



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

November 2024

## President's Message

Kevin Whitley [kjwtorchlake@gmail.com](mailto:kjwtorchlake@gmail.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 Fellow Hikers;

The Jordan Valley 45 Facebook page has been getting many requests for trail angels to provide shuttle service. I have recently provided rides to hikers from Swartz Creek, Albion, and Grand Rapids. It is great to see so many enjoying our trail from outside of our Chapter Area. We have a lot of fans of the trail out there with goals of hiking all of the Lower Peninsula and maybe the whole state of Michigan. There is also a Facebook page called "[Trail Angels of the NCNST](#)" if anyone is looking for a shuttle or looking to volunteer to be a shuttle driver.

The JV 45 annual meeting will be January 4 at the Charlevoix Library in their community room. Please save the date.

### Upcoming Group Hikes:

Nov 16 – Shanley Rd to Bayfront Park.

Dec 14 – TBD.

# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



Logging: Last issue you saw the carnage at Welsch Road. There's more!

- Logging west of US-131 destroyed a section of the trail this summer. Kenny and Jim went in a couple of weeks ago and gps'd a reroute that will minimize the disruption (but not completely eliminate it 😊), and also circumvent the seasonal briar patch over the ridge (😊).
- Logging will occur soon on the trail just north of Springvale. I went in with Kenny, Dan and Jim to see where the trail would be affected and flag reroutes. There are two sections, one to get off a short section of old two-track which is destined to be logging road, and another along a ridge just north of Springvale Road which will be wiped out when the top of the ridge becomes a logging trail. This second reroute will

require a lot of benching (another 😊).

- Look for these straight-forward short reroutes to be projects early next season.
- On the bright side, logging has begun on the west side of the two-track leading from Jordan River Road to O'Brien Pond. ...that we rerouted off of two years ago. (😊) Here is a picture of some equipment at the parking area off JRR, and the view from the O'Brien Pond boardwalk, which view will be affected. (😞)
- Enough with the emojis

Three Tubes detour: The detour is still in effect, following Jordan River Road and Pinney Bridge Road instead of the entire stretch of trail from Pinney Bridge camp to Three Tubes. We were told the bridge would be done by Halloween. Guess what...not. It appears it will be some time yet before we can eliminate the detour.

No New News: Dobleski Reroute, Skyline Shelter





## September 21<sup>st</sup> Group Hike Report– Hathaway Rd. to Stutsmanville Rd.

Story and pictures by Dan Dueweke - [dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)



Jordan Valley 45°'s September hike went north into Harbor Springs country for a seven-mile jaunt between Hathaway and Stutsmanville roads. Morning fog gave way to plentiful sunshine on this hilly and picturesque section of the NCT. Harbor Springs chapter must've known we were coming as the trail had been recently brushed and cleared of all blowdowns. The only obstructions were the cross-trail spiderwebs broken by the lead hiker though none so big as to actually entangle him.

Post hike refreshments were taken at Petoskey Brewing where we were elbow to elbow with a crowd of bikers, runners, and all manner of outdoor folks on a perfect final day of summer.

### 2025 NCTA Annual Celebration Cancelled

We've been informed by NCTA headquarters that the 2025 annual celebration which was planned for North Dakota has been cancelled. At this point no other location is being discussed and it appears that there will not be an annual celebration in 2025.

## October 19th Group Hike Report – Giem to Kuzmik

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

### Giem Rd. & US-131 to Kuzmic & Camp 10 Rds. (Hike and Volunteer Lunch)

Twelve hikers and Sophie, a sweet doodle dog, gathered at Kuzmik & Camp Ten Rds. (hike's end point) to post cars. We were joined later by a 13<sup>th</sup> hiker who started at Camp 10 Road and walked up to meet us. After picking up trash, we drove everyone in three cars to the hike's start on Giem Rd. just east of US131.



