

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 4



Calendar

General Meeting

Sept. 11, 2014, Thurs.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Boyne Valley Township Fire Hall, Boyne Falls

Speaker: Mary Campbell
"Trip to Isle Royale"

All Welcome

(see article pg.3)

Group Camp/Work Days

Beaver Deceiver Project

Sept. 5-8, 2014

Camp South end of
O'Brien Pond Dam
(see pg. 1)

Minnesota Hiking Celebration

4 NCTA chapters

Aug. 21-23, 2014

Spirit Mt., Duluth, MN.

(See website & NOTE:
NCTA is NOT holding a
formal conference this
year.)

NEW! Annual North Country National Scenic Trail Day

Sept. 27, 2014

(see pg. 3)

Volunteers needed to
plan-contact Duane
delawton@torchlake.com

August, 2014



President's Report by Duane Lawton

Beaver Deceiver Project

Through the tireless efforts of Ken Phillips, a permit has been issued by the DNR for the construction of a "Beaver Deceiver" (BD) and up to 100 feet of puncheon at O'Brien Pond, to repair and stabilize the trail as it crosses the impoundment (old railroad grade).

We were notified in early August that our application for a Field Grant of \$1000 from the NCTA has been approved! We are currently seeking another \$1000 elsewhere to cover all of the puncheon materials needed.

Meanwhile, we do have enough for the Beaver Deceiver itself. With a pending DNR requested "Application/Permit to Use State Land", we will be holding a work weekend on September 5-8. YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. We will be camping at the south end of the O'Brien Pond Dam Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. We will have communal food service. Connie Allen has volunteered to be our "Chief Cook" and the chapter is picking up the food cost. Connie would appreciate some help-if you're willing to pitch in, please let us know.

In addition, we will be going out to the site a couple of days in advance (Tuesday or Wednesday) to initiate the water level drawdown. Let me know if you want to participate in that...

Let us know if you can come, which day(s), and if you intend to camp. We will provide more details...do you have waders? Contact Duane at delawton@torchlake.com 248-496-1869



Photo: Beaver Deceiver

Distance Signs and Register Boxes Project

Duane Lawton and Mary Campbell installed two more register boxes/distance signs on August 2nd: One on the North Central Michigan Natural Area loop trail as the NCT peels off eastbound, where the junction was poorly marked, and one at the east end of the Petoskey Natural Area Skyline Trail, where the junction of the spur to the parking area is—near Krause Rd.

For the NCMC loop box we used a unique method to ferry the box, post, redimix and tools the half mile in to the site.

This was in advance of the Little Traverse Conservancy holding its 42nd Annual Meeting “Celebrating Community Conservation Connections” on August 5th at NCMC in Petoskey, featuring “Field trips to the NCMC Natural Area & the Skyline Trail”. We don’t know yet if anyone will be joining us as a result, but at least the trail is better marked and our name and contact information is out there.

On a recent trip back to the first register box below Deadman’s Hill, we found that it is still in one piece, performing as intended...had to put in more brochures. There are a lot of comments in the log, here are some:

May 26: Rick Pardee...been coming here for 40+ years, great trail. Elk Rapids.

May 31: Stewart and Sonja, Ryan (4) Evalyn (20 months) Chipman...Doing our annual trail walk. Very nice and sunny! Thanks for the box ☺

May ?: Doug Seaney and Gene Dawson...spring clean up 4-5 miles. 75°. Great day!

June 19: The Old Woman of the Woods. Holly Gohlke—Lakes of the North... Love JVT hike it all the time. No issues—like it rugged.

June 28: Adam, Yarwijn, Alexandra...Lansing, Mich. This is the BEST!

July 5: Beautiful...Need to fix the mucky spots!

?: redacted

July 12: 9:15 am Troop 228 Heading for Pinney Creek Bridge (sic)

July 28: I survived my first MI death march. Nick Haitorn, Richmond, VA aka The Iliotibial Bandit

August 3: Chad & Danielle Reed Muskegon MI Celebrating our 4 yr anniversary by camping, hiking and kayaking!

