



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

September 2022

President's Message

from Kevin Whitley kjw@torchlake.com

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Important links:

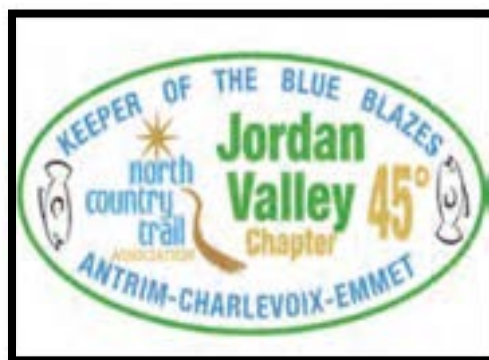
[Click here for link to Jordan Valley 45° page on NCTA website](#)

[Jordan Valley 45° is on FaceBook - click here](#)

[Click here for link to Report Volunteer Hours](#)

[Click here for link to NCTA Events Calendar](#)

Hello hikers, September 30, 2022 is the deadline to report your volunteer hours for 2022 to the North Country Trail Association. If you have done any work for the benefit of the trail including trail maintenance, trail building, outreach, be sure to tally up your hours and report. We will take any amount of time down to 1 hour. The amount of volunteer hours reported benefits the trail when budgets are made and grants are applied for. Reporting hours can make you eligible for merchandise like water bottles, apparel, and park passes. The place to report your hours is in the volunteer section of northcountrytrail.org. If you have questions about reporting, you may call or email me. Also during September, all money raised from new or renewed memberships are matched dollar for dollar (up to \$25,000) by a donation from 4 individuals.



Upcoming Hikes:

October 15 - Kipp Rd. to Bayfront Park

November 5 - Wilderness State Park with the Harbor Springs Chapter

December 17 - Gien Rd. to Camp 10 Rd. & Kusmik Rd.

Story and pictures by
Bob Courtois
bcourtois@comcast.net

We received word that a large hiking group was going to be hiking the Jordan Valley, the same day as our June monthly hike. So, at 8am I went to the trailhead at Deadman's Hill to greet them on behalf of the J45 and handed out NCT brochures and J45 maps.



A full parking lot!

There were approximately 60 hikers that are "training" for a Grand Canyon hike in August. The hikers were members of the of the Carin Stone Adventure Tours (CSA). CSA is a club organized by "coach" Ron Gunn, a very personable octogenarian who arranges hiking trips all over the US.



Ron Gunn – on left in blue hoodie

Ron was formerly a track and cross-country coach at Southwestern Michigan College. While unable to do the long hikes himself, most of the group hiked the entire 18-mile Jordan Valley Loop while carrying 25-pound packs. Actually, they did 20 miles since they walked the Deadman's Hill Loop before heading off counter-clockwise on the JRP and NCT.

Next year they expect to take about 200 people to Scotland. They expressed appreciation for all the trail work; and reported only a few trees down following the wind storms. This group has hiked the Jordan Valley many times in the past.



A few hikers posing for the camera

See more at the link that follows. Link- [HOME](https://www.cairnstoneadventuretours.com)
([cairnstoneadventuretours.com](https://www.cairnstoneadventuretours.com))

Lost and Found Axe

Story and pictures by
Dan Dueweke
dandueweke@gmail.com

Like any spring logout when the snow has finally melted enough to walk the trail with a chainsaw, I was also carrying a small axe to use for driving wedges and chopping out my saw if I got it pinched in a log. Not just any axe though, but a gift from

my daughter Sarah who had brought it back from New Zealand on a trip home. I had carried it for many years and was always careful when I set it down – until the day of the logout. In my haste to move from one blowdown to the next and keep up with Doug "lightfoot" Seaney, I misplaced the axe and didn't notice it was gone until I got home.

Returning to the trail the next day I searched around every cut log I could find but no luck. On the off chance someone else had seen it, I posted a "lost axe" notice on the NCT Facebook page. As luck would have it, several people spotted it and one even took a picture, but they left the axe on a stump thinking the lumberjack who lost it would probably come back and get it. By now the hiker FB grapevine was tuned in to the lost axe saga with many comments and replies.