The weather was incredible. Hardly a cloud in the sky, low breeze and temperature in the 60's. This fall has been very dry so there was little mud to deal with on the trail. COLORS WERE SPECTACULAR.

The first mile or so we headed east on Giem Rd. to where the trail cuts north at the junction of the proposed reroute from Dobleski Rd. to Giem Rd. The proposed re-route will allow us to get three miles of trail off of Dobleski Rd., US131 and Giem Rds. First, we need an agreement with a landowner to gain a right of way at a corner crossing. At present, Duane Lawton is pretty optimistic that an agreement will be signed soon. If so, permits can be obtained and

workdays scheduled for 2025. The project will require blazing new trail, deal with a railroad crossing and build an elevated walkway across a creek.

After leaving Giem Rd., the next 3.5 miles are on a very rutted two track road, much of which is washed out and impassable by most vehicles. The first two miles are fairly steep, up-hill to a high point at about 1,230 feet, then, it is all down-hill to Kuzmik Rd.





The home stretch of this hike was a pleasant 2-mile stretch on Kuzmik Rd. Sights include farms, streams and livestock. The road itself was not busy at all.

Speaking of re-routes, it would be nice to shift the trail off the two-track and into the woods between Giem and Kuzmik Rds. That would require a bit of scouting to plot it out, but this project is a lower priority than the Dobleski reroute.

If we did this, we would have the JV45 off of roads the entire 27 miles from Landslide Overlook to Kuzmik Rd. Note, currently, there is paved road walk for the 4.5 miles on Kuzmik to Thumb Lake & Slashing Rds.



Following the hike, eleven of thirteen hikers proceeded to the Chandler Twp. Hall to join another dozen or so people for our annual Volunteer luncheon. The gathering was to acknowledge and thank all the many volunteers who help run the JV45 Chapter and build and maintain our 79 miles of trail. Every year dozens of people participate in scheduled workdays and/or, on their own, see work needed and just do it. Kevin cooked dogs and brats to go with the various pot luck dishes

Next Hike – November 16, 2024 – Petoskey, Bear River.





## **"The Crucible" Endurance Hike— Jordan Valley**

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



The Crucible Endurance Hike on Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup> was a great success. The Turner Family gave access to their land just uphill from the Hatchery and about 60 campers stayed on Friday and Saturday nights at the Crucible Village. On Saturday, approximately 280 hikers headed out in three "flights" to cover the 20 miles of the Jordan Valley Pathway, 12 of which are on the North Country Trail. The weather was perfect, cool and sunny but a little windy later in the day. All hikers were given 12 hours to complete the circuit and by sundown, everyone was accounted for. Amenities set up in the "village" included port-a-potties, water, fire pit, service tents and a food truck. I did a little speech about the NCT, the JV45° chapter and the volunteer work we all do. Good news! The construction crew at Three Tubes provided a path across the construction site and, rather than walk the road, everyone was able to stay on the NCT. Jack Turner was pleased with the well-organized group and the spotless condition of the "village" afterwards



More good news! [The Crucible organization](#), run by Jason and Carrie Schotte, made a generous \$1,200 donation to the JV45° Chapter. The Crucible is based in SE Michigan and organizes a few hikes each year. A portion of profits are donated to different charities each year.





## **“Where I Hiked” (and Who I Hiked With) – Camp Daggett Kids**

Story and pictures by Jenifer Uehlein Reynolds – [jenreynolds49424@gmail.com](mailto:jenreynolds49424@gmail.com)

Over the last ten or so years, I have hosted many backpacking trips for adults, and since retiring from teaching three years ago, I’ve been guiding backpacking and canoe camping trips for a local Northern Michigan camp. In July, I took a group of twelve teens aged 13-15 on a 30-mile backpacking trip on the NCT beginning a bit north of Harbor Springs and finishing in Mackinaw City. My campers had many questions about how their trips differ from the trips I host for adults, and I had to say that the itineraries are not so different, but my experience is.



