



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 4

August 2018

Upcoming Events

No Chapter Hike this August. Given the recent August workday, and the upcoming picnic on the August 11th (see the "ps" in Mary Campbell's message on this page), we will not have a formal JV45 Chapter Hike this month.

September 8, 2018, Saturday, 9 am. Workday, Below Deadman's Hill. See some details on p. 7.

September 22, JV45 Chapter Hike. Details to come.

Note: JV45° typically offers a hike on the 3rd weekend of every month, usually Saturday, sometimes Sunday.

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



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



Message from JV45° President Mary Campbell

Email: mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings JV 45° members and friends, Where has this summer gone --how can it be August already?!

The Jordan Valley 45° members and friends have taken great group hikes and made amazing strides in the Valley with trail improvements through the efforts of many from near and far (Chief Noon-day folks-thanks for contributing to the efforts!) – see related hike and build it articles for more details and upcoming opportunities. Come join the fun! Bear River Bridge Project -Update:

We continue to pursue the pedestrian bridge over the Bear River in cooperation with the City of Petoskey and North Central Michigan College. Our pursuit of additional project-associated grants and dollars has slowed over the last couple months as we (hopefully) negotiate our way over the 'rocks and roots' we have encountered on this trail, e.g., a property ownership discrepancy surfaced earlier this year, thus necessitating an easement to be granted for the bridge, which combined with leadership changes at the partner entities (thus time for new leaders to become familiar with the project) and the discovery of some past communication issues leading to some concerns from an advisory group only now being expressed and discussed. The long and short of all this is that later this month we expect to have some resolution to whether the needed easement for the bridge will be granted. If yes, (as we whole-heartedly hope), then the fund-raising will once again be energetically pursued, including a crowd-funding effort. On the other hand, if by chance the easement answer is no, we will re-evaluate our options

(including with whether the grants previously received for this specific project can be re-directed). We sincerely hope this decades-long partnership with the City and the College will result in the implementation of this pedestrian bridge to facilitate the re-routing of approximately 3.5 miles of North Country Trail off of local busy roads. I will keep you posted...

Happy (& Safe) Hiking,
Mary Campbell, JV 45° President

PS. As many of you know, my husband and I are hosting a family friendly Piggy Party (Pig Roast Potluck Picnic) on Aug 11th starting at 4 pm, JV 45° friends are encouraged to join us! If you need directions or want more info, please email me: mcplanningdesign@gmail.com or txt me 231-622-2677

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Submit Volunteer Hours

Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours on the NCTA website at <https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>

JV45° June Hike

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

On 23 June 2018, we met for a 9 mile hike at the trail crossing on Thumb Lake Rd at 10:30 and by 10:45 or so we decided to hike south from Springvale Rd. to Thumb Lake Road. That saved a little time getting started and allowed us to post a car at the 5-mile point for anyone who wanted a shorter hike.

The rain started at about 10:am and really didn't let up until the second half of the hike. Most everyone was dressed for it so it was a pleasant day. We had twenty-one people show up representing various NCT chapters, including Ohio, West Michigan, Grand Traverse, Jordan 45, Harbor Springs and the Hiawatha Shore to Shore. A few people are not signed on to any specific chapter. Tammy Krembs from Durand was there with her new Jeep and toy hauler, complete with kayaks.

When we got to Springvale Rd, Bob added some entertainment by managing to puncture the sidewall on his front right tire while parking. The group headed out while Bob and Dennis changed the flat, which only took about 15 minutes.

About a mile in, the trail/road was completely blocked by a beaver dam. The construction of the dam actually rerouted the water so that it poured down a section of trail/road. The dammed section required off trail mud hiking to get past it. (A future maintenance opportunity for JV45!) Another interesting landmark was a sink hole where the trail splits and you can go more or less into the hole or take a walk around the rim. Not far from that is where the creek crosses the trail.



This hike was mostly in mature forest and (except for the beaver dam) is usually pretty dry. It is a fairly tiring hike up Chandler Hill, which goes uphill for about a mile. This section is one of the most interesting section of the Jordan 45 portion of the NCT, and runs along the crest of a high ridge that runs north/south between 175 and 131 from south of Petoskey to Thumb Lake. A lot of downed trees in this area were cleared in early May, so the trail was well marked and clear.

We stopped for lunch at Chandler Hill Rd. where Duane and a couple of relatives (Dennis & Lisa Brannon) from Georgia were parked. About that time the rain started to let up but it was still mostly overcast and warm. The section from Chandler Hill Rd. to Thumb Lake Rd. was a little easier and in great shape since someone had come through in the morning to weed whip the trail. All 18 remaining people were accounted for at the end of the hike at around 3: pm.





