

Glacial Drift

September 2009

Newsletter of the Washington/Ozaukee Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.

Fall's the time for great hiking

The leaves are starting to change color and the days will soon be cooler. Fall is a great time to get out on the Ice Age Trail. Here are events the Washington/Ozaukee Chapter has planned for fall.

Otten Preserve Open House

The Chapter will host a fall Open House on the Otten Preserve in Kewaskum. The date is Saturday, October 17 at 9 am. We want to welcome neighbors, friends and others interested in the Ice Age Trail.

Come visit this unique Ice Age Trail Alliance property and learn about the ecologic, geologic and cultural history of the area. Several guided hikes will take place throughout the morning and will be followed by a grill-out at noon.

Parking will be at the Ridge Road parking lot. From Highway 45, take Badger Road west to Pros-

pect Drive, then south to Ridge Road, then follow Ridge Road west ½ mile to parking area. Watch for yellow Ice Age Trail Event signs.

West Bend South Segment Hike

Sunday, October 11 at 9:00 am.

Meet at the parking area behind Culver's on Highway 33 in West Bend. We will shuttle to Paradise Drive then hike back through Camp Silverbrook and Ridge Run Park to Culver's for a distance of 3.5 miles. Hikers can continue north on the IAT to add more miles if they wish. The hike is rated moderate due to several hills. Bring water, hiking boots, and money for frozen custard at Culver's after the hike.

Polk Kames to Pike Lake

Saturday, October 24 at 9:00 am.

Hike 5.6 miles one way or combine it with other loop trails to make it a longer hike. Meet at the beach parking lot in the Pike Lake Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest on Kettle Moraine Road. We will shuttle to the DNR lot on Hwy NN in the Polk Kames. Hike back through our newly constructed trail at the Polk Kames, Slinger and on to Pike Lake. Hike is rated moderate due to several hills and distance. The hike includes a short road walk and some sidewalk hiking. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and hiking boots. We will be joined by the Great Waters Group of the Sierra Club for this walk. A state park sticker is required.

The mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is to create, support and protect a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

Pike Lake Segment.

Sunday, November 22 at 9:00 am.

Yes, it's hunting season but not within the friendly confines of the Pike Lake Unit. Join us for a late fall hike. Meet at the DNR parking lot on Powder Hill Road in the Pike Lake Unit. We'll shuttle to Glassgo Road then hike back 3.5 miles with a side trip to the lookout tower on top of Powder Hill for some awesome views. Hike is rated moderate due to hills and distance. A state park sticker is required.

Polk Kames project a big success

As the Mobile Skills Crew season opener approached, we had high expectations for the project at the Polk Kames and no one disappointed. All said we had 361 participants over the four day event, including 140 students/teachers from: West Bend High School S.E.E.D. Environmental Club (Saving the Earth Every Day), Erin Elementary Cub Scout Pack 101, Slinger Middle School National Honor Society, Slinger High School FFA, Slinger High School Floriculture and Landscaping class, and Goodrich Elementary School in Milwaukee.

What we accomplished was truly a team effort. Notably, a mile and a half of new off road trail is open and signed to national standards between Cedar Creek Road and County Highway NN, new urban signage brackets were installed through the Village of Slinger for greater visibility, four separate sections of puncheon/boardwalk were installed to improve user experience and protect fragile soils, and we had a great time doing it

Thank you to the National Park Service for your financial support of this project. Thank you to the Department of Natural Resources and specifically, Terry Jensen and crew from the Pike Lake Unit for your unwavering support. Thank you to our gracious neighbor Neil Ostberg for allowing us access to water, electricity, and more. Thank you to the Village of Slinger for providing the wonderful shower facilities at Fireman's Park. Thank you REI of Brookfield, Jim's Pizza, The Mine-shaft, Village Beverage and Seven Up of West Bend. Thank you to all the project support folks who chipped in to prepare and serve over 800 meals, providing energy for 3,255 volunteer hours during the project.

In June, chapter members Steve Armann, Craig Sanford, and Rich Propp followed up by completing MSC-U. This brings the total to nine MSC trained members. The others are Luke Bares, Rod Bartlow, Leah Bradley, Bob Broman, Lisa DeLaney, and Dan Rambo.

New chapter bylaws

With the organization's name change to the Ice Age Trail Alliance, we took a look at our Chapter's bylaws and found them very much out of date. They even mentioned the Foundation headquarters on Buffalo Street in Milwaukee which was about three locations ago.

Rather than trying to rewrite the outdated parts, we copied the content and format of bylaws from the Lakeshore Chapter, the most recent approved by the Alliance Board. We feel these are a big improvement.

Instead of mailing out copies for review, we have posted them on the Alliance website at www.iceagetrail.org/washingtonozaukee/index.htm. We'll be glad to mail a copy to any Chapter member who requests one. Please contact Craig Sanford at 262-446-8751 to request a copy or share comments, concerns, or suggestions.

We will discuss these items, consider amendments, and vote on the proposed bylaws at our Annual Meeting on January 16th at 1 pm at Camp Silverbrook in West Bend.

Monthly meetings

West Bend Public Library

October 6 and November 3 at 7:00 pm.

We will return to the West Bend Public Library in the Community Room for October and Tower Room for November. Come out and help plan our hikes and workdays. We will also plan our annual meeting in January including nominating a slate of officers for 2010. The library is at 630 Poplar Street.

