



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

May 2023

## President's Message

Kevin Whitley [kjw@torchlake.com](mailto: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...

The North Country Trail Association and this chapter are both working to reduce the amount of road walks by moving sections of the trail off of the road. The NCTA has created a full time position of Director of Trail Protection and hired Paul Gagnon. His job will be to focus on areas where permission can be acquired to reroute the trail from the roads. We attended a zoom meeting recently with Paul where he explained the process and the challenges. Paul talked about the different types of permission we can use and the laws protecting the property owners from liabilities if they allow the public to use their land. We should all look forward to new sections of the trail coming. Let me know if anyone locally in the Jordan Valley 45 area has some ideas on where we can eliminate road walks. It looks like an exciting year ahead. Please consider the volunteer opportunities for work days as well as National Trails Day and the Race Festival at Petoskey State Park. Hope to see you on the trail!

## Upcoming Group Hikes:

May 20 – Wilderness State Park, joint hike with Harbor Springs chapter and NPS Ranger

June 17 – Starvation Lake to Pickerel Lake, picnic after

## World Renowned Hiker Joan Young spotted in the JV45° area

Story by Doug Seaney – [dseaney@hotmail.com](mailto:dseaney@hotmail.com)

Photo montage by many contributors



Mike & Lisa LaLande, Bill Courtois, Kevin Whitley, Joan Young

Recently Joan Young has been back on the trail in our area as she returns to the trail after an unplanned winter hiatus. The Michigan winter weather and snowfall was turning her hike into more of a frostbite challenge than she wanted. Over the past few weeks several people familiar to JV45 have been helping her spot cars, hike with, host her, provide trail intel and generally support her. Bob and Bill Courtois have contributed many hours of assistance and several others have tagged along or met her on the trail. Joan is nearly complete with her second end to end hike of the 4800 mile North Country Trail. She is not only an intrepid hiker but writes a daily blog – lately about hiking but when she's not hiking many other topics can appear in her blog. She is also an accomplished author with many books to

her credit. Children's stories, mysteries, puzzles, and even some poetry; [her web-page](#) will link you to her blog as well as her books.



Jim & Denise DeKett & Dani the dog





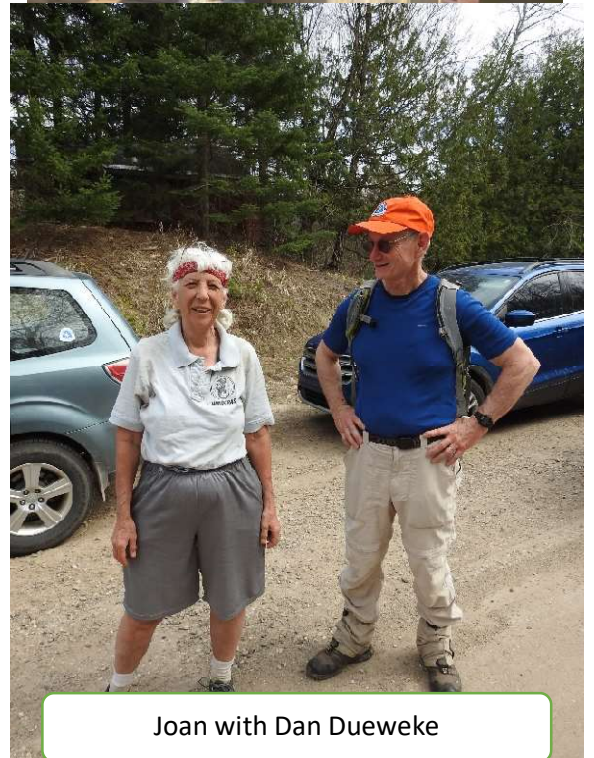
Ellen Whitehead with Joan



Bill, Gay, Bob Courtois



This one just makes me smile 😊



Joan with Dan Dueweke



Story and pictures by Duane Lawton  
[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

Another year...more work on the trail

We hope to have two reroutes available soon, depicted on the Build It banner: 1. Dobleski to Giem, there is Mary standing at the corner of four parcels we need an easement to pass, and 2. off of Kipp road, into these woods to the west on Emmet County land.

