



## Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter

**Coordinator** Russ Helwig - 262-473-2187 - helwigr@cni-usa.com

**Co-Coordinator** Gary Klatt - klattg@uww.edu

**Secretary** Carol Prchal - muttlover@centurytel.net

**Treasurer** Judy Wildermuth - jwildermuth25@yahoo.com

**Publicity** Eileen Harris - eharris@elknet.net

**Monthly Chapter Meeting** Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at US Bank, Elkhorn

### October 2009 Newsletter

#### Minutes for the September 15, 2009 Chapter Meeting:

**Members and Guests in Attendance:** Barb Converse, Jerome Converse, Eileen Harris, Russ Helwig, Dale Jefchak, Gary Klatt, Bill Knickrehm, Vince Lazzaroni, Meg McCormick, Ron Nacker, Carol Prchal, Roxy Radmer, Paul Thuma, June Wheeler, Judy Wildermuth

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Russ at 7:10 pm. The September 2009 Newsletter was accepted as minutes of the August 18, 2009 chapter meeting. Russ mentioned that he is now posting the monthly newsletter on our chapter website. The triannual newsletter is also posted there.

**Treasurer's Report:** Judy presented the treasurer's report for the past month. Income was \$0.16 from interest, expenses were \$0, and total funds are at \$16,581.08

**Announcements:** VIP hours for July, August, and September are due to Ron Nacker. Give your Sentry receipts to Gary K. and old cell phones to Barb C. for fundraising. Highway 12 is again open to through traffic from Whitewater to LaGrange and the weekly walkers are meeting at the Highway 12 kiosk again. The parking lot there was graded by the road construction crew. A trail runner sent a compliment on our section of the trail to Eric Sherman, who forwarded it to Russ. Japanese hedge parsley, a relatively new invasive species in our area, is becoming a problem along the trail. On August 30, Russ, Dave and Mariette Nowak, and Carol set out to remove the plant from along the trail near the Oleson Cabin. Eight 30 gallon garbage bags were filled, and we only got from the Cabin to about halfway to Bluff Road. The SoKMSF staff is also working to rid the plant from the forest, and has pulled it in some areas. In the future, perhaps we can flag large areas of the plant and the DNR will treat it with a herbicide. If we are diligent, we have a chance of eradicating it before it becomes too pervasive. As of now, it appears to be just along the trail. This plant seeds later than garlic mustard, and Russ believes the seeds are not as viable, but they stick to clothing, shoelaces, and wildlife, and are spread that way. Our chapter will host the next regional meeting of the IATA on November 15, 2009. Gary K. reserved the Lakefront Pavilion on Cravath Lake in Whitewater for the event. New IATA brochures are now available; Russ and Gary K. will pick some up when they visit the Belleville bridge site. The Rock Trail Coalition is sponsoring a show by Walkin' Jim Stoltz on September 26 in Janesville. A flyer on this event was passed around. Our chapter website, [www.iceagetrail.org/WalworthJefferson](http://www.iceagetrail.org/WalworthJefferson), now has a map of our chapter's trail, along with the Rock County portion of the trail. A 2009 Thousand-Miler Tribute document is now available on the IATA website. Russ brought several items that he passed around, including an invitation from Marquette County Chapter to help at a regional work day, a newsletter from the Lakeshore Chapter, and an article about the American Hiking Society and this year's record turn-out for National Trails Day. Judy mentioned that she had spoken to Kim Monk, a teacher who raved about what Russ had done for her class. She had given some money to Russ, and he in turn, donated it to the chapter. Ron mentioned that he will be participating in the Susan G. Komen walk for breast cancer and was happy to accept donations. Meg told us that she had recently taken a trip to the Sylvania Wilderness Area in Ottawa National Forest in the Michigan U.P. and ran into Eric Sherman there.

**Hospitality:** Thanks to Meg and Eileen for the apple-themed snack assortment of muffins, cake, bagels, cheese, crackers, cider and milk.