JV45 July Chapter Hike

Duane Lawton

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On Saturday, July 21st, we hiked about 7 mile of the NC trail along the Warner Creek Pathway and then out to Dobleski Rd. It was a nice day, with temps in the 70s. We had a small but eager group of six hikers (Matt, Carol, Gavin, Bob C., Mary, Duane). Coincidentally, the Great Lakes Relay was also taking place, so we met many joggers along the trail. We visited O'Brien Pond to check out the status of our boardwalk and "Beaver Deceiver" that we worked on last fall. Both were working fine. The boardwalk was not floating, which was what we had hoped after quadrupling the flow capacity last fall! We of course signed the log book at our register box. On the last 4 miles of trail, we passed some recent logging activity and also noticed a new powerline was recently installed. We met an ailing groundhog on the trail and gave it a wide berth!



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Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

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As many of you know, the NCTA Annual Celebration is going to be held in Michigan next year (May 2019), and our Chapter is the host site, so we are trying to improve our section of the trail this summer so it is at its best for the hikes next spring. Duane Lawton (JV45° project coordinator) has been holding monthly workdays to improve areas of the trail in the Jordan Valley, and John and I are trying to make sure that all sections are adopted and being maintained. We are always in need of certified sawyers to help out with trail clearing, so if you are

interested in becoming chainsaw certified please contact us so that we can add you to our notification list. There are plans to have a certification class at the end of this summer, so be sure to contact us if interested. And for the current adopters, when spring arrives in 2019 please let us know if you will not be able to get out before the Celebration dates to do trail maintenance or if you need help. Also, sometimes situations change and adopters have to give up their sections. Please let us know if you feel the need to do that and we will begin the search for a new adopter for your section. Thanks for all you do!

Register Box Buzz



Chandler Hill

Danyell Minier

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More than 120 groups of people logged in since I last checked the Chandler Hill Trail Box approximately a year and half ago on March 19, 2017. Several Michigan cities were represented in the entries, such as Grand Rapids, Jerome, Saginaw, Ypsilanti, Howell, Petoskey, Boyne City, Charlevoix, Traverse City, Zeeland, Sunfield, South Lyon, East Grand Rapids, Flint, Harbor Springs, Springs Lake, Newaygo, and Gaylord. There were several out-of-state cities represented too, such



as Steamboat Springs, Colorado; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Long Beach, California; Decorah, Iowa; Bluffton, Indiana; and Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as other cities in Georgia, Mississippi, and Kentucky. Several from the Chief Noonday Chapter hiked this section of the NCT. There were work days on April 29, 2017 and May 13, 2018 to improve the trail. A chapter hike was held on this section on June 23, 2018.



Also in June of this year a beaver dam played havoc with the trail and was noted by several hikers. Several snowshoeing trips happened over the winters months with trail conditions being noted as "Perfect and the sun came out". Kim, Samantha and Karen never knew the trail was there and had a "Great hike on a Perfect Day!" The Zoll's leave us with this quote "Into the wood we go, to lose our minds and find our soul."



Recent and Upcoming Trail Projects

Duane Lawton, Projects Coordinator
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WHAT WE DID

Cascade Road/Cascade Creek, June 6th

Even though it was a Wednesday, twelve of us built over 100' of puncheon across a very muddy area between Cascade Road and Cascade Creek. We also finished the stairway that was started last month. Then we weren't finished—we moved a bunch of lumber from our stash at the Fish hatchery to a staging area off Jordan River Rd. for work below Deadman's Hill. Kenny Wawczyk our NCTA Michigan Regional Trail Coordinator came up to help us!



Below Deadman's Hill Work Day, July 7th

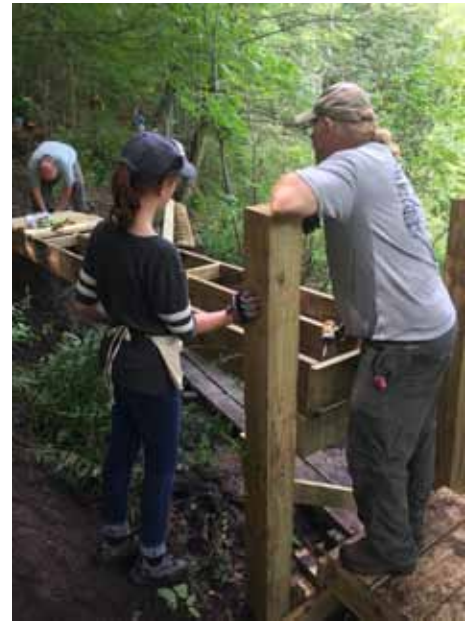
We had a big crowd, including our brothers (and sister) from downstate chapters (Chief Noonday), to work on the trail along the foot of Deadman's Hill where there are copious seeps, and on wet areas in the beaver ponds reroute. We demolished/salvaged puncheon from the "phragmites area" on the abandoned trail, built 150 feet of new puncheon, and started work on a "Horizontally Suspended Puncheon" (HSP) over a particularly nasty seep area.





Below Deadman's Hill Work, July 25th and August 3rd

On the 25th we're baaaack. Five of us (Mary, Eugene, the Bobs and me) worked again on the HSP, we got the shorter span in place and the opposite sill too. Then on August 3rd three of us built stringers for the HSP steps and surveyed the work opportunities for the August 4th work day.



