

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 1

February 2019

Upcoming Events

Feb 16, 2019, 10:00 am. JV45° Chapter Hike. Mancelona Snowshoe Hike. Meet where NCT crosses Cinder Hill Rd. About 5.5 miles. Followed by lunch in Mancelona. See p. 5.

March 2, 2019. Quiet Water Symposium on MSU campus.

March 9, 2019. 9:30 am., JV45° Chapter Meeting, Potluck Brunch, and Hike. Meet at the Fire Hall in Boyne Falls. We will have a short meeting, followed by a potluck brunch, and then a hike. Details will follow, but tentatively the hike will start around 11:30 am and be in the Warner Creek area.

May 2-5, 2019, NCTA Celebration at Shanty Creek Resorts in Bellaire, MI. Be there!

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/jv45/?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. In January, JV 45° Chapter held its annual meeting (see minutes) including elections and awards. I would like to acknowledge past contributions and thank Todd Winnell and Denise DeKett, who both “retired” from JV 45° leadership positions. I am sure they will continue to be active with the chapter in other ways. I welcome Annie Matz as our new Secretary-Treasurer, who hit the ground running by serving on a fill-in basis prior to being elected. Thank you Annie. Additionally, thank you to Eugene Branigan, John and Dove Day, and Josh Berlo who all agreed to be re-elected.

2019 Celebration Update

Many from the chapter have been busy working with our friends from Grand Traverse Hiking Club, Harbor Springs Chapter and NCTA planning for the national NCTA Celebration at Shanty Creek, May 2-5. This is going to be a fabulous event with NCT hikes in both the JV 45° and GTHC regions, field trips, intriguing workshops and inspiring programs, including a keynote presentation by Mirna Valerio, a 2018 National Geographic Adventurer of the Year. This is a prime opportunity to help promote our part of the NCT while re-connecting with friends from other chapters and make new friends. I strongly encourage you to join the fun, and register early to ensure your spot on your first choice hikes.

Registration for the 2019 Celebration is now open at www.nctacelebration.org. Want to enrich your Celebration experience even more? Get involved and help us host this super fun event—we have jobs large and small, both in advance or during the event. A google sheet with sign up opportunities is coming soon,

the link will be emailed out once available, but in the meantime please contact Eugene Branigan or Mary Campbell.

Also, a reminder for all trail adopters, remember the Celebration will be HERE in May—please be sure to review your trail sections early to be sure they are in tip-top shape for all our friends and visitors. If you need assistance with your section, let Dove and John Day know so we can schedule others to help out. We want to put our collective best foot forward!

On March 9th we will have a brunch meeting at the Fire Hall in Boyne Falls, prior to the monthly hike (one week early). Please join us to enjoy good food, socialize, as well as to learn more about Celebration volunteer opportunities and other upcoming JV 45° activities. Hope to see you there!

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

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JV 45° Annual Meeting Minutes

Members present were: Annie Matz, Dave Matz, Tim Roth, Karen Roth, Bob French, Bill Shelton, Mark Juday, Jane Denay, Cliff Denay, Jim Flick, Eugene Branigan, Linus Branigan, Connie Allen, Jerry Allen, Jim Howell, Mary Campbell, Peggy Jones, Kevin Whitley, Duane Lawton, and Bob Courtois.

The meeting was brought to order by President Mary Campbell following lunch at BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord.

Topics discussed were:

2018 YEAR IN REVIEW.

It was a very successful year. 26 volunteers reported a total of 1864 hours.

Bob Courtois hike coordinator led monthly hikes through all types of weather. The hikes were well planned and attendance was high. Bob is considering combining a hike and work project day in the future. He is also wondering if there is any interest in an overnight hike. Bob would like to do more hiking in the Petoskey area and along Highway 131 in 2019.

JV 45° chapter participated in many promotional activities including: Quiet Water Symposium, Petoskey Open House and National Trail Day amongst others. The Bear River Bridge project funding has been secured and we are hopeful it will be constructed in 2019, but not certain due to the uncertainties regarding when some of the major grant funds will become available. Construction management and oversight will be handled by the City of Petoskey. JV 45° will not be constructing the bridge but will be responsible to reroute the trail. This project will take approximately 3.5 miles of the NCT off road!!