**Old Business:** Eileen is corresponding with SoKMSF Headquarters about replacing the outdated map in the kiosk at the Emma Carlin trails. She also dropped off IATA brochures at the Walworth County Tourism booth at the county fair. Russ will be picking up new brochures and getting some to Eileen and some to Bonnie for the traveling display. Gary P. was not present to give an update on the trail adopter program. Russ commented on the abundance of poison ivy this year and suggested that we work with the DNR to see about having it sprayed next year. Discussion of our new hiking award program brought out a lot of enthusiasm from those present. Lots of possible names for the program were suggested, including Kettle Trekkers, Kick the Kettles, Morainathoners, The Moraine Corps, The Kettle Corps, and Kettle Hikers. It was decided choose one of these names at the next meeting. Voting will be done at the meeting, or by mail, e-mail, or telephone to the secretary prior to the meeting. Several people brought design ideas for

the patch. These are in addition to the designs already presented by Vince. We decided to wait to plan a patch design until we have a name for the program. Gary K. spoke to Tim Malzhan about mile markers and learned that the NoKMSF has them every mile, but they are not present elsewhere on the IAT. Paul Sandgren prefers that if mile markers are installed, that they are done so through the entire SoKMSF. He would also like to see GPS coordinates on them. The Waukesha County chapter is receptive to the idea of mile markers but is concerned about the cost. By having them over a longer length of trail, we might need to update them more frequently as the trail changes, but they don't have to be real accurate. The visit to the Riveredge Nature Center on August 22 was enjoyed by six people. Jerome, Barb C., Gary K., and Kangaroo whacked weeds and replaced some warped and rotted boards at the Clover Valley bridge on the August 23 work day. Nobody present at this meeting attended the MSC project at Straight Lake September 8-13.

**New Business:** Elections for new officers are coming up soon. Russ will have reached his 4-consecutive-year term limit as coordinator as of the end of this year. Gary and Eileen have each held their current positions for one consecutive year, Judy has held hers for 3 consecutive years, and Carol has held hers for 2 consecutive years. Hedda has volunteered to chair the nomination committee; Vince will join her as a committee member. Kangaroo will lead the work day on Saturday 9/19. Jerome will lead the work day on Sunday 9/20 and might work on removing honeysuckle on the west side of Lake LaGrange. The next MSC project will be September 24-27 near Belleville in Dane County. A 40-foot bridge and 1½ miles of trail will be constructed. Barb C. will lead a harvest moon hike on October 2. Russ will lead a hike at the Madison Arboretum on October 10. The next monthly meeting will be on October 20. Russ wants to update the website calendar with chapter activities through January 2010, so new activities were planned at this meeting, including a trip to the Milwaukee Art Museum on December 6 (meet at the Elkhorn Park and Ride at 9:00 am or the East Troy Park and Ride at 9:30 am to carpool) and a New Year's potluck on January 1, 2010 (place and time TBD). Dale noted that she has the chapter's copy of the Wisconsin Land Legacy Report. The secretary will add this to the chapter's library list, although Dale will keep the book for now. Kangaroo announced that he gave Jerome a list of the chapter materials that he has at his house.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Tuesdays at 4:00 pm &<br>10:30 am                   | Wednesdays at | Weekly Walks: Join Russ and others for a hike on the IAT or other nearby trails. Meet at the Hwy. 12 IAT crossing and parking lot, just west of LaGrange. Contact person: Russ Helwig, 262-473-2187  |
| Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm                |               | Monthly chapter meeting at US Bank Community Room in Elkhorn. Contact person: Russ Helwig, 262-473-2187  |
| Saturday, October 24, 2009 at 9:00 am               |               | Work Day. Meet at Hwy. 12 IAT parking lot to help with trail maintenance. Contact person: Contact person: Gary Klatt, 262-473-4973   |
| Tuesday - Thursday<br>October 27 - October 29, 2009 |               | MSC days at the Devil's Staircase segment in Janesville. Participate in some exciting rock work. Free group camping and meals. Contact person: Gary Klatt, 262-473-4973  |
| Friday - Sunday<br>October 30 - November 1, 2009    |               | More MSC work, these days in the city of Lodi. Free group camping and meals. Contact person: Gary Klatt, 262-473-4973  |
| Sunday, November 8, 2009 at 11:00 am                |               | Hike, eat, and calendar planning. Meet at Judy's, enjoy a hike, then join in a potluck lunch, and follow that with planning for the chapter's 2010 calendar of events at 1:30 pm. Contact person: Judy Wildermuth, 262-473-2415  |
| Saturday, November 14, 2009 at 9:00 am              |               | Work Day. Meet at Hwy. 12 IAT parking lot to help with trail maintenance. Contact person: Contact person: Gary Klatt, 262-473-4973   |
| Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 10:00 am               |               | South Central Regional Meeting of the IATA. Learn about upcoming IATA events, chapter successes. Potluck lunch with a hike afterward. Held at the Lakefront Pavilion on Cravath Lake in Whitewater. Contact person: Brad Crary, 608-798-4453, ext 27, <a href="mailto:brad@iceagetrail.org">brad@iceagetrail.org</a> |