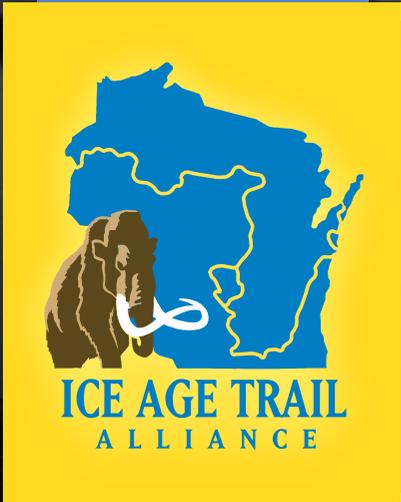


A yellow banner at the top of the page features a map of Wisconsin counties in the background. The word "MAMMOTH" is written in large, blue, block letters across the map, and the word "tales" is written in a smaller, black, lowercase font to its right.

MAMMOTH tales



SUMMER 2016



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



MIKE WOLLMER
Executive Director

Imagine the Trail without momentum!

We are riding the “mo” of an outstanding 2015 with a strong start to 2016. I’m writing this report in the shadow of April’s Annual Conference in Rothschild, where, per usual, we enjoyed each other’s company and conversations on a variety of compelling issues. I thought I’d address some of those with all of you before they are lost in the rearview mirror.

Many folks remarked about the general sense of community across the Trail. Rooted in a commitment to respect, appreciation, and transparency, “We are the Alliance” is flourishing. Reflecting back over the last 10 years, we have come a long way. Let’s celebrate...and continue building on our shared vision!

Land protection was a frequent topic. Despite a shift in acquisition strategies among the Alliance, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service, the “Triad” is adapting very well. The bright spot in the current budget is that the DNR is obligated in the current 2-year budget cycle to direct \$1 million per year to land acquisitions that will host or benefit the Ice Age Trail. The NPS office in Madison has taken a fresh look at its ability to acquire and hold lands. Superintendent John Madden and his staff have stepped in and authorized funding in new and creative ways to facilitate acquisitions.

Planning for the Trail itself was another frequent conversation. We’re in the midst of a very complex and demanding year for “on-the-ground” work across the Trail. In addition to seven major Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) events, three volunteer training events, and countless local chapter projects, we are heavily invested in preparation work for projects in 2017 and 2018. Having projects adequately prepped and analyzed in anticipation of future events is critical to successful outcomes.

There was some conversation about our membership dues and the **basic membership level increasing from \$35 to \$50**. Despite a

dedicated effort to manage and minimize our expenses, they have increased since we last bumped up the baseline membership level in 2011. Meanwhile, we have seen a decrease in our public-side funding. In any case, I prefer to regard our dues as an investment in programs that ultimately serve you, whether you are a Trail user, a volunteer, or both! Your dues provide momentum for the exciting new trailbuilding projects on the horizon. They help fuel our efforts to attract and train volunteers who are vital to our collective vision of our fine footpath. As the Board and I considered the change last fall, we were unanimous in our high regard for and dependence on volunteers. A reduction of that service and support was untouchable. With the increasing number of Trail users, there will be a corresponding need for more volunteers than ever.

In the coming years we will be asking ALL Alliance members to consider increasing their support, and hope that those who previously gave at the \$35 level will see the extra \$15 not as a deal-breaker on membership but as an opportunity to increase your investment in something that has significant meaning to you. I hope you can see from this report, every dollar you invest in the Alliance is paying considerable dividends for the Alliance and our mission.

I left the conference as I always do... wondering if I said “thank you” adequately. I thank you for far more than your sweat, gifts, hours, and friendship. I also thank you from a personal perspective. My wife, kids, and now grandchildren all know the yellow blaze and what it means. It’s a joy I can’t explain when I hear the little ones ask “Grampa, when can we go hiking on the Ice Age Trail?” You’ve helped them make that choice. Sweet!

My very best,

OUR PARTNERS





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VOL. XXVII, NO. 2
SUMMER 2016

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OUR mission

The mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is to create, support, and protect a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

ON THE COVER: Participants at our recent Mobile Skills Crew event in Taylor County were treated to a lovely evening moon above Wood Lake. Photo by Gail Piotrowski, Alliance Crew Leader and Marathon County Chapter Coordinator.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) publishes *Mammoth Tales* for its members and friends. Together with the National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local units of government, businesses, and volunteers from around the state, the IATA works to preserve Wisconsin's glacial heritage through the development of the Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail.

The IATA welcomes your comments. Email them to eric@iceagetrail.org, call us at (800) 227-0046, or send them to Mammoth Tales, c/o IATA, 2110 Main Street, PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

Editor: Eric Sherman

Contributing Editor: Lysianne Unruh

Printer: Action Graphics, Butler, WI · (262) 373-1999 · www.actiongraphicsink.com
Printed with soy-based ink on 10% recycled, Wisconsin-sourced paper.

Designer: Lynn LaSpisa

Mammoth Tales template and IATA logo design by Celtic, Inc., Brookfield, WI
(262) 789-7630 · www.celticinc.com

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AWARDS spotlight



During the National Park Service Volunteers in Parks (VIP) awards ceremony, NPS Ice Age Trail Superintendent John Madden (left) passed out personalized denim shirts to 1,000-hour volunteers (left to right) Barbara Unger, Glenn Ritz, Marilyn Nash, Kevin Kuhlmann, Audrey Held, Jason Dorgan, Jerry Pfeifer, Joanna Fanney, Jo Ellarson, and Christine Miller. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

“It feels like a family reunion,” said a youth volunteer from MG21, a charter school of the Monona Grove School District, of her experience with the Rib Lake Mobile Skills Crew event in May. This characterization highlights what it is like to be part of the warm, welcoming family that is the Ice Age Trail Alliance. We are a family that pulls together, working hard, project by project, to fulfill our vision of a continuous footpath through Wisconsin.

Families who celebrate the good times and appreciate the extra-special efforts of its members are strong, happy families. In the spirit of a good, old-fashioned family reunion, we celebrate some of the extraordinary people in our midst, with our annual Awards Spotlight. The recipients listed below were also honored at the awards ceremonies during our Annual Conference in April.

DOUGLAS “STICKMAN” SHERMAN SCHOLARSHIP

The Stickman Scholarship honors the work of Doug “Stickman” Sherman, a long-time Alliance volunteer who hand-carved hundreds of hiking sticks for Saunters students.

The scholarship goes to a young adult preparing for college who has volunteered with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, displays a love for the Ice Age Trail, and plans to pursue a degree in the environmental or education fields.

This year’s award goes to **Charles “Charlie” Booher** of Middleton who fully exemplifies the spirit of the Stickman Scholarship through his extraordinary involvement with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Charlie was trained and certified as a Mobile Skills Crew Leader where he shined in a

leadership role, handily interacting with volunteers ranging in age from 12 to 75. Charlie’s love and dedication to the Trail led him to be recognized for 100 hours of service through the National Park Service Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program. His future plans include the pursuit of a double major in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and Public Policy. Charlie intends to use his Ice Age Trail experience and his deep understanding of the intrinsic value, and restorative powers of nature, to be an impressive and persuasive advocate for the conservation of natural resources.

THOUSAND MILER AWARD

Nothing captures the imagination quite like the thought of hiking the entirety of a long-distance path like the Ice Age Trail. Our organization recognizes anyone who reports completion of the entire Ice Age Trail (and can have their accomplishment verified) as a Thousand-Miler. To qualify for Thousand-Miler status, an individual must have hiked all 1,000+ miles of the Ice Age Trail, including all connecting roads.

The following individuals recently completed their hikes and have officially joined the ranks of Ice Age Trail Thousand-Milers.

Jim Berkelman, Madison
Andrea Braatz, Appleton
Robert Fay, Two Rivers
Charlotte Gill, North Saint Paul, MN
Evan Gill, North Saint Paul, MN
Brian Kearney, Glen Ellyn, IL
Ragan Kearney, Glen Ellyn, IL
Natalie Koffarnus, Madison
Bernie Krausse, Ferndale, WA

Stacey Mathews, Ferndale, WA
Ruth McCann, East Troy
Melanie McManus, Sun Prairie
Daniel Niederkorn, Ripon
Kristine Videkovich, Milwaukee
Rodney Videkovich, Milwaukee
Tom Wallschlaeger, Dodgeville
Jared Wildenradt, Cross Plains
Jessica Woodward, Delafield



“IN THE MUD” AWARD

Our “In the Mud” award recognizes volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the Ice Age Trail over the year. The individuals below received the award for consistently coming to workdays and diving into the dirty work, epitomizing the bedrock volunteer spirit that drives the progress toward completing the Trail.

