



Wash-Oz Mid-Summer Update

July 15, 2015

I hope your summer is going well!

We're in the midst of another busy year with trail work projects, guided hikes, & other events. This informal "Mid-Summer Update" provides the latest news & the status of several activities discussed at our June meeting that can't wait until our September meeting.

Projects

Regional Workday (South West Bend): Our "big project" this year is a 0.61 mile re-route on the West Bend Segment near Ridge Run County Park. The re-routed trail will bypass a severely eroded section and allow for a better view of kettle lakes and other scenic topographical features. Corridor-clearing was completed last fall – we've had to delay work until after July 31st because the Red-Shouldered Hawk, a threatened species, is nesting in the area until then.

I met recently with Jay Shambeau, Director of the Planning & Parks Dept. for Washington County, to describe our Regional Workday in September. Jay agreed to permit us to have our base camp at the Wheat Ridge Lane trailhead ("Ridge Run South" area). We will be using Shelter #1 – this is the largest of the three shelters (arrowed on the map below)



& also has a large firepit & nearby lavatory. Thus those who want to camp overnight will have a great place to do so!

Workdays

Saturday August 8th (South West Bend): workday at Ridge Run South, beginning at 9:00 am, comprised of: (a) "touching up" our corridor clearing & section marking that was completed last October, and (b) a "walk-through" to discuss the (draft) *Construction Notes* as well as planning in general (schedule, logistics, sponsors, volunteers, etc.). Note that Tina Pickruhn at REI has agreed to support us with the latter – this will be very helpful!

Park Avenue entrance re-route (North West Bend): We've (almost) completed the project – a Saturday in May and two evenings in June were quite productive. Just a little "sprucing up" (signage) and the re-route will be 100% complete.

- New Parking Lot (Loew Lake): Rob relayed that the kiosk will be erected shortly; thanks to Craig for all of his work in making it easier for hikers to find the IAT from the parking lot!

- The Tuesday Evening Work Days have gone very well again this year, with recent work at North West Bend and Polk Kames. These workdays continue through the end of August – see iceagetrail.org/calendar for the complete schedule (on the left, under "Event Category", click on "Select" and then "Wash-Oz Chapter" to see only our events – to those of you under 30, this is probably obvious...). The next

Tuesday Evening Work Day is on **July 21st** at **Loew Lake**. I will be coordinating with Tom & Craig about specifics, so mark your calendar & stay tuned. We finish the Tuesday Eve'rs with work at **Milwaukee River** and **North Holy Hill** in August.

•Also mark your calendars for the last week of August for the MSC Project at Lapham Peak. See www.iceagetrail.org/volunteer/mobile-skills-crew-program/ for details.

Hikes

•Upcoming Chapter Hikes:

- >July 29th: Moonlight Hike at **Loew Lake**
- > August 15th: **Milwaukee River** Hike
- > September 24th: Moonlight Hike at **Kewaskum** – note that we changed this to a day earlier so as not to conflict with the Regional Project.

Contact **Craig** if you are able to help out as a hike leader.

•Segment Leaders: Let me know if you are running short on maps, NPS brochures, Meander forms, signage, *etc.* & I will get them to you ASAP. If you need help with sawing or mowing, contact me as well.

Events

•Saunter's Program: **Leah** is leading her little hikers this week; thanks to **Rich, Rod, & Dan** for helping Leah!



•For our Picnic on August 5th: **Judy** has again stepped forward to coordinate the logistics (food, utensils, *etc.*) so expect a message from her soon.

• The annual "Cache Bash" will be held on **August 7-9th** at Regner Park in West Bend. Contact **Dolly McNulty** if you are able to help

out with the ColdCache Program booth at this event. Time slots are:

- Friday: 11 am to 4 pm
- Friday: 4 pm to 7 pm
- Saturday: 7 am to 11 am
- Saturday: 12 pm to 4 pm

Also mark your calendars for the Mother Earth News Fair (www.motherearthnewsfair.com/wisconsin/). I will be helping Luke with an IAT booth at this event.

Trail Dog Running is having another busy season, drawing 100+ runners at recent events. Their next race is this Saturday at Kewaskum/ Milwaukee River (between 5 to 50 K) where I will have our table again.

I had to cancel OWLT's **Project RED Workshop** for the Chapter because of lack of interest and/ or availability. Note that on July 23rd they will be holding another workshop at the Mequon Nature Preserve; see owlt.org for details.

Miscellany

•I also met recently with Eric Damkot, the GIS Specialist in Jay Shambeau's department, and he will work with us over the coming months to create "new & improved" segment maps.

One final note:

•A recent accident prompted the NPS to "stand-down" chain-sawing operations; I will forward to all of our sawyers a document from the NPS that describes proper procedures.



PS If you've found errors in this "e-Update", please send an e-mail to me. I will compile the corrections & additions & clarifications, *etc.* and send a corrected copy to everyone.