

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 3



Calendar

General Meeting

July 10, 2014

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Boyne Valley Township Fire Hall, Boyne Falls

Speaker: Bob Haack, a forest entomologist

All Welcome

(see article pg.1)

Group Hike

July 10, 2014

Time: 1:00 p.m.

(see article pg. 1)

More details coming

Little Traverse Bay

Conservancy Meeting

Aug. 5, 2014

NCMC Petoskey

Fieldtrips

(see article pg.2)

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

June, 2014



President's Report by Duane Lawton

JULY MEETING

Our July meeting will be held on **Thursday, July 10th**, at the Boyne Valley Township Fire Hall, starting at 7:00 pm. This month our featured speaker will be Bob Haack, forest entomologist with the US Forest Service (working on the MSU campus), and a JV45° Chapter Member. Bob's presentation will be "Exotic Forest Insects and Diseases Along the NCT".

Bob will discuss the most common exotic insects and diseases now impacting our local forests (emerald ash borer, beech bark disease) and some that are nearby (Asian longhorned beetle, thousand canker disease, and hemlock woolly adelgid). You won't want to miss this opportunity to ask all those questions you have about wild insects that plague us. Refreshments will be served!

GROUP HIKE: Dobleski Reroute Hike (Livingston/Stanley)

We need to flag a proposed reroute path between Dobleski Rd. and Gien 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. To that end I am organizing a group hike to be held on **Thursday, July 10th**—before our July Chapter Meeting—to do that work.

If we have enough volunteers, we will start in two groups from each end of the proposed reroute, and meet in the middle at a pre-arranged location. Thus the Livingston/Stanley reference of "Dr. Livingston, I presume?" fame. Each group will need to have a GPS and a GPS handler.

We will probably start around 1:00 pm and figure to wind up by 6:00 so we can catch a bite to eat before the chapter meeting.

If you would like to help organize this hike, or if you would like to participate, please let Duane know.

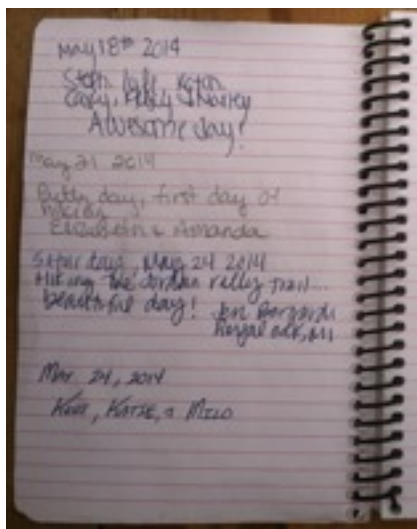
Duane Lawton, delawton@torchlake.com 248-496-1869

IMAGE: "Dr. Livingston, I presume?"



Distance Signs and Register Boxes Project

We planted our prototype Register Box with Distance Sign at Deadman's Hill Junction (below Deadman's Hill) on the hike before our May 10th chapter meeting. On Memorial Day, Duane, Eugene and Linus went back and added a bag of redi-mix to the post hole to better stabilize it. We also captured the register entries made to that point. They are now posted on the chapter website for your enjoyment. There were many complimentary entries about the trail, and about the box/sign. There weren't any suggestions for changing it (so far)..



IMAGES: Left: Positive comments on Register Box
Right: Distance Sign at Deadman's Hill

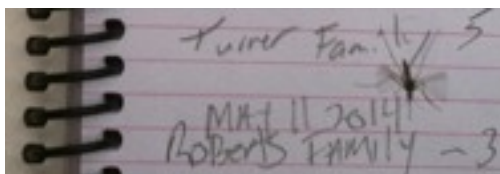


The Little Traverse Bay Conservancy will be holding its 42nd Annual Meeting "Celebrating Community Conservation Connections" on August 5th at NCMC in Petoskey, featuring "Field trips to the NCMC Natural Area & the Skyline Trail". To capitalize on that event for NCT promotion, I propose that we erect Register Boxes and Distance Signs at both locations, and spruce up our trail markings. Perhaps we can get some new members!

