

# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 11, Number 2

June 2022

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### Don't forget to submit your Volunteer Hours at:

[https://northcountrytrail.org/members/  
report-volunteer-hours/](https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/)

**Note: JV45° typically offers a hike  
on the 3rd Saturday  
of every month.**

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

The JV45° Chapter is on  
facebook at: [https://www.  
facebook.com/North-Country-  
Trail-Association-Jordan-Val-  
ley-45-636045479799699/](https://www.facebook.com/North-Country-Trail-Association-Jordan-Valley-45-636045479799699/)

NCTA Hikes and Events at:  
<https://northcountrytrail.org/events/map/>



## Backpackers Day at Jay's

Kevin Whitley

Email: [kjw@torchlake.com](mailto:kjw@torchlake.com)

On May 28, 2022, I traveled to Clare, Michigan to experience "Backpacker Days" at Jay's Sporting Goods. Jerry and Connie Allen organized a Jordan Valley 45 table to introduce the North Country Trail to customers of Jay's. Jerry has been hosting this table for about 20 years, beginning around the time he was the President of our chapter, which was then called the Tittabawassee Chapter. Gary Johnson, the Chapter President after Jerry had started this tradition of hosting a table at Jay's of Clare. Jay's Sporting Goods staff is very friendly and welcoming to the vendors and organizations that agree to host tables. They prepare a buffet lunch for everyone. Other tables included company representatives from Merrell Shoes, Jet Boil Stoves, Traeger Grills, and a man doing presentations on Yooperlite stones (which are fluorescent



L-R standing: Mott, Jerry, & Kevin  
and Connie seated

sodalite stones that glow under UV light and can be found along the Lake Superior shoreline). There were food trucks in the parking lot and the store was very busy. Jay's had a table of their own with a prize drawing for many products. Jerry and Connie with help from Mott had a great response from the customers. Many maps and chapter brochures were handed out. They had a full backpack so customers could guess the weight for a chance to win a prize. Picture boards with many photos of chapter activities were on display.

## JV45 Needs a New Webmaster

After 10 years of service, our current Chapter Webmaster, Josh Berlo, will be moving to Colorado to start a new job. Thanks and Good Luck, Josh! Given that, we'd like one of our JV45 members to take on that position. The duties involve coordinating with NCTA Headquarters to update portions of the JV45 website ([https://northcountrytrail.org/  
trail/michigan/j45/](https://northcountrytrail.org/trail/michigan/j45/)), such as adding files for new Chapter brochures and newsletters. If interested, please contact our Chapter President, Kevin Whitley. at: [kjw@torchlake.com](mailto:kjw@torchlake.com)

## Registration Opens for NCTA 2022 Celebration

The NCTA community will have its annual Celebration in Walker, MN, during October 5-9. Registration recently opened (June 14) and will remain open until September 14. There are several hikes to select from, so register early to get the ones you wish to join. There will also be several workshops and two inspiring keynote speakers, Annie Humphrey and Emily Ford ([https://northcountrytrail.org/  
annual-events/celebration/keynotes/](https://northcountrytrail.org/annual-events/celebration/keynotes/)). To register, visit: [northcountrytrail.org/celebration](https://northcountrytrail.org/celebration)

### Upcoming Events

June 18, Chapter Hike. See p. 5

July 16, Chapter Hike. details soon.

October 5-9, NCTA Celebration,



## March Hike Report

Robert Courtois

[bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

**W**e had six hikers for the “Last Day of Winter” hike on 19 March: Bob Courtois, Kevin Whitley, Wil Shapton, Dan Dueweke, Susan Miller & Annie Matz. The intimidating weather forecast, rain and temperatures in the low 30’s kept most people away. Let’s face it, rain and near freezing temperatures don’t get people out of the house. Still, if you let a bad weather forecast scare you off, you will miss out on a lot of great outdoor experiences. You just have to dress for it. The forecasted rain never really materialized.