- Jerry Sazama, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
- Mary Skalecki, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
- Tess Mulrooney, Dane County Chapter
- Barb Katt, Indianhead Chapter
- Randy Surbaugh, Indianhead Chapter

- Lee Auner, Langlade Co. Chapter
- Sam Picone, Langlade Co. Chapter
- Barbara Wollmer, Lodi Valley Chapter
- Beth Austin, Rock Co. Chapter
- Edward Madere, Rock Co. Chapter
- Ellen Davis, Walworth/Jefferson Co. Chapter
- Gary Anders, Washington/Ozaukee Co. Chapter
- Peter Dargatz, Waukesha/Milwaukee Co. Chapter
- David Georgson, Waukesha/Milwaukee Co. Chapter
- Jeannie Georgson, Waukesha/Milwaukee Co. Chapter
- Jenny Addis, Waushara Co. Chapter



YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

The following individuals have been a constant presence in support of the Ice Age Trail. Recipients of Years of Service awards have provided a foundation of consistency and continuity in our volunteer ranks, and we thank them.

10 Years of Service Award

- Connie Ellis Ament, Poynette
- Ross Ament, Poynette
- Daniel Bartell, Bear Creek
- Andrew Bent, Madison
- Leah Bradley, Milwaukee
- James Brenner, Cadott
- Edith Dalleska, Minneapolis
- Frederick Dalleska, Minneapolis
- Ellen Davis, Delavan
- Barbara Delaney, Dresser
- David Ditlefsen, Centuria
- Rita Fox, Edgerton
- Anne Helsley-Marchbanks, Madison
- Carol Johnson, Chippewa Falls
- Paul Kuhlmann, St. Croix Falls
- Bob Lange, Baraboo
- Stephanie Lundeen, Luck
- Donna Jean Pachaud, Boyd
- Jim Powers, Adell
- Margaret Reisenauer, Sheboygan
- Tim Rutter, Fort Wayne, IN
- Jane Schultz, Eau Claire
- Jennifer Stehley, Centuria
- Barbara Voigt, Middleton
- Brook Waalen, Luck



Ken Neitzke of Waukesha (left) and Dave Kinnamon of Bayside (right) were recognized for 30 years of volunteer service during the Alliance’s awards ceremony. Also recognized for 30 years were Bess and Bernie Alberg of Kenosha (represented by their son, Tom [middle]) and Rita Wiechman of Merrill. Photo by Dave Calibe.

- Kevin Welton, Madison
- Gregg Westigard, Frederic
- Marie-Anne Westigard, Frederic

20 Years of Service Award

- Susan Derro, Rice Lake
- Cora Dversdall, Frederic
- Dean Dversdall, Frederic
- Mary Jean Goeres, Lodi
- Ted Goeres, Lodi
- Kristy Harris, Waupaca
- Paul Hayes, Cedarburg
- Mark Jeffries, Madison
- Debbie Krogwold, Amherst Junction
- Sally Lewis, New Auburn

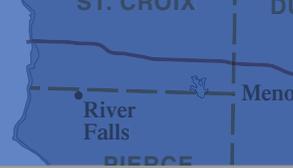
- Kathryn Lindsay, Chippewa Falls
- Steven McCabe, Marshfield
- Patricia McKearn, New Auburn
- Richard Smith, New Auburn
- Thomas Warth, Marine, MN
- Gerald Whitburn, Wausau

30 Years of Service Award

- Bess Alberg, Kenosha
- Bernard Alberg, Kenosha
- Ken Neitzke, Waukesha
- David Kinnamon, Bayside
- Rita Wiechman, Merrill

continued on page 16

CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

Coordinator: Dean Dversdall
(715-205-4487, EdgeLong@lakeland.ws)

Winter was quiet for the Indianhead Chapter this year. We lost a very special member of the chapter and the

Alliance as a whole. Cora Dversdall lost her battle with cancer and passed quietly from this world on January 3. We were so lucky to have her wisdom and foresight and she will be missed by many. She was a major supporter and promoter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance and helped to guide the organization to what we are today. It was very heartwarming to see so many people from across the Trail come to pay their final respects and support Dean and his family through their loss.

The annual chapter meeting took place in January at Interstate State Park with a good turnout, some new faces, and an excellent presentation by Julie Fox. Then in March we had our planning meeting at Café Wren for the upcoming year. The café is always a good place to meet and exchange ideas and concerns. The meeting was run by Brook Waalen and Marie-Anne Westigard and we had a good turnout.

We now have a Facebook page for the Indianhead Chapter and list upcoming events there. We also are working on updating the chapter information on the IATA website. So have a great spring and summer and happy trails to all!

- Cheryl Whitman



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Bob Held
(715-822-3428, HeldHarbor@gmail.com)

We held our annual meeting in late January with a nice crowd. Our speakers were Sylvia Oberle and Kristine Rued-Clark talking about their new book, *Adventures on Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail*. They showed many pretty scenes from across Wisconsin's landscape as part of a very interesting presentation.

Our 15th annual Hemlock Creek Snowshoe Hike was held in February. We had 1-, 3-, and 5-mile hikes; more than twenty people attended. We roasted hot dogs and marshmallows and had desserts. It was a beautiful sunny day.

Our annual Timberland Snowshoe Hike was held in March. We hiked from Leach Lake Rd. west to the CASTA ski trail, then south to the headwaters of the Clam River, featuring springs and running water throughout the winter.

Three chapter members attended the Alliance's annual conference in Rothschild. It was great mingling and meeting fellow Alliance members and also seeing some of the thru-hikers who we had shuttled in the past. Several members received awards for volunteer hours.

Volunteers have been busy maintaining the Trail as the weather has started to improve. Our crew has completed reroutes around flooded areas on two segments.

- Bob Held



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Fred Nash
(715-353-2948, nashfd@bevcomm.net)



CHIPPEWA MORAINES CHAPTER

Coordinator: Richard Smith
(715-967-2164, chapter@iatchippewa.org)



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

Coordinator: Buzz Meyer
(715-748-5627, gtmeyer@charter.net)



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Ruby Jaecks
(715-551-1118, brjaecks@airrun.net)

We held our annual Snowshoe Hike on January 23rd. Snow was a little shy and it was quite icy in spots. A blazing fire, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies, and camaraderie were enjoyed by all.

Although our treasurer Peggy Hershey was not able to hike due to health issues we were glad she was able to come for a short time to enjoy the fire and to visit. She passed away on February 11. She was a very dear lady and will be truly missed by all of us. A very dedicated volunteer and treasurer.

The chapter is in the process of making up a history brochure of historical places near the Ice Age Trail in Lincoln County.

- Ruby Jaecks



The turnout for the Langlade County Chapter's spring hike on the Old Railroad Segment was the largest in recent years. The group had a beautiful day just as the edge of spring was making an appearance. At least they did not have to trudge through snow as was the case on previous spring hikes. Photo by Joe Jopek.



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Joe Jopek
(715-623-2645, jjjopekj@frontier.com)

Dave Tlusty, Lee Auner, Sam Picone, and Joe Jopek were elected officers at the chapter annual meeting. Chapter members John Barker, Polly Blazek, Baker Branson, and Lloyd Godell staffed the Trail display at the Teen Health Fair in Antigo.

Segment stewards were busy checking conditions of their respective stretches. Other chapter members were planning on a possible re-route of 4-plus miles due to a proposed ATV route under consideration by the county.

- Joe Jopek



MARATHON COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Gail Piotrowski
(715-298-1363, piotrows@gmail.com)

2016 has started out on a high note. In addition to hosting the Alliance's Annual Conference, our January snowshoe hike in the Plover River Segment was a great success. The finicky winter weather cooperated and participants came from as far away as Milwaukee to enjoy a great day in the woods.

At our annual meeting in March, the Marathon County Chapter welcomed its new coordinator, Gail Piotrowski. Gail's love and support of the Trail is legendary and her enthusiastic leadership will continue to drive our growth and outreach efforts. We extend a big thank you to Dave Mix for his 5+ years of chapter leadership. Dave will continue his work with the Scouts and section maintainers and will also serve as the chapter's tool manager.

The chapter had its largest hiker turnout to date for our annual Wildflower Hike on April 30th, led by past chapter member Heidi Johnsen. More than 30 participants and their canine companions, including many new faces, enjoyed a wonderful spring day along the beautiful Plover River Segment.

The Marathon County Chapter's Facebook page is now live! We'd love to



Rachel Riehle strolls through the ramps along the Plover River Segment during the Marathon County Chapter's Wildflower Hike. Photo by Patty Mishkar.

have you Like us, for activity updates, work dates, etc. You can share your activities and photos from the Trail. Thank you to Lisa Siewert for setting up the group page and to Rachel Riehle for helping to administer it.

