



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1

February 2017

Upcoming Events

February Hike 100, 19th (Sunday).
Details to be announced.

March Hike 100, 18th (Saturday).
Details to be announced.

March 18, 2017. Chapter Meeting.
Details to be announced.

NCTA Annual Celebration will be in Marquette, MI in 2017 - July 26 - 30. Some lodging options are filling fast. See details at:
<http://nctacelebration.org/>

The JV45° Newsletter is published six times per year, every other month

Message from JV45° President Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com

I hope you all are enjoying your winter, no matter where you may be. I see a lot of posts that show the 2017 Hike 100 is already in FULL SWING. We are staying active and enjoying being outdoors. We are so fortunate to be able to be doing what we're doing.

2017 JV45 Annual Meeting. We had another successful annual meeting on January 7th in Gaylord, with the usual attendance. Kenny Wawsczyk gave us an informative presentation on his efforts for Michigan and we re-elected our VP Eugene Branigan, Treasurer Todd Winnell, Website Maintainer Josh Berlo, and Trail Coordinators Dove and John Day.



We also elected Denise DeKett as Secretary who graciously has agreed to replace Mary Campbell, who is off to hike the AT [☺]. Our 11th annual Big Foot award went to Eugene Branigan for his leadership of Hike 100 1.0 for the chapter, and our chapter honor award went to Mary Campbell for Adopter Dinner cookery. Additional details of the meeting can be found in Mary's draft minutes below.

2016 Hike 100. Nationwide, over 5,000 hikers participated in 2016, and nearly 1,800 hiked 100 miles, far exceeding expectations. So we're gonna do it again. There is a new patch and additional tasks to energize new members. Eugene Branigan will again be hosting our "Hike 100 2.0" group hike program in 2017. The first events are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

2017 Projects. In addition to the outstanding trail maintenance our adopters are doing, we have sufficient other work that will keep us happy and busy in 2017. There will be work bees in the spring to put the finishing touches on the Skyline Camp shelter. We will be sprucing up the Jordan Valley Pathway (JVP) with a bunch of things that I have covered in a separate article below. We are looking for folks to lead projects.

News from NCTA headquarters. In 2016, NCTA membership increased 26% to 1,343 (due to Hike 100?). Volunteer hours were around 70,000 with a private sector value of \$1.6 million. NCTA actual off-road trail miles surged past 3,000. We now have more completed miles to hike than any other NST in the USA. This year NCTA is converting to a donor-based membership policy (see sidebar). NCTA finished 2016 with the budget \$10K in the black.

NCTA Celebration 2017. Make your accommodation reservations early for Marquette July 27-30. Campsites are filling up. See more information below.

Let's Roll !

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Submit Your Stories for the JV45° Newsletter

This is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues, and that includes stories for the "Where I Hiked" column, so I don't have to write more dog walking stories! Ha
Bob Haack <haack@msu.edu>.

To see the most current JV45° trail conditions visit: <http://northcountrytrail.org/j45/?page_id=58>.

To report conditions e-mail Dove and John Day at doveday70@gmail.com or call 231-373-0090 or 231-838-6445

The JV45° Chapter is on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45-636045479799699/>

Jordan Valley Pathway, 2017 Projects

Duane Lawton, delawton@torchlake.com

This year we plan to focus our trail building efforts on refurbishing the Jordan Valley Pathway (JVP). I listed what needs doing in our December newsletter. Now we need to get organized to pull it off.

This will take a concerted effort, and I need our trail-lovers to step up and take charge of pieces of the puzzle. So here are a series of projects to encompass the work, and I welcome (beg, beseech, nag) you to volunteer to lead one. (If you don't volunteer, someone who does will recruit you to participate).

There is not a great deal of detail listed...just basic goals and objectives. You get to take charge and detail the work plan for your project.

The JV45 chapter leadership team stands ready to support your efforts...we can provide advice, publicity (e.g. seeking participants for a work day), funding (from chapter account, or through grant application), help with the procedures working with the DNR/DEQ to get permits. Permit applications take time to process, so planning work for some projects needs to start very soon.

