



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

September 2023

## President's Message

Kevin Whitley [kjwtorchlake@gmail.com](mailto:kjwtorchlake@gmail.com)

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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 hikers...

I am excited to announce a new program created by the Jordan Valley 45 Chapter to recognize everyone who hikes all of the trail in our chapter. This hike can be a one time through hike or hiking smaller sections of the trail on different days. There is no time limit to complete this hike. Our Chapter stretches almost eighty miles between Starvation Lake Road outside of Mancelona and Kipp Road north of Conway. Everyone who walks all 80 miles of the chapter will receive a patch. Thank you to Dove Day for her assistance in creating a file that the manufacturer could use. To receive your patch just simply email the Chapter President at [kjwtorchlake@gmail.com](mailto:kjwtorchlake@gmail.com) and I will send it to you. If you have completed these miles in the past you are already qualified, no need to start over. An image of the patch is at the end of this newsletter. I also want to make you all aware that the group hikes for September, October, and November will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday instead of the usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. This is to combine group hikes with other events and also to avoid rifle hunting season opening weekend in November.

## Upcoming Group Hikes:

Sep 9 – Krause Rd to Springvale, joining with "Hike the Chapter group"

Oct 14 – Springvale to Thumb Lake Rd; Volunteers potluck after the hike at Chandler Township hall

Nov 11 – TBD

Story and pictures by Duane Lawton  
[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

### Trail Building Event Saturday, October 7.

We are building  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of new trail from the Kipp Road trailhead to North Conway Road (at Hathaway Road intersection). The new trail will pass through Emmet County Recreation Dept. and Emmet County Road Commission (ECRC) properties. No structures are required, though we will be planting a new register box. This is the extreme north end of the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter territory, and it will be much better for eastbound hikers not to have to start on a road walk.

Meet at the Emmet County Rec. field at 9:00 am. There are two unpaved drive entrances north off of Hathaway between North Conway Road and Kipp Road (west of the ECRC entrance). We will work all day and hopefully can get the small saplings and brush cleared, the tread smoothed and blazes painted.

I wonder if anyone would volunteer to provide lunch for the crew. I expect the chapter would reimburse for the food cost. I also need someone to volunteer to get and bring the tool trailer from the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (JRNFH). There are enough hand tools in the trailer for all, so no need to bring tools...just work clothes, and gloves recommended.

**\*Caveat:** The ECRC has approved our crossing their property and we have a permit (thanks Kenny). The Recreation Dept. board has approved our crossing their property, however that must also be approved by the Emmet County Board of Commissioners. That item on their agenda has been postponed twice now, but supposedly will be covered in their early September meeting. If they have a problem (really unlikely), this event will have to be postponed. ...so, if you can come help us with this project, shoot me an email so I can update you with any last-minute information.

### Jordan Valley Puncheon

Dan Dueweke is plotting to improve a section of trail  $\sim 1/2$  mile west of Jordan River Road toward Pinney Bridge by building 60 feet of puncheon and some stairs. At present we are seeking a permit from the DNR, so I doubt this will be a 2023 project. However, if you're interested in participating if it does materialize this year, let me or Dan know.

# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



## Hike the Chapter - 80 miles of FUN!

**September 8 – 12, 2023**

Duane Lawton – [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

### Hike The Chapter 2023

Our hike is set, we currently have 3 committed to the entire hike and several others that will join for part of the time. There is still time to sign up / join us.

#### Here's the detail...September 8-12

Day 1: Friday, 17.2 miles - Kipp Road trail head to Skyline Shelter

Meet at the Krause Road trailhead 0800 hours, put our packs in the Skyline Shelter, carpool (Trail angel) to Kipp Road trailhead, start hiking ca. 0900 hours. Lunch in Petoskey, reach Skyline Shelter ca. 1800 hours.

Day 2: Saturday: 15.7 miles - Skyline Shelter to Chandler Hill Road. (disperse camp)

Head out 0900 hours with packs, to Krause Road trailhead. Hand off packs to trail angel who ferries them to Chandler Hill Road. Join the J45 monthly group hike 1000 hours heading down to Springvale Road, we continue on over Chandler Hill to Chandler Hill Road where our packs are, Disperse camp ca. 1800 hours.