74 positive log entries between May 26 and August 3! Most of these folks hadn’t encountered the beaver ponds yet, though!



Photos: Top-Duane Lawton & Mary Campbell with register box.

Right-Mary transporting box.



Photo: Flagging Event Participants on Dobleski Reroute-Duane Lawton, Glen Ruczynski, Mary Campbell, Ethan, and Mykah

Dobleski Reroute Update

We need to flag a proposed reroute path between Dobleski Rd. and Giem Rd. This route plan is a requirement to complete the National Park Service's "Optimum Location Review" document, that will enable the NPS to get involved in acquiring property access needed for the reroute.

We held a flagging event on Thursday, July 10th—before our July Chapter Meeting—to do that work. Participants were myself, Mary Campbell, Glen Ruczynski, Ethan my grandson and his friend Mykah. In addition, Jeff McCusker, Trail Manager, North Country National Scenic Trail, NPS, was able to walk the intended route behind us, and provide feedback during our evening meeting.

Here is the feedback: We have a PUD. PUD is a "Pointless Up and Down"...while intending to take the trail to a vantage point on the ridge just south of Giem Rd., we apparently were setting up future hikers for this dreaded challenge. It turns out that running the trail on a lower contour to the west of the ridge will make the trail section much less challenging. We also need to move trail flags into the woods along a couple of "gas well roads" (2-tracks) earlier in the route.

With those changes in mind, we will again have Jeff with us on September 8th to tweak the flagging and hopefully finalize the GPS waypoints. You are welcome to join us!!

September Meeting announcement

Our September meeting will be held on Thursday the 11th, at the Boyne Valley Township Fire Hall, starting at 7:00 pm. This month our featured speaker will be Mary Campbell, our chapter secretary, who will regale us with the wonders of Isle Royale, which she recently visited.

Refreshments will be served (thank you Mary)!

First Annual North Country National Scenic Trail Day Saturday Sept. 27

At this time the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter does not have an event scheduled to celebrate this new annual observance. Hopefully we can come up with something at our September meeting on the 11th.... Let me know if you have any ideas.

Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com 248-496-1869

Secretary's Report by Mary Campbell, Chapter Secretary

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter - North Country Trail

July 10, 2014- 7pm Boyne Valley Twp Fire Hall

Minutes-DRAFT

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to Order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with approximately 8 chapter members in attendance, and Jeff McCusker of NCT/NPS staff.

2. Review and Approve the Agenda.

3. Approval of the Minutes from May 10, 2014

Motion by Mary Campbell seconded by Bob Haack. Motion Carried

4. Treasurer's Report- Chapter account balance is \$3,103, as of June 30.

5. Membership Report

The chapter membership stands at 63 members, including the following breakdown for recently received memberships:

- 5 Introductory Memberships
- 3 E-members
- 1 Individual membership
- 2 Household memberships

6. Recent Activities

- a. Trail Town Event – June 7, 2014 was very a successful collaborative held in cooperation with the City of Petoskey and the Harbor Springs NCT chapter at Riverbend Park to raise trail awareness, and was attended by approximately 75 people. The Day included music, activities, food and prizes, in addition to booths providing information regarding local trail and environmental groups, and as well as booths by local outdoor gear retailers
- b. Skyline Camp Trail Day-June 21. A fun and productive trailing building day, built and blazed spur trails to the camp site area and nearby spring which will serve as a future water source. This camp will be on the private property of Doug Boor, accessed from the Skyline Trail (NCT) in the Petoskey Natural Area. This work bee was organized by Doug Boor, Mary Campbell, and Margo Hodder. Participants were: Doug Boor, Mary Campbell, Budd Ciccirelli, John & Dove Day, Jim Ehrnst, Peg Jones, Duane Lawton and Bill & Jane Wehrenberg.
- c. O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver project

The chapter has applied for a field grant from the North Country Trail Association for \$1,000 (maximum allowed for this grant source) to partial fund the construction of a beaver deceiver to be installed at O'Brien Pond, a decision on the grant is anticipated by August 1st. The anticipated total project cost is expected to be approximately \$2,000, so the chapter is exploring other grant sources. During the meeting, Jeff McCusker, from NPS indicated he may be able to assist with finding other grant sources.

d. Dobleski Road re-route project

A potential route has been flagged to re-locate the route off Dobleski Road and US-131, with GPS coordinates identified. After consultation from Jeff McCusker, it was determined that the route should probably be revised to reduce the amount of PUDs (Pointless Ups and Downs), prior to seeking approval from NCT and seeking the needed easement across the one private property.