If you are interested in helping to build and/or install two more boxes, let me know.

Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com

IMAGES: Left-- Pesty mosquito this year
Right--New register box



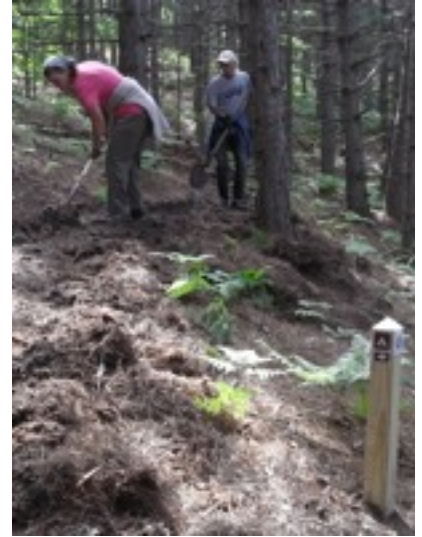
Skyline Camp Project

Work Day, June 21, 2014

On June 21st an intrepid crew assembled at the Krause Rd. trailhead near Petoskey to build spur trails to the new (under development) Skyline Camp, and to a water source for campers. 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 Ciciarelli, John & Dove Day, Jim Ehrnst, Peg Jones, Duane Lawton and Bill & Jane Wehrenberg (sp?). The Boors provided a very nice picnic lunch (thank you!).

Doug will be performing most of the campsite development, though he has our invitation to ask for help at any time. He will re-erect a “Yurt”, which is a large wooden-framed canvas tent, as a camper shelter. JV45° will furnish a fire ring. Doug intends to install an outhouse in the future. There is a nice view of the valley, which Doug said he’ll enlarge somewhat. The water source is a small spring, where Doug will install a small dam, cover the pool and have a small outlet pipe for filling water containers (water will, of course, have to be filtered or treated).

We look forward to having gatherings there in the future. It should be a good resource for Petoskey-area outdoor groups and it will enhance the attraction of the NCT there.



IMAGES: Top & Center --Working on the trail
Left--Picnic lunch provided by the Boors

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).

Jerry Allen and Duane Lawton are working with Ken on the details of BD design, and an NCTA Challenge Grant application will be submitted in July to (hopefully) fund the needed materials.

We will be planning work bee(s), probably in August and September (dry season) to lower the pond level, remove the beaver lodge, install the BD, and install puncheon over the old dam and other holes in the trail.

This will be a fun project, stay tuned for the call for volunteers!



IMAGES: Left--Present state of flooding caused by beavers
Below---"Beaver Deceiver" to be constructed at O'Brien Pond to repair and stabilize the trail.



Input from Members

Chainsaw Certification class June 17 – 18, 2014, in Manistee

I attended the chainsaw class in Manistee Michigan on Tuesday and Wednesday. Weather forecast was for rain both days but I headed there in hopes that it would clear up, as I pulled in the lot and walked toward the building the thunder started and soon the rain was coming down; it did clear off by noon or so and I was able to eat a nice lunch with a fellow adopter from the TC area outside at a picnic table on the river. The first day was all in classroom watching slide and video presentations. It was put on by Scott Peterson. He has many years of experience in chain sawing. He previously worked for department of corrections with prisoner crews – so he was well suited for our motley crew of volunteers. We were also very lucky to have 3-4 guys from the Huron Manistee National Forest fire crew in attendance. As an added bonus; Dan Watson – volunteer coordinator from the NPS was in attendance. He made a 12 hour drive to sit in on the class to make sure it was a good fit for all volunteers. Day one was very good – I learned quite a bit of the care and maintenance of a chain saw; from how to sharpen the chain to how to maintain the engine and make adjustments for common problems. Scott had quite a few saws there for us to look at. I met lots folks from other areas of the state; some from Petoskey and Traverse City, and some from Flint area that come up to Sleeping Bear to volunteer in that park.



