

WINTER 2023

ICE AGE DRIFT



PUBLISHED BY THE DANE COUNTY CHAPTER
OF THE ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

www.dane.iceagetrail.org



Goodbye, Mike

By Lynsey Ray

Ed. note: After almost two decades at the helm of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Mike Wollmer is stepping aside at the end of 2022. Lynsey spoke to the two Chapter members who know Mike best.

Dave Lonsdorf, long time Dane County Chapter member and one-time Alliance board member, credits Mike Wollmer with taking the Alliance from a flooded downtown Madison basement office to the powerhouse of an organization it is today. "Even on that first day when I met Mike in the flooded basement with things looking dismal, Mike was very reassuring and an eternal optimist." Dave shared that before Mike focused on the administrative leadership of the trail, he connected with the importance of volunteer trail building by operating pick mattock and mcleod tools to build sections of trail.

Gary Werner celebrates two fundamental contributions that Mike made to the Ice Age Trail. The Dane County Chapter had been focused on ecological restoration for many years when Mike joined the Ice Age Trail, first from the trailing building volunteer-side of things and then as a volunteer and eventually as paid Executive Director. As the Chapter was evolving their restoration work-restoring oak savannas and managing invasive species, Gary went to Mike with a request "for support for liability insurance, which was a critical component for burning. Oak woodlands are fire dependent ecosystems. They need to be burned regularly to support native species and eliminate non-native plants." Mike was instrumental in gaining liability insurance and went out of his way as the IAT Executive Director to support an aspect of the trail maintenance work that doesn't rise to the level of headlines.

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Dane Drifters Update for Fall 2022

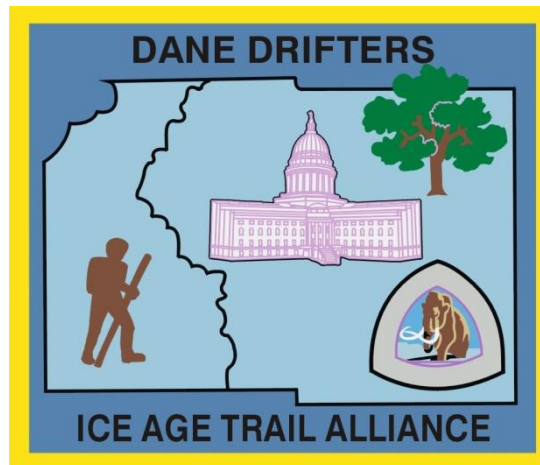
By Gary Wensing

Wow, cold and some snow already! How did it get to be December so soon? I guess I'm not ready yet, so I don't mind that the snow we got all melted. But I do look forward to breaking out the snowshoes and getting on the trail for some Winter Hikes. Keep an eye on the IAT Calendar and Meet-up group (Ice Age Trail Alliance - Rock and Dane County Chapters) as we'll post a couple events for January and February.

As we come to another year end, it was great to see all the fellow hikers out on the Trail this past year. And more and more folks new to the Trail. Even you've done some or all the Dane Co segments in years past, the Trail has evolved over the last year, so be sure to check out the changes to the Trail in our area. And I can't wait to see the changes that will come over the next year as we eliminate more road walk with new trail expansions for the Indian Lake and Cross Plains segments.

But many aren't waiting for trails to come. They've been busy on what we have now. In just the past three months, we've had another 38 people complete the Dane Drifter Program. If you aren't one of them, why not? It's only \$10 for IATA members and \$6 for a companion to a registered hiker. Just hike all of the segments of IAT in Dane County. Remember, the road connections are optional for this particular award.

We congratulate the 38 who finished their challenge to complete Dane County trail since early September.



Connectors & Segments

Teresa Aspeslet, Marshfield, WI
 Jeanee' Chedotte, Milwaukee, WI
 Jessica Cox, Edgerton, WI
 Jenelle Dame, Milwaukee, WI
 Heidi Freymiller, Madison, WI
 Jenny Fuerstenau, Greenville, WI
 Wayne Gulliford, Chicago, IL
 Rose Gulliford, Chicago, IL
 Mark Gulliford, Chicago, IL
 Jeff Hinz, Monona, WI
 Melinda Jenner, Madison, WI
 Sue Lange, Muskego, WI
 Nancy Lehman, Oconomowoc, WI
 Allison Lessard, Madison, WI
 Susan Levy, Cary, NC
 Greg Locascio, Sycamore, IL
 Elizabeth Lochner-Abel, Walworth, WI