Day 3: Sunday, 13.7 miles - Chandler Hill Road. to Dobleski Road. (disperse camp)

Break camp, leave packs by Chandler Hill Road, head out ca. 0900 hours. Trail angel picks up packs and relocates them to Dobleski Road. Reach Dobleski Road ca. 1600 hours, disperse camp.

Day 4: Monday, 15.9 miles - Dobleski Road to Pinney Bridge State Forest Camp Ground (SFCG)

Break camp, trail angel meets us at Dobleski road at 0800 hours with breakfast 🍌, picks up packs and relocates them to Pinney Bridge parking area. Head out ca. 0900 hours. Reach Pinney Bridge SFCG ca. 1700 hours, retrieve packs from Pinney Bridge parking, camp.

Day 5: Tuesday, 16.8 miles - Pinney Bridge SFCG to Starvation Lake Road.

Break camp, leave packs near Pinney Bridge parking ca. 0900 hours, reach Starvation Lake Road ca. 1600 hours, met by trail angel who drives us first to Pinney Bridge parking to retrieve packs, then to Krause Road trailhead to retrieve our vehicles. Victory dinner in Petoskey.

Questions - Email me. Duane [delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)





## July 15th Group Hike Report – Jordan Valley Nat'l Fish Hatchery to Pinney Bridge

Story by Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net

If you stayed away because of the rainy forecast, you missed out. It was warm (70s), no wind and humid from the recent rains. There were ten hikers, four of which did the full 13.25 miles. It never did rain.

Of the ten hikers, four were regulars and six were new (welcome). After introductions and pictures five people (no dogs today) headed out from the hatchery on Jordan River Rd. for a half mile or so to pick up the Jordan River Pathway. From there they completed a clockwise loop via Landslide Overlook, the JV 45 marker, Pinney Bridge and Jordan River Road. All the hills, springs and creeks make this an exceptional hike.



Other than clearing branches and clipping back overgrowth on the fly, little maintenance was necessary. We noted that a quarter mile east of Cascade Creek there are some muddy spots and a small creek crossing that could use a little love and attention (puncheon repairs). Also, since winter, along Cascade Creek the hillside has split open 3 or 4 feet wide by about 80 feet, and is sliding toward the creek. Currently, you can easily step across the fissure but that may change.





The longer hike was 13.25 miles, 8.25 miles of which is on the NCT (Landslide Overlook to Jordan River Road at “Three Tubes” culverts). After the long -hike group headed out, Bob drove four people to Pinney Bridge to begin their 5.75 miles back to the hatchery. Bob then met up with the long-hike group to check out the “landslide” at Cascade Creek and to picnic and check out signage at Pinney Bridge Campground.

From the campground, four women, led by Sue Miller, continued back toward the hatchery while Bob and Duane went to the east end of Joran River Road to replace signs that had been destroyed by Porcupines. Bob then went back and met up with the four hikers near Three Tubes. They declined a ride back to the hatchery.

Usually, we see the Bald Eagles nest near the hatchery. No eagles were spotted, so the chicks must have fledged. Being July, the vegetation is especially lush. Thank you to the trail adopters who keep the trail clear.





## August 20th Group Hike Report – Shanley rd. to Bayfront Park

Story by Bob Courtois - [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

### August 20th Hike:

By 10:am we had nine hikers and one dog at Bayfront Park. Near our parking by the marina the park was busy with joggers, walkers and other visitors. The weather was sunny and about 60 degrees to start but it climbed to the mid-80s by afternoon. Perfect.

After introductions and pictures, we used two cars to ferry everyone to the start at Shanley & Cedar Valley Rds. We later acquired four more hikers at the River Road Sports Complex. The total hike was only 6.5 miles so we were able to take our time and enjoy the walk.

From the start at Shanley Rd. the view into Petoskey and out to Lake Michigan is gorgeous. Overall, this hike was on fairly flat terrain but the first mile was downhill on Cedar Valley Rd. to the trail leading to the Petoskey Youth Soccer Fields. The mile or so traversing the soccer fields is mostly open and tall grass. A mowing or weed whacking would be nice to make it easier to follow the trail and stay dry from dew and rain. A Carsonite trail marker, or two, might be helpful as well.





After the soccer complex, we crossed the Bear River at Click Rd. From Click Rd. to the River Road Sports Complex it is mostly woods including some swampy areas with boardwalks we installed a few years ago. This section was part a major project a few years in conjunction with the new Bear River Bridge. We had to chop a new path through the tall brush and woods and install boardwalks.