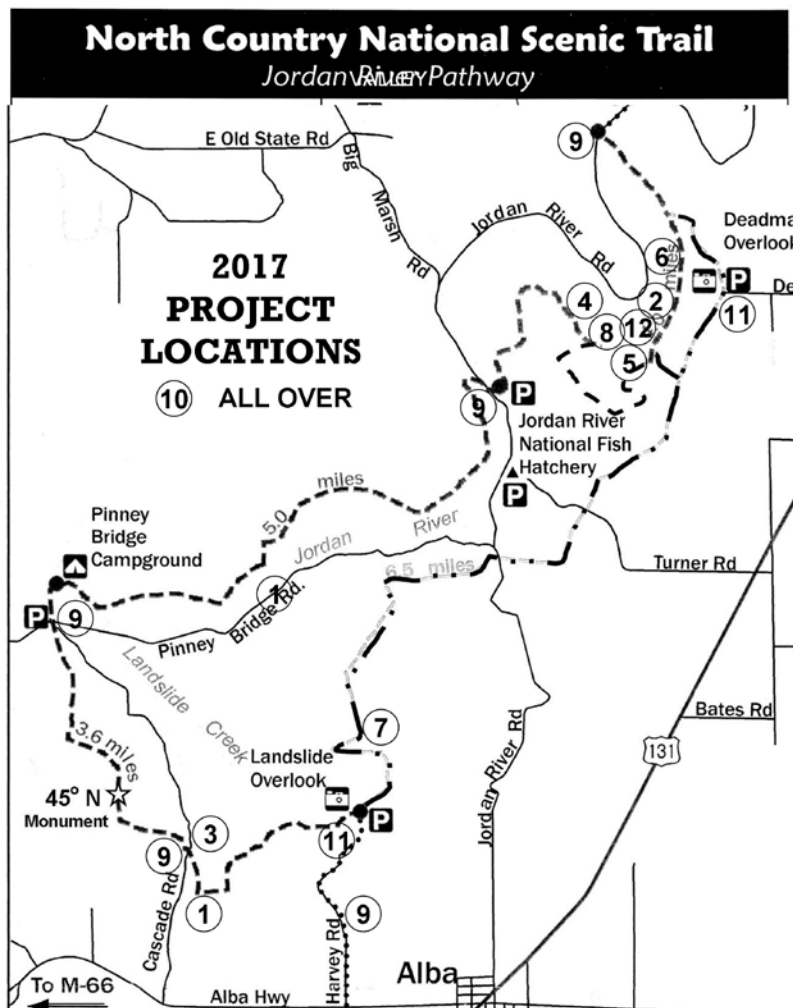
These "projects" can be merged or split—whatever makes sense to you, because you are in charge! If you need more information on a particular challenge in order to decide to take it on, please email me!

Here is what is going on or NEEDS to go on in the Jordan Valley. See the map for their locations based on the numbers below. Do you know of anything else?

1. Cascade Creek boardwalk repair. Could end up being a reroute above the ravine. Our DNR Parks & Rec liaison Tom Copenhagen has this on his radar. We'll participate in their decision whether to repair the boardwalk, or reroute. Then do it.
2. Structures to solve messy spots below Deadman's Hill (including one small stream crossing). 4 to 6 structures. Maybe 200-300 feet of boardwalk. We have a lot of data (measurements, photos), which need to be converted into a proposal and submitted to the DNR/DEQ via a permit application. Then the planning and executing.
3. Structures to solve messy spots between Cascade Road and the Cascade Creek bridge. There are persistent seeps along this slope which make the going treacherous and devising a solution difficult. Make a plan, convert into a proposal and submit to the DNR/DEQ via a permit application. Then the planning and executing.
4. Boardwalk beyond beaver ponds—repair (shore it up). This should be fairly simple, as there is a strong tree against which it can be braced. May require some additional structural strengthening. This is a repair, no permit required.
5. Wet spots in first part of beaver ponds reroute—fill or puncheon. Assess the low spots, determine if fill or puncheon is most appropriate, submit a permit application to the DNR/DEQ. Then the planning and executing.

