

Recent Activities and Updates:

A number of chapter members made the trip to Ohio for the joint North Country and Buckeye Trail Trailfest Celebration. The Hocking Hills area provided opportunities for many wonderful hikes. Many of us were taking notes on what worked well and what we might want to do differently for the NCTA 2019 Celebration at Shanty Creek next May.

Over the past couple months JV 45° has participated in a number of promotional activities, including Hiking and Backpacking day at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare; staffing a JV 45° aid station for the Top of Michigan Marathon, and the Petoskey Open House. At these events, we have been able to raise awareness about the NCT and the JV 45°, including promoting our monthly hikes and encouraging participation. Thank you to all who helped make each of these events successful!

Bear River Bridge Project Update. We continue to work with the City of Petoskey and North Central Michigan College in pursuit of a pedestrian bridge over the Bear River, referred to as the Iron Belle Trail – Bear River Bridge. This project will include the fabrication and installation of an 80' aluminum clear-span pedestrian bridge and a 48' segment

of boardwalk, as designed/specified in a 2016 preliminary engineering report. This bridge will connect the Petoskey-River Road Sports Complex trail system on the south side of Bear River with the North Central Michigan College (NCMC) Natural Area trail system on north side of the river. This new trail route will allow the North Country/Iron Belle Trail, via a new alignment, to greatly improve safety by eliminating approximately 3.5 miles of trail along busy local roads.

Both JV 45° and the City of Petoskey continue to apply for various grants to help fund this project. JV 45° is excited to announce this project has been selected to receive a \$5,000 grant from Great Lakes Energy's (GLE) People Fund. The People Fund grants are funded by the 'spare change' of GLE members who voluntarily round up their energy bills.

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Submit Volunteer Hours

Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours on the NCTA website at <https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>



Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

doveday70@gmail.com

johnanddove@gmail.com



With all the snow that came in April trail clearing got put off a bit, but you would almost never know it! Our dedi-

cated trail adopters, along with many other trail helpers, have been out clearing and working on the NCT. It's looking pretty good and about ready for the busy summer season. Thank you to all who have chain-sawed, lopped, lugged sticks and small trees off the trail, as well as all of you that have participated in a recent work group to improve the trail. It sure is great when everyone gets together to make the trail look it's best!

We have one new trail adoption to announce. Mary Campbell and John Larch are the proud new adopters of section W. (McDougal Rd to NCMC). Thank you both for adopting this section; we know it's in good hands!



A group of adopters clearing trail on the Chandler Hill section

National Trails Day Event, June 2nd

Dove Day

doveday70@gmail.com

For National Trails Day this year we forewent the 6th annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration in favor of a hike and lunch at Skyline. We had 17 participants including four Scouts—led by Joe Farley—who prepared a scrumptious lunch using charcoal and Dutch ovens. Most folks hiked from Brubaker Road to the Skyline Shelter and then after lunch hiked out to their cars at the Krause Road parking lot. We did a little work on the shelter too, tweaking the bunks, and continuing the siding project. A beautiful day.

A backpacker hiking the NCT from Mackinaw to Boyne Falls stayed at the Skyline Shelter a couple of days before our National Trails Day festivities. Mike Pennazoli, from the Detroit area, was able to join us for our Trails Day celebration and then stayed to help put up batten boards on the very shelter he camped in



Setting up for lunch at Skyline and doing a bit more work on the shelter. Left: Jerry A, Connie A, Mike P, and Duane L. Right: Mary C and the Scouts.

two days prior. Thank you for joining us Mike and for volunteering your time to help out!



Thank you to all our volunteers: Mary Campbell, Tamera Dean, Nancy Kowaleski, Connie and Jerry Allen, Duane Lawton, and John and Dove Day.

