



Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 3

August 2020

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Note: JV45° typically offers a hike on the 3rd weekend of every month, usually Saturday, sometimes Sunday.

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

WANTED: Trail Adopters

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter is in need of additional trail adopters to monitor and perform routine maintenance on new trail segments in the Petoskey area and on the Cherry Valley Overlook loop trail. To learn more about these opportunities to get involved, please contact Mary Campbell or Dove Day. (See email addresses on p. 6.)

Message from JV 45°

President Mary Campbell

mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Greetings Jordan Valley 45° Members and Friends,

What a DIFFERENT summer!! As most of you are well aware, many of our usual spring and summer group activities have been cancelled (or significantly altered), including group hikes, participation in promotional events and only hosting limited masked workdays. While we are all frustrated by this, it is important that we act responsibly for the health and safety of all. The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) continues to monitor the situation along the trail and provides updates, including volunteer guidelines at www.northcountrytrail.org/the-trail/trail-alerts/.

During this time of COVID-19, **the trail is open** and being enjoyed by many, including members, old friends, newcomers and future members. Thank you trail adopters and others who work so diligently to keep the trail open and in good condition, *but please remember to check with the land managers regarding any COVID-19 trail work restrictions*. The recent storms brought down many trees! If you encounter trees across the trail or other trail issues, please report such to our trail coordinators, Dove and John Day, so we can address any issues.

Bear River Bridge Update

This project is finally out for bid! The construction bids for the bridge over the Bear River are due later in August, with work to be completed by the end of the year (keep your fingers crossed!). The JV 45° Chapter leadership will continue to work closely with the City on this project and anticipate the Chapter will be responsible for some trail clearing, boardwalk construction and other trail construction to connect with the new bridge. Once the details of our Chapter involvement are finalized, we will schedule some associated work days.

Bridge Pledges and Donations

As many of you may recall, a few years ago, we sought pledges for this project. Once the bids come in, and the City determines the final numbers, we will be contacting those who made pledges and seeking to collect. If we need additional funds, we may be looking to further leverage those pledged dollars with a local foundation, which is why we have not yet collected. If you would like to pledge or would like to pledge more—please call or text me, Mary Campbell at 231-622-2677.

Thank you for your support!!

Volunteer Opportunities: Get involved!

If you have a little extra time these days and want to help JV 45°, contact me at mcplanningdesign@gmail.com to discuss appropriate volunteer options.

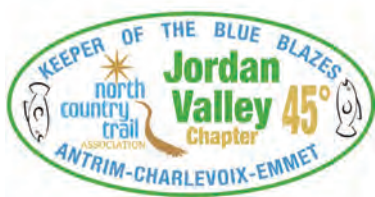
**Happy Hiking and Stay Safe,
Mary Campbell**

Upcoming Events

August 5 - September 15, 2020, NCTA Virtual Celebration. Details on p 6.

August 15, 2020. JV45° Chapter Hike Details on page 3.

September 19, 2020. JV45° Chapter Hike Details in early September.



BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work

Duane Lawton

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Well, here we are. As you'll see below, we have started back to work despite the pandemic. In terms of planning and prep work, Mary and I have been working with Kenny Wawsczyk on a couple of future projects, whose timing is uncertain since we are waiting on an opportunity to meet with the DNR (probably by ZOOM) to determine the permitting process.

Accordingly, work at O'Brien Pond is unlikely this fall. ☹️

Dobleski Rd. to Giem Rd.—Today there is a two mile road walk including ¼ mile on the shoulder of US-131. Mary and I walked a potential reroute in May and again with Kenny on June 17th, and found that the river crossing is eminently bridgeable, though there are a couple of other places needing puncheon. In addition, the railroad here has plenty of sight distance in both directions for a crossing.



We do need permission to cross the corner of a private parcel deep in the woods, and that parcel is now for sale, complicating seeking permission. With this good news, we're abandoning the other alternative that suffered an unfriendly landowner and limited railroad sight distance.

