



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 3

June 2021

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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

Upcoming Events

July 17, 2021. Chapter Hike. Details will soon be posted on Facebook and emailed.

August 4-18 2021 NCTA Virtual Celebration: Registration is free. But you'll need to register so that you'll be emailed the Zoom links. See details at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/events/celebration/>

September 24-26-- Chapter Work-day Weekend to build boardwalk at O'Brien Pond. See p. 7.



Message from JV 45° President Mary Campbell

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Greetings Jordan Valley 45° Members and Friends,

After more than a decade of talk and planning, the Bear River bridge crossed over from a dream to a Reality!! The construction crew is working on the final details including a minor retaining wall, an approach boardwalk and site clean-up. The contractor will be back to do some site restoration planting later in the season. The bridge is expected to be open for use by July 4th!

A HUGE and Heartfelt THANK YOU to our partners and collaborators in this project. This is truly a collaborative effort. Overall, this was a partnership between the City of Petoskey, North Central Michigan College and NCTA-Jordan Valley 45° Chapter, with generous and vital support from many community organizations including:

- Baiardi Foundation
- Great Lakes Energy-People Fund
- Petoskey Rotary Club
- Local Revenue Sharing Board
- Petoskey - Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation
- NCTA Field Grant
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- MDNR Iron Belle Trail Grant
- Iron Belle Trail Fund Grant

And of course to the many Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Members and Friends who contributed time, labor as well as financial support. YOU helped make this dream become a reality, Thank you one and ALL!!!

The official ribbon cutting ceremony for the bridge is likely to be scheduled in late July or early August to allow for site restoration plantings and seeding to be completed first. Once the ribbon cutting date and time are confirmed, details will be shared.

Re-Route Follow-up Details

Following the bridge opening, the blazes along the old now-abandoned portions of the prior route will be removed or obscured. New route blazing will be reviewed and NCT emblems added along the official route.

Avenza maps are updated to show the new route, so be sure to download the updated version.

A re-route refresher—At this time, the route from the NCMC natural area takes a new section of trail over the new boardwalk and bridge, through the Sports Complex, then the trail built in 2019 to McDougall Road, south on McDougall back on to 2019 built trail over to Click Road, east on Click Road over the river, into the Petoskey Youth Soccer property along a private property corridor to Cedar Valley Road, and north on Cedar Valley to Shanley.

We continue to pursue off-road options for moving the trail off of Cedar Valley, Shanley and Brubaker...stay tuned. Our chapter brochure/map will be updated soon...

First Aid/CPR Training

Thank you to Adam Peltier, OnSite CPR Solutions, LLC for once again donating his time and expertise to offer a 2nd local certification course in May specifically tailored to the needs of our sawyers, swamper (second person for sawyer), and trail volunteers. With this course we were able to certify or re-certify NCT trail volunteers (including a few from Harbors Springs Chapter and Grand Traverse Hiking Club). If you are interested a future session, please contact me, Mary Campbell.

Reminder: All sawyers and swampers must be current on First Aid/CPR certification.

If you are interested in sawyer training, please contact Dan Dueweke or Mary Campbell to be contacted for future opportunities.

April Hike Report

Bob Courtois

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On 17 April 2021, we did a loop hike from the Fish Hatchery to Pinney Bridge. Before the hike began, several of us arrived early at the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery that day so we could empty, inventory and reload the trailer. The objectives were to reorganize the trailer and also show the arriving hikers all the “toys” that are available for trail use by any of our volunteers. Jim Howell did a great job of discarding unused items to free up badly needed space. Many of the tools that were formerly piled on the floor are now properly hung on the trailer walls. Although many of the tools are old, they are still useful and are marked as property of the Tittabawassee Chapter.

Our chapter was previously named the “Tittabawassee Chapter.” The name was changed to Jordan Valley 45° about 15 years ago. The tool markings are a reminder that we volunteers are just the current stewards of the North Country Trail. To quote Dan Dueweke (our trail maintenance coordinator), “we are just the current boots on the ground.” At some point an inventory of the trailer will be published. If you are in possession of any JV45 tools, please return them.

