

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

Volume 8, Number 6

December 2019

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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



Photo by Dove Day



Message from JV 45°

President Mary Campbell

mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

Season's Greetings JV 45° members and friends, The following is a brief update on recent and upcoming activities.

Jordan Valley 45° Chapter
Annual Meeting, Leadership
Positions, Nominations and Election

**Annual Meeting, January 11,
2020 at BJ's Restaurant, Gaylord, 12
Noon—Please join us!!**

The leadership positions are filled by election for two year terms, with half of the positions elected each year in January at the Annual Meeting. The following candidates have been nominated for the open positions and have agreed to serve if elected (see page 2). Additional candidates can be nominated at the annual meeting or submitted as write-in candidates on absentee ballots (provided with the newsletter).

* The *Trail Events Coordinator* position is a *new opportunity for involvement*, this position replaces our previous Trail Town Coordinator position. If you are willing and able to help with coordinating volunteers to promote the NCT and Jordan Valley 45° Chapter at various events/ activities, such as Quiet Adventures Symposium, Top of Michi-

Are You Attending the JV45 Annual Meeting? Please RSVP

The NCTA JV45 January meeting will be held at BJ's restaurant in Gaylord. The meeting will start at 12:00 noon and a buffet lunch of soup, salad, and a sandwich will be available for \$13 per person. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Annie Matz at amatz57@yahoo.com or text 231-675-7387 by 1/6/20 as we need a headcount for the buffet. Thanks! Annie Matz <amatz57@yahoo.com>

gan Marathon, Jay's Backpacking Day, Petoskey Open House, etc. If you are interested in serving as the coordinator, learning more and/or helping with these activities, please contact Mary Campbell, mcplanningdesign@gmail.com.

Featured Speaker: Kenny Wawsczyk, the NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Michigan, will join us for our Annual Meeting and provide an update on the NCT trail in Michigan. Kenny is a wonderful person and fabulous resource person for our chapter, I am pleased he will be joining us.

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Upcoming Events

January 4, 2020. HSS Chapter Hike. Stomp the Park. See details at:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/918795908513525/>

January 6, 2020. RSVP deadline to sign up for Annual Meeting lunch

January 11, 2020. JV 45° Annual Meeting at BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord

January 18, 2020. JV 45° Chapter Hike from Starvation Lake Rd (675) south toward Pickerel Lake (672), followed by gathering at Ellen Whitehead's. Details to come.

February 6-10, 2020. Tahquamenon Ski and Snowshoe weekend JV 45° & HSS (limited space-contact Mary if interested)

Position	Candidate	Nominated by	Second
President	Mary Campbell (Incumbent)	Duane Lawton	Bob Courtois
Communications Coord.	Bob Haack (Incumbent)	Annie Matz	John Larch
Project Coordinator	Duane Lawton (Incumbent)	John Day	Eugene Branigan
Hike Coordinator	Bob Courtois (Incumbent)	Mary Campbell	Dove Day
Trail Events Coordinator*	_____ (open)		

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Bear River Bridge Project Update:

The City of Petoskey anticipates letting the bid request for the bridge project before year end, for construction and installation in 2020. At this point, the original cost estimates are a few years old—so we have some concerns that the bids may come in high. Once bids are received JV 45° Chapter will work with the City of Petoskey to identify if additional fundraising efforts are needed and if so what avenues to pursue.

As some of you may recall, JV 45° had an early pre-pledge drive a few years ago, which is identified as match for some of the grants the City and JV 45° have secured. We originally anticipated conducting a crowdfunding effort, but due to other grants received the crowdfunding was put on hold. However IF the

bridge bids come back higher than the budgeted amount, we may yet pursue the crowdfunding fundraising in early 2020. Regardless, in early 2020 you can expect to receive a communication regarding any prior 'pre-pledge' and instructions on where to send your donation as we look to fund the bridge. Anyone who was not part of the pre-pledge drive will also be given an opportunity to contribute as well.

Efforts to obtain landowner permissions continue so that we can re-route additional segments of trail off the area roads come next season. Anyone who would like to learn more about the re-routing process or assist in the planning phase, please contact Mary Campbell or Duane Lawton.

Trail Adopters and Volunteers

Appreciation

As 2019 draws to a close and we look ahead to 2020, I am thankful and amazed

by the dedication of the JV 45° family and friends who have participated in the new trail planning, routing, designing & construction, while still providing the on-going trail maintenance for the existing segments. A most delicious annual Appreciation meal was held in early November to honor all who contribute time and effort for the JV 45° segment of the NCT—Thank you one and all!

Involvement Opportunities Available

JV 45° chapter is a FUN group! Anyone who would like to become more actively involved, please contact me. I am happy to help identify the appropriate activity or task that fits your available time and interests.

