



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

January 2023

## 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](#)

As we begin this new year, I would like to take this opportunity to ask for suggestions from members for fun and productive activities that our chapter should undertake this year. Our first 2023 event was first aid training which took place on January 5th. 22 of our chapter members completed the training and are now prepared to help if needed. Thank you to Mary Campbell and John Larch for organizing the training. On January 14<sup>th</sup> we had our annual meeting / election of officers (see article below). Our next event after our January and February monthly hikes will be the Quiet Adventures symposium in East Lansing on March 4th. Everyone is invited to Join Dan Dueweke and me at the symposium. We will be sharing exhibit tables with 4 other chapters and staff from the NCTA office (see article on page 5). National Trail Day is June 3. Last year we had both a family hike in Petoskey and trail construction at Warner Creek. We are open to ideas for this year. North Country Trail Day is September 23 and we will be looking for activities to organize. This year's Annual North Country Trail Celebration is in Chestertown, New York. This is in the Adirondack Mountains part of eastern New York State and I expect a bus will take hikers to the trail in Vermont. The celebration is September 27 – 30. I am also looking for trail maintenance suggestions. If anyone has ideas on improvements, or is aware of any trouble spots let any member of the leadership team know. I also expect the National Park Service to schedule a chainsaw training day in the area at some point this year. Chainsaw training is required for anyone that wants to operate a chainsaw on the NCT. Bob Courtois does a great job organizing the monthly hikes and he is always open to suggestions for hike locations. Looking forward to a productive and fun 2023.

## Upcoming Group Hikes:

January 21 – Mancelona Snowshoe Hike, 10am meet at Mancelona Rd. ORV lot near Sand lake Rd.

February 18 – Starvation Lake to Eagle and Sand Lakes

## The Trail is Poetry to Me

### Cowboy Poetry – Doug Seaney

A hike on the trail sounds great to romantics  
I'm sure the bears are amused by our antics

I've been hikin' the trail for twenty-one years  
There have been ups and downs and quite a few fears

My packs been heavy, my packs been light  
On cold days I shiver, on hot days I'm a sight

No matter the weather it's a joy to be outside  
The North Country Trail stretches far and wide

Oh, the sights I've seen, more beautiful than most  
Someday I'll finish and we'll drink a toast!

### Some Musical poetry from Joan Young.

Joan created alternate lyrics to the song "Follow the Gleam." It's based on Tennyson's poem of Merlin following the quest for the Holy Grail. Written 9/22/22 in the western UP, the day Joan hit 3,501 miles of her through hike of the NCT.

Everyone who has hiked or worked on the North Country Trail knows what a challenge it is to keep it maintained, or sometimes to follow the correct path. OK? Are we all on the same page?

To Rangers in days of old,  
Keeping watch on their forest, green.  
Came a vision of North Country,  
And the Park Service said, "That's keen."

Chorus:

Try to follow, follow the blue,  
Signs missing too,  
Oh, lucky you,  
Try to follow, follow the blue,  
Of the challenge that is the trail.

And we who would serve the trail  
With chainsaw, Pulaski, and paint,  
In the sweet evening stillness know  
Somewhere, a tree just fell on the trail.

[Listen to "Follow the Gleam" music](#)



# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



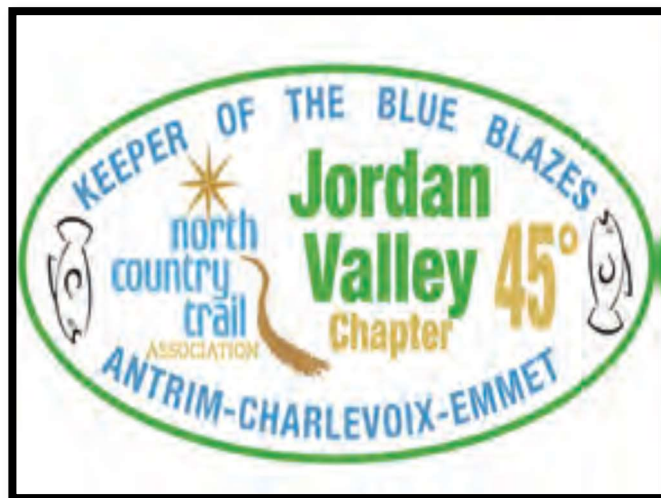
Story and pictures by Duane Lawton  
[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

