



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

July 2024

## President's Message

Kevin Whitley [kjwtorchlake@gmail.com](mailto:kjwtorchlake@gmail.com)

### In this issue

<b>Build IT update</b>	<b>P.2-3</b>
<b>May Group Hike Report</b>	<b>P.3-5</b>
<b>Top of MI Festival of Races</b>	<b>P.6</b>
<b>June Group Hike Report</b>	<b>P.7-8</b>
<b>Trail Maintenance Report</b>	<b>P.8</b>
<b>Jordan Valley Benches III</b>	<b>P.9-10</b>
<b>June Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>P.10-11</b>
<b>Request for Articles</b>	<b>P.11</b>

#### Important links:

[Click here for link to Jordan Valley 45° page on NCTA website](#)

[Jordan Valley 45° is on FaceBook - click here](#)

[Click here for link to Report Volunteer Hours](#)

[Click here for link to NCTA Events Calendar](#)

Hello Fellow Hikers;

The National Park Service is offering chainsaw training for North Country Trail sawyers on October 5th and 6th. Saturday October 5th will be classroom training at the Helena Township Community Center in Alden, MI and Sunday October 6th will be field training at the Torch River Ridge Preserve in Rapid City Michigan. I have more information if needed.

Thanks for your contribution.

Save the date! January 4, 2025 will be the date of the annual meeting of the Jordan Valley 45° Chapter. We will have lunch around noon and updates of past projects and future plans. The planning process for this meeting is not finished and I am looking for a location. This meeting will also include elections for four leadership positions, a few awards, and a chance to meet and talk with chapter members.

Kevin

#### Upcoming Group Hikes:

July 20 – Hatchery to Pinney Bridge – Loop hike

August 15 –Jordan Valley East? – TBD

# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



Some of the items covered in the last issue have activity...

Bayfront interpretive panel: Our final panel from last year's project (two-sided) is to be planted in the Petoskey Bayfront Park along the trail (Little Traverse Wheelway). Petoskey Parks and Rec. director Kendall Klinglesmith has opted to provide a black anodized aluminum mount to be in keeping with other signage there. He has our panels and we look forward to seeing it installed.

Skyline Shelter: Mary Campbell, Kendall Klinglesmith and I scouted the spur trail to the spring for a likely site for a replacement shelter. We did not see an appealing location close to the spur trail (very steep). While Mary and I did agree to do a more thorough site search, we have been thinking how to keep the existing shelter. We are awaiting an opinion from the Petoskey City Manager whether Petoskey likely would be willing to attach a small parcel containing the shelter to the Petoskey Skyline property. If positive, we will be approaching the Boors to negotiate an acquisition.

Dobleski: Paul Gagnon wrote and emailed a draft agreement for trail passage across the corner of Joe Taylor's property. There having been no response so far, Paul will be snail mailing the draft agreement with a cover note asking for acknowledgement of receipt, and stating our willingness to meet and discuss any concerns.

Russian Creek boardwalk: I contacted NCMC and was put in touch with Natural Area supervisor Isis Arsnoe. NCMC agreed to fund materials for the boardwalk (\$2K). On Sunday, June 22 (it rained Saturday), eight J45ers and five NCMCers built it (see banner for old and new). Thanks to Dan Dueweke, Kevin Whitley, Anne Matz, Jim DeKett, Rich Borowicz, the NCMC group, Jim Howell (brought the tool trailer and his chop saw) and Evelyn Howell (brought lunch!).



3 tubes detour: The 3 Tubes will be replaced by a timber bridge, thanks to the Conservation Resource Alliance. Currently scheduled to be done in September and October, we will need to provide a temporary detour for the Jordan Valley Pathway. On July 3, Jim Howell and I went looking for a place to cross the river. We found a likely site directly opposite the Jordan River National Fish Hatchery (JRNFH) gate to Jordan River Road, which is also adjacent to the site for Dan Dueweke's trail project. There is a location here where crossing involves just over 20'. A temporary crossing could be made using nearby deadfall and some dock sections we have. We also are thinking it would be nice to have a permanent crossing here...a spur trail to the JRNFH, which would make bathroom access convenient, potential for using JRNFH as a direct trailhead, making it easier for hikers to visit the JRNFH, and a better access for trail maintenance across the river. This is admittedly a long shot...



Someone needs to scout Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) property between the Hailand/Helstrom nature preserves over to N. Conway Rd. to see if it's a feasible route.

