



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 2

April 2018

Upcoming Events

April 14, 2018, 9 am. Workday, finish Skyline Shelter. Details on p 5.

April 21, 2018. JV45 Chapter Hike, 10:30 am. See details on p. 4

April 26-29, 2018. The 2018 NCTA Celebration/Buckeye Trail Association Trail Fest, Hocking Hills, Ohio

May 12, 2018, Workday, 9 am. Jordan Valley, Cascade Road. Details on p 5.

May 12, 2018, Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare. Details in Mary's story on p 1

May 19, 2018, JV45 Chapter Hike, details soon

May 26, 2018. Top of Michigan Marathon. Details in Mary's story p 1.

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

To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: http://northcountry-trail.org/jv45/?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

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



Message from JV45° President Mary Campbell

Email: mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings Jordan Valley 45° Members and Friends.

2018 is off to a great start and promises to be a very active year for the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter (JV 45°). **Hike It!** Our monthly hikes are attracting record participation, 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!

Build it! Help build our trail! Work days will start up in April, see article on page 5, hope you will join the fun!

Recent News: The chapter participates in a number of promotional activities to raise awareness of (and encourage membership in) our Jordan Valley 45° Chapter and North Country Trail Association. In early March, JV 45° Chapter, along with two other NCT chapters (Hiawatha Shore to Shore and Chief Noonday), promoted the NCT at the Quiet Water Symposium. Many of the people who visited our exhibit were aware of the NCT and were especially interested in getting maps of our area and specifically the Jordan River Pathway.

We are moving forward with fund raising efforts for the Iron Belle Trail – Bear River Bridge. The 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 south side of Bear River with the North Central Michigan College (NCMC) Natural Area trail system on north side of river (see location map). 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. JV 45° is working collaboratively with the City of Petoskey and NCMC to bring this project to fruition. The DNR has committed to providing up to \$83,000, once we raise an equal amount. We are actively applying for a variety of grants as well as the on-going pledge campaign (<https://googl/8DPV6S>)

Love It! Upcoming Opportunities to Share and Promote the Trail!

On Saturday, May 12th, (11a- 3p), JV 45° will take our display to Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare for their Hiking & Backpacking Day. If you have interest in helping contact Jerry Allen (hikershaven@m33access.com). On Saturday, May 26th, JV 45° will staff an aid station during the Top of Michigan Marathon, the location to be on the NCT. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Jen Winnell or Dove Day.

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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

johnddove@gmail.com



(Editor's note: The text below was modified from a recent email the Days sent out to the JV45 trail adopters.)

2018 is going to be a BIG year for the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter. With the 2019 annual NCTA celebration being held in our neck of the woods, there will be a lot of focus on getting the trail in its best pos-

sible condition. NCTA members from all 7 states will be here to hike our sections so we want them to look their best. Duane plans to put a group together to finish the Skyline Shelter for the first work day of the year scheduled April 14th. There are also plans to do a small re-route south of Petoskey, and permits and lumber have been acquired so that major improvements can be done in the Jordan Valley.

One thing to be sure to check on this year is blazing. The 2019 celebration takes place in early May so there won't be much time to blaze just before the event; so 2018 will be the year to do it. You'll want to make sure that the correct color is on the trees. The official paint for the NCT is Nelson Boundary Blue and we have noticed that some sections have an unofficial, darker blue color on their trees. Please check your sections to make sure it's the right "blue" and if you need paint for your section it will be available (in the

tool trailer) by late May or June. John and I will notify you when the trailer has been re-stocked with paint.

On another note, our section of the NCT will be part of two major events this year. The first will be on July 21st and the second on September 29. Please make a note of these dates so that you can do your summer and fall maintenance checks just before each event. The first one in July is part of the Great Lakes Relay and will use a very large portion of the NCT all the way from Springvale Rd. in Petoskey to (and beyond) Starvation Lake Rd. in Mancelona. The second event held in September will be a fundraiser organized by <http://www.angelsforhope.org/>. Angels of Hope will host a 20 mile endurance hike in the Jordan Valley called the "Trail Angels Challenge" to raise money and provide financial assistance to children and their families battling cancer.

JV45 February Hike

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

On February 17th, we hiked from Starvation Lake Rd to Sand Lake and back. We ended up with 11 people for this hike. Our special guest that day was Rusty the Redbone Coonhound (a magnificent beast). He and owner Tammy Krembs made it up from Flint.