Almost three weeks had gone by when Doug sent me a note saying "Peggy has your axe". Found, and none the worse for weather! I guess I had a little trail karma coming back to me for time spent maintaining the NCT with an axe and saw.



The infamous wandering axe

Meeting is being held on zoom

Members present: Kevin Whitley, Jim Howell, Annie Matz, Mary Campbell, Bob Courtois, Dan Dueweke, Sue Bouwense, Dove Day, Doug Seaney

Meeting minutes from 4/28/2022 have been approved.

JV45 Financial Report:

Current balance \$5400

Recent expenses 4/30/22 \$2000 (supplies for O'Brien Pond construction project)

Grant has been obtained to cover the tool box \$700.

Work Projects report by Bob Courtois:

O'Brien Pond project is not finished, Bob has volunteered to organize a work day Tuesday June 28, 2022 to finish the work, he is looking for volunteers.

Reroutes:

Dobleski Rd: nothing new to report

Cedar Valley: Mary has been trying to contact owner with no response

Notestine property: Still owed by Notestine family

North Conway Rd to Kipp Rd.: nothing new

Signs and Interpretative panels: With Duane out of town Kevin is going to try to get the design pinned down and get these ordered.

Tool trailer/Tool box

Doug and Jim report that the Tool trailer was moved behind the shed (same basic location as previously) per request from the Fish Hatchery staff.

The Lock Box for hand tools will be ordered by Dan Dueweke in July to be placed at the River Road Sports Complex. He will call NCTA to use the credit card to purchase. The tool box is being purchased with a grant so Dan needs to report 5 hours of volunteer time to qualify.

Status of Miscellaneous Admin. Items:

Doug Seaney has volunteered to take the positions of Communications Coordinator and Web Coordinator. We are very excited to have Doug on board and very grateful to Bob Haack and Josh Berlo for their dedication and hard work over the years. Welcome Doug!

A patch or other token is being considered for hikers who have completed the entire JV45 trail. Kevin is looking into this and will consider any suggestions.

Junior Hiker Program status: Nothing new

Sue and Kevin are both monitoring the JV45 Facebook page.

Trail Adopter report by Dan Dueweke: Reminder from Dan that it is now mowing season. Please try to get your section mowed and let Dan know when it is done. Also notify Dan if you are unable to get this done.

Group Hikes Report by Bob Courtois:

The monthly hikes are going well. Bob reports that last week the Cairn Adventures Hiking group had 60 people hiking the Jordan Valley. He was able to meet with them and hand out maps and brochures. Turnout was low for the June hike held on the 18th with 9 hikers participating in the Jordan Valley. Next month Bob is considering an out of area hike, likely the Valley of the Giants.

Camp/Hike the entire Chapter: A few of our members did this last year and we are wondering if there is any interest in doing it again this year. No one expressed any interest at the meeting so we will likely just try again next year.

2022 Events:

June 4 Stampede: Sue and Dove report the event went very well with 7-8 parties participating. The plan is to hold it on a different part of the trail next year.

September 24 National Scenic Trails Day: Considering having a work day to place signs. Will check with Duane when he returns.

October 5-8 2022 NCT Celebration in Walker Minnesota: Hoping to have several members go.

New Business: Annie asked if the Skyline Shelter is still available for through hikers to camp. Mary says the property has been acquired by the City of Petoskey and is currently available but she is unsure who is going to take over the responsibility of running it in the future. Mary is also unsure if the shelter will remain something for NCT hikers only or will the general public be able to use it.

Chapter Meetings: Currently every 2 months, next meeting will be held August 25 at 5:15pm.

We will attempt to meet in person at a restaurant possibly in Charlevoix. Kevin will look for a location and let us know.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09pm

Meeting minutes typed by Annie Matz Sec/Treas JV45

Calling all volunteers – Please report your hours

Story and pictures by Dan Dueweke
dandueweke@gmail.com

Our new tool cache at the River Road Sports Complex brings trail gear closer to the adopters. Located next to the NCT sign, the cache has hand

tools, blaze paint, and a string trimmer. When using the trimmer, please pick up a quart of 50:1 premix to insure you have enough gas to

finish the job. I have keys for those who think they'll use the cache and will mail them out on request.



