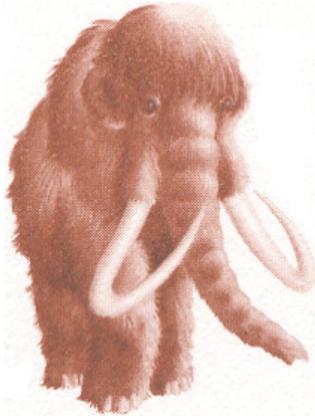




# The Langlade Erratic

A newsletter on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in  
Langlade County, Wisconsin  
FEBRUARY, 2016

*Published by the Langlade County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance*



## **"40 YEARS AND COUNTING . . ."**

**HI...COME JOIN YOUR TRAIL BUDDIES AT A MEETING  
OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE TRAIL CHAPTER.**

**MONDAY, MARCH 14, 7 PM**

**WOLF RIVER ROOM,**

**LANGLADE COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER.**

**837 CLERMONT STREET, ANTIGO**

**SEE YOU THERE AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO OR . . . !**

### **Future Steps**

The National Park Service is celebrating its centennial of service this year. In October, 1980 the Ice Age Trail became affiliated with the federal agency as a national scenic trail upon passage of an amendment to the National Trails System Act. The trail was involved with the National Park Service many years earlier and that story will be shared later in the newsletter.

Future events are the focus here. Besides the March 14 chapter meeting, the following are offered for your consideration. Also check [iceagetrail.org](http://iceagetrail.org) for more events.

April 7-10

Ice Age Trail Alliance 2016 Conference and Annual Meeting, Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Rothschild, Wisconsin.

Saturday, April 23 - 9 AM

Spring hike- Bring a lunch. Meet in front of the Forestry Office at the Fairgrounds, Antigo.

Saturday, September 10 - 9 AM

Late summer hike-Bring a lunch. Meet in front of the Forestry Office at the Fairgrounds, Antigo.

### **Blue Truck Steps**

The handful of hikers on the chapter's first outing in May 1975 came upon an abandoned 1950s era blue pickup truck in a trail side drainage. At the time, it was viewed as an intrusive element in the scenic natural setting enjoyed on that first hike. However, its constant presence observed along the Parrish Hills segment on subsequent hikes seemed to diminish the truck's intrusiveness and accept it as a unique landmark.

So in 2011, when learning of its surprising exit from the scene, there was a feeling of regret. Last summer, Don Belanger offered to craft an interpretative marker for the truck site. The marker is awesome, complete with shelter to protect the truck's story from the elements. Lee Auner accepted the challenge to solely install the marker at the site. On a return visit to take some photos, Lee reported that a bear left a muddy claw print as its seal of approval on the marker's wooden post.

The Parrish Hills segment is scheduled for the chapter's October 1<sup>st</sup> National Trails Day hike. The outing offers an opportunity for recognizing Don's and Lee's fine efforts in making trail users aware of the vanished landmark and its story. Possibly a little ceremony might be in order?

## 100 Steps

On our western trip last summer, Cedar Breaks National Monument was the last of the national park units in Utah on our "to visit list".

At the monument entrance we met two visitors from Denmark who expressed real delight over the national park system in our country. It seems they were very impressed with the system and wished their country had something similar.

This year the National Park Service is celebrating 100 years of service. Although several sites like Yosemite and Yellowstone existed under federal protection prior to the 1916 law, which created the National Park Service, many of those sites were transferred to the new agency.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt approved an executive order reorganizing the agency and transferring the responsibility of cemeteries, memorials and monuments owned by the federal government to the National Park Service.

In 1980 the Ice Age Trail became one of nine national scenic trails which received partial funding from the federal budget through the National Park Service each year.

However the connection of the Ice Age Trail to the National Park Service goes back much further than the 1980 amendment to the National Trails System Act.

In April, 1945 a Milwaukee attorney, Ray Zillmer, expressed his vision in a letter to a member of the Appalachian Trail Conference, Potomac Chapter. He said "I have put a great deal of time, during the last few years, toward getting the state to acquire a 100 mile long strip of rough, wooded land (ed. the Kettle Moraine State Forest) following the path of the glacial moraine in Wisconsin. I am giving consideration to the establishment in Wisconsin of a so-called "Wisconsin Glacial Moraine Trail" a trail which go (sic) around here (sic) entire State of Wisconsin and would have a length of almost 1000 miles."

Ray Zillmer was following the example of Benton MacKaye, founder of the Appalachian Trail proposed in 1921. Zillmer was committed to realizing his vision of a

state glacial trail but expanded it to a linear park. In the 50's, the concept of linear parks was not widely utilized by many resource managers since most of them occupied rectangular or square blocks of land.

Ray Zillmer and Benton MacKaye were men ahead of their time because less than 10 years after Zillmer's passing in December, 1960 linear resources such as trails, rivers, abandoned railroad grades, lake and sea shores became popular viable user elements of the National Park Service and other park/recreation agencies.

Ray Zillmer had some daunting challenges in pursuing a park concept not widely accepted and seeking broader support for his vision of a linear glacial park. He accepted them and went about his way to gain the needed support of that vision.

Ray Zillmer's files at the Wisconsin Historical Society's Archival Library reveal the extent of his activity and commitment to gain that community/political support for his "moraine park" not only in Milwaukee, Madison and Washington D. C., but throughout the state.

***The story continues in a future issue.***

In the mean time, our fondest birthday wishes to the National Park Service in celebrating its 100 years as "America's best idea".

## Green Steps

After a long hiatus, used ink cartridges, cell phones and device batteries collected by chapter members will be shipped to a recycling center for funding local trail activity. There is still time to drop the items off at 622 First Avenue. Call 715-623-2645 for details.

## Michelob Steps

In September a plea went out for voters to support the Ice Age National Scenic Trail's quest to win one of two \$25,000 Superior Trail grants awarded by Michelob Ultra. Several chapter members voted daily plus widening the circle of involvement by recruiting family, friends, neighbors and co-workers in the daily on-line balloting.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail's quest was successful by having the highest vote tally and one of the grants to help build trail in Taylor County. An impressive team effort. Our deepest thanks to those who made it count.