



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 1

February 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 published six times per year, every other month**

**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/>



## Message from JV 45° President Mary Campbell

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

**G**reetings Jordan Valley 45° Members and Friends!

Winter is often a time of reflection with the shorter days. At our annual meeting we recently reflected on our many accomplishments in 2019 and looked forward to our hopes and plans for 2020 (see meeting notes). The annual Jerry Allen Big Foot Award was presented to Duane Lawton for his tireless efforts in coordinating work projects, past efforts as chapter president, and SO MUCH more! *-Thank You Duane!!* Kevin Whitley was presented with the 2019 NCTA Honor Award for his on-going dedication and contributions to the Chapter. It seems that when there is a work day, Kevin is always there to help *-Thank you Kevin!*

Thank you and congratulations to our re-elected office holders: Mary Campbell (Pres.); Bob Haack (Communications Coordinator); Duane Lawton (Project Coordinator); Bob Courtois (Hike Coordinator). We are still in need of a person or a few people to serve as our trail events coordinator(s). If you would like to learn more, please contact Mary Campbell.

**Did You Know...**the North Country National Scenic Trail will turn 40 on March 5<sup>th</sup>! To mark this occasion, please join us to for a bonus hike followed

by dinner at a local establishment. The details are being worked out and will be sent out later—but please mark your calendar NOW. March 5<sup>th</sup> is on a Thursday, so we recognize some of you have work obligations, but hope you may be able to join us for dinner even if you are unable to hike.

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, JV45° chapter will once again participate in the **Quiet Adventures Symposium** in East Lansing on the MSU campus. The Chapter will have a vendor's table with information about the NCT as a whole, and the JV45° segment. This venue is an excellent opportunity to talk hiking and share information with an interested audience. The event includes many presentations about outdoor adventures and vendors displaying a wide variety of gadgets, gear and information about places to play! While JV 45° has people signed up to help with the booth, we always welcome others to come join the fun!

**Bear River Bridge Update.** I continue to be in regular contact with the City of Petoskey and will provide additional information when it becomes available. We hope to have project bids back soon, and we remain hopeful that the bridge will be in place by the end of the year. Stay tuned.

Happy & Safe Hiking,  
Mary Campbell

## Upcoming Events

**February 6-10, 2020. Tahquamenon Ski and Snowshoe weekend JV45° & HSS**

**February 15, 2020. JV 45° Chapter Hike** See details on page 2.

**February 29, 2020. Quiet Adventures Symposium** on MSU campus in E. Lansing

**March 5, 2020, Chapter Hike** to celebrate NCTA's 40th Anniversary. Details soon.

## January Hike Report

Bob Courtois, [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

At our January 18<sup>th</sup> hike, we had five chapters represented: Chief Noonday, Grand Traverse Hiking Club, Jordan Valley 45°, Harbor Springs and Hiawatha Shore to Shore. With the white out conditions and high winds, road conditions were very bad all day. We had at least 8 people drop out due to the harsh winter conditions, but they unfortunately really missed out on an interesting day.

So even with the near blizzard conditions, we still had an awesome group of 15 hardy souls who trekked the northernmost section of the Grand Traverse

NAME	
	Bob Courtois
	Tammy Krembs
	Sara Cochrane
	Dennis Schanski
	Mike Rodenberg
	Shari Sanderson
	Tony Sokol
4	Bob French
	Kevin Whitley
	TJ Nance
4	Chris Cariani
	Ron & Rosie Tetzloff
4	Ellen Whitehead
4	Janeen Wardine
AT BULLOCK HOUSE	
NANCY KOWALSKI	
PEG JONES	



lated during the hike (heavy snow & wind the first 2+ hours). The snow was very soft and uneven. Two cars were spotted at Twin Lake Rd. This allowed Ellen Whitehead to shoot ahead to warm the food at her home overlooking Little Twin Lake. It was a great way to get warmed up, refuel & enjoy the company.

