

Upcoming Events

September 16. Saturday, JV45 hike and chapter meeting. Warner Creek Pathway. Hike 1-5 pm. Paul Spoelstra will be our speaker. See details at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1741373069496692>

Note: JV45 typically offers a hike on the 3rd weekend of every month, usually Saturday, sometimes Sunday.

September 23. Workday, see p. 4

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The JV45° Newsletter is published six times per year, every other month

Message from JV45° President Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com

What a summer. I hope you're all having fun. We are getting things done gradually.

2017 Jordan Valley Projects. We have a permit application! Paige Perry, DNR Trails specialist, submitted the permit application to the DEQ. What is it? As Kenny summarized: "In the end the entire project will total 505' of puncheon, 92' worth of steps, and 163' of benched trail." Don't know when this will be approved.

However, the signage planned (You Are Here signs, road crossing marker posts, interpretive panels) needs no further review or approval. DNR has now provided us with the signs and panels, and we are gearing up to do this. See the article about our having done the Warner Creek Pathway on August 6th (p 4), and the announcement of our North Country National Scenic Trails Day project "Rock The Valley" where we hope to install all the signage in the Jordan Valley in one day.

Our DNR Liaison Tom Copenhaver (Young State Park manager) has obtained a DEQ revision to our existing permit for the O'Brien Pond beaver deceiver. We will be stabilizing and anchoring the boardwalk, and increasing the deceiver capacity by more than three times. Do we have the

resources (you) to also do this on NCNST Day? We'll see.

Long Distance Hikers Coming Our Way. (on the NCT not AT). Kristin Eggen of Iowa, will likely be coming through our JV45 section in mid-September. Hoping to coordinate our September 16 Hike100 hike with her passing through. Mike Villo, also coming though in September, no other details yet.

2019 NCT Celebration. In 2019, it is the turn of Michigan's Lower Peninsula chapters to host the annual gathering. Guess what. We're it. Eugene Branigan, JV45 Vice-President, was approved by the NCTA Board (he volunteered) to lead the organizing committee for the Celebration, and the site selected is Shanty Creek Resorts, near Bellaire (in early May 2019). This is smack in JV45 territory. See Eugene's piece on how you can help. This is an honor and also a challenge. Oh, and we'll need to get the Valley fixed up by then or be embarrassed.

We have Paul Spoelstra as our speaker for our September Chapter Meeting on the 16th, in Boyne Falls, after the hike. Paul will provide more details on the Hike 100 for Parkinson's program. For future meetings, let me know if you have a memorable hike, or similar event, that you'd like to present in about 30 minutes.

Duane



Group shot from the July Potluck at Dove & John Day's Barn



NCTA "Hike 100 for Parkinson's"

Paul Spoelstra will be our special guest speaker at the JV45 Chapter Meeting in Boyne Falls, on the evening of September 16. Paul is on the NCTA Board and will discuss the recent partnership between the NCTA and the Parkinson's Association of West Michigan (PAWM). The aim is to promote the benefits of hiking for people with Parkinson's disease and their families, as well as increase awareness of the NCT. The benefits of hiking are critical for people with Parkinson's because it improves balance and flexibility. A special patch is available for participants who hike 100 miles as part of this program. The official rules are listed below. Participation is open to everyone, including those diagnosed with Parkinson's and those who have not. In addition, people can also earn a patch by hiking 100 miles in honor of someone with Parkinson's, either living or deceased. Please attend the meeting on September 16th to learn more.



<https://www.facebook.com/HikePD/>

Rules

This patch represents the mission to promote and reward those that are hiking for the Parkinson's community. Having Parkinson's Disease is not a requirement, but hiking with or supporting a family member or friend that has Parkinson's is the honor. You may also hike in honor of someone who passed from Parkinson's Disease.

Other Requirements:

(1) Walk/Hike 100 Miles anytime (no-time restrictions; Special Events led by NCTA/PAWM might apply); and (2) Join "Hike for Parkinson's" Facebook page. No retroactive miles, must start anew; effective upon registration. Miles do not need to be unique (hike a section multiple times or earn in combination with another NCTA patch.)

To Register: Email Paul at <spoelymi@comcast.net> and give (1) Your Full Name, (2) Mailing Address, (3) state if you are hiking for yourself or in support of someone with Parkinson's, and if you wish, name the person you are hiking in support of.

