Silent Auction: Bidding as Easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Now: Visit 32auctions.com and set up an account.
2. April 1: Begin viewing auction items at 32auctions.com/iceagetrail.
3. April 8: Bidding begins at 8:00 a.m. – place a bid on your favorites!

32auctions will send you email notices when you bid or are outbid (unless of course you select the buy now option). Winners will receive an email indicating which items they won and payment instructions. They will also select shipment options or pick up location. Questions? Ask Luke Kloberdanz (luke@iceagetrail.org).

Remember: The Auction closes at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 17.
Welcome: Ice Age Trail Alliance staff opens the conference with a warm welcome!

Wake Up Session (9:15 am): Join us with coffee (or beverage of choice) in hand and be inspired by the first speaker of the day!

Life Lessons Explored Through ‘That Tree’: A Story of Love and Loss
In January of 2012 while recovering from a near fatal car accident, Mark Hirsch, took his first photograph of ‘That Tree’. He had driven past and admired That Tree every day for nineteen years without ever taking a picture of it. Suddenly, he was inspired to embark on a unique adventure of making a photo-a-day of this lone bur oak tree in a Wisconsin cornfield. The year-long project was completed on March 23, 2013. The images became a coffee table book, and soon, That Tree had her own Facebook page, and had appeared on the marquee in Times Square. Then heartbreak. That Tree was brutalized and blown down, in August 2020, by the winds of a derecho. Hirsch will share how with her simple beauty, That Tree eased his heart and inspired his soul. In silence, she taught him lessons he’ll carry forward, including her legacy in the acorns she dropped in 2017, which are now being planted across the country.

Chapter Leadership Summit
Leaders of the Rock County Chapter are hosting this year’s Chapter Leadership Summit. Ashley Wille will highlight the benefits and pitfalls of writing a letter to the editor about issues impacting the Ice Age Trail in your area. Dennis James and Ed Madere will highlight their chapter’s successes in partnering with businesses and organizations for Trail Improvement events. Engaging corporate volunteers connects busy, young professionals to the Ice Age Trail in easy, manageable chunks of time. There will be time for questions after each presentation and the opportunity to share successes.

Leave No Trace Introduction
Leave No Trace is a set of outdoor ethics created by the Leave No Trace Center of Outdoor Ethics promoting conservation in the outdoors. Join Monika Baumgart and David LeMay to learn how to incorporate the Seven Leave No Trace Principles while hiking and being outdoors.

Geology of the Ice Age Trail: Ice Lobes that Came from the North — The Langlade, Wisconsin Valley, Chippewa, and Superior Lobes
Join David M. Mickelson, Emeritus Professor of Geoscience, Geological Engineering, and Water Resources Management at UW-Madison, for an overview of glacial landforms seen along the Ice Age Trail. Northern moraines have much higher relief hummocky topography than those farther south in the Green Bay Lobe. Ice-walled lake plains in this region are also more extensive and more abundant. Why is that?
Thursday, April 15

Concurrent Sessions

**Digital Hiker Resources: Trip Planning, Logistics, and Navigation**
A wealth of resources exists to help you plan your thousand-mile journey, and the IATA staff is eager to demystify them. Learn the ins and outs of the interactive hiker resource map, including Trail Alerts, and how to submit new Alerts for the trail conditions you encounter. Join Tiffany Stram, GIS/Technology Specialist, and Brad Crary, Special Projects Coordinator, as they demonstrate helpful details embedded in the Guthook Guides Ice Age Trail mobile app, and provide a tour of the StriveOn app. Get the inside scoop on how to connect with chapter leaders or arrange shuttles.

**Ticks and Tick-Borne Disease in Wisconsin**
Dr. Susan Paskewitz will discuss recent trends in the prevalence of tick-borne diseases in Wisconsin, including Lyme disease and other less well-known conditions.

Paskewitz will also talk about our state’s tick monitoring results, the changes in distribution and abundance. She’ll present the Tick App as a tool for disease prevention and other proven methods that can help protect you from exposure, whether hiking the Ice Age Trail or in your backyard.

**Geology of the Ice Age Trail: The Western Green Bay Lobe**
Join Luke Zoet, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, on a journey back in time to the last Ice Age. Learn how continental glaciation shaped the Wisconsin landscape as Zoet discusses the Western Green Bay Lobe’s glacial deposits.
Thursday, April 15

Concurrent Sessions

Beyond 2020 – Silver Linings and New Tomorrows
Join Alliance staff Mike Wollmer, Executive Director, and Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Philanthropy, as they look at trends in membership, Trail use, and volunteerism. They will discuss how these new users and techniques for implementing projects can benefit the Alliance beyond 2020.