With the local roads unplowed it was a miracle everyone made it and the only ones that got stuck were after the hike at the Pickerel Lake parking lot due to the accumulation of new snow during the hike, but everyone helped out when needed.

Special thanks to Bob Courtois' wife, Gay, who provided trail treats and Ellen for cooking and opening her home to all of us. A warm welcome to new hikers Ron and Rosie Tetzloff, TJ Nance, and Mike Rodenberg. We hope you all join us again in the near future.



Chapter where it meets the Jordan Valley 45 section. Ten went the full 7 miles and five went four miles on 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 holes in the ice from the muskrats.

The wind at the beginning was tough and, being the first real hike of the winter, it really was tough going towards the end. There was about 18 or 20 inches of snow including the 6 or 8 inches that accumu-

## February Hike Plans

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

The Jordan Valley 45° Chapter will be hosting a Post Valentine's Day Hike on February 15, 2020. Wear something red. Following the hike, we can get burgers and pops at Larry's (on 131 near M32).

See map and mile markers at: <http://nct.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Viewer/index.html?appid=23a2c0d674cb443ea9835af2e8c5f13a>

We will meet near Deadman's Hill Overlook on E. Deadman's Hill Rd. (near mile marker 650.5) at 10:30 AM and head out by 11: AM. (E. Deadman's Hill Rd. is not plowed all the way to the trailhead and it is probably not a good idea to try and drive in.) We need to post cars, at the hike's end, at the Warner Creek Trail Head on M-32 (mile marker 647.5, about 3

miles West of US 131). From there we can ferry drivers back to Deadman's.

Aside from the steep hills into the valley near Deadman's, the terrain is mostly flat. Snowshoes will likely be required. There will be three options:

1. Deadman's north to M-32 – About 3.7 miles
2. Deadman's north to M-32 plus Warner Creek Pathway – About 5.2 miles
3. Deadman's south about a mile to marker 14 and then into the valley (marker 3) under Deadman's and north to M-32. – About 5.9 miles.

Along the way we will check out the Beaver Deceiver on O'Brien Pond. Typically, we have a faster group that could do option 2 or 3 and then all would rendez-

vous at the Warner Creek Trail End at the end.

Afterwards we can grab burgers at Larry's on 131 just north of M32. Watch the forecast and dress for the weather, bring water, snacks and a camera.

Questions? - Email or call Bob Courtois at 248 212-6699





# Annual Meeting Minutes

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

## NCTA JV45° Annual Meeting 1-11-2020

Members present: Mary Campbell, Duane Lawton, Bob Courtois, Linus Brannigan, Eugene Brannigan, Susan Miller, Tim Roth, Karen Roth, Kevin Whitley, Dave Matz, Annie Matz, Kenny Wawczyk, and Cynthia Wilson

Location: BJ's restaurant Gaylord, MI



At 12:44 pm the meeting was called to order by President Mary Campbell (above), who presented information on the following topics:

- 2019 - A YEAR TO CELEBRATE:
- 2019 NCTA Celebration
- Hikes
- Four day work bee extravaganza 9/27-30/2019 was a huge success with 36 volunteers participating.
- 11/19 Trail adopter and volunteer brunch was held at Chandler Twp. Hall. Known 2020 promotional events reviewed, including Quiet Adventures Symposium on Feb 29th in East Lansing.

The Bear River Bridge project continues in 2020, the city of Petoskey will soon be asking for new bids from contractors. If bids come in higher than the funds already procured then Mary plans to contact some additional foundations and funding sources as well as local donors.

### Hikes

- "Hike 100" continues in 2020
- JV 45° will continue to host a chapter hike on the 3rd Saturday of each month.
- Feb 6-10, 2020 is the Tahquamenon winter fun weekend.

We are currently seeking someone to take the position of Trail Events Coordinator if you have any interest please let us know. This could be a shared position.