On the date formerly known as National Trails Day (June 6th) we held a small group puncheon building event.

We attacked an area of the NCT within the Petokey Bear River Recreation Area



McDougal-Click puncheon

beset with seeps and mud. Armed with a "please" from Petoskey Parks and Rec., and a DEQ permit (thanks to Kenny

Wawsczyk), we built several puncheons while observing caution --though we were outside. We enjoyed a nice picnic and the satisfaction of knowing that the many people and dogs who use this urban section of the NCT will keep their feet drier now. Several walkers happened by and were appreciative.

When working close together, we wore masks. We all arrived separately (family groups). Dove and John didn't come to the site because Dove was quarantining in preparation to visit her immune-compromised mother. They helped by cutting lumber at their house, which Mary and John picked up. As



Working on the new puncheon



Puncheon south of Sheridan Rd

you can see from the group shot, we stayed apart while picnicking.

Then, again on June 13th, a few of us went out and finished the puncheon between McDougal and Click. And early in July, Flynn Excavating finally installed the culvert on the west side of McDougal that will carry the NCT over a deep ditch with an active stream.

Progress!

August Hike Plans

Bob Courtois

bcourtois@comcast.net

August 15th, 2020 – Jordan Valley Loop Hike – Jordan Valley National Fish Hatchery via Deadman's Overlook (about 7 miles). Meet at 10:00 AM at the Hatchery and we'll head out by 10:30

The information here is similar to what was posted on the JV45 Facebook page.

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter will be hosting a loop hike on August 15, 2020 in the Jordan Valley. To avoid the need to share cars and facilitate social distancing,

we will have a loop hike starting at the Hatchery.

See map and mile markers at:

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

Starting at the Hatchery we will do a counter clockwise loop:

- From the Hatchery up to Turner Rd. to the Jordan Valley Pathway (JVP)
- JVP to Deadman's Overlook (about 2.5 miles)
- Deadman's into the Valley to the NCT (at mile marker ~650.5)
- NCT to Jordan River Rd. (mile 654)

- To Hatchery (about ¾ mile)

There will be a shortcut option that would cut off about 2.5 miles, but then you'd miss Deadman's Hill. Aside from the long steep hills in and out of the valley, the terrain is fairly flat. Regarding social distancing due to the Coronavirus virus threat, if you are not feeling well, or are a high-risk individual, please stay home. After the hike, we can picnic at the Hatchery, so pack your own meals and drinks. Dress for the weather, bring water and snacks. If you have questions, call Bob Courtois at (248) 212-6699

JV45° Trail Coordinators' Report

Dove and John Day

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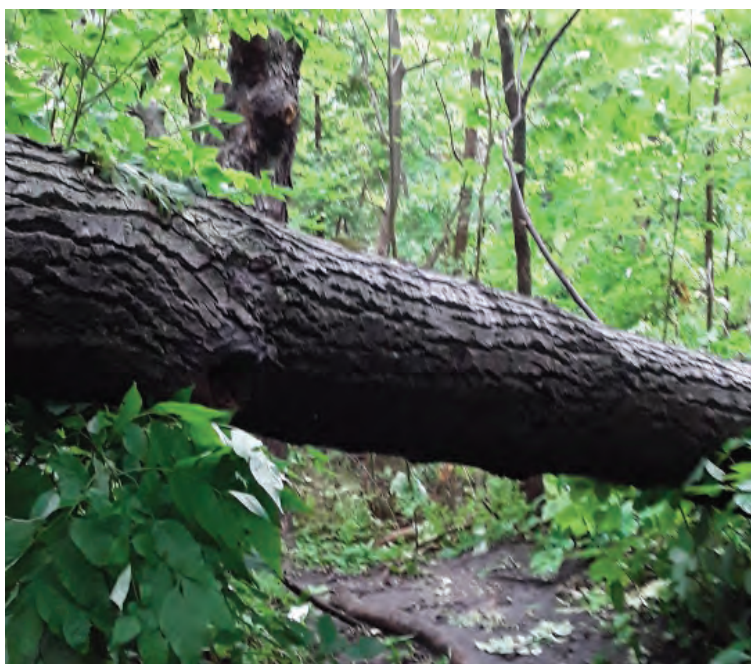
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On Saturday, July 18th a strong storm brought high winds and rain to parts of Northern Michigan, toppling trees and causing extensive damage. The National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning and also warned that the storm was capable of producing tornados, based on radar. Damage to the NCT was

