



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

September 2024

President's Message

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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;

We had a great turnout at the annual celebration in St. Ignace 28 members of JV45° were in attendance for at least part of the celebration. We are also proud of our volunteers and some were recognized by the NPS and the NCTA. **1000 hours!** That is the number of hours that Denise Dekett has contributed to the North Country National Scenic trail. I am impressed, and her Husband Jim is not far behind with 400 hours donated. 1400 hours from one family. Thanks. Dan Dueweke and myself have both reached 200 hours donated. Cliff and Jane Denay have each donated 100 hours to our trail. Thanks everybody. 2000 hours total from members of the Jordan Valley 45 Chapter reaching milestones and of course many hours from others who did not reach a milestone in 2024. I hope all members remember to report their hours on the NCTA website. You can report every time you work, or you can keep track on paper and report once a quarter.

Please save the date for our annual Trail Adopter lunch. The lunch will be held at the Chandler Township Hall, 7620 Chandler Hill Rd. Boyne Falls, on October 19. This lunch is provided by the chapter and is open to everyone, come say thanks to our trail adopters. There will be a group hike the same day and you can hike without stopping for lunch or come for lunch without hiking. Anticipate lunch served around 2pm.

Upcoming Group Hikes:

Sept 21 – Stutsmanville Rd. to Hathaway Rd.

Oct 19 – Giem Rd to Camp 10 Rd.

BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



Register Boxes: Surveyed the condition of several boxes after report that the Deadman's Junction box was infested. There are now new plastic boxes inside the register boxes at Deadman's, Warner Creek and County Line to protect the logbook and some brochures (Chandler Hill is in great shape). In addition, we added shims above the doors to make it more difficult for critters to enter. I have more plastic boxes if you are going to be near any other register boxes that could use them.

Road Signs: The vampire porkies are at it again along Jordan River Road. See banner. We have ordered replacement logo plaques.

Brochures: We were almost out of our chapter brochures, so a reprint has been ordered and received. If you need any let me or Kevin know.

Logging: Here are some pictures of the carnage near County Line... New view from the register box, view from trail at Welsch Road crossing.



Skyline Shelter: In consultation with Paul Gagnon, NCTA Trail Protection Director, we have moved our focus to building a new shelter because the costs involved with the legal aspects of carving land to add the current shelter to Petoskey Skyline are too complicated...even if Petoskey were to agree (uncertain). We are looking at locations for a replacement.

Three Tubes detour: The detour is in effect, following Jordan River Road and Pinney Bridge Road instead of the entire stretch of trail from Pinney Bridge camp to Three Tubes. Ugh.. The construction has just commenced.

Meanwhile, major kudos to Dan Dueweke for his project on the trail that is now closed. 😊 (see separate article)

Dobleski Reroute: We have new contact from the landowner and there is hope an agreement can be reached. It is now less unlikely this project could start in 2025!

July 20th Group Hike Report– Cascade Rd. to Fish Hatchery

Story and pictures by Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net

Well, I was a little disappointed we only had eight hikers who showed up at 10: AM. The weather was excellent, sunny and 80ish and no wind. I suspect it was too long a hike for July and, being high summer, other plans took precedent. Anyway, we did have two new hikers, Don and Karen from Fife Lake. They hike a lot in the Grand Traverse section.

Four people wanted to hike the entire 13.25-mile loop and four wanted to do the shorter 5.25 miles from Pinney Bridge. So, we split the baby and everyone did 8.0 miles, 7 of which were on the NCT. We loaded everyone into Kevin and Duane's pickups and drove to Cascade Rd. First, we walked in to Cascade Creek to check out the conditions of the puncheons and the little landslide (geologically, it's technically called a "slump") near the stairs we built a few years ago. From there we all gathered rocks to place at the cairn at the 45° marker. Started about 10 years ago by a kid (Linus B.) ((ed. note – Linus "the kid" is now 20+ and in military service)), the cairn is certainly getting bigger.