Duane reports there is nothing to report at this time. Well at least nothing definite yet. Still working on permissions for the Dobleski Rd. re-route mentioned in the December group hike report. Get rested and get ready for 2023 projects once the weather turns to spring. 2023 looks like it may be a year of smaller maintenance items. We have not yet confirmed any projects for next year, work will continue on that--permissions and permits--into the fall. If you are aware of any trouble spots on our stretch of trail, please let anyone on the leadership team know.

### Trail Maintenance Update

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

Not much trail work being done this time of year, but one thing we can all do in preparation for spring is dig out our first aid kits and replace any missing items. Used up your last band aid on that November hike? Expiration date on your bacitracin say "1967"? Now is a good time to update the kit. We all try to hike safely but accidents do happen.





## December 17<sup>th</sup> Hike Report – Giem Rd. to Camp Ten Rd.

Story by Bob Courtis - bcourtois@comcast.net

Boyne Falls Hike, Dec. 17th After Hike Report- We gathered at Kuzmik Rd. and Camp Ten Rd. (hike's end point) to post cars and then drove hikers to the hike's start on Giem Rd. just east of US131. Altogether, we had thirteen people and two dogs (Sophie & Hamilton). Since Dan Dueweke had gotten word that there were some downed trees and branches, he jumped ahead with his ax and saws. He did find several spots to clear.



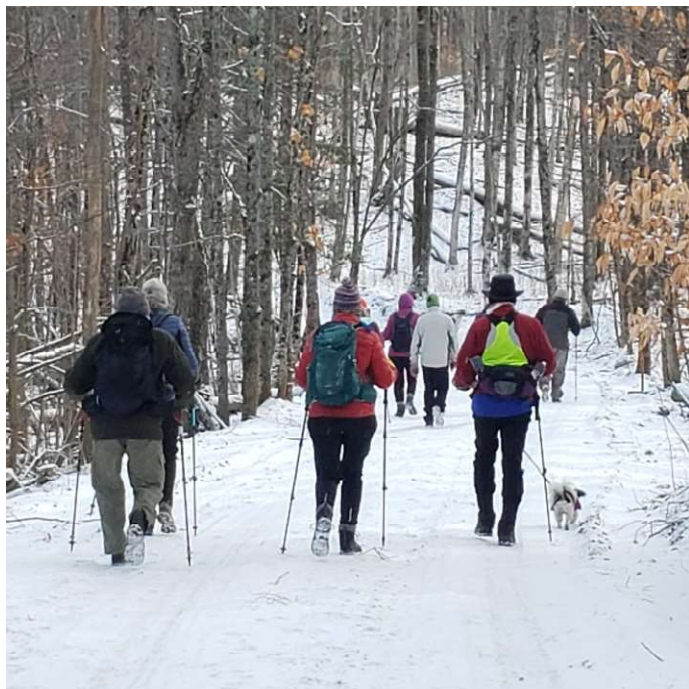
Bob's feet were hurting so he was only able to drive hikers to the beginning and then met up again with everyone at the end of the hike. Bob was able to hike a little. The weather was excellent with temperature in the mid 20's, partly cloudy and little wind.





The trail was mostly snow covered with 3 or 4 inches of fresh snow. While snowshoes were not necessary, there were slippery spots, so some people wore ice cleats.

The first mile or so headed east on Giem Rd. then the trail cuts north at the junction of the proposed reroute from Dobleski Rd. to Giem Rd. The reroute will allow us to get three miles of trail off of roads (Dobleski Rd., US131 and Giem Rd.). If rights of way can be secured, we hope that project can be started in 2023. This will require blazing new trail, mark a railroad crossing and build an elevated walkway across a creek.