COMING IN 2019!

National NCTA Celebration-Shanty Creek, May 2-5. The planning has begun and volunteers are needed. A sign-up sheet was passed so volunteers could choose what areas they can help with. The main organizers are Mary Campbell and Eugene Branigan. Please contact them if you can help.

Duane Lawton gave us a presentation on the many successful work projects that were completed in 2018. Most of the work was done in the Jordan Valley area as that is where many of the hikes will take place

during the Celebration. The Skyline Shelter was also upgraded south of Petoskey. The list was impressive. Thank you to everyone who made this possible. The NCTA is again offering the Hike 100 patch in 2019 and if you complete your miles prior to May you can receive your patch at the Celebration.

Duane Lawton has several hikes planned during the Celebration and needs hike leaders and sweeps.

Promotional Activities for 2019.

Volunteers needed for the following:

- Quiet Water Symposium, March 2, 2019
- Top of Michigan Marathon, May 25, '19
- National Trails Day, June 1, 2019
- Petoskey Open House, June 7, 2019
- North Country Trail Day, Sept. 28, 2019

Policy Change. Mary Campbell discussed the idea of combining the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Our past Treasurer pointed out that he really doesn't do anything. Our chapter funds are held by NCTA, and we are provided with monthly financial reports. Our existing bylaws provide the option for a combined position. After a few questions, a motion to combine the two positions was made by Duane Lawton and seconded by Eugene Branigan, motion passed with no opposition.

Elections. The board positions that were up for re-election this year were: Vice President, Incumbent Eugene Branigan, Secretary/Treasurer Annie Matz, Trail Coordinators John and Dove Day, and Member at large/webmaster Josh Berlo. There were no opposing candidates so a motion was made to approve all candidates as above by Cliff Denay and the motion was seconded by Jim Howell, and unanimously passed.

JV 45° Chapter Status. As of December, membership was

at 85 members, and the account balance was unchanged at \$6,704.26.

Awards. The NCTA Honor award is for Volunteers who demonstrate loyalty, commitment, and hard work annually to the local organization's chosen activities. JV 45° was pleased to award this prestigious award to Jim and Denise DeKett who, unfortunately, were not present to accept it in person. The Jerry Allen Big Foot Award is awarded for outstanding service to the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter. This year the Chapter presented the 13th annual Big Foot Award (including the boot) to Bob Courtois in appreciation for his efforts as hike coordinator and all his hard work on a wide variety of projects throughout the year.

National awards will be awarded at the Celebration in May at Shanty Creek. Please review the available categories and consider submitting award nominations. Nominations for NCTA awards are due Feb. 8th, information is available at <https://northcountrytrail.org/volunteers/awards-nominations/>

Tim Roth asked if there are any trail sections available for adoption. Not currently but it is possible to double up on certain sections, anyone interested in being a trail adopter should contact Dove or John Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Submitted by Annie Matz
Sec/Treas NCTA JV45°



Bob Courtois was presented with the JV45° Big Foot Award

Dec JV45° Hike Report

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

On December 15th, around 20 people came for the hike. Several were new to the group. 14 walked Deadman's to the JV Fish Hatchery (5 miles) and 6 continued on to Pinney Bridge (about 9 miles total).

The weather was perfect, sunny, 30s and hardly a breath of wind. There was surprisingly little snow so no snowshoes were required. We saw bear tracks near the beaver dam and between JR Rd and Pinney Bridge. The second set of tracks were on the trail for at least a half mile.

We posted two cars at Pinney Bridge but only one at the Hatchery (thank you Bob French). All souls were accounted for at the end: Bob, Jane & Cliff, Annie & Dave, Tim & Karen, Bob, Mary, Merri Carol, Kevin, Janenne, Jamie, Kay, Mark, Renee, Nate, Ted, Pat & Bob and two dogs (Ranger and ?).

Always great to see friends from the Grand Traverse and Hiawatha Shore to Shore chapters. Welcome to the new people, some have never been in the JV before. Thank you all for making this a terrific hike.



