

Jordan Valley 45°

Newsletter Volume 3 Issue 1



Calendar

Bean Pot- Jordan River
National Fish Hatchery
Feb. 22
Tour, Snowshoe Hike

NO MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Quiet Water Symposium
Sat., March 1, 2014
MSU Pavilion
E. Lansing, MI.

Board Meeting-March

May General Meeting
Sat. May 10, 2014
Time: In April news
Place: In April news
Election (details April)
Dinner, speaker, door
prizes, workshops
Optional afternoon
hike--Walk the Jordan
River Pathway beaver
ponds reroute
All Welcome

Annual NCTA Conference
Aug. 21-23, 2014
Duluth, MN.

National Scenic Trails Day
Sept. 27, 2014
See pg. 5

PHOTO CONTEST:

Details on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/northcountrytrail/posts/10151863764795816>

February, 2014



Notes from JV45° Annual Meeting,

Jan. 11, 2014

by Duane Lawton

- Nine in attendance despite inclement weather: Bob Bennett, Josh Berlo, Jim Flick, Jessica Flick, Duane Lawton, Bruce Matthews, Linda Matthews, Paige Perry, Ken Phillips.
- Folks I heard from who couldn't make it: Jerry Allen, Connie Allen, Gary Johnson, Peg Jones, Peg Myers, Bob Schrems, Amy Wilks, Andy Zeek
- Ken brought Paige Perry from Lewiston, who is DNR Trail Manager for this area.
- Financial Report: November/December income \$59.21 (dues, interest), Donated \$50 each to Boyne Valley Fire & Rescue and Jordan Valley National Fish Hatchery. Ending balance \$2802.15
- State of the Chapter: Reviewed 2013 accomplishments, proposed potential 2014 projects/objectives and calendar.
- Feedback from the October 2013 Charlevoix BASES trail cleanup project (led by Amy and Gary)...Scott Kelly said it was a very popular activity, they would like to consider doing it twice in 2014, perhaps not so late, though.
- Handout of potential 2014 projects seeking consensus priority. The list is attached, prioritized according to one response (See pg.3)

Photo: Ken Phillips, middle, accepts "NCTA Honor" and 8th Annual "Jerry Allen Big Foot" awards from Bruce Matthews, left, and Duane Lawton, right.



- Jordan Valley beaver ponds bridge collapse. Discussion of rebuild vs. reroute. Ken/Paige concerned that existing route can't be practically maintained due to beaver activity. Others concerned that this iconic part of an iconic trail section not be diminished. Ken has scouted an upland route that is above the cedars so that there are views of the pond area when leaves have fallen. There also could be a spur trail to a viewing area. Ultimately the decision is the DNR's. It was decided to prepare a letter to DNR leadership emphasizing the importance of the Jordan River Pathway and the beaver ponds section. Duane, Josh and Bruce will collaborate on a draft and seek general input.
- Update Jordan River Pathway (JRP) Brochure. Important. Need someone to step up on this. DNR/JRNHFH have helped in the past. [Publication probably should await decision on beaver ponds trail route]
- Highway signs. Paige noted that the DNR sign shop at Hartwick Pines SP now produces printed signs on various substrates, and has capacity to do this quickly. Hearing that Tom Copenhaver has had our signs in the queue for about a year, she acknowledged that there are frequently high priority jobs that lengthen the queue. Paige also said she has contact with various road commissions, and can arrange for their consent to erect our signs.
- Register Boxes. Duane displayed a prototype (pictures below). Suggestions for changes or improvements are solicited. Ken noted that with a set of plans, he could potentially get Boy Scouts to build some. Paige noted that perhaps the Petoskey SP could build some boxes. Duane to prepare a set of plans (so get your suggestions in soon).
- GPS Trail Changes. Bruce brought copies of new MI-07 map (Charlevoix County to Mackinac Bridge) from Matt Rowbotham. The Boor and Bear River Rec. Area reroutes are now shown. Bruce said NCTA HQ will have some mapping interns this year and that a lot of mapping updates should be accomplished. We need to GPS the Sand Lake reroute and make sure that is reflected on a new MI-06. Bruce said expect a chapter-specific map edition to be available in the April timeframe.
- Dobleski Reroute. We also need to GPS an optimal route from Dobleski to Gien for inclusion in the NPS Optimal Location Review (OLR), with DNR concurrence.
- O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver. Ken reports that he is close to submitting a permit application. He solicits additional BD plans/concepts to help finalize his submission.
- Boor Campsite. General support for using Doug's yurt as shelter for this campsite. Good 2014 work project. (Petoskey P&R/Al Hansen approves a spur trail from their portion of the NCT).
- Other trail work. Ken intends to check out/flag potential work—creek puncheon S. of Harmon, Allen's "bowl", get off 2-track near Chandler Hill.
- 2014 Calendar. Intent to continue odd-month meetings and even-month newsletters. **CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF MEETING PRESENTERS.** Duane to pursue an "All Trails" National Trails Day Petoskey Trail Town Celebration. Need a leader for snowshoe hike in conjunction with JRNHFH Bean Pot Feb. 22.
- Communications Report. We've got 60 members! ...14 from NCTA e-Membership drive. Duane noted that his impression NCTA receives ~\$20 from NPS for each volunteer hour is wrong. This figure is merely used as illustration of the "value" of a volunteer hour, and helps in fundraising by accentuating the investment that volunteers have made.
- Trail Report. Recognition for all the folks who helped on the trail in 2013. Adopters, Organizational Maintainers, Mowers, Sawyers, Swampers, Tools. See Powerpoint. (Not included in newsletter.)