Elections. The current positions are up for re-election:

- President - Mary Campbell
- Communications Coordinator - Bob Haack
- Project Coordinator - Duane Lawton
- Hike Coordinator - Bob Courtois

All of the above members were agreeable to accept the position again and were duly nominated and seconded without opposition. There were no write-in nominees through absentee ballots or present. It was then proposed that we accept the re-election of all the above candidates, motion made by Tim Roth and seconded by Bob Courtois. The position of Trail Events Coordinator remains open.

Awards:



- The "2019 NCTA Honor Award" was presented to Kevin Whitley (above) for his dedication and outstanding service to JV 45. Kevin has quietly participated and greatly contributed to our trail building efforts over the last several years.



- The "Big Foot Award" was presented to Duane Lawton (above) for the absolutely amazing job he has done as past president and projects coordinator over MANY years. A huge thank you goes out to Kevin and Duane!!

There are several awards that will be given at the NCTA national celebration in 2020, which will be held in PA in August. The NCTA would like us to start think-



ing of who we would like to nominate. The list of awards and nomination forms can be found on the NCTA website under volunteer resources.

Duane Lawton first presented a Chapter Project update for 2019.

- Many projects were completed in 2019 to get ready for the national celebration.
- 3/19 Trail Workshop
- 5/7/19 Panel planting
- 6/7/19 Reroute flagging
- 6/29/19 Springvale reroute cleared.
- 7/13/19 Skyline shelter completed
- 9/27-30/19 Petoskey Trail building Extravaganza was a huge success.
- 10/26/19 Nextravaganza was held to finish puncheon east of McDougal Rd.

And then Upcoming Projects for 2020

- O'Brien Pond beaver eviction and boardwalk repair.
- Bear River bridge
- Bear River Reroute
- Springvale reroute (permit still pending).
- Fix porcupine damage on several trail signs.
- Work on obtaining landowner easements to continue the reroute east of Cedar Valley Rd.
- Dobleski Rd. reroute to move trail off US-131.

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continued from p. 3

NCTA Presentation by Kenny Wawczyk (above)

- The NCTA is planning on having several small events to celebrate the 40th year of the trail.
- With the recent addition of trail into Vermont the NCT is now 4731 miles long.

Only 15 hikers have hiked the entire trail.

In 2019, 1058 volunteers reported a total of over 83,000 hours which is valued at \$2.23 million. The NCTA has only 8 paid staff. Remember to always REPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS!!

- NCT 2019 Accomplishments. 71 miles of new trail, 18 bridges, 5768 feet puncheon, 155 hikes, 160 outreach events.\

#### Trail Projects to Continue in 2020

- Reroute through Porcupine Mts
- Reroute on WI/MI border.
- Recommend hiking new trail O Kun de Kun Falls, Ottawa National Forest in Ontonagon County, MI.
- Baraga County Canyon Falls 10 mile section will be completed this spring.
- Just approved-Rock River Canyon Wilderness west of Munising.

- Just finished-Blind Sucker River Bridge.
- North Branch Boardman River reroute through downtown Kalkaska.
- Echo River reroute in Huron-Manistee National Forest, 3 miles new trail this spring.

#### Hike 100 results for 2019

- 899 people completed the challenge, 503 were from Michigan.
- 139 pets completed.
- 23 states participated

Closing comments were made by Mary Campbell and meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

**Meeting minutes taken by Annie Matz, JV45° Sec/Treasure.**



# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



### Plans for 2020

**Duane Lawton**

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

**H**ere is 2020 already. My-my. Well, we have a lot of opportunities, and hopefully we can address them all this year. As I outlined in our annual meeting last month:

O'Brien Pond is in need of attention... with the wet weather and persistent beavers, our beaver deceiver is overloaded, and our boardwalk is afloat. Solution: evict the beavers (Kenny thinks he can get DNR help), and major repair on the boardwalk. ...when the water is warmer.

We hope that Petoskey Parks and Rec. succeed in building the Bear River bridge for which funding has been obtained.

We have some more puncheon to build there, followup to our 2019 Extravaganza. There's also a culvert to be installed on the west side of McDougal Rd. to carry the trail, a commercial job.