Any Questions – email or call Paul Spoelstra at 616.890.7518



Hiking the North Country Trail

Powerful Movements for People with Parkinson's

"Big powerful movements are the key to a highly effective exercise program," says Dr. Sarah King, PT, from [Invigorate Physical Therapy & Wellness](#). Combine this key element with a solid and attainable goal, like the North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Hike 100 Challenge and people dealing with Parkinson's can have a winning program for 2017!

Did you know that...

...hiking is often listed as a top exercise to consider?

...over 1500 hikers completed the 2016 Hike 100 Challenge?

...North Country National Scenic Trail is the longest hiking trail in the US and runs right through West Michigan?

A New Partnership is Formed

Parkinson Association of West Michigan (PAWM) has teamed up with the NCTA's West Michigan Chapter (WMC) to promote hiking as opportunity for exercise. "The WMC is excited to be partnering with the Parkinson's Association to encourage accessibility and use of the NCTA trail" says Beth Keloneva, President WMC. Being recognized as a Hike 100 Challenger will further the incentive to get out and experience this National

Scenic Trail! A PAWM hiker will also receive a commemorative patch.

Hiking with Trekking Poles

Many hikers pull out their trekking poles to leverage their hiking experience. For those with Parkinson's, this can have added benefits. It adds a safety component, and it strongly engages the movement of the arms. Using poles engages the whole body in a holistic cardio-pulmonary fitness experience. Dr King continues with the benefits of hiking for people with Parkinson's: "Your brain responds best to challenging, unpredictable and fun environments; it keeps you engaged and present, surrounding you with fresh air, beautiful scenery and often pairs you with your closest friends, even if its of the canine variety!"

How to get involved:

- 1) Connect with the NCTA and register for the 2017 Hike 100 Challenge. www.northcountrytrail.org
- 2) Confirm your involvement by sending a "I'm Doing It!" email to spoelymi@comcast.net
- 3) Like "Hike for Parkinson's" Facebook page and stay connected.

Benefits of Trail Hiking

Promotes Cardiopulmonary Fitness

Positive Kinetic Experience

Creates Variety in Tempo, Activity and Direction

Increases Balance

Offers All Difficulty & Challenge Levels

Decreases Rigidity

Exposure to Fresh Oxygen Promotes Brain Health

Socially Invigorating



For more info contact Paul Spoelstra — 616-890-7518/spoelymi@comcast.net or Brian Toronyi (PAWM) at 616-862-4354

The North Country National Scenic Trail Ballad

John Day

johnanddove@gmail.com

In April of 2007, an NCTA Field Grant was given to commission the writing of a ballad for the organization. Florence Hedeon, the Itasca Moraine Chapter grant-writer, met with Charlie Maguire to begin the process of song writing in May 2007. Charlie was at the dedication of Minnesota's Itasca State park section of the trail in 1990, and thought that's all there was to the Trail... then he found out it was a 4,600 mile long footpath! Over the next two months, the song was written and re-written, with words to dedicate the ballad to its 27 year history at the time. A Scheels Sporting Goods grant paid for the studio time, and Trail benefactors supported the production of the CDs, and the live performance at the conference. The song was debuted at the annual conference in Bemidji, MN on August 4, 2007. Bruce Matthews harmonized, and Bill Menke along with Claire Cain danced while others sang along.

Each volunteer, chapter and State along the trail will relate to the Ballad as it stands, but each might write their own verse(s) to reflect what makes the trail special to them... any JV45 takers? The CD is available at the NCTA Trail Town Shop in Lowell, MI. Much of the above historical information was based on Florence Hedeon's article on p. 23 of the July – September 2007 edition of the North Star <https://issuu.com/northcountrytrail/docs/north_star_vol26_03>.



