

*The Ice Age Trail Alliance's new name (formerly the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation) speaks to the extraordinary year that was 2009. After a thorough review of new name options, our membership voted nearly unanimously at our 2009 Annual Conference to choose "Alliance". Alliance represents all of us pulling together to build miles of new Trail, protect large and small tracts of land and make those efforts meaningful to an ever-increasing audience. Our volunteer hours count and number of individual volunteers saw double-digit percentage increases. More and more people are finding that the IATA represents a meaningful and responsible conservation effort.*

*Beyond our many accomplishments out on the Trail, in February we moved our staff into a beautiful new office Cross Plains, creating an anchor point for the organization and improving efficiency by bringing together in one location co-workers who were previously scattered across the state.*

*A new home, a new name and new volunteers...all dedicated to advancing the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.*

- Mike Wollmer, Executive Director

## Growing and Stewarding the Trail

Thanks to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers, the IATA helped add more than 10 miles to the Ice Age Trail in 2009.

**Table 1:**  
**Net change in miles of the Ice Age Trail opened to the public**

Year	Miles	Year	Miles
2003	+6.9	2006	+17.3
2004	+5.6	2007	+7.3
2005	+6.7	2008	+8.3
		2009	+10.1

These miles were added through dozens of IATA-led projects throughout the year. Some highlights of 2009 volunteer efforts include the following local and statewide trail building, maintenance and stewardship activities:

- In Manitowoc the Lakeshore Chapter collaborated with local partners and opened a new 2-mile Ice Age Trail segment through Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve.
- The Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter hosted the May Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) event which opened 1.4 miles of new Trail near Slinger. A record 361 volunteers, including 140 students, participated.
- Eagle Scout projects were conducted in Rock, Washington and Waukesha counties. Outcomes included building about 80 feet of boardwalk, 40 feet of puncheon and a 28-foot-long elevated boardwalk, respectively.
- Wisconsin's newest State Park opened at Straight Lake near Luck (Polk County). The Indianhead Chapter hosted a September MSC event that created the first 1.75 miles of Trail through the heart of the park.

- Marathon County Chapter volunteers reopened a 1.9-mile off-road section of the Trail's Eau Claire Dells Segment.
- The MSC program's "IAT-U" volunteer education event was well-attended and 12 of the 14 Crew Leader Skills participants earned official "Crew Leader" status during the year.
- The Dane County chapter hosted two MSC events to build 2 miles of new Trail, upgrade 1.3 miles of existing Trail and construct a 40-foot clear-span bridge and dodgeway in the Town of Montrose and Village of Cross Plains.
- In June, the Waupaca County Chapter hosted a successful MSC project in the Skunk and Foster Lakes State Natural Area and Waupaca River State Fisheries Area. Volunteers constructed two kiosks and a 40-foot bridge, crafted a quarter-mile of new textbook tread, removed loads of invasive species and upgraded Trail signage.



*In October, DNR Accessibility Specialist Andy Janicki and Waushara County Chapter member Jenny Addis cut the ribbon to open a new fully accessible trail aimed at helping more people enjoy the beautiful Bohn Lake State Ice Age Trail Area. Photo courtesy of Waushara County Chapter Coordinator Randy Lennartz of Wautoma.*

- Volunteers from around the state and beyond rejoined the Lakeshore Chapter at the LaBudde Creek State Fisheries Area in Sheboygan County to extend the Trail an additional half-mile and complete "rained out" tasks from a 2008 MSC event.
- High Point Chapter volunteers rehabbed a Trail bridge in the Chequamegon National Forest and hosted an October MSC event that resulted in 210 feet of new boardwalk, a scenic quarter-mile reroute and four miles of upgraded Trail signage in the Wood Lake area.
- Langlade County Chapter volunteers rehabbed a bog-bridge in the Game Lake area.
- Rock County Chapter and Lodi Valley Chapter volunteers worked with volunteers from around the state to host end-of-season "Wild Card" MSC events. In Janesville, vandalism to rock walls and structures were repaired at the Devil's Staircase

Segment. In Lodi, volunteers upgraded Trail signage, constructed nearly 100 feet of rock walls, crafted tread and more to complete work on the 160-foot-long “Rainbow Arch Bridge”.

- Marquette County Chapter volunteers worked through a range of issues with diverse stakeholders and hosted two regional trail building projects to upgrade existing bridge approaches and boardwalks at John Muir Memorial County Park.

## Supporting Our Volunteers

In the 2009 National Park Service volunteer “year” (October 1, 2008–September 30, 2009), 2,281 different volunteers reported 58,225.3 hours of labor devoted to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. At the \$20.25 Independent Sector rate for a volunteer hour for that period, that’s a contribution valued at more than \$1,179,000. In recognition of our outstanding volunteers, the organization claimed the National Park Service’s Midwest Region and National George B. Hartzog Award for Volunteer Service by a Group.

