

# Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 4 Issue 5



## Calendar

**HIKE: LAST CHANCE  
BEFORE FIREARMS HUNTING  
SEASON-Sat. Nov.14.2015**

Jordan River Pathway  
Meet 7:30 Fish Hatchery  
Eugene Branigan, lead  
Contact info below

**ANNUAL MEETING 2016**  
**Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016**  
**Gaylord, MI.**  
**Elections,(see pg.2)**  
**Guest speaker**  
**Buffet available**  
**Details forthcoming**

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October, 2015



## *President's Editorial by Duane Lawton*

It's getting cold folks! Time to reflect on a busy and productive warm season of 2015.

In addition to all the good work you trail adopters do, we built a new trail (re-route) on the Jordan River Pathway with the DNR, and we built and planted three more register boxes/distance signs. We erected the yurt at Skyline Camp. The third annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration was held on National Trails Day. We had five group hikes, which were fun, and six meetings, some with food!

The last meeting was the first annual Trail Adopters Appreciation Dinner, which Dove and John organized (bravo!) and will tell you more about below...

Things are slowing down...we will not plan a chapter meeting for November.

However, our 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, in Gaylord. You won't want to miss it. We will have a special guest and elections.

2016 promises to be a special year, with the Centennial of the National Park Service. We will all get into the NCT "100 Mile Challenge" I'm sure. ...and maybe we'll get some needed projects permitted and funded. We are working on getting two new trail sections approved and organized... Dobleski to Gien, and Skyline to NCMC. Progress is slow, but jerky 😊.

Fall is a great time to hike, it's only snowed once so far, so get out there!

*Duane*

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## Chapter Elections

Last year we implemented the “staggered elections” which our bylaws say we should have been doing all along. These positions are members of the chapter Leadership Committee (Board of Directors), and are for two year terms. The open positions this time are:  
(Position Responsibilities are listed below.)

President (incumbent Duane Lawton)

Communications Coordinator (incumbent Amy Wilks)

Leadership Committee Member at Large—Trail Town Coordinator (incumbent Jen Winnell)

Secretary (incumbent Mary Campbell)

According to our bylaws, a person can serve in one position for at most two terms, and in multiple positions at most four terms.

While the actual election will be held at our January Annual Meeting, those of you who cannot attend still have an opportunity to participate. First, by nominating your candidate, and then by voting in absentia. Advance nominations close on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The absent ballot will appear in the December Newsletter and must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup>. You can write-in candidates on the absent ballot, and you can nominate additional candidates in person at the January meeting. All chapter members in good standing (I don’t know of any otherwise) can vote and can hold office. Nominations are open. Nominate yourself, or nominate someone else. A “second” to any nomination is also required. Do not nominate someone unless they have agreed to fulfill the responsibilities of the position if elected. Send your nominations/seconds to Dove Day, by November 30<sup>th</sup>. You can submit a brief statement by the candidate to be included in the absent ballot (max 100 words).

[doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) or 3839 Brubaker Rd., Petoskey, MI 49770

## Postion Responsibilities

### President

The President shall preside at all meetings, direct the activities of the Chapter, and act as spokesperson and chief liaison to the national NCTA for the Chapter. The President and/or Leadership Committee may appoint or remove as necessary ad hoc committees with agreement of each other. The president is a voting member of all standing or special committees. [Further duties could be added here.]

**Secretary** The Secretary shall be responsible for the following:

1. Maintain a written permanent record of Leadership Committee meetings which shall be reviewed and approved at the next Leadership Committee meeting.
2. Carrying out general correspondence relating to club activities.
3. Providing copies of printed materials dispersed to the public or members to the national NCTA.
4. Custodian of all properties and titles thereof other than the monies of the Chapter.

### **Communications Coordinator**

The Communications Coordinator shall be responsible for the following:

1. Maintain contact with membership regarding renewals, etc.
2. Maintain membership information including volunteer hours
3. Editor of bimonthly chapter newsletter
4. Initiate publicity/recruitment activities

## Leadership Committee Member at Large—Trail Town Coordinator

The chapter bylaws have no official duties for this position. In general, the TTC should:

1. Maintain contact with government and business within the Trail Town to further promotion of the NCT.
2. Organize Trail Town activities.
3. Be the chapter focal point for coordination with the Trail Town.

