



Ice Age Drift

Published by the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Winter 2017

www.dane.iceagetrail.org

Tom Gilbert to Speak at Annual Meeting

Warm-up with a pot luck dinner and participate in the elections!

Article by Tom Gross

Tom Gilbert, the immediate past superintendent of the Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, will make a presentation on the creation of the National Park System. As you should know by now, 2016 marked the centennial of the National Park Service. His presentation will highlight the role of Wisconsin's own John Muir.

Tom worked for the Department of Interior for 37 years, of which 30 years were at the National Park Service. He spent most of his career working in support of trails and he wrote the bill that Rep. Henry Reuss introduced and Congress passed, which created the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. He was inspired to create this presentation after hearing Mark Stoll speak at the NPS Centennial Celebration in August. Stoll wrote the book *Inherit the Holy Mountain: Religion and Rise of American Environmentalism*.

The Chapter's Annual Meeting will start with a pot luck dinner and will include a short business meeting featuring the election of officers for the coming year. The nominating committee* will present the following slate of candidates: Coordinator –Tess Mulrooney, Vice-Coordinator –Anne Helsley-Marchbanks, Secretary –Andrew Bent, Treasurer – Emily Fuger. Nominations, including self-nominations, are welcome. If nominating someone who is not present, proof of their consent to serve must be provided.

The meeting will be at the Rosemary Garfoot Public Library in Cross Plains on Sunday, January 29, 2017, beginning with the pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The library is located a block off Main St. (Hwy 14) at 2107 Julius St. Use the side entrance on Jovina St.



Tom Gilbert
NPS/IATR File Photo

Trails Update

Plenty left to do in 2017-see the calendar on page 3.

Article by Tom Gross

2016 was a fairly busy year for the Trails committee. The most exciting project is the planning for over a mile of new Trail south of the Village of Cross Plains. The Trail will be on Village property with a short easement to connect to Hwy P. This property, known as the Cedar Glen Conservancy, already has a network of trails and it also features a wonderful prairie remnant that has been restored by local volunteers over the course of many years.



Photo by Ed Spoon

The existing trail system has some undesirable features, mainly some very steep stretches as it climbs the bluff south of Bourbon Rd., and an unnatural right angle turn that takes the hiker along the edge of an open field/horse pasture for a couple hundred meters. A new route has been laid out that softens the climb and curves gently through the woods so that the pasture edge is touched only briefly. In September, an Eagle Scout project cleared a trail corridor and removed fencing on the easement west of Hwy P. This promises to be another fine addition to our Trail in Dane County.

Two other projects feature significant reroutes. At the Lodi Marsh segment, the Trail went steeply up/down hill along a property edge and unsightly erosion was the result. The recent acquisition of the adjacent property allows us to reroute this section to provide a more gentle ascent/descent and sustainable tread. A new route has been approved and corridor clearing has begun. Plenty left to do there in '17.

The other reroute is on the Moraine Kettles (fka Gust) property just south of Hwy M and SE of Verona. Almost this entire portion of the Trail has been rerouted to take advantage of new prairie plantings, improved views of the kettle ponds and shielding the view of nearby houses from the Trail. Volunteers from American Family Insurance spent a couple of days creating new Trail through the woods.

Another Eagle Scout project created Dane County's fourth dispersed camping area (DCA) on the Springfield Hill segment. This was not an easy project as it required a spur trail on a cross-slope and with steps. DCAs are intended for use by long-distance hikers and feature little more than a marking post, and perhaps a bench and a log book so people can record their stay and comments. Cooking is to be on a stove only; campfires are not permitted. Other DCAs are on the Cross Plains, Verona and Montrose segments. *Continued on page 2...*

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Join us for one of the fun Winter events listed in the calendar!

**The nominating committee members were: Anne Helsley-Marchbanks, Dave Lonsdorf and Emily Fuger.*

Other trail improvement projects undertaken last year include the south end of the Table Bluff segment, work on the side trails at the Valley View preserve, and actual trail construction along Hwy M east of Whalen Rd. At Table Bluff, the 10-year-old Trail had suffered due to the steep slope and a narrow trail corridor. Improvements included installation of several new steps, widening of the tread, and shaving off the “critical” (downslope) edge to improve drainage. Welcome assistance for this effort came from the Madison Trail Runners (MTR).

At Valley View, members of the MTR were also involved in August to improve the trail system on that property. This mainly involved loop trails, but these are considered important for local users looking for a pleasant walking (and running) experience and who appreciate not having to go out and back on a single track.

At Hwy M, the Trail formerly led the hiker on a steep cross-slope with no attempt at levelling the tread. It was hard on the ankles. That has all changed with the help of two groups from Blackhawk Church who volunteered on a Sunday in May to level the Trail and provide a short reroute for an easier ascent/descent in one area. Prodigious amounts of dirt were relocated that day.

Meet a Member

Husband and wife team,
Dave Lonsdorf and Marilyn Chohaney

Article by Amy Lord
How long have you been volunteering with the Ice Age?

