



Ice Age Drift

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More than Postage Stamp Prairies Wayne Pauly Inspires Volunteers

Article and photo by Dave Jenkins

Wayne Pauly doesn't come to chapter workdays. Once he pulled out the pin flags we had placed to move the trail to the center of the restored prairie at Ice Age Junction. When we protested, he growled, why couldn't mowing a path through his planting wait until he retired?

Pauly, the Dane County Parks naturalist for more than 35 years, had a point. Without him, there would have been no prairie to mow through at Ice Age Junction. Without the prairie, the Ice Age Trail wouldn't be very scenic in the e-way separating southwest Madison from Verona.

When Wayne retires in just a few months, the Ice Age Trail here will lose one of its biggest benefactors who has inspired a generation of land stewardship and restoration volunteers.

Although irascible at times, growly is not Pauly's usual persona, unless he's anticipating a meeting he dreads (most). Normally soft-spoken, thoughtful and modest, he also can be passionately outspoken with strong convictions, as Donna Thomas of the Donald Park friends group noted. He has both a masters in botany and an ecologist's disdain for narrowly focused academic research that promotes its publication over practical field use.

He easily captivates school children with a folklore story after they have helped him collect prairie seeds. He's equally adept at booming out, "Look behind you," to a prescribed burn volunteer who carries a backpack water pump but is too fixated on the flames in front to notice if the fire is escaping its bounds.

His command of the winter Friday morning chain saw crew is subtler. Most of its members are retired lawyers, doctors, IT specialists and others who remove invasive brush and trees. He carefully assigns work according to skill and experience, keeps an eye on the activities, and intervenes when he sees a safety issue. His oversight seems low key enough to almost escape notice, yet he's a joy to work with one on one, when his low key teaching ability shines.

IATA activist Gary Werner says Pauly has the persona and mystique that lets him push where others can't, and exert invisible influence. It will be remarkable if the county finds a replacement who will match him, Werner adds.

Long time parks and IATA volunteer Ron Endres says Pauly is an expert, practical advisor, one of a handful of people who have made a real impact in recreating and maintaining native landscapes here.

Pauly was so preoccupied with county lands that he had overlooked a four-foot tall garlic

mustard plant (the worst herbaceous invasive) blooming in his own backyard garden before inviting volunteers to his home last spring.

The broad Ice Age Junction e-way, traversed by more than three miles of the trail, was one of Wayne's visions, according to Endres. Pauly wanted to restore more than "postage stamp" prairies to create realistically scaled habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife.

Werner was one of the volunteers who helped Pauly plant those prairies in the 1990's after the IAT corridor was set and Dane County acquired the land. In 2000, Pauly supplied the seed and supervised the planting of a 25-acre prairie now part of the famed Table Bluff segment.

At Liebetrau Prairie a mile northeast, Pauly "turned me loose," Werner said. Having taught me a few things, he let me lead the restoration and planting there, he added. Again, most of the seeds were collected by DCP volunteers, many of them schoolchildren.

"The really important gift Wayne gave us was mentoring us and then pushing us out the door. He gave us the confidence that we could run our own land stewardship program," Werner said.

Wayne also has developed a skilled set of volunteers who have stuck with him, says Endres. Although Pauly insists that the volunteer program is a recreational one, most of the land stewardship work that happens in the parks wouldn't happen without it.

Besides advice and some field leadership, Pauly supports volunteers by supplying county-purchased herbicide, some chain saw gear and fuel and oil, and other items that assist their efforts.

When the Arboretum and the Aldo Leopold Foundation decided to honor restoration ecologists in 2002, it named Pauly as the first recipient of the John T Curtis award for career excellence (named after the author of the seminal work on Wisconsin flora).

But Pauly's career was nearly cut short. County Executive Jonathan Barry sought to eliminate his job three times from 1980-86. Each time Pauly successfully lobbied to save it. His efforts included increasing his positive public exposure by learning to be a skilled storyteller (often in costume), running outreach and volunteer projects, and publishing a booklet, How to Manage Small Prairie Fires.



Wayne Pauly

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Be sure to participate in one of our Fall Events (calendar insert)

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Once, Barry told a reporter he wanted to cut Pauly's job because Wayne was doing needlepoint during a county board meeting. If that's all he can find to complain about me after nine years, I must be doing a damn good job, Pauly shot back.