Conditions were much better than expected considering the warm weather the previous Wednesday and Thursday. The temperatures started in teens and rose to the twenties by the time we were done. The snow was a little crusty on the top and grainy underneath, so snow shoes were required to not posthole through. The snowshoes created a great pathway.

The blazing of the pathway is in good shape and there were no trees down anywhere. From Starvation Lake Rd. we went 2.5 miles north to Sand Lake. We took a break at the north end of Sand Lake before heading back to Starvation Lake Rd.

Afterwards we all ended up at the Hideaway Bar on Starvation Lake for lunch. The food was excellent.

After that, Tammy Krembs and Rusty the coon dog put in a few more miles walking from Bocook Rd. to Cinder Hill Rd.



President's message, continued from page 1

On Friday (evening) June 1, JV 45° will participate in the Petoskey Summer Open House event, where we will have a table with our Chapter display and informational materials. We will be staffing the table to talk with interested parties and promote a coordinated hike and work day the following day, in celebration of Nationals Trails Day. If you are interested in helping with this event either in advance or during the event, please contact Jen Winnell or Mary Campbell.

Our JV 45° chapter segment of the NCT is gaining in popularity and increased use both among our own members, other NCT members and other groups. Since January I have learned of at least four other organizations and/or events which will utilize a portion of the trail our chapter maintains. These events include the Top of Michigan Marathon (5/26); Michigan Botanical Club Foray (5/25-5/28); Great Lakes Relay (7/20-7/22); and Angels of Hope's Trail Angel Challenge (9/28-9/30). In order to make the trail conditions as favorable as possible

at the time of these events, our fabulous trail coordinators, Dove and John Day, will communicate with the trail adopters regarding which events will utilize what portions of the JV 45° segment.

I am honored to be involved with this fun and active group for such a worthy endeavor. For a rewarding experience -- join us for any of these 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. Mary

St. Patrick's Day Hike - Deadman's Hill to M-32 via O'Brien Pond

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter hosted a **St. Patrick's Day Hike** followed by a potluck dinner and chapter meeting in Boyne Falls on March 17, 2018.

Since the hike was to finish at the M-32 Warner Creek Trail Head, a proactive group posted four cars and drove to the start at Deadman's by 12:30. The last half mile into the Deadman's Trailhead is not plowed so Bob got there early with his Jeep to see if was possible to drive all the way in. He got near the trail head and found a couple with a stuck car who were waiting for a wrecker that could get through the deep snow. Then Bob was stuck for maybe 10 minutes but managed to get out and back to the gathering site at 12:30. By about 12:30 the Rinke family showed up and we had 18 hikers in total.



Conditions were perfect. Not a cloud in the sky, mid 30's and deep but melting snow. Most people used snowshoes.



After walking to the overlook, we split into two groups. Eight people for a longer hike (6 miles) and 10 for a shorter hike (4 miles). Aside from the steep hills into the valley near Deadman's, the terrain was mostly flat.

Before heading into the valley, the trail follows a ridge and is alongside potato fields, which is a nice contrast to what's in the valley. Once in the valley, we did walk a tough, muddy, hillside section under Deadman's that is badly in need of repairs (benching out and board walks). The extra challenge came from all the springs popping out of the ground along the way. This creates mud even in the winter. As the trail gets muddy hikers try to move up the hillside to drier ground and that erodes the hill.

As on the February hike, Ellen posted a trail angel in a tree along the way.

At the end of the hillside section we all checked in at the NCT register box. The short-hike group had already been there and signed in ahead of us

The trail jumps out of the woods and along a half mile road section that crosses the Jordan River. The spring melt is just starting and so the water is not very high yet.



At O'Brien Pond you cross Warner Creek via old road and beaver dam, complete with a deceptive beaver decoy. It's held up well from the rebuild last fall.

The two groups met up again at the Warner Creek Trailhead. Shortly after 4 pm for rides back to Deadman's, and then off to the potluck.

Afterwards most of the hikers met



Bob on the beaver dam



Ellen near the beaver decoy

for a potluck dinner and chapter meeting at the Boyne Valley Fire Hall. Updates on recent activities, business and projects for 2018, as well as great photos from Mary Campbell & John Larch's 2017 Appalachian Trail through-hike.



Tamera and her St Pat's hat

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April Hike – French Farm Lake (FFL) to Mackinac Bridge

April 21, 2018 - Gather at 10:30 AM and leave from FFL by 11:00. Hike followed by mid-afternoon lunch in Mackinaw City.