After signing in at the register box, we proceed to Pinney Bridge, the Pinney Bridge Campground and the boy scout bench a half mile up from the campground. Between the bench and No Name Creek, we stopped to cut up two trees. We kept up a fairly leisurely pace, maybe two and a half miles per hour. We also checked out the site of the temporary river crossing by the fish hatchery. We need to haul in wood for boardwalks to step up a muddy hill, which is currently dry. We may also use the crossing as a temporary "trail" for when a new bridge is installed to replace "Three Tubes" this coming fall.



The last stretch of the hike was on Jordan River Rd. back to the hatchery. A beautiful walk along the river. Afterwards, Jennifer drove Duane and Kevin back to retrieve their trucks from Cascade Rd. and then seven of us met for pops and food at the Green Lantern in Alba. A small but mighty group.



August 17th Group Hike Report – Jordan Valley Hatchery Loop

Story by Kevin Whitley - kjwtorchlake@gmail.com

After hike report: The Jordan Valley 45 Chapter of the North Country Trail Association held a group hike on August 17, 2024. Five hikers arrived ready to hike before 10 am and all decided to do the Jordan Valley East Loop of the Fish Hatchery-Deadman's Hill-3 tubes. The weather was very good, warm with no rain despite the Northern Michigan Radar showing thunderstorms in other parts of the State. The trail was green and lush thanks to all of the rain we have had recently. Tasha the dog took a swim in the unnamed beaver pond and she drank plenty of water while swimming. We stopped at 3 tubes to say goodbye to the tubes because they will soon be removed and replaced with a timber bridge to keep the river and fish happy. We hiked almost 8 miles today. Pictured are Kevin, Rebecca, Rich, and Clark. We were also joined by Will from East Jordan. We will hike again in September. I hope to see a good crowd join us.



Trail Maintenance Update

Dan Dueweke - dandueweke@gmail.com

ORVs to Be Allowed in the Jordan Valley

A recent decision by the Chestonia Township Board will allow Off Road Vehicles access to the roads in the Jordan River Valley, commencing early October. Be watchful on any road walks the trail shares with the seasonal roads in the JV.

Pinney Bridge to Jordan River Road NCT Section to Close for Bridge Construction

Construction is soon to begin on a new bridge over the Jordan River at the three tubes crossing. Heavy equipment is onsite and work will likely begin this week. Hiker traffic will be detoured to Pinney Bridge Road. Note that this will occur in conjunction with the lifting of the “No ORV” ordinance though the two are unrelated. * *See end of newsletter for a full-page map of the Reroute.*

Repairs to Trail Washout across from the Hatchery

The long-delayed repair to a wet and washed-out section of the NCT was finished in September. Bob Courtois, Jim Howell, Duane Lawton and Dan Dueweke zip-lined five prefabricated puncheon steps and two dozen cedar logs across the Jordan River, which cooperated with seasonal low water. The puncheon steps were placed in a steep but boggy section and the cedar logs were used to build water bars and check dam steps.



"Where I Hiked" - Maine and Colorado

Story and pictures by Josh Berlo - joshberlo@gmail.com

Old Speck Mountain (4,180') - Maine

Hiked on July 7, 2024 in an effort to finish (down to 9 left) the New England 4,000 footers - the 67 peaks with summits above 4,000 feet in elevation in the New England states. 48 of them reside in New Hampshire and the top elevation is Mt. Washington at 6,288 feet above sea level.

Most of the route to the top of Maine's 5th highest peak is on the Appalachian Trail and there were several northbound through-hikers I met along the way at this time of the year. The hike in the Mahoosuc Range begins in Grafton Notch State Park near Newry, Maine. This out and back trip is about 7.5 miles long and includes nearly 3,000 feet of vertical rise over a rough, rocky and steep trail with several creek crossings and periodic vistas. The summit, while forested, does boast a ladder viewing tower with a small platform. Overall, a classic rugged New England Northwoods hike.