Despite the recent warm up, there was still deep snow in the woods, so snowshoes were necessary. Still, Dan and Kevin opted to just wear boots and the rest of us wore snowshoes. Dan and Kevin did OK following in the tracks of the snowshoe people, but they did posthole quite a bit up to their knees or more.

Originally, we planned to start by hiking the Warner Creek Pathway and then heading East to Dobleski Rd. Instead, with only six people, we crammed in Kevin’s truck and drove to Dobleski Rd. and hiked West back to Warner Creek. This section of trail is very hilly and with the deep snow it really was a workout. For the first mile from Dobleski Rd. it is mostly steep up hill. Even with temperatures in the low 30’s, you work up a sweat pretty quickly.



Signs of a busy pileated woodpecker



The March Hikers

Of course, the misty rain added to the dampness.

Being the last day of winter, it was interesting to see more birds and a lot of animal signs. Among them were beech trees picked apart by pileated woodpeckers. Also, tracks where an animal walked in the snow, the steps then filled in with more icy snow and then was thawing out slower than the surrounding snow.

Over the winter there has been logging (thinning, not clear-cutting) starting at about a mile North of M32 and it skirts the NCT for about a third- to a half-a-mile. The foresters flagged the trail with blue ribbons and the loggers did a pretty good job of staying off the trail but there are some spots where quite a bit of repair work will be needed. There are a lot of branches and trees to clear, not just from the logging but also from last fall’s wind-storms.

At the register box near M32 we signed in and Susan Miller continued to walk all of Warner Creek. She also checked out the new bridge at the beaver deceiver on O’Brien Pond. Sue got in 7 miles and the rest of us slackers only did 4.75 miles. While Sue hiked, the rest of us went to Larry’s for burgers.

A little drama. Bob (me) lost his keys but, to make a long story short, Bob’s wife drove over to Larry’s with the spare set. Once back at the M32 trailhead, we found the keys in Kevin’s truck between the seat and the seat belt. Obviously, they fell out of my pocket on the drive to Dobleski Rd. Lesson relearned – Put your keys in a zippered pocket!



Animal tracks



Some recent thinning along the NCT



## April (long) Hike Report

Kevin Whitley

Email: [kjw@torchlake.com](mailto:kjw@torchlake.com)

On April 16, 2022, the Jordan Valley 45 Chapter hosted a group hike. Everyone met at the Jordan River Fish Hatchery where we broke into 2 groups. A short Hike of about 8 hikers led by Ellen Whitehead drove to Pinney Bridge and hiked back to the Hatchery. A longer 13-mile hike, with about 10 hikers and led by Kevin Whitley, started and ended at the Hatchery. The long hike took hikers up Jordan River Road to the Jordan Valley Loop to Landslide where the NCT portion of the trail led to Cascade Creek, Cascade Road, the 45th Parallel Marker, Pinney Bridge, three tubes and then back to the Jordan River Road. One hiker and the leader decided to turn around at Landslide and go back to the parking lot. Wil Shapton decided to run a long section of this trail as training for an upcoming race. The weather was mostly cool and cloudy but we did have some snow fall which made this the 4th hike of 2022 with snow.



Just a bit of snow remained

## April (short) Hike Report

Ellen Whitehead

[twinlakede@gmail.com](mailto:twinlakede@gmail.com)

Our Chapter hiked in the Jordan River Valley on April 16th and we had a great turnout despite the topsy-turvy weather! We walked through sleet, snow, and a bit of sunshine too, up and down the hills, and along the spectacular Jordan River.

Eight of us decided to take the shorter path of 5 miles on the NCT beginning at the Pinney Bridge parking spot (5.65 miles more exactly as we trekked back to our parking spot at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery). Some had never hiked on this section of the trail before and they were enthralled by its beauty.

There were a few signs of Spring, including pockets of wild ramps (leeks) with their brilliant green leaves peeking out of the ground and some tiny trout lily leaves as well. Due to the recent winds, there were a few larger branches down, but Mary Campbell brought her trusty saw and they were removed quickly as others pitched in to remove them from the trail. We did notice that our expert woodsman Dan Dueweke had been through the area previously as several fallen trees had already been sawn in two (with his extra-special powerless saw). We also picked up several beverage cans along Jordan River Road where the snowmobilers and ATVs enjoy their sports.