Happy (& Safe) Hiking,
Mary Campbell, JV 45° President

Register Box Buzz



Starvation Lake

Bob Haack & Duane Lawton

Here are a few entries in the Starvation Lake Log Book from April to June 2019.

4-27-19. Bill W. wrote "Started at Mesick [MI]. Till my legs quit. Nice trail!"

4-30-19. Marilyn D from Richmond, IN, wrote "Walking from the AuSable connection to Alba, about 14 miles. Weather cloudy and chilly. Thanks for your hard work."

5-1-19. Lisa & Barb wrote "Hiking the Lower Peninsula after completing the NCT across the UP. Great trail condition. Thanks you!"

5-(2-5)-19. Several Celebration hikers logged in during the group hikes.

5-5-19. Kilted Patterson from Milford, OH wrote "On a Post-Celebration hike, thanks for a great week!!"

5-15-19. Ellen Whitehead wrote "Yes! 100 miles on the NCT, my fourth year in a row. Not bad for 65 years old. Appropriate I finished here, my new assignment as Trail Adopter begins here. I love the NCT!"

5-18-19. Tim Van Nest (Head-N-Out) from Kent City, MI, wrote "8 days on the trail, missing Tag-N-Along."

5-25-19. Connie & Jerry Allen wrote "Passed here on the way to Sand Lake. Beautiful day!! Buster too!"

5-26-19. Annie Nelson from St. Paul, MN, wrote "I'm halfway thru hiking the NCT, Croton Dam to North Dakota's western terminus. Just starting your section. I'll let you know any thoughts as I go. Thanks



you for all you do! To follow my progress (blogs/videos) go to <https://wildstory.site/>

6-2-2019. Ellen Whitehead wrote "My first official trail adopter visit in 2019. Let's see how clean the trail is today."

October Hike Report Color Tour, Kuzmik Rd to Giem Rd

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

We had 10 people on the hike and a legacy member joining us at hike's end. Bob, Duane and Kevin were joined by 7 new people (see the photo of the sign-in log). After gathering at Kuzmik Rd and Camp Ten Rd, we decided to reverse the direction of the hike and drove to the previously planned hike end at Giem Rd and the RR tracks and then hiked northeast. The first couple miles were up hill until we reached the area where the loggers did extensive thinning in the late summer. We did see Big Foot and interesting caterpillars. Our resident entomologist's



(Bob Haack) professional opinion is that the posted pic is a Banded Tussock Moth Caterpillar (*Halysidota tessellaris*).

Even though it hadn't rained for a couple of days, the trail had some muddy spots. Most of this trail is road or two-track but the loggers beat it up pretty good and criss-crossed it with damage from all the heavy equipment. It was all re-blazed after the logging, so we could find our way easily. The logger did extensive thinning and it appears the area will recover nicely over the next few years with more sunlight reaching the understory. As the Facebook pictures show, it still is very much a forest and the colors were great.

We had a fast group and a slow group, each walking their own hike. The first half of the trip was uphill and peaked out at about 1,435 feet. We then followed a steep downhill until it leveled out at Kuzmik Rd. At that point there was an active logger loading logs on a truck. On Kuzmik Rd. we encountered Richard Seibert. Richard is interesting because he was one of the original trail blazers along with Arden Johnson (see Arden's pic on the Chapter's trail map). Richard was kind enough to drive back to where the logger was to give the slower group a ride back to the cars.

Five of us then went to the Whi-Ski Inn in Boyne Falls for pop and burgers.

project	10-19-19
	COLOR TOUR HIKE
	KUZMIK TO GIEM
	WHO FOR
Bob Courtois	278
Diane Winchell	221-
Cynthia Wilson	989-
James Courtois	586
Lisa Warrick	987
Lori Grebst	989-
Char Anderson	231-
Duane Lawton	748
Jeanne Huch	4993
RICHARD SEIBERT	231-

We were joined by Eugene Branigan and Al and Rosemary Wolff. Al is a 90-year old fly rod maker who lived in Boyne City. His fly rods are true works of art.

All in all, a wonderful day. I hope we see all the new hikers (Jim, Diane, Cynthia, Lisa, Lori, Char, and Jeanne) return for future hikes.



Volunteer Appreciation Brunch and Hike Springvale Road to Brubaker Rd. – November 9, 2019

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

The November JV45° hike was preceded by a Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the Chandler Hill Township Hall. With all the work accomplished throughout the JV45 section, not to mention the NCTA Celebration in April, there was a lot to be thankful for. We have a lot of terrific volunteers, many who never attend the official hikes. There were about 25 people in attendance and I heard the food was yummy. I had to miss the brunch due to a work emergency, but I was able to make the hike.