severe. Trail reports rolled in soon after the storm passed with damage reported as far north as Harbor Springs and running all the way down into the Jordan Valley 45°'s southern sections. Extensive damage to the trail occurred around the Petoskey area, where straight-line winds were estimated at 70 mph to 90 mph, causing numerous trees and power lines to come down. Trail work has been ongoing since the storm, and we want to thank all those who were involved with this daunting clean-up effort!



A few of the fallen trees



Don't forget to submit your Volunteer Hours at:

<https://northcountrytrail.org/members/report-volunteer-hours/>

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

Register Box Buzz



Chandler Hill Road

Annie Matz

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Here are a few of the entries from January 2020 to July 2020. The first entry in the register book was from our very own loyal hiker Susan Miller of Petoskey on 1/3/20 who had a total of 7 entries in the log book. Good job Susan.

On 3/17/20, Jennifer Luke of Boyne Falls took her dog for a St. Patty's day hike. On 4/8/20, Dave (Matz) and I (Annie Matz) signed in while we did some trail maintenance work with our son Mark who was home from his job in Colorado because of Covid-19. On 4/26/20, Chris and Wendy Fought hiked through and Chris finished his 100 miles! The best quote in the book was from Kelly Adam on 5/3/20: "It's nice to be somewhere where the trees creek more than our bones." The Lehman family hiked on 7/3/20 while enjoying their stay at a Lake Louise cottage (they were 1st timers on the NCT)! On 7/11/20, Sweet Pea and Dirt-stash passed through while hiking the L.P. On 7/22/20, the first mention is made of a mouse in the register box who was resistant to leave.

On 7/24/20, while going on a training

hike for my Isle Royale adventure my friend Shawn and I discovered a pair of mice building a beautiful home in the register box. Shawn bravely displaced them with a stick. On 7/27/20, hiker Shaine does not mention the mice in his entry while through-hiking from Grand Rapids to Pictured Rocks. But on 7/29/20, when Dave and I returned to remove a few trees on the trail, we found the mouse pair rebuilding their cozy nest, and starting to chew on the book and maps! Once again, they were displaced and then Dave reinforced the register box to hopefully prevent future occupation.



A repaired Register Box



Dave Matz mouse-proofing the register box



Home Sweet Home

Where We Hiked (& Worked)

Wisconsin Roving Trail Crew

Duane Lawton

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During 20-24 July 2020, I joined the Wisconsin Roving Trail Crew (WRTC) on a project in Douglas County, WI (near Duluth). The WRTC is led by Bill Menke, and has worked about one week per month in the warmer months, for nearly 20 years. We were on Douglas County Forest lands, five of us camped near the NCT, and drove about six miles and hiked about ¼ mile to the work site for three days. Monday and Friday were travel and setup/teardown days of our elaborate camp.

Last month the crew built a 40' truss bridge over Spring Creek, a tributary of the Saint Croix River. This time we were doing finishing work—the former boardwalk bridge and a boardwalk bridge from nearby (which we replaced with a new 34' puncheon bridge) converted to access ramps for the new bridge. I got to see swamp pans (= base for a support post) in action—we hope to use these to rebuild the O'Brien Pond "Elevated Horizontal Puncheon."

Bill fed us royally, and there was much camaraderie around the campfire. Though it rained 2" on Tuesday and our power carts stalled until we dried them out, we survived and finished the work there. Facemasks and social distancing were observed, and Bill even had a hands-free hand washing station added to his amazing camp technology.