Grizzly Peak (13,435') - Colorado

Hiked July 27, 2024, one of the Colorado 13ers, peaks above 13,000 feet - there are 637 of them and this does NOT include the peaks that are 14,000 and above.

The hike starts out of Loveland Pass located near Dillion, CO at an elevation of 11,990 in the Front Range west of Denver. In summer, one often needs to beat the afternoon thunderstorms as you are above the tree line for nearly all of the hike so starting by 6:00 am is highly recommended.



The nearly 6-mile round trip hike includes over 3,000 feet of elevation gain as you cross the summit of Mt. Cupid on the ridge en route to Grizzly Peak. Even into late August, you will see patches of snow above 12,000 feet. Grizzly Peak is a sharp summit cone that is a class II hike with a lot of loose scree and a bit of scrambling in the final ascent. From the summit, the 14,000+ foot peaks of Grays and Torreys above Grizzly. This is a challenging and rewarding hike in the Colorado high country.



NCTA Annual Celebration Saint Ignace, MI - August 21-24, 2024



The Jordan Valley 45° chapter was well represented at the annual celebration in St. Ignace this year. We had 28 members in attendance and there was lots of hiking by all. Conversations and connections made with friends both new and old.

The Howells had a campsite right along the shores of Lake Huron and hosted a gathering of hikers each night.

There were not only many hikes to experience, but also education sessions on lightweight backpacking, trail stewardship, humorous tales from a lady that has hiked all of Michigan miles of the NCT, history, geology and more. The keynote speaker was Stacy Bare from Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, he had some inspiring stories to tell about how getting in to nature can help heal the soul. There were a few bus mishaps – one got stuck in the sand and one had a flat tire. Adventures like that are what makes a good hike a memorable hike – lots of stories and memories made. A few folks from ND were in attendance as that is the location of next years celebration. Near the western terminus of the North Country trail, in Riverdale ND. So, mark your calendars now for August 20 – 24th of 2025.