For one thing, I have never had a group of adults break out into song while hiking. On this trip, I was treated to a full production of “Hamilton” as we hiked the Swamp Line trail into Wilderness State Park, various traditional camp songs, and a lot of Taylor Swift. One of the kids brought along a ukulele and played while we hiked. They also created a parody of “The Sounds of Silence,” wistfully singing of a post-hike meal of “real food.” A lot of them are band and choir kids, and their training in those arts really shone—when I say it was a treat, I am completely serious.

Braiding beads into hair wraps, and weaving complex braids into hair that hasn’t been washed in days was also new. I am now sporting three blue beads in my hair. The girls braided each other’s hair at pretty much every chance they got, and I learned quickly that finishing a braid perfectly was more important than hiking out of camp at a predetermined time.

Our water filters were running pretty slowly, which meant that every water source break was an opportunity for more hair-braiding, as well as Euchre, and more strumming of the ukulele, while we waited on the water to filter through.

One camper brought along about a hundred temporary tattoos, so we were all tatted up by the end of the week. (By the way, DEET and temporary tattoos are not a good mix.)





You may also end up carrying a mascot—in this case, a rubber chicken.

Unlike an adult trip where everyone does their own thing for meals, I had planned out meals and snacks for everyone. The bartering that went on over Propel electrolyte packets, Quaker instant oatmeal bags, Slim-Jims, and Starburst flavors was epic. When I brought out the Pop-Tarts to celebrate our last morning on trail, you would have thought it was Christmas.

When you're hiking with teens, "Hiker Midnight" (8:30/9:00 p.m.) is not a thing. Getting these kids into their tents and quiet by 11:30 p.m. was an accomplishment, so I'm

going to be sleeping for the next 48 hours to try to catch up. But, sitting around the campfire each night, listening to them tell ghost stories, sing songs, and playing "Mafia" and "Poison Dart Frog" was well worth the sleep deprivation. Gear shakedown is also quite different with kids. The boy who brought the ukulele was so excited about it that I didn't even consider suggesting he leave it behind. Likewise, the girls brought a small tackle box type of storage device for their hair beads and friendship bracelet supplies. Everyone was great about embracing the dirtbag lifestyle when it came to clothing, thinking about layers, temperature control and bug protection, rather than a fresh set of clothing for each day.

Much like on my adult trips, people tended to bond pretty quickly. There's something about sitting around the fire together, enjoying views and experiences that not everyone will get to see, and struggling together sometimes that makes people open up and be real. The kids were also quick to embrace "Leave No Trace" principles, and were meticulous about not only packing out their own trash, but also packing out someone else's trash at a dispersed site. When we reached Mackinaw City Friday around noon, and I called in an order to BC Pizza, their hiker hunger was real, and we demolished the pizza in short order before a bus picked us up to take us back to camp.





While the pressure of trying to keep someone else's child safe is something that definitely weighs on me in a way I don't experience hosting trips for adults, it's so much fun to see these kids being goofy, artistic, and enjoying each other and nature.



### Trail Maintenance Update

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

Notice for hikers to wear blaze orange. Rifle deer season begins Friday, November 15th. Even when wearing orange, walking on a damp trail will be quieter than crunchy leaves and you may see or walk up on hunters before they see you. Respect their use of the forest and pass them quietly.

Mary Campbell has been kind enough to arrange for a First Aid/CPR class for JV45° members! At this time there is no limit on number of attendees, but if we do get overbooked, we may need to prioritize sawyers and swampers as this is a requirement for sawyer work on the trail. Details below:

Class is led by Adam Peltier from "On-site CPR Solutions LLC"

Mon 12/9, 5:00pm sign in & pizza, class starts at 5:30pm

Emmet County EMS building, 1201 Eppler Rd, Petoskey

Please have folks contact Mary Campbell to sign up

Email - [mcplanningdesign@gmail.com](mailto:mcplanningdesign@gmail.com)

Cell (231-622-2677)



## JV45 Leadership Meeting October 24th, 2024

### Foundry Grill – East Jordan

#### JV 45 Leadership Meeting October 24, 2024 Foundry Craft Grillery, East Jordan

**Present:** Dan Dueweke, Jen Reynolds, Kevin Whitley, Jim Howell, Duane Lawton, Sue Bouwense, Doug Seaney

Meeting called to order by Kevin Whitley at 5:35 pm

Doug moved; Jim seconded to approve the minutes of the June 2024 meeting.