Upgrades on the Holy Hill Segment

We devoted time this summer to refurbishing the Holy Hill Segment. On Saturday, July 11, volunteers rehabbed the trail east of Carmel Road. They also reset a post at the kame view spur trail, refreshed blazes, and opened up some of the view at the top of the kame. Still can't see Holy Hill in summer but the view is much improved.

Bob Broman led a workday on August 8 to build a spur trail from the DNR's new parking lot on Shannon Road to the IAT. In spite of high temps and humidity twelve hearty folks completed this 750 foot connection. It runs through the old McCann homestead that was recently demolished.

Trail building opportunities

The remaining work is to re-build two short sections of trail where the existing route climbs a steep hill with the assistance of wooden steps placed on the hillside. The re-routed areas have severe erosion issues, are not barrier free and have been criss-crossed with several social trails. The new trail will be build to current Ice Age Trail standards and feature longer but less steep climbing turns. We'll work on these re-routes in September and November.

Join us Sunday, September 27 at 9 am for a morning of work. We will rehab about 100 feet of trail using four step technique. We will also be clearing some vegetation blocking a great view and working on a short trail re-route.

Work will continue on Saturday, November 14 at 9 am. Each of these dates will include heavy four step tread construction.

There is plenty of work for people of all abilities. Bring water, work boots and gloves. Meet at the Station Way picnic area trailhead. Take Holy Hill Road (Highway 167) to the Holy Hill area. Turn south on Station Way Road which is ¼ mile east of the main Holy Hill entrance. Follow Station Way Road to the picnic area.

Linking up the segment

In late August our triad partner, the Wisconsin DNR purchased the second of two small parcels of land in the Town of Erin. These parcels located directly north of the McCann property will provide approximately ½ mile of new IAT to be built in 2010. This will eliminate a road walk of almost 2 miles, keeping hikers from walking along heavily used Highway K.

We will scout this trail during the next several months with construction expected in late spring of 2010. It will be exciting to link the north and south legs of the Holy Hill Segment back together for the first time since the mid 90's.

Thanks to volunteers for summer help

It takes lots of effort to keep our trail in tip top shape especially over the summer months when growing vegetation tries to overwhelm the trail. Fortunately, due to our



Bob Stodola and Paula Klima brief Latter Day Saints youth before work on the Kewaskum Segment.

tireless Segment Leaders and some special assistance from a Cedarburg Boy Scout Troop and the Church of Latter Day Saints

Calendar

- September 24-27, MSC at Belleville, Dane County.
- September 27, 9 am. Work Day at Holy Hill. Meet at Station Way Road.
- October 6, 7 pm. Monthly meeting, West Bend Library
- October 11, 9 am. Hike at West Bend. Meet at Culvers.
- October 8-11, MSC at Wood Lake, Taylor County
- October 17, 9 am. Open House at Otten Preserve.
- October 24, 9 am. Hike. At Pike Lake. Meet at beach parking lot.
- Oct 29-Nov 1. MSC location TBA
- November 3, 7 pm. Monthly meeting, West Bend Library.
- November 14, 9 am. Work Day at Holy Hill.
- November 15, 10am. Regional meeting in Whitewater.
- November 22, 9 am. Hike at Pike Lake. Meet at Powder Hill Road lot.

youth volunteer group, our trail is in great shape.

Youth from the Church of Latter Day Saints held a regional Community Volunteer event June 26 and 27. More than one hundred youth offered their service to non-profit organizations in the West Bend area.

About a dozen youth and chaperones worked each day on the Ice Age Trail in Washington County. On Friday, under the leadership of Paula Klima, one group worked trimming brush off the trail in the Kewaskum area south of Sunburst Ski Hill. On Saturday, under Sue Munger's direction, another group worked in the area south of Waterford Road. We attacked the hedge rows with loppers and saws to keep brush and trees from covering the trail.

On August 28, eighteen people including seven scouts and leaders from Cedarburg turned out on a weekday morning to spruce up the Kewaskum Segment. They installed a new segment sign at Friendly Drive, upgraded signage on both ends, and brushed back the entire distance of trail including the canary grass around the bridge. They rooted out a number of small stumps and relocated a short section of trail where it enters the woods. The biggest challenge was digging out a large number of rocks and creating tread across a very rocky section just east of the bridge.

Email alert

If you would like an email notice of upcoming hikes or work days, contact Bob Stodola at bobstodola@charter.net. If you want future editions of this newsletter by email, contact Rod Bartlow at bartlowr@gmail.com.

The tread work not only allows a hiker to walk the section much easier, but will allow the segment leaders to maintain the entire section without having to drag a mower over the rocks. A big thanks to everyone who participated, especially our new friends from Cedarburg.

Thanks again to our Segment Leaders, Rich Propp, Lisa Delaney, Paula Klima, Bob Stodola, Dan Rambo, Rod Bartlow, Sue Munger and Bernie and Bess Alberg. In 2010, we will need to add one or two Segment Leaders to our group. Please consider volunteering for this assignment. We could sure use you.

New Mower – We Need your MONEY!

Our Chapter has decided to purchase a new mower to replace the old Bachtold mower. Our Bachtold has lived a long and useful life but it broke down twice this past summer. There are no spare parts available for it, it burns a lot of oil and its safety is questionable. It will function for the rest of 2009 but probably not much longer.

A replacement mower will not be cheap. To purchase a new one with the features we need will cost us somewhere around \$3,000. We are starting our fund raising efforts by asking our members to dig down and contribute to the cost. We hope to raise about two thirds of the cost this way and seek out corporate donors for the rest. Please consider giving to this worthy cause. Contact our treasurer, Bob Stodola for details.