



# The Langlade Erratic

A Newsletter On  
The Ice Age National Scenic Trail  
In Langlade County, Wisconsin  
September, 2009



**HI,**

**COME JOIN ME AND MY TRAIL BUDDIES  
AT THE MEETING OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY  
ICE AGE TRAIL CHAPTER.  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 7 PM  
LANGLADE ROOM  
LANGLADE COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER.  
SEE YOU THERE AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO OR . . . !**

## Future Steps

A leaf here and a leaf there. People who have spotted the fallen leaves offer it as a sign of the approaching autumn. Signs of the approaching season are evident even without the isolated leaf scattered here or there. One constant sign is the lurking ground fog each evening or the underside of leaves on roadside brush appearing silvery in the headlights of the car. Whatever your signs of fall, enjoy it. It is a great season to enjoy the outdoors in northern Wisconsin. The following events, including the special one above from our friendly woolly critter, are offered for your future consideration. Promote the events and hope to see you about.

**Wednesday, September 23, 1:30 pm, Langlade County Corridor Planning Committee Meeting, DNR Service Center, Antigo.**

**Saturday, October 3, 9 am, Langlade County Chapter's National Trails Day Hike honoring the anniversary of the federal act creating the National Trails System. Meet in front of Forestry Office, Langlade County Fairgrounds, Antigo.**



## Summer Steps

Action taken at the spring chapter meeting was responsible for two exemplary efforts by chapter volunteers this summer. Members at the meeting voted to re-locate a portion of the Kettlebowl segment just south of the Kettlebowl Ski Area. Lee Auner marked the new portion and removed markings from the former section as well as brushing the stretch from Sherry Road to the railroad grade.

Lee also commented favorably on the re-located trail head signs completed in June by Bob Brehm. Bob single-handedly took on the sign re-location project along Kent Fire Tower Road on one of those torrid days of June. Moving the signs did not deter him but then he encountered the nemesis of post hole diggers, ROCKS. But he persisted and after a few hours of hard labor and several bottles of water the signs were handily in place. Many thanks to Bob and Lee for their exemplary efforts.

Lee was also busy checking his adopted stretch of the Parrish Hills segment. He discovered that the foot bridge across the stream crossing north of Town Line Lake has floated downstream a short distance. Plans to carry the bridge to its former upstream location and stabilize it are being organized at this time. Any volunteers?



## Rock Steps

Another decision made by chapter members at the spring meeting was to furnish an engraved boulder for landscaping at the new headquarters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance in Cross Plains. The building was completed in February and was in need of some unique landscaping thus emerged the idea of a rock garden with a statewide trail perspective.

In April, Lee Auner, Brian Jopek, Stanley and Steve Koss with the cooperation of Tom Lazars located and retrieved the boulder from along the Old Railroad segment. The county's boulder was then hauled after the organization's annual meeting at Merrill to Cross Plains. All boulders from throughout the state were then cleaned and engraved before the July 18th dedication ceremony of the new office. A neat and crisp looking landscape provided by a neat volunteer effort. Thanks to all who contributed to the project.

## **Busy Steps**

*Little grass grows under Rita Fox's feet. If you know Rita's schedule, one wonders how she is able to accomplish what she does in a year. She maintains a home and family responsibilities, tends a productive garden, host exchange students, transport neighbors in need and helps with church events. She has raised money for the trail and other charitable causes through pledge supporters of her statewide bicycle treks. She willingly provided the following before heading to Alaska.*