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter will be hosting an inter-chapter hike on April 21st, starting at French Farm Lake (3 miles southwest of Mackinaw City) and ending at the Mackinac Bridge. Following the hike, all are invited to lunch in Mackinaw City.

We will meet 1.5 miles into the park on FFL Rd (entrance to FFL is near NCT mile marker 551 which can be seen on the map to the right and at www.nctmaps.arcgis.com . The entrance road is at the north end of the Lake, near where Wilderness State Park Rd and Trails End Rd meet. You can also use the online maps at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/trail/maps/>.

Short Hike – 3.5 Miles (FFL parking 551 to bridge 547.5)

Longer Hike – 5.0 Miles FFL (552.5 to bridge 547.5)

If you arrive a bit early you could also walk further down along the FFL shore.

We need a few volunteers to post cars at the hike's end point, which is right at the Mackinac Bridge (Mackinaw City Lighthouse Park). Following the hike, we can then ferry drivers back to the FFL start while passengers gather at a restaurant.

Suggestions so far are Audie's Restaurant <https://www.audies.com/> or the Bie're de Mac Brew Works <http://bieredemac.com/>

This hike is on the northernmost segment of the Harbor Springs Chapter. The Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter's trail across the ridge in St. Ignace. With a little luck some of their members will join us.

The terrain is mostly flat and very little trail is road walk. Watch the weather and dress accordingly. No bad weather, just bad clothes! Bring water, snacks and a camera. Bring a friend.. The JV45 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.. Question? - call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699



23rd Annual Quiet Water Symposium at MSU

Dove Day, doveday70@gmail.com

The North Country Trail was well represented at this year's annual Quiet Water Symposium on the MSU campus on March 3, 2018. Not only were some of our own Jordan Valley 45° volunteers there, but the NCT also had representation by the Chief Noonday Chapter and the Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter. JV45° had five chapter members volunteering at our table, along with Luke Jordan, author of "Thru and Back Again: A Hiker's Journey on the North Country Trail." Luke had successfully thru-hiked the NCT in 2013, so he along with our volunteers answered questions about the NCT and passed out a lot of trail maps. We had great interaction from visitors and encouraged many to take the 2018 Hike

50 or Hike 100 Challenge. In previous years at the Quiet Water Symposium, folks were less familiar with the NCT, but this year many more people seemed aware of the trail and were seeking out maps and information.

Our "Guess the Weight of the Backpack" contest was a big hit again this year. We received 94 guesses! The highest guess was 122 lbs, the lowest guess was 19 lbs 7 oz, and our funniest guess was *too heavy*. The closest guess came from Jim Kenning of Warren, MI, who guessed 29 lbs 6 oz. The actual backpack weighed in at exactly 29 lbs. Jim won a gift certificate to the NCTA trail shop. Congratulations Jim!



Our six volunteers, Luke Jordan, Dove Day, John Day, Mary Campbell, Connie Allen and Jerry Allen



Our display table



Upcoming Trail Projects

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

Hello, avid trail workers! We are beginning our 2018 once-a-month work bees in April. Come join the fun.

Skyline Shelter Work Bee April 14

Join us for a work day at the Skyline Trail Shelter in Petoskey! On April 14th we are hoping to finish the Skyline Shelter that sits along the North Country Trail in Petoskey, and we need your help! We will meet at the Krause Rd. trailhead at 9:00 am. The plan is to finish installing siding, screens, vents, railings and to build bunks. A cookout lunch will be provided. If you have hand tools, bring them, but the chapter will bring the building material and power tools needed.

Please let me know if you are coming so we'll know how many will be eating lunch. delawton@torchlake.com We hope to see you there!

May Work Day Now 2nd Saturday (12th)

Into the Jordan Valley! We will start the huuuuge effort this year in the valley with a work bee on Saturday May 12th (the date is slipped back a week because many of us will have just returned from the NCTA Annual Celebration in Ohio). We will be working off Cascade Rd. along Cascade Creek. Depending on how many of you show up, we'll work on demolishing/salvaging the collapsed boardwalk, building puncheon and a stairway, and building new trail tread. We will meet on the 12th at 9:00 am at the Pinney Bridge parking lot... There is a possibility that we will be working on Sunday May 13th too—depending on how well we do on Saturday, and general interest. If you want to camp Saturday night at Pinney Bridge, no fee because we're volunteer workers. Again, let me know if you're coming...we'll have

communications directly to you as plans unfold.