The weather was mostly sunny. Temperatures started out at about 30 degrees and rose to the upper 40’s by the afternoon with only a slight breeze. Perfect for hiking with layered clothes.

Oh yeah, we also had two hiking groups, eight people on the long hike and eleven people on the short hike. As part of the long-hike we got lots of pictures of muddy spots on the trail that could use repair, or even puncheon or benching-out of the hillsides. Stops along the way included: Six Mile Creek, Section Thirteen Creek, Landslide Overlook, Cascade Creek, 45° Degree Marker (register box), Pinney Bridge (over the Jordan River), Pinney Bridge Campground, No Name Creek, an eagle’s nest and Three Tubes (culverts on Jordan River Road).

Along the way we also noted the Antirrim County Road Commission has further improved Pinney Bridge Rd. where water was chronically washing over the road



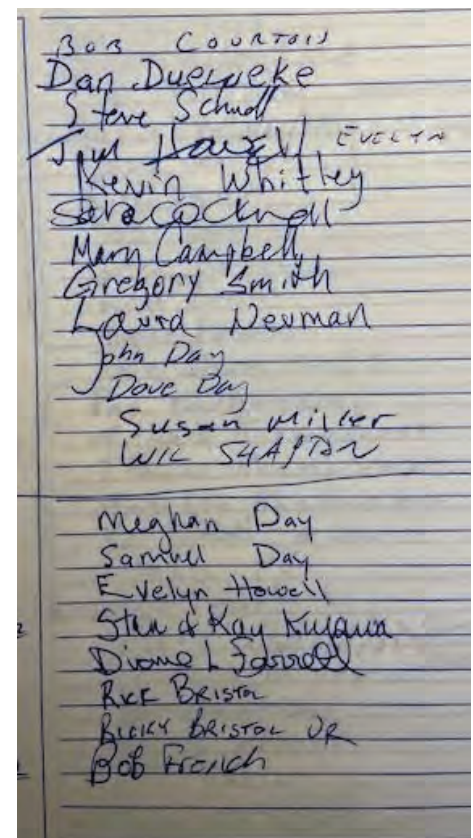
Hikers on the shorter route led by Dove Day



Organizing the Tool Trailer



Spring Beauty



The April hikers



Hikers on the longer route led by Bob Courtois

and swamping the parking lot near Pinney Bridge. Most importantly, they cleared a plugged culvert that was the main source of the water problems these past few years. Beavers were not helping either.

Last summer some trees fell at Pinney Bridge Campground and damaged two



Trout Lily



The Jordan River at Pinney Bridge



A well-organized tool trailer

picnic tables. The large trees have now been cleared. (They were still there in February.) The condition of the trail along the north side of the river is great although a few muddy spots need to be remedied. Maybe even puncheon or minor reroutes are necessary. A highlight in this section is a huge and active eagle's nest. We couldn't see them but we speculate there were still babies in the nest since two adult eagles were soaring circles high above the nest

Sara Cockerell (Grand Traverse Chapter) noted on Facebook that along the way she spotted "yellow trout lilies, trillium (not open yet), Dutchman's breeches, bloodroot (no bloom yet), hepatica, marsh marigold & leeks." Also, that "Dan D[ueweke] cleared a few downed branches & GPSed trees that need chain saw work. Love the new roof shingles on the boardwalk at the Cascade Creek crossing."

We finished the loop on Jordan River Road and, in total, we hiked the better part of 14 miles. Dan Dueweke later posted on Facebook to say that his feet were very sore so he "treated them with an oral application of Two Hearted Ale." A prudent measure indeed.