Charlie Maguire singing the NCT Ballad.
Photo by Mick Hawkins



John Day singing the NCT Ballad at the
July 2017 Potluck

North Country National Scenic Trail

By Charlie Macguire

North Country
National Scenic Trail
New York to North Dakota it goes
Putting history's footsteps
Under your boot heels
You're walking with heroes
And restoring your soul

-Refrain-

The North Country Trail
Brings you closer to knowing
The spirit inside you
That grows and grows
Saying what to take with you
What to leave behind
And if you're willing
What you're likely to find

-Additional Verses-

Forty-six hundred miles
Out to the west
The premiere trail of them all
From Lake Champlain to Sakakawea
Adventure in winter
Spring, summer and fall

Hiking mountains and cities
And tall prairie grasses
Swinging up forests and dale
A seven-state welcome
Each with a story to tell you
The North Country National Scenic
Trail

With every mile and turn
Of the North Country "Blue"
From the beginning until today
Beats the heart of a volunteer
Wishing you well
Along with the signs
Guiding you on your way

New York, Pennsylvania
Ohio, and Michigan
All fitting together so grand
Wisconsin, Minnesota
And North Dakota
The past, present, and future
Of this American land

To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: <http://northcountry-trail.org/j45/?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

Loki & Berries Update. (Our own Mary Campbell and John Larch are thru hiking the Appalachian Trail) "Monday, July 31: Day 132, mile 1578 slightly over 600 miles remaining." Follow them online and wish them well Plus Loki's prose is inspiring. <http://trailjournals.com/entry.cfm?id=557887>

YAH Posts Planted at Warner Creek Pathway

Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

We planted four “You Are Here” map posts and one map bulletin board in the Warner Creek Pathway area on August 6th. This was a dry run for the plantings to be done in the Jordan Valley on September 23rd. Thanks to Eugene and Linus Branigan, Denise and Jim DeKett, and Sheridan and Bob Haack for their help. Denise and Jim also circled the pathway and chainsawed deadfall from the trail.



Top: Sheridan & Bob appreciating Eugene's post-hole digging skills.

Left: (L-R) Linus & Eugene Branigan, Duane Lawton, Bob & Sheridan Haack, and Denise and Jim DeKett after erecting the map bulletin board.



One of the four YAH posts

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>.

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – President
delawton@torchlake.com

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

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Denise DeKett – Secretary
dedekett@gmail.com

Todd Winnell – Treasurer
toddwinnell@gmail.com

Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jenwinnell@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
haack@msu.edu

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

NCNST Day “Rock The Valley,” Saturday, September 23, 2017

We want to make North Country National Scenic Trail Day really significant this year, and we'll do that by working our trails off. So mark your calendars and plan to participate. All the details aren't decided yet, but here are the ideas:

- We have 16 “You Are Here” sign posts, 2 YAH bulletin boards, 2 interpretive panels and 4 road crossing marker posts to plant throughout the valley. Some have to be trekked in long distances to interior sites.
- We could be looking at doing boardwalk repair and beaver deceiver upgrade at O'Brien Pond (pending enough help).
- Maybe our Jordan Valley Trail Improvements DEQ permit will be approved by then, if so there will be unlimited opportunities.
- Maybe we'll be so energized that we decide to camp out Saturday night at Pinney Bridge SFCG and keep trucking Sunday.
- Maybe we can get other groups to join in our efforts.

Any other ideas appreciated. If you have marked your calendar, send me a note so I can gauge participation. We will be sending out more details as they are developed. Duane Lawton, delawton@torchlake.com

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

doveday70@gmail.com

johnanddove@gmail.com



All is well on our beautiful section running from Conway to Mancelona. Our trail sections remain 100% adopted and we have had lots of support from others who just want to help out on the trail. We are very excited to announce some new certified sawyers to our chapter. In July Doug Seaney renewed his certification and Tony Sokol, Denise & Jim Dekett, Bob Haack and Eugene Branigan took the chainsaw certification class as well. Our chapter now has 11 certified sawyers!



Chainsaw training at Sleeping Bear Dunes



Chainsaw Safety Training

Robert Haack

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Several JV45 members attended a 2-day Chainsaw Safety Class at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in July 2017. The course was sponsored by the National Park Service and led by Scott Peterson, from Ludington, MI. Scott is a nationally certified chainsaw safety instructor with decades of experience. He also has his own tree care company in Ludington: SOS Tree Service (<http://sostreeservice.com/>). The first day of the course was held indoors, and field instruction and testing was on day 2.

We had several people attend the course who represented many NCT Chapters. From JV45, we had Eugene Branigan, Denise & Jim Dekett, Bob Haack, Doug Seaney, and Tony Sokol. We all passed, but like everyone who handles a chainsaw, we all need more practice. Stay safe.

