



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

November 2022

## President's Message

from 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](#)

The North Country Trail Celebration was held in Walker, Minnesota on October 6th through October 8th. I rented a van out of Petoskey and took the long way to Walker stopping to hike and visit South and North Dakota. I was able to visit several National Parks along the way. I hiked in Badlands National Park, underground in Wind Cave National Park, visited Mount Rushmore, and hiked in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. I enjoyed hiking to the high points of both South and North Dakota – Black Elk Peak (elevation 7,244 feet) in SD and White Butte (elevation 3,506) in ND. I then traveled to Walker where I met up with nine other members from our JV45° Chapter. This was a great representation for a chapter located 11 hours of drive time away. I am proud of our chapter for having active members willing to put in the effort to support the Celebration. The NCTA is reporting that about 200 members total attended the Celebration I attended leadership training on Thursday where I shared a table with the NCTA executive director Andrea Ketchmark, the famous Joan Young, and a member of the Next Generation coalition. The Hike and workshops all began from downtown Walker right on Leech Lake, one of the biggest lakes in Minnesota near the headwaters of the Mississippi River. All the evening meals and presentations were held at the Northern Lights Casino where the staff did an outstanding job of preparing buffet meals for us. Jim Howell, Bob Courtois and I were recognized for our volunteer hours milestones; 200, 400, and 100 respectively. Jim was also honored with the Trail Builder award (see separate article below). The Friday night speaker sang songs and told stories of living in Minnesota. The Saturday night speaker presented her experiences hiking the entire Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin. She completed the hike in the winter, solo except with the company of her dog. We did many hikes through the woods on the NCT and the colors of the forest were prime. The NCT passes by many beautiful small lakes in that area.

Next year's Celebration will be held in Chestertown, NY by the Vermont border starting September 27. It will be a couple more hours of driving but I am sure it will be a good time.

## Upcoming Hikes:

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

January 21 – TBD?

## The Trail is Poetry to Me

Story, poetry and pictures by Ellen Schettling Whitehead  
[twinlakede@gmail.com](mailto:twinlakede@gmail.com)  
Part 2 of our Poetry Series

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?*

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.

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](mailto: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!

### Likeness

**When I touch a tree  
I feel more than bark and moss  
I feel a likeness**



### Show Off

**Enhancing the woods  
With their pink and white petals  
Wild orchids show off**



Charlevoix Pubic Library is offering an adult education program on snowshoe making. The class is on Saturday December 3rd from 10am Until 4pm. The cost is \$150 for Materials. Call the library for more information. 231-547-2651





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

Not much has happened in the last two months with our trail projects.

On September 3, Kevin and Dan and I made a start on building the mounts for five of the eight interpretive panels for which we have a field grant. The panels themselves are still being designed, with support from NCTA HQ (Kenny and Kate—thanks!!). Here is where they will go:

- 1 Petoskey Bayfront waterfall
- 2 Quaintance Ave., Bear River park \*
- 3 Riverbend Park entrance \*
- 4 NCMC Natural Area entrance
- 5 Petoskey Youth Soccer Assoc. fields, location tbd
- 6 Krause Road parking \*
- 7 Jordan River Rd., 3 Tubes parking
- 8 Pinney Bridge

\* = there is already a panel there, to be replaced.

We may have another work day to continue building the remaining mounts.

Jim H. and I went to O'Brien Pond on September 7<sup>th</sup> and added railing to one side of the new boardwalk section.

We have not yet confirmed any projects for next year, work will continue on that--permissions and permits--into the fall....



## The Last Summer Logout

Story and Pictures by Dan Dueweke

Sunshine, blue skies and 70° on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Who'd have thought that we'd have summer weather so late in the year? Such an opportunity for hiking and checking on your trail is not to be missed, so I joined up with Jen Reynolds for a day in the Jordan Valley with an axe and crosscut saw. The nine+ mile hike would've been a decent walk on its own but

doing that distance with a chainsaw, chaps, gas, oil, etc. on a warm day would've been unpleasant so we opted for lighter (and quieter) hand tools. Along the way we saw and heard many bald eagles, spotted a salmon the size of an atomic submarine making its way upstream, and cleared at least 20 deadfalls between Pinney Bridge and Deadman's Hill. Our only sounds were the leaves crunching beneath our



feet, quiet conversation, and the singing ring of the saw working through a log.



