2016 Annual Conference & Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 7 – Sunday, April 10
Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Rothschild, WI

A journey through the beautiful Plover River Segment will be part of a day-long field trip on Thursday, which also includes a stop at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

highlighted activities

Thursday 7:00 p.m. – Trail Mix
Hear from the 2015 Thousand-Milers, learn about new Alliance initiatives, jump into a game of cribbage, or catch up with Trail friends from other parts of the state and beyond. This relaxed opening-night session will have something for everyone.

Friday 7:00 p.m. – National Park Service Awards
The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is home to thousands of volunteers from across the Upper Midwest. The impact of this work is realized in grand vistas, well-built tread, and the ever-present yellow blaze. Please join us for the National Park Service Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Awards to honor your efforts. Each hour you’ve reported since 2007 makes you eligible for recognition as you pass 100, 250, 500, and 1000 hours (and beyond) in your volunteer career.

Friday 8:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker: Steven Gonzalez, Executive Director, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association
This event is open to the public.
In addition to serving as executive director of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, Steven is on the board of directors for the Partnership for the National Trails System, serves on the steering committee for the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education at Texas State University, and is a member of the advisory committee for the feasibility study for the Connecting Trails to Parks project between the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, National Trails System Intermountain Region office, and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program.Steven enjoys the opportunity to serve the association and communities along the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, and believes that “we can have a greater appreciation for the places we live in by understanding the cultural and natural history of the area.”

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – Chapter Leader Summit
This session is a great opportunity for chapter leaders to celebrate successes, discuss challenges, and, most importantly, gather ideas and tools to help you build up your chapter.

Saturday 1:30 p.m. – Annual Membership Meeting with Board of Directors Elections
The Saturday afternoon Annual Membership Meeting is free and open to all members. No registration is required.

Saturday 6:45 p.m. – Mammoth Achievements: Ice Age Trail Alliance Awards
Celebrate the work of 2015 by recognizing standout volunteers at the IATA awards presentation. The Spirit Stick, Thousand-Miler, “In the Mud”, Stickman Scholarship, and other awards honor the accomplishments of the many by recognizing a few.
Saturday, 8:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker: Jay Erskine Leutze

Mr. Leutze was raised in Chapel Hill, NC, and lives in the Southern Appalachian mountains on the North Carolina–Tennessee border. Trained as an attorney, he has become a leading voice for state and federal conservation funding for investment in public lands. He is a Trustee and Acquisition Specialist for the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, one of the nation’s most established land trusts. He is the author of Stand Up That Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community in the Wilderness Along the Appalachian Trail (Simon & Schuster, 2012). In the tradition of A Civil Action, it’s the compelling true story of a North Carolina outdoorsman who teams up with his Appalachian “mountain people” neighbors to save a treasured landscape from being destroyed.

Leutze is a national spokesman for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition and has testified before Congress on the need for increased funding for public land conservation. He is frequently asked to be a guest lecturer on conservation. Since publication of Stand Up That Mountain he has lectured at 16 universities across the country, teaching courses in literature, environmental studies, environmental law, and public policy, and has performed over 120 public readings. He recently appeared at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. In 2012, he was awarded North Carolina’s highest civilian honor, The Order of the Longleaf Pine, for his contribution to the conservation of land and water in his home state. He was the winner of the 2013 North Carolina Governor’s Conservation Communicator of the Year Award and was named Outstanding Conservation Advocate by the Roosevelt-Ashe Society.

hikes/excursions

Thursday: Plover River Segment and Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

This hike and museum tour is a new feature for the Annual Conference. The all-day adventure begins with a guided hike led by geologists Lisa Siewert and Dave Mickelson on the beautiful Plover River Segment. Participants will then load the bus and head to the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum for a boxed lunch and guided tour by docent Gail Piotrowski. This adventure will feature dueling moraines and Owen Gromme originals!

Friday: The Underdown Segment

Nestled within the Harrison Moraine, the Underdown Segment is comprised of hummocks, deep kettles, an esker, and dense forests. Enjoy the hike over and around these glacial features as the route courses between hemlock groves and hardwood stands circling pristine lakes. Hikers will have the chance to check out the newly constructed shelter found near Dog Lake.