Mary Campbell - President
mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

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

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer
amat57@yahoo.com

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
delawton@torchlake.com

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

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



BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



Welcome to 2019. There's work to do on the trail. But I won't get into our summer full of fun just yet—we need to focus on preparations for Celebration 2019, May 2-5!

I'm sure that all adopters of trail sections being hiked will be out sprucing up and checking for any major problems before May 1. Of course, major problems need to be alerted to us asap so we can address them. This includes all of the trail from Starva-

tion Lake Rd. to Cinder Hill Rd., all of the Jordan Valley Pathway (including the DNR section), west from Deadman's Hill Junction to Dobleski Rd. (including all of the Warner Creek Pathway), Slashing/Thumb Lake to Harmon Rd., King Rd. to Brubaker Rd., and McDougal Rd. to Lake Street. That's most of our trail!

We have a trail building workshop at Celebration, in which the spur trail to the old boardwalk across the beaver ponds

below Deadman's Hill will be built. That boardwalk is being repurposed as a "beaver pond viewing platform". The workshop will be led by our intrepid NCTA Michigan Regional Trail Coordinator Kenny Wawsczyk. He will visit us late in April so we can go in and select the exact route, detail flag it, and remove any large deadfall in the way. I will need a couple of chainsawyers as well as a few other folks to help. If you would like to participate, let me know. The exact date will be determined early in April, and I'm sure Kenny's availability won't fit every one of ours...so I'll let you know when it is and hopefully you can participate. There are a couple of other minor things I know need doing that we can do at this time too—fix a map sign, widen a short length of puncheon, relocate a marker post...

Duane Lawton
delawton@torchlake.com

Celebration 2019 Hikes

Mike Schaffer of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club has done a great job organizing celebration hikes to be held in GTHC territory—7-1/2 hikes. The other 19-1/2 hikes are in Jordan Valley 45° territory! We need your help to lead these hikes. The hikes are listed below, along with the leaders and sweeps who have already volunteered.

This is a chance to pick which hike(s) you want to lead or sweep. (You can volunteer for more than one hike [at different times]). You will need to board the bus at Shanty at the departure time, and host the participants through to the return. The hike

leader should be familiar with the trail to be hiked, and ideally have information (interpretation) of the area (any of terrain, geology, history, natural history, etc.) to share with the group. The sweep's job is to trail the crowd and make sure there aren't any people left behind. If you are the adopter for the section being hiked, it may be for you. Couples may want to lead/sweep the same hikes.

Note that it is NCTA policy that all conference volunteers need to register for the conference, either for the entire conference or the individual days on which you volunteer. Therefore, hike leaders and sweeps need to register too. The registration fee is

\$65 for the entire conference or \$30 for an individual day.

If you just can't decide which hike to do, consider volunteering to be on standby... inevitably we'll need some extra leaders and sweeps for unexpected situations. In that case, tell me which mornings and afternoons you are available to be standby.

How can you get on the list? ...email me! Each hike will belong to the volunteer who gets to me first!

Duane Lawton
delawton@torchlake.com

List of Hikes. Times, Miles, Difficulty, Leaders, and Sweeps (Note that several volunteers are still needed)

(Code key: T-Thursday; F-Friday; S-Saturday; A-Morning; P-Afternoon; D-All Day)