- Patty Mishkar



PORTAGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Julie Schneider
(715-570-6370, jschneideriat@gmail.com)

The Portage County and Waupaca County chapters along with the local Audubon Society sponsored this year's Walk in the Woods snowshoe hike in January, led by Bob Freckmann. In spite of the cold weather, 17 brave hikers made the trek from Edminister Road to Windfeldt Lane. The hike followed the new section built during a Mobile Skills Crew event last October. Snowshoers were impressed with the new section of Trail.

For the second year in a row, we had a booth at the Greenway RV show in Wisconsin Rapids in early April. A total of 123 people visited our booth and we gave Ice Age Trail Alliance literature to each of the campgrounds exhibiting at the show. One of the campgrounds will put us on their website under "Special Attractions." Greenway staff put the NPS map brochure in each new unit they sell. The children visiting our tables got to look at the 3D Map of Wisconsin and were impressed by the Wisconsin landscape. Hopefully they will be future hikers and nature students.

We also had a booth at the Portage County Cultural Festival which was attended by more than 10,000 people. Those that stopped by our booth received an IATA stamp in their "passports" as well as an IATA postcard.

Local Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the Portage County Parks have all been busy making Leopold benches for placement along the Trail. We plan to have plaques mounted on the benches in memory of longtime chapter coordinator and IATA supporter, Sally Freckmann.

- Julie Schneider



WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Debbie Krogwold
(715-677-4974, debbie.krogwold@co.waupaca.wi.us)



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Robert Jozwowski
(920-765-1887, bobjozwowski@gmail.com)

We hosted our annual Candlelight Hike in February at Caribou Bay Retreat. Despite the cold temperatures, turnout was good and we had a warm indoor setting for music and good cheer.

At our March Annual Meeting, we recognized Janet and Clyde Samsel with a plaque for outstanding service and support to the chapter over the last 40 years. The Samsels were one of the first landowners to get involved in Ice Age Trail development in the county and influenced others as well. We also recognized Jenny Addis with the "In the Mud" award

CHAPTER highlights *continued*

for her dedicated service to the chapter as membership coordinator and leader of chapter events.

In April, a team of volunteers headed up by Jenny and T Jay Roland participated in the annual Blue Ribbon Kids Day at the Parkside School in Wautoma. The highlight of our booth was the simulated 'Goo Glacier' showing the elementary school kids how the glaciers moved and deposited interesting debris along the Trail.

- Robert Jozwowski



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Gary Ertl
(608-369-3543, garebear510@hotmail.com)



HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

Currently dormant; for info: Brad Crary
(608-798-4453, brad@iceagetrail.org)



BARABOO HILLS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Donna & Neal Meier
(608-356-7678, donnaandneal@msn.com)



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Joanna Fanney
(608-592-7817, lodivalleychapter.iata@gmail.com)

The year started off on good footing as 50 people (and two dogs) hiked the Gibraltar Rock Segment on January

1st for the First Day Hike. This was double the amount of people who participated in this annual event last year and for a number of hikers it was their first time on the segment. Hikers enjoyed good company, beautiful views, and hot chocolate with cookies.

Chapter members and friends came together in March to celebrate another year of Trail activities at our annual meeting. We honored "In the Mud" nominee Barbara Wollmer for all her contributions to the chapter over the years. Todd McMahon shared stories and photos from his adventures on the Ice Age Trail as well as the North Country Trail.

Full moon hikes continue to be a hallmark of our chapter's activities, with 13 people braving the cold to join in the full moon fun during this quarter.

- Patti Herman



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinators: Tess Mulrooney (608-257-5595, tlmmsn@aol.com) and Andrew Bent (608-236-4886, afbent@wisc.edu)

Ed Spoon led about 50 volunteers from Blackhawk

Church's annual Love Madison event and REI in rebuilding part of the Verona Segment along County Road M on May 1. Several crew leaders from our chapter and neighboring chapters assisted. Andrew Bent led

several spring workdays to repair a portion of the Trail through the Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area and establish a loop trail at Liebetrau Prairie about a mile northeast of the Table Bluff Segment.

Supported by several new repeat volunteers, the stewardship group had a busy winter clearing invasive brush and weed trees at multiple sites. This group also was able to accomplish most of the controlled burns on its schedule despite some weather challenges. The biggest accomplishment in that regard was the badly needed first burn in four years on the DNR-owned portion of the Cross Plains Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. This was made possible by the Bureau of Parks employing long-time volunteer burn leader Dan Wallace, on an LTE basis, and a DNR policy change allowing an employee in that status to lead burns on DNR property. John Madden, NPS superintendent of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, unofficially assisted with the burn.

Tess Mulrooney was elected as the chapter's new coordinator and Diane Balmer as the new secretary at January's Annual Meeting. Andrew Bent and Anne Helsley-Marchbanks are continuing as co-coordinator and treasurer, respectively.

- Dave Jenkins



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Dennis James
(608-302-1885, djames84@outlook.com)

The Rock County Chapter had an auspicious beginning to 2016. Our January Candlelight Hike had 77 hikers.

We had more than 80 attendees to our annual meeting to hear Natalie Koffarnus talk about her Warrior Hike on the Ice Age Trail last summer. The chapter has cleared a lot of buckthorn already this season. The segment leading to the woods off of Bowers Lake Road is more open now and several oaks are more visible. We have seen the beginning of new partnerships with Scouts. The conservation Hornaday Scouting Award and projects is leading to the installation of Bat Houses in the Storrs Lake area, and two monarch butterfly gardens: one at the County Road E parking lot



Seventh-grader Meg Giles of North Shore Middle School drew this lovely sketch as part of the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter's May 13th "Chillin on the Trail" community event, which featured students' nature-focused art and provided an outreach opportunity for the chapter.



near the Devil's Staircase and the other at Jeffris Park, the southern-most section of the Ice Age Trail.

In April we hosted the Alliance's annual Crew Leader Training. See p. 10 for a summary of the event. The reroute of the suggested hike on the west side of Janesville to Green County is completed, and Evansville, Magnolia Bluff, and Gibbs Lake County Parks are now included.

- Dennis James



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinators: Lynn Larson (262-642-3980, easttroylarson@yahoo.com) and Andrew Whitney (262-949-0286, andywhitney1@yahoo.com)



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Kris Jensen (262-370-9929, krisjen1846@gmail.com)

Engaging the next generation of Ice Age Trail users is essential for the ongoing success of the organization. It connects children to the natural environment while contributing to their health and wellbeing.

Our Tyke Hikes led by volunteer Peter Dargatz provide families with opportunities to enjoy nature-themed, kid-friendly walks. Local librarians often collaborate to offer art and literature connections. These hikes are gaining in popularity. An April 23rd event at Lapham Peak attracted more than 100 participants. Peter is also leading a Saunters program and offering hikes for his school's entire student population. Thanks to Leah Bradley for initiating the first Saunters program in the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter area.

Some of Brian Bednarek's Montessori School of Waukesha's students have completed our "Walk the Wauk" hiking awards program. A few have moved on to explore the Trail in adjacent counties and plan to extend their hiking adventures. Several enthusiastically shared their experiences at a chapter meeting. These students also help to maintain a segment in the Scuppernong area and filled 20 garbage bags with garlic mustard during a May workday. Brian will continue to provide hiking experiences for his students during the summer months.

Pupils from Hartland's School of Community Learning are enjoying the proximity of the local Trail segment. They have participated in hikes, workdays, and creative projects. The 3rd - 5th graders worked hard on a hot day to cut, haul, and stack buckthorn. This was accomplished without any injuries under the expert supervision of Pat Witkowski.

Hopefully, these early opportunities will create future "keepers of the Trail".

- Kris Jensen



Lakeshore Chapter volunteers and Alliance staff and partners are working on plans for a remarkable new section of Trail in southwestern Manitowoc County. The new section will pass through Walla Hi County Park (pictured here) via a maze of moraine ridges as well as the Brownrigg - Heier preserve (see Land Conservation Highlights, page 12). Photo by Dan Mitchell.



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Tom Alberg (262-242-2521, alberg@ameritech.net)



LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Dan Mitchell (920-497-8444, dmitchell001@new.rr.com)

This season, we have had many more inquiries from thru-hikers and from casual users about Trail conditions, shuttles, and camping than in the last five years! And we've had more requests for collaboration with other groups than in the past and, thankfully, more members offering to help.

The chapter is working with the Mishicot Public Schools to use their rejuvenated nature trail, adding another 1 1/2 miles of off-road walking.

In several areas, nature is challenging us with water. Our newest segment northwest of Mishicot along the East Twin River has an area that had been muddy last year due to seepage from an upslope sedge field, so we have been planning on adding 60 feet of boardwalk to the existing 100 feet. And water had filled swales along Lake Michigan. But now both areas are dry. So...we wait.

The Blazing Babes (a crew of volunteers based in the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter) have generously offered to help us out in July by painting trees at Point Beach State Forest where we have had recurring problems with our Carsonite signs. Thanks, Babes!