New Member Welcome
Deepen your connection to the Ice Age Trail Community and join us for a membership orientation. IATA staff, Amy Lord and Eric Sherman, will introduce you to Alliance programs and their directors and the organizations we partner with to accomplish our goals. We’ll introduce you to our chapters and the ways you can connect with this vibrant volunteer community. We’ll highlight resources you can use to plan your next adventure and spend some time answering your questions.

Geology of the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin and Surrounding Glacial Deposits
Join Eric Carson, geologist at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to learn more about the Driftless area. The southwestern region of Wisconsin has never been glaciated. Because of this, it contains a unique suite of landforms compared to the rest of the state, which makes a striking contrast to the glaciated landscape adjacent to it.

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
What’s on Tap: Reconnect 2021
Whether it’s shaping tread, building boardwalks and bridges, or weeding prairies and removing invasive brush, the season ahead is representative of our steadfast commitment to creating, supporting, and protecting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Join Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager, Patrick Gleissener, Field Operations Coordinator, and Eva Ballering, Land Steward as they discuss upcoming Reconnect events.

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Ice Cream Social
You bring the ice cream, we bring the entertainment. Alliance staff, Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager and Patrick Gleissner, Field Operations Coordinator are ready to test your Ice Age Trail knowledge in a series of games and quizzes.
Friday, April 16

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Welcome: Ice Age Trail Alliance staff opens the conference with a warm welcome!

Wake Up Session (9:15 am): Join us with coffee (or beverage of choice) in hand and be inspired by the first speaker of the day!

How to Create a Deeper, More Peaceful Hiking Experience
Start the day with inspiring thoughts from Trail Program Manager and raconteur, Dave Caliebe, on how to create a deeper, more peaceful hiking experience. As a long-time outdoor enthusiast, Dave’s musings stem from a childhood spent outdoors, solo hikes in some of the United States most wild places, and his years spent building and photographing the Ice Age Trail.

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Quarterly Board of Directors’ Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Ask the Experts
With IATA staff gathered in one virtual space, you’ll have access to a useful amount of knowledge. Staff will highlight tips and tricks, events, or interesting fun facts about their area of expertise. Bring your questions. You’ll be able to take a deeper dive during the question/answer session in the breakout rooms.

Welcome & Overview of Session: 10:00 a.m.
- Hiker Resources 10:05 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.
- Membership & Volunteering 10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.
- Communication 10:25 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.
- Trail 10:35 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
- Lands 10:45 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.
- Outreach & Education 10:55 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

Breakout rooms: 11:05 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Trail – Dave & Patrick
- Outreach & Education – Amy
- Communications – Lysianne & Elena
- Lands – Eva
- Membership – Eric
- Hiker Resources & Maps – Tiffany & Brad
Friday, April 16

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting

This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as members under the big Ice Age Trail Alliance tent. Alliance leadership will impart crucial information relating to organizational finances, strategic plan, and mission and vision. This Annual Membership Meeting is free and open to all members.

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Annual Board of Directors’ Meeting

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hikers’ Forum: Thousand-Miler Stories

Wonder what your chances are of meeting a bear? What cowboy camping entails? Or, how people survive heat and ticks on their way to the coveted Thousand-Miler status? This session, moderated by Sharon Dziengel and Dan Rambo, IATA volunteers, is your chance to hear Ice Age Trail adventures of those who most recently completed their Thousand-Mile journey. Be inspired, informed, and entertained by the stories!

5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Live Music

Kick back and enjoy a live music session before the Awards Ceremony. Danny Frank’s classic Americana sound is reflective of his many musical influences, and weaves together rich vocals, acoustic guitar, and harmonica, with vivid stories of the people and places he holds dear.

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony

We’re rolling out the (virtual) red carpet! It’ll be a big night as we celebrate the accomplishments of our tremendously generous volunteers during a year like no other!

6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

National Park Service Awards: The Volunteers in the Park (VIP) Awards honor and highlight volunteers’ efforts in supporting the Ice Age Trail. Find out who gets a National Park Service vest or jacket. Each volunteer hour you’ve reported since 2007 makes some impressive cumulative numbers: 100, 250, 500, 1,000, and beyond!

BREAK – 15 minutes

7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Mammoth Achievement Awards: Discover who’ll be the next caretaker of the Spirit Stick, a most cherished and distinguished award. Special recognitions will highlight key areas of achievement: Years of Service, In the Mud, and recent Thousand-Milers. We’ll also recognize our Ray Zillmer and Henry S. Ruess Award winners from 2019, along with the 2020 Trail Steward of the Year, Public Partner, and Friend of the Ice Age Trail award winners.
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

**Welcome:** Ice Age Trail Alliance staff opens the conference with a warm welcome!

**Wake Up Session (9:15 am):** Join us with coffee (or beverage of choice) in hand and be inspired by the first speaker of the day!