## North Country National Scenic Trail Day Event

We had a successful Hike, Potluck, Meeting! First, several of us met Kenny Wawsczyk for lunch to get acquainted. Kenny is NCTA's new Michigan Trail Coordinator. Then 21 of us hiked 3-1/2 miles from Landslide Overlook to Pinney Bridge on the Jordan River Pathway portion of the NCT--this is the section that crosses the 45th Parallel. At Landslide Lookout, Jerry and Connie reminded us they were married there, so we encouraged them to reminisce... We installed a register box and distance sign facing the 45th Parallel marker, for hikers to set their cameras on while taking selfies at the spot. A placard inside the box encourages them to post their pix on our Facebook page. Hiking picture is Kenny Wawsczyk, Dove Day, Gene Dawson and John Day.



Jerry & Connie reminiscing their wedding at Landslide Overlook.

We repaired to the Boyne Valley Twp Fire Hall for a scrumptious potluck, after which we were entertained by noted wilderness author Jim DuFresne, who presented "Exploring Isle Royale". Jim is in the potluck picture,(on right) speaking, in the blue and white shirt.



Hiking the trail: Front, Kenny Wawsczyk, then Dove Day, Gene Dawson, and John Day

You have arrived at the 45th parallel,  
halfway between the Equator and the North Pole.



Did you know this is the only place along the entire  
North Country Trail that crosses the 45th parallel?

This calls for a photo!  
Set your camera here to snap a picture of  
yourself at this unique location.

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter  
of the North Country Trail  
wants to see your photo!

Share your photo with us on Facebook!



To send us your photo at a later date,  
just snap a picture of our Facebook address below:

[tinyurl.com/jv45fb](https://tinyurl.com/jv45fb)



21 Hikers at 45th Parallel Marker & Register Box

# *Secretary's Minutes by Mary Campbell*

## **Jordan Valley 45° Chapter– North Country Trail**

September 26, 2015– 6pm Boyne Valley Twp fire hall

### **Chapter Meeting Minutes–DRAFT**

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with approximately 20 chapter members and visitors in attendance. Kenny Wawsczyk from NCTA attended and gave an update on his position as the NCTA Trail Coordinator for Michigan.

#### **2. Review of the Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes from May 9, 2015**

Motion by Jerry Allen, seconded by Amy Wilks to approve minutes as presented.


Motion Carried

#### **4. Financial Report**–Chapter account balance is \$3,415.06 as of August 31, 2015. Since the last reporting of \$3,837.86 as of April 30, 2015, the chapter has received \$700 in income, but has incurred \$1,200 in expenses related to the purchase of materials to construct additional register boxes and printing of new brochures.

#### **5. News Updates & Recent Activities**

- A. An update was provided on the State designated Iron Belle Trail, which primarily utilizes the North Country Trail for the hiking trail. There is some hope that some additional funding will be available through the DNR due to this designation.
- B. Jordan Valley Beaver Pond Re-route section has been completed to bypass the failed bridge and beaver flooded area.
- C. As a result of the Skyline Camp workbee held on July 25<sup>th</sup>, the campsite is now available for use. The water source access will be enhanced in the future.
- D. Three additional register boxes have been installed this year: 1) at the County line between Charlevoix and Emmet Counties; 2) Warner Creek Pathway and 3) where the trail crosses the 45° parallel.
- E. The following thru-hikers have been welcomed & hosted by Chapter members this season: Luke “Strider” Jordan, Ed Talone, Ruth and Dan Dorrough and Dan Wilshire. A featured presentation of A Thru-Hiker’s Journey by Luke ‘Strider’ Jordan, who thru-hiked the North Country National Scenic Trail in 2013 at North Central Michigan College.
- F. The next Petoskey Trail Town celebration will be June 4, 2016.
- G. A recap from the NCT Rendezvous in New York state will be presented by John and Dove Day at a future gathering.



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1. **Featured Presentation:** Author Jim DuFresne, shared inspiring photos and stories of hiking trails and water routes on Isle Royale. He also shared information on other trails and map sources for hiking, [www.Michigantrailmaps.com](http://www.Michigantrailmaps.com). Jim DuFresne is the author of Isle Royale National Park Foot Trails & Water Routes and also Backpacking in Michigan.

Chapter meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Campbell*    [mcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com](mailto:mcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com)

## Trail Coordinators' Report by Dove and John Day

To see the most current trail conditions visit the website at:

[http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page\\_id=58](http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58)

To report conditions e-mail us at [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) or call 231-373-0090 or 231-838-6445



### Adopter Appreciation Dinner

**On Saturday October 17, 2015 the Jordan Valley 45° board hosted its first annual adopter appreciation dinner to honor and thank all of its wonderful trail adopters.**

This year brought lots of challenges for the adopters, especially with the excessive damage from the August 2<sup>nd</sup> storm, and our adopters worked very hard to keep the trail clear. 26 attended the dinner at the Elmira Township Hall. Mary Campbell, JV45° secretary, attended the hall and prepared an amazing dinner for the group. Vice president Eugene Branigan and his wife Kelly engraved rocks that read "Jordan 45° Trail Adopter 2015" and the National Park Service donated bandanas to pass out as a thank you. Each section of trail and its' adopter was introduced with a slide show of photos as the thank yous were passed out individually. Log entries from the chapters register boxes were shared, showing hikers' appreciation of those who care for the trail. The adopters were reminded how their work brings so many hikers an enjoyable experience on the trail. After dinner the group enjoyed a presentation on the NCTA Rendezvous that was held in New York last month. The adopters had an enjoyable time mingling with each other, swapping stories, and exchanging contact information for future work on the trail!