Long-time Editor Steps Down

Story by Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

After serving as your JV45 Communications Coordinator (CC) for six years, I decided to step back and let someone else have some fun. It took a while, but after another 7 months, Doug Seaney stepped forward, saying that he'd give it a try. Thanks, Doug for pushing (helping?) me into full retirement!

The two main tasks of the CC are to send out email notices to members about upcoming events and the other is to prepare the chapter newsletter every 2-3 months. But to publish a newsletter the CC needs you, the members of JV45, to send in stories. Many of the JV45 Governing Board members have regular columns in our newsletter, but any member can send in a "Where I Hiked" story. Similarly, any member can stop at one of the register boxes we have along our sections of the NCT and take pictures of some

Throughout September, all new and renewed memberships are being matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000, thanks to the generosity of four of your fellow members.

[Click here to renew!](#)

recent pages in the logbook and summarize a few entries in a "Box Buzz" column. And, of course, anyone can send in a side story related to hiking, or something that inspires you about the NCT (like Ellen did in this issue) or something interesting that happened to you while working on the trail (like Dan did in this issue). And when you send in stories, don't forget to send some jpg images as well. And if you can, change the name of the image file from a bunch of numbers to some words that say what or who the picture is about. That will help Doug place the picture in the appropriate location as well prepare correct captions. So please make Doug's life as the new CC a pleasant one and send in some stories and pictures throughout the year!

The Trail is Poetry to Me

Story, poetry and pictures by
Ellen Schettling Whitehead
twinlakede@gmail.com

Along with exploring the North Country Trail and its fullness of nature, another love of mine is writing poetry. I wrote my first poem in fourth grade and it was inspired by nature. It was titled *What is a Waterlily?*

When I discovered the North Country Trail, having moved to Kalkaska County in 2011, I was thrilled to find out that a trail longer than the Appalachian or Pacific Crest Trail rested just one mile from my front door! As I began to hike the NCT on a regular basis, I found myself composing poems as I traveled up and down the hilly woods and meandering rivers that make up Northern Michigan's beautiful forests.

A favorite type of poem for me is the haiku. I learned about haikus from my ninth-grade English teacher. The traditional haiku format is a three-line poem with the first line consisting of five syllables, the second line seven syllables, and the third line five syllables. It isn't always easy to convey your thoughts in such a short poem, but I find it a peaceful practice.

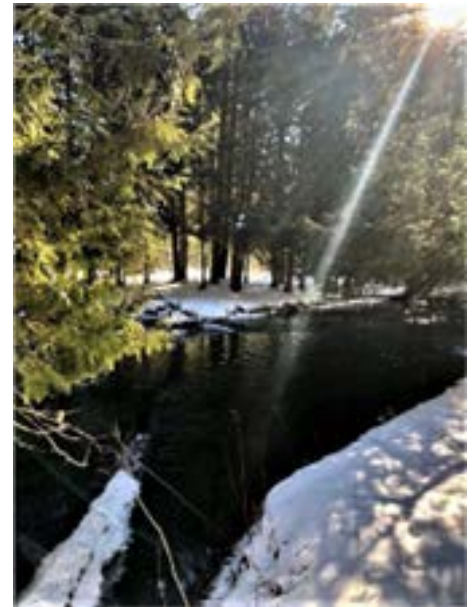
Recently, three of my haikus with accompanying photos I took, were published in the *Walloon Writers Review*. Two of those haikus and photos were born along the NCT. I want to share them with you, along with a few others, and extend an invitation to join me sometime in this practice. If you are interested, shoot me an email at twinlakede@gmail.com. Perhaps we can have a small group hike of NCT poets meet along one of our picturesque trails. After all, John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, and Mary Oliver all loved exploring the beauty of our natural world!

Precariously
**A leaf skeleton
hanging precariously
braves on in the wind**



Embracing (published in Walloon Writers Review – Seventh Edition)

**High above fir trees
soft beams of morning sunlight
embracing river**



Takeoff! (published in Walloon Writers Review – Seventh Edition)

**Like spokes on a wheel
seeds of a flower with wings
ready for takeoff!**



Watch for more poetry in future editions of this newsletter!



BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



Story and pictures by Duane Lawton
delawton@torchlake.com

It's been a while since I reported. This year our focus has been around O'Brien Pond.