Our two short reroutes south of Springvale are still waiting a permit, after which we can nail together the boardwalk material that is waiting on site.

A lot of our road crossing signs and some register boxes have been ravaged by porkies, repairs will be in order.

We hope to get more aggressive seeking landowner agreements/easements to enable reroutes to eliminate road walks. The one most hoped for is from Dobleski Rd. to Giem Rd., about a mile of new trail. I'm sure we'll encounter other opportunities as the year unfolds. Duane

**Mary Campbell - President**  
[mcplanningdesign@gmail.com](mailto:mcplanningdesign@gmail.com)

**Eugene Branigan – Vice President**  
[eugene.branigan@gmail.com](mailto:eugene.branigan@gmail.com)

**Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator**  
[joshberlo@gmail.com](mailto:joshberlo@gmail.com)

**Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer**  
[amat57@yahoo.com](mailto:amat57@yahoo.com)

## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

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

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

**Open – Events Coordinator**

**Bob Haack – Communications Coordinator**, [haack@msu.edu](mailto:haack@msu.edu)

**Dove & John Day – Trail Coordinators**  
[doveday70@gmail.com](mailto:doveday70@gmail.com)  
[johnanddove@gmail.com](mailto:johnanddove@gmail.com)



# Where I Hiked

## From Sarajevo to Lukomir, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Jane Denay, jane.denay@gmail.com

Seeing the spectacular photo album of our friends Emily Meyerson a JV45° member and Harry Kitchen her husband from their 2012 travels to Lukomir in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cliff and I knew it was a place we wanted to experience.



Cliff at the water stop



Jane and Cliff at first rest stop



Guide Miraz and Jane

So when we were in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina this past fall, to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we made it happen! We went to Insider City Tours and Excursions and hired a guide.

Miraz, our guide, picked us up the next morning at 8:00. From Sarajevo, we drove an hour and a half into the Dinaric Alps. We stopped in a small village, filled our water bottles at a continuously flowing fountain, put on our hiking boots and away we went.

We had an initial steep climb to get out of the village and stopped a moment to catch our breath. Miraz told us he loses many “20-somethings” at this point, but not JV45ers!

We hiked through a grassy meadow with a meandering river. Locals were out picking wild mushrooms. We crossed the Via Dinarica trail which is nearly 2,000 kilometers and stretches from Slovenia to Albania. Our hike took us past the vast Rakitnica canyon. Folklore has it that a dragon climbed out of the canyon, and, due to the prayers of the people, was frozen into stone.

We continued to Lukomir passing an ancient shepherd’s grave site with the traditional Islamic head and footstones.



Shepherd’s grave site



The village of Lukomir

Lukomir is the highest and most remote village in Bosnia at 4,905 feet on Bjelasnica Mountain. The homes are built of stone with roofs of thick wooden tiles.

The agriculture of this village consisted of sheep, potatoes and cabbage.

The women of the village, dressed in traditional clothing, put their colorful and intricate handmade woolen socks and mittens out on the fences for sale to visitors.



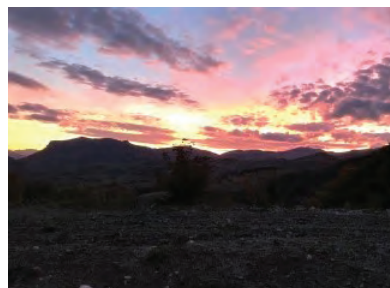
Handmade woolen socks and mittens  
for sale



There is a small restaurant in Lukomir, primarily open air. Their traditional Bosnian food features Burak, a spiral shaped meat or cheese pie encased in phyllo dough and served with a side of shredded cabbage and tomatoes. (right)



The meal was followed by strong Bosnia coffee. (left)



After this satisfying lunch and a walk about the village we headed back to the car. A treat on the way



home was the Muslim call to prayer from the minaret by the mosque that echoed across the Rakitnica Canyon. (upper right)

Our hike was a total of 17 magical kilometers. On our way back to Sarajevo, we stopped to watch the sun set into Bjelasnica Mountain. (above)

## News from NCTA Headquarters

Valerie Bader

[vbader@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:vbader@northcountrytrail.org)

**H**ere are some highlights from emails that were sent out in January 2020 from Valerie Bader, NCTA Director of Trail Development.