**Table 2:**  
Hours reported by Ice Age Trail volunteers

	10/01/06- 09/30/07	10/01/07- 9/30/08	10/01/08- 9/30/09
No. of volunteers reporting hours	1189	1602	2281
Total hours reported	48,187.5	42,288.9	58,225.3
Average hours per volunteer	40.5	26.4	25.5

Leaders of the IATA’s 21 active volunteer chapters along the Ice Age Trail and the Mobile Skills Crew program supported volunteers by organizing trail building and trail maintenance workdays throughout the year, providing necessary equipment and training at events and tracking and reporting volunteer hours to help volunteers earn benefits through the National Park Service’s Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program.

In addition to support from fellow volunteers at the chapter level, Ice Age Trail volunteers received support from IATA staff members. Staff supported volunteers by, among other duties, (i) helping secure Challenge Cost Share funding from the National Park Service for chapter-led Ice Age Trail projects, (ii) providing



The IATA continued to make strides in engaging young volunteers in 2009. This crew of Unity High School students helped with corridor clearing at Straight Lake State Park (Polk County) in October as part of their Future Farmers of America activities. Photo by Unity instructor Jeanne Alling.

avenues for chapter event publicity via our enhanced website and quarterly magazine *Mammoth Tales*, (iii) helping chapter leaders understand and meet regulatory guidelines that must be cleared before on-the-ground efforts can begin and (iv) providing training and guidelines on subjects such as chapter financial reporting, volunteer hours reporting and the IATA website.

## Protecting the Trailway

Nearly 4.5 miles of the Ice Age Trail were permanently protected in 2009. This number, though not as high as it needs to be, is consistent with the previous three years. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources continues to be a key partner integrally involved with land protection for the Ice Age Trail. A number of other partners including the National Park Service also aided in the process of acquiring nine properties totaling more than 575 acres.

**Table 3:**  
Miles of the Ice Age Trail permanently protected

Year	Miles	Year	Miles
2003	6.2	2006	3.0
2004	7.2	2007	4.8
2005	15.1	2008	4.4
		2009	4.4

Highlighting 2009 were two rather large easement donations to the Ice Age Trail Alliance. A 175-acre easement in Columbia County protected over a half-mile of Ice Age Trail and surrounding rural agricultural lands while another 160-acre partial donation in Taylor County will eventually protect up to two miles of Ice Age Trail and some beautiful, well-managed woodlands. Also, State Ice Age Trail Areas around Gibraltar Rock in Columbia County, Straight Lake in Polk County and the Mekan River in Waushara County all benefited from land acquisitions in 2009.

In terms of protecting lands already owned by the IATA, in 2009 the IATA strengthened itself by edging ever closer to compliance with the Land Trust Alliance’s Standards and Practices by properly organizing and archiving land records. Furthermore, the IATA continues to work toward protecting current easement and owned properties by developing additional policies and creating funding to cover their costs in perpetuity. The IATA continues to annually monitor its easements and owned properties, as well as reach out to “handshake” landowners. In 2009, all Ice Age Trail handshake Trail hosts were sent an official Ice Age National Scenic Trail mug.

## Growing Awareness and Partnerships

Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers and staff members worked hard throughout the year to promote the Ice Age Trail to new audiences in a variety of venues. Chapter volunteers continued to spearhead outreach efforts at large, regional events such as the Midwest Mountaineering expos in the Twin Cities and the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo and Canoeopia in Madison, in addition to staffing info booths at smaller events such as county- and municipal-level fairs, celebrations and farmers’ markets. Volunteers from across the state also combined forces to plan and execute “Chillin on the Ice Age Trail”, an event giving Ice Age Trail fans a fun opportunity to introduce family and friends to the Trail. The event drew more than 80 participants to the Trail in

the Chequamegon National Forest and also kicked off the IATA's new geocaching-related activity, ColdCaching.

In addition to promoting the Ice Age Trail via face-to-face interactions with current and potential Trail supporters, IATA volunteers and staff also made strides in spreading the word about the Ice Age Trail via the internet. To help potential hikers find the Ice Age Trail, excerpts from our popular *Ice Age Trail Companion Guide 2008* and regional Trail maps were made available for free download, greatly increasing the amount of hiker-friendly information available on the site. Following installation of a new content management system for the website and a round of trainings by IATA staff, volunteers at the chapter level took ownership of their chapter's pages on the site, posting chapter news, current Trail conditions and writeups for upcoming events. In another leap forward, the IATA established itself on the social networking site Facebook, allowing hundreds of "fans" to keep up with IATA news.


