



The Langlade Erratic

A newsletter on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in
Langlade County, Wisconsin
August, 2020

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**"47 YEARS AND COUNTING . . ."
HI...COME JOIN YOUR TRAIL BUDDIES
AT A VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE TRAIL CHAPTER.
MONDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 7 PM
AT YOUR HOME, PLACE OF BUSINESS OR WHEREVER.
SEE AND HEAR YOU ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN!**

Future Steps

Thirteen days after our March 10th chapter meeting, the state order to stay-at-home and lock-down certain businesses was in effect due to a virus that has affected all our lives. Months before the state order, news reports about the outbreak in China, caused some of us to think this incident would eventually affect our lives and normal activities over a year or more.

One time to regret that what I thought turned out to be real. With the pandemic constantly over us like an everlasting storm, any reference to the future was set aside. Social distancing and facemask became a part of our vocabulary and activity. The future of things, such as the Ice Age Trail, became unknown.

No spring chapter hike but the trail was open for individuals with social spacing and facemasks for close encounters with others. By June, volunteers were able to do needed trail work after being approved by the National Park Service. Things were happening in a welcomed burst of spring greening. Technology even made trail meetings possible. See following details for the next chapter meeting. There is a future but the phase "Stay safe" is commonplace.

Zoom Steps

Many with computers have used Skype, a medium via the internet for maintaining regular video and audio contact with distant family, relatives and friends.

Less known is Zoom which offers a broader platform for video and audio contact. For example, earlier this month, I participated in a three-day national conference with over 100 participants throughout the nation. From our homes or offices, we went on tours of historical sites, had an annual meeting and saw live presentations by speakers.

Sam Picone, chapter treasurer, has generously offered his Zoom account to host our August 31st meeting. Sam will extend a personal invitation with a weblink to the meeting to all persons who wish to attend. Basic requirements are a good internet connection to a computer with a built-in camera and a sound system with speakers and microphone.

If sufficient interests, a test session could be held in advance to familiarize those who wish to learn more about Zoom and its features.

If interested in participating at the meeting or the test session, or have questions please contact Joe Jopek at 715-623-2645 before August 31st.

Above and Beyond Steps

Gerald Anderson hiked through Langlade County in 2014. Before completing his trek of the county, he offered to take care of the Parrish Hills segment.

Besides his local support, he also cares for a stretch of the North Country National Scenic Trail in the UP's Porcupine Mountains. Gerald takes camping gear as he spends a night to complete his trail care effort.

After Lee Auner completed scouting and flagging the tornado damaged section of Parrish Hills, Gerald solely took on re-establishing the original section with clearing, mowing and marking over a few years. He feels it is now ready to open but is awaiting alliance review and approval.

Late last year, unknown to the chapter he built and installed a 32-foot bridge across a wet spot. Before building the structure, he diligently carried the pre-cut pieces a distance from his vehicle to the wet area just west of the Nelson Firelane. His wife, Susan, joined him when her schedule permitted. The chapter learned about his generous effort when Gerald reported his VIP hours complete with photos.

The material costs of 320 dollars was just a side note in his message. He did not ask to be reimbursed. However, chapter members were impressed with Gerald's initiative and unselfish effort, so they approved reimbursement for half of the material costs. In a later phone conversation, Gerald was surprised by the chapter's action but said that he received the check after filing his tax returns with the bridge costs as a deduction. Then he hastily added that he will use the chapter funds for another bridge.

This year Gerald continued to check the segment even though he was weeks away from hip surgery. His following words aptly describe the situation he endured that afternoon with a flooded Prairie river.

"It was very slow going. Once down the hill, everything was muddy. Here's a picture of the big root-ball hole with a creek running thru it.

Usually, I can walk across it on logs & rocks; this time, wading was necessary.

I did a lot of trimming on the way thru, but my main purpose was to re-set that post at the edge of the river.

Just to left of the center of the picture is the post. The river itself is about 8 feet beyond. The area in front of me is usually muddy, as you could see in the photo I sent last week. In the past, I've laid alder branches down to give something firmer to walk on — this time they were under a foot of water, as was that white bucket next to the post.

Having hauled that heavy post-hole digger all the way down there, I was intent on using it. However, digging thru a foot of mud covered with 18 inches of water is an interesting proposition. I got down a little bit into the gravel below, set up the post, & tried to find enough mud & sod to fill it in, with the help of a few sticks that were handy. There was no way I could find any rocks to put around it, but I'll do that next time I get a chance." **Gerald Anderson – June 11, 2020**

Talk about True Grit. Gerald is just one of our trail heroes that regularly report their activity along with tales when things just go awry while working on the trail.

For their persistent efforts, the chapter recognizes the following past and present segment stewards who gave above and beyond expectations, including personal expenses, over the years:

Kettlebowl - Baker Branson, Bill Roff, Doug Lambert Gary Vaughan, George Bane, Jared Wildenradt Kris Van Handel, Lee Auner, Lon Malzahn, Pricilla Matthews, Renae Sieling, Rita Fox, Robert Sieling, Sam Picone, Sharon Vaughan, Stanley Koss, Steve Koss, Terry Creekmore, Todd McMahan and Violet Bane.

Lumbercamp - Baker Branson, Barb Godell, Betsy O'Neill, Betty Koss, Brian Nelson, Dean Blazek, Don Belanger, Jared Wildenradt, Joe Hermolin, John Jacobs, Lee Auner, Lloyd Godell, Mark Schwengel, Melinda Nelson, Mike Godell and Stanley Koss.

Summit Moraine - Adam Evans, Andy Merry, Brian Nelson, Dave Tlusty, Don Belanger, Don Evans, Gary Vaughan, Gerald Anderson, Jared Wildenradt, John Barker, Lee Auner, Lloyd Godell, Melinda Nelson, Mike Godell, Molly McKay, Samara Pillsbury, Sam Picone, Sharon Vaughan and Kris Van Handel.

Old Railroad - Adam Evans, Baker Branson. Dave Tlusty Don Belanger, Don Evans, Doug Dittel, Elizabeth Thompson. Joe Hermolin, Joe McKenna, John Barker, Kyle Tlusty, Lee Auner, Molly McKay. Renate Bromberg, Rita Fox and Stanley Koss.

Highland Lakes - Baker Branson, Bob Cromer, Bob Simonson, Chris Opper, Dean Blazek, Don Belanger, Gary Rusch, Greg Rusch, Lee Auner, Nathan Woodard, Ryan Jopek, Sam Picone and Tim Rusch.

Parrish Hills - Annette Nierode, Baker Branson. Dave Tlusty, Don Mollet, Fran Branson, Gerald Anderson, Greg Griswold, Jared Wildenradt, Jeff Koppa, Joel Eldridge, Kurt Nierode, Lee Auner, Letitia Koppa, Lon Malzahn, Lynne Schimmels, Rita Fox, Sam Picone, Stanley Koss, Susan Anderson and Wayne Koniecki.

Many thanks for your efforts through the years of tending to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Langlade County. Many steps above and beyond.