



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 4

August 2016

Upcoming Events

August 20th, Saturday, 12 pm. Hike 100 Monthly Group Hike. Meet at noon at King Rd and Russett Rd, Petoskey, MI (45.31967, -84.8629805). We will shuttle cars and start asap. Total distance about 9 miles. The theme of the hike is: Sandwiches. August is National Sandwich Month and in celebration we have planned several stops in which we will eat SANDWICHES! It is also the month of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, so if you haven't finished your NCT HIKE 100 miles yet here's another great opportunity to get in some more miles. Boy Scouts working on their Hiking Merit Badge will be joining us. They need a 10 mile hike so we will make a quick Jaunt over to the Cherry Valley overlook to add some mileage and for additional sandwich time! If you have questions, contact Eugene at 989-217-8001 or eugene.branigan@gmail.com

September Hike, September 17. Hike will begin at 12 noon on the North Central Michigan College campus. Details will be provided in early September. The theme is "Swashbuckling" because the hike will fall near "Talk Like a Pirate Day."

September Chapter meeting. September 24, as part of National Trail Day. Details to follow.

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



Message from JV45° President Duane Lawton delawton@torchlake.com

Summer. It's August and it's hot. Yes!!

Everyone seems to be out enjoying the weather, and so there is scant progress on our projects. But we're still enjoying our monthly hikes, and looking forward to the September gathering in Fargo, ND.

- I have signed Joe Farley's Eagle Scout project proposal to rebuild the Skyline Camp shelter, and he is waiting for BSA approval.
- The engineering for the Bear River pedestrian bridge is done, and the estimated total cost is \$166K. Petoskey submits a MNRTF grant application this fall, and we need to find 25% matching funds.
- Still waiting on the go-ahead from the Boors to build trail from Skyline to Click.
- I owe Bear Creek Twp Supervisor Dennis Keiser a call...we are to walk and propose a route for the trail from just west of the Bear River on Click Rd. to the Petoskey River Rd. Sports Park (crossing Twp property). Anyone interested in joining us?
- Kenny Wawczyk and Jim Stamm joined me in meeting with Kieran Fleming of the Little Traverse Conservancy on June 21st. He is in the process of contacting landowners for the Conway-Kipp and Kuzmik-Slashing potential reroutes. We wait.
- We held our meeting on June 17 with Andrea Ketchmark, NCTA Director of Trail Development, and consultant, Parallel Solutions, to help with trail development planning in Michigan's northern lower peninsula. We're told that a report is coming soon, and that Parallel Solutions can provide landowner contact/negotiation help.

- Eugene Branigan to contact landowner of Dobleski Rd. parcel for access to DNR land. Meanwhile, Kenny has suggested trail can't cross the active railroad grade without (doubtful) permission. How did we miss that?
- Since the last (June) newsletter: 6 more road crossing posts and one more register box have been set up. HooRah!
- I attended a planning meeting in Mancelona on July 18th with Antrim County interested parties, and Paige Perry of the DNR, to talk about a proposed trail system around Wetzel Lake and looping to include some of the NCT near Cinder Hill Road. There would be a four mile loop trail. It sounds positive, but no timetable.

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

JV45° July Hike 100

On July 16th we hiked from Thumb Lake Rd. to Springvale Rd., 8 miles. Hikers were Dove and John Day, Mary Campbell, Bob Courtois, Tamara Dean, Gene Dawson, Eugene and Linus Brangan, Jerry and Connie Allen and Duane Lawton.

The weather was good. The trail is in good shape, though it passes through areas with significant logging between Thumb Lake Rd. and Chandler Hill Rd.

We planted two more road crossing posts and one more register box.

Afterward we again returned to Dove and John Day's camp for potluck, fire and meeting.



Climbing Chandler Hill



The July hikers





Group at Thumb Lake Road

Hiking Talk at Otsego Library August 23

On Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 6:30 p.m. the author and hiking expert Jim DuFresne will present "Michigan Top 10 Backpacking Adventures." Jim was the featured speaker at our September, 2015 JV45 chapter meeting, and runs "MichiganTrailMaps.com". The Otsego County Library is at 700 S Otsego Ave. in Gaylord, MI.