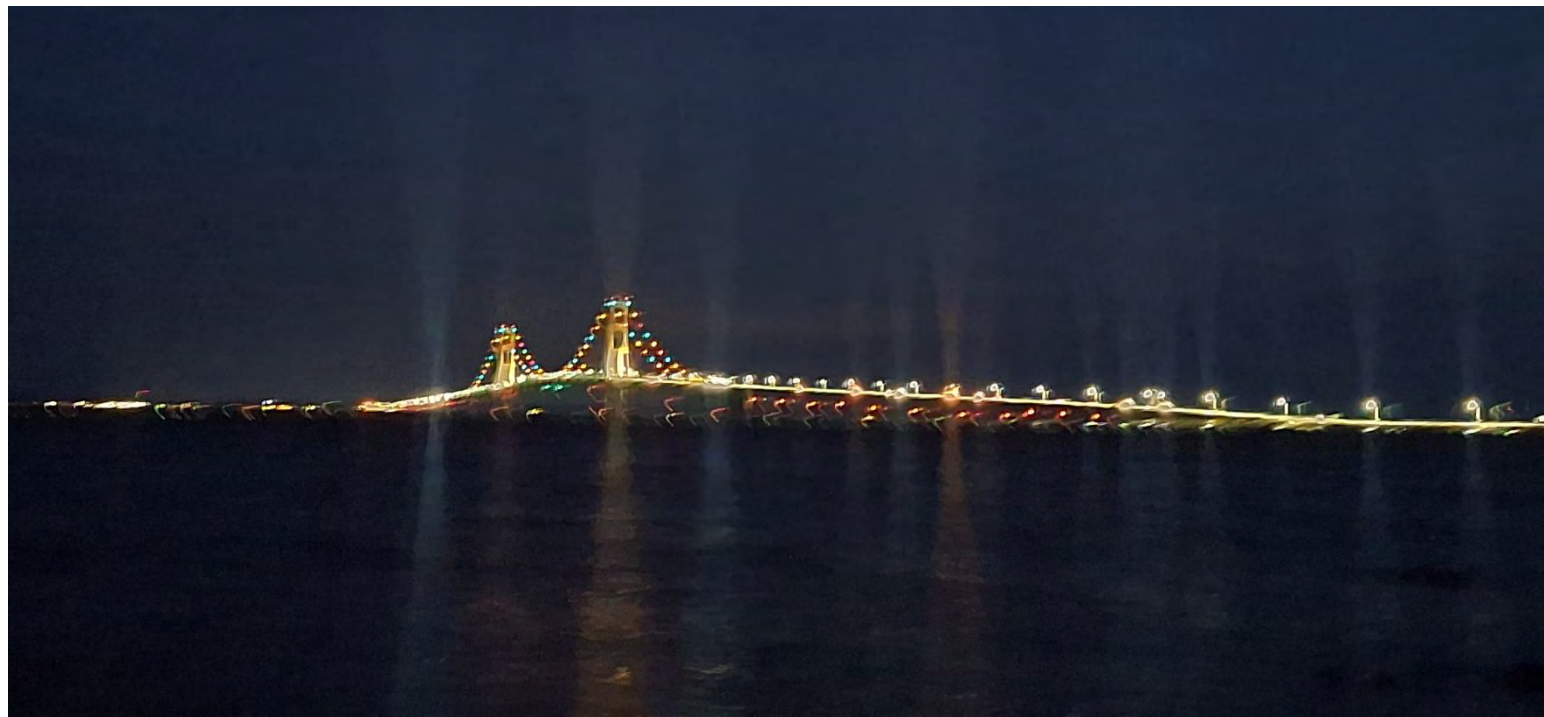


An NCTA “Distinguished Service Award” was received by Duane Lawton (Distinguished Service Award is *“In recognition of 8 years or more of exceptional volunteer service in furthering the goals of the NCTA, and outstanding contributions toward the dream of the North Country Trail.”*) NPS Volunteer hours awards were received by: Cliff Denay – 100 hours; Jane Denay – 100 hours; Kevin Whitley – 200 hours; Dan Dueweke – 200 hours; James Dekett – 400 hours; Denise Dekett – 1000 hours.