Bill cooking



Setting swamp pan on new puncheon bridge



Campers Harlan, Brad, Dick, Bill, Duane



Vinnie guarding the new bridge



Camp



Rock/dirt ramps for new puncheon bridge

The NCTA 2020 Virtual Celebration

Kenny Wawsczyk

Michigan Regional Trail

Coordinator for the NCTA

kwawsczyk@northcountrytrail.org

One of the new norms of life these days is doing events virtually. We're excited that we can still get together in a way and celebrate the Trail and the amazing volunteers that work on and for it. Instead of traveling to Clarion, Pennsylvania this

year we're hopping on our computers and having the NCTA's Annual Celebration online. Throughout August there will be events that award some of our most dedicated volunteers, including a workshop regarding mapping technology and the tools we use to collect new data. Our Next Generation Coalition members will discuss how they're getting involved and how we can engage with them. Then our Executive Director, Andrea Ketchmark, will start her new series of conversations with leaders in the trails community, across the nation and our own community. In September, you'll be able to virtually sit

down with the National Park Service and have an open conversation with them and meet their new staff. They will also present awards to honor the many hours that volunteers have worked on the Trail.

It obviously won't be as good as gathering together, sharing stories, going on hikes and just being with your NCT family but we'd love to see your face on our screens. So feel free to invite whoever, it's free and you don't have to travel anywhere! The schedule of events can be found below and on the Celebration's website:

www.nctacelebration.org

Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00pm EDT – Opening Ceremonies

Join Executive Director, Andrea Ketchmark, as we kick off our first ever virtual Celebration! We will share some recent accomplishments, stories from the Trail and host a live Q&A to hear directly from you. Check this out on our [Facebook Page!](#)

Thursday, August 6th at 7:00pm EDT – North Country Trail Association Awards

We invite you to join us as we celebrate our awardees who have earned these distinguished awards such as Trail Builder, Rising Star, Outstanding Private Landowner and hear from the 2020 winners of the Thomas L. Gilbert Lifetime Achievement Award. [Register Here](#)

Thursday, August 13th at 7:00pm EDT – Founder's Circle Reception

By special invitation only, our Founder's Circle Members are invited to join us for an exclusive reception. We want to say thank-you for all you have done! *RSVP is required*

Wednesday, August 19th at 4:00pm EDT – Trail Management Webinar: Map Workshop

Join NCTA Staff Matt Rowbotham (GIS Coordinator), and Kenny Wawsczyk (Michigan Regional Trail Coordinator) as they discuss the role of the NCTA's mapping technology in trail management and hiking. They will present the tools they use on a day-to-day basis, including smartphones, tablets and Bluetooth GPS receivers. They will also leave plenty of time for your questions on how to best work with the NCTA's mapping resources from the perspective of both trail volunteers and hikers. [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, August 25th at 3:00pm EDT – Next Generation Summit

Hear first hand from NCTA's Next Generation Coalition Members about how they've been getting involved in outreach, volunteerism and advocacy along the Trail and how we can work together to engage the next generation of trail stewards. [Register Here](#)

Thursday, August 27th at 7:00pm EDT – North Country Stories: Creating Space

Join NCTA's Executive Director, Andrea Ketchmark, for this first in a series of conversations with outdoor leaders across the trails community and in our own backyard. In our first conversation, Andrea will connect with Alice Jasper, the host of *Color Out Here*, a show focused on reframing what outdoorsy looks like by creating a more inclusive outdoor space. [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00pm EDT – An Evening with the National Park Service

Roundtable discussion and Awards

Join us for this opportunity to engage in dialogue with our National Park Service Team. Led by our Superintendent, Chris Loudenslager, this session is an opportunity to discuss important issues and priorities, meet new NPS staff, and celebrate another round of awardees as they recognize volunteers for the many hours of service to the Trail. [Register Here](#)

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CURRENT JV45^o GOVERNING BOARD

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Bob Haack - Communications
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