Michigan Top 10
Backpacking Adventures
with
Jim DuFresne
Tuesday
August 23
6:30 - 8 p.m.



National celebration of the North Country National Scenic Trail will take place on September 24, 2016. Several Chapters will sponsor hikes that day. Many of these activities are listed at: <https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/north-country-national-scenic-trail-day>.

The JV45° Chapter plans to hold a Chapter Meeting on the 24th with details to follow. The JV45° monthly hike for September is currently planned for September 17.

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

Submit Your Stories and Pictures for the JV45° ewsletter

Don't forget that this is your Newsletter, so please submit pictures and stories for upcoming issues, and that includes stories for the "Where I Hiked" column. Bob Haack <haack@msu.edu>.

Register Box Buzz



Warner Creek Pathway Loop

Becky Nohel

Email: beckyn@bcwncpa.com

Due to the logging in the area and the related detour on the trail, there appear to be fewer hikers on this section of the trail right now than in the past. Similarly, I haven't noticed nearly as many cars in the parking area this year either. But those

that did venture through this section of the NCT loved the path and were rewarded with a peaceful area, some beautiful scenery and a lot of wildlife. We only had 2 entries in June and 5 in July this year. Some of the more notable entries on the logbook this summer were:

In June 2016, Dianne, Kathy, Kodiak, Spooky & Bailey passed through up in "God's Country." They saw an eagle and some type of heron with unique plumage color. Unfortunately, Bailey subsequently required a trip to the vet to remove all the quills she got in her mouth, face, paws, etc. when she tried to have a porcupine lunch.

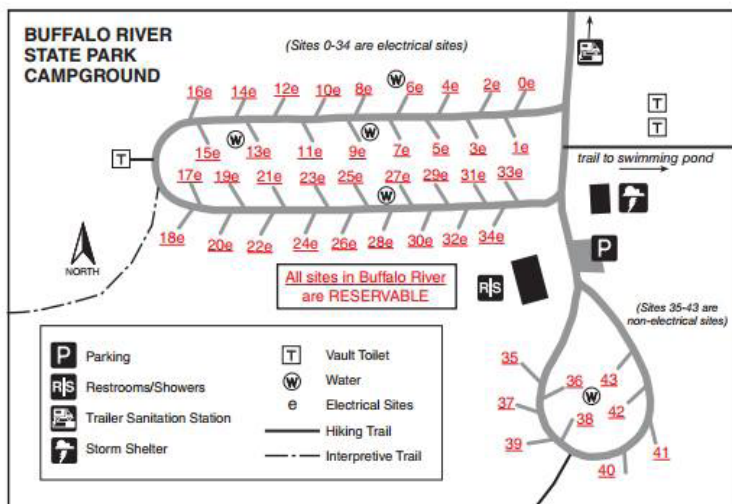
In July 2016 Ann & Jamie visited the trail with their steeds "Rajah & Quincy." "Great day for a ride. We will always come back."



2016 NCTA Annual Meeting Fargo, ND: September 15-17

The NCTA annual celebration is in Fargo, ND on Sept 15-17. Several Jordan Valley 45° members will be attending. Many will stay at Buffalo River State Park, MN. John and Dove Day, Connie and Jerry Allen, and Tamera Dean have all made reservations to camp there. Join us! Register with NCTA to attend the event, and make your camp site reservation today! See these links:

<https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/2016-celebration-fargo-nd/>
<https://northcountrytrail.org/get-involved/special-events/2016-celebration-fargo-nd/camping-option/>



Sign up Your Register Box for a Future Issue of the JV45° Newsletter!

As you learned in the last issue, we have started a new feature that highlights some of the entries hikers make in the logbooks placed in each register box. We would like to include some statistics from each logbook, such as the number of entries since a specified date, the log entry from furthest away, any other interesting items and a few of the most interesting or inspiring log entries. Please sign up for a future issue. We already have a volunteer for the October Newsletter, but need more authors for future issues. Who wants December? Contact Bob Haack to sign up <haack@msu.edu>.

