

## Ken & Julie Richardson Receive 2014 In the Mud Award!

The "In the Mud" award is given to IATA member volunteers who display dedication to the mission and goals of the Alliance and a willingness to roll up their sleeves on behalf of the Trail. An In the Mud recipient consistently shows up at workdays and dives into the dirty work. They make significant efforts to establish the Ice Age Trail and epitomize the bedrock volunteer spirit responsible for building trail.



Ken and Julie have been active, contributing members of the Lodi Valley Chapter for nine years. They generously give of their many talents and have brought creative projects to our chapter. Their presence at meetings and events brings a spirit of fun that inspires others to volunteer.

Ken is a very competent and thorough editor. He played an important role in developing the LVC area map, noticing details that no one else caught. He was invaluable in the rewording of our chapter's bylaws back in 2009. Ken regularly provides stories, artwork, photos, and poems for Mammoth Prints, the LVC e-newsletter produced tri-annually. He continues to help edit articles and information that are sent to the press.

Julie has generously contributed time to the Trail in a number of ways. She's served as co-secretary of our chapter and has become rather famous for being a faithful baker of delicious, homemade cookies for a variety of occasions. It's a good thing that Julie makes such wonderful cookies, because Ken is affectionately known as the "Cookie Monster" in our chapter.

Ken and Julie created the "Kiosk Maintenance Position" in our chapter and for several years, did a fantastic job spiffing up and rotating information at the kiosks. They also cheerfully took on the difficult job of scraping-and-painting the kiosks, and cleaning endless amounts of bird droppings. After "retiring" as kiosk maintainers, Ken and Julie created the "Trail Signage Improvement" position. This energetic and dedicated couple spent hours scraping-and-repainting trail signs, helping to bring them up to National Scenic Trail quality. It was not easy transporting supplies to the worksite, and painting all the individual letters was tedious. However, the results are remarkable and have greatly improved trail signage in the LVC area.

Ken and Julie are regulars at Trail Improvement events, and have generously helped out at a number of Mobile Skills Crew Projects. We can count on their participation in trail events such as hikes and the Mammoth Fun Run & Hike on NTD. Ken and Julie both have a terrific sense of humor, adding tons of fun to meetings and events. They are an immeasurable asset to the Trail. The Lodi Valley Chapter is proud and honored to have these talented, dedicated volunteers in our midst.