President's message, continued from page 1

Additionally a pledge campaign for the bridge is currently on-going at <https://goo.gl/8DPV6S>. We are using this pledge drive to determine how high to set our goal amount for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) **Public Spaces, Community Places** program (if we don't meet our goal, MEDC will not provide any match). Through this MEDC program, we will set a crowdsourcing fundraising goal, then provided we meet (or exceed) our goal, MEDC will match the goal amount. We anticipate initiating the live on-line portion of the Public Spaces, Com-

munity Places crowd-funding effort in mid-August, at which time those who have pledged will receive a reminder to contribute so their dollars can be matched for the project.

If you know of other grants and/or other funding sources or wish to assist with this effort, please contact me, Mary Campbell at mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Come Join the Fun & Get Involved!

We have a fabulous and active group of folks who happily welcome all newcomers; we sincerely hope YOU will come out for a hike, work day and/or an event. I

personally am continually humbled by our amazing group of friendly volunteers who come together to make the JV 45° segment an outstanding and well maintained section of trail for the enjoyment of all. We offer group hikes of varying lengths and workday tasks for all abilities and time constraints. For a rewarding experience -- join us for any of our events or contact me to match your interests (and available time) with one of our needs. If you have ideas, comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to contact me directly. Hike and workday details provided in this newsletter. *Please come join us!*
Mary Campbell, JV 45° President.

JV45° Helps at Local Marathon

Dove Day, doveday70@gmail.com

The third annual Stafford's Top of Michigan Marathon was held on Saturday May 26th and the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter was there again to host an aid station. The Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K and Relay were run along the shores of Lake Michigan, from Charlevoix, through Petoskey, and ending in Harbor Springs. Part of the Marathon took place along the North Country Trail in Petoskey. Our aid station was located at Bayfront Park, right in front of the History Museum, and our volunteers offered refreshments and encouragement to the half marathon and full marathon runners as they merged onto the North Country Trail from the Little Traverse Wheelway. There

were over 200 half marathon runners and about 90 full marathon runners this year. The event benefited the Top of Michigan Trails Council and the Petoskey High School sports teams. A huge thanks to all our members who came out to support this community event along the North Country Trail!

The Aid Station Volunteers included Connie and Jerry Allen, Bob Courtois, Kevin Whitley, Simon Carrick, Brad and Sue Moffatt, and Dove and John Day.



Left: Providing snacks and drinks as runners pass the Aid Station, which is along the NCT in Petoskey. Above right: Dove Day preparing the Aid Station display. Below right: Display finished and JV45° members ready for the runners!

JV45° Participates in Petoskey Open House

On Friday evening, June 1, 2018, Petoskey celebrated the start of the summer season with an Open House from 6:00 to 11:30 PM, and JV45° was there.

JV45° members staffed a table at the Open House to inform the public about the JV45° and the NCTA, as well as that Petoskey is a Trail Town and that the JV45° section runs through Petoskey. Thanks to all who participated!



JV45° members staffing the display table at the 2018 Petoskey Open House



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

Michigan Botanical Club Note

The Michigan Botanical Club held their spring meeting and foray at Shanty Creek Resorts over Memorial Day Weekend. They had 125 attendees, including us (Bob & Sheridan Haack). They offered several hikes in the area and at least two were on JV45° sections of trail, one at Landslide Overlook and another at Pinney Bridge. People enjoyed the trails, the many spring flowers, and Shanty (where next year's Celebration will occur). It turned out that several attendees were also NCTA members. Small world! Bob Haack

Mary Campbell - President
mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Eugene Branigan – Vice President
eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Denise DeKett – Secretary
dedekett@gmail.com

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Todd Winnell - Treasurer
toddwinnell@gmail.com

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
delawton@torchlake.com

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jenwinnell@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator, haack@msu.edu

Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
doveday70@gmail.com,
johnanddove@gmail.com

JV45° April Hike

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

On April 21, 2018, we had 15 people hike from French Farm Lake (FFL) to the Mackinac Bridge. About half of the group were from the Hiawatha Shore to Shore (HS2S) Chapter and half from the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter.