The J45° Chapter has a large toolbox at the end of the parking lot in the sports complex. Here we took a break and were joined by four more hikers including our president, Kevin Whitley. We examined the contents of the toolbox and even figured out how to remove the new hand saws from their sheaths (it was kind of like pulling a sword from a stone). There is a weed whacker with fuel for anyone to use.



After the kids, Amelia & Nolan, became acquainted with Hamilton (Jane & Cliff DeNay's dog), we proceeded to the new bridge over the Bear River. Here we paused again for more pictures. After you cross the bridge, you are then on the trails of the North Central Michigan College (NCMC).

From NCMC it was a little under three miles to hikes-end at Bayfront Park. We stopped frequently to check out the rapids through the gorge and even saw Monarch butterflies. After passing through the Bear River Walkway, we arrived at Bayfront Park around 2pm.

A side note that took a little glow off the day. Near the park, as they passed each other, three dogs on leashes got tangled and into a nasty scrum. A little dog got hurt and was headed to the vet. The kids witnessed it all and, of course were very concerned.



Following the hike, eleven of us went to Beard's for lunch. We were able to get one big table. The view of the bay was excellent and also the end of summer event taking place in the alley below where we sat. A very good day.

## Trail Maintenance Update

Dan Dueweke - [dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)

September-October are my favorite months to hike and catch up on my trail section. The sun is less intense, the bugs mostly gone, and vegetation starting to die back. It's also the perfect time for a leisurely walk with loppers or a blaze kit. Think of how overhanging branches will be at eye level when snowshoeing and give them a neat clip. Brushing woody growth is a companion to weeding though it usually requires a dedicated trip. Some tree species like poplar grow up really fast and will resist string trimmers once established. As always please email me with any maintenance issues you find on the trail as well as letting me know if/when you have done maintenance on your adopted section.

## Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

October 14, Chandler Township Hall  
7620 Chandler Hill Rd Boyne Falls

We will be having our annual Appreciation lunch for all volunteers at Chandler Township Hall at approximately 2pm. The lunch is immediately after the group hike. The group hike is Springvale Rd to Thunb Lake rd. and begins at 10am. Meet at the trail crossing on Thumb Lake rd. near Slashing rd. (this is mile # 643.5 in Avenza), at 9:30am, we will drive hikers to the start on Springvale rd. After the hike we will shuttle drivers back to the start to retrieve cars if needed. Short hike option – By trail, Chandler Hill Rd. is about 4.75 miles south of the start at Springvale Rd. If there is interest, we can post some cars there.

Main course is provided by the chapter but if you'd like to bring a dish to share that would be great too. All are welcome to attend – hikers, adopters, spouses, friends.

## Annual Celebration 2023 & 2024 Advance Notice

This year's National celebration event is in Chestertown, New York, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> – Oct 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully you are signed up to attend as the registration closed on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a great event and fun to hang out with like-minded individuals that have a love for the trail like we do!

The BIG news is that the 2024 celebration is going to be in St. Ignace hosted by the Hiawatha Shore to Shore chapter. September 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. It's a great opportunity right in our back yard (or would it be attic?). A few of our members are already planning on attending and are planning on staying at Straits State Park. There are approximately 270 sites and camping [reservations](#) open 6 months in advance of arrival date; so mark your calendars for March 4<sup>th</sup> to get your reservation in early. The



website says they are open Memorial Day through Labor Day but I called the campground and they stated they are open each year until Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Trail Angels in Action

By Doug Seaney and Kevin Whitley

This summer we have seen an increase in the number of long(ish) distance hikers in our section of trail. We've had several of our members help out with shuttles, spotting cars, transportation and local information. Some we've just randomly met on the trail, some have found us through our facebook page, others have posted on facebook [Trail Angels of the NCNST](#) and received assistance. Ellen has helped several hikers, Jim and Doug helped a hiker from Wisconsin two days in a row. Bob is continually talking up the trail to everyone he meets on the trail and sharing information. I believe Susan has assisted as well. Kevin shares the following encounter...