"I have had the pleasure of working three IAT events so far in 2009; just pack your tent and your backpack to carry water bottles, etc.; show up and they feed you and have a nice campfire at night, and all you have to do is work (at your own ability level) in return! I worked May 14-17 on the Cedar Lakes Segment, Washington Country, near Slinger. It was unusual to have the background noise be the traffic from Hwy 41, but the new section of IAT was a nice get-away site and we made trail (one group added some puncheon) and cleared lots of invasives like buckthorn. On June 11-14 our work at Skunk/Foster in Waupaca County again involved trail building work, a bridge project and putting up signage and removal of many invasives. On both these projects for half a day I got to paint the blazes on trees (a job I really enjoy). I missed the Mid-July Cross Plains, Dane Country project which included the grand-opening of the new facility, but visited there last Monday and got to see our Langlade Chapter rock along with all the others in their beautifully landscaped facility. I also walked the new trail they created. The latest project was the return to LaBudde Creek in Sheboygan County on Aug. 13-16 and there I worked on 3 sections of trail on Thursday and 1 on Friday a.m. What a beautiful area to drive, bike or hike (in the Kettle Moraine). Finally, on the last weekend in July I was able to attend the first Chillin' on the Trail weekend...this event was set up to just ENJOY the IAT and invite someone to join you. I was able to take along the newest exchange student from S. Africa, my granddaughter who will soon be 6 and her auntie that is 9. They had lots of trail walks for the diverse group of people; we went on a "how to protect the forest" walk and a childrens' walk and then we split up so I could check out the Cold Caching and they did a photography walk (that was shorter). Good food and well planned activities, including a folksy music band for entertainment that afternoon and evening at the Mondeaux Flowage near Rib Lake; a nice place to camp and enjoy the IAT. It is my wish that more of you can join me for future "Fun" events like this one or the final projects this season: Sept. 24-27 Dane Country near Belleville, October 8-11 at Wood Lake, Taylor County, (that one's close) and a final "Wild Card" one TBA that will meet on Oct 29-Nov. 1. Just ask me for more info at rjantigo@yahoo.com or check out the IAT Alliance website at [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org)."



## **Adopt Steps**

Lon Malzahn of Aniwa and Bill Roff of Pelican Lake recently joined the chapter to help maintain the trail. They have adopted the Kettlebowl segment from the ski hill to Sherry Road as the focus of their initial trail venture. Lon has been at the corridor planning open houses in 2006 and 2009 while Bill is a hiker and was at the Town of Rolling open house this year. The chapter welcomes Lon and Bill with open arms. There are still "orphan" trail stretches available for those willing to adopt them and provide "tender loving care".



## **Wet Steps**

Another special effort by chapter members was the completion of the structured and non-structured water crossing survey in May. Tiffany Stram ,alliance staff member, requested each chapter to furnish an inventory of "wet trail crossings" for project planning. Fortunately the Parrish Hills segment was the only trail segment in the county where the information was not readily available. Lee Auner and Kurt Nierode stepped forward to do the field work and inventoried the water crossings complete with pictures and coordinates. Kudos to Kurt and Lee for being there.



## **Web Steps**

A good source of information on the Ice Age Trail is the official website ([www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org)) maintained by the Ice Age Trail Alliance (formerly the foundation). The web site includes a wide variety of trail information, plus providing all chapters a chance to tell their story. Besides adding local events to the statewide calendar, chapters can add pictures or stories to peak someone's trail interests. Currently the chapter's newsletter, trail conditions information and a brief history of the local group are posted on the web site. Each chapter has the capability and invitation to add more. Check it out. It is an easy way to explore the Ice Age Trail.



## **CorridorSteps**

The two open houses in June went off without a hitch. Polly Blazek, De De Cromer, Rita Fox, Peg Jopek, Betty Koss, Betty Mollett and Renate Bromberg furnished magnificent baked treats to carry the day along with the generous hospitality of the hosting towns of Polar and Rolling. Baker Branson, Carol Gottard, Peg Jopek, corridor planning committee members Lloyd Godell, Steve Koss and Tim Rusch provided a helping hand to make the two events run smoothly. At the September 23 corridor planning meeting, comments made at the open houses and those received by the National Park Service office in Madison will be discussed and the corridor refined. An invitation is extended to all interested in the planning effort and words of praise for the tried and true who helped with the open houses.



## **April Steps**

Speaking of tried and true, how about the brave hikers going for it in the midst of a rainstorm at the start of the April 25 chapter outing? Joe Hermolin took a vote and all agreed to hike despite the falling rain. They were amply rewarded by viewing a coyote stalking several sandhill cranes in the Peters Marsh area. The soaked hikers watched the coyote's unsuccessful efforts for quite awhile before heading home to dry clothes and other comforts.