The hike began at Springvale Road. Although the original plan was to hike to Brubaker Rd. due to the late start the

decision was made to just go as far as Cherry Valley Overlook and back to Springvale Rd. About half the group of 14 walked the full 8-mile round trip and the rest just did a 4 mile in-and-out trip. There was snow but not enough to require snow shoes and the temperature was in the mid 20's. Someone made the first snowman of the season! This section of trail is absolutely one of the best in the JV45°..





BUILD IT

Let's Get To Work



Retrospective 2019

Duane Lawton,

delawton@torchlake.com

We accomplished a lot this year, here is a summary.

In preparation for NCTA Celebration 2019 which would have many hikes in our Chapter's territory, we expanded on our 2018 work to improve the Jordan Valley Pathway. Then during the Celebration—with many of our closest friends—we built a spur trail to the beaver ponds boardwalk for viewing.

Despite no permit for the reroutes south of Springvale Rd., we cleared and blazed the trail, and await permission to build one small puncheon section. We installed an "NCT in Michigan" interpretive panel at the Top of Michigan Trails Council Headquarters on M-119.

Funding for the Bear River Bridge was nailed down (!), so we held the "Extravaganza" in September and cleared and blazed ~1 mile of new trail, built nearly 500' of boardwalks and a 500' fence over four days with more than 35 participants, some from afar. Then on October 26th we held "Nextravaganza" and built one more 140' boardwalk (see pictures).



Prospective 2020

But of course we're not done yet!

News from O'Brien Pond is dire.

With the wet weather and the persistent dam beavers, the pond is again floating our boardwalk and threatening the trail on the old railroad grade. We have the possibility that we can get help in removing the beavers. If that occurs, we can lower the pond level knowing that it won't immediately refill. There is major repair work to be done on the boardwalk.

The Petoskey Parks and Recreation Department is charged with the Bear River Bridge construction, which they hope to accomplish in 2020. This includes a 45' extension boardwalk on the NCMC end which potentially we could construct if necessary for budgetary or grant-match reasons. TBD.

Also associated with the NCMC-to-Skyline reroute there remains some puncheon to build—two short ones East of McDougal Rd., and some along the river South of Sheridan Rd. ...and one close to the bridge site we will wait to build until



**Our last 2019 Workday
Building a 140 Foot Boardwalk**

the bridge is in place.

There are signs all over that need repair, thanks primarily to hungry porkies.

Beyond all that, we are hoping some day to have landowner agreements for other potential reroutes off roads. The most promising are between Dobleski and Giem Rds., and from Conway to Kipp Rd. We have not had much contact with landowners, and hopefully can step up our game next year.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year

Greetings from one of our Ohio Extravaganza Participants.

"Hello Everyone! I want to thank all of you for being so open, kind, and receiving of me participating in the September Petoskey trail build. I felt part of the group immediately and enjoyed every minute I was there. You have helped to restore my faith in humanity! When the time comes to finish the project, I hope to get time off to join you once again. Take care, thank you again!" Lori Luken from Berea Ohio
loriluken59@gmail.com

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/>

JV45° Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, November 9, 2019

Dove and John Day, doveday70@gmail.com and johnanddove@gmail.com

We appreciate our volunteers every day. They are out there more than you may even know, making a cumulative difference doing what they can to help. Each year we like to take one day to honor and thank them for all the work they do to keep the NCT in the best shape it can be. This year we met for brunch at the Chandler Hill Township Hall. More than 25 volunteers gathered for a fabulous meal (also provided by some amazing volunteers!).

We had a lot to be thankful for this year....trail adopters worked extra hard getting their sections in the best shape possible for the big annual NCTA Celebration held in our neck of the woods this spring. Many other volunteers worked month after month prepping for the Celebration, planning activities, arranging transportation, setting up and decorating, registering participants, leading hikes, and so much more! Then there were the JV45° chapter work days this year; volunteer participation was outstanding and the work accomplished throughout the JV45° section was incredible. We have a lot of terrific



Chandler Hill Township Hall

volunteers in and out of our chapter, and we thank you all for the time you give and ALL you do to make the NCT great!

2019 was a great year and we know that 2020 will be just as good, or better, because of you! THANK YOU!



Duane Lawton (L) and Tim Mobray (R)

Duane Lawton Joins the NCTA Board of Directors

Our very own JV45° member Duane Lawton has become the newest board member of the North Country Trail National Board of Directors. Here is a picture of Duane being welcomed to his first Board Meeting by President Tim Mobray.

Duane says that the NCTA Board of Directors oversees and governs the NCTA. There are currently 15 members (see the list on the inside cover of the North Star), and collectively the Board members have broad experience in many areas such as business administration, law, corporate governance, our affiliates, and the NCT. The Board meets three times a year, usually in Grand Rapids (near Lowell). At their last meeting in early December they conducted a day and a half of short and long range strategic planning.