Paul Gagnon has been reminded to draft a letter to Jack Flynn regarding his property between Cedar Valley Rd. and Skyline. Once drafted, JV45 will send it.

## May 18<sup>th</sup> Group Hike Report– Johnson Rd. – Brubaker Rd.

Story and pictures by Bob Courtois - [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

We had seventeen hikers (three new to the NCT) three dogs and a ferret. The weather started out in the 60's with crisp blue skies and no wind. By noon it got up to around 80. Fifteen of us met a Brubaker Rd. and then all loaded into three cars to ride the hikes start at the Johnson Rd. trail crossing. At Johnson Rd. we encountered John and Dove Day with three dogs: Ollie (mix), Hotch (corgi) and Alastor (Saint Bernard). A magnificent beast, Alastor is a six-month old, 100-pound puppy. After walking a mile or so John had to turn back with the three dogs, since, once Alastor is tired, he lays down and cannot be persuaded to move.





We usually we have longer hike but, with the hills and side trips, we kept this to a short 5.5 miles, mostly through the Skyline Natural Area (SNA). The SNA runs, roughly, from the Krause Rd. Trailhead to Brubaker Rd. and is adjacent to large tracts of land owned by the City of Petoskey, the county and the state. At an elevation averaging 1,200 feet, it also marks the watershed boundary between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.

In the SNA, we stopped to check out a “Spring Box” (water source for hikers), Skyline Shelter and a Viewing Platform. The spring box and shelters were built as part of boy scout projects, several years ago, with help from the JV45. We stopped at the shelter for a brief snack and then headed down to the nearby viewing platform which provides north bound hikers their first view of the Bear River Valley and on out to Lake Michigan. While there we nailed down a piece of plywood to cover a hole in the deck just above the steps.

We didn't see any bikers today but there were plenty of bicycle tracks. This area is open to bicycles but the traffic seems low. However, there are places where the bicycles short-cut some switchbacks creating erosion that the switchbacks help prevent. We did see two southbound hikers, one with a dog. Although this is more season, no one saw any.



At hikes end, Susan Miller decided to hike back to her car at Johnson Rd., so she got in about ten miles. Miki Slawinski (and her ferret) continued on to Bay Front Park for a total of twelve miles. Bob ferried three people back to their cars at Johnson Rd. and, then, six of us went to Petoskey for pops (OK, beer) and sandwiches. We got shady seats in the Back Lot Beer Garden, which has various brews and food trucks.



**Spring View from Platform**



**Winter View from Platform**



**Spring View of Shelter**



**Winter View of the Shelter**

## Top of Michigan Festival of Races -May 25<sup>th</sup>

### JV 45 Chapter - Masters of Hydration

Story by Sue Bouwense – [sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com)

On Saturday, May 25 our chapter again hosted an aid station for the Top of Michigan Festival of Races. We were located near the campground office at Petoskey State Park. The half marathon runners came by on their way out and back, and we provided a turnaround point for the 10K runners. Water and “GU” were gratefully accepted by the runners!

Many thanks to the following for volunteering to help out:

- Cliff and Jane Denay
- Kevin Whitley
- Maureen Doull
- Barb Imhof
- Lisa Johnson
- Ray Epskamp

Your acts of service are appreciated as this event raises funds to benefit the development of trails in our area. These races start and end on the Little Traverse Wheelway, part of which serves as a section of the North Country Trail.



## June 15th Group Hike Report – Starvation Lake to Pickerel Lake

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

Once again, we had perfect summer weather as temperatures were in the upper 70s and, no wind or clouds. It's been a fairly dry June but still lush and green. The bracken ferns were high and in need of weed whacking and several people carried nippers to trim branches as we walked along.

For this hike, we had 20 hikers gather at the ORV trailhead on Starvation Lake Road. We had three new hikers and, interestingly, six of the hikers today are nurses. Fortunately, we did not need to tap their skills. The start was delayed 15 minutes while shuttle cars were moved down to hike's end at Pickerel Lake for after the hike. We had just plenty of seats to ferry everyone who needed a ride back to their cars. Everyone was accounted for this time.



Starting at Starvation Lake Road, this hike took us down into the northernmost section of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club. Eighteen people 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. The portions of this stretch that were logged a few years ago have recovered nicely.

