



# Jordan Valley 45° Chapter Newsletter

May 2025

## President's Message

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

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### Important Links:

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

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

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

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

Hello Fellow Hikers:

I hope everyone is recovering from the big ice storm. I never expected that we would be dealing with a Trail that is mostly closed on advice from the Michigan DNR. The National Park Service is expecting a need for an increase in certified Sawyers to help with storm cleanup. The NPS is asking if there are volunteers that would like to take chainsaw sawyer classes to become certified to operate a saw while helping to clear the trail. This usually requires a full weekend commitment and some travel. Let me know if anyone has interest and I will pass it on to Nic at the NPS.

New bandanas are available at no charge to active members and volunteers. The bandanas are created each year featuring the NPS and the NCTA logo and a unique design. Ask me about a free bandana the next time you see me.

### Upcoming Hikes

May 17<sup>th</sup> Group Hike – GT Chapter Area, Spring Lake (near Fife Lake)

June 17<sup>th</sup> Group Hike - TBD



# BUILD IT

## Let's Get To Work



By Duane Lawton  
[delawton@torchlake.com](mailto:delawton@torchlake.com)

### Trail Building Event June 6-8

After logging along the trail two years ago, briar patches and historic ice storm carnage, it's been determined to reroute ½ mile of trail just west of US-131 south of Boyne Falls. Join us June 6-8 on National Trails Day weekend to help! We have obtained permission from kind landowner Debra Puroll to camp in her field adjacent to the work site (we will LNT). Sue Bouwense has graciously agreed to organize victuals, and I think Annie Matz is going to help too. We plan to set up camp Friday evening, and stay until Sunday. Meals to be provided: Friday dinner, Saturday 3 meals, Sunday breakfast. The new route is a mess (see pic left above) and major tree debris removal will be needed.... sawyers bring your chainsaws (and PPE). Please RSVP to me so we know who to expect and how much food we need. Feel free to just come for the day(s) if you don't want to camp, but let me know which meals you want. ...looking forward to it.

### The Ice Storm

As of this writing (May 4), the DNR still has not permitted us to work on trail clearing in the State Forests. However, we have been working on other properties, and the trail is clear from Kipp Road south to Taylor. Non-NCT local sawyers have started clearing the trail and there are other sections reportedly open. I'm sure Dan will be organizing more trail clearing work once the DNR relents.

### Other Reroutes

In the broken record category (or the scratched CD). We continue to pursue landowners who would enable reroutes:

- Dobleski to Giem
- Kuzmik to Slashing
- Cedar Valley to Skyline



## March 15th Group Hike Report– Johnson Rd. to Brubaker Rd.

Story by – Bob Courtois - bcourtois@comcast.net



All met at Brubaker Rd. and then loaded into three cars to ride to the hike's start at the Johnson Rd. trail crossing. Kevin posted his truck at Krause Rd. in case anyone wanted to shorten their hike later. We started at Johnson Rd. but two people turned back after a half mile because they didn't have snowshoes and were post holing in the deep snow. They borrowed Karen's car to go back to Brubaker and hike down to meet us from there. Even with snowshoes it was a pretty tough slog as the first 2.5 miles were predominately uphill. At an elevation averaging 1,200 feet, this section marks the watershed boundary between Lake Michigan and Lake Huron.



We had thirteen hikers (two new to the NCT) but no dogs or ferrets this time. The weather was pretty much 60ish the whole time and predicted high winds out of the south never materialized. The most remarkable thing today was, despite the very warm weather this week, the snow was still very deep, and snowshoes were necessary.



Usually, we have a longer hike, but, with the snow, hills and side trips, we kept this to a short 5.5 miles, much of it 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, Emmet County and the state.



At the Krause Rd. trailhead, three tired people used Kevin's truck to go back to Brubaker and wait for the rest of us to meet them there. On last 2.5 miles or so, to Brubaker, we bypassed the "Spring Box" [spring] which is a steep .2 miles below the trail. Nearby, Kevin and Karen walked the .2 mile uphill and back to check out the Skyline Shelter. Six of us went to the nearby Observation Deck and waited for them to catch up. The view from the deck provides north bound NCT hiker's their first view of Lake Michigan, the Bear River Valley and Petoskey. Bob brought along some camo paint to cover up some graffiti on the platform.