Code	Name	Depart/Return	Miles	Difficulty	Leader	Sweep
TD-3	Deadman's Hill to Landslide Overlook	7:30AM-5:00PM	13.1	S	Kevin Whitley	
TD-4	Pickere Lake SFCG to Sand Lake	8:15AM-4:15PM	9.0	M		
TA-1	Deadman's Hill to JRNFH	8:00AM-1:30PM	4.8	E		
TA-2	Deadman's Hill to JRNFH	9:30AM-3:00PM	0.5	E		
TA-3	Deadman's Hill to Warner Creek Parking	9:00AM-2:00PM	5.0	E	Jim Howell	Evelyn Howell
TP-1	JRNFB to Pinney Bridge	12:00PM-5:00PM	5.5	M		
TP-2	Warner Creek Parking to Dobleski Road	11:45AM-3:45PM	4.8	S		
FD-1	Trail Building / Deadman's Hill to JRNFH	8:30AM-4:30PM	4.8	S		
FA-1	Landslide Overlook to Pinney Bridge	8:00AM-12:00PM	3.8	E	Jerry Allen	Bob Haack
FA-2	Landslide Overlook to Deadman's Hill	8:00AM-12:30PM	5.4	E	Jane Denay	Cliff Denay
FA-3	Cinder Hill Road to Mancelona Road	7:45AM-12:15PM	5.5	M	Kevin Whitley	
SD-1	Petoskey-pouri (NCMC, BRR, Skyline)	8:00AM-5:00PM	6.3	E/M		
SD-1	need second leader/sweep team)					
SD-2	Landslide Overlook to Deadman's Hill	8:00AM-5:00PM	13.1	S		
SD-6	Springvale Rd to Slashing/Thumb Lake Rd	8:00AM-5:00PM	7.7	M/S	Dave Matz	Cliff Denay
SD-7	Harmon Road to Chandler Hill Road	8:00AM-5:00PM	9.8	S		
SA-1	Landslide Overlook to Pinney Bridge	9:30AM-1:30PM	3.8	E	Jerry Allen	Bob Haack
SP-1	Warner Creek M32 to Dobleski Road	12:00-5:00PM	4.8	S		

Register Box Buzz



Deadman's Hill

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

(Editor's note. Our regular contributor, Danyell Minier, was not able to visit a new box this past month. However, Bob Courtois was able to record some recent entries in the Deadman's Hill register book which was last featured in October 2018. So here are a few entries from October and November 2018. Thanks Bob C!)

10/5/18. Checking in. :) Starting off... Its raining: (Lets do this :) - Sam :)

10/7/18. Out on an impromptu hike on our way home. Beautiful hike so far. – Jaery & Karen

10/7/18. Family of 5 stopped on way to tunnel of trees. Never heard of this place before today. Will make the drive from Muskegon again. –

10/7/18. When in rain, look for the infamous beast that lurks in the shadows... DON'T BE OUT AFTER DARK! Don't eat last. Have a nice day. This is our second hike today. Great place, will have to come back – Kyle & Destiny

10/8/18. Rainy & wet, but it's stopped for awhile for our hike. Visiting where daddy used to hike as a kid. Beautiful color changes. – Jason, Lindsey, Bethany & Haley

10/13/18. Last backpacking trip of the year. Will finish my 100 miles on the NCT mid-trip. Hoping for refreshment and time with the Lord. – Geoffrey

10/13/18. We have six of us here on this lovely day in October (peak leaves week-end – leaf peekers!). Then there were 5...

10/14/18. Need new journal – Dan & Jen; The Crawfords, Nipigon, Ontario; The Baileys, Mancelona; The Perkins, Lowell, MI;

10/14/18. It's a beautiful, crisp fall day and the air is full of earthly smells and fall leaves. Happy trails, fellow hikers!

10/16/18. Hiked this trail over a dozen times. Beautiful again today. Like all the new boardwalks. - Erika and her dog Orion :)

10/19/18. Please make sign about bear threat level!! Beautiful trail.

10/28/18. Hi everyone! This is Ethan & Andrew. We are on our first trip up north from down state Ann Arbor. We love northern MI and all the beauty it has to offer. We are loving this cool, crisp & colorful fall Sunday morning. It is peaceful & quiet w/out another soul in sight, the perfect romantic getaway! We are free to be ourselves and free to connect together with nature. Go Blue! Go Gays! We love you. - Ethan & Andrew

10/31/18. Day hiking together – Thank you for the new boardwalks and bridges. – Bill F & Brie

11/1/18. Austin and I went hiking for the first time together many more to come

11/2/18. Doing the loop (day hike). Hiked about 300+ miles on the NCT. Trying to complete the lower peninsula. Great section so far.

Feb JV45° Hike Plans

Saturday, February 16, 2019

Time: From 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Where: Cinder Hill Rd - Mancelona Rd

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter will be hosting a snowshoe hike on February 16th from Cinder Hill Rd. to Mancelona Rd. ~5.5 miles Gather at 10 am and we will head out by 10:30.