**How a Thousand-Mile Trail Connects Us**

Join Liz Thomas, a professional hiker, speaker, and writer who held the women’s self-supported speed record on the 2,181-mile Appalachian Trail from 2011-2015, for her inspiring thoughts about what makes a long trail like the Ice Age National Scenic Trail so special.

Long trails connect us no matter what distance we hike. The value of knowing a path exists, and daydreaming of what it may be like to be somewhere else, is one of the hard-to-quantify benefits of a long trail. During a pandemic, when long-distance hiking options were limited or traveling wasn’t possible, walking a mile on a trail that goes for hundreds of miles and knowing there’s someone else 500 miles away also walking a mile is energizing. In essence, we’re able to teleport to another place on the trail and know that when we get there, there will be others who are out doing the same thing. This is what connects us, the long trail community.

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**Concurrent Sessions**

**NEXT GENERATION OF OUTDOOR ETHUSIASTS**

**Climate Change and the Trail**

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) is a statewide collaboration of scientists and stakeholders formed through a partnership between UW-Madison’s Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. WICCI researchers Dr. Michael Notaro, Amy Staffen, and Dr. Natalie Chin will share cutting edge research on climate change impacts to Wisconsin’s climate, plant communities, and outdoor recreation sector. Presentations will be followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY ADVENTURES**

**Parenting is an Adventure: Take it outside with Hike It Baby.**

Hike it Baby has a mission to create opportunities and remove barriers to access so families with babies and young children can take their first steps outside. They believe all families have the right to connect with nature, benefit from spending time outdoors, and be inspired to a lifelong love of nature.

Join Hike It Baby Ambassadors, Abby Czachur and Kimberly Young, at this fun and engaging presentation to learn more about how your family can get outside in nature. Parents will share their hints, tips, and lessons learned on how to plan hikes, set expectations for your hikes, get ideas to keep kids (and parents) motivated to keep hiking, and what to bring on your hikes for you and your little ones.
OUTDOORS FOR ALL: ADVANCING EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
From Conservation to Co-Stewardship. The Descendant’s Project and Montpelier National Park
Join James French, Chair of the Montpelier Descendants Committee, to learn more about the Montpelier’s African American Descendants’ Project. This organization seeks to identify and create bridges to living descendants of the African American women and men who were enslaved at Montpelier and elsewhere in Orange County, Virginia. Beyond this, Montpelier researchers and scholars wish to expand the local, regional, and national African American community whose members identify and connect with the history of James Madison’s Montpelier. Mr. French will discuss how organizations can become co-stewards with all people who care for the places we protect. Learn more at montpelier.org.

NEXT GENERATION OF OUTDOOR ETHUSIASTS
From Passion to Profession and Purpose
Join a panel of young professionals who are making their careers while fully immersed in their outdoor passion. You’ll learn about their career paths and what they find most rewarding about what they are doing now.

A panel moderated by Patty Dreier, incoming President for the IATA Board of Directors, please meet:

- **Eva Ballering**, Land Steward with the Ice Age Trail Alliance
- **Tony Richardson**, Program Director with the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)
- **Olivia Raasch**, Green Careers Program Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator, Urban Ecology Center (UEC)
- **Tim and Carrie Highman**, Owners of Dream Lens Media, a documentary filmmaking company

FAMILY FRIENDLY ADVENTURES
Teaching Off Trail
Peter Dargatz, a kindergarten teacher, will provide tips and tricks about hiking with kids, inspired by his family’s hikes on the Ice Age Trail. You’ll learn about the nature-infused, play-based program and curriculum he developed. Dargatz is excited to share the ways in which it exceeds curriculum standards while encouraging schools and families to utilize outdoor spaces available to them. He’ll detail his 4-P philosophy, cemented in nature play, citizen science, service learning, and community collaborations.
NEXT GENERATION OF OUTDOOR ETHUSIASTS

Tales from the Trail: Three Ways to Find Adventure

Join Jennifer Mans who backpacked Lakeshore Chapter segments in a weekend, Haleigh Ehmsen who ran 26 miles along Kettle Moraine segments on her 26th birthday as a fundraiser, and Tim (Pio) Piotrowski who is a long-distance, AT thru-hiker, Delta Beer Lab owner (Alliance business member), to learn how they’ve embraced trails locally and beyond as they seek adventure.

FAMILY FRIENDLY ADVENTURES

Tales from the Trail: The Thousand-Mile Journey of the Magic Woolies

How do you convince young kids to complete a 1,200-mile hike? You call it a quest. You let them dress up like fairies and princesses and choose their own hiking shoes. You give them the GoPro camera to record whatever they want. You plan extra time to visit a circus and zoos along the route.