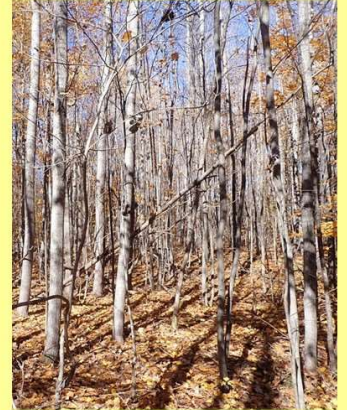
Repairs, etc. needed on the trail

There are several miscellaneous projects many of which we will get into this year:

- Seven new interpretive panels (waiting the art and panel fabrication)
- Fix/replace porky-damaged signage in the Jordan River valley
- Better marking of the trail N of PYSA soccer fields (more carsonites)
- Fix stair railing and puncheon between Cascade Creek and Landslide overlook
- Fix boardwalks in NCMC Natural Area
- Messy areas and damaged puncheon between Pinney Bridge campground and Three Tubes
- Reroute off Kipp from HSP trailhead to N. Conway Road, new J45 register box.

# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



Trail Adopters: If you notice any other trail structures in need of repair, please let me know.

Resort Township is talking of building a canoe launch on the Bear River at their property NE of the McDougal/Click roads intersection...where the trail passes. They are interested in our participating in infrastructure. Perhaps a bench or two...

So, let's have a work day in May! Mark your calendars—Saturday, May 13. Exact work tbd, send me an rsvp and I'll update you.

### Hike the Chapter - 80 miles of FUN! September 8 – 12, 2023

Duane Lawton – [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

### Hike The Chapter 2023

In October 2021, four of us (Mary, Jim, Nick, Duane) hiked the entire chapter trail south to north over five days. Three nights we camped out, one night we went home due to weather. We “slack-packed”—our packs were ferried for us by generous collaborators so we didn't have to carry them all day. On the fourth day by pre-arrangement, we joined up with the monthly chapter group hike from Springvale Rd. to Krause Rd. It was a blast!

So, we're going to do it again in 2023. This time, hiking north to south, again five days, four nights, again slack pack camping. ...and in September instead of October.

## September 8-12

Day 1, Friday: 17.2 miles - Kipp Road trail head to Skyline Shelter.

Day 2, Saturday: 15.7 miles - Skyline Shelter to Chandler Hill Road. Join JV45 monthly group hike. Disperse camp (tents)

Day 3, Sunday: 13.7 miles - Chandler Hill Road to Dobleski Road. Disperse camp (tents)

Day 4, Monday: 15.9 miles - Dobleski Road to Pinney Bridge SFCG. Tent camp established sites, outhouses, fire rings

Day 5, Tuesday: 16.8 miles - Pinney Bridge SFCG to Starvation Lake Road.

You are welcome to participate. Join us! ...it's a great way to nail "Hike 100". Please let me know your intentions. Closer to the hike we'll be working out detailed logistics.

- Do you want to do the whole thing?
- Do you want to do part (which days)?
- Do you want to help support the hike (shuttle people and gear)?  
(we'll work out in detail when you can and what)

**UPDATE** – So far, we have 3 interested in all or part of the hike – be sure to let Duane know if you are interested!!



### Upcoming Opportunities / Events

Sue Bouwense – Events Coordinator [sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com)

National Trails Day -- Wild Things Return to the NCT!

On Saturday, June 3 our chapter will again welcome some strange but wonderful characters on the Skyline Trail. In honor of National Trails Day, the Wild Things will be lurking on the section of trail between Krause Road and Brubaker Road, 6.5 miles south of downtown Petoskey, between 9 am and 3 pm. Our goal for hosting this event is to introduce families and younger folks to the magic of the NCT, but we know from experience that it will attract more seasoned hikers who are just looking for a fun excuse to get outdoors.



In case you are not up on your literary skills, the “Wild Things” are characters from Maurice Sendak’s book for children, *Where the Wild Things Are*. The fun cardboard cutouts we use were created by Petoskey Library assistant Marty Samson. We’re so thankful for her skills with a paintbrush! Hikers will be encouraged to post photos with the Wild Things on social media with our hashtag (#WildThingsNCT).