After leaving Giem Rd., the next mile or so is through an area where loggers did extensive thinning in 2018. With more sunlight reaching the undergrowth, the woods are recovering pretty nicely. The first half of the trip is up-hill and peaks out at about 1,435 feet. It is then a steep downhill until it levels out at Kuzmik Rd. The last stretch of the hike is a pleasant 2-mile stretch on Kuzmik Rd. Sights include farms, streams and livestock. The road itself is not busy at all. Between Giem Rd. and Kuzmik Rd., the trail mostly is two-track. Previously, we've discussed shifting the trail off the two-track into the woods. This would probably not be until after the Dobleski reroute is completed. If we did this, we would have the JV45 off of roads pretty much the entire 25 miles from Landslide Overlook to Kuzmik Rd. (Note, there is still road walk for the 4.5 miles between Kuzmik Rd. and Thumb Lake Rd. & Slashing Rd.) Following the hike seven of us (Bob, Doug, Kevin, Dan, Barb, Maureen and Jim) went the Whi-Ski Inn in Boyne Falls for pops and sandwiches. The service was great.

**Quiet Adventures Symposium is LIVE again!**

**Lansing, Michigan - Saturday, March 4, 2023**

**9:00 am - 5:30 pm**

Story by Sue Bouwense - sbouwense@gmail.com

For several years, members of the JV45 chapter have hosted a booth at the Quiet Adventures Symposium in East Lansing. Because of the pandemic, the Symposium was presented in a virtual format in 2021 and 2022. But this year, outdoor enthusiasts will come together in person again at the MSU Pavilion. The theme this year is **ADVENTURE! FIND IT!** –focusing on non-motorized outdoor activities and environmental stewardship.

It is here that outdoor enthusiasts can learn and share information about paddling, hiking, backpacking, biking, canoeing, and water safety with some of the best adventure experts out there. Boat building, paddleboarding, and fly fishing are just some of the demonstrations that may be presented this year. Environmental experts will give demos and talks on how we can be better stewards of our land and water.

Our chapter will again be represented at the Symposium. We'll have our own table where we'll have maps, photos and other information about our section of the trail. Other chapters will be there as well, along with representatives from NCTA. This is a great venue where we can build awareness of our beautiful section of the trail.

Please consider joining us for this celebration of everything outdoors! For more information, visit [Quiet Adventures Symposium](#) on Facebook, or check out the [Quiet Adventures Website](#) to purchase advance tickets.

## Where I Hiked – Congaree National PARK, Hopkins, SC

Story by Bob Haack haack@msu.edu

This past November, Sheridan and I camped for 3 weeks on our trip south from Michigan to our first rental in Georgia. Along the way we camped in State Parks in MI, OH, KY, and SC and of course hiked trails at each. In South Carolina we visited the Congaree National Park twice. Their website is: <https://www.nps.gov/cong/index.htm>. This park covers . 26,000 acres and is 77% Wilderness. Congaree represents the largest, contiguous, expanse of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in North America. Bottomland means “seasonally” flooded. Locals began a campaign in the 1950s to save the Congaree River floodplain from



logging and development. After many years, much of the area was designated as the Congaree Swamp National Monument in 1976, and later the Congaree National Park in 2003. Congaree has about 20 miles of hiking trails as well as many miles of paddling trails. One interesting and easy hike is along a 2.6-mile-long loop Elevated Boardwalk.

When we visited, water levels were low, and the entire boardwalk was dry. But after heavy rains, many sections can be under water and at times closed to the public. Here are a few pictures of the boardwalk when dry and wet



Same  
bench

WLTX TV  
PHOTOS



The boardwalk goes through the bottomland forest with 1000s of large trees, such as bald cypress, water tupelo,

and loblolly pine. Congaree has had as many as 15 National Champion Trees of different species (National = the largest known tree in the USA) and 25 State



Champions in South Carolina. Here are two examples from Congaree: one of the National Champion Loblolly pines (over 170 ft tall), and the other the State Champion Bald Cypress (over 130 ft tall & 28 ft in

circumference). Congaree likely has the highest concentration of Big Trees in the country, but many are located off the trails.