A note from the NCTA Development Team: "We would like to extend our thanks to the MANY individuals who made an end of year gift, joined NCTA or renewed their membership. Your passion, dedication, and support of NCT is invaluable, as well as inspiring. We are delighted to share that we met and exceeded our expectations for #GivingTuesday and our end of year appeal and are entering 2020 a stronger Association because of your efforts. Your gift has power, and we are looking forward to the amazing things we will accomplish together."

**FIELD GRANT DEADLINE AND REPORTS.** The first 2020 deadline for Field Grants was February 1st. The guidelines, application and report forms can be found in the Volunteer Resource Center section of the NCTA website: Field Grant Applications. The applications are reviewed four times each year and awarded according to benefits to the trail and the Association, need of the applicant, as well as the applicant's grant history. The deadlines are the same again this year so please mark your 2020 calendars for February 1st, April 15th, July 15th, October 15th.

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT SUBMISSIONS NEEDED.** To kick off 2020, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Kate Lemon has crafted a new content calendar for NCTA communications, such as Facebook and Instagram, the website blog and the Blue Blaze Bulletin. This calendar isn't as specific as, "Post about a trail project on the 15th of every month." More so, it's a list of many different themes/topics to cover each month so we're ensuring fresh and diverse content. It'll help hold us accountable for being more inclusive and thoughtful, too. We'll still post about popular topics like trail projects and Hike 100, but we'll make sure there's guaranteed space to highlight individual volunteers and donors, the diversity of our trail users, Chapter events, and insight to trail planning/management.

Many of the topics will be handled by NCTA staff, but Kate is also seeking help from Chapter Leadership, Partners and Affiliates. One of the themes/topics she hopes to cover each month is a Volun-

teer Spotlight: "Why I volunteer with NCTA/for the NCT." Ideally we will highlight individuals more often, but we can absolutely open it up to multiple people or larger groups. When we post this content to social media, the blog, etc. we'll likely include reminders to report volunteer hours and consider our annual awards.

If you have an individual in mind, please contact Kate Lemon at [klemon@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:klemon@northcountrytrail.org) at any time. At present, Kate is seeking at least two - one before the end of January and one to post sometime in February. You're welcome to interview them yourself and send content to Kate, or you could simply put them in contact with Kate. A high-quality photo and/or video is required.

**TRAIL PROGRESS REPORT.** Our 2019 Trail Progress Report is now complete and available online: <https://northcountrytrail.org/our-work/trail-progress-report/>. Thank you all for sharing your stories and accomplishments and most of all, for the hard work and dedication that is represented in this report. We have a lot to celebrate in the North Country Trail community, thanks to you!

**UPDATED CHAPTER LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK.** Our Chapter Leadership Handbook has just received an update and can be found online here: <https://northcountrytrail.org/volunteers/resources/volunteer-management/>. This Handbook is a great resource for anyone in a leadership role with a Chapter and provides great basics on how a Chapter functions. It includes everything from suggested Chapter roles to Financial Management and Outreach and Marketing guidelines...and MORE!

**CALL FOR NOMINEES – 2020 NCTA ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS.** Nominations are now open for NCTA's annual awards. Submissions are due **May 1** for consideration for the Awards ceremony at August's Celebration event. More information on individual awards was emailed to all Chapter and Affiliate Leaders. All nominations can be completed online at <https://northcountrytrail.org/volunteers/awards-nomination/> or via email. For more information or with any questions, please reach out to [nalcoman1@aol.com](mailto:nalcoman1@aol.com) or [nmurphy@northcountrytrail.org](mailto:nmurphy@northcountrytrail.org).

As always, thank you for all you do and thanks for being a part of the NCT community! Valerie Bader