Dove Day led a shorter six-mile hike for eleven people (and a dog) that just hiked the Pinney Bridge to the Hatchery section. With Dove were three members of the Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter (Stan, Kay and Greg & dog Thunder). The two groups met up afterwards back at the hatchery, which, still, is not open due to Covid. Two people (Jim and Evelyn Howell) did their own hike from the Hatchery to Pinney Bridge, via Turner Rd to the Jordan River Pathway and then Landslide and then to Pinney Bridge. They weren't being unsociable; they just had not hiked that section before.



Marsh Marigold



An active eagle nest



Quiet time along the trail



Dutchman's Breeches

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

Don't forget to submit your Volunteer Hours at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>

May Hike Report

Bob Courtois

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The spring weather had improved, and it was a pleasant day in the 60's. Although clouds increased as the day went on, there was no rain. Actually, we badly need rain as conditions are very dry and lake levels are low for May. Dry as it was, trees were leafing out all over the place.

For our hike, we had a large group (24), including Jerry & Connie Allen who parked at Pickerel Lake and headed north and back four miles. New hikers Will Crump and daughter Miriam just hiked down to MacNeil Pond and back to the ORV lot. Hike regular, Duane Lawton, was not able to hike since he had had to attend the NCTA Board meeting, but he was able to join us for lunch at Ellen's.

Upon arrival at the ORV lot east of the trail crossing on Starvation Lake Rd., we had volunteers (thank you Kevin, Dan, Ellen and Mary) drive down to Twin Lake Rd. and Pickerel Lake to post cars in order to ferry everyone back after the hike. That delayed our start about 15 minutes and we all headed out at 10:45. At the end of the hike, we had just enough seats to ferry everyone who needed a ride back to their cars. Our hike's sweep, Dove, kept a careful head count and all hikers were accounted for after the hike.

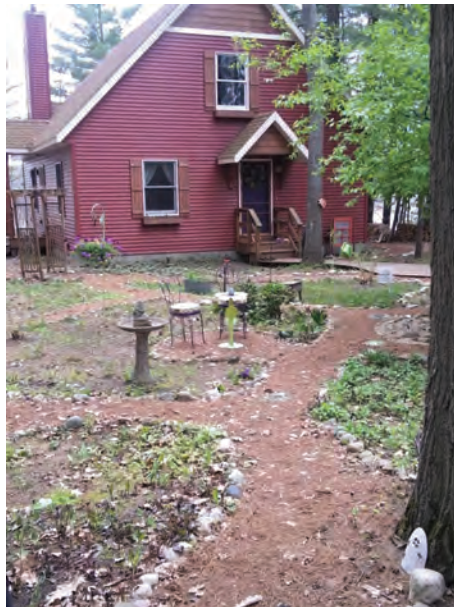
This hike took us down into the northernmost section of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club Chapter from where it meets the Jordan Valley 45 section at Starvation Lake Rd. Eighteen hikers went the full seven miles through the hilly woods from Starvation Lake Road to Twin Lake Road, then on to Pickerel Lake Campground. Along the way we passed MacNeil Pond and Eagle Lake. We did not see any beavers or eagles, but we did see two large beaver lodges.

Ellen spotted her car at Twin Lake Rd., which allowed her to shoot ahead to set up the food at her home overlooking Little Twin Lake. Thank you, Ellen & Dave Whitehead for welcoming us all (at least 15) into your beautiful home. It was a great way for everyone to refuel & enjoy the company.

While sitting outside, we spotted the lake's resident loons busy feeding just off shore. Tamara and Steve borrowed El-

Bob Courtois
Will Crump
Miriam
Dove Decker
Matt & Carrie Wagner
Clayton & Barb Lazar
Tamara Dean
Steve Brady
Bridget Blair (MISSING)
Dove Day
Mary Campbell
Tammy Krenbs
Dorene Stevens
Danny Finegar
Dor Flick
Ellen Whitehead
Will Crump
Kevin Whitely
Sara Cogswell
Dan & Robin
Dorene & Connie

List of the May Hikers



The Whitehead's home



Making friends



Beaver lodge



The May hikers

len and Dave's boat to check out the lake and the loon nesting platform Ellen had built across the lake. Success! Tamara and Steve reported that the loons have actually built a nest on the platform. One of the neighbors has also placed two buoys nearby to keep boaters away from the nest. Let's hope the eagles keep away too.