Thank You Trail Adopters display and Cake



### Photos:

Upper, Mary Campbell on left prepared the meal, enjoyed by adopters and members.

Left: Bandanas

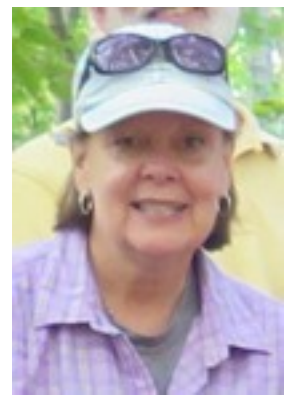
Middle: Engraved rocks by Eugene & Kelly as "thank you" gifts

## New Trail Adoptions:

Congratulations to Linda Mansfield and Kathy Hill! They have adopted section E2 of the Jordan Valley Pathway. Welcome Linda and Kathy to the Jordan Valley 45° group of trail adopters and thank you for adopting!

## Up For Adoption

There are currently two sections of trail up for adoption, section E1 and Section F, both of which are along the beautiful Jordan River Pathway! Section E1 runs from Landslide Overlook, north to Jordan River Rd, and section F starts at Pinney Bridge campground and runs north to the unnamed stream, about three miles in. Contact John or Dove Day if you have any questions and are interested in becoming a Jordan Valley 45° Trail Adopter! Contact [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)



Linda Mansfield



Kathy Hill



### Maps:

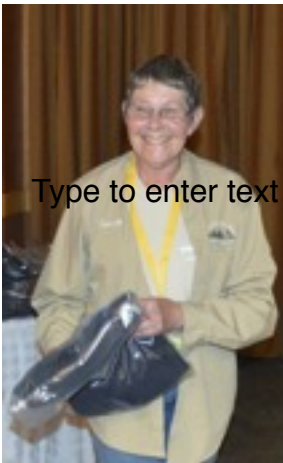
Left, NCNST map of Jordan River pathway-Section E1 (in red) up for adoption

Upper, Section F, starting at Pinney Bridge Campground

NCTA Rendezvous Awards-Sept., 2015

We are so proud of our Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Volunteers! Four members of our chapter received awards at the NCTA Rendezvous in New York. In recognition of contributing 100 total volunteer hours, our JV45° website coordinator Josh Berlo was recognized, and for reaching a total of 200 total hours, our JV45° communications coordinator Amy Wilks was recognized. We had two members receive the award for reaching a total of 1,000 volunteer hours! Congratulations to our dedicated president, Duane Lawton, and to one of our wonderful JV45° trail adopters, Connie Allen.

Much commitment and effort was given by all award recipients. The NCT is lucky to have so many dedicated people working and doing their best to make it the best it can be! Congratulations to all NCTA volunteers and award winners, and THANK YOU!



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National Park Service's Volunteers-In-Parks Recognitions

100-Hour Recognition Level  
(NPS certificate, VIP Pin, Name Tag)

Don Adkins	Kim Faldut	John Remick
Lois Adkins	Mary Fleming	Jaron Nyhof
Arlyn Anderson	David Gayhart	Jack Olson
Sandy Anderson	David Givens	Eric Rehorst
Robert Bennett	Lois Goldstein	Stephen Rouse
Josh Berlo	Toby Gralla	George Schmitt
Richard Borjesson	Byron Gray	Kath Schram
Jim Bradley	Susan Hauser	Allen Schroden
Shannon Chaney	James Heffner	Bernard Senake
Jan Connel	Byron Knapp	Scott Sellers
Bill Courtois	George Knedel	Joanna Swanson
Suzanne Darling	Robert Kromers	Colleen Thelmer
Paul Downing	Mar Kruis	Bethany Thomas
Robert Downing	Bernard Marshall	Patty Warner
Don Fells	Pat McManis	



Photos: Duane Lawton & Connie Allen receive award for 1000 volunteer hours.