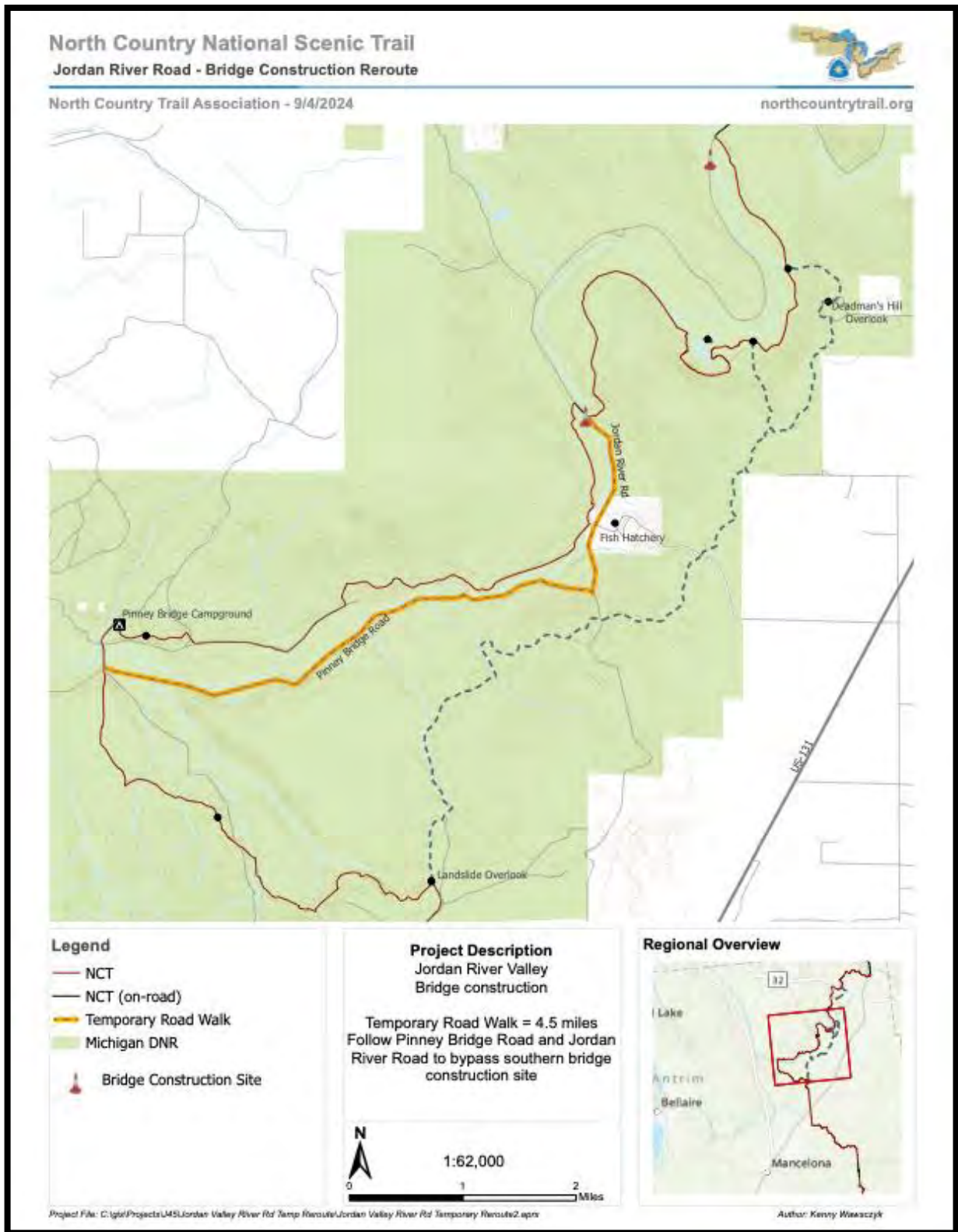
View of the Mighty Mackinaw Bridge from the campground.

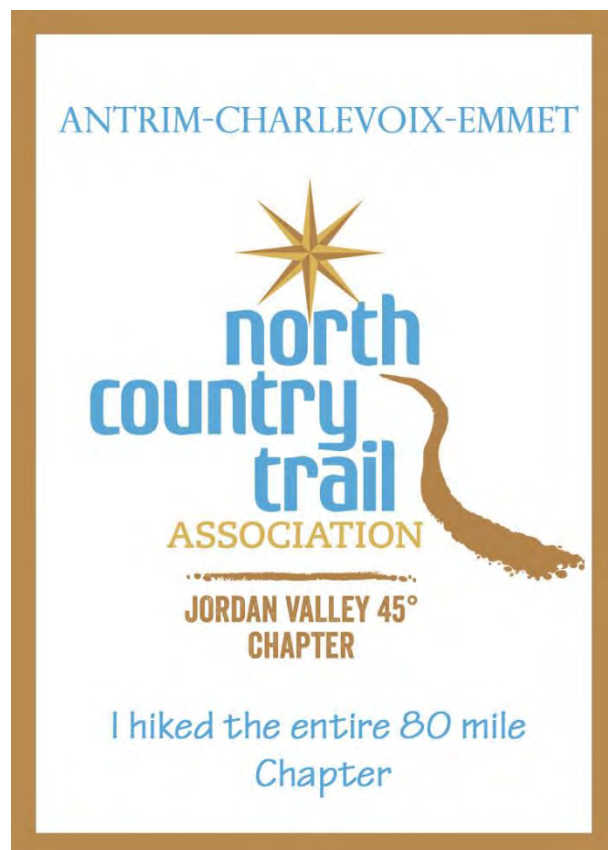


A few shots of some of the group hikes.



Map of Jordan River Valley Bridge Repair Reroute





Patch for hiking entire JV45° Chapter

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