Dave Lonsdorf and Marilyn Chohaney became involved with the Ice Age Trail in 2005.

What first brought you to the organization?

Dave met an Ice Age Trail volunteer at an information table at the Dane County Farmer’s Market. Don talked about the organization, and said there was a volunteer opportunity the next weekend at Prairie Moraine Park in Verona, near where Dave lives. It was July, and about 95 degrees. Dave remembers he carried a 4x4 post up to the top of the moraine, before digging it in. Despite almost passing out from the heat, he’s been volunteering ever since.



Dave Lonsdorf and Marilyn Chohaney
Photo by David Clement

Marilyn was dragged, or should we say “encouraged” by her husband Dave, to help out with a prairie restoration project along the trail. She thought it was a cool use of her time and enjoyed being outdoors for a purpose. Gradually, Marilyn joined Dave more often and has become accustomed to the tasks of restoration and trail maintenance that are specific to the seasons. She finds the winter projects particularly intriguing; a season she hadn’t really associated with outdoor work.

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

The more involved Marilyn and Dave become, the more they appreciate that the Ice Age Trail cannot possibly be completed without the work of hundreds of volunteers and staff, every day of every year, across the 1100 miles of trails and adjacent beautiful natural restoration projects.

They are inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment of everyone involved. Seeing others’ involvement is humbling and

encourages them to do more. It’s really an insane project, and one that will never be finished in their lifetime.

That’s what they like that about it – it’s something that will live on forever! As Dave got more involved in volunteering, he began to go to chapter meetings, became the local chapter secretary, then chapter coordinator, then joined the board, and just finished being the Ice Age Trail Alliance President. Dave learned about the organization on a statewide level, and meet people from all across the state. IATA became a Certified Land Trust, and has established a growing endowment, which should guarantee the trail’s place in the future!

Are there any special projects you are involved with? Or projects you are proud of and would like to share?

Dave is currently working on restoring the southern end of the Verona segment – Moraine Kettles and Prairie Moraine Park. The terminal moraine is spectacular there, and there is an oak savanna along the top of it that needs help due to a major buckthorn invasion. He’s been working with Operation Fresh Start (at-risk teens) and really making progress! Marilyn likes the Mobile Skills projects in general. She sees such good spirit displayed during these days! She really enjoys cooking and it’s a great feeling to feed large numbers of appreciative people during these projects.

Most favorite trail section... or maybe top 3?

Both Dave and Marilyn love the Verona Segment because of its beauty and closeness to their home. They also like the Lodi area for the spectacular views and the Straight Lake segment for the spectacular geology.

What advice/recommendation would you give to a new member on how to get involved and how to better enjoy the trail?

Check out www.iceagetrail.org and look under “Calendar” for Dane County Chapter projects regularly. Lots of ways to help out and meet people! They encourage people to get involved in the local chapter’s trail maintenance on a workday --- clearing brush off the path, improving the signs, inspecting the trail for erosion and repairing the wooden walkways. It’s a chance to take charge of a little project and make a big difference. They also encourage folks go on a chapter hike, or just find a segment near you that you like to hike and just do it!

Dane County Chapter Contacts

Officers and Newsletter

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Dane Drifter Update

Article by Gary Wensing

We have completed our third year of the Dane Drifters hiking rewards program and now have 162 people registered and a total of 75 who have complete all our Dane County hikes. Nine more people finished the program since our newsletter in August.

I don't think any of us at the Chapter Board meetings thought this would be as successful a program for the chapter as it has been. We certainly thank all those who have already joined, but still room for more to join us! The Program is only \$10 for IATA members, \$12 for non-members and \$6 for a companion to a registered hiker and you can earn a patch, a certificate of completion for hiking all of the segments of IAT in Dane County, and you support the Dane Co Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

If you want to join the Dane Drifters or learn more info, contact Gary Wensing of Cross Plains at kensinginn@tds.net or see the Dane Co page on the IATA website (<http://dane.iceagetrail.org/home>).

Whether you're working on the program or not, everyone is welcome to join us on group hikes on our trail segments. Watch the IATA events calendar for future hikes and check the Ice Age Trail Alliance Rock and Dane County Chapters meet up group (www.meetup.com – search 50 miles from Madison.)

Congratulations to the following Dane Drifters!

| Name | City | Distance [†] |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Suzanne Dane | Madison, WI | TC |
| Liz Lusk | Madison, WI | TC |
| Michael Schwantes | Cary, IL | TC |
| Kathy Schwantes | Cary, IL | TC |
| Wayne Pitts | Kenosha, WI | TC |
| Tayna Oldenbuy | Kenosha, WI | TC |
| Denise Vine | Wauwaukee, WI | TC |
| Pat Brown | Madison, WI | TS |
| Bob Kaspar | Madison, WI | TC |

[†]TC: Completed trail segments and connecting routes;
TS: Completed trail segments.

Dane Chapter Events Calendar

(Hikes and special events in bold).



