



# Ice Age Drift

Newsletter of the Dane County Chapter  
Ice Age Trail Alliance

Summer 2015

## Why the Donut Hole?

A quick glance at the map of the Ice Age Trail reveals an anomaly not often found on a National Scenic Trail; a choice of routes. Heading north from Dane County, the Trail splits in Sauk County near the north end of Devil's Lake into the Eastern and Western Bifurcations. The two routes join up again in SW Waushara County just past the Marquette County line to complete the "donut hole."

The original Congressional authorization for the National Scenic Trail in 1980 did not have the Western route. The specified Trail corridor was based on the route outlined by Congressman Henry Reuss in his book, *On the Trail of the Ice Age*, published in 1981. This route stayed pretty close to the terminal moraine of the latest (Wisconsin) glaciation

from the Western terminus at St. Croix Falls down to Walworth County and thence north to Door County along the moraine deposited at the intersection of the Lake Michigan and Green Bay lobes of the glacier. After the Ice Age National Scenic Trail was authorized by Congress, the early trail builders went along the route seeking agreements with land owners within the approved Trail corridor for the establishment of the Trail. In Marquette County, progress was stalled by the reluctance of multiple landowners to allow the Trail to traverse their property.

In response, the predecessor of the IATA assigned its only employee, Gary Werner, the task of scouting an alternate route to the...



*The Ice Age Trail offers a choice of routes between Devil's Lake and Coloma.*

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## 4th Annual Hike-A-Thon

The Dane County Chapter invites you to participate in one of two fun and challenging hikes to celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 6! All proceeds will benefit the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) to build, maintain, and protect the trail. There are two hike options this year:

- **Prairie-2-Prairie Hike:** Prairie Moraine County Park to Ice Age Junction (McKee Road) - 6.4 miles, check-in at 10:00 a.m.
- **The Hike-a-thon:** Brooklyn Wildlife Area to Ice Age Junction (McKee Road) - 21 miles, check-in at 8:00 a.m.

Registration for both hikes will be at Ice Age Junction on McKee Road.

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Dane County Chapter of the  
**Ice Age Trail Alliance** presents

**HIKE-A-THON**  
2015

**National Trails Day**  
**Saturday, June 6**

Join hikers, friends and family in a hike on the Ice Age Trail to explore Dane County and raise funds to build, maintain and protect the Trail.

Choose one of two hikes along the  
**Ice Age National Scenic Trail:**

A **21-mile hike** from **Brooklyn State Wildlife Area** to **Badger Prairie Park**, or

A **6.4-mile Prairie-to-Prairie Hike** from **Prairie Moraine Park** to **Badger Prairie Park**

To learn more and sign up, go to  
[iceagetrail.org/event/dane-county-chapter-hike-a-thon](http://iceagetrail.org/event/dane-county-chapter-hike-a-thon)

Sponsored by:

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Registration is \$50/person before May 31 and includes a one-year IATA membership, t-shirt (first 80 registrations), water, snacks and lunch. Limited day-of registration is will be available for \$60. Grab family, friends and co-workers and register a team. Register now by visiting [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org) and search Hike-A-Thon. Since this is a fundraiser, participants can also set up an online fundraising page once registration is complete. Cosponsor Fontana Sports is providing incentive prizes for those obtaining pledges. The top fundraiser gets to choose Teva shoes or sandals.

If you don't want to hike, volunteer! Volunteers are needed the day of the event to help register, answer questions, staff water stations, serve lunch, transport hikers if needed, and bake treats.

Contact Dave Lonsdorf to help, (608) 212-1135 or [dblonsdo@wisc.edu](mailto:dblonsdo@wisc.edu).

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west and this was done in 1983.

The Western route has the advantage of passing through vast unglaciated stretches of glacial Lake Wisconsin, providing an interesting contrast with most of the other sections of the Trail and additional interpretation opportunities. However, despite the landowner difficulties, the Eastern route had strong advocates in Henry Reuss and John Zillmer, son of Ray, the Father of the Ice Age Trail. The Eastern route links Aldo Leopold's shack and John Muir's boyhood home; the appropriately named Heritage Trail Chapter and the Marquette County Chapter oversee this portion of the Trail.

With different groups advocating on behalf of each route, it was left to the National Park Service to decide. The legislation authorizing the IAT had a provision allowing loop trails. Each group agreed that it would accept having a loop trail as long as their route was the main one and the other was the loop trail. Presented with this dilemma, the NPS had little choice but to approve both routes.

Today neither route has very much off-road Trail, though the Eastern route has more. Most hikers doing the entire Trail use the Eastern route but a handful has actually done both routes.

Last year, the Natural Heritage Land Trust purchased land at two sites along the Eastern route. First, an easement was obtained on 161 acres around the Historic Indi-an Agency House outside Portage which includes protection of a section of the IAT. Also last year, NHLT purchased 198 acres, of which 38 were part of the original Muir farm in Marquette County. The plan is to turn over 78 acres to the IATA so the Trail can be extended north from the Ennis Lake (known as Fountain Lake in Muir's day) segment.

*Written by Tom Gross*

## Officers Elected for 2015

At the chapter's annual meeting in January, Tom Gross was selected as coordinator, and Andrew Bent as the chapter's co-coordinator for 2015. Anne Helsley-Marchbanks was re-elected treasurer. Tess Mulrooney was elected to the secretary position. Multiple volunteers will also continue as trail monitors for different sections of the trail throughout Dane County. Contact information for officers and trail monitors can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. The invitation is open for members to contact the officers with questions or concerns regarding the trail.