Chainsaw Safety

Chris Loudenslager

christopher_loudenslager@nps.gov
Trail Planner, North Country National
Scenic Trail; National Park Service;
PO Box 288, 219 East Main Street;
Lowell, MI 49331

(In response to a question from Eugene Branigan on chainsaw certification and safety, Chris Loudenslager gave a very complete response that I have included below with only a few edits. Bob Haack)

Remember, although you may be chainsaw certified, be mindful of your level of skill and experience, your level of comfort with a given tree to work on, and what you are certified to do: do not exceed any of these. The NCT is a trail for recreation: don't risk your life or limbs just so people can have a relaxing walk in the woods. If you have a tree you think needs to be cut, but it is beyond your skill or comfort level, WALK AWAY, and call someone with more experience: another chapter sawyer, your RTC (Kenny Wawsczyk), or me.

When you go out, you need the following:

1. Current First Aid, CPR, and chainsaw certification. You do not need to carry the documents unless the land manager where you are working requires it- just be sure your training is up to date and not expired. Saw certification is good for three years.
2. A second person (preferably someone who is also chainsaw + first aid/CPR certified).
3. PPE: Hard hat, eye protection, chaps, hearing protection, appropriate work boots, appropriate gloves, long pants (no shorts), and we recommend long-sleeve shirts.
4. First Aid kit: Appropriate size and quantity of items to treat injuries that should be anticipated when using a chainsaw.
5. A whistle (per NPS policy; not required per Forest Service policy).
6. Some means of communication: cell phone, two-way radio, etc. Even if you don't have coverage where you're working, you may have it if you move to higher ground, into a clearing, once you're out of the woods, etc.

I would also recommend a small backpack with the following: chainsaw tools (scrench, files, file guide, etc.) I like having a few paper towels as well, a black marker to color the tooth I started with when I'm sharpening the chain so I can keep track of where I started, and a couple toothbrushes or similar for cleaning the saw: one for brushing out oily/wet grime, one kept generally dry and clean for finishing. Extra bar and extra chain (contingency for if you get your bar stuck: take your stuck bar off and leave it in the tree; mount the extra bar and chain on your saw to cut the stuck bar out. Also good to have just in case).

Other important items include: hand saw, at least 2 wedges (I carry six), ax or small sledge to drive wedges, flagging to mark hazard trees, extra pair of Rx glasses if you wear them, extra water, possibly a small flashlight and small towel, maybe a GPS or map to record the location of hazard trees, and of course extra saw gas and bar oil if you're going out for an extended distance or have several trees to cut.

continued on page 6

Register Box Buzz



County Line Trail Box

Danyell Minier

<danyellminier@yahoo.com>

County Line Box was installed on July 11, 2015 with 19 adults, 1 kid and 1 dog ages 9-76 signing in that day. The installation crew included two thru hikers: Luke “Strider” Jordan and Ed Talone. Since that time many people have registered at the trail box and Dove Day was kind enough to show me where it was. The name of this box refers to its position near the County Line between Charlevoix and Emmet Counties.

In July of 2015, Dan and Greg were riding their bikes from Boyne Falls to Petoskey and were thankful that bikes are allowed on the trail. Nick from Muskegon was headed to the Bridge Walk along with Glen and Steve. The Heritage Chapter and Grand Traverse Hiking Club were both represented through this section of the trail. Jill and Eric from Ontario also say “Please keep sharing the trail with bikes! Thanks!” Cyndi and Terry say Hi to Dove, John and Duane! They also hiked 17 miles to get to the trail box in September of 2015. The Schepbach family was enjoying the fall colors on their annual family hike in October of 2015. MC from Charlevoix said “I love biking the NCT.” Susan Miller hikes the trail frequently and even brings friends! Susan also hiked the trail in snowshoes, and then a week later and 50 degrees warmer, hiked with her light hikers on! Chuck Johnson says this is his favorite NCT section. A WOW (Women Outdoors on Wednesday)



group hiked to the overlook. The Grosskopf family got out and hiked the trail on Christmas Day. In May of 2016, the bees and mosquitoes were out and apparently there was glitter on the plant leaves. On June 1, 2016, Sofar and Bites were pushing towards Ely, MN. Boy Scout Troop 5, out of Petoskey, observed National Trail Day on this section of the Trail. Micah and Jess were visiting from Colorado and hiked on a humid and buggy day in June. And apparently the scenic overlook is a good place to make love!