Photo by Ed Spoon

Check for event details, last minute changes and directions to meeting locations on the IATA website calendar (<http://www.iceagetrail.org/events>). (To display only local events, select Dane County Chapter from the dropdown list under the Event Category heading and click Submit).

| DATE | TIME | ACTIVITY | MEETING LOCATION | LEADER |
|------------------|---------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| Sa Dec 31 | 9 A | Prairie expansion | Liebetau Prairie, Pine Rd | Gary Werner |
| Sa Jan 7 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Table Bluff Rd lot | Gary Werner |
| Su Jan 8 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | 6820 Cty Hwy M, Verona | Dave Lonsdorf |
| Su Jan 8 | 10 A | Hike/snowshoe/ski | Brooklyn SWA, main lot | Dan Wallace |
| We Jan 11 | 6 P | Full moon snowshoe/hike | Prairie Moraine CP, old lot | K Mulbrandon |
| Sa Jan 14 | 9 A | Young's Prairie restoration | Montrose Sgmt, Hwy D Trail Jct | Tom Wise |
| Su Jan 15 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Lodi Marsh SWA, kiosk lot | Gary Werner |
| Su Jan 15 | 1 P | Hike/snowshoe | Springfield Hill, T. of Roxbury | Gary Wensing |
| Mo Jan 16 | 9 A | Savanna clearing, restoration | Shoveler Sink, Timber Lane | Gary Werner |
| Sa Jan 21 | 9 A | Oak woods restoration | Prairie Moraine CP, new lot | Dave Lonsdorf |
| Su Jan 22 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Cross Plains IANS Reserve | Gary Werner |
| Sa Jan 28 | 9 A | Prairie expansion | Liebetau Prairie, Pine Rd | Gary Werner |
| Su Jan 29 | 9 A | Brush clearing/burning | Lodi Marsh SWA, Twin Pines | Jon Bishop |
| Su Jan 29 | 6 P | Chapter annual meeting, election | Rosemary Garfoot Public Library | Tess Mulrooney |
| Sa Feb 4 | 9 A | Prairie expansion | Liebetau Prairie, Pine Rd | Gary Werner |
| Su Feb 5 | 9 A | Savanna expansion | 3254 Timber Ln, T. of Middleton | Tom Wise |
| Su Feb 5 | 10 A | Hike/snowshoe/ski | Brooklyn SWA, main lot | Dan Wallace |
| Th Feb 9 | 6 P | Hike/snowshoe | Ice Age Jct. –Hwy PD | K. Mulbrandon |
| Feb 10-12 | Shifts | Staff IATA display at Garden Expo | Alliant Energy Center, Madison | L. Kloberdanz |
| Sa Feb 11 | 9 A | Trail corridor clearing | Lodi Marsh SWA, Twin Pines | Ed Spoon |
| Su Feb 12 | 9 A | Brush clearing/burning | Lodi Marsh SWA, Twin Pines | Jon Bishop |
| Sa Feb 18 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Lodi Marsh SWA, kiosk lot | Gary Werner |
| Su Feb 19 | 1 P | Hike/snowshoe | Table Bluff Rd lot | Gary Wensing |
| Sa Feb 25 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Cross Plains IANS Reserve | Gary Werner |
| Su Feb 26 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Table Bluff Rd lot | Gary Werner |
| Sa Mar 4 | 9 A | Oak woods restoration | Prairie Moraine CP, new lot | Dave Lonsdorf |
| Su Mar 5 | 9 A | Brush clearing/burning | Lodi Marsh SWA, Twin Pines | Jon Bishop |
| Mar 10-12 | Shifts | Staff IATA display at Canoecopia | Alliant Energy Center, Madison | L. Kloberdanz |
| Sa Mar 11 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Lodi Marsh SWA, kiosk lot | Gary Werner |
| Su Mar 12 | 9 A | Savanna restoration | Cross Plains IANS Reserve | Gary Werner |
| M Apr 10 | 6:30 P | Badger St. Trl. Hike | Basco. Just E of Hwy 69 | K. Mulbrandon |
| Su Apr 16 | 1 P | Hike –Madison Segment | Ice Age Jct. –Hwy PD | Gary Wensing |
| Sa Jun 6 | TBA | Hike-a-Thon | TBA | Dave Lonsdorf |

Ice Age Trail Alliance
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www.dane.iceagetrail.org

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Become a Member

We welcome your interest in becoming a member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Membership dollars support the mission to create, maintain, and protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail – a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin. From trail layout and design to trail construction and maintenance, your membership helps assure the Alliance can continue to build the programs that build the Trail. Join us today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The IATA does NOT share or sell member personal information.

- I have enclosed a check payable to the Ice Age Trail Alliance.
- No payment is enclosed. Please send sign-up forms for secure automatic bank withdrawals.
- Please charge my (circle one)

VISA Mastercard \$Amount _____

Card # _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____ IATA Code DCC

Trail Maintainer: \$35 \$50 \$75

Trail Builder: \$100 \$150 \$250

Trail Protector: \$500 \$750

Yellow Blaze Club: \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000

Glacial Leadership Circle: \$10,000 \$25,000

Mail to:

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