Duane says as an *At Large* member his main responsibility is to fairly represent the needs and interests of all NCTA Chapters and affiliates. Congrats Duane!

Bob Haack, Newsletter Editor



JV45 members and guests enjoying the delicious brunch, with the Chapter Hike following.

Mary Campbell - President
mcplanningdesign@gmail.com

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

Josh Berlo – Website Coordinator
joshberlo@gmail.com

Annie Matz – Secretary-Treasurer
amat57@yahoo.com

CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Duane Lawton – Project Coordinator
delawton@torchlake.com

Bob Courtois, Hike Coordinator
bcourtois@comcast.net

Jen Winnell – Trail Town Coordinator
jenwinnell@gmail.com

Bob Haack – Communications
Coordinator, haack@msu.edu

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

Completing the NCT in Michigan's Lower Peninsula on the JV45° Section

Bob Courtois, bcourtois@comcast.net

Congratulations to Merri Carol Wozniak, who is from Sault Ste. Marie and a member of the Hiawatha Shore to Shore Chapter, for completing the NCT in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. On November 21st and 22nd, she completed her last 25 or so miles in the JV45° chapter's section. On the 21st, Merri, Bill Courtois and Cathy Lloyd Langley hiked 9 miles from King Rd. to Slashing Rd. Along the way they found fresh bear tracks. Then, on the 22nd, Bob Courtois joined them to hike 10.5 miles from Slashing and Thumb Lake Roads to Dobleski Rd (which was the section for October's monthly hike). Following that, since there was enough daylight left, Bob and Merri Carol walked her final 4 miles or so from Dorr Rd. to Landslide Overlook. The weather was cool but with low winds, and the snow did not require snow shoes. Merri Carol has been a frequent visitor to the JV45° section. In 2018, she hiked her first 138 miles in the



Merri Carol & Bill Courtois



Bear tracks



Merri Carol finishing up the NCT in the Lower Peninsula



Merri Carol flanked by the Courtois twins

LP and finished up in 2019. Next, she plans to work on finishing the UP and also start chipping away at Ohio.

Where I Hiked

Khun Korn Waterfall, Lamnamkok National Park

Chiang Rai, Thailand

Doug Seaney, dseaney@hotmail.com

Kim and I visited our son, Corey, and Daughter-in-Law Yin in Thailand for most of October. Our main objective was helping them with home repairs and eating all the wonderful foods. Yin is a self-employed potter, so we spent some time helping with her studio. We managed to get in one short hike to see a waterfall about an hour from their house. The hike was only 2 miles round trip, but had some hills and obstacles to navigate. Corey and Yin, in true Thai style, hiked in flip flops. Weather most days was 90 degrees or so with a heat index up to 97 F. We got an



Above: Park entrance

Left: Path through bamboo forest with son Corey leading



Doug, Kim, Corey & Yin
Super misty and damp at base of falls.



Almost there, the Slippery Route was the only route!

early start as our trip to the falls was by riding in the back of their small pick-up truck, and the trip home in 90+ heat with no shade can be a bit toasty. The trail to the falls was in pretty deep jungle foliage, with not too much heat from the sun getting through. The closer we got to the falls the cooler it got. It was quite buggy so we were glad that we brought along our jungle juice (DEET). We arrived around 9 am and had the trail and waterfall to ourselves for about 45 minutes. A few hikers from Belgium showed up as we were leaving and we saw a dozen or so other people on our hike out. We splashed around in the shallows a bit, but didn't go under the falls. The water was pretty powerful looking and is 6-7 feet deep under the falls. We saw a rare bird at the falls as well as a toad – but our pictures didn't do them justice so won't include them here.

Random facts – Thailand is over 7900 miles from northern



Tiny mushrooms

MI, so not really halfway around the world but it sure seemed like it. The northern part of Thailand where we were is primarily a farming area, with rice as the most prevalent crop (25 million tons or so!). Chiang Rai, the closest big city to our son, has a population of 540K. The flights (4 different legs) totaled about 23 hours in the air. Counting layovers, it was about a 36-hour grind to get there with an 11- or 12-hour time difference depending on Daylight Saving Time. We crossed the International Date Line on the return trip so we left S. Korea at 10:40 am and landed in Chicago the same day at 9:20 am. I asked my son about hiking in the jungle and he told me that it is not safe. Not sure if it is because of the 40 species of venomous snakes found there or the fact that the jungles around them are part of the Golden Triangle (where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet) and where there is still a lot of illegal drug activity (opium production).



The falls are approximately 70 meters tall, highest in Northern Thailand.



Above: The damp forest floor.

Right: A Post Hike Beer – Thai style