6. Viewing platform at spring below Deadman's Hill—major repair. It has been "listing" for several years. Major structural work. This is a repair, no permit required.
7. Repair puncheon east of Landslide Creek. Minor project, really old puncheon needs replacing, maybe 50 feet.
8. Remove remnant material of collapsed Beaver Ponds bridge. DNR may be doing this.
9. NCT road crossing marker posts: Pinney Bridge Rd. (2), Jordan River Rd. (4), Cascade Rd. (2), Harvey Rd. (1). I will fabricate them, we'll need to go out and plant them, probably at the same time as other work in the valley.
10. "You Are Here" signs. About 20 to spot around the Jordan Valley and Warner Creek Pathways. DNR will be supplying them, we get to install. Probably coordinate some of them with our road crossing marker posts.
11. NCT Interpretive Panels: Landslide Overlook and Deadman's Hill. NCTA is providing two 48" high by 36" wide, weatherproof panels, we need to design "kiosk" structures to house them, fabricate them, and install them.
12. Spur trail from beaver ponds reroute to existing abandoned boardwalk (it is sound, and becomes a beaver ponds viewing platform). Probably less than a couple hundred yards. Scout a route, make a plan, submit a permit application to the DNR/DEQ. Hold a work bee to build it.

Pick a project! Send me an email!



Jordan Valley Pathway where the numbers reflect the proposed projects.

Register Box Buzz



Starvation Lake Trail Box

Danyell Minier

danyellminier@yahoo.com

Since the trail box was installed on 16 April 2016 at Starvation Lake Road

approximately 50 people have registered in the logbook. For example, there have been entries from Boston, Massachusetts; Falls, Pennsylvania; Fremont, Michigan; New Baltimore, Michigan; San Diego, California; and South Carolina,

In May, two people were halfway towards their 100 mile patch and 4 others were just beginning their 100 mile challenge. Aaron was hiking for Bronson Children's Hospital and started at the Michigan/Ohio border hiking north, and on June 2nd he started the Jordan 45 section. In July/August apparently there were a lot of ferns on the trail. "CND Hiker 47" wrote "Take care of that beautiful lake and the surrounding forest, folks - it is an irreplaceable and priceless gem!!" Katelyn from New Baltimore, Michigan on November 13th wrote that it was 45 degrees and "Sunny and walking with my family and dogs. Great place to be before braces in 2 days." In September Leslie says "Beautiful day for a hike. We've collected enough mushrooms to last quite a while!" I guess I know where to go mushrooming next year. Happy Hiking,



LAST MILE LAST MINUTE HIKE December 31, 2016

Five intrepid souls hiked on snowshoes from Mancelona Rd. to Cinder Hill Rd, a distance of about 4.8 miles. There was about 2 feet of powder snow and temperatures were in the 20's. Ironically, the same hike we did in January 2016, but in reverse.



(Above L-R) Eugene Branigan, Brian (?), Linus Branigan, Bob Courtois & Duane Lawton



New Donor-Based NCTA Membership Policy

- Effective 1/1/2017, membership now by donation, minimum \$20 per year vs. \$46 individual, and \$23 for first timers previously
- Donations above \$40 have option of paper North Star, vs. electronic only
- Chapters get a flat \$10 per chapter member share of the membership donations for chapter funding, vs. prior 20% of dues.
- Donations can be designated to a specific chapter
- Same member benefits (e.g trail shop discounts)
- (re-)enroll at northcountrytrail.org

...more detail in the February North Star.

Two JV45 Members Take On New NCTA Roles

Josh Berlo, our webmaster, will be joining the NCTA Board in 2017, and Duane Lawton will be joining the editorial board of the North Star. Congrats and thanks for getting involved.

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

doveday70@gmail.com



We hope everyone is off to a great start in 2017. We know that our Jordan Valley 45° trail adopters are, as some have already been out cutting fallen trees off the trail in their snowshoes. Way to go adopters; that is dedication!