We listened to the soothing sound of the river's rapids and paused in wonder at the giant eagle's nest along its banks. Smiles all around as we made it back to the Hatchery vowing to return in individual groups when the wildflowers bloom in early summer.



Eagle nest



Leeks pushing up through the leaves



Members of the April Short Hike

### Dan Dueweke – Trail Coordinator

Email: [dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)

**A**dopter reminder — The sun is high, the ground is moist, and the grasses and other vegetation are in peak pre-summer growth. Plan a day to weed your trail sections, particularly the full-sun open meadows. Vegetation during its growth phase is softer and easier to cut. Weeding is a slow walk that also gives you an opportunity to see how your blazes are holding up and take note of any blazed trees that fell over the past winter.



## May Hike Report

Robert Courtios

Email: [bcourtios@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtios@comcast.net)

On May 21, 2022, after gathering at Thumb Lake Rd. (hike's endpoint), 10 of us (and Sophie the Golden Doodle) piled into two cars for the ride to the trail crossing on Springvale Rd (SR). Included in our group, representing the Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter, were Stan & Kay Kujawa and Bill Courtios. On the way to SR, we dropped off Stan & Kay's truck at the halfway point on Chandler Hill Rd. (CHR). At SR, John and Dove Day were waiting for us with her son's Corgi dog, Hotch. It was great to see them back on the trail. They walked in as far as Spring Brook, which is about 2.5 miles south of Springvale Rd.

It seems like every other time we've hiked this section it has been unbelievably hot, but today it was very cool and comfortable. Temps were in the upper 50's and lower 60's and enough breeze to breathe. Most of the hike was in shady forest which has just sprouted out after a long winter. We watched for Morrel Mushrooms, but no one found any. In addition to bogs and creeks, this section of trail is very hilly and has a mile long steep climb up just north of Chandler Hill Rd.

The trail is in great shape thanks to all the volunteers doing the spring clean-up of downed trees and branches. Before long it will need to be mowed and trimmed back of ingrowth from raspberries and blackberries. It's thick and thorny stuff and deadly to anyone in shorts. Thank you to the local trail adopters Steve & Betsy Schnell and Dave & Annie Matz.

The much faster seven people shot ahead and did the entire 7.7 miles. Bob, Kay & Stan ended at Chandler Hill Rd. and arrived back at Thumb Lake Rd. just



A few of the May hikers



There were a few wet spots



Posing with the Chandler Hill Register Box

as the fast seven began to arrive. We then retrieved the cars from SR and seven of us (Wil, Duane, Mary, Bill, Bob, Stan & Kay) shot over to the Whi-Ski Inn in Boyne Falls for pops and burgers. The food was great.



Of course the family dog wants to go on the hike!

### New "Events Map" on the NCTA Web Site

Remember to visit the NCTA Events web page to see upcoming events on our JV45 section of the NCT as well as other planned events from North Dakota to Vermont. At this time, we plan to continue posting our upcoming events on Facebook along with email alerts, but we'll also use the NCTA Events page.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/NCTAJordanValley/>

NCTA Events Site and map - <https://northcountrytrail.org/events/map/>

Kevin Whitley - President

[kjw@torchlake.com](mailto:kjw@torchlake.com)

James Howell - Vice President

[pattenlake2620@gmail.com](mailto:pattenlake2620@gmail.com)

Josh Berlo - Website Coordinator

[joshberlo@gmail.com](mailto:joshberlo@gmail.com)

Annie Matz - Secretary-Treasurer

[amatz57@yahoo.com](mailto:amatz57@yahoo.com)

### CURRENT JV45<sup>o</sup> GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton - Project Coordinator

[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

Bob Courtios - Hike Coordinator

[bcourtios@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtios@comcast.net)

Sue Bouwense & Dove Day - Events Coordinators

[sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com)

[doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)

Vacant - Communications Coordinator

Dan Dueweke - Trail Coordinator

[dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)



## Aid Station at May 28th Race in Petoskey

Robert Courtios

Email: [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

After a two-year hiatus, the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter once again hosted an aid station at the annual Stafford's Top of Michigan Festival of Races in Petoskey. This year our aid station moved from Bay-front Park to a new location right in front of beautiful offices of the Top of Michigan Trails Council at 1787 M-119, in Petoskey, which is right on the trail.