Mark and Ava from Battle Creek were looking for the Kerner Homestead from 1890. The Jordan 45 girls were out enjoying the colors in October of 2016. Kevin completed Emmet County in September. David from Coloma says his feet hurt. In December and January of this past year it was still great skiing



according to David Lesh. In May 2017, Brad and Dar were out clearing the trail. Lots of wildlife and plants spotted around the trail. Members of the Chief Noonday chapter visited in May 2017. And Boy Scout Troop 5 made it out again in March of this year as they trained for going to the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico!

Chainsaw Safety: continued from page 5

Everyone, and especially sawyers, needs to conduct some form of risk assessment before starting your field work. One simple type of risk assessment I highly recommend is called a “Tailgate Safety Briefing.” This is more like an informal chat between you and the other people involved in the project before you start work, typically at a trail head or parking area (thus the “tailgate” descriptive). You should discuss the work you’re going to do, who is responsible for what, what your emergency action plan will be, what safety or hazard topics people should be thinking about or looking out for. Cover whatever you can think of that will make the project safe and get everyone home in the same condition they started. You should also document the discussion and note what was discussed,

and the date, time and people involved.

You should also do the Trail Safe! online video training that Dan Watson, our former Safety Manager/VIP Coordinator has put together (he’s currently in these roles with Ice Age Trail): <<https://www.nps.gov/noco/trail-safe.htm>>. This is an excellent training resource and is broken down into a series of brief videos. In my opinion, this should be mandatory training for our sawyers.

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

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Meeting Draft Minutes, July 15, 2017

7 PM --- Home of John and Dove Day, following hike and potluck dinner.

1. Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with an estimated 20 chapter members and visitors in attendance.
2. Review of the Agenda. The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Bob Haack, seconded by Tamara Dean, Motion Carried.
3. Financial Report - Chapter account balance is \$5,023.06 as of July 11, 2017, which reflects a net increase of \$1521.06 since the last reporting. The chapter had a \$2000 donation and \$1.25 interest as of June 30, 2017, but incurred \$480.19 in expenses for Skyline shelter material, National Trail Day kit and supplies, and trail signage.
4. Calendar – 2017 Celebration July 27-29, Marquette, MI
5. Topics
 - 5th Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration raffle raised \$229
 - Petoskey Rotary Club donated \$2000 to our chapter (and \$2000 to Harbor Springs Chapter)
 - JV45 Projects Permit being prepared by Paige Perry; DNR. Her statement as of July 12: "the applications are undergoing internal DNR review as well as actively communicating with the DEQ and DNR Natural Rivers program to secure permissions to proceed"
 - Meanwhile, Road crossing marker posts, You Are Here signs, and two interpretive panels can be installed without further permitting. We have the signs, we have the posts!!
 - JV Project Leaders (following receipt of permit these individuals will plan and get crews together)
 - Doug Seaney - Repair spring viewing platform below Deadman's Hill
 - Duane Lawton - Road crossing marker posts, interpretive signs at 2 overlooks
 - Tamara Dean, Nancy Kowaleski, Dove Day - Road crossing marker posts
 - Bob and Sheridan Haack - Messy spots between Cascade Road and Creek
 - Jim and Denise DeKett - Messy spots below Deadman's Hill
 - Danyell & Frank Minier - Repair boardwalk beyond beaver ponds
 - O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver (BD)/Boardwalk repair. Tom Copenhagen has submitted a permit revision request to the DEQ and is waiting for a response. He said the request is to expand the BD, we don't need permission to repair the boardwalk. (Prior forecast not realized: "probably a work bee in late June/early July")
 - 2019 Celebration to be hosted in Lower Michigan. Selection Committee chose Shanty Creek Resorts for a May 2019 Celebration. NCTA BoD President Ruth Dorrough approved Eugene Branigan as Celebration 2019 Organizing Committee Chairman. JV45 is in the sweet spot, we are honored (and on the hook).
 - Bear River Bridge: Will go between Petoskey River Road Sports Park and NMC campus natural area. City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Dept. will submit for the grant. The cost will be