It was an honor for us to be reelected as JV45° Trail Coordinators at the last meeting in January and we are looking forward to serving two more years. We are even more excited though to announce three new trail adopters to our team!

Welcome Tony Sokol, of the Bay City area. Tony has adopted Section E3 of the Jordan Valley Pathway. We are very happy to have Tony join our team. Tony has helped out in past and we are looking forward to working with him again. Section E3 will be spruced up in no time, as Tony is very familiar with blue blaze paint! Thank you Tony for adopting this section near Deadman's Hill!



Darwin Costello

We are also excited to announce that Brad Moffatt and Darwin Costello, both chainsaw certified JV45° members, have decided to adopt section R just south of Petoskey. Brad and Dar have been helping with the chapter's chainsaw needs for almost two years. We are happy that they have decided to adopt their own section, and we know that as dedicated as they are, they will continue to help out when sawyers are in desperate need. Thank you Brad and Darwin!

We are so thankful for all of our adopters. The sections that the

Jordan Valley 45° chapter cares for are nearly 100% adopted. 2017 will be a challenging year, as we have already seen a lot of downed trees from the recent high winds, but with the team we have in place and a few JV45° work weekends, the trail will be back in tip-top shape in no time. We love the enthusiasm of the JV45° trail adopters and as always can't thank them enough for volunteering! We hope you all enjoy the beauty of winter and the joy that the NCT brings this time of year.



Tony Sokol



Brad Moffatt

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – President
delawton@torchlake.com

Eugene Branigan – Vice President
eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Denise DeKett – Secretary
dedekett@gmail.com

Todd Winnell – Treasurer
Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jenwinnell@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
haack@msu.edu

Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
doveday70@gmail.com,
johnanddove@gmail.com

Where I Hiked

Tate's Hell State Forest in the Florida Panhandle

Bob & Sheridan Haack

haack@msu.edu

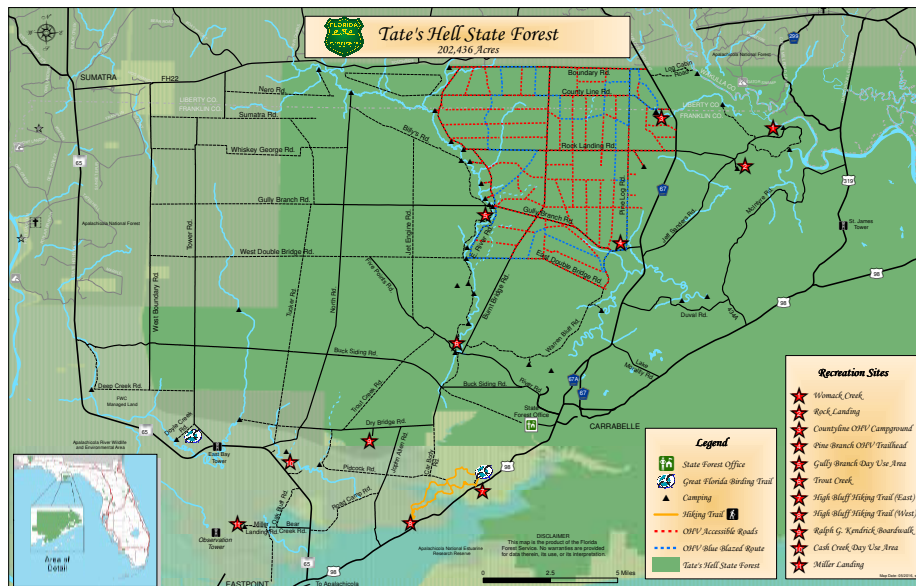
We escaped the snowfields of Michigan for several weeks this winter and rented a house on the Gulf Coast of northern Florida in the community of St. Teresa, which has a beautiful 3-mile-long white sand beach. For reference, St. Teresa is about 40 miles south of Tallahassee. There are dozens of hiking opportunities in this area of Florida. Within a 30 mile radius there are several State Forests, State Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, and a National Forest. Because we travel everywhere with our two dogs (ages 10 and 11), we are always looking for nearby hiking trails that relatively short.