-Dan Mitchell

Crew Leadership and Skills Training — “Stones and Ripples” Tour

CHRISTINE MARIE BOHN
Crew Leader in Training



Crew Leadership and Skills Training
April 27 – May 1
Participants: 24
Volunteer Hours: 1,253



Crew Leadership and Skills Training serves as a stepping stone for future Ice Age Trail volunteer leaders. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

With rain in the forecast, trout lilies emerging, and “Trail Eyes” on the agenda, the time for Crew Leadership and Skills training had come. To no dismay, interest was strong; 29 applications were received and of those, 24 participants would attend the four-day training. Slowly but surely volunteers trickled in, and from the first beat to the last, the tempo never slowed.

If you’re a member of the Alliance, or have been following our success over the years, you may already be familiar with the shared vision that drives our internal workforce and dedicated base of multi-generational volunteers. In collaboration with our many partners, we envision a premier, continuous, permanently protected trail experience; a place where all people can enjoy and embrace the unique natural landscapes and cultural histories of Wisconsin while finding physical and mental renewal and forming an enduring spiritual connection to the land.

In order to make this vision a reality, we know that our focus need not only be on the Trail

itself, but also on the people building and stewarding the Trail, the people enjoying the Trail, and the people who will inherit the Trail if this vision is to be embraced by generations to come. That is why our motto, “trailbuilding is people building,” has become the meat and potatoes of our success and the passion that fosters a unique camaraderie among those willing to venture out of their everyday lives to lend their time and talents to the Trail’s benefit.

Discussion topics throughout the training focused on leadership, peer to peer relationships, trail anatomy, risk management, safety protocols, proper tool use, basic trail construction, and sustainable trail layout and design. Aspiring Crew Leaders learned the importance of building a “hydrologically invisible” trail and how trail stewardship ties strongly into our practices. Classroom sessions took place at Camp Rotamer and hands-on field work at nearby Storrs Lake State Wildlife Area.

The trainees were in the field on both Friday and Saturday, mud boots on, layered up and exposed to a real-time soon-to-be segment of Trail that was well-seasoned in the planning process and ready for construction. With the ‘clonks’ of Sandhill cranes sounding from the nearby marsh, the crew leaders in training worked in teams to explore concepts discussed throughout the training. Progress on this new section of Trail will be continued by Rock

County Chapter volunteers and culminate October 18 – 23 during the Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) season finale.

There’s never a dull moment...not at a Crew Leadership and Skills training! If you were a “fly on the wall” you may have found some of the trainees returning early to base camp to help the Camp Chef prepare the evening meal or attend First Aid / CPR training. “Wildcards” were unexpectedly thrown our way that challenged us to think on our feet and collaborate on the move.

Crew Leaders are volunteers who are trained in advanced trail construction and crew leadership techniques and who, in turn, apply their knowledge and experience to large- and small-scale projects across the Trail. For anyone who volunteers, it all begins with having a positive first experience. As the 2016 “Stones and Ripples” trailbuilding season continues, I am excited to see the ripples these future crew leaders help create.

Christine Bohn recently graduated from UW-Milwaukee and is Stewardship Intern for the Washington Ozaukee Land Trust. Project thanks to trainers Al Sulzer, Jerry Sazama, and Iowa DNR Trails Forman Pete Englund. Thanks also to Camp Rotamer, Trail neighbors Jack and Margret Forystek and Eric and Celeta Kammerzelt, and DNR Wildlife Biologist Mike Foy.



A Thousand-Mile Cathedral

WENDELL HOLL
Event Participant



Rib Lake Segment
May 18 – 22
Participants: 173
Volunteer Hours: 3,720



Many hands may not always make “light” work, but volunteers working together, working skillfully, and working safely eventually transform boulders and dirt into a premier footpath. Photo by Rachel Roberts.

Staff and volunteers returned to the Rib Lake Segment and continued work to open a newly designed and constructed 4.7-mile section of the Trail. Severed by the loss of Trail right of way on privately owned lands in 2008, efforts to secure a new and permanently protected route for the Trail began immediately. The “Stones and Ripples” Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) 2016 season opener was the third large-scale “trailbuilding is people building” event at Rib Lake within a 12-month timeframe. Spirits were high, the outcomes spectacular, and a portion of the lost Trail segment is now open for use thanks to the dedicated work over 5 days of volunteers and community partners crafting a gem in the making.

With the full flower, or budding moon, rising orange through the tall trees surrounding Wood Lake, two trumpeter swans settled in close to shore while Wendell Holl — an Alliance Crew Leader and member affiliated with the Lodi Valley Chapter — shared this story.

— Tim Malzhan, Director of Trail Operations

Every September the UW-Madison Arboretum hosts “Native by Design,” a workshop aimed at educating people about native landscaping, attracting birds and pollinators, invasive species control, and many other topics. Last year the keynote speaker was Nancy Aten, a landscape architect specializing in ecological restoration, planning, and design. She spoke on the influences that shape her design methodology and motivate her dedication to long-term site development. One source she mentioned was the book *Masons, Tricksters and Cartographers* by David Turnbull, which devotes a chapter to the cathedral builders.

These amazing structures were built in an intermittent fashion by craftsmen over many generations, using only basic hand tools. Their primary building materials were stone, soil, and timber. They used string lines, basic construction geometry, and the knowledge gained as the building process unfolded. Standing inside one of these buildings today one is awed by the complexity and visible demonstration of their ingenuity.

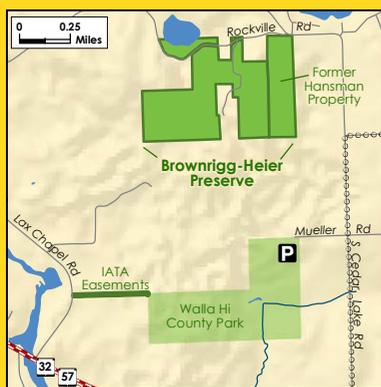
The cathedrals stand as a testament of the power of community commitment to a shared purpose. The resources required were great. The building process was messy and did not follow a clear cut path or timeline. The construction methods developed were passed down over the years as techniques evolved, allowing new styles to emerge as younger generations were inspired to continue.

While listening to Aten’s address, I wondered how it related to my life and immediately the Ice Age Trail came to mind. A thousand-mile cathedral! It was easy to see the many parallels between the processes used to build those great buildings and the work we do. We are a community of individuals drawn together from all parts of Wisconsin and the nation. We are filled with passion to fulfill Ray Zillmer’s dream and create, support, and protect a National Scenic Trail from one end of the state to the other.

Like the cathedral builders, we use basic hand tools and have no fixed blueprint. The Trail itself is our cathedral, a pilgrimage connecting one amazing geological or natural feature to the next. We bring with us a wide variety of skills and experience. We rely on local participation and knowledge. Pin flags are our string lines, side hill tread construction our template, pick mattocks and McLeod’s are our tools of choice. The terrain itself teaches us the methods and techniques that work best as we create a sustainable trail through woods and prairies, space and time. We rely on the skills, experience, and innovative imagination of each other to become better at our craft. We know we are contributing to something we will not see completed in our lifetime but we are dedicated to continuing the work of creating this treasure to be enjoyed and cared for by the generations that follow us.

Family, Legacy, and the Creation of the Brownrigg — Heier Preserve

PETER TOLLY
Volunteer



In December 2015, John and Nancy Brownrigg — along with their daughter and her husband, Deb and Tom Heier — closed a deal with the IATA that would transition ownership of the family's land in Manitowoc County to the Alliance. No ordinary land acquisition, the plot of over 130 acres lies in the geologically rich Walla Hi region of Wisconsin, a corridor long hoped to be the future home of a Trail segment. What's more, in a decision framed by the declining health of John Brownrigg, the family chose to donate their plot in return for nothing more than peace of mind — confidence knowing the land's beauty would be nurtured in trustworthy hands for generations to come.

A chance discovery of a remarkable place.

Despite belonging to a region with such geological significance, the Brownriggs came upon their land almost by accident. In 1993, John was phasing into retirement after a career with Sheboygan Paint Company. Having always held a deep admiration for the outdoors, he and Nancy intended to settle down in a more remote and natural area. While driving outside of Kiel one afternoon, Nancy happened to spot a faded, nearly overgrown for-sale sign beside the road. They pulled up an abandoned logging road, soon to become their driveway, and parked at the end, the spot of their future home.