We will need volunteers to help place the Wild Things on the trail (8 to 9 am), and to greet visitors at the Krause Road trailhead (9 am to 3 pm). If we have enough volunteers, we may also offer car spotting to Brubaker Rd. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Sue Bouwense at (231) 347-4394 or email [sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com).



### Top of Michigan Festival of Races

Once again, our chapter will host an aid station for Top of Michigan Trails Council’s Festival of Races on Saturday, May 27, and we could use your help! The task involves handing water or Gatorade to runners as they pass by, so it’s not real demanding, but our service and smiling faces mean a lot to the Trails Council, event host and promoter of all things related to trails in our area. This year the course for the race passes through Petoskey State Park, and that is where we will be located. Your help is needed from 7:30am to 10:45am. Contact Sue Bouwense – (231) 347-4394 or email [sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com) – if you are available to be there.

## Wild Things on a Trail!



**Celebrate National Trails Day  
on the North Country Trail  
Saturday, June 3, 2023**

**10 am - 3 pm  
Krause Rd Trailhead  
3484 Krause Rd, Petoskey**





## March 18th Group Hike Report – Hatchery to M-32

Story by Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net

Winter's last gasp?...On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Bob did a pre-hike scouting trip to Warner Creek and the Jordan Valley. It definitely looked like winter was on the wane. For the mile in to O'Brien Pond there was a good base of snow but not so deep as to require snowshoes. At Deadman's Hill Road you could even drive all the way in to the parking lot and at the Hatchery there was little snow on Jordan River Road (JRR). Well, that all changed quickly. This hike had the best snow of the winter. The forecast was for 2 to 4 inches but we ended up with the better part of a foot of the white and fluffy stuff, much of it during the hike. It was breezy and temperatures were in the teens.

Seven of us met up at the M32, Warner Creek trailhead, and then drove to the Jordan Valley National Fish Hatchery. Our first



three quarters of a mile (not on NCT) was on JRR, which, overnight, had accumulated plenty of snow for the snowmobiles but, thankfully, we didn't see many. We picked up the NCT at the "Three Tubes" (culverts) where we paused for pictures.

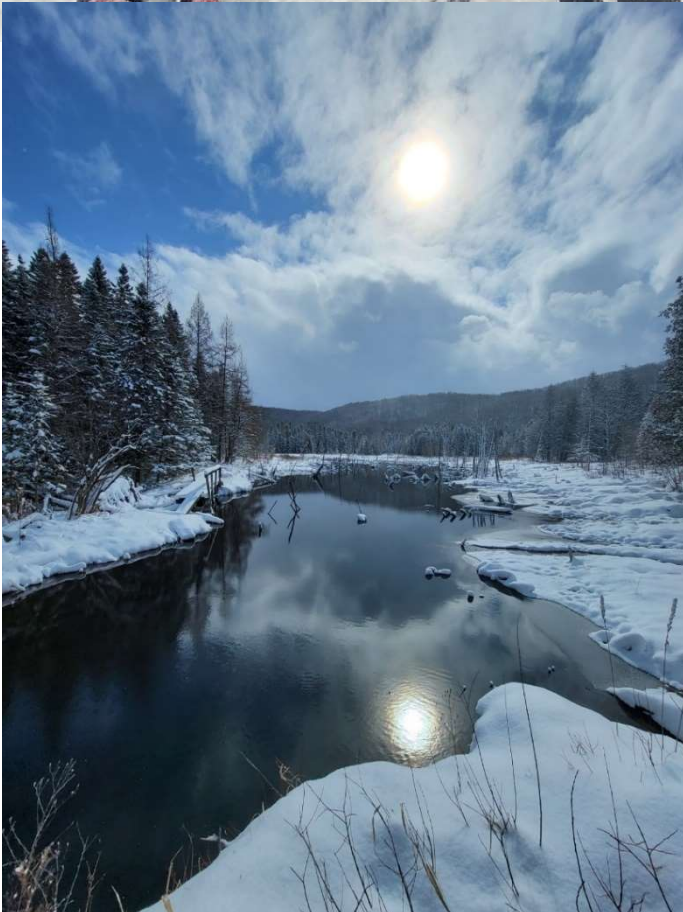
At this point, in near whiteout conditions, three of us put on our snowshoes for the 6.5 miles back to M32. At times, the other four wished they had worn theirs. Most of the trail did not have evidence of recent hikers beyond the depression left in the snow. Sometimes the depressions were the only way to know we were on the trail.