W

Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day



Trail work continues along our section, as it is a never-ending process keeping 80+ miles of trail clear and in good shape! Some heavy winds brought down more trees over the trail during these summer months, but there has been no major devastation. Adopters have been busy blazing, mowing, weed whipping and lopping, and our section seems to be in pretty good shape!

Our chapter remains 100% adopted and we are excited to announce that we are planning our 2nd annual adopter dinner in October and hope all trail adopters will be able to attend.

We leave you with some photos of trail adopters hard at work on the Jordan Valley 45° NCT!



Gene Dawson using a hand saw to remove a tree

Trail Adopters Appreciation Dinner - October 15, 2016 SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday October 15 the Jordan Valley 45° board will host its second annual adopter appreciation dinner to honor and thank all of its wonderful trail adopters.

It will follow the October Hike 100 chapter hike, to be held at noon in Petoskey. The location and time of the dinner will soon be determined and adopters will be sent more details.



Jerry Allen using the brush mower



Connie Allen painting blue blazes



Bob Courtois picks up broken glass

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

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

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Mary Campbell – Secretary
marymcampbell@mcplanningdesign.com

Todd Winnell - Treasurer
Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jen@charter.net

Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator
haack@msu.edu

Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators
doveday70@gmail.com
johnanddove@gmail.com



John Day ready to chainsaw



Susan Miller fixing logging damage on the trail

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter - North Country Trail

July 16, 2016 8:13p – Day's Camp

Chapter Meeting Minutes-DRAFT

Group Hike and Potluck Dinner conducted earlier in the day

1. Welcome and Introductions

Following the group hike and delicious potluck dinner at the Camp of John and Dove Day, the meeting was called to order at 8:13pm by Chapter President Duane Lawton, with 10 chapter members in attendance.

2. Minutes Review and Approval

The minutes from the May 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved as published.

Motion by Eugene Branigan, seconded by John Day, Motion Carried.

3. Financial Report

Duane provided printed copies of the financial report covering the period of March 1, 2016 through June 20, 2016, which show a starting account balance of 3,412.42 and ending balance of 3,328.00. The major account changes and associated activities were reviewed, and include the following:

- ✓ A grant of \$520 was received for the materials for register boxes and posts.
 - ✓ Expenses –Brochure printing and register box materials
 - ✓ Donations received associated with trail days
- Motion by: Jerry Allen, Seconded by: Eugene Branigan to accept the Financial Report as printed, Motion Carried.

4. Skyline Camp Rebuild-Boy Scout Project

- ✓ The rebuild of the Skyline Camp shelter is proposed to be completed as a local Eagle Scout project.
- ✓ The group present discussed dedicating the Trail Day donations for the purchase of materials for this Eagle Scout project.

Motion by: Mary Campbell, seconded by Dove Day, to approve the dedication of Trail Days donations (\$199) to acquire materials to support the Eagle Scout rebuild of Skyline Camp project, Motion Carried.

5. Trail Adopter Dinner

Trail Adopter Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2016 following the Hike 100 group hike, location and additional details to be announced.

6. 2016 Recent Activities and Accomplishments

- ✓ **Register Boxes** – an additional register box has been constructed and located at Chandler Hill Rd, for a total of 8 register boxes installed to date.
- ✓ **Road Crossing Posts** are now installed at 10 locations. The posts and associated emblems make the trail more visible from the road for motorists and hikers.

- ✓ **Hike 100 Challenge Group Hikes-very successful**, these hikes continue to be well received and are occurring monthly, typically occurring on either Saturday or Sunday of the third weekend of the month, organized by Eugene Branigan with information on the website and facebook.

- ✓ **Trail Town Celebration** (June 4) – Jen Winnell, along with Duane Lawton and Dove Day coordinated the JV45° chapter involvement and participation in this year's event with the Harbor Springs NCT chapter and the City of Petoskey to raise local awareness of the NCT.

