



Ice Age TRAIL TALES

May 2009

Thrice-annual newsletter of the Walworth/Jefferson Chapter
Ice Age Trail Alliance (formerly Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation)

UW-Whitewater students help us publicize our Trail

*"If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed.
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.
If you are thinking one hundred years ahead,
educate the people." -Chinese proverb*

Seven UW-Whitewater students taking an Advanced Persuasion class have taken us on as a client to get real life practice at their craft. While getting an education themselves, they are helping us get the story of the Ice Age Trail out to the people.

Each of the two groups has planned and carried out a special event. The first group participated in Whitewater's Freeze Fest. They had a booth with our handouts and some new ones they produced. They had Monty the woolly mammoth (kids loved to have their picture taken with Monty), and two of them even did the Polar Plunge, jumping into the water on this below freezing February day.

The second group aimed their presentation at the Whitewater Seniors. They had a booth and gave a talk at a Seniors' sponsored hiking workshop, and arranged a special program for before Russ's Tuesday afternoon weekly hike. Besides the geologist's talk pictured, they had the inducements of door prizes, trail mix and water for everyone, and lots of publicity. Despite the weather not cooperating, attendance was good.

Both groups will be giving talks to a variety of audiences, will be producing a "hero piece" for us to use in the future, and will leave us with a thorough critique of our present methods of telling our story, and ideas for improvement. It has been a joy for us to see the enthusiasm and new ideas from these energetic young students.



Steve Ballou, Beloit College Geology Professor, giving an ice age features talk before Russ's Tuesday hike.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

HIKE THE BURLINGTON SCHOOL FOREST

On Saturday, May 30, we will gather for a hike in the Burlington School Forest. Located near the Bong State Rec Area, this splendid example of a school forest has long been a passion for volunteer Wayne Jenson who will lead us on the hike. Parking is limited so meet at Peter Packer's house, 408 N Broad St in Elkhorn at 10:30 to carpool. Call Peter for more information, 262-723-6380. Their website is forestry.basd.k12.wi.us if you are curious.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY HIKE UP TO 20 MILES

It has become a tradition for Russ and his hardy weekly hikers to lead a National Trails Day hike of the 20 miles of Ice Age Trail we maintain in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. Meet at the Rice Lake shelter parking lot at 8:00 am on Saturday, June 6 for a good early start. Cars will be available at roughly five mile intervals to shuttle you back to your car if time or energy constraints require you to exit early. Call Russ, 262-473-2187, if you need more details.

PADDLE THE BARK RIVER IN JUNE

We had this outing on the schedule last year, but high water levels made us cancel. We hope the June 20 date will be more propitious. Meet at 9:00 am where the Bark River crosses Hwy N about 5 miles north of Whitewater. That's Rock County's Hwy N, and the put in is called Burnt Village Co. Park. This will be a leisurely paddle on a gentle, slow flowing, and friendly stream. After maybe three miles the Bark enters the Rock River, and we'll finish in downtown Fort Atkinson. There is a good chance we'll find a place to eat lunch there. Contact me with questions: Gary Klatt, 262-473-4973.

ON THE 4TH OF JULY WE'RE MARCHING

We have marched in Whitewater's July Fourth parade for several years now, and it is a blast. We dress up as hikers, carry our banner, recruit someone to be Monty, and enjoy the accolades of thousands as we troop past. Join us if you can, as it is really fun to march, and we can enjoy the food vendors and picnickers crowding Cravath Lake afterwards. Barb Converse, 262-473-7304, can give more info.

HIKE, BIKE, & PADDLE TO BEGIN AUGUST

Saturday, August 1, at 8:30 am we plan to meet for this noncompetitive trio of activities. We hike about 4 miles, bike about 7, and paddle a mile or two. We hope to vary our usual Whitewater Lake venue – Manitowoc and Baraboo are possibilities. Contact Ron Nacker, Nacker@centurytel.net or 262-642-4372, as the date gets closer for the final destination and meeting place.

RIVER EDGE NATURE CENTER TOUR AND HIKE

Last year we visited the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center on Lake Michigan and we really enjoyed hiking their trails and touring the visitors center. Hoping to repeat, we have scheduled this visit for Saturday, Aug. 22, at River Edge. Meet at 9:00 am to carpool at the East Troy Park and Ride, or at the Nature Center at 10:00. They are in Newburg, which is on Hwy 33 east of West Bend. See their website, <http://riveredgenaturecenter.org> for details, or contact me, Gary Klatt, 262-473-4973.

Did you know you can rearrange* the letters of **VOLUNTEER** to get **RETURN LOVE**?

*Not quite – can you spot the discrepancy?



"Hero" piece by Pam's group of UWW students Photo by Russ Helwig

STATEWIDE IAT HIGHLIGHTS

NAME CHANGE APPROVED

You may have noticed the new name and logo on the first page. Members approved the name change to "Alliance" at the Annual Meeting in April. It will take some time to get all our literature revised and our minds comfortable with the change. We'll do the best we can.



AN AMBITIOUS MSC PROGRAM FOR THIS SUMMER

The "normal" MSC calendar of one project a month from May to October is being expanded by 50% for 2009. See www.iceagetrail.org/msccalendar.htm for the detailed description of each of the nine activities. The first is May 14 to 17 in the Polk Kames area of Washington Co. When we were there three years ago we were well hosted by the local chapter and the landowner who let us camp. As always, you can expect free camping, meals, a safe and instructive environment, great camaraderie, and satisfaction in the work, be it support or trail building. Come for one or all four days. Sign up at iceagetrail.org.