See map with mile markers:
<http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

We will meet at the trail crossing on Cinder Hill Rd. (mile marker 667.5, which is 2.5 miles north of Mancelona Rd.) and hike south to Mancelona Rd (mile marker 662.0) and then to the ORV parking lot at Mancelona Rd. & Sand Lake Rd.

We will need to post a few cars at the hike's end at the ORV parking lot on Mancelona Rd. & Sand Lake Rd., which is about a half mile west of the NCT trail crossing. For a bonus hike, come at 9 am and walk a half mile west to Five Lake and back (marker 667.5 to 667.0 and back).

The first half of the hike is rolling hills and old growth forest and the second half is relatively flat and near farm fields. This is a beautiful section of trail! Snowshoes are highly recommended. Cross country skis may work but the trail is not groomed. Dress for the weather, bring water, a snack and a camera. If you don't bring a friend, one can be provided!

After the hike, we will meet for lunch at the Iron Skillet in Mancelona. We hope you can join us!

Questions: Contact Bob Courtois
248 212-6699J

Submit Volunteer Hours

Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours on the NCTA website at <https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>. This is especially important for all individuals involved in planning the 2019 Celebration

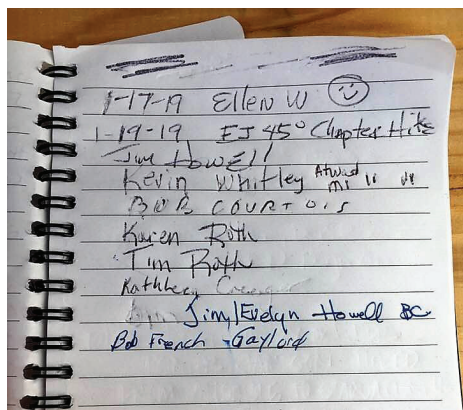
Jan JV45° Chapter Hike

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator

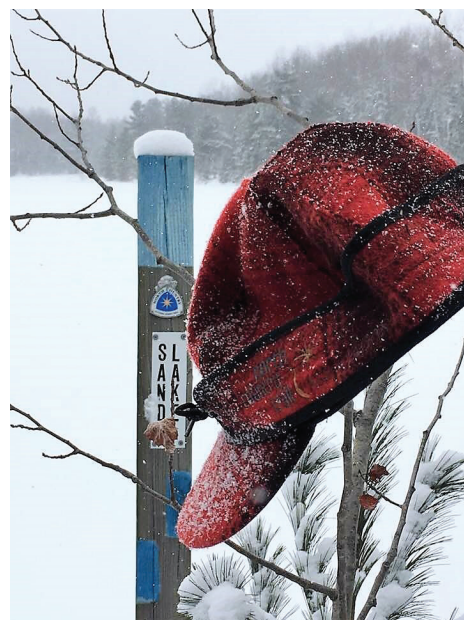
bcourtois@comcast.net

On January 19, 2019, we hiked from Starvation Lake Rd. to Sand Lake and back, about 5 miles total. We started out with a little excitement by having to tow Kathleen's car out at our first parking spot. We then moved to the DNR lot.

It was VERY cold (only 5 degrees at start time) but little wind. There were 11 hikers (including Mike K who came a little late). At the start, we all signed in at the register box just north of Starvation Lake Rd. We definitely needed the snow shoes and broke trail all the way to the north end of Sand Lake where we took a break for snacks. The ice was safe so some of us walked across the lake. The snow-mobiles were out in force but stayed off the foot trail except in one short stretch. Afterwards we intended to go to the Hide-away Saloon on Starvation Lake but it was packed to standing room only so we ended up at the Iron Skillet in Mancelona.



Signing the log book. Missing some entries.



Where I Hiked

STOMP THE STRAITS

Duane Lawton

delawton@torchlake.com

On Saturday morning, 5 January 2019, Mary Campbell, John Larch, and I got up early, drove north, crossed the Mighty Mac, and joined the Hiawatha Shore-to-

Shore Chapter of the NCTA on their annual New Year's chapter hike "Stomp The Straits" near St. Ignace, MI. It was a great day with temperatures around 30 F, calm winds, partly sunny, and snow depths of 0-6 inches. Overall, we numbered around 30 hikers, including Matt Ozanich the host of *Destination Michigan* on WCMU who is compiling video for a segment on the NCT to run later this year.