1. Coming Up

- a. Register boxes. Two additional register boxes are proposed to be constructed and installed. One to be located in the North Central Michigan College (NCMC) Natural Area at the trail junction where the NCT splits from the College trail to head up to McDougall Road; and the second to be located in the Petoskey Natural Area at the Skyline Trail and Krause Road trailhead junction.
- b. Beaver Deceiver project. It is anticipated that a camp/work weekend will be scheduled in August or September to install the Beaver Deceiver, once the funding is secured.
- c. Little Traverse Conservancy will be holding their 42nd annual meeting at NCMC Petoskey, August 5, with a hike following in the college natural area on a portion of the NCT.

2. Other Information Updates

- a. There was a brief discussion of whether it might be possible to install a beaver deceiver in the Jordan Valley instead of constructing the proposed trail re-route.
- b. It was noted that a portion of Cascade Road in the Jordan Valley area is closed due to a major washout of the road.

3. Trail Coordinator Report

- a. The trail adopter status update was presented. Additional sections of trail are still available for adoption; see the website for the list of available sections. In the discussion about what is involved with trail adoption, it was noted that a training video is available on-line at the NCTA website, under the volunteer tab.

4. Featured Presentation: **Exotic Forest Insects and Diseases Along the NCT**, by Bob Haack USDA Forest Service Entomologist. Bob shared a very interesting presentation, regarding some of the forest insects and diseases that are currently found and/or spreading, including changes in the ranges of where various insects have been found over time.

5. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Next meeting scheduled for 7pm, Thurs. Sept. 11, 2014 at the Boyne Valley Township Fire Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary H. Campbell, chapter secretary

mcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com

Input from Members---Bob & Sheridan Haack

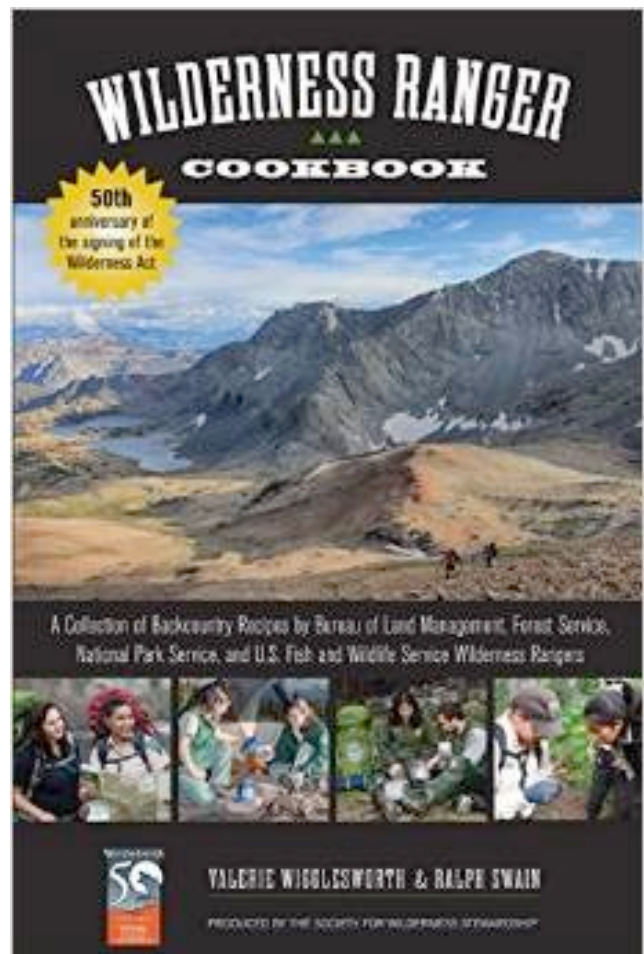
Wilderness Ranger Cookbook updated for Wilderness Act's 50th Anniverary

Ralph Swain, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Region and coauthor of the "Wilderness Ranger Cookbook" updated the backcountry cuisine book in recognition of the Wilderness Act's 50th Anniversary. The new version contains more than 100 tried-and-true backcountry recipes from wilderness rangers and volunteers. The book also includes wilderness quotes, historical facts, "Leave No Trace" tips and color photos from our nation's wild lands.