North Country Trail Community Celebration *CONNECTING VETERANS WITH THEIR COMMUNITY*

SEPTEMBER 2ND
YANKEE SPRINGS RECREATION AREA - DAY USE AREA

Join Team RWB and the National Park Service in
Connecting Veterans to the National Parks & Community

HIKING - CAMPING - GAMES

FAMILY FRIENDLY

12:00-2:00 PM

2:00-6:00 PM

EVENING

CANOING - KAYAKING

FOOD & DRINK PROVIDED

GROUP HIKE

PICNIC & GAMES

CAMPING & BONFIRE

CONTACT: BEN SANDA, BEN.SANDA@TEAMRWB.ORG

FACEBOOK: TEAM RWB NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

PLEASE RSVP TO FACEBOOK OR EMAIL BY AUGUST 13TH

"Team Red White [&] Blue" Event

Chris Loudenslager is our NPS Trail Planner for the NCT, and a Marine (once/always). Chris writes "Could you please share this information and invitation with your chapters, contacts, friends, and veterans you may know? We'd be thrilled to welcome any and all who would like to join us! Thank you very much"

- \$165,000 total of which "matching" funds of approximately \$40,000 will need to complement the grant. JV45 is the lead on fund-raising.
- NCTA Executive Director Bruce Matthews retires July 31. New Executive Director is Andrea Ketchmark, who has been NCTA Trail Manager since 2009. Still looking for a new Trail Manager
 - 6. Appreciation was expressed by Doug Boor to Duane Lawton for instigation and promotion of the Skyline Camp.
 - 7. Adjournment: motion by Bob Courtois, seconded by Doug Boor to adjourn the JV45° Chapter meeting, Motion carried.

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

2017 NCTA Celebration: A Great Success

Robert Haack

haack@msu.edu

The 2017 NCTA Celebration took place in Marquette, MI during July 27-29, 2017. There were around 390 people registered for this event, the most ever. The weather was perfect every day, with blue skies and highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s. The meeting took place at Northern Michigan University's University Center, with some attendees staying on campus, while others stayed at nearby motels and campgrounds. Lorana Jinkerson was the Chair of the 2017 Celebration, and she and her staff did a wonderful job in organizing the conference events.

There were two evenings when awards were presented. The National Park Service presented several awards for volunteer hours spent working on the NCT and associated activities. As for JV45 members, Bob Haack received the 100 Hour Award. Similarly, for the NCTA



Dove & John Day (right) receiving their Outreach Award from NCTA Board President Ruth Dorrough

awards, JV45 members John and Dove Day were presented with the Outreach Award, which is presented to "a volunteer, whose efforts to build coalitions, partnerships or other forms of local support have contributed significantly to the ongoing success of the North Country Trail." On the last evening there was a great send-off for Bruce Matthews, who was retiring af-



Some of the NCTA members who were presented the 100 Hour Volunteer Award by the NPS. JV45 member, Bob Haack, in the center. The NPS employees shown here (L to R, and in uniform) are Mark Weaver, Luke Jordan, and Chris Loudenslager.

ter 10 years of service as NCTA's Executive Director.

We will include more stories about the 2017 Celebration in future newsletters. Given that the JV45 Chapter will be hosting the 2019 Celebration, it was a real eye opener to see all that is involved in hosting a conference.

NCTA Celebration 2019: Shanty Creek Resorts, Bellaire, Michigan

Eugene Branigan

eugene.branigan@gmail.com

The 2019 Celebration will be held at Shanty Creek Resort during May 2-5, 2019. Shanty was selected based on venue facilities, availability, and rates. After reading about the great times in Marquette last month, you'll not want to miss this, and hopefully you'll want to pitch in and help organize and host it. I cannot do this myself and from the beginning we are assembling a wonderful team of enthusiastic folks that I have absolute confidence in, and I know we will make '19 one memorable Celebration.