Ellen and Emmie finished four miles in at Twin Lake Road so Ellen could shoot home to her house overlooking Little Twin Lake to set up the post hike picnic. We had about 15 people there to enjoy all the goodies. Once again Dave, thanks for cooking the excellent burgers and brats.



Following the ride, Dave took six of us on a pontoon ride to get a closer look at the loons. Unfortunately, the first batch of eggs failed but hope springs eternal as we actually witnessed the loons mating nearby the floating nesting platform. Dave and Ellen set it out in the lake each spring and one of the neighbors then places two buoys nearby to keep boaters clear of the nest. Once they hatch, the babies cruise around on their parents back to protect them from predators.



Our Captain - Dave

Following the boat ride, Tamera and Karen took a swim. Thank you to the Grand Traverse Chapter for the well-maintained trail. Special thanks of course to Ellen and Dave for hosting the picnic.

### Trail Maintenance Update

Dan Dueweke - [dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)

Summer is a good time to check blazes while hiking your section. Bring a clipper or folding saw to clear any small limbs that obstruct the blaze and note fallen blaze trees. I am in the process of putting blaze paint in the tool caches in the north and in the tool trailer.

Everyone seems to have a favorite technique and this is mine:

- Paint jar with easy off lid (glass or plastic).
- Paint brush
- Quart freezer bag for carrying wet brush
- Scraper
- Cloth towels to clean any drips
- Low bucket (used for carrying supplies)
- Folding saw (not shown)
- Tape measure to put a 2"x6" mark on the scraper handle.





## Jordan Valley Benches part III

Story and pictures by Bob Courtois - [bcourtois@comcast.net](mailto:bcourtois@comcast.net)

### JORDAN VALLEY BENCHES:

At the overlook on NCT north of Pinney Bridge Campground is one of the benches installed in the 90s by Boy Scouts, Troop 17. There are four benches in the valley built by Shawn and Seth Grutsch with materials from the DNR. As with the other benches, it's very difficult to decipher the writing engraved into the bench with a Dremel tool. Wear, tear and graffiti have obscured much of what was written so long ago. So, as best as I can determine, with help from a brochure in the panel at the Landslide Overlook parking lot, here is what is written.

On top left end of the bench:

1. STOP 11. A THIS POINT YOU ARE 900 FEET ABOVE SEAL LEVEL.
2. BELOW YOU, TO THE SOUTH, FLOWS THE JORDAN RIVER,
3. WHICH IS 700 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. THE WISCONSIN
4. GLACIAL AGE, WHICH ENDED 10,000 YEARS AGO, FORMED THE
5. ROLLING HILL SIDES TO THE SOUTH.

On bottom left end of the bench:

PINNEY BRIDGE 0.5 MILES  
DEADMANS HILL

In the center of the bench- A large map of the Jordan River Valley noting area towns (see pics)

On the right end of the bench, top board- TROOP 17 EAST JORDAN - BSA

On the lower right board, it appears there are four lines. I've given up on trying to decipher this completely.

1. TO RA GRUTSCH A FREAD NS
2. HE LOVED WORKING IN
3. ?
4. SETH GRUSCH

The reference to "Stop 11" refers to one of the 25 numbered marker posts still present throughout the valley. A brochure was found (thanks Duane Lawton) in the DNR panel at Landslide Overlook has the narrative for each "Stop". Jen Reynolds was able to find the info on the Scouts.





## JV45 Leadership Meeting June 27th, 2024 Howell Rose Cottage – Boyne City

Meeting called to order at 6:24pm by Kevin Whitley

Members present: Annie Matz, Mary Campbell, Bob Courtois, Duane Lawton, Dan Dueweke, Kevin Whitley, Evelyn and Jim Howell

News from NCTA: NCTA is looking for board members, if interested contact Duane Lawton. NCTA board focus is to continue to move trail off roads. JV45 currently has approximately 17 miles of roadwalk.

Financial report: account balance: \$7600. Members: 122

### Reroutes:

Dobleski: Paul drafted a letter to landowner and has had no response.

Cedar Valley: Nothing new

Notestine property: Nothing new

### Projects:

Signs and Interpretative panels: One left to place behind Kilwin's

Jordan Valley: Dan is spearheading repair of the trail near the Fish Hatchery. Dan has begun cutting cedar logs and plans to have new forms constructed and ready to place in early August.

Skyline Shelter: The Boors are considering another land split which may allow the NCTA to purchase 1-3 acres where the shelter is now located. Paul, Duane, and Mary are working with the Boors on this.