Right: Josh Berlo awarded for 100 volunteer hours

200-Hour Recognition Level  
(Water Bottle)

Herbert Adams	David Gayhart	Jaron Nyhof
Roger Barry	Lois Goldstein	Scott Parker
Deena Barshney	Byron Henry	Dennis Peronto
Jim Belote	Kaye Houk	Eric Rehorst
Peter Bock	Warren Irle	Allen Schroden
Larry Bryan	Byron Knapp	Dave Warner
Kathleen Colyer	George Knedel	Patty Warner
Suzanne Darling	Melinda McCarty	Amy Wilks
Randy Davies	Don Miller	Ellie Williams
Kim Faldut	Timothy Mowbray	Gene Winner



Right: Amy Wilks awarded for 200 volunteer hours.

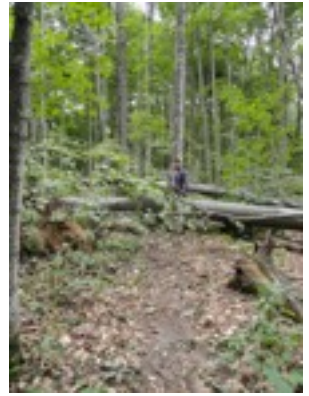




## **Heavy Rain and Howling Winds Take Down Trees on the Trail**

By John Day Jordan Valley 45° Trail Coordinator

Photos: Left, Picnic table crushed at Pinney Bridge Campground  
Right, Trail blocked by trees downed



On Sunday, August 2, 2015, severe thunderstorms passed through areas of Western Northern Michigan, causing thousands of trees to be downed and a state of emergency to be called.

Multiple thunderstorms raced through the area, the first around 10 a.m. and catastrophic straight line winds screamed through around 4 p.m. The last storm caused trees to fall on power lines, homes, cabins and businesses from Traverse City to Fife Lake and beyond.

\$82 million of damage was reported over 9 Michigan counties. 10 hours was spent rescuing hikers from the storms.

The Mackinac Bridge was closed during the storms as well, as 65 mph winds swept across the Straits. A tornado was reported in Huron County during this time, and the damage sustained in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore closed campgrounds and recreational trails for several days.

Our North Country Trail segments, as well as other local trails through these areas, required volunteers, Michigan DNR and National Park Service employees to work long hours to get the trails cleared for recreational use again.

Jordan Valley 45° chapter members, along with Michigan DNR workers, dealt with a lot of trees across the trails. In one instance, a span of a 5 mile section of trail had 20 large trees and an uncountable amount of smaller trees over it. The work could not be completed in a day, and required multiple efforts to get out and clear all the debris from the tread. A picnic table at the Pinney Bridge Campground was crushed and debris was scattered around the immediate area. Thankfully, no injuries were reported by campers or hikers during this time.

Jim Dekett was one outstanding volunteer who drove 3 hours from Saginaw to the Jordan Valley to help out. Brad Moffatt was another who drove down from Petoskey to help clear trail along the Jordan River Pathway. It can't be said enough... our volunteers are some of the most dedicated and outgoing individuals on the North Country National Scenic Trail. If you know one, see one, or are one, make sure you thank them (or yourself) for their hard work in all the "Low Places!"



**Tahquamenon Falls SP Wilderness Trail to Grand Marais**

Trekking this particular section fulfilled part of my mission this summer to "connect the dots"...to fill in the sections I had not yet hiked between M-186 in <GTC> and Munising in the UP. The sections were covered over a period of several months, and are described in order from east to west.

**Section 1 (June 30), Tahquamenon Falls Wilderness Trail to Co Rd**

**500/506**, approx. 18.6 mi round trip: Parked on Co Rd 500, hiking in and back to the state park trail. Stepped out of my car and was absolutely SWARMED by mosquitoes. Glad that it was raining that day, as rain gear meant more protection against those little blood-suckers. Also glad I had invested in a net for the head. Hiked in to the TFSP trail and back, nice narrow trail through evergreens (reminding me of an "enchanted forest"), and over bogs. Heading west, the trail wound through more marshland (appropriately named "Swamp Lakes"?). Some newly-built sections around a few esp low spots. Followed a 2-track for a distance, and came across an active logging operation <Pict. 1>.

Very interesting to see the huge stacks of logs waiting to be loaded, as well as equipment in the process of stacking these logs up. Reminded of something my young nephew would've been enthralled with! Started to see a few segments affected by the fire in < 2011.> Once back inside the car, spent about 5 minutes in a mosquito-killing operation before heading home.