Join the Nowicki family as they share their Thousand-Mile journey of completing the Ice Age Trail as a family in 2019. At the start of their family thru-hike, Piper and Bristol, were 4 and 6 years old respectively. They will share gear recommendations, and ideas for motivating all members of a family, and other lessons they learned from their adventure.

If you are new to hiking as a family, or want hints and tips to get your kids outside, then this session is for you!
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**Adventure of a Lifetime: The Ice Age Trail’s First Thru-Hiker**

**Keynote Speaker: James Staudacher**

James (Jim) Staudacher was a 20-year-old Marquette University student when he became the first person to hike the entire route of the Ice Age Trail in 1979. The inspiration for the journey of a lifetime came from the book, *On the Trail of the Ice Age*, written by Congressman Henry Reuss and published by the Milwaukee Journal in 1976. Two years later, he took a summer backpacking trip to Isle Royale National Park and decided that he wanted to be the first person to walk the entire Ice Age Trail route, and so he did.

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6:00 p.m.

**Conference Wrap-Up & Closing**

Incoming Board President, **Patty Dreier**, brings the conference to a close with words of encouragement for the year ahead.

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**SILENT AUCTION**

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**Remember:** The Auction closes at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 17.
MEET THE PRESENTERS!

Eva Ballering, Land Steward for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Ballering is responsible for the stewardship, management, ecological enhancement, and maintenance of Ice Age Trail Alliance-held property interests including owned and eased lands. Her background includes a mix of working with community focused non-profits and environmentally focused projects. Eva holds a BS in Environmental Horticulture from the University of Minnesota and an MS in Forest Science from the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany.

- **What’s on Tap: 2021 Reconnect Trailbuilding and Stewardship Season**, Thursday, April 15, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **Ask the Experts**, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **From Passion to Profession and Purpose, Saturday**, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Monika Baumgart and David LeMay, Leave No Trace Experts and Trainers

Baumgart and LeMay have led hundreds of Leave No Trace workshops and trainings for adults and children of all ages and backgrounds across the country during the last two years while working, living, and camping on the road, and now virtually as well.

- **Leave No Trace Introduction**, Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Caliebe works collaboratively with staff, volunteers, government agencies, and private partners to execute on-the-ground construction and maintenance of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. He also coordinates and supervises volunteers at Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) events and provides leadership and training to local chapters. Dave joined the staff in 2013, however, he’d been an active participant in IATA volunteer programs for several years prior, and thru-hiked the Trail in 2010.

- **What’s on Tap: 2021 Reconnect Trailbuilding and Stewardship Season**, Thursday, April 15, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- **Ice Cream Social**, Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- **Wake Up Session: How to Create a Deeper and More Peaceful Hiking Experience**, Friday, April 16, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
- **Ask the Experts**, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Eric Carson, Geologist at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Carson is a geologist and professor whose research investigates geologic processes in the Driftless Area and surrounding glaciated landscapes. Raised in West Virginia, he earned his B.S. from West Virginia University and his M.S. and Ph.D. at UW-Madison. Eric’s lived in the Madison area for almost 20 years.

- **Geology of the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin and Surrounding Glacial Deposits**, Thursday, April 15, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Natalie Chin, Climate and Tourism Outreach Specialist with Wisconsin Sea Grant and co-chair of the WICCI Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Working Group.

Chin joined Wisconsin Sea Grant’s Lake Superior Field Office in August 2019. Her work focuses on creating actionable science for stakeholders across the Great Lakes, especially related to climate change and tourism. Her interests also extend to data science projects that can create useful tools for decision-makers. Natalie received a Master’s in Public Policy from George Mason University and a Ph.D., in Agricultural and Biological Engineering, from Purdue University.

- **Climate Change and the Ice Age Trail**, Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Brad Crary, Special Projects Coordinator for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Crary is responsible for volunteer support, chapter communication with Ice Age Trail Alliance staff, land monitoring and trail project coordination. He also capably handles website updates and base camp logistics at Mobile Skills Crew events. Brad joined the Alliance in January, 2008, although his involvement with the Trail began in early 2003 as a volunteer with the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter.

- **Digital Hiker Resources: Trip Planning, Logistics, and Navigation**, Thursday, April 15, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Ask the Experts**, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Abby Czachur, Hike it Baby Ambassador

Czachur is a mother and outdoor enthusiast dedicated to getting her kids outside while helping to remove barriers to access for other families. She’s a Branch Ambassadors for the Madison branch of Hike it Baby. Abby, along with husband and kids, moved to Wisconsin in 2017 and fell in love with this beautiful state. They’ve loved exploring South Central Wisconsin’s amazing variety of trails and natural beauty!