Below Deadman's Hill Work Day, August 4th

On August 4th, we had nearly 20 volunteers attend the Work Day. Four volunteers were from the Kalamazoo area, three of whom were members of the NCTA Chief Noonday Chapter (Thank You!). We completed the HSP, several more areas of puncheon, and built some new trail to avoid other wet areas.





WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO

Work Day September 8th

We will venture again below Deadman's Hill, to build another HSP (OK, it's actually a bridge) over a creek, and finish up on other work in that area. Details to follow...

This should leave work at and beyond the beaver ponds for an October workday.

A big THANK YOU to all the folks who participated in this arduous effort to get our trail in shape for the 2019 NCTA Celebration!!



We want to give special thanks to the Chief Noonday Chapter (CNC) members who drove up from the Kalamazoo area in June and July to help us on our monthly Work Days. Not only did they assist, but often took charge of certain projects. Thanks so much! In June, the CNC members were Richard Burton, Aurora Burton, Jeff Fleming, John Fomusa, and Chris Woods, and in July, they were Bob Cooley, Jeff Fleming, John Fomusa, and Bill Hogan.

A Wonderful Letter of Appreciation

(This letter of thanks is being reprinted with permission from the author who attended the Jays Hiking and Backpacking Day last May in Clare, MI.)

I hope this reaches the right person. I just wanted to give a huge shout out to the man at the Jays hiking and backpacking day May 12th in Clare. You had a booth in the front entrance with a guess the pack weight contest. My friend and I approached you, we are pretty overweight and definitely out of shape, and told you of our plans for hiking, that we want to hike the AT someday, etc. You gave us so many great tips, you gave us maps, told us about the CMU Neithercut Woodland and Green Pine Lake. You talked to us for quite awhile and we went into the event feeling great. Once inside, not one vendor would take us seriously because we certainly don't fit the bill of a hiker. We honestly could not find a pack to fit around us, no one would talk to us about shoes, or socks. We were devastated. But what we did find was our first pair of trekking poles and a new lease on life. We've hiked the entire CMU trail a few times, once in mud past our ankles. Some probably laugh when they see us, we are bigger around than tall. But we are enjoying every second. So thank you, whoever you are, thank you so much for your kindness. I am down 14 lbs and have never felt better with no plans to stop. Someday many many years from now when I'm standing on Mt Katahdin I will see your face. Jessie Robison Shaw

Editor's note. The JV45 member the writer is referring to is Mott Johengen, who helped at the Jay's Backpacking Day event this year along with Connie & Jerry Allen.

The JV45° Chapter is on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45-636045479799699/>

Submit Your Stories for the JV45° Newsletter

Don't forget that this is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues, and that includes stories for the "Where I Hiked" column.

Bob Haack <haack@msu.ed>.

Where I Hiked

Hjorleifshofn, Iceland

Jennifer & Todd Winnell

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Iceland has become a hot spot for tourism, seeing the number of visitors rise from 200,000 in 2000 to over 2,000,000 in 2017. For a country with only about 337,000 people, that's a huge influx. But if you visit near the end of May, as we did, the crowds should be manageable and the weather decent. Due to an unusual weather pattern, they experienced a particularly wet spring and early summer this year. We lucked out by arriving during the driest patch of weather this past spring so we managed to get some wonderful photos of the waterfalls, lava fields, hot springs, geysers, black sand beaches, glaciers, craters and unearthly geological formations. No need to bring insect repellent – Iceland has no mosquitoes. And thanks to its northerly location, in late May you will have many hours of daylight to sightsee, from 3:30 am to 11:30 pm.

The most difficult thing about hiking in Iceland is not being able to tell anyone where you hiked because their place names are so difficult to pronounce. Without knowing how to pronounce it, we knew we had to hike Hjorleifshofn for its beauty, location and history. This modest 222 m peak in southern Iceland is named after the Viking settler, Hjorleifur Hrodmarsson, the brother-in-law of Ingolfur Arnarson, who was the first Viking settler in Iceland around 874 AD. At the top of the mountain is a burial mound



where Hjorleifur is said to be buried.

A circular trail from the parking area starts out at a pretty steep incline for about ¾ of a mile until you approach the rolling plateaus closer to the top.

Here we found three additional grave sites of farmers who homesteaded up here in the early 1900's. We had the entire trail and peak to ourselves which helped emphasize how remote this location is. After signing the log book and soaking up the views of the North Atlantic Ocean, the black sand beaches and the snow covered mountain ranges



to the north, we followed the trail down a grassy hillside to the remains of the homestead. These must have been rugged individuals who didn't mind hard work and solitude.

Despite the dry and relatively warm weather, the wind made its presence known. It is hard to imagine living at the edge of this cliff overlooking the North Atlantic year round. The cold winds must have been impossible to avoid. But there was certainly great beauty here as well.

In addition to wildflowers and lush green vegetation, there was a small stream running down the hillside on our way back to the trailhead. Maybe this is where the farmers bathed?

Though this hike wasn't that long, it certainly provided a workout for our muscles and joints with the steep climb and descent. As with every hike, the views were well worth it.