Bear River Bridge

Our efforts to raise the \$166,000 to build a bridge over the Bear River in Petoskey are moving along well. We have several foundation grants in the works. The DNR has pledged to match other contributions up to \$83,000. Petoskey has submitted an application for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant. We have started a pledge drive and have more than \$2,500 in pledges so far. You can join the pledge drive! Here is a link to the article about the pledge drive that appeared in the Petoskey News-Review last month: https://www.petoskeynews.com/featured-pnr/officials-aim-to-build-new-trail-link-across-bear-river/article_92e42294-2149-11e8-a579-530605a23bb6.html

Here is a direct link to the pledge drive website: <https://goo.gl/8DPV6S>

Jordan Valley 2018

As a reminder, we have a lot of work to do in the Jordan Valley this year, with the late 2017 approval of our DEQ permit, and the impending 2019 NCTA Celebration here. We do have all of the necessary material—donated by the National Park Service—in storage at the fish hatchery. Here's the list. We did get all the signage done in 2017 (#s 9, 10, 11). We're starting to address #s 1 and 3 on May 12th. Note who have volunteered to lead some of the efforts...

1. Replace Cascade Creek boardwalk. A reroute above the ravine, new trail tread and a 42 foot stairway. Salvage boards from the collapsed boardwalk.
2. Structures to solve messy spots below Deadman's Hill (including one small stream crossing). 155 feet puncheon, 50 feet of boardwalk, 160 feet of new tread. ...**Jim and Denise DeKett**.
3. Structures to fix messy spots between Cascade Road and Cascade Creek bridge. 120 feet of puncheon, a 50 foot stairway

just before the creek....**Bob & Sheridan Haack**

4. Boardwalk beyond beaver ponds—repair (shore it up). May require some additional structural strengthening....**Danyell & Frank Minier**

5. Wet spots in first part of beaver ponds reroute—200' puncheon. Puncheon that is along the abandoned trail section ("phragmites area") which is nearby will be re-used here.

6. Viewing platform at spring below Deadman's Hill—major repair. It has been "listing" for several years. Major structural work. **Doug Seaney**.

7. Puncheon E of Landslide Creek. Replace 50 feet of rotted puncheon.

8. Remove remnant material of collapsed Beaver Ponds Bridge.

9. Nine NCT road crossing marker posts. **Tamera Dean, Nancy Kowaleski, Dove Day**

10. Twenty "You Are Here" signs and trailhead kiosks.

11. Two NCT Interpretive Panels: Landslide Overlook and Deadman's Hill.

12. Spur trail from beaver ponds reroute to existing abandoned boardwalk (it is sound, and becomes a beaver ponds viewing platform).



Mary Campbell and Jerry Allen informing guests about the NCT at the Quiet Water Symposium at MSU

Register Box Buzz



45th Parallel Crossing

Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

It was in December 2016 when I last summarized the entries in the log book where the NCT crosses the 45th Parallel in the Jordan Valley. So I will focus on the 2017 entries now. Overall, there were at least 572 people that signed the log book in 2017. This is a definite undercount because there were several entries that represented a family or a group but the number of members was not given. This happened several times and included various hiking clubs and entire Scout Troops. On such occasions, the entire group was counted as a single entry or one person. And of course, there are likely many other people who do not write anything in the log book, and so they are missed too. Given that, the monthly totals for the 572 “hikers” in 2017 were Jan-0, Feb-0, March-5, April-46, May-83, June-75, July-97, Aug-47, Sep-72, Oct-125, Nov-18, and Dec-4.

As expected, the vast majority of hikers were from Michigan, representing more than 50 hometowns such as Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Bay City, Beaverton, Bellaire, Berkley, Big Rapids, Boyne City, Brighton, Brownstown, Cadillac, Clarkston, Coldwater, Corona, Detroit, Dewitt, Dexter, East Jordan, Eastport, Ellsworth, Elmira, Farmington Hills, Galesburg, Grand Rapids, Grandville, Grosse Pointe, Hamilton, Holly, Holt, Iron Mountain, Laingsburg, Lansing, Lake City, Linden, Lowell, Kalkaska, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Mackinaw City, Macomb, Marysville, Midland, Mt. Pleasant,

Muskegon, Petoskey, Portage, Ransom, Roscommon, Sanford, Southgate, Sterling Heights, Traverse City, Troy, Walled Lake, Walloon Lake, Waterford, and Wyoming. Of course, many more cities would have been represented if all hikers had signed in and given their hometowns. Besides Michigan, there were entries from 9 other states (FL, IA, IL, IN, KY, MS, OH, PA, and WI) and 3 other countries (Canada, France, Poland).