On April 22 we scoped out the new boardwalk, leading to a plan to extend the new boardwalk's north end, and fix the beaver deceiver where some tubes had come loose. (Mary, Bob C., Dan and Jim H.)

We had a work weekend on National Trails day weekend (June 3-4) when we removed the old boardwalk, and



started extending the new boardwalk, and building 200'+ of puncheon at O'Brien Pond.

The materials were funded by an NCTA Field Grant. Thanks to Kenny Wawsczyk for getting the DNR permit for the puncheon. We also recycled the timbers from the old boardwalk for some of the puncheon.

(Dan, Mary, Jim D., Bob C., Kevin, Susan, Bob F., Wil)



On August 6 Kevin and I planted two new road marker posts on Jordan River road at the reroute, and replaced 3 NCT logo plaques that had been stolen (Pinney Bridge parking and 45th parallel).

Subsequently, Kevin, Jim H, Dave and Annie Matz finished the boardwalk and the puncheon. Then in early August, Jim DeKett repaired the beaver deceiver (see separate article on page 8).



As a result of a citizen complaint relayed by Petoskey Parks and Rec., I replaced four boards in our boardwalk south of Sheridan Ave. in the Petoskey Bear River Recreation Area. This will require more TLC in the future...

We also scoped out the porky haven on JRR, seeing that the metal shield had been insufficient and the "Porky Bait" has been eaten. But they WILL NOT prevail.



There is another Field Grant for a tool box at Petoskey River Road Sports Park, and for eight interpretive panels. The tool box was installed on July 26th (Kevin, Jim H., Dan). We built post mounts for five of the interpretive panels September 3, Kenny is working on the actual panels, the install fest tbd.

Next year we hope to start work on the Dobleski-to-Giem major reroute, pending a seemingly simple private property access agreement and a DNR permit. We might also make some new tread off of Kipp Road...

Beaver Deceiver Project

Story and pictures by Jim DeKett - dekettj@gmail.com

Years ago, after I joined the JV45 group, the first big project I was involved with was the building of the beaver deceiver



on the Warner pathway. Duane Lawton headed the project on the weekend of Sept. 19, 2014. Over the years improvements were made to allow a larger volume of water to flow.



A beaver deceiver is a cage with tubes running from one side to the other under the beaver dam, thus deceiving beavers, thinking they stopped the flow of water.



Over the years the tubes had gotten detached from the cage and had gotten air in them, defeating the transfer of water. There was a boardwalk to keep you dry that had been flooded over multiple times so there was a need for an adjustable bridge. That was built in 2021 and was finished in 2022. I worked on the project along with many others. June 3, 2022 we were doing some finishing work and Duane and I discussed how to get the tubes back in place and secure them. On June 27, while puncheons were being built I worked on getting the air out of the tubes and temporarily securing them to the deceiver. Bob Courtois helped me to get them down knowing that more work would be needed to make it more permanent. Bob and I discussed what needed to be done and a plan was made.



I had some used fence posts and chain link fence given to me from Farrell (Spence) and Roberta Spencer. My wife, Denise and I made plans with my brother, Roger DeKett and Mary Campbell to complete the work. August 5th, we met on the site. We drove 4 more posts to have 2 more places near the deceiver to secure the tubes with plastic straps. We also secured the tubes at the bridge each side as they passed under before the dam. We then added a little more chain link fencing at the cage so debris couldn't enter the tubes. The work was completed by Roger DeKett and his daughter Lydia, Mary Campbell, Denise DeKett, our Grandson Lemmy and me. Hopefully, this will hold better and keep the deceiver flowing for a long time.



July 16th Hike Report – Valley of the Giants

Story and pictures by Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net



Eleven hikers gathered at Scheck's Place State Forest Campground at 10am and we all moved out promptly at 10:30. The group included three members of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club, seven from the Jordan Valley 45° and Jeanne from Florida who is training for a hiking trip to Patagonia, Chile. The weather was excellent, sunny and upper 70's.

The Valley of the Giants is pretty cool and, yes, the trees are big, at least by Michigan standards (see the tree hugger picture).