Note, the spring box and shelter were built as part of boy scout projects, several years ago, with help from the JV45. The spring box needs work to improve the water flow. Unfortunately, access to the Skyline Shelter will probably be lost when the property is sold to a new owner. Options to replace it are under consideration.

At hike's end, Bob ferried three people back to their cars at Johnson Rd. and then eight of us went to Mitchell Street Pub in Petoskey, for pops and sandwiches.



Request for "Where I Hiked" articles – its spring and I'm sure some of our members have been on some hikes. I'd love to feature some hikes in the next newsletter. They don't necessarily need to be on the NCT, can be anywhere. Please submit to me in the next month or so.



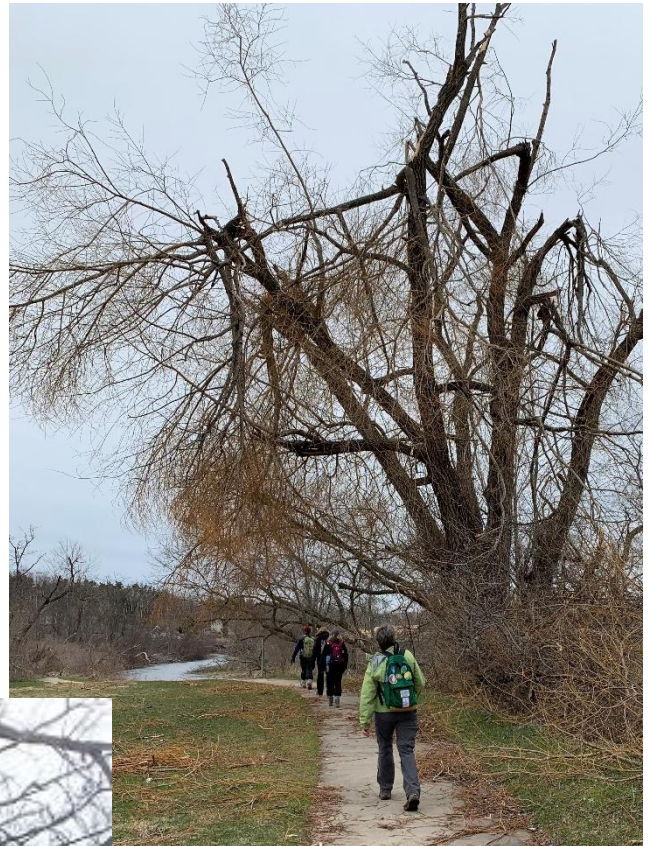
## April 19<sup>th</sup> Group Hike Report – Shanley Rd. to Bayfront Park Petoskey

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

Pictures by many



12 hikers met at the Bayfront Park in Petoskey and ferried to Shanley Rd. for the hike start at 10:30. The temperature was a chilly 38 degrees on a breezy, cloudy day. The hike leaders were Annie Matz and Jane Denay, as Bob was out of town.



Several hikers picked up trash along Cedar Valley Rd. then crossed over along the edge of the Click Rd. Soccer fields where the terrain was soggy and difficult to follow due to some missing Carsonite posts.



The next section along Click Rd. and through the woods to McDougal Rd. was in good condition and mostly dry. There were no issues on the trail to the River Rd. Sports complex but once there, some sections were impassable due to downed trees from our recent historic ice storm. These sections were easy to walk around.



Once over the Bear River foot bridge the trail leading to the college was in great shape. Ellen and a friend met us by the Petoskey Dept. of Public Works to finish the hike to the waterfront. The last leg of the hike along the Bear River was clear thanks to a lot of hard work from NCT volunteers and workers from the City of Petoskey. This entire section along the river sustained severe damage from the storm. Thank you one and all for your work. Following the hike 6 of us went to Mitchell Steet Pub for a warm lunch.

(Bob when you return, Jane and I will be happy to have you leading again. Haha - Annie)



The new "Three-Tubes"?? As the one in the Jordan Valley has been removed.