IMAGE: Chainsaws at class in Manistee, MI.

Day Two was outside and was again overcast and drizzling right from the start. We met at an intersection in the Manistee NF where we were to cut trees. This day was not as beneficial as it could have been, it seems that level one of chain sawing is how to fell trees that are standing around minding their own business. Usually in my travels I see trees that are dead and down across the trail that need to have a 3-5 foot section removed. At worst I see leaners that need to be removed from a safety standpoint. After the requisite safety meeting at the tailgate, we started out with Scott the instructor cutting a few trees for us to demonstrate. Even he got one hung up that didn't fall the way he expected – goes to show that it is NOT a perfect science. We split into two groups and walked the woods to pick out “our tree”, each taking a turn. After the cutting and felling we gathered around the trunk to look at the stump and to talk about pros and cons of the cut. A lot can be learned by looking at the stump that remains. As the day wore on it continued to rain and blow; we all decided to skip lunch to press on with the day and get out of the woods before the weather got any worse. The Forest service guys said there was supposed to be high winds and lightening coming so we were pretty rushed. I did get my cut done and passed the class but this type of chain sawing is not typically what I see a need for in my trail maintenance. It sounds like level two is more limbing and bucking up tress that are down and that would be the most beneficial to our use on the NCT. It was good to have Dan Watson there as I think he was gathering ideas on how to improve the class.

Doug Seaney

NOTE: Steve Schnell. a JV45° member, Tool Trail Coordinator, & Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association member (TOMMBA) also attended.

Secretary's Report by Duane, next issue Mary Campbell

JV45° Chapter Meeting, May 10, 2014 Minutes

The meeting was preceded by a group hike in the Jordan Valley, there were 12 hikers.

1. We videoed for the NCTA music video chorus of "We Build Trail In Low Places."
2. We planted the new prototype register box/distance sign at the Deadman's Hill Junction.
3. We hiked the proposed reroute that Ken Phillips flagged around the collapsed bridge and beaver pond trail destruction.

Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm at the Boyne Valley Twp Fire Hall in Boyne Falls. Seven potential 2014 projects were outlined, and attendees indicated their preference. As a result, three work groups formed to discuss the projects and make plans:

1. O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver—Jerry & Connie Allen, Peg Jones, Andy Zeek, Gary Johnson, Jim & Jessica Flick, Bob Bennett, Boyd Manges
 2. Boor Campsite/Yurt—Doug Boor, Matt & Zach Stimson, Mary Campbell, Margo Hodder, Josh Berlo
 3. Register Boxes/Distance Signs—Eugene & Linus Branigan, Bob & Sheridan Haack
- (Projects not selected: Beaver Ponds Reroute, Dobleski Reroute Planning, 2014 Trail Adopter Training, Inventory of trail structures)

Doug Boor brought delicious brownies, and the chapter provided pizza, pop and ice cream bars.

The three groups reported out on their deliberations (Jerry Allen, Doug Boor, Eugene Branigan).

The business meeting included announcements, a membership report—we have 58 members—and a financial report—our treasury has just over \$3000.00.

Annual elections were held. By show of hands of members, and addition of the absentee ballots submitted, the following candidates received majority votes:

For a term of one year:

- Vice President – Eugene Branigan
- Treasurer – Todd Winnell
- Trail Coordinator – No nominees (Duane Lawton, acting)
- Board Member At Large (Website Maintenance) – Josh Berlo

For a term of two years:

- Secretary – Mary Campbell
- Communications Coordinator – Amy Wilks
- Board Member At Large (Petoskey Trail Town Coordinator) – Jen Winnell
- President – Duane Lawton

The featured presentation was an inspiring look at climbing the 48 high points in New Hampshire (those greater than 4000') by Josh Berlo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Board Member at Large--Petoskey Trail Town Coordinator

by Jen Winnell



The Jordan Valley 45° and Harbor Springs Chapters joined forces on June 7th for the 2nd Annual Petoskey Trail Town Celebration on National Trails Day. Together with the City of Petoskey and Bearcub Outfitters of Petoskey, we were able to offer food, fun and music at the beautiful Riverbend Park in Petoskey, right alongside a section of the NCT that follows the Bear River.