Photo:

Collapsed bridge over the outlet from beaver ponds below Deadman's Hill-
Please AVOID! Detour available.



- Web Site. Josh solicits new pictures to refresh the site. It was noted that the title of the site is not the correct name of the J45 Chapter. [This has since been fixed—thank you Bruce].
- Lunch. [Note: “8.89+tax” is misleading, we also got a \$3.25 “beverage charge”]
- Elections. No elections were held, due to lack of a quorum. What now? Proper procedure is to hold election at next general meeting. Will that meeting have a quorum? Also discussed having elections by email. Bruce noted this is possible, merely need to amend the Chapter Bylaws. ... that requires a vote of membership. Catch-22.
- Awards. NCTA Honor Award went to Ken Phillips. This plaque is provided by NCTA HQ for a chapter member/volunteer who demonstrates loyalty, commitment, and hard work toward the chapter's chosen activities. The 8th Annual Jerry Allen Big Foot Award went to Ken Phillips. This prestigious award, whose trophy resides in Jerry Allen's basement, is represented by a plaque and an NCTA vest. Congratulations Ken!
- Guest Speaker: Bruce Matthews, Executive Director, North Country Trail Association who spoke on “State of the Trail/State of the Association” and fielded Q&A.
- Bruce also regaled us with a rendition of his song “We Build Trail In Low Places” (you know the tune). This catchy ballad to NCT volunteers is to become a music video and part of the NCTA marketing campaign, provided the Kickstarter Project gets sufficient pledges to fund it. Pledge deadline is February 7th. <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/brucemathews/lets-celebrate-our-north-country-trail-volunteers> I am intrigued by the “barroom scene” planned, reminiscent of Tattooine?
- Drawing for Door Prizes. Several folks brought contributions, so there were enough prizes for everyone to receive half a dozen each. We settled on one each, and to save the rest for future meetings.
- Adjourn ca. 1430 hrs. Respectfully submitted, Duane Lawton, default secretary

1/11/2014		Potential 2014 J45 Projects				NAME: _____
PRIORITY		\$ (SWAG)	DNR Direction	DNR Permit	DEQ Permit	Comment
1	• Jordan Valley Beaver Ponds bridge replace/reroute Preference Poll: Replace <input type="checkbox"/> Reroute <input type="checkbox"/> Either <input type="checkbox"/>	\$2K	Y	Y	Y	\$ for bridge. May have to be 2015.
2	• Update Jordan River Pathway Brochure	\$500				Printing (2000)
3	• Highway signs M-32, US-131, C-48	\$200				DNR signs, Antrim/MI Road Comm.
4	• Register boxes and distance signs	@\$50		?		Materials only, in qty.
5	• GPS Trail Changes and Submit to NCTA HQ					
6	• Dobleski Reroute – Flag optimum route, OLR.		Y	Y		Collaborate with NPS
7	• O'Brien Pond Beaver Deceiver	\$1K		Y	Y	Excavator
8	• Parking/barrier/sign on Thumb Lake Rd. (Adgate)	\$1K				Charlevoix Road Comm.
9	• Build campsite on Boor ppty with Doug's yurt	\$500?				Platform, Picnic Table, spur trail
10	• Reroute/repair Allen's section "the bowl"		Y	Y		
11	• Reroute trail off 2-track near Chandler Hills		Y			
12	• Creek crossing/puncheon repair just S of Harmon	\$200		Y	?	
	priority per one person's feedback					

- **Election**

There was no election at the annual meeting due to low attendance. We intend to hold the election at the May meeting. In addition, you will be able to vote absentee if you are unable to attend the meeting. There will be details in the April newsletter



Photos: Register Boxes, prototypes by Duane. Suggestions for changes or improvements are solicited.



Newsletter Format Survey

We have been publishing the J45 Newsletter as a Adobe Acrobat .pdf file attached to an email. It has been suggested that it would be more easily read, and could be compatible with mobile devices, if it were actually part of the body of the email (http), not an attachment. What do you think? Please use "reply" to this email and enter your answers in the text to respond. Thanks.

- I did not read this newsletter email (assumed if you don't respond, so RESPOND)
- I saw (read) the email, but did not open the attached file, because
 - I don't know how, or I don't have a .pdf reader on my computer
 - It takes too long, I didn't bother
 - I wasn't interested
- I opened the attached file and read the newsletter
- I would prefer to receive the newsletter in the following format:
 - Attached file (no change)
 - In the body of email (http)
 - Snail mail
 - I don't care
- I have read at least one newsletter in the past year, and I
 - Really like it
 - Don't like it
 - Think it would be better if... (please enter your comment)

Duane,

delawton@torchlake.com

248-496-1869

NEW JV45 °CHAPTER BROCHURE

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

http://northcountrytrail.org/jv45/?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

NEW INITIATIVE: ANNUAL NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL DAY

“The NCTA Board passed a resolution to support the first **Annual North Country National Scenic Trail Day** to be held on the **4th Saturday in September annually** starting **Sept. 27, 2014** in conjunction with National Public Lands and Hunting and Fishing Days.... Imagine the profile NCNST will gain when all sponsoring organizations host an event on the trail the same day in seven states.”

Mark your calendar. We will be holding a promotional trail event.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Kickstarter project. *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