This was a fun-run event and it was exciting to cheer on the 5K, 10K and Half Marathon runners as they went by. For hydration we handed water and "Gu"



Just a few of the many runners and walkers who passed by the JV45 Aid Station

(electrolytes drink) to the runners as they flew by. Because of their out-and-back route, the aid station served runners going in both directions. The runners were most appreciative to have the drinks.

Starting at 8am, the JV45 Chapter provided eight volunteers until the last runners came through at about 11am. The weather started out a crisp 50 degrees and overcast, but by the time things wrapped up the clouds burned off and temperatures were in the 60's.

This event gave us a chance to build awareness of the NCT through our signage, handouts and smiles. Thank you Sue Bouwense and Dove & John Day for making the arrangements.



JV45 volunteers preparing for the event along with banners and handouts



Offices for Top of Michigan Trails Council in Petoskey

## Just Published: NCTA's 2021 Annual Report

A summary of the NCTA accomplishments for 2021 has just been published. It has all sorts of interesting statistics, such as volunteers reported 54,236 hours of contributed time in 2021, built nearly 45 miles of new trail, built or repaired 46 bridges, freshly blazed over 378 miles of trail, built and maintained over 6000 linear feet of puncheon and boardwalk, and on and on. You can download a PDF copy of the report at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/about-us/transparency/>

## June Hike Plans

Robert Courtios

Email: [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

Hike June 18, 2022 – Jordan Valley National Fish Hatchery to Warner Creek Trailhead ~ 7.5 miles

See map and mile markers at:

<http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

Hike – Meet at Warner Creek Pathway Trailhead (hike's end) on M32 (mile 648.5), which is about 3.0 miles west of US131. We will gather at 9:30am and by 10am ferry hikers to the hike's start at the Jordan Valley National Fish Hatchery (1 mile from mile marker 655).

Short hike option – Hikers might want to start at Deadman's Hill (near mile marker 651.5) and hike to Warner Creek Trailhead (~ 4.0 miles).

Long Hike Option – Fish Hatchery to Warner Creek Trailhead (~ 7.5 miles.)

Trail Conditions – Aside from the half mile downhill on Deadman's Hill (short hike only), this hike is on fairly flat terrain. Sights include the Jordan River, various springs, an unnamed beaver pond and the new bridge and puncheons at O'Brien Pond.

Watch the forecast and dress for the weather. Bring water, snacks and a camera. A safe bet that snowshoes will NOT be required this time. If you can't bring a friend, one will be provided. If we have a quorum, afterwards we may go to Larry's (on US131 just south of M32) for pops and fries.

## Thanks from the Denay's

The JV-45 family came together in early May and helped Cliff and I clear our NCT section from Springvale to Harmon Road including the Cherry Valley Overlook. As a group, we figured we took out around 70 trees! Thanks to all!

Jane Denay

[jane.denay@gmail.com](mailto:jane.denay@gmail.com)



The Happy Loggers



## O'Brien Pond Workday

Duane Lawton

Email: [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

On Friday and Saturday (National Trails Day), June 3 & 4 2022, we added structures at O'Brien Pond to address wet spots on the trail, and removed the old boardwalk that we replaced last year. Thanks to Mary Campbell, Bob Courtois, Jim DeKett, Dan Dueweke, Bob French, Susan Miller, Wil Shapton, and Kevin Whitley.