*"On Saturday July 29 I received a facebook message from a Michigan through hiker who was hiking along Dobleski Road. He was asking if a trail angel could pick him up and provide a shower and a place to sleep for the night. Jay from Boston is hiking the entire North Country Trail and hiking one or two states each summer. This summer he is hiking the entire state of Michigan. He kept walking while I drove to Boyne Falls and I picked him up on Kuzmik Road. We stopped to pick up a pizza in East Jordan and headed to my house. We built a campfire and talked about his experiences on the trail and travel in general. He has traveled many places in the world and hiked much of the U.S. including Yosemite and the Appalachian Trail. He was also assisted by Ellen the night before I saw him. Although he has traveled around the World, he had never seen Lake Michigan so the next day I gave him a tour of the beaches and lakes around Charlevoix before taking him back to the North Country Trail so he could continue North. He texted me when he reached the Skyline Shelter and said he was very impressed with the shelter accommodations."*

If you are interested in being a trail angel head over to trail angels page on facebook and join the group. It's tons of fun! I am hoping to meet up with the guy from Wisconsin that I helped locally; we are tentatively hiking the Border Route together next year.

## JV45 Leadership Meeting August 24, 2023 - 5:15pm

### Jordan Valley 45° Leadership Meeting

Agenda August 24, 2023, 5:15pm The Landings Restaurant 10231 Ferry Road Charlevoix (near Ironton)

Call to Order at 5:20pm by Kevin Whitley.

Members present: Kevin Whitley, Annie Matz, Jim Howell, Jen Reynolds, Sue Bouwense, Bob Courtois, Doug Seaney, Duane Lawton.

Approve minutes of 6-22-23 meeting: Approved by Jim Howell and seconded by Dan Dueweke.

News from NCTA. 2023 bandanas are here and Kevin passed them out to members present.

Leadership meeting (Whitley): Meeting postponed

J45 Financial Report/Budget (Whitley)

Account balance: \$7000

Expected revenue and expenditures: Recent purchase \$300 for JV45 hiker patches which Kevin has for hikers who have completed the entire JV45 section. Notify Kevin if you have earned the patch. JV45 is very grateful to Dove Day for her help in designing the new patch. Thank you, Dove.

#### 2023 Work Projects- Status):

Re-routes (pending permissions and permits):

1. Move off Dobleski Rd., US 131 and Geim Rd. Duane met with Kenny and Paul who sent a letter to landowner Mr. Jaroneski in mid-July (still awaiting a response).
2. Cedar Valley: Nothing new
3. Notestine property: Nothing new
4. North Conway Rd. to Kipp Rd. Reroute has been flagged and it was approved the day after this meeting. Duane is planning a work day to complete the reroute on 10/7/23.

Signs and Interpretive panels: Riverbend Park, NCMC, Waterfront Waterfall, Krause, Quaintance Ave, and Kipp? Pictures have been sent to Kate Lemon.

Tool Trailer/Tool Box: Home Depot has a Behr latex paint, color: Aztec Sky which matches the blue blaze paint.

Junior hiker program: Progressing and in the hands of NPS.

Trail Adopter Coordinator's Report (Dan Dueweke):

Trail Conditions: Still trying to find a fix for wet area in Jordan Valley/awaiting DNR approval.

#### Group Hikes:

Monthly Chapter Hikes (Bob Courtois)

9/9 hike is Krause Rd to Springvale Rd and will join the entire chapter hikers.

10/14 hike is Springvale Rd to Thumb Lake Rd prior to Volunteer appreciation lunch.

11/11 location tbd

Camp/Hike the entire chapter – 2023: Duane is spearheading this event which is taking place 9/8-9/12. 2 hikers are planning to hike the entire 80 miles, 2 hikers are planning to complete a portion of the hike. Duane is looking for trail angel volunteers to transport supplies.

#### 2023 Events

September 23: North Country Trail Day

September 27: NCT Celebration in Chestertown NY

October 14: Trail adopters' appreciation party at Chandler Township Hall plans for food: Kevin will purchase and cook the food. A motion was brought to the group for approval to purchase the food with chapter money. The motion was brought by Duane and seconded by Bob and unanimously approved.

New Business: Annual Meeting first Saturday in January. Need a location. Gaylord? Bob will call "In the Woods" to check prices for lunch. BJs can host the annual meeting but the lunch is priced at \$32/plate.

Program: Post-Tornado Logout on the Border Route/NCT in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area" by Dan Dueweke.