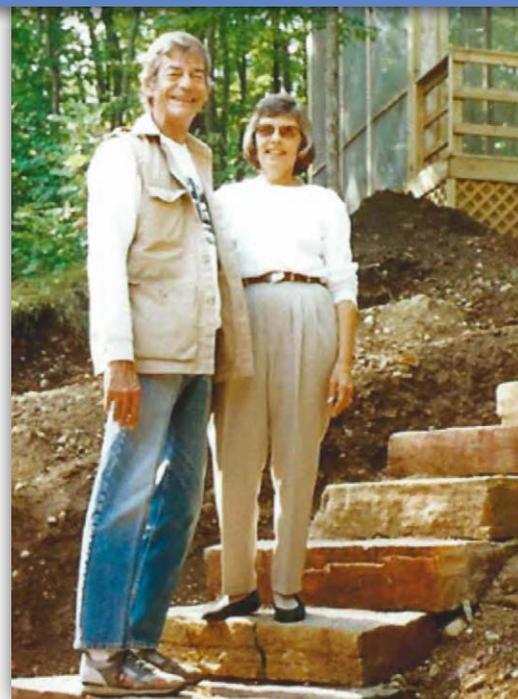
For a family that spent weekends hiking in Kettle Moraine State Forest, it's no coincidence they found this hidden property familiar and strikingly beautiful. As part of the Walla Hi region, it features extraordinary examples of topography left over after the recession of the Wisconsin Glacier, not to mention being part of more than 1,000 acres of contiguous forest. To walk the land is to skirt some of the deepest kettles in the state and to climb lofty moraines to catch breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape.

Soon after discovering the property, the Brownriggs contacted its owner and purchased two parcels. The serenity of the land made such an impression on them in the coming years, however, that they ended up purchasing additional parcels until their property encompassed over 140 acres.

A spirit of conservation grew up alongside the Brownriggs' appreciation for their new land. The more time they spent hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing in their woods, made up of southern mesic forest and a converted pine plantation, the more they had the sense that it should always remain as is. The landscape was too remarkable, the wildlife too abundant to one day be shaped into a housing development.

Caring for the land. Caring for family.

A trip up the Brownrigg's driveway will reveal not just one home, but two. The second belongs to John and Nancy's daughter, Deb, and her husband, Tom, who came to share the



John and Nancy Brownrigg.

property through the family's commitment to care for both the land and one another.

During her parent's first decade on the plot, Deb spent weekends helping her parents take care of the yard. She also found time to explore, photographing the many wildflowers and birds thriving on the property.

"Even though I was only visiting my parents every other week or so, I fell in love with the land," Deb said. "People leave their homes to see and hike areas like this, and we were enjoying it on a daily basis."

Helping take care of the land brought Deb to Walla Hi on weekends, but helping take care of her family made Walla Hi her home. In 2002, Tom began looking for a new job, and both he and Deb wanted to end up closer to Deb's parents. As it turned out, John and Nancy felt the same way.

"In his dry sense of humor, my father pulled me aside and said 'We have to talk business,'" Deb explained. "He offered to let Tom and me build on the property so we could take care of them as they got older. It was what I wanted — it was what all of us wanted." The next year, the Heiers built a home halfway up the old logging road that John and Nancy happened upon a decade earlier.



The Brownrigg – Heier Preserve features dramatic topography and thick woodlands, whose rich soil support a variety of woodland ephemerals, including jack-in-the-pulpit (below). Photos by Deb Heier.

Preserving “paradise” through a new relationship.

Deb’s nearness to her parents took on a special significance when her father became very sick in 2013. John wanted to remain at home as his health waned, a wish Deb and Tom’s caregiving made possible. In a sense, the land also cared for John during his illness, offering him the deep sense of belonging and repose that only a home in nature can provide.

“My father’s property was paradise to him,” Deb explained. “He could look out the window and watch the deer, turkeys, squirrels, and all the different birds, and that kept him going. The stillness here is a gift, and I don’t think anyone appreciated that more than him.”

Around that time, the family decided Deb would eventually inherit her parent’s property. Knowing how much the land meant to her father — and to the whole family — she questioned the best way to handle the gift. Then, in another turn of coincidence, Kevin Thusius came knocking. Director of Land Conservation for the IATA, Kevin contacted the Heiers and Brownriggs in 2014 to discuss a possible easement of a section of their property for the Ice Age Trail. Corridor planning for the area had already taken place five years earlier, and it was now time to begin turning plans into reality.

“When Kevin knocked on the door and told me about the Ice Age Trail, I had never heard



“It took time, but in the end, my father understood that he wasn’t losing his land, he was gaining a national park.”



about it,” Deb admitted. “I hadn’t realized this particular area in Manitowoc County was such a unique geological realization of what the glacier did.”

Though the family had initial concerns about the effect of a national trail on the property, the conversation with Kevin reenergized their wish to preserve the land. And, the more Kevin shared about the IATA’s conservationist approach to land management, the more confident they felt about entering into a relationship with the Alliance.

A gift worth paying forward.

In April 2015, the conversation surrounding the Brownrigg – Heier property took an unexpected turn when the family offered to donate nearly the entire plot to the IATA, not just a small easement.

“I have to say, I was floored,” Kevin said. “I knew I had to take the offer back to the Board

for approval, but I couldn’t help but express how exciting and inspiring it was that a family would give away something that meant so much to them.”

The decision to donate began with Deb. To her, the land was so priceless that selling it felt inappropriate. “We had talked about closing the deal as a gift to dad before he passed,” she said. “My parents have always felt that the land itself is a gift, and it’s a gift to be shared. It took time,” she added, “but in the end, my father understood that he wasn’t losing his land — he was gaining a national park.”

As John’s health rapidly declined, closing the deal took on a sense of urgency. By December 2015, the paperwork was finalized, and the plot became the Brownrigg – Heier Preserve. More than 130 acres altogether, the preserve will be the first of many acquisitions that will make way for a new Trail segment in the coming years — one that is bound to have significant appeal.

John Brownrigg passed away in early 2016. For Deb, donating the land continues to feel like the right way to honor him. “We are so proud that the land will stay as beautiful as it is today, forever,” she said. “Generations will come to hike, learn, and appreciate the land like my father did. I cannot think of a better legacy.”

Peter Tolly is a Communications Specialist with Writing by Design, based in Neenah (www.writingbydesignllc.com).



MEMBER & DONOR news

January 1st — May 31st, 2016

THE IATA WELCOMES...

NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to our 182 new members of the Ice Age Trail Alliance!



NEW YELLOW BLAZE CLUB MEMBERS

The Yellow Blaze Club consists of members giving annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Thank you to the following new members:

Ed & Star Ann Kloberdanz
Dan Rambo

BUR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

The Bur Oak Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a commitment to support the Ice Age Trail Alliance through their estate

Anonymous (8)

John & Sharon Bloodgood

Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz

**David Lonsdorf & Marilyn
Chohaney**

Jerome & Barb Converse

Jason Dorgan

Joanna Kramer Fanney

David & Carol Farber

Bob Funk

Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink

Tom & Jan Gilbert

Roy & Sue Gromme

Tom Gross & Linda Hein

plans. We are honored to celebrate those people today for their future gifts toward the growth and success of the Ice Age Trail.

Mary Hilfiker

Marcy & Nathan Kempf

Gary & Pat Klatt

Linda Levengood

Tess Mulrooney

Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee

Nancy Jo Patterson

David W. Phillips

Dan Rambo

Ann & Bob Rusch

Gerald & Mary Schwoch

Mike & Barbara Wollmer

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

Ann Buedel's retirement

by her colleagues at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Sara Milhans

by Rosie Andre

Ann Heaslett & Tim Yanacheck's 10th Anniversary

by Mary & Dave Gorski
Melanie McManus

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

John Brownrigg

by Jeffrey Beischel
James & Nancy Hanlon
Peter & Sharon Hensel
Greg Juneke
Kyle & Gail Karstaedt
John & Shirley Nelesen
Steven Nelesen
Nancy Scharenbroch
Douglas & Stacy Tuttle
Donald & Jeanette Wierzbach
Wendy Yinko
Various friends and family

Irene Cline

by Sharon & John Bloodgood

Tom Doyle

by Mark Anderson
Martin & Carol Clarke
June Doyle
Don & Jan Erickson
Bonnie Hamer
Brian & Audrey Roach

Cora Dversdall

by Charles Adleman
Glen & Barbara Anderson
John & Sharon Bloodgood
Luann & David Bolk
The IATA's Chippewa Moraine Chapter
Frederick & Edith Ann Dalleska
Carrie Erickson
Deb & Dick Erickson
Don & Jan Erickson
Marguerite Johnson
Joe & Peg Jopek
Duncan Dversdall's colleagues at the Department of Defense
Anti-Tamper Program Office at Wright-Patterson
Air Force Base

Enid & Thomas Michalowski
Duncan Dversdall's colleagues at the Department of Defense
Anti-Tamper Executive Agent Office
Dean & Jayne Paynter
Ken & Sharon Peterson
Jeffrey Smith & Johnna Reynolds
Charles & Kay Smith
Ruth Sommers
Marlys Spencer
Jerry & Pat Spies
Bill & Sandy Turk

Sally Freckmann

by Penny Bernard Schaber & Dale Schaber

Margaret (Peggy) Hershey

by Maggie & Art Marquis

Richard G. Lonsdorf, M.D.

by Rick Owens, M.D.