We have several committee chairs to fill, and I am pleased to say that a few have already been spoken for. I have no doubt we will have volunteers to fill all of these chairs after speaking with many great people from our nearby chapter friends:

Committee Chairs:

- Programs (open)
- Auction (if we decide to hold one) (open)
- Registration Coordination (open)
- Logistics (open)
- On-Site Hosts/Information (open)
- Camping Coordination Bob Haack
- Hikes and Trips: Duane Lawton
- Publicity and Marketing: Dove Day
- Sponsorship: Jennifer Winnell

Additionally I want to thank Cheryl Kreindler, Chair of the combined (and much more complicated) Buckeye Trail Association Trailfest / NCTA National Celebration in Hocking Hills Ohio in 2018. She has offered her assistance and I've gladly accepted her help. And I have volunteered to assist her with the 2018 Celebration!

Now that we have a venue we need to begin to work through tasks that should be accomplished according to the timeline already set forth in the Celebration Handbook. We are currently 20 months out.

Quoting the Handbook: 18 months prior: Program and Budget approved by NCTA Executive Director. All contracts signed for facilities, program, speakers, and entertainment. Committees filled with

volunteers. Start to plan for "Passing of the Torch" promotion (in Ohio in April 2018), inviting current year's attendees to our event in 12 months. Marketing/promotion plan approved by NCTA Executive Director. Select a theme and logo design, with HQ approval. Program planning should be well underway.

So in the next few months, we have several to-dos:

- Identify and engage missing committee chairs
- Develop a Budget
- Identify entertainment / speakers
- Plan the mentioned "passing of the torch"
- Marketing Theme / Logo

I have gotten a positive response from several people about using a variation of "high-5 for the trail" or "High-Five for the Lower Peninsula" some sort of takeoff on our mitten-shaped Lower Peninsula for incorporation into our logo and theme but I am of course open to all suggestions.

June Hike 100

Eugene Branigan

eugene.branigan@gmail.com

While driving to the meeting point, Linus and I gazed at the gathering clouds and were a little worried that we might be rained on all day and the weather report was mixed. Bob Courtois called me and I asked him if he wanted to walk a bit further than the scheduled hike and he agreed so we met early at the north end of French Farm Lake and left Bob's jeep behind and drove to the original meeting point.

We arrived 10 minutes early so we took a short drive along Sturgeon Bay taking in the dunes and cursing the pouring rain. We drove back to the trailhead on Lakeview Drive and waited. We gave it an extra 15 minutes after the meeting time and no one else showed up. This actually worked out well for us because it simplified our extended hike without needing to stage another car! Instead of 5 miles we were off on a 17 mile trek through most of the Wilderness State Park portion of the NCT. As soon as we got out of the car and lined up to take the obligatory opening "here we are -- we came to hike" shot the rain stopped which was great. (We took two photos and we're going to use photo-shop to combine them but alas time was short.)

The trail wound through the old dunes inland and quickly hooked into the Wilderness State Park trail system. One thing we were struck by was the literal miles of

trail lined on either side with blueberries, still too early in the season but in a few weeks would be ripe for the picking!

As we strolled along, Bob and I discussed many things and he brought up that he had not seen a fawn all year yet and was wondering if the deer population was down. I did not think this was the case and not more than 5 minutes later with Bob in the lead, myself at the rear and Linus betwixt I heard a disturbance to our right. Startled I called out and Bob halted and turned and a young fawn emerged from the brush and bolted across the trail between Linus and Bob not more than 5 feet from either of them. We had a good laugh and continued along the blueberry-lined trail turning onto an ancient two track, perhaps an old logging road. After a short while the trail veered back onto a single track and coming over a rise, Bob spied a doe nursing a fawn. We skidded to a stop and the doe sprang to life and out of view the fawn froze. I was able to capture a short video of the fawn looking at us while remaining completely still then it began to run towards us, and then off the trail. It was amazing and I pointed out to Bob we had just seen 2 fawns in less than 2 miles and I've never been so close to deer let alone a fawn while on the trail! We could see the trees thinning and ahead of us was French Farm Lake. As we walked over a bridge that also acts as a dam to control the lake levels we came upon a snapping turtle burying its eggs. Just past momma turtle we saw several egg clutches that had either hatched (hopefully but unlikely) or had been breached by predators (more likely) and the egg shells were strewn about.

We passed a neat memorial along the trail for someone's loved one named Thomas G. Alexander and we stopped for a bit and took it in, a simple cross and the bow of a boat the rest buried in the sand.