Friday we removed the old (sunk-en) boardwalk. It was easier than I imagined. Bob and I didn't get to see the process because by the time we coordinated the lumber delivery and hauling it to the site, it was out. Then we built 50' of puncheon using the beams we salvaged.

On Saturday, we started a 100' puncheon, and a 30' extension of the boardwalk using new planks. We got about half done before we were fully tired (and it was 5:00).

So there will be another workday, to be scheduled, to finish...



View after removing the old boardwalk.



Building a boardwalk extension



Old beams from the sunken boardwalk were turned into new puncheon



Above and Right. Old boardwalks were removed. Some sections were on the water surface and some submerged!



Bob C brought in his camper to be close to the worksite



# A NCT Adventure in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area

Dan Dueweke

Email: [dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)

Like many hikers here, we tend to hike and volunteer locally. Of course, when the North Country Trail is practically out your back door, it's crazy not to take full advantage of all those nearby miles. But sometimes an opportunity arises that is too cool to pass up and you find yourself driving hundreds of miles to join a trail crew in a place you've never been.

Last October an EF-2 tornado ripped across the NCT/Border Route Trail leaving a mile of twisted, splintered, and blown over trees that completely blocked the trail north of Clearwater Lake. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkSy6Guo-pc&t=0s> Given that this stretch of trail is in a wilderness area, no chainsaws or other power tools could be used to clear (or even get to) the path. Having some experience with traditional tools, I contacted Matt Davis, regional trails coordinator for North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin and offered to help if he planned a spring logout (it was much too late in the year to pull together a work trip in 2021).

Matt assembled a crew; I got my gear together and we waited for the ice to melt. And waited and waited. By May

23<sup>rd</sup>, the ice was gone and we packed up our canoes for the five-mile paddle to the campsite. Did I say the water was cold? We sort of hugged the shoreline in case a canoe swamped but only got our feet wet getting in and out of the canoes.

We had the camp set up before noon so that left a half day to hike in and assess the tornado damage. Some previous trail angel had cleared the limbs and windthrows off the trail for a few hundred yards, but we eventually came to the "wall of downed trees." A tornado packs more than a windy punch and its swirling motion twists trees and jack straws them together from different directions leaving a challenging mix of binds and tensions.

From a sawyer standpoint, the trees were mostly red and white pine with a few birches and poplar thrown in – all trees with low density wood that cut quickly and chopped easily. But there were so many! If it had just been trees down, the trail could've been cleared much faster,



The Crew -- Still going strong after a few trees were cleared

but most had toppled over tearing up big craters of dirt and rock with their upturned roots. In these places, the trail just vanished. Through it all, the saws sang with that ringing sound only a crosscut makes when pulled across a log and the cut pieces were dropped in the rootball holes to recover some of that lost tread. Late in the third day, a thru-hiker passed us saying "the rest isn't too bad," a comment that said we were getting close to the end of the worst damage. We didn't cut every tree but were selective in removing those that truly blocked the trail.

I knew when I went up there that this would be a special trip and a unique opportunity to put hand tools to the test in the aftermath of a terrible storm. All the work took place along less than a mile of trail, a mere sliver of the NCT's 4800+ miles. But I was glad I went and I know the NCT can provide other challenging opportunities if you just volunteer.



Power tools cannot be used in the BWCA because it is classified as "wilderness" so we used traditional tools like crosscut saws



We had plenty of work to do!



After the tornado, 100s of trees were blown over, broken or bent.



## STAMP-EDE offers family fun on the NCT

Dove Day and Sue Bouwense,  
JV45 Event Coordinators

Email: [doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com) and  
[sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com)

Here are 2 comments left in the new register box by the Bear River footbridge by participants in the first-ever “Stamp-ede” on the section of trail that takes hikers through the North Central Michigan College Natural Area.