### Lovely Nature Words part 2 – From Ellen Whitehead

**Yugen** – A profound awareness of the universe that triggers feelings too deep and mysterious for words

**Shinrin-Yoku** – Forest Bathing

**Oubaitori** – People, like flowers, bloom in their own time and in their own individual ways

**Apricity** – The warmth of the sun

## Trail Maintenance Update

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

### Cleaning up after the ice storm

Initial cleanup of the non-State sections of the NCT south of Kipp Rd. began once our sawyers and swampers had their power restored and their own properties cleared. There was plenty of work to do just on Emmet County and City of Petoskey land. Trees at higher elevations and pine plantations were hit harder while lower elevations had less damage, as indicated from hiker observations in the Jordan Valley. Five plus weeks after the storm we still await approval from the DNR to work on State land.

Nicole Loiseau at NCT is working on getting an out-of-cycle chainsaw class for any new or expired sawyers in northern Michigan. Let me know if you'd like to be included in this class.

## North Dakota – Hike Fest Save the Date August 20 - 23

Instead of the NCTA celebration the ND chapters are working on hosting a hike-fest get together. Details are being finalized. If you are interested save the date and stay tuned for more info. All 3 chapters are offering hikes. Sounds like it will be a moving feast or a pub crawl. Abbreviated agenda below with a link to more information at the event page on north country trail.org site.

- Wednesday, August 20, Dakota Prairie Chapter - morning and afternoon hikes
- Thursday, August 21, Sheyenne River Valley Chapter - morning hike and dinner event
- Friday, August 22, Central Flyway Chapter - afternoon hike
- Saturday, August 23, Morning Hike in Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, afternoon hike and evening picnic and program

<https://northcountrytrail.org/events/ncta-082025/>

Representatives from our chapter have expressed an interest in joining in on the fun at Hike Fest in North Dakota. If you would like to be notified of local group plans, please contact events coordinator Sue Bouwense ([sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com) or 231-347-4394).

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

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

### Cheer them on! Volunteers needed – Michigan Festival of Races.

Once again, our chapter will be hosting an aid station for the TENTH ANNUAL Top of Michigan Festival of Races on SATURDAY, MAY 24. Volunteers are needed to help pass out water and encouragement to runners. We'll be at the halfway mark for the 10K race, and we'll serve the Half Marathon runners as they head out to Roaring Brook and back to the finish line at the Petoskey Waterfront.

All supplies are provided by the Trails Council, but we are there to cheer on the runners while exposing them to the reality of the North Country Trail (which serves as part of the course for the race). The aid station is located inside the Petoskey State Park near the campground office.

Volunteers are needed for two shifts: 7:45 – 8:45 and 8:45 – 10:30 am. Coffee and donuts will be available! Please email or text Sue Bouwense ([sbouwense@gmail.com](mailto:sbouwense@gmail.com) or 231-347-4394) to let her know you are able to serve!

### Annual Hike-100 Challenge

The annual “Hike 100 Challenge” could be a *real* challenge this year, since many sections of the trail in our area are closed to hikers due to ice storm damage. This information appears on the NCT website:

**Michigan, Northern Lower Peninsula:** A severe ice storm at the end of March resulted in a state of emergency which is still in effect for three counties in Michigan’s Northern Lower Peninsula (Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmet). Public lands are closed indefinitely, and the trail is likely to be dangerous and impassable in places with numerous downed and hazard trees. The NCTA and National Park Service staff are working closely with local volunteers and partners to assess the situation and long-term impacts to the trail. We will provide updates as they are available and will reach out to our community for assistance from a wider area if, when and where appropriate. **Please note the Michigan DNR has asked trail maintainers to forgo any clearing efforts on state land until further direction by them has been provided.**

Because of this state of emergency, and the fact that our trail maintainers are still not allowed to do any work on areas regulated by the DNR, many sections of our trail are not accessible. We do know that the Skyline Trail between Krause Rd. and Brubaker Rd. has been cleared, and there are sections of trail south of our Chapter to check out if you have a deep urge to get out and hike. Hopefully the trail situation will improve over the course of the spring and summer! Folks who register on the NCT website and log their 100 miles will receive a patch like this:

For more information about the Hike 100 or the “Hike the Chapter” challenge, please call or text Sue Bouwense at (231) 347-4394.