At least five chapters were represented today: Grand Traverse Hiking Club, Jordan Valley 45, West Michigan, Harbor Springs and Hiawatha Shore to Shore. We also had new people not yet affiliated with any particular chapter. A warm welcome to the new hikers: Will, Miriam, Matt & Carrie, Steve, Bridget, Dorene, Danny and Robbin. We hope you join us again soon.

Register Box Buzz



Deadman's Hill

Doug Seaney

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During my annual spring cleanup and walk through of my section, I found that the register log at the base of Deadman's Hill was nearly full. It was also in pretty bad shape due to a combination of age, weather and mice. I read through the register and here are some highlights that I found. Hikers from as far as Texas and Mexico. Looks like lots of anniversaries and a few proposals took place here. Who would have thought Deadman's Hill was such a romantic place?

8-29-18 Kurtis and Rebel the dog from Mears, MI – Thru hike of MI, slack-packing thanks to Duane (presumably this is our very own Duane Lawton?)

10-12-19 The Fleece's from New Hudson – hiking and celebrating our 6-year wedding anniversary. Give us a comfy bench please!

10-13-19 Monica & Leone from Mexico – Amazing place, beautiful trails, trees colors, sounds of the forest.

10-19-19 Payton from Borger, TX – Wish my day had more hours to spend here.

12-27-19 Joe and Christine – It's in this spot Joe asked Christine to marry him... She said yes

1-12-20 Kate and Zack – 1-year anniversary!

4-16-20 Sara from GTHC – Thanks J45 for all your hard work!

4-26-20 Jodi & JD – Finally got JD to leave the house and come here – He only lives 1 mile away. PS – it's been years.

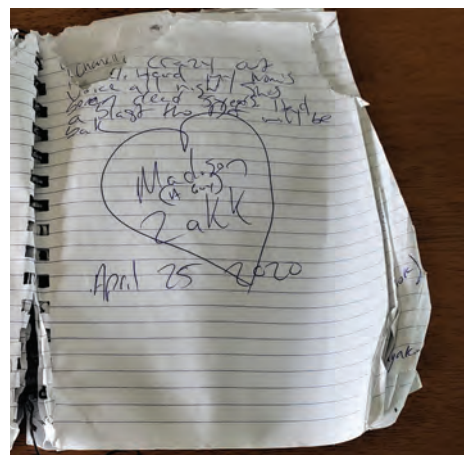
6-22-20 Ali & Terry – adventure honeymoon

7-25-20 Nick & Emily – 1st backpacking trip as a married couple

9-27-20 Ashea & Chris from TVC – 16th anniversary

10-6-20 Jody Sweeney – 1st solo overnight

11-2-20 Erin & Stephen from Westland, MI – Our 1st wedding anniversary



Example page from a well-worn log book

1-8-21 Samuel & Caunel – Been stranded for 19 days now. Still looking for Deadman's Hill Trailhead. We are hopeful... (obviously a comedian in the making)

4-1-22 Jenn & Randall – A day away from kids!



Trail Coordinator's Report

Dan Dueweke

dandueweke@gmail.com

Picture your trail with an obstruction on it. Usually it will be a tree, and if you're

not able to clear it, the sawyer assigned to cut it will find it helpful to have a picture so they know what tools to bring. Just about everyone has a cell phone, and a quick snap of the deadfall can be easily shared along with a map or estimated distance to a landmark giving the tree's approximate location. Most trees can be cleared with a few saw cuts, but some require a little more effort and planning.

There are no open sections at this time.