William Olson

by Sharon Olson

Kenneth Rindt & Donald Rindt

by Terry Rindt

Irene Zastrow

by Barbara Hockerman

MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts were received from:

Caterpillar Foundation

thanks to Charles Poat

GE Foundation

thanks to Anne Davies-Walsh

Johnson Controls Foundation

thanks to Richard Schreiner

Thrivent Financial Foundation

thanks to John Snyder

U.S. Bank Foundation

thanks to Steven Armann



THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SECOND TRIMESTER CONTRIBUTORS

\$5,000 – \$6,000

B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, Wausau
Kettle Moraine Garden Club, Inc., Nashotah
Uline Inc., Pleasant Prairie

\$2,000 – \$3,400

American Transmission Company, Waukesha
Chet & Eloise Anderson
Jeff & Judy Archibald
Jerome & Barb Converse
Lysianne Unruh & Jason Dorgan
Gary & Pat Klatt
Randy & Joanna Parlee
Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation

\$1,000 – \$1,500

Anonymous
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Craig Benson
Virginia & James Coburn
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Frederick & Edith Ann Dalleska
Dean Dversdall
Greater Delafield Community Fund

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Kohl's, Menomonee Falls
Lodi Area Community Endowment
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Keith & Linda Murie
Jen & John Shank
Swamplovers Foundation, Cross Plains
Barbara & Richard Voigt
Mike & Barbara Wollmer

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Johnson Controls Foundation, Milwaukee
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David Phillips

Elizabeth Ross
Gail Hanson & Michael Schmidt
Richard Schreiner

\$250 – \$450

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Caryl & Stratton McAllister
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Nancy Radke
Penny Bernard Schaber & Dale Schaber
Dan & Jane Schuller
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Allan Sommer
Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, Oconomowoc
Thrivent Financial, Appleton
Toboggan Run Dental LLC, Rice Lake
Judy & David Weiss
Andrew Whitney
Tom & Bonnie Wise
Sandra Young

IN-KIND/PRO-BONO

Roy & Sue Gromme
The O'Shea Family
Dave Tlusty

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION update

Turning 100 is a big deal, whether you are the one blowing out candles or an entity like the National Park Service. In 2016, the NPS is celebrating a century's worth of profound work establishing and supporting America's national parks.

Celebrations are happening nationwide to reflect on the past and look to the future. The NPS is partnering with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to commemorate the historical accomplishments of conservation, stewardship, and public engagement. Unique to Wisconsin is John Muir's boyhood home in Marquette County, now home to a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Muir, co-founder of the Sierra Club and the "The Father of Our National Park System", was a visionary of his time, instrumental in founding new

principles of stewardship and land protection. Muir's legacy carries forward a vision of protecting nature, rather than consuming it solely as a particular resource.

The Alliance and NPS are taking the time to reminisce at Muir's old stomping grounds and along the shores of his beloved Fountain (Ennis) Lake. Saturday, August 6th will be a day filled with speakers, Saunters program art displays, informational sessions, and family fun, all honoring the milestones of the past century.

Watch for a recap of the celebration in the next issue of *Mammoth Tales* and on the Alliance's website, www.iceagetrail.org

SPIRIT STICK AWARD

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's Spirit Stick award signifies long-term dedication and service to the Trail, carried out in a spirit of cooperation, optimism and enthusiasm. The recipient leads by example and inspires those around them. A trailwide award, the Spirit Stick is presented to only one recipient each year.

The recipient of this year's Spirit Stick Award is **Dean Paynter**. At the Alliance's awards ceremony, executive director Mike Wollmer summarized Dean's remarkable contributions with the following words:

Over the years some recipients of the Spirit Stick have also been Thousand-Milers. This year we recognize a quiet but determined volunteer who embarked on a similar challenge, though he doesn't think linearly as in east to west. His vision and influence is broader. He has been an organizer, planner and leader for more than 20 years.



Spirit Stick award recipient Dean Paynter and his wife, Jayne.

Like most folks associated with the Trail, he prefers to call attention to others around him rather than to himself. He responds to opportunities and challenges the same way...with forward thinking, diplomacy, insight, optimism, and enthusiasm. His work isn't solely focused on the tread itself. His unique and uncanny understanding of how nonprofit and government systems operate has contributed mightily to local, state, and federal advocacy. He has advanced and achieved outcomes for the Trail that have proved to be mutually beneficial to private landowners, government agencies, and diverse community and recreational groups.

The Rock County Chapter and the Ice Age Trail Alliance as a whole are fortunate to have Dean Paynter as the caretaker of the Spirit Stick in 2016.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS (VIP) AWARDS

Any Ice Age Trail volunteer who reports his or her volunteer hours is on the path to recognition through the National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) awards program.

At this year's NPS VIP awards ceremony, more than 130 volunteers were recognized for passing various volunteer-hours mileposts.

The following individuals were honored with a letter of recognition from President Obama for eclipsing 4,000 total hours since the inception of the VIP awards program in 2007.

Mark Jeffries, Madison
Dave Jenkins, Middleton
Dolly McNulty, Two Rivers
Richard Smith, New Auburn
Tom Wise, Verona

AMERICAN RECREATION COALITION'S BEACON AWARD

Dolly McNulty is legendary for being the creative genius and driving force behind the popular ColdCaching program of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. It was fitting that Dan Watson of the National Park Service nominated Dolly for the American Recreation Coalition's prestigious Beacon Award, which recognizes innovative recreational activity. And it came as no surprise, for those who know Dolly's passion for this program, when it was announced she was the 2016 recipient of the award.

A formal recognition and presentation of the Beacon Award will take place at 7:30 pm on Thursday, August 18th at the Alliance's Ice Age Trail University (IAT-U)/Mobile Skills Crew event just outside of Merrimac, a few miles south of Devil's Lake State Park.

Many a grand idea is born out of one's own unique spin on the trends of the day. Thus, ColdCaching is based on GeoCaching and EarthCaching, with a unique twist. ColdCaching participants enjoy the thrill of a treasure hunt while seeking out natural features connected to Wisconsin's fascinating Ice Age history.

The concept of ColdCaching dovetails perfectly with Wisconsin's 4th grade curriculum which focuses on the state's history, geography, and geology. ColdCaching provides educators with a creative, interactive way to bring history and geology alive and make it relevant to the next generation. In this way, ColdCaching plays an important role in every Saunters outing, featuring hikes that combine outdoor recreation with service learning. Dolly was also instrumental in making ColdCaching more affordable and accessible to diverse user groups by providing "Park Packs" that can be signed out and used by the public at eight different state properties along the Ice Age Trail.

Legendary and innovative, indeed!

MAKE YOUR 2017 AWARD NOMINATIONS!

If you know an outstanding Ice Age Trail volunteer, partner or friend, shine a light on his or her work by making a 2017 award nomination. Visit iceagetrail.org/volunteer/awards to get started. Thank you for recognizing your fellow volunteers!

The Ice Age Trail's "Big Loop" — Its History and Its Future

DREW HANSON
Parks and Trails Consultant

and

ERIC SHERMAN
Membership and Grants Coordinator



The route of the big loop. Solid lines show established Ice Age Trail segments, dashed lines show connecting routes.

The Past

Drew Hanson

One of the more intriguing features of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, both in terms of the history of the Trail's development and what will unfold for hikers in the coming decades, is the Trail's "big loop" in central Wisconsin.

The route of the big loop (traditionally referred to as the "bifurcation") passes through portions of Waushara, Adams, Marquette, Columbia, and Sauk counties. A Trail user who tackles the full loop today would cover around 165 miles, the large majority of which are unmarked "connecting routes" along quiet country roads.

The history of the loop is complicated. Below, Drew Hanson — one of the foremost experts on the Trail's history — tackles the tale. Drew was on the staff of the Alliance from 1996 – 2009, including the last seven years as Trailway Director. Drew's blog (<http://pedestrianview.blogspot.com/>) contains many other interesting Ice Age Trail essays.

Because so much of the loop is not yet developed, it is also an area of tremendous potential. Following Drew's essay are a few thoughts on why the loop will one day be a source of tremendous pride for Trail supporters.

Most of the general route of the Ice Age Trail is due to the plan of Ray Zillmer, the person who originated the idea for the Ice Age Trail. He envisioned it following the interlobate ridges of the Kettle Moraine in eastern Wisconsin and the terminal moraine west to the border with Minnesota. Without Ray Zillmer, there would be no Ice Age Trail. But once Zillmer died in 1960, the Ice Age Trail almost died with him. More than 10 years passed before Congressman Henry Reuss stepped up to become the Trail's greatest champion.