- Parenting is an Adventure: Take it Outside with Hike it Baby, Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Peter Dargatz, National, Board-Certified Nature Kindergarten Teacher

Besides coordinating a well-respected, public school nature kindergarten program, at Woodside Elementary in Sussex, WI, Dargatz is a retired racing sausage. In his home Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter, he began a Tyke Hike program aimed at getting young families out on the trail. Peter is a regular contributor to Play & Playground magazine and his first book, Teaching Off Trail, will be published by Redleaf Press in October 2021. Nowhere near a Thousand-Miler, Peter is proud to have hiked the same mile a thousand times with his wife and three children.

- Teaching Off Trail, Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Patty Dreier, Incoming Ice Age Trail Alliance Board President

Dreier has worked at all levels of government—local, state, national, and international—and worked in all sectors in her diverse 30+ year career. She has expertise in grant writing and strategic planning and has taught grant writing at the university level. Dreier was elected Portage County Executive in 2010 and reelected in 2014 before retiring at the end of her term in 2018. As CEO of county government, representing 71,000 citizens, Patty was known for her advocacy for parks, trails, and water protection.

- Conference Closing Remarks, Saturday, April 17, 6:00 p.m.

Sharon Dziengel, Ice Age Trail Alliance Volunteer

Dziengel, one of the first female thru-hikers of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, is an ardent outdoor enthusiast and volunteer extraordinaire. Her familiarity with hiking extends past the Ice Age Trail to having over 14,000 long-distance trail miles under her feet including thru-hikes of four other National Scenic Trails. Sharon works as a registered nurse in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit for the Aurora Health Care System. In her spare time, she helps build Ice Age Trail and is part of the editing team for the IATA Guidebook.

- Hikers’ Forum: Thousand-Miler Stories, Friday, April 16, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Danny Frank, Singer-Songwriter

Frank is a singer-songwriter based in Duluth, MN. He began his musical journey as a child of the 70s, listening to his parents’ classic rock and folk records, and singing the local youth choir. Danny found his way to a guitar at the age of 13 and began writing songs in his early 20s. The time in between is a bit hazy, but the soundtrack of those years included an eclectic range of hip-hop, funk, jazz, rock, folk, and bluegrass, with the occasional Broadway musical thrown in for good measure. Today, Frank’s classic Americana sound is reflective of his many musical influences, and weaves together rich vocals, acoustic guitar, and harmonica, with vivid stories of the people and places he holds dear.

- Live Music, Friday, April 16, 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

Haleigh Ehmsen, Runner, Writer and Hiker

As races were cancelled in 2020, Ehmsen, who hails from Chicago, turned to the Ice Age Trail. Haleigh designed a marathon-distance route on the IAT for her 26th birthday and fundraised for the Cairn Project’s Allies in the Outdoor campaign, which empowers young girls of color through outdoor programming.

- Tales from the Trail: Three Ways to Find Adventure, Saturday, April 17, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

James French, Chair Montpelier Descendants Committee

French was elected as the founding Chair of the Montpelier Descendants Committee (MDC) in 2019. He was soon invited to serve on the Board of The Montpelier Foundation, where he serves on the Executive Committee. James is leading the MDC to center the narratives, perspectives and, especially, the authority of the descendants to act as equal co-stewards of Montpelier. To this end, he designed Structural Parity, a new national model for public engagement that is rewriting the rules for the museum industry, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

- From Conservation to Co-Stewardship: The Descendant’s Project and Montpelier National Park, Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Patrick Gleissner, Field Operations Coordinator for the Ice Age Trail Alliance
Gleissner works with IATA’s Trail Program Manager to plan trailbuilding events, coordinate volunteers, and carry out trail layout, design, construction, and maintenance. His efforts ensure that the Ice Age National Scenic Trail remains a prime hiking destination for all. Patrick dove headfirst into all-things Ice Age Trail when planning a thru-hike in the summer of 2017. After living out of a backpack for 51 days and experiencing nearly every segment, he returned home with a deep appreciation for the Trail and the people who build it. He joined the Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) in 2019, and the staff in 2021.

- What’s on Tap: 2021 Reconnect Trailbuilding and Stewardship Season, Thursday, April 15, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Ice Cream Social, Thursday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Ask the Experts, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Tim and Carrie Highman, Owners of Dream Lens Media
A husband and wife creative team, the Highmans are documentary filmmakers with a passion for creating films that inspire. They’ve produced work for a range of clients and platforms featuring elite trail runners, former military special ops, big wave surfers and more. Their work ranges from short form documentaries for media outlets like Outside TV, to brand storytelling for companies and nonprofits like Stetson, TrainingPeaks, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance. They launched their film company after Carrie’s stint as a broadcast reporter, producer, and anchor at an award-winning television station.