**News from NCTA** (Kevin) – Logging at Warner Creek (near O’Brien Pond) is not likely to affect the trail. Hikers should watch for equipment and truck traffic.

#### Financial report

- \$1,200 was spent for chapter brochures/maps. Balance: \$6,600
- \$1,200 donation is due from the Crucible group
- Kevin reports that there is a new form online for expense reports. All reports go to him first as chapter president. He will submit to NCTA.

#### 2024 and 2025 work projects status (Duane)

- 1) Reroutes
  - a. Dobleski Rd. – Mary Campbell and Duane are still working with owner Joe Taylor. He is reviewing a draft agreement.
  - b. Cedar Valley – No letter has been sent requesting access yet
  - c. Notestine property (Cedar Valley) – Paul Gagnon would like to get permission in writing, but the trail does cross the property
  - d. Duane reports that some minor reroutes may be necessary in the spring due to DNR logging contracts:
    - i. West of US 131 (avoids briar patch)
    - ii. North of Springvale
- 2) Sign and interpretive panel on Wheelway (near Bayfront Park) – Duane reports that the city used their own structure to post these. All signs are up now. Sue mentioned outdated map at Krause Rd. parking area. Duane will laminate a brochure to be posted there.
- 3) Trail repair across from Fish Hatchery – this has been completed.
- 4) Small bridge to traverse a ditch near the River Road Sports Complex

**Tool trailer/tool box:** Dan reported that he found the trailer unlocked on two occasions (please spin the lock to make sure it's locked). Latex paint was removed to avoid freezing.

**Communications/newsletter:** Doug reports that the November issue will go out around November 7.

**Miscellaneous administrative items:**

- 1) **Skyline shelter:** Boors are not planning on selling that piece of property this year, so the shelter will still be available until sold. Duane is working with the Parks and Rec director for the City of Petoskey to find another possible location on City property for another shelter in that area. *Note:* The Harbor Springs chapter is planning to erect a shelter on Little Traverse Conservancy property (Offield Viewlands).
- 2) **ATV use in Jordan Valley**—this was voted down. Thank you to Dan and Duane for their advocacy.
- 3) **Chainsaw training** was held in Rapid City on Oct 5. Dan, Jim, Dave Matz and Jim Doull attended.
- 4) **Three tubes**—these have not been removed from the Jordan River yet. The tubes will be replaced by two bridges, only one of which affects the NCT. Progress on bridge construction has been slow.
- 5) **Logging near NCT** will affect the trail near US 131. This area may require cleanup and rerouting in the future.

**Trail adopter report** (Dan Dueweke): More people are reporting their work. Many complaints about briars (this will be a problem in the future in logged areas).