We stopped to rest, eat snacks and take pictures at the unnamed beaver pond where the bridge used to be. This picturesque spot needs an official name!

From there, landmarks included the reroute around the pond, the many springs under Deadman's Hill, the register box at the bottom of the Deadman's access spur, Duane's "Porky Bait experiment" (at the spot the trail rejoins JRR) and O'Brien Pond.

Finally, we stopped at the bridge on O'Brien Pond to take in the view and inspect the world-famous Beaver Deceiver. Really, we just needed a rest before trudging the last mile to M32. This was a very tiring hike.

A remarkable observation about the section from the unnamed beaver pond to O'Brien Pond are all the reroutes, puncheons, boardwalks and bridges. All of these projects involved





dozens of volunteers and thousands of hours. All of the trail and structures require maintenance and, although there are official adopters for each section of trail, a significant amount of maintenance is done by roving crews and as people walk the trail. After taking Kevin and Annie back to their cars at the Fish Hatchery, Kevin, Bob and Will stopped at Larry's. We were happy it has reopened. It was fairly busy and the only food offering were Sloppy Joe's or Chili.



## April 15th Group Hike Report – Warner Creek to Dobleski Rd.

Story by Jane Denay – [jane.denay@gmail.com](mailto:jane.denay@gmail.com)



We had a fantastic group of hikers for April's hike. A total of 17 hikers at the start, 3 for the short version and 14 for the longer hike plus 4 dogs! The number of hikers new to JV45 hikes out-numbered our regulars. Welcome friends. The shorter hike (led by Kevin Whitley) went from Warner Creek Trailhead to Dobleski Road. Those hikers had the bonus of meeting up with Joan Young and Bill Courtois who joined in on the hike. Joan after taking the winter off is finishing her 4800 mile NCT through hike. If you'd



like, you can follow her [blog here](#). The longer hike (led by Dan Dueweke) took hikers out on the refurbished board walk to observe the updated beaver deceiver. Everyone delighted in the awakening of spring ephemerals.



Sharp Leafed Hepatica



Spring Beauty



Ramps / Leeks



Trout Lily

The trail was mostly dry with a few patches of snow in the shady spots which led to a few snowballs being thrown. We did not all delight in the heat of the day, registering at 88 degrees at the end of the hike. John Larch gets the Trail Angel Award for carrying Hamilton the last couple of miles when he and his masters got overheated.



### Trail Maintenance Update

Dan Dueweke - [dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)

### The Spring Walkabout

May is a sweet spot for trail maintenance and hiking in general. Not too hot, few weeds, lots of birdsong in the woods. By now our sawyers should've cleared most of the big blowdowns and blockages but should you encounter any, please call them to my attention. A small folding handsaw will cut most any drooping branch and easily fits in your pocket or pack. Keep one handy as you hike and help clear the way as you go. Even though blowdowns are statistically random, those with blazes seem more prone to falling, as if nature looks for that blue paint and uses it as a target. Adopters should make note of missing blazes on their first inspection hike and plan to return with a paint kit on their next visit. So too should they note any washouts or loose/missing boards on the many structures along the trail.

### Where I Trained

Typically, we have a story in each newsletter about where someone hiked but sometimes, we travel to attend trainings and workshops to improve our skills. Last month I attended a US Forest Service advanced sawyer workshop in the Missouri Ozarks that was part sawyer training and part rollout of the new USFS "Thinking Sawyer" program. Long in the works, ***Thinking Sawyer*** will replace the current MTDC (Missoula) guidebook, online courses, and Game of Logging for future training and sawyer certifications for USFS carded sawyers and volunteers. After two days of classroom presentations, we went into the woods for



fellings, limbing, and bucking practice as well as sawyer certifications and up-certs (going from A to B or B to C-lever sawyer). I gravitated to the axe and crosscut saw sessions given my interest in traditional tools but also had time to watch pro sawyers size up and take down difficult trees with chainsaws. Each tree cut, whether standing or on the ground, was preceded by an **OHLEC** size up and each sawyer briefed the class on the **Objective, Hazards, Lay/where the log would go, Escape plan, and Cut plan**. Each briefing was open to group review and alternate cut plans would be discussed before the first saw stroke. By week's end everyone had felled several trees of differing complexity and been exposed to the techniques and practices of a Thinking Sawyer.