One of the offerings for the day was a series of speakers. Our very own Chapter President, Duane Lawton, presented a little background and information on the NCT. Petoskey's Parks and Recreation Director Al Hansen shared a little on the history of the trail that follows the Bear River. The Headlands International Dark Sky Park was represented by Mary Stewart Adams, who filled us in on the importance of light pollution awareness and told tales through the constellations.

While the adults found the above presentations entertaining, there were lots of fun-filled opportunities for the younger attendees. Bearcub Outfitters led a family friendly hike along the river, the YMCA provided games and activities for kids, Naturology presented a fly-fishing lure take-home project, and Getting Kids Outdoors in Northern Michigan had face painting (blue blazes!) and nature-centered activities for children as well.

Throughout the event, a Blissfest-sponsored band, Dr. Goodhart's Home Remedy, entertained the crowd with good, down-home music. At lunch time, Al Hansen grilled hotdogs provided by Bearcub Outfitters, to serve with various donated foods from Oleson's, D & W, and the Grain Train.

After lunch we held a raffle, in which two newly signed members won our big prizes for the day: a new pair of Merrell hiking boots from The Outfitter and a \$30 gift certificate to Bearcub Outfitters. There were also a variety of other goodies raffled to those that attended. The event wrapped up with an eight person hike along the NCT in the NCMC Natural Area.

In addition to gathering a bigger crowd for this year's event, we were also pleased to be able to raise awareness on this newer section of the NCT. Many of those attending did not know that the NCT extended south across Sheridan Street to follow the Bear River to Standish Rd. They were still following the roads to get to the Grimes Rd dirt trail that leads up to the NCMC section of trail. Al Hansen hopes to get a bigger sign placed across the road to help make this more apparent.

If you weren't able to join us this year for the terrific weather, great music, educational presentations, free food and group hike, we hope to see you next year! *Jen Winnell*



Photos: Petoskey Trail Town
Event, June, 2014
Top: "Bearcub Outfitters" led a hike
Middle: Face painting by "Getting
Kids Outdoors in N. Michigan"
Bottom: Music by "Dr. Goodhart's
Home Remedy"



Trail Coordinator Report by Duane Lawton (acting)