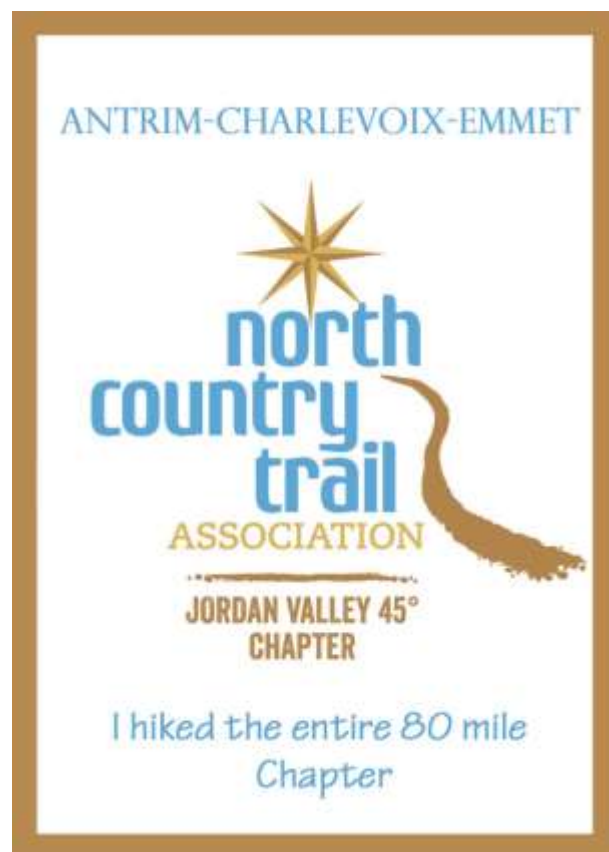
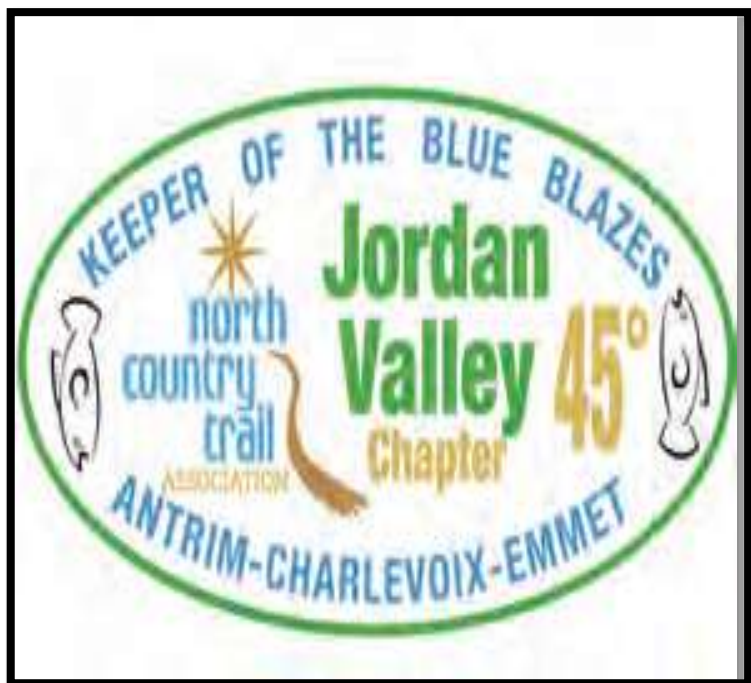
**Group hikes:** November hike (11/16) will be in Petoskey, from Shanley Rd to the mouth of the Bear River. The December hike will be moved to the second Saturday (12/ 14).

**2025 Events**

- 1) **Annual meeting** will be held on Saturday, January 4 at the Charlevoix Library conference room
  - a. Elections for chapter office: All incumbents have agreed to serve another term (VP – Jim Howell, Secretary – Annie Matz, Events Coordinator – Sue Bouwense, Adopter Coordinator – Dan Dueweke) If others are interested in a chapter position, please contact Kevin Whitley at (231) 676-1400.
  - b. Program was discussed and Duane agreed to do a short program on his past work with the Wisconsin Roving Trail Crew. Duane has also helped build trails in Florida.
- 2) **National Trails Day** (Saturday, June 7)—Duane would appreciate help with a work project!
- 3) **NCT Celebration in North Dakota**—this will happen in late August. Several of our members are planning to attend. Watch for details in the coming months. *\*Subsequent to this meeting we've been informed that the celebration will not take place in 2025 (ed.)*

**Adjournment:** Duane moved; Doug seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm.





Patch for hiking entire JV45° Chapter

## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin Whitley – President  
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Annie Matz - Secretary-Treasurer  
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