*“Great Stamp-ede! Thank you for a fun and educational adventure!”*

*“Thanks NCT! I love this trail and all it has in store!”*

This event, held on National Trails Day (June 4) was designed with families in mind, and intended to engage them in a healthy adventure on the trail. Several families and one group of adults visited our booth at the NCMC trailhead and were given clues to help them find Stamp Boxes along the trail to the footbridge. Participants followed the clues and used the stamps they found to embellish the notebooks they were given. Along with the stamps, they found some intriguing nature tidbits related to items found on the trail (e.g. native wildflowers, deciduous vs coniferous trees, and bird behavior). Clues and Stamp Box info also helped families learn some trail etiquette and trail marking conventions.

It’s so rewarding to know that families and groups of friends are excited for an excuse to get outside and explore. We were also pleased to use this event to introduce hikers to the new reroute of the trail in our area made possible by the beautiful new footbridge. Participants gave us great feedback, so we hope to hold trail “Stamp-edes” in the future, possibly on other trail sections in our chapter.



Mom reads about coniferous trees and Uriah (age 4) stamps his NCT notebook. Each Stamp Box held some interesting nature facts!



Brennan (age 12) enjoyed the hunt and the hike with his family.



These twins had a great view of the trail!



Left: Kevin Whitley (JV45 President) and Dove Day visit with hikers at the trailhead in the NCMC parking lot.



Learning to watch for the blue blazes!



# Where I Hiked

## Wisconsin NCT

**Doug Seaney**

Email: [dseaney@hotmail.com](mailto:dseaney@hotmail.com)

I returned to Wisconsin in May 2022 to complete the NCT miles in the Badger state. Last year I went there in the beginning of June with intent to hike the entire 215 miles. The weather and the ticks were both a bit out of control: 90-degree heat and over 200 in ticks in 2 days. After about 100 miles, I had enough and decided to stop early. I went back this year on May 20<sup>th</sup> for another crack at it. My wife Kim came along as support crew.

This year I am working on the East side of the state from 2 Lakes National Forest Campground (mile 132 on NCTA map) to the Michigan Border (mile 215). I also have a 25 mile "missing section" near Solon Springs from last year so will check that off as well. (mile 93-68 NCTA map).

### Solon Springs "missing section" -

Overnight hike 25 miles - Met 2 NCTA volunteers out painting blazes. Scared up a turkey hen off her nest. Not sure who was more startled. Spent the night at Jersett Creek campsite. WI has done a fair job of creating established camp areas along the trail. Usually a table/bench, a backcountry latrine, a fire ring and a somewhat flat spot for a tent or two. 36 degrees and rained during the night and heard coyotes yipping and barking during the



Brule Bog boardwalk

night. Packed up cold and wet and on the trail by 6am. Trail here follows a historic portage dating to the late 1600's (?) between Bois Brule River and the St. Croix River, connecting the Mississippi River to Lake Superior. The trail also crosses the Brule Bog and required nearly a mile of board walk to get across it.

**Center of state East** - This was a combination of day hikes and overnight hikes. Not in sequential West to East order due to logistics of camping reservations, moving the camper etc.

Day hike 13 miles - Porcupine Wilderness Area no blazes in this stretch but well-traveled - part of the Chequamegon National Forest. Saw lots of birds and a decent sized bear track at a beaver dam I had to cross. Lunch break at Long Mile Lookout, an old fire tower. First 20 feet of the ladder were missing so I couldn't climb up.



Long Mile lookout tower

Day hike 12 miles - We moved the camper this morning so only a partial day to hike. Started at the MI / WI border. This is not where I finished my Michigan hike a few years ago as the trail has moved from Ironwood to now going through the Porcupine Mountains. Saw a chubby porcupine wandering across the trail today. He was in no hurry to get off the trail and I was willing to wait for him. Much warmer today and the blackflies are out looking for a meal. My planned pick up point turned out to be a pretty rough 2 track - luckily, I met

Bill Menke and Mel Baughman, 2 NCTA volunteers. They were out scouting for 4 new campsites; the US Forest Service requires an archeological analysis of any potential new campsites. They told me the road only got worse and I was able to get cell service and let my wife know not to attempt a pick up, and I walked back out to the main road.