## Where I Hiked – Highlands Hammock State Park, Sebring Florida

Story by Bob Haack – haack@msu.edu

On our recent winter journey through several southeastern states, Sheridan and I made it as far south as Highlands Hammock State Park (HHSP), near Sebring, FL – about 90 miles south of Orlando. This is one of the eight original state parks in Florida developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.



HHSP covers over 9000 acres, with 15 natural communities that vary from cypress swamps to upland pinelands and scrub oaks. HHSP has lots of hiking trails, with several being loop trails off a paved 3-mile-long scenic drive. The Cypress Swamp Trail was our favorite because it was nearly all boardwalk, with much of it being the Historic Catwalk, built by the CCC. You need to pay

attention when walking here because the catwalk is a bit narrow. As of 31 March 2023, the catwalk was temporarily closed for repairs.

Besides the many trails, HHSP also offers tram rides through areas of the park that are generally off limits to the public. There are plenty of photogenic alligators to see on this trip. The Park also has a great Civilian Conservation Corps Museum that tells the story of the CCC in Florida. HHSP is a great park to visit and when you're out hiking there you just may see a Florida Black Bear, Florida Panther, or Florida Scrub Jay! They are all there.

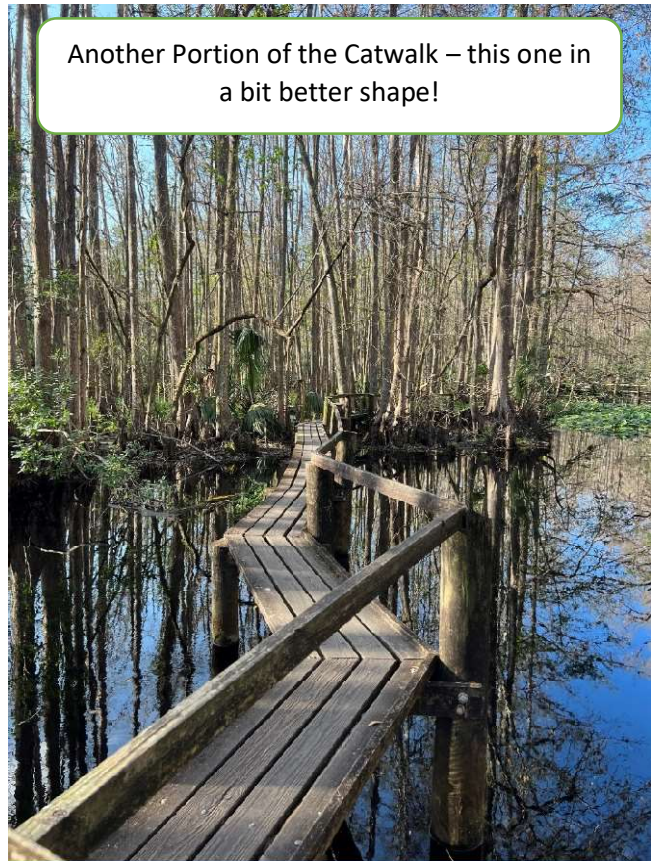




Portion of the Historic Catwalk

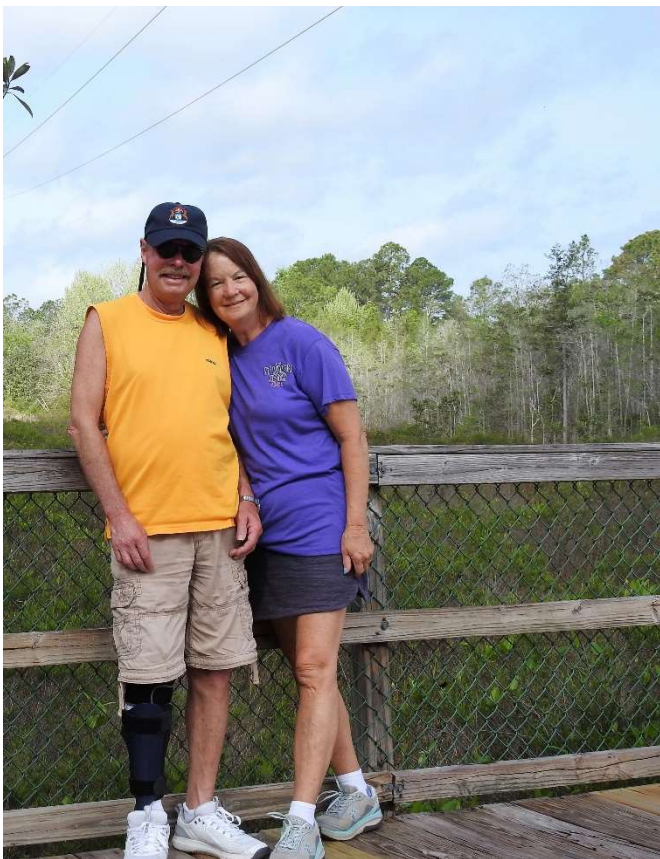


Another Portion of the Catwalk – this one in a bit better shape!



## Where I Hiked – Turkey Creek, Niceville Florida

Story by Ellen Whitehead – twinlakede@gmail.com



### Turkey Creek Nature Trail – A *Two-Mile* Hike

Sometimes it is not the distance you hike but how meaningful the hike turns out to be. My husband Dave has Multiple Sclerosis. He cannot walk far. He cannot walk on uneven ground. Nevertheless, he walks with me the *two miles* around our lake almost every morning because it is paved. I admire his determination to make this a part of his healthy routines despite having a disease that causes his right leg and fingers to be numb, as well as occasional cognitive and anxiety issues. Being a



hiker and loving the North Country Trail, I look forward to getting my 100-mile patch every year. I have some competitiveness in me and so does my husband Dave. He used to run 20-30 miles a week and ran in several 5-K and 10-K races before he was diagnosed with MS 18 years ago. He even ran a half-marathon and the 10-Mile Bobby Crim race in Flint, Michigan. So, not being able to be competitive anymore has been hard for him.