There are quite a few beaver dams but little sign of recent beaver activity. Unlike two years ago, we didn't actually see them, but we did hear Barred Owls calling back and forth. We called to them too (hoo, hoot a hoo) and they seemed to be responding back. The trail is in great shape and well-traveled. As always there were a few trees for Dan Dueweke to cut with his scabbard encased Silky Saw.

All eleven completed the entire eight miles and Wil Shapton ran most of it. We went about 4 miles south from Scheck's Place State Forest Campground and had a picnic at the foot bridge where some people had the opportunity to soak their feet in the ice-cold spring water. Kevin nearly fell in.



Thanks to the ever vigilant "Sweep" Tamara Dean, we all made it back safely to Scheck's at about 2:30. Since we picnicked on the trail, we didn't do a pub visit this time following the hike. A terrific day. Thanks for coming everyone.

August 20, 2022- Hike Report - Springvale Road to Krause Road (near Skyline Shelter)

Story and pictures by Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net

We had a dog and ten hikers including two new people, Nikki (Levering) and Bab (Walloon Lake). Neither of them had previously hiked with the NCT.

Logistically this is a tricky section for hike planning since there are no good direct routes between the hike's start and the end. The most direct route uses Johnson and King roads with two-track sections that are extremely rough, eroded and with a mix of rock and sand. We opted for a

safer circuitous route that kept most of the 7-mile ride on black top. By meeting at the hikes end, and then driving to the start, we end up moving the fewest number of cars.



So, after gathering at Krause Rd. (near Skyline Shelter), seven of us headed for Springvale Rd. in two vehicles. We stopped at Taylor and Maxwell Rd. to pick up Jane & Cliff Denay (and dog Hamilton) waiting for us at Springvale Rd., was Tracy Brondyke. After snapping a few pictures, we were on the trail just before 11: AM.



Once again, the weather was great, maybe a little on the warm side. Highs were upper 70's and, although rain was in the forecast, there was only a short shower toward the end of the day.

This section of trail is unquestionably one of the best in the J45° Chapter. Except for about one mile of road, it is in very hilly and thick woods. Not much logging has gone on and in

one area near Johnson Rd. there is a bit of bicycle erosion and road apples, but not enough to spoil the walk.

We opted to bypass the loop trail to Cherry Valley Overlook. Wil Shapton jogged that and reported some downed trees. South of Maxwell Rd. there is a beautiful well-groomed dairy farm. We didn't see them this time, but they have giant wiener dogs. On one of our hikes, we watched the dogs herd some cows that got loose on the road.



The trail is in excellent shape, although we did have to cut a few fallen trees and trim back brush a little bit. Thank you trail adopters Cliff & Jane Denay and Dove & John Day.

Where I Hiked – The Narnia Trail near Cedarville Michigan

Story and pictures by Bob Haack haack@msu.edu



If you're ever in the eastern UP, along the Lake Huron shoreline, check out the Narnia Trail, or that is what the locals call it. You can access the trail at two parking lots, Point A is about 5 miles east of Cedarville along Highway 134, and is on Carmeuse quarry property, and Point B is another 1.2 miles further east of A, and is on The Nature Conservancy's Woollam Preserve. Along the main trail, from point A to B, the distance is about 3 miles. There are



Some of the largest rocks along the Narnia Trail



View of the rocky shoreline

beautiful views of the rocky shoreline from much of the trail, as well as two decrepit cabins, and 100s and 100s of large and often tree-covered rocks, especially in the "Narnia" area. Many of the rocks are over 10 ft tall.

With Lake Huron's water levels much lower now, the entire trail is "dry." But during the past few years, the high-water levels covered and destroyed most boardwalks and bridges, so watch where you step. (But repairs are planned.)



Some of the tree-covered rocks

Sheridan and I walked the trail last in mid-August on a warm sunny day. Many fall flowers were in bloom (asters, goldenrods, and one to watch out for, the Death Camas), while bunchberries and thimbleberries were setting fruit. If you travel with dogs, park at A, because dogs are welcome on the quarry property, but not on the TNC Preserve.



Bunchberries in fruit everywhere



Death Camas in bloom



One of the 2 decrepit cabins



Maidenhair Spleenworts, a fern, grow on many of the rocks

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

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