1. Need nominations for NCTA award
2. Need nominations for golden boot award
3. 2024 elections: President, Communications, Projects coordinator, Hike Coordinator



The 2024 NCNST Celebration will be held in St. Ignace and hosted by the Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter from 9/4/24-9/8/24. Some chapter members are planning to camp at Straits area State Park.

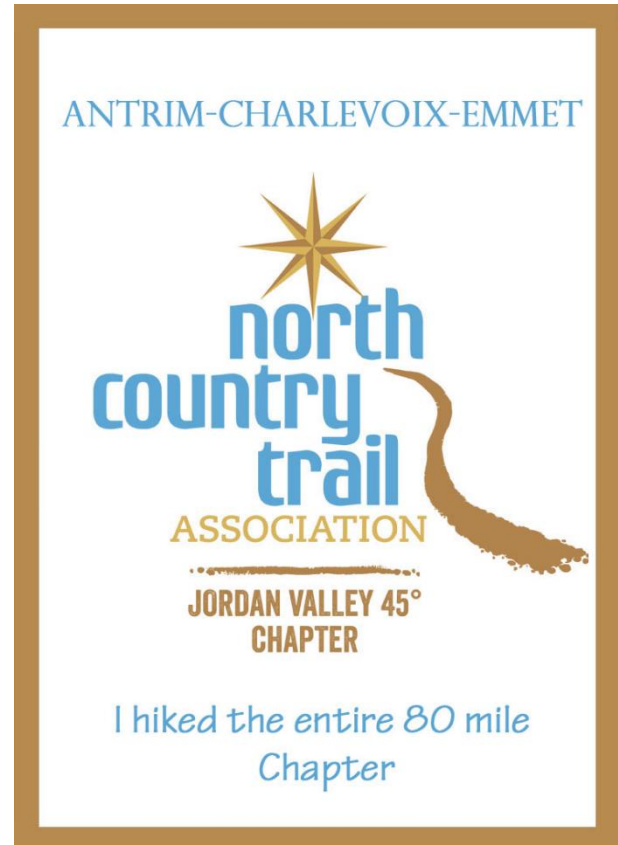
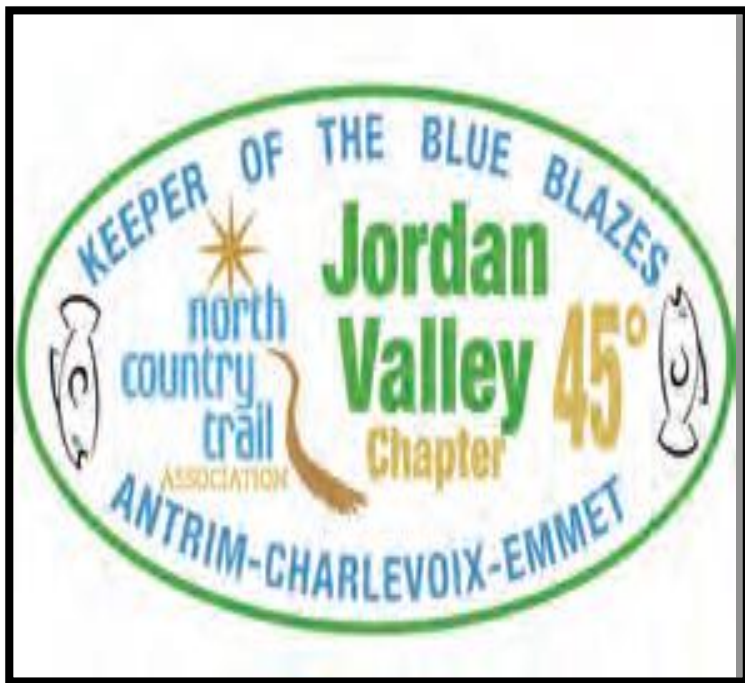
Chapter Meetings – Typically every 2 months, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Next Meeting is October 26

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Meeting minutes typed by Annie Matz

JV45 Sec/Treas

New Patch for hiking entire JV45° Chapter



## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin Whitley – President  
[kjwtorchlake@gmail.com](mailto:kjwtorchlake@gmail.com)

Annie Matz - Secretary-Treasurer  
[amatz57@yahoo.com](mailto:amatz57@yahoo.com)

Sue Bouwense - Events Coordinator  
[sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com)

Bob Courtois - Hike Coordinator  
[bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

James Howell - Vice President  
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