Not every tree needed the big saw!



Jen on the crosscut saw

## September 17<sup>th</sup> Hike Report – Krause Rd. to Bayfront Park

Story and pictures by Bob Courtois - [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)



After gathering 6 hikers at Bayfront Park, we drove to the Krause Rd. Trailhead and we were on the trail by 11:00. On the way we picked up Cliff & Jane DeNay and dog Hamilton. The DeNay's are short hiking to Shanley & Brubaker Rd. Will Shapton met us at Krause Rd. Welcome new hiker Lynn Frazee who lives up toward Mackinaw City. We were also joined by Laurie Champion's Border Collie, Bennie.



Bennie & Hamilton - Trail Dogs

The weather was most excellent. Sunny, upper 70's and a light breeze, you couldn't ask for more; it was just like this for our last hike here in July, 2021.

After passing through the hilly and wooded "Skyline" section of trail, we moved onto Brubaker Rd. near John & Dove Day's barn with the NCT logo on the front. It's impossible to see the barn now from the road since all the trees they planted have grown tall. (John & Dove are in Hawaii and had to miss out this hike, bummer for them.)





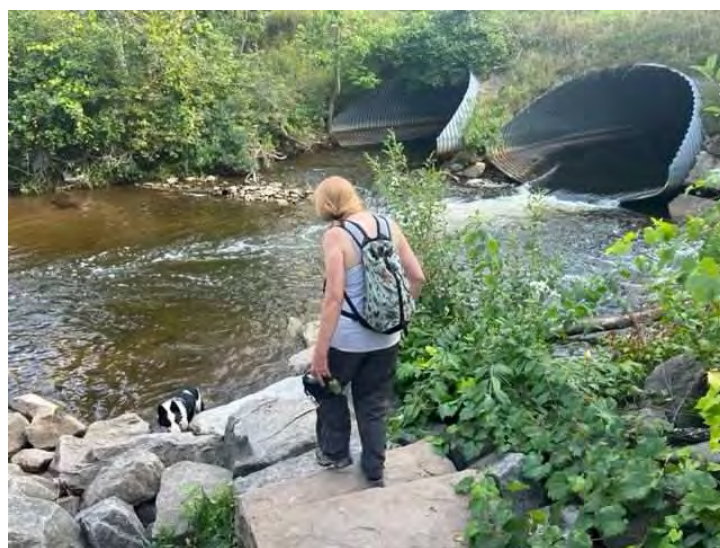
**Speedy - Trail Frog**

For the 10 miles we walked today, about 2.5 miles was on road sections and, overall, it was downhill all the way from Skyline to Bayfront Park. The views into Petoskey and out to Lake Michigan were gorgeous. The trail was rerouted in 2020 and now passes through The Petoskey Youth Soccer Fields and the River Road Sports Complex before crossing the Bear River Bridge into the North Central Michigan College natural area.

After the soccer fields, we crossed the Bear River at Click Rd. and took the path a mile to the River Road Sports Complex. At the parking lot we checked out the new J45 gang box full of tools (see pic). (We have a tool to fit every hand.)



We then took a break at the bridge for pictures and snacks. Bennie the Border Collie took the opportunity to lay down in the cool water at each puddle, steam stream crossing and the Bear River.



From the college it was a little under three miles to hikes-end at Bayfront Park. We saw three or four fishermen along the way. We arrived a Bayfront Park at around 3:00 and Bob, Kevin and Wil went to Beards for snacks and drinks.