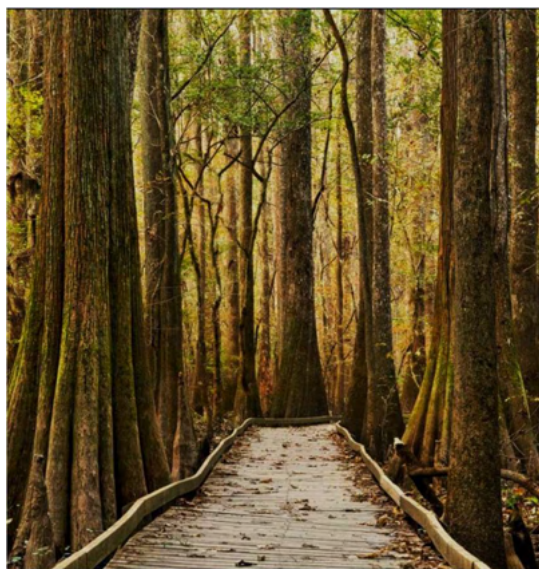


**National Champion Loblolly Pine (NPS)**



**SC State Champion Bald Cypress (Joe Kegley)**

When we visited in November there were almost no mosquitoes. But during much of the year the skeeter population can be very high. As you know, I'm a retired entomologist, and I was interested to find out that Congaree has large populations of one firefly species that synchronizes its flash pattern with other members of its species. Viewing this activity in late May or early June has become so popular that the Park now holds a "lottery" that allows just 120 vehicles per night into the park for a ranger-led walk to view the fireflies (actually fireflies are beetles). Seeing that spectacle would be worth a return trip! The lottery link can be reached here: <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/300008>



**NPS PHOTO**



**Synchronous fireflies at Congaree National Park (NPS photo)**

**Annual Meeting – January 14, 2023**  
**Big Buck Brewery & Restaurant**

Meeting called to order at 12:25pm at Big Buck Brewery in Gaylord by President Kevin Whitley

Attendees: Kevin Whitley, Jim Howell, Annie Matz, Dave Matz, Sam Cornelius, Mary Campbell, John Larch, Duane Lawton, Ellen Whitehead, Rich Borowicz, Connie Pausits-Allen, Jerry Allen, Sue Bouwense, Doug Bouwense, Maureen Doull, Jim Doull, Doug Seaney, Cliff Denay Jr, Jane Denay, Bob Courtois, Dove Day, John Day.

2022 Year in Review: Kevin presented a slide show of hikes and events from 2022.  
4000 brochures have been received and are available to anyone who needs them.

2022 Trail projects review by Duane Lawton.

O'Brien Pond projects completed.

Toolbox has been stocked and placed at River Rd Sports Complex near Petoskey. If you need a key for the box please contact Dan Deuweke.

New trail marker posts have been installed in the Jordan Valley and are already suffering damage from porcupines.  
Interpretive panels have been ordered and construction has begun on the hangers.

Plans for 2023

Dobleski Rd Reroute: we are working on getting easements to cross a small portion of private property and hoping to get the reroute started this year.

Works needs to be done on Pinney Bridge Rd to prevent flooding.

Finish and install interpretive panels.

**Entire Chapter hike** is being discussed for early September 2023. The hike will take 5 days and will go from north to south, hiking about 16 miles per day. If interested contact Duane Lawton or Jim Howell.

Elections were held for 4 positions:

Vice President: Jim Howell was nominated by Mary and seconded by Duane.

Secretary/Treas: Annie Matz was nominated by Bob Haack and seconded by Mary.

Events Coordinator: Sue Bouwense was nominated by Jane and seconded by Bob Haack.

Trail Coordinator: Dan Dueweke was nominated by Duane and seconded by Jane.

All candidates were voted in unanimously by the members.

NCTA Honors Award was presented to Doug Seaney by Jim Howell.

Big Foot Award was presented to John Larch and Mary Campbell by Kevin Whitley.



Road Walking Slide Show was presented by Jim Howell.

#### Events in 2023

On 1/5/23 22 members took First Aid/CPR recertification class at Emmet Co. EMS.