5 Lake: Paul noticed an area near 5 Lake where the trail may be crossing private property. Alba school owns property adjacent to this and Paul plans to contact the school to see if we can move the trail to their property.

Kuzmik/Thumb Lake Rd: Mary contacted Charlevoix County looking for information on potential reroute possibilities.

Hathaway/North Conway: Nothing new

Tool trailer/Tool box:

Jim fixed the rear light on trailer.

The group voted unanimously to buy a 3<sup>rd</sup> trimmer. Bob has agreed to make the purchase.

**Sawyer Certification class** is scheduled **October 5-6** in Alden. Please let Kevin know if you need to take the class.

NCTA is looking for volunteers to lead hikes at the Celebration in August. Please contact Kevin if you can help.

Trail condition report from Dan: All trails are in good shape.

Monthly Hikes report from Bob: July hike will be in the Jordan Valley.

August hike will also be in the Jordan Valley, Bob is not available and Marlene has volunteered to lead.

2024 Events:

Wild Things: Sue is planning

August 22 Celebration in St. Ignace

Oct 19 Trail Adopters brunch at Chandler Twp Hall

2025 Events:

January 4 Annual Meeting: Kevin plans to reserve the Charlevoix Library and have a potluck lunch.

2025 elections will be Vice President, Secretary, Events Coordinator, and Trail Adopter Coordinator.

Evelyn gave an update on the Jr. Ranger program. The NCTA is hoping to have something formal ready for the celebration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

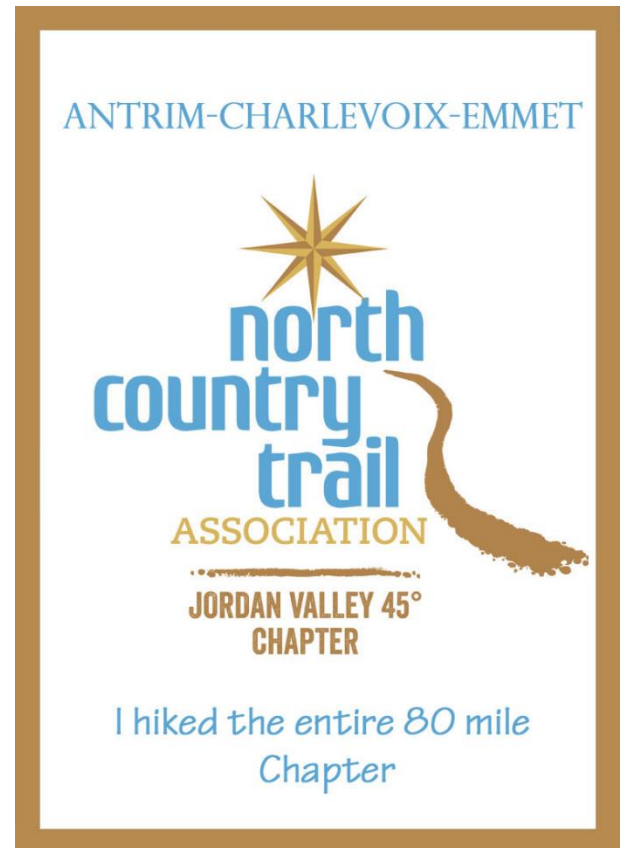
Meeting minutes types by Annie Matz

JV45 Sec/Treas

## **“Where I Hiked” Request for articles – September edition of JV45 Newsletter**

[dseaney@hotmail.com](mailto:dseaney@hotmail.com)

In the September edition of this newsletter, I'd like to highlight some hikes that our members have taken during 2024. Please submit hike articles to me, along with pictures and I will work on inclusion in the next newsletter. Articles should be approximately 500 words and a few pictures are always great. If there are multiple submissions, I may carry over to the November edition as well.



Patch for hiking entire JV45° Chapter

## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

Kevin Whitley – President  
[kjwtorchlake@gmail.com](mailto:kjwtorchlake@gmail.com)

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

Sue Bouwense - Events Coordinator  
[sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com)

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

James Howell - Vice President  
[pattenlake2620@gmail.com](mailto:pattenlake2620@gmail.com)

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

Dan Dueweke - Trail Coordinator  
[dandueweke@gmail.com](mailto:dandueweke@gmail.com)

Doug Seaney - Communication  
Coordinator  
[dseaney@hotmail.com](mailto:dseaney@hotmail.com)