For the next three decades, Congressman Reuss was a major influence on most things Ice Age Trail. The full body of his Ice Age Trail accomplishments is far beyond the scope of this article. While the big loop is something he did not intend to create and something he at times worked against in favor of his preferred eastern leg, more than any single person we can thank Congressman Reuss for the existence of the big loop.

During the years following Ray Zillmer's untimely death, Ice Age Trail leaders increasingly realized that one of the weaknesses of Zillmer's planned route for the Trail was that it was not really possible to tell the story of continental glaciation if the Trail's route adhered rigidly to

the interlobate and terminal moraines, not to mention the fact that it would lack variety for anyone walking more than a short segment. Having the Ice Age Trail weave other types of landforms not found on a terminal moraine into the route would make for a better trail. Worth noting is the fact that neither leg of the big loop follows the terminal moraine.

One of Congressman Reuss's many major Ice Age Trail accomplishments was the book, *On the Trail of the Ice Age*, which he authored through three editions. Initially published in January, 1976 it was the first guidebook on the Ice Age Trail and it included the first set of maps and detailed description of the entire *thousand mile* route. In the doughnut area, the 1976 edition shows the Trail entirely as a single route of connecting roads between Sauk City and Coloma, passing through the city of Portage. The route skirts the edge of John Muir Park but remarkably misses the Baraboo Hills and Devils Lake Park entirely. The book gives no hint of the western route shown two years earlier on the official Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation brochure of 1974.

A major milestone in the history of the Ice Age Trail was the 1980 passage of the Ice Age Trail Act by Congress and signed by the President the same year. Although many people advocated for its designation as a National Scenic Trail, no one was more important to this effort than Congressman Reuss. The law even states that the Trail will be, "generally following the route described in 'On the Trail of the Ice Age...' by Henry S. Reuss, Member of Congress, dated 1980." The route shown in the 1980 edition is the eastern leg — none of the western leg.

As required by the National Trails System Act, the National Park Service completed the *Ice Age National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan for Management and Use* in 1983. The route shown on maps in the plan roughly follows the eastern leg of the big loop but a note on one map states, "The Ice Age Trail Council is working on a rerouting of the trail from Devil's Lake to Greenwood Wildlife Area. The rerouting would take the trail west into the Glacial Lake Wisconsin area..." (i.e., the western leg of what later became the big loop).

Also required by the National Trails System Act was appointment of an Advisory Council to assist the National Park Service "with respect

to matters relating to the trail, including the selection of rights-of-way.” Appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, the Advisory Council was comprised of a dozen members including former Wisconsin Governor Warren Knowles, prominent citizens and active Ice Age Trail supporters. Given the conflicting ideas, the Advisory Council was not surprisingly asked to weigh in on the route through the doughnut area. In mid-1984 the Advisory Council approved the western route “to take the trail into the glacial Lake Wisconsin area” as the official route for the Ice Age Trail. But leaders from the city of Portage felt left out of the decision and Congressman Reuss remained unwilling to let go of his preferred route.

In a January 9, 1986 letter from Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (later renamed the Ice Age Trail Alliance) President John Zillmer (Ray’s son) to Congressman Henry Reuss, John Zillmer addressed the Congressman’s efforts. At the time, Congressman Reuss also sat on the board of directors of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. Referring to the route through the city of Portage, John Zillmer wrote, “this route has repeatedly been rejected by the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation in spite of great pressure by you to approve it. As a matter of fact, you have been the only director to support this route. Your planned route was unanimously rejected by the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Advisory Council. It has been rejected by the Ice Age Trail Council. It has been rejected by the National Park Service. It has been rejected by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources... You have contributed so very much to what progress has been made. Why in the world are you now undermining all that you have worked so hard to accomplish?”

There was a lot of back and forth during those years about whether to make either the eastern or western legs the official route of the Ice Age Trail and designate the other one a National Side or Connecting Trail.

At one point Congressman Reuss resigned in protest from the board of directors of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation only to rejoin a few months later. The issue remained a source of unrest. Some maps of this era showed the eastern route through Portage while others showed the western route into the Driftless Area and Glacial Lake Wisconsin, depending on who created the map.

At last, an official effort to put the questions to bed reached fruition in early 1987. Letters were exchanged between Congressman Bruce Vento, Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, and William Penn Mott Jr., National Park Service Director, that outlined what Congressman Vento called “a reasonable solution” of making the two legs of the big loop both part of the official route of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Thus the big loop was born out of compromise.

Still, in the 1990 edition of *On the Trail of the Ice Age*, Congressman Reuss showed none of the western leg of the big loop on any maps but he did include a one-paragraph description of its general route.

In 1999 the Partnership for the National Trail System held its annual conference at Lake Tahoe. Afterward a few of us accepted an invitation from Congressman Reuss to meet at his retirement home in Belvedere, CA. He and his wife were generous and delightful hosts. The elderly statesman had a few Ice Age Trail business items he wanted to impress upon us. One of these was the big loop. As he had done once before with me during a telephone call, at his dining room table he asked that we remove the western leg of the big loop from all maps. Having not lost his powers of persuasion, he made a strong case. But one of my companions that day was a long-time Ice Age Trail board member who provided an equally compelling counter argument. The retired Congressman elegantly shifted the discussion to his next topic.

Questions about the big loop still arise from time to time. Aspiring Thousand Milers sometimes ask if one must hike both legs of the big loop to be considered a Thousand Miler. The answer is “no.” In this case, half a doughnut is sufficient.

To some, the big loop remains a kind of odd quirk in the Ice Age Trail. To others, it is best to embrace it as part of the Trail’s uniqueness.

The Future

Eric Sherman

Imagine the Ice Age National Scenic Trail 100 years or so down the road when it’s “complete” and dotted with Dispersed Camping Areas every 15 miles or so. We have a remarkable trail now...and think of how much better it’s going to become!

The future of the Ice Age Trail along its “big loop” is especially bright. Consider what we will have, especially from the viewpoint of an aspiring long-distance hiker, when the loop is complete:

- An ~165-mile loop...the perfect distance for those who want to try out a substantial backpacking trip (it could be done in less than two weeks) without “going overboard.” No doubt a number of those folks would view this as dipping a toe in the waters of a complete Ice Age Trail hike.