# Dane County Chapter Contacts

## Officers and Newsletter

**Tom Gross**, Coordinator,  
608.347.5154, ta144@tds.net

**Andrew Bent**, Co-coordinator, 608.333.9896, Andrew.bent@wisc.edu

**Tess Mulrooney**, Secretary,  
608.257.5595, tmmmsn@aol.com

**Anne-Helsley-Marchbanks**, Treasurer,  
608.695.3479, ahelsley@wisc.edu

## Trail Monitors

**Greg Armstrong**, Hwy PD to Flagstone Drive, 608.234.8025, gdarmstr@wisc.edu

**Andrew Bent**, Table Bluff and University Ridge

**Tom Gross**, Cross Plains

**Anne Helsley-Marchbanks and Tess Mulrooney**, Montrose South

**Dave Lonsdorf**, Verona-S (Prairie Moraine CP to Verona Rd), 608.212.1135, dblonsdo@wisc.edu

**Ed Spoon**, Verona-N (Verona Rd to Hwy PD), 608.279.1939

**Dan Wallace**, Brooklyn SWA, 608.835.5144, danwallace@tds.net

**Tom Wise**, Valley View, 608.843.8053, wise@physics.wisc.edu

## Volunteer Recognition

For most of us who volunteer to work on the Ice Age Trail, the rewards are intangible. There is joy and pride in working to complete a Trail that will be used by future generations. There are the physical benefits of fresh air and exercise. And there are the pleasures of working in beautiful settings with friendly, like-minded folks. Things get a bit more tangible when we experience patches of wildflowers –lupine or pasque flowers or shooting stars, where there were none before our clearing and burning. Or the rare morel mushroom discovered along the way.

Last year, volunteers on the Ice Age Trail contributed over 78,000 hours; the equivalent of almost 40 full-time positions. The National Park Service and the Ice Age Trail Alliance appreciate this work and have set up rewards programs to show their appreciation. The NPS has been tracking individual hours since 2007 in a reward program that acknowledges certain milestones attained by volunteers:

HOURS	AWARD	HOURS	AWARD
100	Certificate & Pin	1000	Shirt embroidered with name
250	Water Bottle	3000	Jacket
500	Cap-NPS Volunteer	4000	Presidential Proclamation

Additionally, any volunteer who reaches a 100-hour milestone during the year receives an Interagency Pass good for admission to all National Parks for the next year. Dane County was honored with a plethora of award winners for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2014. Congratulations!

100 hours of service: Diane Balmer, Charlie Booher, Roger Diehl, Anne Koeppe, James Parry, Gary Wensing

250 hours of service: Tess Mulrooney, Yoshiro Saimi, Ardis Virnig

500 hours of service: David Earles, Reuben Glass

1000 hours of service: Robert Kaspar, Robert Virnig, Jeannine Wahlquist

4000 hours of service: David Lonsdorf

Interagency Pass: Jon Bishop, Jason Dorgan, David Earles, Reuben Glass, Tom Gross, Mark Jeffries, David Jenkins, Robert Kaspar, David Lonsdorf, Melanie Lord, Tess Mulrooney, Yoshiro Saimi, Ed Spoon, Albert Sulzer, Barbara J. Unger, Ardis Virnig, Robert Virnig, Jeannine Wahlquist, Gary Werner, Tom Wise

## Become a Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The IATA does NOT share or sell member personal information.

- I have enclosed a check payable to the Ice Age Trail Alliance.
- No payment is enclosed. Please send a sign-up form for secure automatic bank withdrawal.
- Please charge my (circle one)

VISA      Mastercard      \$Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ IATA Code \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Maintainer:  \$35     \$50     \$75

Trail Builder:  \$100     \$150     \$250

Trail Protector:  \$500     \$750

Yellow Blaze Club:  \$1,000     \$2,500     \$5,000

Glacial Leadership Circle:

\$10,000     \$25,000

Mail to :

Dane County Chapter

Ice Age Trail Alliance

2110 Main Street

Cross Plains, WI 54528

Join online! Visit us at [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org)

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## Layout Editor Wanted

Would you like to help get the Ice Age Drift and possibly other material ready for the printing and posting on the web? If so, we could use your volunteer help.

To serve our needs, you will need to know how to produce a pdf file from the stories and photos submitted in digital format. Knowledge in desktop publishing software, such as Adobe InDesign, PageMaker, Microsoft Publisher or Serif's Page Plus is needed along with access to a computer with the appropriate software. Digital photo editing skills and software may be helpful as well.

We print the Drift three times a year, and we post a color version to the website. If interested, contact Tom Gross at 608.347.5154, ta144@tds.net

## JOIN US on the trail!

Summer is a great time to get out and enjoy the Ice Age Trail. Mark your calendar and make plans to join your fellow Ice Age members on these upcoming hikes:

- ◆ May 30, Indian Lake segment hike
- ◆ June 6, Hike-A-thon, more information page 1 and 2
- ◆ June 16, Valley View full moon hike, Mound View Rd
- ◆ July 2, Full moon hike, Table Bluff
- ◆ August 20, Evening hike, Lodi Marsh SWA/SNA

Stay up-to-date on trail happenings by joining the Dane County Chapter Facebook Group.