The book will be available at bookstore outlets, Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), the Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Refuge visitor centers and ranger stations.

List price is \$16.95. Also, I checked to see if it is on Amazon, and it is... at under \$13. This is the link.

http://www.amazon.com/Wilderness-Ranger-Cookbook-2nd-backcountry/dp/1493006290/ref=sr_1_1/175-9823975-4385367?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1406596748&sr=1-1&keywords=wilderness+ranger+cookbook



Trail Coordinator Report by Duane Lawton (acting)

The trend in trail adopter reports and status is shown. Progress is being made, “AOK” improved from 9 sections to 17, but:

- Trail from M-32 to Kuzmik (3 sections) is not adopted/trail status unknown. If anyone can make it there, a report would be appreciated. If you’re able to adopt one of these sections, that would be even better!
- Trail at O’Brien Pond is nearly impassable (beaver activity). See article on Beaver Deceiver Project.
- Trail in Jordan Valley at Beaver Ponds is nearly impassable (beaver activity) and collapsed bridge. Detour in force.

...a couple of other minor issues.

To our active adopters and unofficial trail stewards, “Thank You”. ...and a special shout out for the NMMBA folks who are pitching in. ...and to our sawyers and mowers.

The updated dashboard is posted on our website: http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58
 (“Trail Conditions, Adopters & Alerts”)

Duane (delawton@torchlake.com) – Trail Coordinator (acting)

PS: If you are interested in possibly becoming our actual Trail Coordinator, PLEASE contact me.

TRAIL ADOPTERS ACTIVITY TREND

| | | 6/20/14 | 8/10/14 |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|---------|
| STATUS | | | |
| AOK | | 9 | 17 |
| Plan, or Known Minor Issue | | 8 | 1 |
| Unknown, or Known Major Issue | | 7 | 5 |
| road | | 6 | 7 |
| NEEDS | | | |
| AOK | | 6 | 14 |
| Plan, or Known Minor Issue | | 5 | 4 |
| Unknown, or Known Major Issue | | 14 | 6 |
| road | | 5 | 6 |



New Trail Maps Website

<http://www.upnorthtrails.org/>

...sponsored by a host of north-of-Clare--below-the-bridge outdoor organizations, including the NCTA. Since it covers all sorts of types of trails, the hiking trails are overwhelmed—but there’s a lot of good information here.

NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

...is completed, and printed. You can also view it on our website:

http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=57

The two sides are [TRAIL MAP](#) and [TRAIL INFO GUIDE](#)

And “Like” us on FACEBOOK—

www.facebook.com/pages/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45/129820953759968



Photo: Sand Lake at sunset, August.
Sand Lake is between
Starvation Lake Rd. and
Mancelona Rd. on the NCT.

Communications Report by Amy Wilks

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Jeffery Williams

Willing to lead a hike? Let me know and I'll send out the email with time and place.

Willing to become a chapter member? **INTRODUCTORY RATE FOR FIRST TIME MEMBERS-\$23 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL & \$30 FOR A HOUSEHOLD**-email me & I will send you a coupon in the mail.

NOTE: The DNR has requested trail adopters to survey status & GPS location of structures, bridges, boardwalks, benches, fences, railings, signs etc. This is for an inventory to assess maintainance needed. Email Duane at delawton@torchlake.com or me, ameliawilks1@gmail.com

Check out: New Videos on Volunteer Resources, Adopters Training, etc. on website <http://northcountrytrail.org>

Amy Wilks

NOTE: New [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