Overnight hike 33 miles - Re-walked the 1/2 mile of 2 track that I'd already walked twice yesterday. Trail goes past Foster Falls, a very beautiful spot for a break in the 64-degree sunshine.



Foster Falls

Passed an old gold mine site where an old steam engine was left in the woods 100 years ago, the Maxim Gold Mine operated from 1903 - 1910. You can still see evidence of the mine entry and some test bore holes.



Steam engine parts at old gold mine



Had an early dinner and decided to try to make it through the next 6 miles of private property to camp for the night in Copper Falls SP land. Just before the private land ended there was a campsite provided by the landowner. Feeling so blessed that private landowners are willing to not only let the trail cross their land but also provide a place to camp. During the night I awoke around 2am to the smell of a skunk cruising through the area. I asked him/her to kindly keep moving on. Next day up and on the trail by 5:30 am – did I mention that WI is an hour earlier – it gets light really early over there. Rain started about 6:30am and continued off and on most of the day. I stopped for a break on a sheltered bench built during the CCC days and still in great shape. A nice place for a SPAM break.



SPAM, a hiker's friend

Copper Falls State Park has some amazing falls; Brownstone Falls was my favorite.



Brownstone Falls

Leaving the park, the trail follows a power line and through some open fields for a few miles. With all the rain today, I was soaked through from all the water on the tall grass. Squished my way into Mellen to meet my wife for pickup.

Overnight hike 24 miles - Best weather day yet: mid 70's and sunny. First mile or so was perfect trail through a pine forest... then the trail goes through the Penokee Mountain Ski Trail area. Although the word Penokee refers to an area where wild potatoes grow, the trail was covered by 3-4-inches of mud and I tried to hop from side to side and rock to rock to avoid the mess. By mid-morning I stopped for a break and to wring water out of my socks. After about 4 miles of this I came to a river crossing and took an extended break to dry out. Camped in the woods near Lake 3 CG (which is now permanently closed – not sure why?)



Campsite near Lake 3

Next day up and on the trail at 5:45am, supposed to start raining early today and I wanted to be packed up before it started. Rain comes about 7am and continues all day. Still quite a bit of muck to hop through and lots of trees down in this stretch. Met a group of 8 college kids backpacking in the rain, they all seemed in pretty good spirits in spite of the rain. My wife picked me up at 11am and I have now completed Wisconsin!



Doug finishes the Wisconsin portion of the NCT



# JV45 Leadership Meeting 4/28/2022 on Zoom 5:15pm

**M**embers present: Kevin Whitley, Bob Courtois, Dove Day, Mary Campbell, Jim Howell, Evelyn Howell, Sue Bouwense, Bob Haack, Dan Dueweke, Josh Berlo, special guest Diane O'Conner

I. New NCTA events calendar is up and running on the website.

## II. Spring/Summer/Fall Work Projects

a. O'Brien Pond workday is scheduled on June 3 & 4. Duane has obtained a camping permit near the site for those who wish to stay. Bring your own food. Participants may choose to go to a local restaurant for group dinner. The plan is to remove the old bridge and build 200' of new puncheon. Mary submitted a material list to Preston Feather. Four swamp pans were ordered. If they are not all needed, we can save them for another future project.

## b. Future reroutes: status and updates

1. Dobleski Rd: The DNR has been discussing construction of a road near reroute site. Mary met with Joe Taylor, local landowner, to clarify no road is needed for our proposed crossing.
  2. Cedar Valley: no update.
  3. Notestine property: no update.
  4. North Conway Rd-Kipp Rd: no update
- FYI: NCTA is hiring someone to oversee private property easements.

c. Sign and interpretive panel costs were discussed. A grant has been submitted to cover costs. If and when obtained, we will plan to add panels at Click RD, and replace the one in the city of Petoskey.

## III. Tool Trailer

- a. Organization started and is ongoing.
- b. Grant application has been submitted for Petoskey Lock Box for hand tools.