| J45 TRAIL ADOPTERS DASHBOARD Updated 6/20/2014 | | | | | <div> <div>AOK</div> <div>Plan, or Known Minor Issue</div> <div>Unknown, or Known Major Issue</div> <div>road</div> </div> | |
|--|--|--------------------------|-------------|---|--|----------------------|
| | Section | Adopter | Last Report | Status | Needs | Structures Inventory |
| A | Starvation Lake Rd./C-38 | Thelen/Wilks /Davis | 5/26/2014 | south half done | 2 deadfall 2 mi N of Starvation Lake Rd | |
| B | C-38 Marcelona Rd./Whispering Pines Rd. | Jones/Zeek /NMMBA | 5/27/2014 | Surveyed; good cond.; has been mowed (NMMBA?) | Several DF | no structures |
| C | Whispering Pines Rd./Five Lakes | Tracey | | | | |
| D | Five Lakes/Landslide Overlook (road) | Branigan | | | Needs better blazing at turn | |
| E | Landslide Overlook/Cascade Road | Roth | 5/19/2014 | Cleared | Stair railing needs strengthening | done |
| EE | Cascade Road/Pinney Bridge | open | 6/3/2014 | Cleared | | |
| E1 | DNR Trail: Landslide Overlook/Jordan River Rd | Bennett | 5/30/2014 | confirmed adoption; to be cleared | | |
| E2 | DNR Trail: Jordan River Rd./Turner Rd | open | 5/28/2014 | to be cleared, then open | | |
| E3 | DNR Trail: Turner Rd./Deadman's Hill Junction | open | 5/28/2014 | to be cleared, then open | | |
| F | Pinney Bridge/unnamed stream | Kelley | 5/28/2014 | cleared | | |
| G | unnamed stream/Jordan River Rd | FOH/Myers | 5/28/2014 | cleared | | |
| H | Jordan River Rd./Jordan River Rd. | Seaney | 6/9/2014 | Phillips sawed from 3 tubes to DMH | Collapsed bridge at beaver pond; detour | |
| I | Jordan River Rd./ O'Brien Pond (road) | Sucaet | | | | |
| J | O'Brien Pond to M-32 trail crossing | Sucaet | | | Beaver damage to trail @ O'Brien Pond; barely passable | |
| K | M32/US131 trail crossing | open | | | | |
| L | US131/Dobleski Rd | open | | | | |
| M | Dobleski Rd./Giem Rd. (road) | open | | | | |
| N | Giem Rd./ORV trail section 24 | open | | | | |
| O | ORV trail/C-48 & Slashing Rd. | open | | | | |
| P | C48&Slash/g/Chandler Hill Rd. | Wagle | 6/2/2014 | plan to do | 2 bridges need repair (Schnell) | |
| Q | Chandler Hill Rd./Springdale Rd. | Allen/Killinger | 6/15/2014 | cleared | 2 areas need mowing; need bridge near midpoint | |
| R | Springdale Rd./Harmon Rd | Wagle | 6/2/2014 | plan to do; part looks good | | |
| S | Harmon Rd./Taylor Rd. trailhead (road) | Wagle | | | | |
| T | Taylor Rd./Johnson Rd. | Manges | | | | |
| U | Taylor Rd./Johnson Rd. | Harris/Moffatt /Winnell | 5/26/2014 | plan to do; part looks good | | |
| V | Brubaker Rd./McDougal Rd. (road) | | | | | |
| W | McDougal Rd./Grimes St. (top) | NMC | 6/7/2014 | walkthrough; looks good | Collapsed bridge (passable) | |
| X | Grimes St.(top)/Petoskey City Hall (Bear River Valley) | Petoskey P& Rec./Winnell | 6/7/2014 | | Posits for blazes; wet areas S of Sheridan | |
| Y | Petoskey City Hall/N. Conway Rd. (LTWW/NWM trail) | TOMTC | | | | |

Trail Adopter's Report

We are well into the 2014 hiking season, and the state of our trail is important to the enjoyment of everyone who uses it. We are dependent on the folks who volunteer to adopt trail sections and keep them in good shape. So far this year we have good news and bad news.

Generally our active adopters are stepping up, as are our mowers and foresters (chainsaw people). A hearty "Thanks" to you all. As the report shows, we have partial information on the state of the trail from our Adopters. If you have been out on the trail, whether or not you are an Adopter, and can report on work you did, or simply report on trail conditions and specific needs (mowing and/or deadfall), please call or email me.

In addition, however, unfortunately we have several sections now without Adopters. If you are interested in becoming a trail Adopter, please let me know. The early callers get the choicest sections! It is vitally important the whole trail be maintained, so don't wait, or I might call you.

This new trail status report is now posted on our website, so if you have difficulty reading it here, look there. I will be updating it periodically (probably twice a month), so you (and trail users) can check it for the latest information available. IF YOU SEE ANY MIS-INFORMATION on the report, please let me know immediately.

Note that a "red" condition may merely mean that I haven't heard any report yet.

Thank You.

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

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

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

Communications Report by Amy Wilks

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Julie Bradford, James Dekett & John Roe

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.

Draft Plan for NCNST in Adirondack Park

The New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation has released the plan for 30 day review." Once the plan is approved, the NCTA can move forward.... to get the trail on the ground", quoted by Andrea Ketchmark, aketchmark@northcountrytrail.org.

Check out: New Videos on Volunteer Resources 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