Barbara Makovec, Fontana, WI
 Sharon Mikkelsen, Madison, WI
 Julie O'Sullivan, Chicago, IL
 Scott Ohzourk, Pewaukee, WI
 Karin Pace, Mukwonago, WI
 Jeff Pace, Mukwonago, WI
 Shawn Poulter, Green Bay, WI
 Kathy Purpus, Kendall, WI
 Ken Sorge, Monona, WI
 Sue Steinmann, Arena, WI
 Mary Stewart, Stevens Point, WI
 Sadie Sveum, Wauwatosa, WI
 Matt Sveum, Wauwatosa, WI
 Jenny Temme, Madison, WI
 Linda Thimm, Hartford, WI
 Jennifer Winrich, Madison, WI

Segments

Mandy Lornson, Madison, WI
 Kirk Lornson, Madison, WI
 Randy Ragio, Verona, WI

Kristol Unterseher, Verona, WI
 Joan Varese, Madison, WI

Hello Luke

By Tom Gross

With the retirement of Mike Wollmer from the corner office at the Alliance, a new director was needed. The Alliance board has chosen Luke Kloberdanz to fill Mike's ample shoes. Luke is currently Director of Philanthropy for the Alliance and previously served as Outreach and Education Manager.

Before joining the Alliance staff in 2013, Luke taught 4th grade in the Lodi school district, where he and another teacher developed the Saunters program. He will oversee a staff of 16 once his old desk acquires a new occupant.

You can read more about Luke on the Alliance website: iceagetrail.org. And you can meet Luke virtually at the annual meeting on Jan. 22 -see announcement on p. 4.



Luke Kloberdanz

Continued: Goodbye, Mike

The second way Mike fundamentally contributed to the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail was his connection to state and national partnerships. Gary relates that when Mike became the Ice Age Trail Executive Director, he took a strong interest in the National Trail Partnership, so the work happening locally on the Ice Age Trail helped shape the scope and scale of the current work on our National Scenic Trails across the country.

Both Dave and Gary recognize Mike for going above and beyond and never being afraid to embrace a broader vision for the Ice Age Trail. His work has benefited the Dane County Chapter, the state, and the nation. Mike's legacy continues even as he transitions into his next adventure with important recent staff additions of a land restoration specialist and a volunteer coordination position.



Mike Wollmer

Volunteer Spotlight: EJ Temme

By Lynsey Ray

EJ Temme is a new Dane Drifter. Like more than half of the new Dane County Chapter members, he found the trail during the pandemic discovering his first hike on the AllTrails app. Since then, he's set a goal to become a thousand miler and as of November, he is 310 miles closer to his goal. EJ's favorite Dane County trails are in his hometown of Cross Plains, particularly the Hickory Hills segment. He has hiked it in all seasons and one of his favorite times of year is winter, walking down the hill with a view of Christmas lights throughout Cross Plains.

Another memorable moment occurred on a particularly soaking wet, overnight hike along the Whitewater Lake Segment. The constant rain required a deviation from the original dinner plans of trail pizzas-tortillas and pizza sauce-to order pizza delivery from Whitewater to his tent in the southern Kettle Moraine unit. Who knew you could order a pizza for delivery to a tent?

EJ loves meeting people and visual stuff-photography and video editing. He started volunteering a year ago when his wife Emma Temme started managing the Dane County Chapter's Facebook page. Now he's attending chapter meetings, attending mobile skills events and did you notice the new 2022 Hike-A-Thon poster in October? That was EJ and Emma's visual refresh of a classic Ice Age Trail event before he hiked the 20 miles in support of the Dane County Land Protection fund.

EJ suggests that you "get out there and hike as much as possible and find ways to give back to the trail. There are so many great people to get to know and so many ways to get hands on from trail building, monitoring, or contributing to the new guidebook by walking the trail."

[Ed. note: Taking his own advice, EJ has agreed to throw his hat in the ring by running for Co-coordinator of the Chapter. His name will be put forth for that position at the annual meeting -to be conducted virtually on Jan. 22. See article on p. 4.



EJ Temme

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Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

By Tom Gross

The Dane County Chapter will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. on January 22, 2023. This will again be a virtual meeting via Zoom. If you have been receiving invitations to chapter meetings, you will receive an invitation to the annual meeting with the link and the meeting agenda a few days before the meeting. If you wish to confirm that we have your address, contact Carrie Preston at: carrie.m.preston@gmail.com. The link is the following if this is more convenient:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87215755718?pwd=RWFmRnBZMC90ODISb3BjWVFaN21UQT09>

The business portion of the meeting will involve approval of the annual budget and the election of officers for 2023. Candidates who have agreed to serve are: Bob Kaspar for Coordinator; EJ Temme for Co-coordinator, Carrie Preston for Secretary and Jamie Droessler for Treasurer. Nominations will also be accepted at the meeting. If the proposed candidate is not present at the meeting, their written permission must be presented in order that they to be considered for an office. The proposed budget will be sent along with the agenda prior to the meeting.

The new Director of the Alliance, Luke Kloberdanz, has accepted our invitation to attend. He will share his vision for the Alliance and will be available to answer questions.

Hope to see you there!!