- From Passion to Profession and Purpose, Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Mark Hirsch, Editorial and Corporate Photographer, Artist, and Inspiring Public Speaker
Hirsch spent twenty years in the newspaper industry as a photojournalist, photo editor and visuals editor until ultimately embarking on a freelance career in 2006. His clients include Getty Images, The New York Times, and John Deere Corporation. Mark lives one mile from That Tree with a shaggy but lovable dog, Magnum.

- Wake Up Session: Life Lessons Explored Through ‘That Tree’, Thursday, April 15, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Dennis James, Rock County Chapter Coordinator
James accepted the role of Chapter Coordinator eight years ago and brings with him extensive leadership experience, from serving in the Army as Airborne Squad Leader, to managing industrial processes, and eventually finding his way into academia as instructor and educational developer. In 2018, Dennis won the “NPS-Midwest Region’s George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service” in the “Individual Volunteer” category.

- Chapter Leadership Summit, Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Philanthropy for the Ice Age Trail Alliance
Kloberdanz oversees the fundraising efforts of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, including grant writing and development of corporate partnerships. Luke’s involvement with the Alliance began with a volunteer chapter workday in 2001, which led him to help form the IATA’s Lodi Valley Chapter. He thru-hiked the Trail in 2003 and joined the staff in 2013.

- Beyond 2020 – Silver Linings and New Tomorrows, Thursday, April 15, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Nancy Lazzaroni, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter Leader
As an Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteer the past 20 years, Lazzaroni has filled many roles from chapter co-coordinator to maintaining the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter’s Facebook page. As a former educator, Nancy is excited to moderate the panel of young professionals and hear what they have to share about their journey so far and where they are headed next!

- From Passion to Profession and Purpose, Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Amy Lord, Outreach and Education Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Lord joined the Ice Age Trail Alliance in January, 2018. She is responsible for promoting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the IATA to a wide audience by leading outreach programs designed to actively engage new and existing volunteers and Trail enthusiasts. Amy’s core duties include working with Ice Age Trail Communities, Saunters, and various community groups to promote the Trail.

- **New Member Welcome**, Thursday, April 15, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Ask the Experts**, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Ed Madere, Ice Age Trail Alliance Board Member and Rock County Chapter Leader

Madere is a retired City Manager with over 35 years municipal experience which included serving as Village Manager of Shorewood, WI. He is a Wisconsin City/County Management Association Senior Advisor. Ed has been an IATA member since 2009 and currently serves as Rock County Chapter Secretary and on the IATA Advocacy Committee.

- **Chapter Leadership Summit**, Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Jennifer Mans, Owner of Humble and Weekend Backpacking Enthusiast

Mans takes the occasional break from her consuming passion – all things pie – with multi-day backpacking trips along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. With an unconventional schedule and an unrelenting desire to be outside, Jennifer aims to squeeze trips into whatever time she finds available to herself, and hopes to give hikers the confidence to plan shorter trips that fit into busy schedules so that hiking can be a regular part of one’s lifestyle too.

- **Tales from the Trail: Three Ways to Find Adventure**, Saturday, April 17, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Elena Mederas, Communications Support Specialist for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Mederas joined the staff in 2020 as an AmeriCorps VISTA member. This full-time, national service position supports our Communications Team with a specific focus on promoting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail through social media, improving local economies through ecotourism, supporting chapter initiatives through targeted grant writing, and engaging new audiences.

- **Ask the Experts**, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **Tales from the Trail: Three Ways to Find Adventure**, Saturday, April 17, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

David M. Mickelson, Emeritus Professor of Geoscience, Geological Engineering, and Water Resources Management at UW-Madison

Mickelson taught glacial geology, geomorphology, coastal geomorphology, and other classes between 1971 and 2005. He is the first author of the book Geology of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail published by the University of Wisconsin Press in late 2011. In 2016, Dave co-authored From Raccoon Plain to Pakachoag Hill, a History of South Worcester, Massachusetts, where he grew up, and has another co-authored book in progress on the Origin of Wisconsin’s Landscapes.

- **Geology of the Ice Age Trail: Ice Lobes that Came from the North – The Langlade, Wisconsin Valley, Chippewa, and Superior Lobes**, Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Dr. Michael Notaro, Senior Scientist and Associate Director of the UW-Madison Center for Climatic Research and a researcher in the WICCI Climate Working Group.

Notaro is an expert on climate change impacts on vegetation, vegetation-climate interactions, and climate modeling. His research interests span the following topics: land-ocean-atmosphere interactions, climate change impacts on ecosystems, dynamical downscaling, hydrology of the Great Lakes Basin, lake-effect snow, monsoon dynamics, and dust storm mechanisms.