7. Upcoming Activities and Project Updates

- ✓ **"You are Here" Signs** in Jordan River Valley – Our Chapter is working with the DNR on this project, and we are currently waiting to hear back from the DNR on a status/timing update for the implementation of these signs.
- ✓ **Interpretative Signs** are being prepared based on a grant and are anticipated to be installed in the near future. Three of the sign locations are along the JV 45° section of the NCT.
- ✓ **Re-routes of Road walk sections**
 - **Kuzmick Road to Slashing Road** the re-rerouting of the road walk is under discussion with route investigation, with staff from Little Traverse Conservancy and North Country Trail staff. Fortunately there are a few large property owners in the area, including one commercial company, so these owners/entities will be approached to pursue permission for the trail to cross their properties.
 - **Conway Road to Kipp Road** Duane is working with Little Traverse Conservancy about rerouting the trail to cross 2 Conservancy Preserves.

- 8. **Adjourned** Motion by: Jerry Allen, seconded by Dove Day, to adjourn Chapter meeting, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Campbell

Upcoming Harbor Springs Chapter Hikes

Our NCTA neighbors to the north offer monthly hikes as well, often on the same day as JV45°. To participate in these hikes, meet at the Pleasantview Township Hall in Harbor Springs, MI at the corner of Stutsmanville Rd and Pleasantview Rd at 10 am.

Saturday, August 20, 10 am Section 6 Zmikly Rd. to Wycamp Lk. Dam & back ~ 4 mi.

Saturday, September 17, 10 am Section 5 Robinson Rd. to Van and Back ~4 mi.

Where I Hiked

Isle Royale: Part 1

Eugene Branigan

Email: eugene.branigan@gmail.com

Day 0 (June 23, 2016)

Leaving work after a process audit, I arrived home just before 1 PM to meet the group. I met Jason and Logan for the first time and we chatted for a few moments then I assembled my gear for the load out. Duane arrived shortly afterwards, we packed up and headed north. We were to stay in Baraga at a hotel overnight in order to catch the Ranger III in the morning. We unpacked and went through all gear for a cross check and final prep. Went to Burger King for a quick bite of something resembling food and then turned in.

Day 1

Woke early as we wanted to be on the road by 7 AM to make it to the dock by around 8 AM. The ride was uneventful and we listened to the speech about safety while aboard the Ranger III. As we were boarding, I asked a ranger if the safety lecture was due to something that may have happened to the Ranger I or Ranger II. He told me no the first two were in use for some time but were not passenger / cargo vessels and the Ranger III was purpose built for its job.



Boarding the Ranger III.

After reading 5 National Geographic magazines from cover to cover we neared the island. We stopped at Mott Island for passengers and equipment to depart and then moved on to Rock Harbor. Leaving the Ranger III behind we found our gear and while Duane made a beeline to the resort to arrange a water taxi for the last day we waited and weighed our packs.



Starting Day 2 of hike at Daisy Farm Dock

Pack Scale Weights: Eugene : 38# (40# W/ camera), Jason: 36 #, Duane: 33#, Ethan: 32#, Linus: 27#, and Logan: 23#

Departed: 3:49PM sunny 58°. Terrain vacillated between rocky and very muddy. We stopped at a rocky outcrop that overlooked the bay at 4:06 PM and consumed some Cliff bars and found that Apricot Cliff bars were good (apricot because they have no nuts, one of our party had nut allergies).



Snack break

Passed a group of ~ 8 girls & 1 guy who were en route to Three Mile Campground. Duane commented that they were too large a group and had to use a group site and thus were no competition when considering shelter availability.

I got to Daisy Farm Campground first and reviewed the available shelters finding #12 to be most desirable. Arrived at around 7:30 PM. I traveled back the way



Typical shelter available to hikers



<http://www.nature.nps.gov/>

I had come to meet up with the group and gave them the shelter number and took Linus' pack.

Dinner was hotdogs and cheese (pepper jack) rollups. I had goldfish ketchup and mustard on a tortilla. Was good and we ate candy from Jason's Stash.

Turned in @ 9:15 PM

I had stated that I would jump in the water but when I got to Daisy Farm there was no ladder and the water was 2 feet below the dock, not wanting to swim 75 to 100 feet back to shore I opted not to do this.

Day 2

Awoke @ 5:30 heard hikers on their way to Rock Harbor likely to meet the Ranger III

Woke up for the day @ 6:15AM. Packed and started warming water for breakfast and coffee. Took the rest of the tent to lessen Linus' load.