Don't forget, all sawyers should be current with their Red Cross First Aid/CPR certification and also have completed the NPS Trail Safe Video training (www.nps.gov/noco/trail-safe.htm).

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James Howell – Vice President
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Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
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Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer
amat57@yahoo.com

CURRENT JV45^o GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
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Bob Courtois - Hike Coordinator
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Sue Bouwense & Dove Day – Events Coordinators
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doveday70@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator, haack@msu.edu

Dan Duweke – Trail Coordinator
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Family fun on the North Country Trail National Trails Day – Saturday, June 5

Dove Day & Sue Bouwense

doveday70@gmail.com and

sbouwense@gmail.com

Our chapter celebrated National Trails Day this year by transforming the Skyline Trail section of the NCT into a place to explore and seek out *Wild Things*! The Maurice Sendak book *Where the Wild Things Are* was the inspiration for a cross country ski event at Wildwood two years ago, so we borrowed some of the cutout characters from the Top of Michigan Trails Council to use for our event. Marty Samson, the creator of the “Wild Things” cutouts, was kind enough to create some new characters for our event as well, and we are so grateful for her artistic skills! A big thank you to Marty and to the Top of Michigan Trails Council for contributing to our event!

We set up an information booth at the Krause Road trailhead. Many thanks to John Day, Mary Campbell and Jerry and Connie Allen who helped with the event. There was a constant flow of visitors starting at 10:00 am. Some were individuals, some family groups, some just hiking friends, but all were challenged to find all twelve of the Wild Things. We also asked that they post photos on social media, some of which are shared here.

Visitors learned about the NCT and signed up for email updates. We’re hoping some of these folks join our chapter and participate in future hikes!

Following the event, a cookout was hosted for those who helped out and for those who participated in the Jordan Valley 45° National Trails day workday that afternoon. The workday volunteers spent the day putting in sign posts along the new Petoskey reroute; thanks to you all!



Artistic cutouts created by Marty Samson



One of the 12 Wild Things out on the trail



Marta, Carl, Eli, and Uriah enjoy some family time on the NCT “We love all our adventures as a family. Making memories, creating good habits and instilling love for nature” - Marta Mills



Patrick Wawczyk shows us his ROAR



The NCT booth



Raymond, Heide and Pierce found all 12 Wild Things!



Duane Lawton

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The new NCMC-to-Skyline reroute will be reflected in our online maps by the time you read this! We have mostly finished work between the NCMC Natural Area trail and Cedar Valley Road. The trail tread though the back of the Petoskey Youth Soccer Assn. property was routed and cleared with help from Mary Campbell and Dan Dueweke on May 28 and June 3. On National Trails Day (June 5), an eager group hiked the new route (plus) and planted five new road crossing marker posts. On June 7, the new Bear River Bridge was set!!! (see banner)

Thank you to everyone who helped on Saturday, June 19, to finish the trail connection in the NCMC natural area. This involved about 150 feet of new trail tread, and 75 feet of 4 foot wide boardwalk. A big job, but everybody pitched in and we got it done in less than eight hours! Kenny Wawczyk our NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator joined us and Mary Campbell led the provisioning of a scrumptious lunch. Once a date is confirmed, we will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new bridge by the City of Petoskey and the NCMC.

That's a lot of work for this year so far, but wait, there's more: "You're Invited"—so mark your calendars for a campout and building (another) boardwalk at O'Brien Pond. September 24-26--North Country National Scenic Trail Day weekend. This is how we scheduled the original boardwalk and Beaver Deceiver build in

September 2014. We repaired it in 2016, but it still needs help. So we're gonna retire it and put in an upgraded crossing, like we just did at the Bear River. There is also about 200' of trail that needs redoing, and a couple of ditches to puncheon. We will camp out at the site starting Friday evening. We will feed you, but you'll need to bring your own accommodations (i.e., tent). The water should be warm by then 😊. More information will appear in our August newsletter.