Tate's Hell State Forest is about 20 miles west of St. Teresa along the coast. It is a large tract of land, over 200,000 acres, with much of it in pine flatwoods and cypress swampland. There is a hiking trail along the southern, coastal-side of the Tate's Hell SF, with two access points, and is called the High Bluff Coastal Trail. The trail is about 4 miles long between the two access points, and forms two loops (in a figure 8) with one loop about 4 mi long and the other 5.5 mi. But beware, the northern sections can get pretty wet. The main trail goes over relict sand dunes, sparsely covered by pines and hardwoods. Sand pine is the



Source of map: <http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/>



Tate's Hell State Forest



Section of the High Bluff Coastal Trail

most common pine, which has 2 needles per cluster that are 3-4 inches long. The forest floor is covered with saw palmetto, rosemary, and several species of oaks (Chapman, dwarf-live, and myrtle oaks) that are simply shrubs, forming dense evergreen thickets from runners that grow underground.

As for the name of this State Forest, legend says that in 1875 a local farmer, Cebe Tate, went into the swamp, armed with his shotgun, in search of a Florida panther that was killing his livestock. However, after seven days in the swamp, and being bitten by snakes, he finally emerged and lived only long enough to say, "My name is Cebe Tate, and I just came from Hell."

We also take long walks on the beach in front of our rental a few times each day. It is fascinating to see what appears on the shoreline. Every day is different. Duster, our Golden, looks for crabs, and Shelby, the



Exploring St. Teresa at low tide when 200-300 ft more sand is exposed than at high tide.



Shelby, our 11-yr-old Aussie, with her collection of horseshoe crabs (all shed skins)

Aussie, is captivated with horseshoe crabs. She usually finds a couple on each walk. Some are alive, but most are simply the shed "skins" that remain after they molt.

Historically, during WWII the Army leased a 20-mile stretch of beach here, including St. Teresa, and trained soldiers for amphibious landings used on many Pacific islands as well as at Normandy on D-Day. There are even posters here that warn locals about unexploded ordnances on the land and in the water. So be careful! A visit to the local WWII Museum in Carabelle, FL, is well worth it!

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter- North Country Trail Annual Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

January 7, 2017 at 1 p.m. – BJ's Restaurant, Gaylord

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with approximately 20 chapter members and visitors in attendance.

2. Review of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented. Motion by Peg Jones, seconded by Eugene Branigan, Motion Carried. [minor break while attendees obtained buffet lunches]

3. Membership & Financial Report

Memberships as of Dec 2016 were up by 10 to a total of 76 compared to 66 at the end of 2015. Chapter account balance is \$3,328.96 as of Dec 31, 2016, which reflects a net decrease of \$468.84 since the last reporting (8/31/16). The chapter had \$246.39 in income, but incurred \$716.23 in expenses. The expenses were primarily associated with the following items/activities: vehicle magnetic signs, adopter patches, newsletter printing and mailing, and trail adopter appreciation dinner.

4. Year in Review – 2016 Activities and Accomplishments

✓ **Annual Meeting** including elections, awards & a featured presentation by the DNR staff, Paige Perry.

✓ **NCT Hike 100 Challenge** - In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Parks, the North Country Trail Association challenged individuals to hike 100 miles during the course of the year. In order to encourage JV45° chapter members and friends to Hike 100, Vice President, Eugene Branigan led monthly hikes which ultimately covered the entire JV45° territory and more. Many JV45° chapter members enjoyed these hikes and as a result successfully completed more than 100 miles on the NCT in 2016.

✓ **Trail Work Days** – Trail Coordinators, Dove and John Day, organized two trail work days (4/30/16 & 5/28/16)

✓ **Road Crossing Markers and Register Boxes** – 18 Road Crossing Posts were fabricated and installed to make the trail crossings more apparent from the roads, and to orient hikers as to the road being crossed. Two additional register boxes were fabricated and installed.