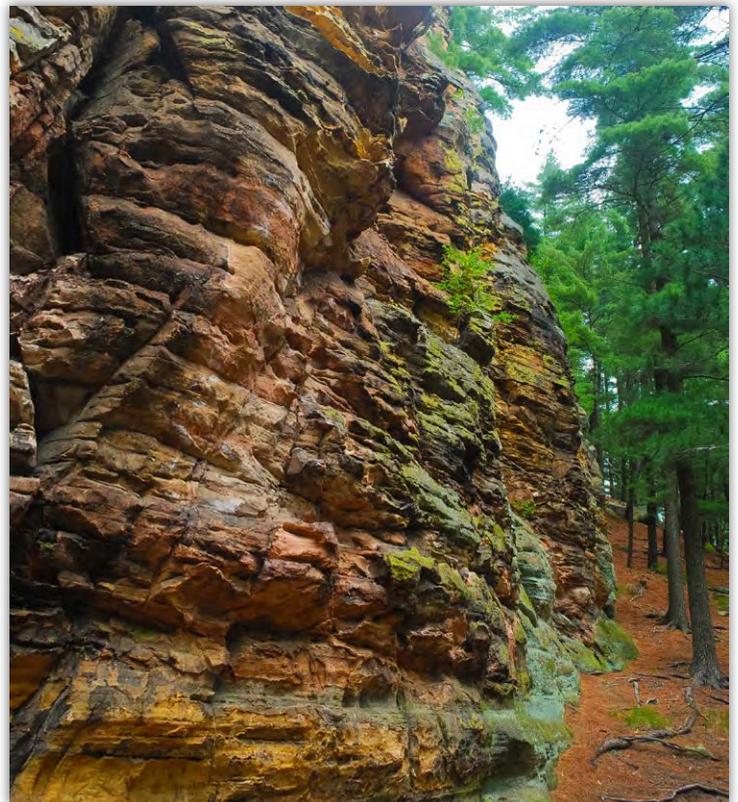
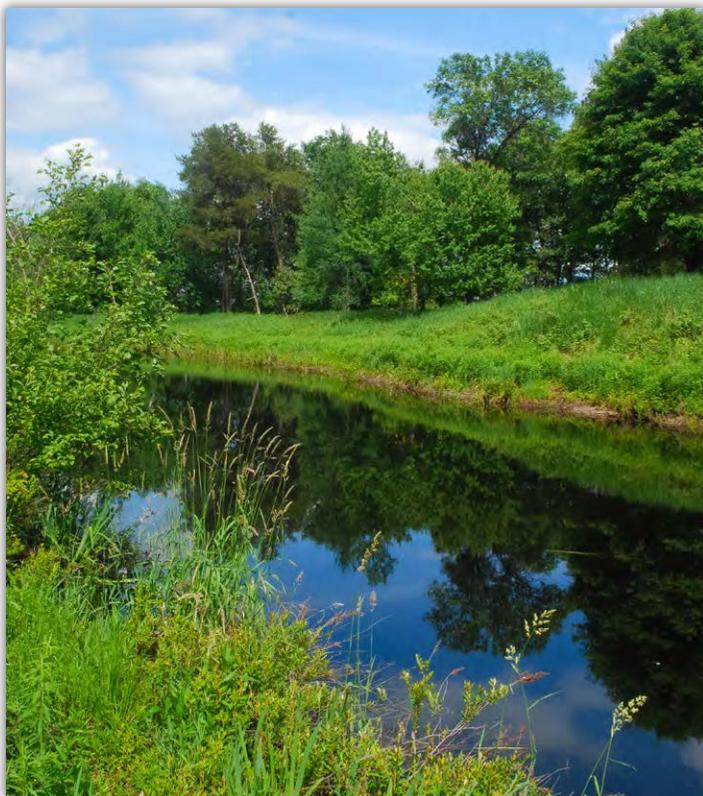
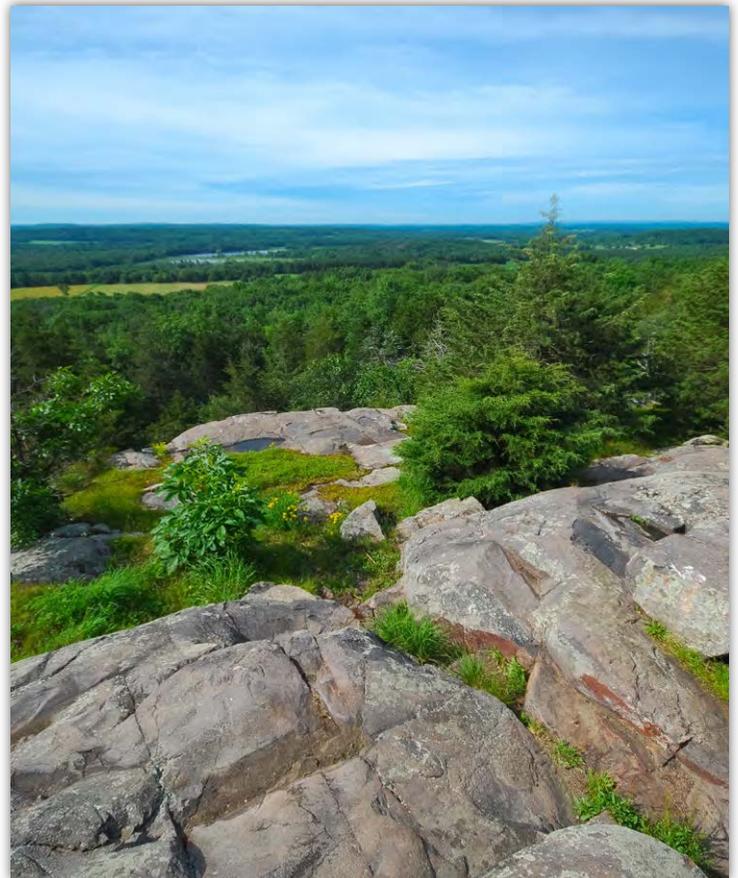


*This map from the official Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation brochure of 1974 shows the western half of the big loop, but not the eastern. The reverse was found two years later in the initial edition of Congressman Henry Reuss’s *On the Trail of the Ice Age*.*



- An attractive loop. The route would pack a lot of highlights in a short distance... Devil's Lake State Park, the Fox River, John Muir's boyhood home, Roche-A-Cri State Park, Quincy Bluff, Hulbert Creek Woods, and Mirror Lake State Park, to name a few.
- An exceptionally hiker-friendly loop. The majority of Trail development here will be taking place in an era of remarkably high-quality IATA Trail Layout and Design and volunteer trailbuilding practices. It will also occur at the same time as the ascendancy of the Dispersed Camping Areas program, which aims to secure legal camping options at appropriate intervals for long-distance hikers. In other words, the area is a large blank canvas and we have the expertise, skills, and vision to create a masterpiece.
- A handy loop. The nearest access point would be around 40 miles from Madison, 120 miles from Milwaukee and 190 miles from Chicago.
- An economically beneficial loop. Partnering with local governments and businesses on a special campaign to promote the loop as a unique asset within the full Ice Age Trail could lead to a significant increase in tourism dollars to local economies.
- A loop, period... those people hiking the full route of the Big Loop would not need to make complicated arrangements to get back from their starting point... they'll hike there.

As Ice Age Trail supporters, we could probably all stand to spend more time reflecting on exciting times ahead, as an alternative to our typical (and necessary) focus on the challenges at hand. Look no further than the "big loop" as a source of inspiration.



The Ice Age Trail "big loop" may one day highlight the dramatic landscapes of areas like Observatory Hill in Marquette County (top right) and Quincy Bluff and Wetlands (bottom left) and Roche-A-Cri (bottom right) in Adams County. Photos by Joshua Mayer, whose blog (www.wisconsinstatenaturalareas.com) describes his quest to visit all 675 Wisconsin State Natural Areas.



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Trail Safe! Video Lessons — An Accessible and Enjoyable Resource for Alliance Volunteers

DAN WATSON

National Park Service Volunteer
Coordinator, Ice Age National Scenic Trail

For too many years, the National Park Service has experienced an extremely poor employee and volunteer safety record — in fact, one of the worst accident and injury rates of among more than 130 federal agencies. Between the years 2005 and 2010, more than 3,800 employees and volunteers of the NPS were injured on the job to the extent of missing at least one day of work.

Several years ago, the NPS developed a different type of safety training program called “NPS Operational Leadership.” Operational Leadership is not the typical safety program most of us expect. It doesn’t focus on things such as proper handling of specific tools, for instance. Instead, Operational Leadership focuses on the human factor of safety. Situational Awareness, Stress & Performance, and Effective Leadership are just a few of the topics explored. In other words, Operational Leadership adds a behavioral component to our existing safety policies and procedures. Completion of Operational Leadership training is mandatory for all NPS employees, and the course involves two full days of classroom learning facilitated by certified instructors.

Personally, I was so motivated by what I learned in my Operational Leadership training as a student that I went on to become certified as a facilitator. However, throughout my time as a student and as a facilitator, I constantly grappled with the question of how to share NPS Operational Leadership with the thousands of volunteers who build, maintain, and nurture the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Greetings! The colorful logo you see associated with this article is one I hope becomes very iconic for all of us over the days and months ahead. Whenever an Ice Age National Scenic Trail volunteer spots the *Trail Safe!* logo, it should be as familiar and commonly recognized as the Trail emblem or a yellow blaze.

Allow me to explain what *Trail Safe!* is all about, and how it evolved.

Out of this challenge, *Trail Safe!* was born. *Trail Safe!* is a series of eight video lessons that cover all of the core learning objectives found in NPS Operational Leadership. *Trail Safe!* is something that every trail volunteer can access. If you have a home computer, a tablet device, or a smart phone, you can participate in *Trail Safe!* As long as you can access the internet, you can play the *Trail Safe!* video series from any place at any time.



Each of the *Trail Safe!* videos run in various lengths from 18 minutes to about 40 minutes. Consider watching them with some of your fellow Trail volunteers in a small group to generate discussion on how particular learning points may be important along your stretch of the Trail. Ask your chapter to consider viewing a new *Trail Safe!* video lesson at each chapter meeting. It’s up to you...be creative and have fun with it!

Completion of *Trail Safe!* is not mandatory for Ice Age Trail volunteers, but I do invite and encourage each of you to please find the time to participate. I won’t promise that every core learning objective presented will resonate with all viewers, but I am confident that throughout the video series everyone will find some new and meaningful information making their time commitment to *Trail Safe!* worthwhile.

To join in, simply go to the National Park Service’s website for the Ice Age Trail at www.nps.gov/iatr. Scroll down the main page and click on that iconic *Trail Safe!* logo, and the next page will offer you all eight lessons to choose from. Please watch them in numeric order as each lesson builds upon the learning points of the previous lesson. At the very bottom of the *Trail Safe!* menu page, please note the Training Verification Roster link. After viewing each lesson be sure to fill out and submit the Training Verification Roster. Once you have completed all eight lessons and the verification rosters for each lesson, you’ll receive a *Trail Safe!* pin in the mail along with other job aids discussed in the video series.

Thank you in advance for not only participating in *Trail Safe!* but also for being an ambassador of this training initiative by helping to spread the word and encouraging other volunteers to participate as well! Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at daniel_watson@nps.gov.