Recently, Dave and I went south for a three-week vacation to escape the waning days of winter in late March and early April. To keep our *two-mile* walking practice going, we walked two miles each morning along Santa Rosa Boulevard on Okaloosa Island, Florida. But I longed to have a long nature hike in the woods. Knowing Dave could not do that with me, I started looking for trails that might work for him. Happily, I discovered a comfortable, *two-mile* option (hmmm, that perfect *two-mile* distance again) for him in Niceville, Florida called Turkey Creek Nature Trail, thanks to the All-Trails app. Turkey Creek Nature Trail is one-mile in and then back on a beautiful, well-maintained boardwalk through a forested bayou.



The boardwalk rises above a floodplain forest along a tannic stream with sandy bottom. It has interpretive markers along the way to assist in plant and tree identification. Bald cypress, sweetgum, red bay, and Atlantic white cedar tower overhead. Along the boardwalk trail, a short extension takes you to the “Path of Memories” where people



have honored lost loved ones with memorial plaques. It was there that I saw this anole creeping up the railing. He crept up slowly and rested for a while; it was as if he enjoyed visiting this sacred space too. We saw many box turtles that seemed to blend into their surroundings and a friendly squirrel that reminded me of the pesky friends that visit my birdfeeders back home.

I am sure there were alligators around, but we didn't spot any this time. The Turkey Creek Nature Trail is near the Eglin Air Force base and people have reported black bear foraging through area garbage bins at the base and surrounding homes.



Hiking the *two-miles* at Turkey Creek Nature Trail with my husband Dave reminded me of this quote by Albert Einstein: “Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” As a couple, we have come to understand. You don’t have to run a marathon, you don’t have to get your 100-mile patch every year; you just have to get out there, look, listen, and breathe in the beauty of the outdoors, no matter the distance!



## JV45 Leadership Meeting April 27, 2023 - 5:15pm

Members present: Kevin Whitley, Dan Dueweke, Jim Howell, Annie Matz, Sue Bouwense, and Mary Campbell

Meeting called to order at 5:20pm by Kevin Whitley.

2/23/2023 meeting minutes approved by all.