Five of the HS2S people met for breakfast at Audie's in Mackinaw City and then posted cars at the Mackinac Bridge. We then drove to the entrance to the FFL campground, on Trails End Road, but the snow was too deep to drive in so we walked to the trailhead. About half had snow shoes and half did not bother. We did walk down the western shoreline a half mile or so and then headed back north toward Mackinaw City.

Even with the snow, conditions were perfect. No clouds, temps in the 40's and no wind. The wind generators near I75 were totally stopped. The road along the lake was snowy with some melted spots. The lake was calm as a mill pond. Heading east along the north end of FFL and to the bike trail was woods and a bit swampy and snowy of course. The last mile and a half or so was bike trail (and we even saw a caterpillar).

When we got to town we lost track of the trail but had no trouble finding the Key Hole Bar & Grill for beers and burgers. It was busy and the Tigers were winning. From there we walked to the Bridge and ferried everyone back to FFL.



Bob C takes a selfie.



Hikers preparing for the day's walk



Final destination reached: The Mighty Mac

JV45° Participation at Jay's Hiking/Backpacking in Clare

Jerry Allen

hikershaven@m33access.com

Three JV 45° members attended the Hiking/Backpacking Day at Jay's Sport-



Guess the weight.

ing Goods, in Clare, on May 12, 2018. These included, Connie Pausits-Allen, Jerry Allen, and Mott Joengen. They set up a booth in the

entrance lobby where they greeted customers and gave out information on the North Country Trail and visited with folks who had questions about hiking and trail conditions. About 45 people guessed the weight of Connie's loaded backpack (22 lbs). Brian Martindale came within 0.75 lbs of the correct weight and was declared the winner, and will receive a one year subscription to "Backpacker Magazine."



(L to R) Jerry and Connie Allen, and Mott Joengen.



Upcoming Trail Projects

Duane Lawton, Projects Coordinator
Email: delawton@torchlake.com

WHAT WE DID

Skyline Shelter, May 9th

Eight of us (Dove, Mary, John, Bob, Doug Seaney, Duane, Doug and Pam Boor) built bunks, deck railing and installed more siding. Almost done! During the National Trails Day event on June 2nd we tweaked the bunks and put up more siding battens (see below).



Mary, Doug & Bob building bunk-beds



Mary on crawl-way from top bunk to loft



Mike Pennazoli working on shelter

Cascade Road/Cascade Creek, May 12th

Seven of us (Kevin, Mary, Bob H., Sue, Bob C., Duane) started work at Cascade Road. Dove arrived later with cupcakes and ready to work. We demolished and salvaged the collapsed boardwalk along Cascade Creek, built a 16' stairway, and new trail tread of a reroute, leveled puncheon along the Creek, and brought in material from the fish hatchery to build puncheon (see below).



Dove, Bob C, and Kevin adjusting stair landing



Susan and Mary stacking lumber to be used to build puncheon on June 6th



Installing fencing along trail where stream erosion occurred on Bear River

Bear River Bank washout

At the request of Petoskey Parks & Rec. several folks set up split rail fence as a warning barrier next to the trail. (above)

WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO

Cascade Road/Cascade Creek, June 6th

We're going back in to build the puncheon. Join us if you can, though it's a Wednesday. 9:00 am at the Pinney Bridge Parking lot. Bring your own lunch and insecticide. We have eight people signed up already.

Material for Below Deadman's Hill, June 14th

There is a lot of work to do that is in a mile stretch of trail below Deadman's Hill and on toward the beaver ponds. Getting the material in to the site will be a lot of work. We're going to start on it. We'll see what we can accomplish in 2-3 hours. Meet at the fish hatchery pavilion at 1600 hrs. Maybe celebrate afterwards...

Below Deadman's Hill Work Day, July 7th

Here's where we get really serious. Build a bridge, repair a viewing platform, and install a lot of puncheon. Meet at the fish hatchery pavilion at 0900 hrs. We'll provide lunch. You'll probably want your own insecticide, though.