Saturday: Dells of the Eau Claire Segment

The Dells of the Eau Claire Segment is rich in glacial history. This stretch includes ancient volcanic rock palisades, roaring rapids, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) handiwork, and potholes. Enjoy all of these features and camaraderie of the group while hiking across the 45th parallel.
conference schedule

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

6:30-8:00 a.m.  Check-in and Coffee Hour
7:00-7:45 a.m.  Breakfast
8:00-11:30 a.m. Group Excursion: Plover River and Yawkey Art Museum
12:00-1:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30-2:45 p.m.  Concurrent sessions: Ask Your Staff
                Before the Pick Hits Dirt
3:00-4:15 p.m.  Concurrent sessions: Hiking Gear – The Digital Version
                Land Protection Successes and Opportunities
4:15-5:30 p.m.  Social Hour
5:30-6:45 p.m.  Dinner
7:00-8:30 p.m.  Trail Mix

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

6:30-8:00 a.m.  Check-in and Coffee Hour
7:00-7:45 a.m.  Breakfast
8:00-11:30 a.m. Group Hike: Underdown Segment
8:30-11:30 a.m. Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting (concurrent with hike; all members welcome)
12:00-1:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30-2:45 p.m.  Concurrent sessions: Hikers’ Forum
                Leadership – On and Off the Trail
                Navigating the NPS Volunteer Program
3:00-4:15 p.m.  Concurrent sessions: What’s On Tap?
                Ice Age Trail Communities – The Next Phase
4:15-5:30 p.m.  Social Hour
5:30-6:45 p.m.  Dinner
7:00-7:45 p.m.  National Park Service Awards
8:00-9:00 p.m.  Featured Speaker: Steven Gonzalez

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

6:30-8:00 a.m.  Check-in and Coffee Hour
7:00-7:45 a.m.  Breakfast
8:00-12:00 p.m. Group Hike: Dells of the Eau Claire Segment
8:00-12:00 p.m. Chapter Leader Summit
12:00-1:15 p.m. Lunch
1:30-4:00 p.m.  Annual Membership Meeting with Board of Director Elections
4:00-5:15 p.m.  Social Hour
4:15-4:45 p.m.  Board of Directors Annual Meeting
5:15-6:45 p.m.  Dinner
6:45-7:45 p.m.  Mammoth Achievements: IATA Awards
8:00-9:00 p.m.  Featured Speaker: Jay Erskine Leutze

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

6:30-8:00 a.m.  Coffee Hour
7:00-7:45 a.m.  Breakfast

sessions

Thursday: Ask Your Staff
This session is back to help answer any questions you have for Ice Age Trail Alliance staff. Just about anything goes so please don’t be shy and chime in. Your thoughts will make the entire Alliance stronger.

Thursday: Before the Pick Hits Dirt
Have you ever wanted to just go out and construct a quick reroute or build a short punchline? Learn why, despite this temptation, it is best to wait for the compliance issues to be resolved. Alliance and partner staff will walk you through the compliance process and timeline so you don’t end up on the wrong side of the law.

Thursday: Land Protection Successes and Opportunities
The Alliance had one of our most productive years for land protection in 2015. Come find out about the many successes as we delve a bit deeper into the transactions. We will also discuss the future of land protection for the trail, including roles of our partners such as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Thursday: Hiking Gear – The Digital Version
The most common visitors to the Ice Age Trail Alliance website are not familiar with the organization or the Trail. They are coming to our site to find ways to get outdoors. Learn the ways we are using this information to engage hikers and help them become active volunteers. This session will explore new components to the website, itineraries, and the app.

Friday: Leadership – On and Off the Trail
Leadership development and succession are critical to the long-term success of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. They permeate all areas of our work including all program areas, chapter goals, and Trailwide initiatives. This session will explore commonalities and challenges in peer to peer multigenerational volunteer relationships.

Friday: Hikers’ Forum
What would an Annual Conference be without the Hikers’ Forum? Join this session to pick the brains of those that have most recently completed their Thousand-Miler journey. Be inspired, be informed, and be entertained.

Friday: What’s On Tap? 2016 Trailbuilding Overview
The glacier formed our Wisconsin landscape through steady and constant pressure. Creating, supporting, and protecting the Ice Age Trail also take continual effort. Learn what is on tap for new Trail segments in 2016.