✓ **Trail Town Celebration** (June 4) – Jen Winnell coordinated the JV45° chapter involvement and participation in the 4th Annual National Trail Day Petoskey Trail Town Celebration in cooperation with the Harbor Springs NCT chapter and the City of Petoskey to raise local awareness of the NCT.

✓ **Trail Adopter Dinner**- In October, the second annual dinner in appreciation of the heroic efforts put forth by our trail adopters was held. Coordinated by our amazing trail coordinators, Dove & John Day, food preparation provided by Mary Campbell & John Larch.

✓ **Skyline Camp Construction** – after the collapse of the previous platform tent structure at Skyline Camp, Eagle Scout candidate, Joe Farley coordinated the construction of a new trail shelter and outhouse, in coordination with private property owners, Doug and Pam Boor. Members of the JV45° chapter participated in a work-bee to build the shelter and outhouse. A second Eagle Scout candidate, Chase Rawson undertook the Spring Improvement project to provide easier access to a water source for the camp and hikers passing through.

✓ Social Media presence and activity

– Thanks to a number of dedicated members, through the Website (Josh Berlo), Newsletter (Bob Haack) and Facebook (Dove Day) the JV45° chapter activities have been well publicized.



Preparing for the Annual Meeting

5. 2017 Preview

-Preliminary Plans and Thoughts

✓ **NCT Hike 100 Challenge** (version 2.0) - to promote hiking 100 miles on the NCT in 2017, Eugene Branigan will lead JV45° monthly hikes, with details to be provided via newsletters & social media.

✓ **Jordan River Pathway Rehab & New Projects** (*funding sources being explored*):

- Cascade Creek boardwalk repair. (Could end up being a reroute above the ravine)
- Structures to solve messy spots below Dead Man's Hill (including one small stream crossing) *
- Structures to solve messy spots between Cascade Road and Cascade Creek bridge *
- O'Brien Pond puncheon/beaver deceiver (BD):
 - Increase BD flow capacity (the BD is functioning as intended, but beavers are winning)
 - Strengthen puncheon (with high water without more BD capacity, some of it floats)

* *DNR/DEQ permit likely required*

- Install DNR provided "You Are Here" signs at strategic locations
- Install Interpretive Panels at Dead Man's Hill and Landslide Overlook
- Convert abandoned boardwalk to a (beaver pond) viewing area including a spur trail to access.

✓ **Newsletters, Social Media and Chapter Meetings** – to promote activities and report on projects.

✓ **Adopter Appreciation**

✓ **Skyline Camp** – Finish Construction

✓ **Road Crossing Markers** – fabricate and install 20 additional road crossing marker posts.

✓ **NCTA 2019 Celebration** (National NCTA Gathering) – begin planning

✓ **Landowner agreements** – explore how to successfully acquire landowner agreements to allow for the trail to cross private property (for re-routes of current road walk sections)

6. Elections

✓ Vice President: **Eugene Branigan**, nominated by Jim DeKett, seconded by Chris Laurion. *No other nominations received at the meeting.* **Eugene Branigan was re-elected by majority vote.**

✓ Treasurer: **Todd Winnell**, nominated by Peg Jones, seconded by Eugene Branigan. *No other nominations received at the meeting.* **Todd Winnell was re-elected by majority vote.**

✓ Trail Coordinators: **Dove & John Day**, nominated by Jerry Allen, seconded by Eugene Branigan. *No other nominations received at the meeting.* **Dove and John Day were re-elected by majority vote.**

✓ At Large Member (handles Website): **Josh Berlo**, nominated by **John Day**, seconded by **Eugene Branigan**. *No other nominations received at the meeting. Josh Berlo was re-elected by majority vote.*

✓ Secretary: **Denise DeKett**, nominated by **Eugene Branigan**, seconded by **Peg Jones**. *No other nominations received at the meeting. Denise DeKett was elected by majority vote [to finish out the balance (1 year) of the term of former Secretary Mary Campbell who resigned in order to hike the AT in 2017.]*

7. Awards

✓ **2016 JV45° Chapter Honor Award** –awarded to **Mary Campbell**, in appreciation for her efforts as Secretary and coordination & preparation of food for the Trail Adopter Appreciation Dinners.