Register Box Buzz



Starvation Lake

Danyell Minier

danyellminier@yahoo.com

I last visited the Starvation Lake trail box a year and a half ago (January, 2017). People really started to get out on the trail in April of 2017. One hiker said "I'm no fool! I have a bear whistle." Jim and Denise were checking for fallen trees. Rich from East Jordan had his first hike towards his 100 miles on this part of the trail. Rob and Darren were hiking from Fife Lake to Boyne Falls trying to get their full 100 miles in over Memorial Day weekend they had over 60 completed so far. Carley and Jeff from Waterford, MI were on a Daddy-Daughter trip! In June, Dove was on this section of the trail with Janeen. In July, Bob was clearing trail but



the weed whacker quit. Lungi and Rachel quoted Pride and Prejudice "What are men compared to rocks and mountains . . .". At the end of July, the Jim and Doug "mow crew" made it out and Dave and Teri were thankful for the mow crew. Kevin completed from Mackinaw City to Starvation Lake Road in sections on August 5th. Darrell and Marci from Battle Creek, MI were also thankful for the trail maintenance. Peg from Saginaw and Emmett the dog were getting their 100 miles in and came across some blueberries. Ellen did 5 miles for Parkinson's in memory of her dad. Gene from Northfield, OH is enjoying the NCT and getting a daily hike in.

Awards Presented at the 2017 NCTA Celebration in Ohio

Several members of the JV45° Chapter received awards at this year's NCTA Celebration in Ohio. For example, Steve Schnell received the Chapter/Affiliate/ Partner Honor Award; John Day the "400 volunteer hour" award; Jim and Denise DeKett, and Bob Haack the "200 volunteer hour" award; and Eugene Branigan, Bob Courtois, and Jim and Denise Dekett all received their National Park Service "100 volunteer hour" recognition award. Congrats to everyone, and thanks again for all you do! In addition, Joan Young handed out NCT long distance patches and rockers, and our Duane Lawton received his long distance hiking patch for 1000 NCT miles and his Mackinaw Bridge rocker!



Duane Lawton (L) and John Day (R) with their awards



Submit Your Stories 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>.

JV45° May Hike – Deadman's Hill to Jordan Valley Fish Hatchery

On the morning of May 19, 2018, several JV45° Chapter members gathered to hike from Deadman's Hill to the Jordan Valley Fish Hatchery, followed by a picnic lunch. This was about a 5 mile hike with temperatures in the 70s. Although the skies threatened rain, it never materialized.

Although a beautiful section of trail, there were several structures in need of repair, and we plan to repair them all this summer. At the start of the hike, we passed a "You Are Here" map that we erected last year, but which was made by the DNR. There were many wildflowers in bloom, such as trilliums and marsh marigolds. We descended into the valley, signed the log book in our register box at NCT Deadman's Hill junction, reached the Jordan River Road, and then hiked to the pavilion at the Fish Hatchery for lunch.



Hikers signing the log book



Marsh marigolds in bloom



Jordan River



You are here signs at Deadman's Hill



Enjoying a well-deserved lunch



**Mark your
calendar
now.
We are
hosting
next year's
NCTA
Celebration**

JV45° June Hike, 23 June 2018: Thumb Lake Rd. to Springvale Rd. Two options: 3 miles and 8 miles.

June 23, 2018 - Gather at 10:30 AM and leave from trail crossing at Thumb Lake/Slashing Rd. We will head out by 10:45 or so. We need to post some cars at the hike's end at Springvale Rd, about 8 miles north. After the hike we can ferry drivers back to the start at Thumb Lake Rd. Come a little early if you want to spot your car. Bring a sack lunch.

Shorter hike option – (3 Miles) Ending at Chandler Hill Rd. trail crossing. We can post some cars there, if there is interest.

This fantastic section of trail is hilly and runs the crest of the high ridge that runs north/south between I75 and 131 from south of Petoskey to Thumb Lake. Most of the trail is high and dry with lots of old growth sections. The downed trees were cleared in early May. Closer to Springvale Rd. there are some muddy spots that need to be rerouted. (A future maintenance opportunity!)