- **Climate Change and the Ice Age Trail**, Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Nicole, Jeremy, Bristol, and Piper Nowicki, a Family of Thousand-Milers

Nicole is a teacher and youth soccer director who loves adventures whenever she has a spare moment; Jeremy is a full-time dad, part-time soccer and wrestling coach, and consummate wanderer who has spent most of his life outdoors; Bristol and Piper are busy with school and sports, or playing outside.

- **Tales from the Trail: The Thousand-Mile Journey of the Magic Woolies**, Saturday, April 17, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Dr. Susan Paskewitz, Director of the Midwest Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Disease

Paskewitz is a scientist, professor, and former chair in the Department of Entomology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Center Susan currently directs is a five-state collaboration which focuses on research and training related to human illness caused by parasites and pathogens carried by ticks and mosquitoes. In addition to her research program, Dr. Paskewitz teaches undergraduate classes in Global Health, Planetary Health, and Medical/Public Health Entomology.

- **Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in Wisconsin**, Thursday, April 15, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Tim (Pio) Piotrowski, Long-distance, AT thru-hiker and Delta Beer Lab owner

Piotrowski has enjoyed backpacking since his first experience at age 13 with the Boy Scouts at Isle Royale National Park. Week-long trips expanded to Philmont Scout Ranch (NM), Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (MN), Canyonlands NP (UT), Yosemite NP (CA), the Lost Coast BLM (CA), Joshua Tree NP (CA), and others. But a goal loomed for years, and in 2017 Pio completed a northbound thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, covering 2,189.8 miles over 146 days. Pio is the Founder and Chief Beer Officer of Delta Beer Lab in Madison, WI, which gives all taproom tips to monthly nonprofit partners, including the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

- **Tales from the Trail: Three Ways to Find Adventure**, Saturday, April 17, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Olivia Raasch, Green Careers Program Coordinator and Volunteer Coordinator, Urban Ecology Center (UEC)

Raasch’s work centers around helping youth learn more about Green Careers and get experience working in the environmental field. However, her journey began as a third grader on field trips to the Riverside Park location. That exciting experience led Olivia to become an Outdoor Leader in the UEC’s high school internship program, and then later a Community Programs Educator. She loves connecting people to nature and getting folks in the city outside and exploring Milwaukee through a new lens!

- **From Passion to Profession and Purpose**, Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Dan Rambo, Ice Age Trail Alliance Volunteer

Rambo hails from the Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter and has helped build Ice Age Trail for nearly two decades. For many years Dan was a familiar face at Mobile Skills Crew events, was a Crew Leader in Good Standing, and led his famous leprechaun stretches to warm up volunteers in the morning. He’s a Thousand-Miler, birder, and known scat expert.

- **Hikers’ Forum: Thousand-Miler Stories**, Friday, April 16, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tony Richardson, Program Director with the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

Richardson is responsible for building and managing NEEF’s portfolio of public lands engagement programs, including National Public Lands Day. He’s worked in the environmental conservation field for over ten years through his involvement with organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America and the Student Conservation Association. Tony is passionate about connecting people to nature, particularly communities that are often underrepresented in outdoor spaces.

- **From Passion to Profession and Purpose**, Saturday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Eric Sherman, Membership and Grants Coordinator for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Sherman caught the Ice Age Trail bug while hiking the McKenzie Creek Segment in May of 2005. He was volunteering as a field editor for the Ice Age Trail Companion Guide (now the Ice Age Trail Guidebook) and trekking with his girlfriend (now wife). Eric joined the staff in 2006 and coordinates the Alliance’s membership program, member and donor communications, and grant-writing efforts. After being intimately involved with five rounds of book revisions (2006, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017) while simultaneously not hiking the Ice Age Trail all that much, he has the widest discrepancy of anyone in “virtual” vs. “actual” knowledge of the Trail. He’s the Three-Hundred-Miler who talks like a Thousand-Miler.

- **Ask the Experts**, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- **New Member Welcome**, Thursday, April 15, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Amy Staffen, Conservation Biologist with the Wisconsin DNR Natural Heritage Conservation Program.
Staffen has degrees in Secondary Education and Landscape Architecture from UW-Madison. She conducts plant, natural community and bird surveys for the DNR’s Natural Heritage Inventory program, promotes landscaping with native plants, and facilitates climate adaptation in natural areas through her work with the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts, or WICCI.