I was awarded the Pink bandana for taking off ahead of the group the day before.

Linus got the flag for sticking with the hike.

Breakfast. Oatmeal. I added TB fire sauce, good.

8:15 Strike camp

8:54 Departed

Ran into a hiker and his lady friend



Shed moose antler



Rocky trail and columbines

and we chatted for a few moments, I revealed that I am an Eagle Scout and he was as well, we exchanged the Scout Handshake and traveled on down our respective paths.

Observed the posterior of a moose as it moved off into the woods. The rest of the party chose not to believe me out of jealousy.

~11:15 the rumbles we heard above began to materialize into rain as drops began to fall. Duane and I got our pack covers and umbrellas out. I helped Linus don his rain gear and we walked on encountering heavy rain and lightning all around shortly afterwards. Due to the very rocky terrain we found ourselves in two to four inches of water easily lapping over our



Hiking in the rain

boots on flat areas. This standing water turned into torrential small streams as we wound up hills and with lightning all around there was no shelter. If a tree were hit by a bolt we would not be safe because of all of the water standing on the surface. We hurried across rock faces and through gullies as speedily as possible until we made it to the Lake Richie Campground. This is when a conversation I had with Duane came resoundingly back that on the island's interior there are no shelters. We discussed the merits of walking the rest of the way to McCargoe Cove to obtain shelter and it was decided to move forward while we munched on Cliff bars (apricot is surprisingly good). I took on more of Linus' weight and told him not to worry about trying to walk around puddles, at this point there was no advantage and it just made travel more difficult. While the rest of our party finished eating I headed out with a much heavier pack as quickly as was reasonable.

After a few miles the weather broke and I encountered a group of scouts traveling towards me from Chickenbone Lake. I got to the side and hung from the bridge to allow them by and when I met their second group I just decided to step down into the swamp as I was already soaked and so it would really make no difference.

Nearing McCargoe Cove, I spied some garbage on the trail and was surprised when I got closer I noticed it was actually a really nice SIGG water bottle emblazoned with "Make Love not Land-fill." I emptied its contents and strapped it onto my pack and continued uphill till I reached a small clearing that had timbers

that had been brought in by helicopter for a building project which provided an excellent seat while I munched on a Cliff bar and drank my last twenty ounces of water. After my short break, I began downward into McCargoe Cove and my GPS promptly died. I unslung my pack, replaced the batteries and headed back down the path. As I entered the camp-

ing area a ranger stopped me and asked if I had seen a couple of hikers both very young one blond. I told him that this matched the description of a pair we saw at Daisy Farm the day before and I seemed to recall that they were on the way to Chickenbone Lake. He thanked me and I asked him if there were any shelters available since we were desperately seeking one to dry out. He mentioned a group of volunteers were drying out in shelter 8 and that they would let us use that shelter if we wished. I walked up to 8 and spoke with them and they confirmed. I dropped my pack and told them they could relax as I was going to walk back to the rest of the party. I began walking and after a quarter mile I ran into Jason and Logan, then Ethan and finally Linus followed by Duane. I took Linus' pack and we walked back and strung up our wet clothing in the sun and while Duane snoozed we ate various tortilla concoctions. I encourage tortilla use as I was carrying 6 pounds consisting of this particular food stuff. I found that "Wowbutter" (similar to peanut butter but made from soy) plus ketchup plus mustard was awesome and I ate several of these much to Duane's chagrin. Linus even had one!

Linus and I went down to the water to bring some back to be filtered. I saw a guy on a bench near the water. He said they hiked from Daisy Farm the day before but it was so rough they took the day off. I told him it was a good choice with all of the heavy rain that day. The volunteers were all jumping in the water and having a good time. When I got back to camp we found they had left a knife and a headlamp behind. I walked them down to them and they were happy to get them back. I thanked them again for the shelter. Dinner was red beans and rice we turned in at about 9:00 PM and it began to rain. We were grateful to have a shelter.

Part 2 to be continued in October (with a rebuttal by Duane).



Wood lily