Actually, it was crewelwork, Pauly said! His job survived, but often seemed tenuous. Some of the outreach work detracted from what he regarded as the more important work of land management, he believes.

Until 2000, there wasn't much public support for restoration. "The majority of people want parks to focus on recreation. We are the rare parks department with a significant restoration program. To get any public support for that is magical," he said.

The naturalist program and the effort to re-establish prairies on county parks lands both started small in the 1970's. When Pauly was hired by Dane County in 1977, half his time was assigned to the highway department.

The late Rosemary Fleming's girl scouts collected seeds for the first prairie planting and she cleaned them by hand in her living room. Fleming was the first DCP naturalist, and she mentored Pauly for nine years at the arboretum and the county.

Commercial prairie seeds were (and are) expensive, and the only commercial seeds were from Nebraska. They weren't suitable here because their phenology was off, Pauly recalls. So he worked on growing his own seeds by clustering species in his planted prairies to facilitate gathering. He also successfully resisted occasional proposals to sell for profit seeds collected by volunteers.

Now the seed cleaning operation fills most of two bays of the DCP garage for five or six days in late fall. Hammer mills on loan from Endres and Jerry Goth (Swamplovers), four fanning mills, and a sophisticated exhaust system are set up for processing a trailer full of raw prairie seeds. Wayne greets volunteers with earplugs, dust mask and instructions, and puts them to work.

Donations paid for most of the seed cleaning equipment. Volunteers rebuilt several of the fanning mills. Ultimately the county sprang for much of the safety equipment.

By February, Pauly has figured out an allotment in grams for each project and partner group. Volunteers then return to the shop to weigh, bag and label allotments of perhaps 50+ seed species to 30+ friends or restoration groups, including the IATA.

Over 20 years, Pauly's program has produced enough seed to plant 20 to 30 acres each year. Over his career, Pauly has overseen planting of at least 600 prairie acres on park lands and supplied seed to partner groups for perhaps 200 more acres.

Pauly has been leading prescribed burns on county prairies since 1978 with mostly volunteer crews. The controlled burn booklet he published in 1982, when formal training programs and reference materials were virtually nonexistent, remains an important resource even today. Yet he never obtained the formal training now required of and by nearly everyone.

Despite his success recruiting and retaining volunteers, Pauly ponders what keeps them and where the next generation will come from. In 40 years, I still haven't figured it out, he says.

Maybe it starts with an inspired mentor's imagination.

To read more about DCP's restoration and prairie seed collection and processing program, see <http://www.pheasant-branch.org/prairies/history.html>. To download or listen to one of Pauly's nature stories, go to <http://www.ttbook.org/book/wayne-pauly-tree-stories>.

Meet a Member

Tess Mulrooney from Madison, WI

Article by Amy Lord
What first brought you to the Ice Age Trail Alliance?

I always seem to have a very large backlog of magazines to read. About six months after my father died, I was reading an old issue of a magazine with an article on the Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) for the Janesville Devil's Staircase project and thought that was something that I needed to be a part of. About a week later a Mammoth Tales came in the mail with an invitation to the annual conference in Janesville was included.

I took a day off work to attend the conference, hiked the Storr's Lake segment with a group, and attended workshops in the afternoon.

What inspires you to be involved or make the trail better?

Any serious hiker would opt for fewer road miles by working to move into a prairie, a pasture, a bike path or a wooded area. This year's MSC project in Rib Lake will remove a road walk. I am also working with the Cross Plains staff to get more people out on the trail statewide serving as a trail angel.

You are working on a project now (re-doing the yellow blazes), can you explain what the blazes represent and why they are important?

It's a magical feeling of knowing that you can go for a very long hike on a variety of properties. Marks along the way allow us to do so without causing problems for anyone. Each of the national scenic trails has picked a method for marking where a hiker can legitimately be, and the Ice Age Trail uses yellow blazes. These might appear painted on a tree, on a post if on a prairie, or on a carsonite post (flexible and thin, preferred by discriminating bears as a back scratcher).

On very sunny or cloudy days, a fading blaze can be very hard to see. Having hiked the trail, I know how frustrating it can be when you are lost, whether on a road walk or in a woods. I recall telling people that I had spent over 8 hours lost in my home chapter; this is due to being too cheap to buy both maps and a guidebook, and I had never heard of a Gazetteer.

One of my hiking buddies is a member of the Blazing Babes. After she completed her miles here, she encouraged me to form a group of blazers. At this year's conference, hiker Maggie Carrao suggested we call ourselves the Dazzling Daubers of Dane.