✓ **11th Annual Big Foot Award**–awarded to **Eugene Branigan** for his dedication in coordinating and leading monthly chapter hikes to promote the NCT Hike 100 Challenge.

8. Featured Presentation: NCT Updates, by Kenny Wawczyk, NCT Regional Trail Coordinator

Kenny Wawczyk provided an overview of NCT in Michigan, which includes: 12 Chapters covering 1,150 miles (827 trail miles, 323 road miles), and passes through 1 National Park, 3 National Forests, 5 State Forests, 6 State Game Areas, 13 State Parks or Recreation Areas, utilizes portions of 12 Pathways and crosses numerous private lands.

As the Regional Trail Coordinator serving Michigan, his job is to work with Chapter leadership, work with various land managers, assist with acquiring funding (such as grant applications) for projects, and be involved with State Forest compartment reviews to stay informed about potential logging operations. Some of his other duties include Optimal Location Reviews (OLR) for proposed trail reroutes, scouting new trails, providing design and layout assistance for reroutes, participating in chapter work days (as available), GPS new reroutes and existing trail to improve the interactive maps, and participate in chapter or trail related DNR meetings. Two NCT projects recently received funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and are underway. They are at O Kun de Kun and Little Iron River Bridge. Locally the NCT has hired a firm to help facilitate the OLRs in Emmet County, based on the complexity of the re-routes including multiple landowners. As Regional Coordinator, Kenny Wawczyk will continue to work with the Chapter to assist with our proposed projects.

9. Door Prizes were enjoyed by all.

10. Upcoming Events

- A. Quiet Water Symposium – March 4, 2017 in East Lansing.
- B. Next chapter meeting – March 18, 2017 at the Boyne Falls Fire Hall, after the monthly hike.

11. Adjournment:

motion by John Day, seconded by Eugene Branigan to adjourn the JV45° Chapter annual meeting, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Campbell



Kenny Wawczyk

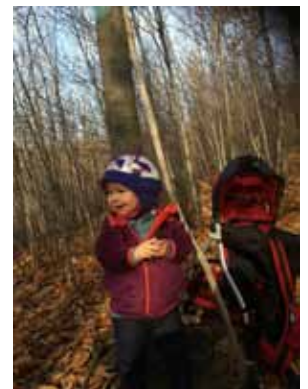
2017 Hike 100 Challenge

In 2017, the NCTA will once again offer the “Hike 100 Challenge” with an extra “Build It Challenge” to celebrate the 4,600 mile North Country National Scenic Trail (NCN and the stories of its thousands of volunteers and hikers. In 2016, over 5,000 people attempted the Hike 100 Challenge, and nearly 1,500 individuals from 26 US states completing it. To sign up and read the details about this year’s challenge go to:

<https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/hike-100-challenge/>

In the “Build It Challenge,” participants need to complete at least one activity in each of two lists that will help spread the word about the NCNST and get more people involved. Under “Get Involved” the approved activities include items such as going on a chapter hike, or participating in a chapter workday or event. Under “Spread the Word” some of the approved activities include taking at least one friend on the NCT who’s never been before, or sharing your NCT hiking story on social media and tagging NCTA. Many more activities are listed on the above webpage. Participants who complete both the “Hike 100 Challenge” and “Build It Challenge” in 2017 will be entered to win a grand prize at the end of the year.

Who is JV45’s Youngest Hiker?



Brad Moffatt <choirboy4@netscape.net> is a JV45 member from Petoskey who helps maintain Section R. Brad writes that his granddaughter Savannah Hoekstra (parents Jason and Emily Hoekstra of Petoskey) has been on the NCT since before she was born. The Hoekstra Family and grandparents, Brad and Sue Moffatt, live in close proximity to the Bear River and other segments of the NCT. Savannah has already put many miles on the NCT in her 18 months, and done so in all seasons in her hiking pack.