Some maintenance opportunities noted along the way today include the need for some pathfinding at the soccer fields. At the eastside of the soccer field Avenza Maps needs to be updated show a little shortcut. The boards on the boardwalk at the end of the Bear River Bridge have spacing that dogs have trouble navigating as their feet slip between the boards. Not sure how to remedy that. It's the same design as many board walks in the NCMC natural area. The bridge itself is great.



### Jim Howell awarded Trail Builder award at annual celebration in Walker MN

The Trail Builder award is given to “A volunteer whose work in trail planning, landowner negotiations, layout and design,

and/or construction, have resulted in the development of outstanding new Trail or facilities over a three-year period or more.” This award is given to only one NCTA member each year across all 27 chapters! Jim was nominated by Kevin Whitley – who said in his nomination letter: “*Jim is present at most trail maintenance and construction projects and is a hard worker. Jim has allowed the chapter to use his personal equipment many times for the benefit of the trail including his truck, trailers, tractor and hand tools. Jim is present at most chapter hikes and he always adds to the fun.*”

Pictured is Jim with the Pulaski he was awarded (so he can do more work on the trail?), and Kevin with his volunteer hours award.





## October 15<sup>th</sup> Hike Report – Kipp Rd. to Bayfront Park

Story and pictures by Kevin Whitley - [kjw@torchlake.com](mailto:kjw@torchlake.com)

JV45°'s October hike was an easy road and paved trail walk from Kipp rd. to Petoskey's Bay Front Park. The threatened rain never arrived and the sunshine broke through shortly after we began. This made for a pleasant though windy hike with a few stops at Little Traverse Conservancy viewing platforms and a visit to the Top of Michigan Trails Council (closed). Approaching downtown Petoskey, we walked along Little Traverse Bay where the surf was up and the

wind was screaming through the rigging wires of sail boats in the harbor -- an eerie sound but less Stephen Kingish in the daytime. After concluding the hike, we stopped at the Petoskey Brewery for refreshments and good-natured conversation.



## Where I Hiked – NCT - Manistee National Forest, Manistee County, Michigan

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

Saturday, September 17. High 80's (very hot), clear, sunny. 12.7 miles. 4.75 hours. With Jim Howell who is working on the 1150 miles of NCT in Michigan (I finished in 2019)



We are camping at Twin Oaks Campground in Wellston. I'm





in the tent, Howell's in the Airstream. Evelyn Howell drops us at Coates Hwy trail crossing and we're off. Southbound, initially a steep climb to the ridge above the Manistee River.



We're gonna get a panoramic view!

The spur "trail" is indistinct, the view is too.



Shortly met Loren Bach, of the Spirit of the Woods NCTA Chapter, who is seeking a reported deadfall.

We are on Odawa tribal property for a ways.



We've been on the plateau above the river, but now we descend, cross marshy area, past the Sawdust Pile (no longer visible) To the banks of the Manistee. But now we have to climb back up. We stay pretty much high up now, there's an interesting spine: sand dune or railbed??



Then we spew out on the highway, and reach "High Bridge", which is not high. (There was a 1200 foot long railroad trestle near here that was 142' above the river...torn down in the 50's...thus the name)



## JV45 Leadership Meeting August 25, 2022 - 5:15pm

Members present: Annie Matz, Kevin Whitley, Dan Dueweke, Susan Miller, Bob Courtois, Duane Lawton, Will Shapton, and Mary Campbell

6/23/22 meeting minutes were approved by Duane Lawton and seconded by Susan Miller

News from NCTA by Kevin:

- a. Starting 9/1/22 there is a matching grant for up to \$25,000 for donations to NCTA.
- b. Report your volunteer hours by 9/30/22 to get credit this year.

Account balance as of 6/2022 \$3243.88

Member count is 112

Activities:

- a. Kevin recently attended training on maps. The Avenza mapping app had removed water sources but have been working on adding them back in. He also received training on a new mapping system called Farout(Previously Guthook).
- b. On 8/30/22 NCTA is providing a zoom training for the new "Project Form".