A Chain Saw recertification/Sawyer class will be planned this fall.

3/4/23: Quiet Adventures Symposium East Lansing

6/3/23: National Trails Day

9/23/23: NCT Day

9/27/23: NCTA Celebration in Chestertown, NY

#### Additional Information:

Maureen Doull informed us that Bear Creek Twp is making plans to construct a parking area with vault toilet and Kayak/canoe launch area on the Bear River near Click Rd. This is in the vicinity of the NCT and may be an opportunity to install benches in the area.

Mtg adjourned at 1:53pm

Minutes Typed by:

Annie Matz Sec/Treasurer JV45°



### **JV45 Leadership Meeting October 27, 2022 - 5:15pm**

Members present: Annie Matz, Kevin Whitley, Dan Dueweke, Bob Courtois, Duane Lawton, and Jim Howell

8/25/22 meeting minutes were approved by Dan Dueweke and seconded by Bob Courtois.

News from NCTA and Celebration by Kevin:

- a. 10 members of JV45 attended the NCTA Celebration held in Walker MN from 10/5-10/9. Several JV45 members received awards.
- b. The 2023 NCTA Celebration will be held in Chestertown, NY. Chestertown is about a 14-hour drive from our area.

Account balance as of 10/2022 \$4300

Member count is 105

Update on work projects by Duane:

O'Brien pond project is completed!

- a. Dobleski/Giem reroute update: We have not been successful in getting permission from landowner Joe Taylor, this must be done before we can proceed in getting a DNR permit to proceed.

- b. Cedar Valley update: Nothing new
- c. Notestine property: Nothing new
- d. N. Conway Rd/Kipp Rd: Duane plans to contact Emmet County Road Commission.

#### Signs and Interpretive panels:

- a. Duane has been negotiating with Kenny on the design and Kate Lemon is also contributing input.
- b. Panel location plans: Bayfront Park, Dobleski Rd, Riverbend park, NCMC natural area, Krause Rd parking, Quaintance Ave., Kipp Rd

#### Miscellaneous:

Kevin has agreed to look into ordering a patch to be awarded to anyone who had hiked the entire JV45 area. Another thought is to post the names of persons completing JV45 on a plaque at the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel.

Non-trail Structures: nothing new

Junior Hike Program: Evelyn has worked on this and is meeting with Diane next week.

Jim Howell mentioned that he knows someone who can assist in creating a video for JV45 promotions.

Trail Adopter Report by Dan: No recent reports of trail condition problems. All trail sections are adopted. We may need to re-bench the hill on the west side of the US 131 crossing.

Dan was notified by an adopter that the key to the gate located north of M32 is missing from the tool trailer. Please let Dan know if you know where the key is.

#### Group Hikes by Bob:

November 5 hike: Wilderness State Park with Harbor Springs Chapter. Bob will not be able to attend but Duane has agreed to co-lead the hike with the Harbor Springs chapter.

A group hike of the entire JV45 section is being discussed for 9/2023.

#### 2023 Events:

January 7 Stomp the Park St. Ignace

June 3 National Trails Day

September 23 North Country Trail Day

September 27 NCTA Celebration Chestertown, NY

Annual Meeting is planned for January 14, 2023 at noon. Location: Big Buck Brewery in Gaylord. All members are welcome. 4 positions are up for re-election: Vice Pres currently held by Jim Howell, Sec/Treas currently held by Annie Matz, Trail Adopter Coordinator currently held by Dan Dueweke, and Events Coordinator currently held by Dove Day and Sue Bouwense. Next monthly meeting scheduled February 23, 2023. Unknown location.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

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**

[amat57@yahoo.com](mailto:amat57@yahoo.com)

**Sue Bouwense – Events Coordinators**

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

**Bob Courtois - Hike Coordinator**

[bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

**James Howell – Vice President**

[pattenlake2620@gmail.com](mailto:pattenlake2620@gmail.com)

**Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator**

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

**Dan Dueweke – Trail Coordinator**

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

**Doug Seaney -Communication Coordinator**

[dseaney@hotmail.com](mailto:dseaney@hotmail.com)