As a 1,000 miler and Ice Age thru hiker, can you share one of your favorite trail sections?

One of the most incredible segments for me was Chaffee Creek in Waushara County. Do you know that wayside you might stop at on the Waushara/Marquette County Line? You can follow a couple of prairies and cross UNDER I-39 in two incredibly tall cement culverts. I've only done this twice, but I'm looking forward to the next time. I love driving towards Waushara County and looking for the spot where westbound hikers might be popping out of the northbound culvert and hiking towards the southbound culvert.



Blazing Babes Jessica Woodward (left) and Tess Mulrooney (right) on a bridge in the Jerry Lake segment.

Photo by Fred Paasch

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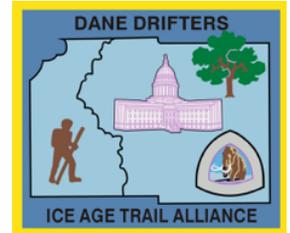
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More Joining / Completing Dane Drifter Program

Article by Gary Wensing

Year Two of Dane Drifters has gone well. Twenty-Seven people have registered this year giving us seventy-six in total. Since my last update, nine more have turned in their logs and received their patches/certificates. Five completed both the trail segments and connecting routes while the rest completed only the trail segments.

Name	City	Distance
Rick Langfitt	Madison, WI	Trails Segments
Diane Langfitt	Madison, WI	Trails Segments
Mark Leitermann	Madison, WI	Trails+Connectors
Paul Pickar	Madison, WI	Trails Segments
Barry Hart	Cross Plains, WI	Trails Segments
Mary Stauffacher	Janesville, WI	Trails+Connectors
Cynthia Hertzberg	Janesville, WI	Trails+Connectors
Dave Voelz	Menomonee Falls, WI	Trails+Connectors
Linda Voelz	Menomonee Falls, WI	Trails+Connectors



Join the Dane Drifters and then hike all the beautiful IAT segments in Dane County. You'll earn this cool patch and certificate of completion.

As a reminder, the Program is only \$10 for IATA members, \$12 for non-members and \$6 for a companion to a registered hiker and you can earn a patch, a certificate of completion for hiking all of the segments of IAT in Dane County, and you support the Dane Co Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

There are two options for our program – either complete the 36 miles of marked trail or do both the marked trails and connecting routes (for a total of 66 miles).

Wouldn't you like to join them? Contact Gary Wensing and Kristi Kenyon of Cross Plains to learn more at kensinginn@tds.net or 608-798-3006. Or see the Dane Co page on the IATA website (<http://dane.iceagetrail.org/home>).

A great way to complete the program is to join others on a group hike of a segment. The chapter tries to schedule at least one hike on every segment each year where you can meet others enjoying the trail and maybe learn something new about that particular segment. Check the enclosed calendar to see what we have planned in the coming months.

We'd like to have more of these hikes on our calendar each year, but need more volunteers willing to lead a hike. It really doesn't take much to do except letting us know when and where you'd like to take a group so that we can help promote the hike. If you are interested in helping out this way, let Gary or Tom Gross know and we can discuss more.

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 sign-up forms for secure automatic bank withdrawals.
- Please charge my (circle one)

VISA Mastercard \$Amount _____

Card # _____ Exp. _____

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:

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2110 Main St.
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Join Online! Visit us at www.iceagetrail.org.

Ice Age Trail Alliance
5077 Church Rd
Middleton, WI 53562-4006

Thank You for Making the 2015 Hike-A-Thon a Success!

Thanks to all who joined the Dane County Chapter at the fourth annual Hike-A-Thon on Saturday, June 6, 2015. It was a great day to hike segments of the Ice Age Trail throughout Dane County. New this year, attendees could pick from two distances: 6 miles or 21 miles. The event had 80+ participants and raised over \$5,000 for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Thanks to all who helped organize, volunteer at the event, and participate!

Make plans to join us on the Hike-A-Thon again in 2016.



A special thanks to our major sponsor **Fontana Sports**, along with food and beverage sponsors **Miller & Sons Supermarket** and **Wisconsin Brewing Company**.

[find us on facebook](#) Join the Dane County Chapter Facebook Group and stay up-to-date on trail happenings.

Special thanks to Inkworks for their assistance in printing the Fall issue of *Dane Drifters*.