### News from NCTA:

1. Kevin reminded members that the NCTA awards nomination will need to be submitted by May 1.
2. Kevin attended a recent zoom meeting with NCTA where Paul Gagnon was introduced as a resource for trail protection work to help members working to secure access for the trail. Paul will be conducting workshops on this subject.

### Financial Report:

Current balance: \$6300

Members: 106

### Work Projects:

Duane is planning a workday on May 13, Option 1 is to move material to the wet area between Pinney bridge and 3 tubes.

Option 2 is to work on sign construction at Duane’s house.

### Reroutes:

Dobleski Rd-US 131-Geim Rd: Mary sent email to land owner Joe Taylor and is awaiting a response.

Cedar Valley Rd: no progress

Notestine property: no progress

North Conway Rd-Kipp Rd: Duane wrote letter to County Commissioner requesting a meeting.

Signs and interpretive panels are almost done and should be coming soon. No specific date.

Adding a plexiglass cover to signs is being discussed to prevent wearing.

### Tool trailer/Toolbox:

Toolbox is in good condition

Tool trailer lock is hard to open, Jim has volunteered to try spraying with lubricant to increased function.

DR trimmer battery is not holding a charge so Jim will purchase a new one.

### Miscellaneous Items:

Non-Trail Structures Inventory: Jim is working on.

Patch for hikers completing the JV45 section: Kevin is working on a design and prices.



Creating a T-shirt for member volunteers was discussed.

NPS is taking over the Jr. hiker program with input from Evelyn Howell. This should be completed by the end of this year.

#### Trail Adopter Report by Dan Dueweke:

Trail conditions: JV45 consists of about 50 miles of wooded trails, of these 20 miles have been cleared which leaves 30 to go.

Dan has plans to use 6 carsonite stakes to mark the area of new trail near the Click Rd soccer fields.

Kevin will put an order in for more carsonite stakes.

Dan says the trail is in good shape overall.

There are still openings for sawyer recertification at the classes offered in Rapid City.

Dan is certified to teach and evaluate cross-cut sawyers classes for the US Forest Service. He could also help with traditional tool training for NCT.

#### Group Hikes:

On May 20, 2023 the JV45 chapter will join the Harbor Springs chapter for a NPS ranger led hike through Wilderness State Park.

Entire Chapter Hike: Plans are currently being made for a hike through the JV45 area in September. Contact Duane Lawton if you are interested.

#### JV45 Events by Sue Bouwense:

5/27 JV45 will man an aid station for the Petoskey Marathon. Volunteers are needed to man the station in the Petoskey State Park from 7:30-10:45am, Contact Sue Bouwense if you would like to help.

June 3 National Trails Day: **Wild Things** event will be held at the Skyline area from 9am-3pm. Volunteers would be appreciated.

September 23 North Country Trail Day: Looking for ideas.

September 27 – Oct 1: NCT Celebration will be held in Chestertown, NY

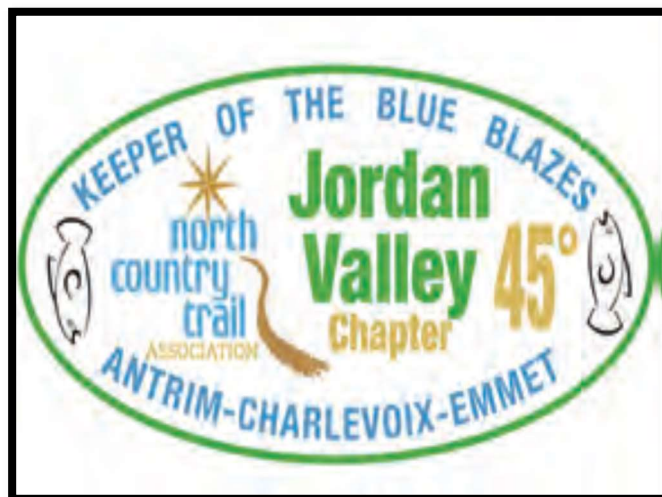
October 14 **or** 21 (TBD) JV45 Trail Adopters Hike and Lunch is being planned at the Chandler Twp Hall.

June 22 will be our next leadership meeting (location tbd).

Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm

Minutes typed by Annie Matz

JV45 Secretary / Treasurer



## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin Whitley – President

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