There were 100s of messages in the log book. Here are a few from throughout 2017. In March, Susan wrote crusty trail, good hiking. In April, Bob - JV45 is awesome, Susan - first spring beauties, and Janean - wild flowers are showing their pretty faces. In May, Ellen - made it to the 45th crossing, Yahoo!, Ben - we love the trail and all the hard work that has been done on it, Cori - a beautiful day to get lost in the woods, Troy - songs of chirping birds, rivers of misty green trees, at peace with my mind, and Em & Ry - our first trip as a married couple. In June, Tom - great weather, beautiful trail, happy to be here, Emily - watch out for the skunk, Bruce Matthews - J45 rocks! You're the heart of this trail, Andrea Ketchmark - NCTA volunteers are the best! Thank you for being my inspiration and giving the world the trail, Chief Noonday - hopefully on my last week of hiking from the OH/MI border to the Bridge, and Ryan & Maggie - decided to go backpacking for our anniversary this year, so here we are. In July, Chris & Wendy - we can finally check this off our bucket list, Susan - saw a bear cub today, Nova - so many trees, and Randall - trails not only connect places they also connect people. In August, Dani - wonderful way to spend my 50th birthday, David - the most awesome valley, and Susan - just got back from hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro, but this here is still my favorite place. In September, Scott - my first Michigan hike, Alison - lots of Indian Pipes, Kristen - awesome, travelled 330 miles to cross this point, Jason - my trip to Key West was cancelled due to Hurricane Irma, hiking here is the next best thing, and Alayna - I brought the hubby along this time and he likes it too. In October, Energizer - great maps and numbered posts, Ken - soaked but having fun, Laura - I've been dreaming of fall colors since moving out of state 10 years ago, so glad to be back, and



Getting ready to open the registration box on March 30, 2018

Barb - snowing but gorgeous with fall colors. In November, Brad - Hike 100 completed today, Spencer - my first solo hike, and first hike in snow, Susan - soon will need the orange vests, and Aaron - forgot orange vest but still alive. And in December, Justin - love it up here, great to be alive, Rhonda - spectacular, and Tom - great trail!

Susan Miller is one of our JV45 members and has made the most individual entries in the 45° Lat log book as she hikes the 18-mile-long Jordan Valley Pathway Loop. In 2015, Susan hiked the entire loop in a single day on 23 occasions, 16 times in 2016, and 17 times in 2017. Wow!



Duster and Shelby, now back from Florida, admiring the growing stone cairn at the 45th Parallel crossing on March 30, 2018

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Draft Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2018: 5:30 PM, --- Boyne Valley Fire Department

1. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Mary Campbell, with 17 chapter members and visitors in attendance.

2. Minutes Review and Approval. Minutes of the January 6, 2018 meeting were provided to attendees. Motion by Bob Haack to approve the minutes, seconded by Eugene Branigan. Motion carried.

3. Financial and Membership Reports. There was no account activity since January, thus the account remains unchanged at \$5,916.23 as of February 28, 2018. There are currently 86 members, including 3 lifetime members.

4. Recent Activities and Accomplishments.

- There are monthly group hikes, typically on the 3rd Saturday of each month. A thank you to Bob Courtois who organizes hikes. These hikes help members to satisfy the Hike 50 and/or Hike 100 Challenges.
- JV45 was well-represented with numerous members at the Quiet Water Symposium which is held annually at Michigan State University during Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Week. This year the meeting was March 3rd. Members hosted an informational booth and a "Guess the Weight of the Backpack" challenge.

5. Upcoming Activities and Project Updates

- **Build It! Work Days.** This year there will be regular Work Days, typically the 1st weekend of the month from April–November. This is needed to complete the numerous repairs and modifications to the trail in preparation for next year, when we will host the National Meeting in early May.
- April 14th (9AM) Workday to complete the Skyline Camp
- May workdays have not been scheduled yet. Americorps volunteers may assist in May, with some question as to their availability schedule.

- June 2nd Workday to reroute 0.2 miles between Chandler Hill and Springvale
- July/August workdays will focus on the Jordan Valley.