## IV. Administrative details

- a. The updated brochures are here.
- b. Dan has installed 1 "memo" inside a JV45 register box regarding how to report down trees and a way to contact JV45 if the hiker is interested in joining NCTA. He will continue to work on adding memos to other JV45 register boxes.
- c. Two people have contacted Kenny Wawczyk so far this year since the NCTA has developed a "new interest form." JV45 information was sent to them and they were

encouraged to join.

d. No reported issues with NCTA's new website.

e. Jim Howell continues to work on an inventory of structures (register boxes, bridges, etc) along the JV45 section of trail.

f. Dan Dueweke reports that sawyers and swamper have been busy trying to clear the entire JV45 trail. Much progress has been made but there are still areas that need clearing. Dan will send an email to adopters soon with an update.

g. There are no unadopted sections but if there is interest some sections could be shared.

## V. Events

a. May 28 Half Marathon in Petoskey. Sue Bouwense could use some volunteers to help at the aid station. Kevin will deliver the supplies.

b. May 28 Backpackers Day at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare: Connie and Jerry will host.

c. June 3 Petoskey Open House (Sue doesn't think they are having it this year)

d. June 4 National Trails Day: Family Hike is planned to start at NCMC parking lot and hike to the Bear River Bridge. More info is available online. If anyone has stamps or stamp pads to donate, please let Sue know. Sue is also planning to order a stamp from NCTA.

e. Sept 24 North Country National Scenic Trail Day

## VI. Group Hikes

a. Kid hikes-Junior Hikers Program: Evelyn Howell and her college friend Diane O'Conner did a power point presentation with ideas for a Junior Hiker Program to get our youth involved in the NCT.

- Target age is 4 and up.
- They will compose a booklet to hand out at hikes and promotional events.
- They would also like to post a QR code on the trail register boxes for young hikers who may be out hiking with their families.
- They will target young children first and then work on developing a program for teens.

• Mary has volunteered to contact Kate Lemon at NCTA regarding converting this PowerPoint to a graphic file for printing.

• These ideas were very well accepted by the JV45 leaders.

b. The next hike is on May 21, meet at 9:30 at the trailhead at Slashing Rd and Thumb Lake Rd then shuttle to Springvale Rd and hike back. Shorter hike option is Chandler Hill Rd to Thumb Lake Rd.

Details on the NCTA website.

VII. Next Meeting will be June 23, 2022 at 5:15. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm

Minutes submitted by Annie Matz

JV45 Secretary/Treasurer

## Become a NCT Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP)!

**Nicole Loiseau**

**Volunteer Program Manager**

**NCTA & National Park Service**

**Email: [nicole\\_loiseau@nps.gov](mailto:nicole_loiseau@nps.gov)**

### Why?

As a North Country National Scenic Trail volunteer, you join a group of more than 100,000 others who donate their time and talents to the National Park Service!

As a thank you for your service, you are eligible to attend certain skills and leadership training, earn recognition items based on hours of service, and receive the America the Beautiful Volunteer Pass (if you do not already possess a Senior Pass, Access Pass, or Military Pass).

As a NPS VIP, you are also provided the same protections as NPS employees regarding injuries and tort claims.

### How?

Please complete the following steps:

1. Go to NCTA's website: <https://northcountrytrail.org/volunteer/volunteer-resource-center/nps-vip-form/>
2. Read through the library of position descriptions and job hazard analyses and select the position(s) that best fit your interests, skills, and physical capabilities.
3. Print out, complete, and sign the Volunteer Service Agreement.
4. Send the Volunteer Service Agreement to Volunteer Program Manager Nic Loiseau.

Instructions are also available on the sign-up page on NCTA's website.

As long as you continue to report your volunteer hours on a regular basis (at least once a year at a minimum), you must only update your volunteer agreement when there is a change in personal information, or if you wish to make any changes to the volunteer positions you wish to perform.

### Questions?

Contact me, Nic Loiseau, your Volunteer Program Manager at [nicole\\_loiseau@nps.gov](mailto:nicole_loiseau@nps.gov) or 616-302-9842.