In addition, there appears to be progress in our crusade for a reroute to bypass the US-131 road walk north of Elmira. Our Michigan DNR liaison is in contact with new landowners to explore options that would provide for the reroute to be primarily on state land. Stay tuned as this evolves. When all the negotiating and bureaucracy is done, we will have a huge project, involving a bridge over the S. Branch of the Boyne River, a considerable amount of boardwalk/puncheon, over a mile of new trail, a railroad crossing, etc. Hopefully we can get started on this in 2022.



The "boxes" were bolted end-to-end once they were level.



On 7 May 2021, a small group of JV45 members repaired a bridge in the NCMC Natural Area that is on the NCT. Dan Dueweke (not shown) came as well and felled a large dead tree that was leaning towards the bridge.



Step 1. Laying out the "swamp pans" for the new boardwalk.



Seven "boxes" were built, 4 feet wide and 10 feet long. These were the base support structure for the boardwalk.



Adding deck boards



Lunch Time! We were all fed very well.



The finished boardwalk with railings!



Duane Lawton, our Project Engineer, evaluating progress.



Of the 24 volunteers that started the workday, these nine stayed to the very end of the project. Thanks to ALL!

Trail Adopters and Volunteers: Assistance Requested

James Howell, JV 45° VP
pattenlake2620@gmail.com

Please continue to send me pictures of the “non-trail structures” on your sections of trail, such as signs, register boxes, road markers, benches, etc. We are defining non-trail structures as anything that isn’t underfoot when we are on the trail.

When using a smart phone it captures the GPS coordinates of the location where the photo was taken (unless disabled by you), which will assist us in placing the object in our inventory and locating it

on the NCT. Your photo and notes will also assist in identifying any needed maintenance.

A Hot New Fitness Product

Bob Courtois sent me (Bob Haack) a story that appeared in the 10 April 2021 edition of the Wall Street Journal. The story was entitled “**Hot New Fitness Product: The Outside**” by Jason Gay (Jason.Gay@wsj.com). The entire article can be read at: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/hot-new-fitness-product-the-outside-11617975631>. Here is a snippet....

“Hey, everybody, so I’ve been trying out an exercise product this spring, and I have to say, it’s pretty cool. It’s nothing fancy, or even new—you could say it’s a little bit old school. It’s not advertised on television, it’s not a heavily hyped idea from a Silicon Valley unicorn, it doesn’t have a touch screen, or any kind of screen, it doesn’t employ a celebrity spokesperson, it doesn’t come by truck, it’s not expensive, and it requires no down payment or subscription. It’s called The Outside. And I have to say, it’s quite good.” ..

Where I Hiked

Josh Berlo

joshberlo@gmail.com

WHERE: Two Hikes in the Allegheny National Forest (PA) and Finger Lakes Trail

WHEN: March 17, 2021 (Minister Creek Trail) and March 21, 2021 (Finger Lakes Trail)

WHO: Solo while in Erie, PA for NCAA Women's Ice Hockey Frozen Four Championship

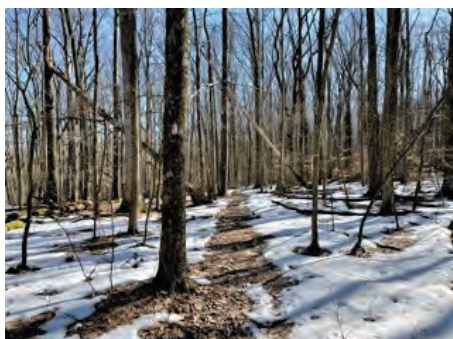
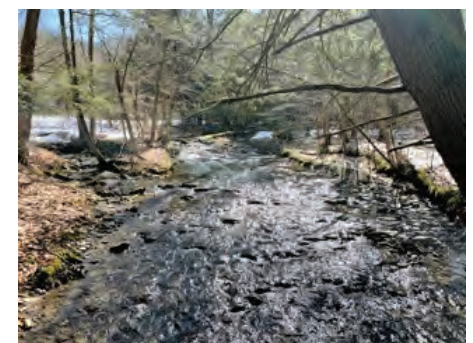
DESCRIPTIONS:

Minister Creek: Beautiful counter-clockwise loop centered around a creek through rolling hills, a few (icy) slot canyons and a rock outcropping overlook on a cool sunny day. Included about 1 mile of the NCT. Statistics: 8.5 miles and 1,426 feet of vertical gain.