- **Hike It! Hikes.** As mentioned under recent activities, there is a monthly hike organized by Bob Courtois.
- **Trail Town Celebration on National Trails Day (June 2nd).** JV45 has participated for 6-7 years so far. Jen Winnell who has coordinated in previous years will not be available this year. The date conflicts with the planned Work Day. There was discussion of attending the Petoskey Open House (night before the event) where we have a table planned. It was agreed this was a good opportunity to recruit new members. The actual date conflicts with the planned workday, but there was discussion of possibly hiking through to the work site.
- **Marathon Support, May 26.** Discussion of members volunteering to host aid stations.
- **Festival by the Bay, August 26.** Mary will look into the feasibility and suitability of our representation at this event.
- **Bear River Bridge Project.** JV45 is actively pursuing funding sources including potential grant opportunities. A pledge drive is already underway. Mary Campbell described several commitments already made, and other possible opportunities including funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (which may provide a match up to \$50,000), and a 60/40 match opportunity through Iron Belle Funding. Mary could use assistance with grant writing!
- **NCT TrailFest 2018 Celebration** will take place April 25-28 at Hocking Hills, OH. Several members indicated they planned to attend.
- **NCT Trailfest 2019 Celebration.** We are hosting (!) at Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI. Eugene Branigan provided a summary of plans so far. We do have chairs for some committees and he will make a request of adjacent sections soon, but

anyone who wants to volunteer for an open committee slot (see recent newsletter for information and/or contact Eugene) is welcome! Eugene mentioned we should all focus on "spiffing up" showcase areas of the trail this year.

- **Dobleski Road Reroute.** No change in status but not forgotten.

6. Other Updates and Announcements.

- Dove and John Day mentioned there may be opportunities for chainsaw certification this year.
- Bob Courtois is looking for input on where to hold hikes.
- Bob Haack, as always, requested stories for the newsletter.
- Additional JV45 outreach opportunities were discussed.
- Jerry and Connie Allen go to Hiking/ Backpacking Day at Jay's Sporting Goods each year and host a display table. This year's date is not set yet.
- The Michigan Botanical Club will have its annual Foray at Shanty Creek May 25-27 this year. They contacted the Days about hiking the trail. Possibly we should provide some JV45 brochures for their meeting.

7. The next meeting is proposed for May 19, 2018 location to be determined.

8. Adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Eugene Branigan and seconded by Bob Haack. Motion carried at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Sheridan Haack (substituting for Denise DeKett who was unable to attend).

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>.

Where I Hiked

Spring in the U.P. is Tough

Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

North Country Trail: Ontonagon, Houghton and Baraga Counties, Upper Peninsula, MI, May 27-28, '17



O Kun De Kun Falls

With Eugene and Linus Branigan. Plan of 35 miles gang agley (i.e., fubar), made 24 mi.

Friday **May 26th**: To Bob Lake Campground, Ottawa National Forest, in tents around midnight.

Saturday **May 27th**: spectacular weather, high low-70s. Started at NCT O Kun De Kun Falls trailhead on US45. Short hike 1.3 miles to O Kun De Kun Falls, 200 yds of beautiful turnpike, then mud mud mud. The falls are impressive, but the NFS hiker's bridge over the Baltimore River is magnificent. Through the woods 8 miles to Gardner Rd. And more mud, a rugged trail, it's quite warm. We are exhausted, especially Eugene.



200 yards of beautiful turnpike



Then Mud, Mud, Mud

Actually, he's sick (nauseous, chills). Heat exhaustion, or permethrin poisoning? He soaked his hat, bandanna and clothes in 0.5% permethrin, blow dried them, wore them and sweated. Hmmm. On we went, through the mud.

At Gardner Rd, we decided to walk the road "high water detour" and got 3 more miles, and



Bridge over Baltimore River

beyond the East Branch, Ontonagon River, before deciding Eugene can't go on. I flagged down a truck, whose gracious occupants drove me to my truck, and I returned to pick up Eugene (who napped) and Linus.



Eugene prostrate

Then we went for medical assistance at the Rousseau Bar.

Discussion around the campfire at Bob Lake: "Nearby trail wasn't so pitiful when we hiked it last fall, it must be it's such a mess now because the spring snowmelt hasn't evaporated yet. Let's do the rest of this trail in the fall."

Sunday **May 28th**. Decided to road walk, stay out of the woods, and it's rain-



Going for medical assistance



ing. We'll do the "Old US41" connector between Canyon Falls on US41 and Nestoria (13 miles). Did this by crossing: I hiked one direction, Eugene and Linus hiked the other. The rain stopped, it is blue sky and beautiful. Met Eugene and Linus 6 miles in, had lunch, and passed the truck keys.



Passing of the keys on Old US41.

At the Canyon Falls parking area, I waited less than 30 minutes for Eugene and Linus to pick me up. Our 6 hour drive home was punctuated by a stop at Togo's Subs in Marquette. Here are some maps.