With an eye toward building the next generation of Ice Age Trail supporters, the organization continued to make partnerships with youth groups a focal point, with excellent results. Students participated in many trail building and maintenance projects, including the more than 140 who pitched in at the Polk Kames Mobile Skills Crew event in May. The IATA funded the highly successful Summer Saunters program for Lodi-area students; leaders and participants of the program were featured speakers at the Partnership for the National Trails System Annual Conference in Missoula. For the second consecutive year, the IATA partnered with UW-Baraboo/Sauk County First-Year Student Program to

IATA Statistical Snapshots			
	End 2007	End 2008	End 2009
<b>Memberships</b>	2,214	2,237	2,277
<b>Members</b>	3,010	3,001	3,008
<b>Members/Membership</b>	1.36	1.34	1.32
Members per chapter			
Chapter	End 2007	End 2008	End 2009
Dane County	653	621	473
Waukesha/Milwaukee Co.	465	447	425
Statewide	93	196	330
Washington/Ozaukee Co.	212	221	201
Walworth/Jefferson Co.	225	223	199
Lakeshore	193	173	188
Chippewa Moraine	139	132	136
Indianhead	119	120	127
Wausara County	109	99	120
Portage County	110	111	115
Marathon County	115	113	114
Waupaca County	77	74	77
Lodi Valley	70	64	75
Rock County	65	60	64
Northwoods	47	52	62
Superior Lobe	63	63	60
Baraboo Hills	69	57	60
High Point	57	50	59
Langlade County	52	52	52
Blue Hills	35	30	31
Marquette County	28	29	30
Heritage Trail	14	14	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>3,008</b>

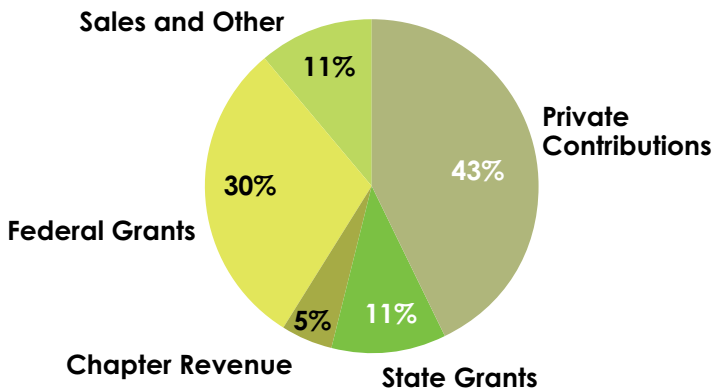
engage students on a campus that hosts a new segment of the Ice Age Trail. Students from Gary, Indiana and Milwaukee were introduced to Ice Age Trail volunteering thanks to an encouraging new partnership with Groundwork, an international network that helps communities build on existing resources to eliminate environmental poverty.

## Strengthening Our Organization Financially

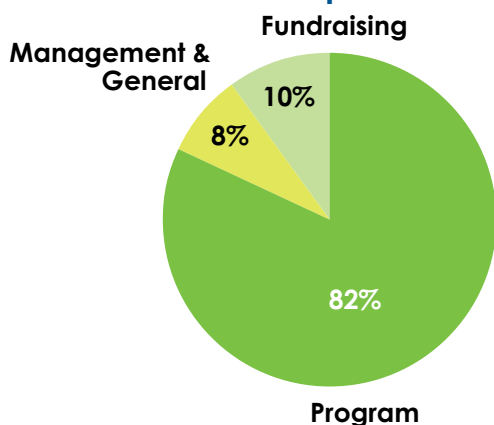
In spite of tough times for the nation's economy, the IATA had its most successful year for donations received in the organization's over-50-year history. The total number of donations increased slightly, and scores of members across all membership categories increased their level of support. In addition to the strong, sustained support that members provided, two unique donations helped make 2009 a special year for the IATA:

- In May, anonymous donors contributed >\$99,000 to be directed toward the IATA's new main office building. The gift was made possible by a Charitable Lead Trust set up by the donors 10 years ago when they sold a portion of their land.
- In November, the family of the late Congressman Henry S. Reuss and his wife Margaret donated \$400,000 to the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Approximately three-quarters of the donation will be used to kick off a capital campaign aimed at purchasing the new office building in Cross Plains, which the Ice Age Trail Alliance is currently renting. The remainder will be used to hire the IATA's first Education & Outreach Manager. 

### 2009 Revenue



### 2009 Expenses





# 2009 Annual Report Thanks to Our Generous 2009 Donors

## \$400,000

The Family of the Late Congressman Henry S. Reuss and his wife, Margaret

## >\$99,000

Anonymous

## \$10,000

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