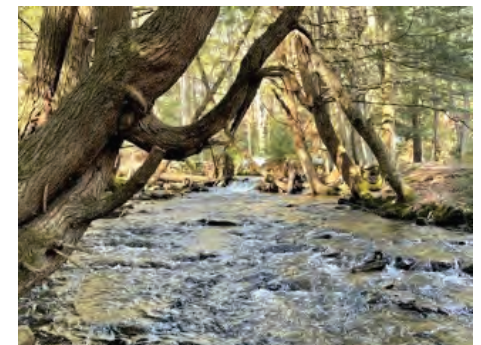


The pictures above and to the left are from the Minister Creek Hike

Finger Lakes Trail: In and out hike starting at the Pennsylvania Route 346 Trailhead, crossed into New York State at about 1 mile, hiked through rolling hills, over Mt. Tuscarora, down through Wolf Run and turned around at Wills Creek. Mild sunny day with roaring creeks due to snowpack melt. Statistics: 15.5 miles and 2,518 feet of vertical gain.



The four pictures shown here are from the Finger Lakes Trail



Where I Hiked

Grand Canyon North Rim Widforss Trail

Susan L Miller

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I traditionally spend time at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon every October, but it is usually in the context of an across-and-back hiking scenario. In August 2020, I learned that the North Rim would only be open on a limited basis, and I no longer had my reservations for October, but I DID have reservations in August. So, I decided to use them, but to do something different. There are a number of trails on the North Rim to explore.

At first, I thought maybe I would take the Ken Patrick Trail from Imperial Point back to the North Kaibab trailhead (the trail named after Ken Patrick, the first ranger to be killed in the line of duty). However, the ranger at the entrance station said that after about a mile it is not well maintained, and in fact involves bush-wacking through thorns. (Doesn't sound like fun!) The workers at the lodge confirmed this, and stated that, "Unless you REALLY know where you're going..." (I didn't. And no blue blazes to help me out.) They recommended the Widforss Trail instead.

The Widforss Trail (named after a Swedish-American watercolor artist) is a 10 mile (total) out-and-back trail that traces the edges of Transcept Canyon to the west of the North Rim Lodge, before cutting across a peninsula to the aptly



Recent forest fire and new growth,

named Widforss Point. There is an elevation gain of only about 300 feet, but it is mostly rolling. And, at more than 8000 ft above sea level, the views can take your breath away (literally). The day I hiked, Mom dropped me off at the trailhead about 7 am. The dew was heavy on the trees and grasses, and all was quiet. The trail initially climbs, but then is gently up and down. Peaks of the canyon appear with regularity. The vegetation varied from old-growth forest to grasses and charred stumps where recent wildfires had crossed. A couple miles into the hike, one can look back across and see the North Rim Lodge.

I arrived at the point without encountering a soul! I was greeted by some kind of hawk, and could look out over to the south and see where the Bright Angel Lodge is on the south rim (if only I had the visual acuity of the hawk!). I took a snack break, and then headed back. It didn't take long before it really started getting warm, and I began encountering other hikers who were headed out for their day. I am so glad I started as early as I did! From the trailhead parking area, I made my way down the access road to where it is crossed by the Arizona Trail (another National Scenic Trail). I followed this (uphill!) for about a mile to the North Kaibab Trailhead, which was where I was to meet my ride.

This was one case when a change of plans led to a hidden gem I was grateful to discover!



Viewing South Rim from Widforss Point



Old growth forest



Dew on leaves



Transcept Canyon