**JV45 Leadership Meeting April 24th, 2025**  
**Foundry Grill – East Jordan**

Call to Order (at 5:23pm. Members present: Kevin Whitley, Annie Matz, Sue Bouwense, Bob Courtois, Bill Courtois, Duane Lawton, Dan Dueweke. Approve minutes of February 2025 meeting approved.

News from NCTA - Chainsaw training (Whitley) The NCTA is planning to schedule a Chainsaw certification class due to the increased need in our area. Please let Dan know if anyone is interested.

JV45 financial reports/budget: (Whitley) Approx \$8000 in our account.  
Expected revenue and expenditures: nothing immediate.

2025 work projects status (Duane)

Reroutes (pending permissions and permit)

**Move off Dobleski:** Still working on way to contact Joe Taylor.

**CampTen Rd:** Duane has been working with Paul Gagnon to find a feasible route. Paul did not think Reith Riley would give a permanent easement.

**US 131 and Giem Rd:** A work-bee is planned to fix and reroute the trail west of 131 which was destroyed by logging. This is planned 6/6-6/8. Volunteers are welcome to camp from Friday to Sunday and meals will be provided by JV45. If you can help with meals prep, please contact Sue Bouwense.

**Cedar Valley:** nothing new.

**Notestine property:** nothing new.

**Near Springvale Rd:** Duane and Kenny have flagged a short reroute on the ridge north of Springvale Rd due to planned logging in the area. A workday will be planned at some point.

Tool trailer/ tool box: no storm damage.

Communication and newsletters (Doug Seaney is hiking in PA and will compose the newsletter when he returns.)

Misc. administrative Items - status

Skyline shelter: Members have cleared most of the trail and plan to finish clearing next week. Nothing new about the sale of the property.

ATV use in Valley: nothing new

Trail Adopter's Coordinator report (Dan Dueweke) The DNR have closed all trails on state land until they assessed the damage and dangers from the recent ice storm. They have asked all volunteers to stay off these trails until further notice. Dan would like to get a list of any trails that are not on state land so we can start clearing those.

Trail conditions: unknown

Group Hikes (Bob Courtois) Bob is looking for a hike location for May. Considering the Grand Traverse area near Kalkaska.

## 2025 events (Sue)

Quiet adventures: Kevin and Duane attended

Petoskey Race May 24 Need volunteers to work the race from 7:30-10:30 please contact Sue if you can help.

Trail Day: 6/7-6/8 US131 work-bee

Trail adopters lunch October 18 at Chandler Twp Hall

Annual meeting January 3, 2026 Location TBD

Hike Fest in North Dakota. August 20-22. Stay tuned.

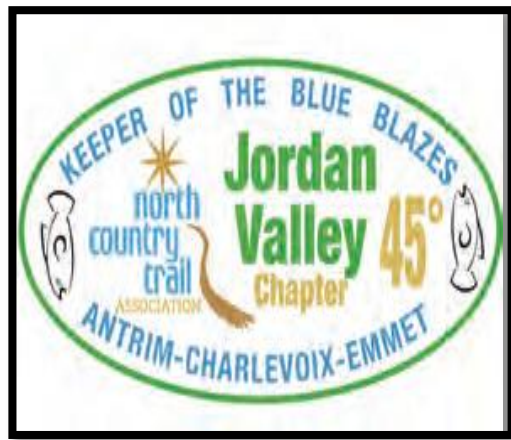
New business: Kevin has heard that Jerry Allen has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Please keep Jerry and Connie in your thoughts.

Nominations for NCTA awards are closed.

Next Chapter meeting June 26 at the Landing restaurant in Ironton at 5:15.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25pm

Minutes typed by Annie Matz JV45



Patch for hiking entire JV45° Chapter

## CURRENT JV45° GOVERNING BOARD

**Kevin Whitley – President**

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

**James Howell - Vice President**

[pattenlake2620@gmail.com](mailto:pattenlake2620@gmail.com)

**Annie Matz - Secretary-Treasurer**

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

**Duane Lawton - Project Coordinator**

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

**Sue Bouwense - Events Coordinator**

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

**Dan Dueweke - Trail Coordinator**

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

**Bob Courtois - Hike Coordinator**

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

**Doug Seaney - Communication Coordinator**

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