Friday: Ice Age Trail Communities – The Next Phase
In 2015 the Village of Hartland became the first Ice Age Trail Community. Learn what has been accomplished since and what is in the works for 2016. Come with questions and ways local chapters can engage community leaders.
lodging and meals

Located just south of Wausau in Rothschild, Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center will be the 2016 Annual Conference headquarters. Room blocks are available at special Ice Age Trail Alliance pricing. Camping is on your own.

Conference meals will be provided at Stoney Creek. We are going buffet style for all meals this year, so bring your bibs and extra-large plates. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available. Please order your meals on the registration form.

win big and support the trail

This year’s conference will feature daily raffles focused on experiencing the Ice Age Trail and amenities located near the Trail route. Raffles will take place daily with a new chance to win each evening. You must be present to win. We’ll let you buy as many raffle tickets as you want to increase your odds!

Registration materials due by Friday, March 18

registration form

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip __________

Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

Emergency Contact Name __________________________________________

Emergency Contact Phone __________________________________________

I/We will be attending the:

☐ National Park Services awards
☐ Chapter Leader Summit
☐ IATA awards

REGISTRATION FEES

Number of People ______x $40.00 per person TOTAL $ __________

CONFERENCE MEAL FEES

Please indicate the quantity of the following meals you would like to order. Meals will be buffet style. Vegetarian options will be available at breakfast and lunch buffets. A plated vegetarian option will be served at dinner.

Thursday:  

________________ Breakfast ($11)
________________ Lunch ($15)
________________ Dinner ($20)

Friday:  

________________ Breakfast ($11)
________________ Lunch ($15)
________________ Dinner ($20)

Saturday:  

________________ Breakfast ($11)
________________ Lunch ($15)
________________ Dinner ($20)

Sunday:  

________________ Breakfast ($11)

☐ I prefer vegetarian meals
☐ I prefer gluten-free meals

MEAL TOTAL $ ____________

CONFERENCE LODGING:

Please make lodging arrangements by calling the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center and asking for Ice Age Trail Alliance pricing. Room blocks will be released on March 14th.

Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center
1100 Imperial Avenue
Rothschild, WI 54474
(800) 659-2220
www.stoneycreekhotels.com

April 7, 8, 9
$80/Single Occupancy/ $99 Double Occupancy

TOTAL FEES

Registration + Meals Total $ __________________________

☐ Check enclosed  ☐ Please charge my credit card

Name as it appears on credit card: __________________________

Credit Card #: __________________________

CVV Code: __________________________

Expiration Date: __________________________

Mail registration form and check or credit card payment by March 18 to:

Ice Age Trail Alliance
P.O. Box 128, 2110 Main St.
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Or register online at iceagetrail.org/2016-annual-conference

Spring 2016 | MAMMOTH tales 7
2016 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
This provides Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. members with official notice of the IATA’s Annual Membership Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 9 at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Rothschild, WI. The meeting takes place during the IATA’s Annual Conference. You are welcome to attend the Annual Membership Meeting without attending/registering for other parts of the conference.

ITEM I: VOTE — BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS
In January, all IATA members were sent a list of Board of Directors candidates recommended by the IATA’s Leadership Development and Executive committees. Members did not submit any additional nominees by petition. Therefore, the final list of candidates is:

New director-nominees:
John Hutchinson (Sun Prairie, WI; Region 2)
Dan Schuller (Tomahawk, WI; Region 3)

Current directors recommended for re-election:
Bob Funk (Wheaton, IL; Region 2)
Marcy Kempf (Delafield, WI; Region 1)

To read nominee biographies and find more information about the Annual Conference, visit www.iceagetrail.org/2016-annual-conference

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. PROXY

I hereby appoint Bob Funk or Gary Klatt as my proxy (with full power of substitution) to attend the IATA’s Annual Membership Meeting to be held April 9, 2016 and any adjournment thereof and to vote on my behalf on all matters that may properly come up for membership approval during the meeting.

Dated: __________________________, 2016

Signature: __________________________

Printed name: __________________________

Please return to:
Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.
PO Box 128, 2110 Main Street
Cross Plains, WI 53528