ANNUAL MEETING IN MERRILL IN APRIL

Six of us enjoyed taking part in the hikes, talks, decision making, sociability, and overall fun of being with our statewide comrades at the annual

meeting. The National Park Service in the person of Tom Gilbert, Supt. of the IAT and the North Country Trail, gave very nice awards for hours of VIP service (VIP = volunteers in parks). It remains very important to record and report our hours as funding is often influenced by these numbers.

Contact our new “money lady”, Rebecca Hildebrand, if you know of any businesses in your area who might be interested in making a gift to our IATA. Call the Alliance office, 608-798-4453 or email her at Rebecca@iceagetrail.org.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

NEW YEARS DAY HIKE/SNOWSHOE

We had an enthusiastic and sizable group for this hike at the Nordic bike trails on Hwy H north of Lagrange on Jan 1. Half the group used snowshoes, but the rest had no real trouble on the well packed snow. We owe a big thanks to Eileen for hosting the potluck get together at her house in Elkhorn after the hike. We were warmed by the good food and even more so by the good company.

MOONLIGHT HIKE JAN. 10

Despite a cold night and competition from a similar event in Williams Bay, a dedicated few of us met at the Emma Carlin parking lot for a hike under the almost full moon. When we had hiked halfway around the outside loop the moon broke through the overcast and added its magic to the quiet beauty of hiking at night in the forest.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS MEETING

At our January meeting we voted to elect the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee to serve for 2009.

Coordinator	Russ Helwig
Co Coordinator	Gary Klatt
Secretary	Carol Prchal
Treasurer	Judy Wildermuth
Publicity Director	Eileen Harris

Please note that our bylaws limit officers to a four year term. We are eager to see some new faces as officers next year. Please consider getting involved this way.

PAUL SANDGREN A SPEAKER IN FEB.

At our February 17 meeting we were delighted to have Paul Sandgren, the Superintendent of the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit, speak to us. We are very fortunate to have a great working relationship with Paul, and with Don Dane, the DNR Trails Guy. Both are totally ready to help with whatever we need to keep up our trails.

WEHR NATURE CENTER TOUR AND HIKE

Eight of us met on March 14 at Whitnall Park in Milwaukee to tour the nature center and hike the park trails. We were too early to see many wild flowers, but the hike around their lake was still spectacular. We saw sap being collected for maple syrup, a pretty falls by the outlet stream, and a majestic oak tree that was almost three people-with-their-arms-extended in circumference.

TRAIL ADOPTERS MEETING IN APRIL

The wonderful trail adopters met for a noon potluck and spring organizational get together on April 11. We have picked up some new adopters so no one has too burdensome a section of trail to monitor. We owe a big THANK YOU to Gary Patzke for creating and managing this fine program, and of course the same to all the adopters. Also thanks to Jerome Converse for building a trailer hitch mounted carrier for our string trimmer/mower.

PORTRAIT OF A WORKDAY

We usually have one or two workdays on the weekend following our meeting, and they often involve clearing encroaching bushes – necessary work, but not very glamorous. The work on April 18 was a pleasing exception.

Every spring there is a 50 mile and later a 100 mile run on our Trail. These (crazy) ultra marathoners are big trail users as they get in their miles of practice. They reported some sections where the newly raised water table left a muddy and almost impassible trail.

The six of us showing up Saturday morning trooped with our loppers, pick mattocks, and saws to the area in question, and it was a mess. By the end of the morning we had cleared a short reroute on higher ground, and made a lot of runners happy. It was most satisfying to see our progress, and to get a “thanks”, and “way to go” from passing runners.



Walworth/Jefferson Co. Chapter

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(formerly Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation)

May 2009

TRAIL TALES is distributed three times a year to members and friends of the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. Contact Gary Klatt (klattg@uww.edu) with comments.

Hiking with Russ by Ann Day

Over the last few years I have gone hiking with Russ, his friends, newcomers and sometimes dogs on the Ice Age Trail. People of all different ages have shown up on the different hikes I have been on. When I show up Russ always asks me "Do you think you can go five miles today?" I look at him puzzled and say "Sure, no problem Russ". Russ always says "ok" and goes and gets me walking poles.

We start off on the hike and soon I realize that I can't keep up with many of the grey haired companions I am hiking with. So Russ or a companion ends up walking with me. Russ is pretty tolerant and easy going about it. People on a hike get to know each other. Russ has taken vacations with some of his fellow hikers. One time we were hiking with people who owned the bed and breakfast nearby. They invited everyone to their place for lunch free of charge. It was very nice.

The last time I went hiking with the group it inspired me to write about Russ. He bought extra gear in case someone like me showed up. The paths were very icy and I was slipping a lot. He happened to have the straps with springs for the bottom of the boots to add traction in his handy dandy back pack. He loaned me a pair. I didn't slip after that. He also gave me a copy of Mammoth Tales. When I read it I thought about writing a story about Russ and the hiking group so more people will show up and benefit from the beauty of the Kettle Moraine area and the companionship hiking with others provides.

Join Russ and the gang. Maybe I will see you there sometime.