Update on work projects by Duane:

- a. Duane is looking for 2-3 volunteers to help him finish the railing at O'Brien pond.
- b. Duane has purchased materials to construct stands for new signage which is being ordered, he could use a few volunteers to help with this.
- c. Dobleski/Giem reroute update: Mary emailed landowner Joe Taylor on 8/25 and is hoping for a response soon.
- d. Cedar Valley update: Mary will try again to reach Mr. Flynn.
- e. Notestine property: no contact with owner yet, goal is to get permanent lease.
- f. N. Conway Rd/Kipp Rd: Mary plans to contact Emmet Co Road Comm to discuss moving the trail to the east side of Kipp Rd
- g. Duane reports that Kendall Klingelsmith recently had a complaint of warped boards on the puncheon south of Sheridan St. Duane has reinforced the boards.

Signs and Interpretive panels:

- a. Mary has applied for grant to cover cost, JV45 has committed to cover \$700 of cost, City of Petoskey will be contributing as well.
- b. Duane will build the stands.
- c. Panel location plans: Bayfront park, Dobleski Rd, Riverbend park, NCMC natural area, Krause Rd parking, Pinney bridge, Quaintance, PYSA.

The Lockbox for Tools has been installed at the River Rd Sports Complex. If you need a key to the toolbox, please contact Dan Dueweke.

Miscellaneous:

Kevin has agreed to look into ordering a patch to be awarded to anyone who had hiked the entire JV45 area.

The register book at NCMC is missing, Annie has volunteered to purchase more register books.

Non-trail Structures: nothing new

Junior Hike Program: nothing new

Trail Adopter Report by Dan: No recent reports of trail condition problems.

Annie reports she recently fell over sticks someone placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> creek between Chandler Hill Rd and Springvale Rd. She will look for a rock to place in the middle of the creek to make crossing easier.

Group Hikes by Bob:

September 17 Hike plan is Krause Rd to Bayfront Park in Petoskey.

October hike: TBD

November 5 hike: Wilderness State Park with Harbor Springs Chapter

No interest so far in a group hike of the entire JV45 section.

2022 Events: September 24 National Trails Day- How we participate TBD

October 5-8 NCTA Celebration in Walker, MN Several members are planning to attend

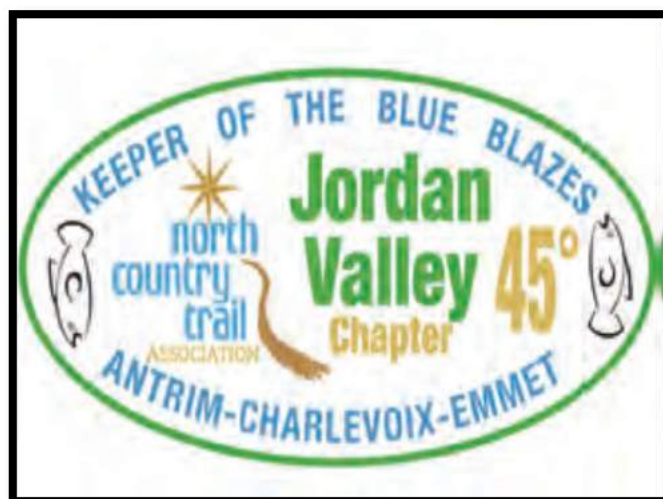
Annual Meeting is planned for January 14,2023. Possible venue: Big Buck Brewery in Gaylord. Kevin will call to make arrangements.

Next meeting scheduled October 27 at 5:15 (possible location, Petoskey)

Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Minutes typed by Annie Matz

Secretary / Treasurer JV 45°



## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin Whitley – President

[kjw@torchlake.com](mailto:kjw@torchlake.com)

Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer

[amatz57@yahoo.com](mailto:amatz57@yahoo.com)

Sue Bouwense & Dove Day – Events Coordinators

[sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com) or

[doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)

Bob Courtois - Hike Coordinator

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James Howell – Vice President

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Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator

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