- Climate Change and the Ice Age Trail, Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

James (Jim) Staudacher, Keynote Speaker, First Ice Age Trail Thru-Hiker
Staudacher was a 20-year-old Marquette University student when he became the first person to hike the entire route of the Ice Age Trail in 1979. He went on to pursue a long career in law enforcement in the greater Milwaukee area. He now grows organic vegetables with his wife on their farm in Viroqua, Wisconsin in the summer and on the Windmill Farm in the high desert of Patagonia, Arizona in the winter.

- KEYNOTE: Adventure of a Lifetime: The Ice Age Trail’s First Thru-Hiker, Saturday, April 17, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tiffany Stram, GIS/Technology Specialist for the Ice Age Trail Alliance
Stram joined the staff in 2008 and manages the IATA’s Geographic Information System. In addition to keeping trail and lands information up to date, Tiffany coordinates GPS mapping efforts, creates and maintains print and online interactive maps, assisted with the development of the Ice Age Trail App (Guthook Guides), is part of the team that updates IATA’s guidebooks, and keeps the Alliance’s IT systems up and running. Her work also ensures that other agencies and organizations have up-to-date information about the Ice Age Trail.

- Digital Hiker Resources: Trip Planning, Logistics, and Navigation, Thursday, April 15, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Ask the Experts, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Liz Thomas, Professional hiker, speaker, and writer
Thomas held the women’s self-supported speed record on the 2,181-mile Appalachian Trail from 2011-2015. Called a “thru-hiking legend” and the “Queen of Urban Hiking” by Outside Magazine, Liz has also hiked 20+ long distance trails including the Triple Crown of Hiking (AT, PCT, and the CDT). She’s the author of Long Trails: Mastering the Art of the Thru-hike, which received the 2017 National Outdoor Book Award for Best Instructional book, one to become the “Bible of the Sport.” Liz holds a Master’s in environmental science from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, where she held a Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship.

- Wake Up Session: How A Thousand-Mile Trail Connects Us, Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Lysianne Unruh, Communications Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance
Unruh joined the staff in 2016 and is responsible for promoting the Ice Age Trail and Ice Age Trail Alliance through web-based, print, electronic, digital and social media platforms. As a long-distance runner and avid hiker, she enjoys the thousand-mile footpath, which meanders through Wisconsin, providing adventure and rejuvenation.

- Ask the Experts, Friday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Dan Watson, National Park Service Volunteer Coordinator for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Watson, an employee of the National Park Service since 1980, began his career as a seasonal ranger at the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River (NY-PA), working in both the Interpretation and Law Enforcement Divisions. He gained his full-time, permanent ranger status in 1985 working at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (PA-NJ) as a fee collector and eventual law enforcement ranger. In 2008, Dan became the Volunteer Coordinator for both the Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails. Since 2015, he has worked exclusively for Ice Age NST as the Volunteer Coordinator and Collateral Duty Safety Officer.

- Awards Ceremony, Friday, April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
**MEET THE PRESENTERS!**

**Ashley Wille, Rock County Chapter Leader**

Wille joined the Rock County Chapter in 2020 and volunteered to help manage the chapter’s social media outreach. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater with a degree in English: Professional Writing and Publishing, and a degree in Journalism. Ashley is very passionate about the environment especially advocating for public land access for all, land conservation, and about protecting our ecosystems.

- **Chapter Leadership Summit**, Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Mike Wollmer, Executive Director for the Ice Age Trail Alliance**

Wollmer is responsible for managing, planning, directing, administering and evaluating all components of the Ice Age Trail Alliance programs, staff and volunteers. Mike joined the Alliance in July, 2007 as executive director. Prior to that, his volunteer service to the IATA can be traced back to the early 1990s when he spent time behind a mower in the Washington & Waukesha Counties area.

- **Beyond 2020 – Silver Linings and New Tomorrows**, Thursday, April 15, 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- **Awards Ceremony**, Friday, April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

**Kimberly Young, Mother and Outdoor Enthusiast**

Young lives in Madison, WI with her husband, Tyler, and their two kids, Victoria (4) and Trevyn (2). They enjoy getting out and exploring all that the Madison and surrounding area has to offer. When they are home, the family likes messy art and science projects, cooking, and reading.

- **Parenting is an Adventure: Take it Outside with Hike it Baby**, Saturday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Luke Zoet, Assistant Professor in the Department of Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.**

Zoet’s primary field of research focuses on understanding the physics of glacier motion through field observation, laboratory experiments, numerical modeling and theoretical analysis. His work sits at the intersection of glaciology and glacial geology. He uses a variety of geophysical and geological methods to explore glacial processes in modern glaciers as well as landforms left behind by Pleistocene glaciers. Originally from West Michigan, Luke grew up surrounded by glacial deposits.

- **Geology of the Ice Age Trail: Western Green Bay Lobe**, Thursday, April 16, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.