

# ICE AGE TRAIL connections

Issue 8 • Spring 2017

A Newsletter Dedicated to Ice Age Trail Hosts

## Marking Property Boundaries

Most people want to do the right thing. A carefully marked property boundary helps. Since the Ice Age Trail depends on good relationships with trail hosts and areas landowners, it is incumbent that the Ice Age Trail Alliance be good stewards of the land and good neighbors too. The Alliance manages approximately 120 property interests encompassing more than 3,600 acres around the state. We mark the boundaries of all properties we own, and even on a few easements.

First of all, the Alliance places a special boundary sign along the Ice Age Trail when it leaves public land and enters private property (see photo below). This type of sign helps trail users distinguish between the different types of land they are crossing. If there is not a sign like this along the Trail where it enters your property, please let us know and we will be sure to install the appropriate sign.



*The special boundary sign the Ice Age Trail Alliance installs where the Trail goes from public land or road onto private land.*

When we mark the boundaries of properties we own, we mark them in a manner that ensures both hikers and the neighbors see and understand the expectations while trying to not spoil the landscape with too many signs.

We start by locating the boundary line. This can be accomplished with a survey or using a GPS unit or even a simple mirrored compass. You may be surprised just how well a compass works, especially if a few passes are made between known corners and with open views. We place temporary flagging in the trees until we are certain we have an accurate boundary line. Then we come back and install the boundary signs.

Our boundary signs are based on a national standard. We use white (or brown which is being phased out) self-standing plastic posts with blue decals. The decals read "Private Land Behind This Sign" on one side and "Ice Age Trail Lands Behind This Sign" along with our contact information on the other. The posts and decals are visible and can be placed in the optimal location – we don't need trees to nail into.

Sign placement is crucial. Once we have found the line, we install the signs anywhere from 200 feet to 450 feet apart depending on topography and vegetation. For instance, in an open field, signs can be seen from further away, whereas in a heavily forested area, signs would be placed closer together. We also place the posts in locations where there might be confusion like potential cross-boundary travel, where the Trail gets close to a boundary or along the top of a ridge. We install posts

## IATA's Annual Conference April 27-29

We'd be honored if you joined us at our Annual Conference in Chippewa Falls. It is an excellent opportunity to meet other trail hosts and trail enthusiasts who will be quick to thank you for what you provide to the trail experience. For a complete list of hikes and presentations, please see our website:

<http://www.iceagetrail.org/2017-annual-conference/>



*Two blue and white boundary signs mark a corner of an Alliance property.*

perpendicular to one another at corners for added clarity (see photo).

We're committed to being good neighbors and marked property boundaries are part of the deal. If this article has sparked questions about sign placement or installation along your property line, please call the Alliance and ask for Kevin.





**Our Mission:** To create, support, and protect a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin — the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

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*Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation for the Ice Age Trail Alliance, marks a photo point with a GPS unit while out monitoring property.*

## Easement Monitoring 2017

Annual monitoring will take place March 15 through early June for Ice Age Trail hosts who have easements on their property in the following counties: **Polk, Marathon, Marquette, Taylor, Chippewa, Sauk, Columbia, Waukesha and Manitowoc.** We will also be inspecting our fee-owned Preserves at this time.

Starting last fall, highly-skilled and dedicated volunteers began monitoring our easements and inspecting our Preserves. Please contact Kevin at (800)-227-0046 or [kevin@iceagetrail.org](mailto:kevin@iceagetrail.org) if you have questions or would like to meet on the property during the site visit.

Properties in **Waupaca, Waushara, Portage, Dane, Rock, Langlade and Washington** counties will be visited in fall.

### Are you thinking about moving or selling your land?

If so, you may already have a willing buyer. Call us at 800-227-0046 and ask to speak to Kevin.