**Section 2, (August 11);**

**Co Rds 500/506 to Two-Hearted River Campground**, 19.4 mi round trip: Passed through forested areas. 2 larger lakes (Parcell and Culhane Lakes) and multiple smaller ponds. <Pict. 2> Culhane Lake seemed to be a popular spot for fisherman and ATV riders, and the State Forest Campground had some of the cleanest outhouses I've seen in a long time (thanks to campground hosts?). Trail turned west, and the remainder of the hike trekked through burned out areas, except for a few short sections next to Little Two-Hearted River. Always amazing to see such new growth. Trail pad was easy to follow, and the chapter up there has been hard at work with the blue-blaze paint! <Pict. 3> Plenty of short scrubby wild blueberry bushes, whose fruit just "pops" with flavor! Two-hearted R campground was spared during the fire. On this particular day, it was a popular spot for fishermen, canoeists, and beachcombers. Very windy along Lake Superior, <Pict. 4> but that kept the bugs away!



Pict.1 Left: Active logging operation



Pict. 2 Right: Culhane Lake

**Section 3 (July 20), Two-hearted River campground to Muskallonge Lake,** 14.3 mi one-way. Brought a couple friends and an additional car this trip, so we were able to hike point to point. One word: SANDY....which makes a few miles of trail seem so much longer (but a better work-out?). Fireweed in abundance. <Pict. 5> Most of the area was affected by the <2011> fire. Glad there several of us, as trail hard was to find in spots, either because of fallen trees or burned areas. Sometimes the trail just dropped off a sandy cliff into Lake Superior. At one point, we lost the trail entirely, so worked our way back to the nearby Coast Guard Rd via a driveway. There we encountered two women in a van "looking for the lake". What they really wanted was Muskallonge Lake, and thanks to our NCT map, we were able to get them headed in the right direction. (Perhaps our losing the trail was actually "providential"?) Trail markings became more visible closer to Muskallonge Lake.

**Section 4 (July 21), Blind Sucker Pathway to Muskallonge Lk,** 14.3 mi one-way:. Left my car at Muskallonge Lake and drove the other car to Lake Superior State Forest Campground. Quite windy and cool to start. Circled the Blind Sucker Pathway (6.7 mi loop, 3.7 mi of which is NCT). The Pathway loop included open views of the Blind Sucker "flooding", and an overlook where DNR pathway intersects the NCT, and then arrived back at Lake Superior. Upon return to their car, my friends took off for home, and I continued the remaining distance to Muskallonge Lake. Not well-traveled, but decently marked for the most part and some very nice viewpoints of the Blind Sucker River. <Pict. 6> Where the Blind Sucker River meets the Lake Superior, I started looking for a bridge to cross...and discovered, instead, a ford. Rolled up the pant legs and crossed barefoot, stabilized by trusty hiking poles. A few temporary mis-directions due to "drop-offs" and ATV trail crossings along this next section, but knowing what to look for from the day before helped. A new re-route marked through the park, again made necessary due to erosion.

Pict. 3, Left-- Well maintained Blue Blazes

Pict. 4, Middle--Lake Superior at Two Hearted River Campground

Pict. 5, Fireweed in area of 2011 fire





**Section 5 (August 31), School Forest Ski Pathway (H 58) to Blind Sucker Pathway**, 19.6 mi round-trip: Trail follows the School Forest ski path for a short distance then breaks off and heads towards Lake Superior. What a breath of fresh air upon arrival at the lake, as this was one of those days that neared a humid 90 degrees! Meandered along the lake (over multitude of fallen logs), passed several people/families enjoying a day at the beach, then over several meadows before crossing H58 and climbing a hill to the picnic table and overlook of the Blind Sucker River at the intersection with the NCT. <Pict. 7>. Underestimated the amount of water I needed to carry but survived just fine, lesson learned, and enjoyed a good Whitefish dinner (and large cold Diet Pepsi) at Lake Superior Brewing Co in Grand Marais.

**Section 6 (Sept 1), Woodland Park (Grand Marais), to School Forest Ski Path**, 8.6 mi round-trip: 2.4 mi of road-walk before reaching the segment through the woods. Pretty river view on a bridge crossing over the Grand Marais River.

I certainly enjoy exploring new sections, appreciate the variety of creation discovered, and am grateful for the security (and hard work!) represented by those blue blazes!

*Susan Miller*



Pict. 6, Upper--View of Blind Sucker River  
Pict. 7 Right--Intersection with the NCT



*Communications Report by Amy Wilks*

For your hiking stories for the newsletter, please email me. Please send photos as JPG attachments and small for downloading.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: DONALD BUGGIA AND STEVE DAWSON**

[Email----ameliawilks1@gmail.com](mailto:ameliawilks1@gmail.com)

“Our vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail is that of the premier footpath of national significance.....” NCT