As we walked by the easier to access portions of French Farm Lake there were



colonies of campers. Some seemed to respect the land and some not so much but we continued on our way. We had been picking up trash along the trail and the pace at which we encountered trash along the trail jumped up exponentially, but we did our best. We made it back to Bob's jeep and then drove back to collect my car. The weather was good, and we saw some neat wildlife!

July Hike 100

Eugene Branigan

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The July hike was going to be a fun one. We would have 3 options of varying lengths and wide attendance. I opted to hike the short hike and acted as a shuttle for Bob Courtois and Duane Lawton and there were a couple of ladies who opted for the longer hike, one who completed her Hike 100 Challenge.

A work friend showed up so I was happy to show him the Skyline Trail and the hiker cabin, water source, and overlook then on down to the Day's wonderful home which they opened for us all to enjoy a post hike party and potluck. We chatted and told lies till the sun faded and then sang the ballad of the NCT and slowly one by one folks departed. It was a great simple and relatively short hike and we all had a great time.



Where I Hiked

Pu'u-pu'u

Duane Lawton

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Pu'u (Hawaiian) “poo-oo”: 1. Any kind of protuberance such as a hill, peak, mound, bulge.

With active volcanism, the Big Island of Hawaii has numerous volcanic cones (vents) adorning its massive volcanoes. Having climbed several, it came to me that I could have a new hobby, climbing pu'us, similar to the hobby of climbing Munros in Scotland (Google it). I am now up to eleven. Here are a few.



Slope to Pu'u Kole summit

2/5/2017

Pu'u Ahumoa (“chicken hill”) is on the southwest flank of Mauna Kea (MK) volcano. Its summit is at 7042'. I hiked 7.0 miles. 2 hrs up (huff, puff, photo-op) and 1 hr back down with a 1500' elev. gain. The hike was mostly on the Mauna Kea “forest road” R-1, but the trail branched off and became a steep rut to the summit. Road 1 encircles MK and is primarily for hunters and off-roaders. 4WD. The 6500-8000' level of Mauna Kea is home to the endangered Hawaiian Palila honeycreepers, which nest in the mamane groves. Unfortunately, I only heard them.



Cairn on top of Pu'u Ahumoa

2/7/2015

Pu'u Kole. Drove up to the trailhead, which is just downhill from the Ellison Onizuka Mauna Kea Visitor Information Center at 9000' (for astronomy buffs). To reach Pu'u Kole, I followed “forest road” R-1 east (it's the other end of R-1!) and downhill for about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing some dangerous a'a lava (rough, loose, sharp), the slope of the pu'u is red cinders, like pea gravel. After about another 1-1/2 miles—uphill—the summit of Pu'u Kole, which is actually lower than the trailhead, at 8848'.



Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a

1/22/2015

Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a. Affectionately known locally as the “Jello Mold”, for its eroded flanks. It is on the slope of Hualalai volcano, and is the largest Pu'u on the island. 6 miles, 1900' vert. (2055'->3962'), 4 hours (2:00 up, 0:45 top; 1:20 down). Backside is a cow pasture.

Near Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a on the slopes of Hualalai (and also on Mauna Kea and on Kohala) I have worked as a volunteer in reforestation efforts. The native trees

(koa, mamane, ohia) are being replanted, having been decimated by ranching, feral pigs, and invasive plants over the last two centuries. This is a very rewarding and fun experience with the variety of folks who turn up to help.

4/20/2012

Pu'u O'o. The active vent of Kilauea volcano, continuously erupting since 1983. Not a lot to say, but a 4+ mile hike through the rain forest, then 2 miles over fresh a'a lava and up the cinder slope about 800' to stand behind the webcams, away from the edge, and watch the lava boil. The summit is at about 3000', the lava travels down through lava tubes seven miles and flows into the Pacific.

Pu'u O'o is on the east rift zone of Kilauea...there was a lava breakout about 6 miles further east in 2015 at Kupainanaha that threatened to inundate the town of Pahoa, and cut off residents beyond in the Puna district (didn't, whew!). There is a hike that approaches Pu'u O'o from the west, but this is the most direct route. Last I heard it is closed.



Rainforest hike to Pu'u O'o



Summit of Pu'u O'o