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter trail runs from Starvation Lake Rd. to Kipp Rd. in Harbor Springs, about 75 miles of awesome valleys, hills and wooded trail. Monthly hikes are usually on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Because of Father's Day, the June hike is delayed to the 4th weekend in June. Questions? - call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699

Where 2504 Slashing Rd S, Boyne Falls, MI 49713. See map at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/2504+S+Slashing,+Boyne+Falls,+MI+49713/@45.1849386,-84.8181139,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x4d3560a6f9958667:0x3c45a631c9f70bb8!8m2!3d45.1849386!4d-84.8159252?hl=en>

Where I Hiked

Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park, AZ

Susan L Miller

slmiller150@gmail.com

On June 30, 2013, 19 of the 20 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots, an elite wildfire-fighting crew based in Prescott, AZ, lost their lives while fighting a fire near the town of Yarnell, AZ. (Their story was recently dramatized in the movie "Only the Brave"). These men were the best of the best, and yet a sudden change in wind direction trapped them in a rugged canyon and left them with no escape. What a loss for the whole community and the community of firefighters as a whole! Their courage and willingness to put themselves in danger stands as a tribute to all those who put themselves in harm's way to protect the lives and property of others. In November of 2016, the State of Arizona opened a state park in memory of these brave men. The following describes a hike in that park.

It is February, 2017. I am visiting my family in Prescott, AZ, and my uncle expresses a desire to visit the Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial State Park to hike. Of course I am very willing to jump in. We leave Prescott midmorning and head to the entrance of the park, just down the hill from Yarnell. Parking lot is small, and already full, but a ranger gives us permission to park in an unmarked area. Temperatures are 60+ degrees, and skies are sunny. We ascend a set of metal stairs and then start up the trail. Terrain is rocky and rugged, even with an "established" trail, and becomes even more-so the higher we go. ---I can only imagine what it would've been like when the Hotshots entered the area! (Not to mention the



Ascending the trail



Arrow points to Hotshot Memorial Site

100+ degree heat in June!!!) To the south we see the plains surrounding the town of Wickenburg, and multiple mountain ranges in the distance. To the west are views of the Weaver Mountain range. Periodically looking east we see glimpses of the town of Yarnell, pop. ~700. Evidence of the wildfire becomes apparent in the charred branches of large bushes, now surrounded with a base of new green growth. Every 600 feet along the trail is a plaque memorializing the life and story of one of the Hotshots who perished. A sobering reminder that these 19 men were real people, with hopes and dreams, with fears and families. Lives cut short.

We finally arrive at the crest of the ridge where there is an overlook in place from which to view the place of where the Hotshots made their last stand, with the town of Yarnell less than half a mile away, and a road within a few hundred yards! A sign describes the location and sequence of events of that fateful day. We then descend to the actual memorial site. Looking back at the ridge we descended it is easy to see how they could become trapped. At the memorial, a ring of steel gabion baskets* connected by a chain encircles the crosses that mark the location where each man was found. Various memorabilia left by visitors pays tribute to these men. While there are several other hikers in the area on this day, talking is minimal, voices are hushed, people lost in their thoughts. One realizes how short life is, and how precious is each breath.

We retrace our steps up and over the ridge and down the mountain. It is now late in the day and the parking lot is nearly empty when we reach it. A distance of about 7 miles total, elevation gain of 1200 ft took us about 4 hours. And spanned a lifetime. 19 of them!



Note: This past January, my uncle and I hiked in to view a giant juniper tree (above; over 27 ft. around, according to my uncle) west of Prescott. Just a couple weeks before their deaths, the Hotshots had successfully defended this tree while fighting a wildfire that threatened the town of Prescott. This tree "represents their devotion to the job and the survival of their memory" (U. S. Forest Service plaque, Jan. 2014)}



I was unable to find out why pink, the color usually used in relation to breast cancer, was used for the "ribbons" on the gabion baskets at the Memorial Site (above)..