We started out on the NCT, hiking from Brevort Lake Rd. east to the "Green Gate" and back, 3.6 miles. We came



Getting ready to Stomp the Straits

across some trees with old trail blazes and the Pointe Aux Chene River (below). At the green gate, five of us (Bob C, Tamera, Mary, John, and me) took off on a different route to return to Bob C's car at Castle Rock Rd. so we hiked 5 miles.



Duane, Bob C, Tamera, Mary, & John

One fascinating sighting was seeing zillions of black specks jumping on the snow surface. These were snow fleas. (See the sidebar by Bob Haack.) Another fun sighting was coming upon wolf tracks!

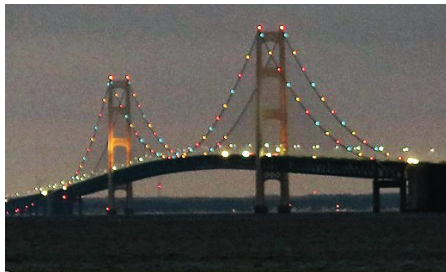


The five of us then drove to the Hiawatha National Forest Visitor Center and joined the rest of the group, but alas it was closed due to the government shutdown. So we had some refreshments in the parking lot and then took a 1.8 mile hike that started at the USFS Visitor Center. The trail allowed for some nice views of a lighthouse and Lake Michigan.

Next we traveled to the Straits State Park and hiked to the shore on a trail marked with lanterns, courtesy of the DNR. There the DNR had more treats,



Hiawatha National Forest Visitor Center



including s'mores and hot chocolate, and of course a bonfire. This hike was about 1.0 mile round trip, so for the day, we hiked about 7.8 miles. We got to see the lights on the Mackinac Bridge light up as it got dark (above).



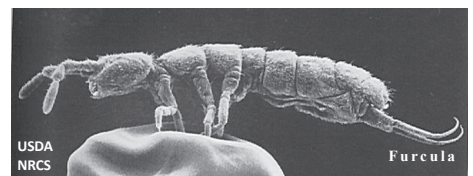
Dinner at the Village Inn

We had dinner in St. Ignace at the Village Inn and then Mary, John, and I headed home below the Bridge! This annual event of the HSS Chapter is a real treat, and I will be back, if the weather cooperates again!

Notes on Snow Fleas

Bob Haack, haack@msu.edu

Snow fleas are springtails (Collembola), and until recently they were considered true insects, but DNA analyses have shown them to be in a different evolutionary arm of the arthropods. There are about 700 species of springtails in



Pictured is a typical springtail. When at rest, the furcula is retracted under the abdomen and they walk on their six legs. However, when it wants to avoid predators, for example, it releases the furcula downwards, which hits the soil or snow forcefully, and propels the insect into the air.

North America, and over 6000 worldwide. Springtails are extremely abundant, and usually found in the soil and other moist habitats. They generally feed on decaying vegetation, but a few are plant pests on garden seedlings, alfalfa, and commercial mushrooms.

Springtails have a special appendage on their abdomen, called a furcula, which allows them to jump. The furcula is usually retracted against the abdomen, but when released it snaps down and flips the springtail into the air as much as 100 times the length of their body!

The snow flea (*Hypogastrura nivicola*) is a North American species of springtail often seen on warm winter days on top of snow. They are only 1-2 mm long. How can they be active on snow? Well researchers in Canada recently discovered a protein in snow fleas that acts like anti-freeze and allows them to be active at sub-zero temperatures (Lin et al 2007). There are hopes that these types of proteins can be used to increase the shelf life of transplant organs so they can remain viable longer outside the body!

Lin F-H, LA Graham, RL Campbell, and PL Davies. 2007. Structural modeling of snow flea antifreeze protein..Biophysical Journal 92:1717-1723.



Millions of snow fleas (*Hypogastrura nivicola*) on Tiger Mt., King County, Washington, USA, 6 March 2011, 3000 ft elevation. Photo by Derek R Westcott