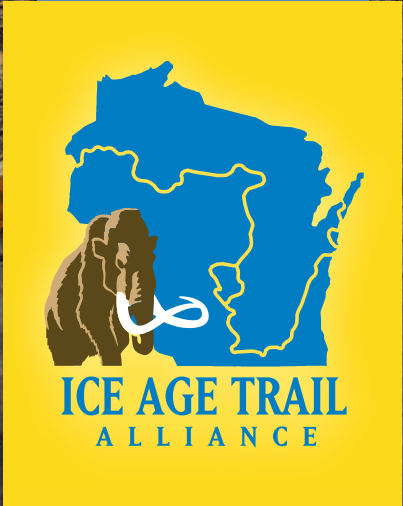


ST. CROIX DUNN CHIPPEWA TAYLOR LANGLADE Antigo Marinette
River Falls Chippewa Falls Eau Claire
Merrill Medford Stevens
MAMMOTH tales

FALL-WINTER 2021



PRESIDENT'S report



PATTY DREIER
President of the Ice Age Trail Alliance

Hello Ice Age Trail Supporters!

Do you feel it? I sure do. Our momentum is growing, and it feels great! With each passing year, we take bold steps. Ones that bring us closer to realizing our vision of a premier, continuous, permanently protected Ice Age National Scenic Trail coursing through Wisconsin. Our dream is of an Ice Age Trail where all people may enjoy and embrace unique glacial landscapes and cultural histories while finding physical and mental renewal in a peaceful setting and an enduring spiritual connection to the land. No wonder it feels great!

Our volunteer service to this cause opens the doors so that everyone can get the most out of Wisconsin—and life, in general—one step at a time. History. Culture. Renewal. Building connections across communities and people.

I've been involved as a volunteer with the Ice Age Trail Alliance for more than two decades, and I couldn't be more honored to be your President of the Board. It is my life's passion to help people deepen their connections to the land. My connections have offered me so many wonderful gifts, ones I've been fortunate to discover through my lifetime: joy, healthful benefits, lifelong learning, inspiration, challenge, and greater resilience through tough times.

When people develop a personal connection to the land, they are more apt to take better care of it—to help steward our natural resources locally and globally. Because I care so deeply about our planet, and our planet needs our care, it is natural for me to want to give my “all” to the Trail. That's why I volunteer. That's why my husband and I became Burr Oak Legacy Society members, which includes the Ice Age Trail Alliance in our estate plans.

The pandemic brought to light the many benefits of spending time outdoors. Local access to natural places such as parks and trails is more important than ever. Our growth in Alliance membership is evidence of people taking this access to heart. We welcome new and continuing members!

We also double our efforts as we invite others to join us. I am particularly excited about a new grant project with the National Park Foundation. This project, we believe, is a national model-in-the-making. It will help us make meaningful connections with people who haven't yet gotten to know the Trail or us. Essentially, it will help us open our doors even wider to welcome more people from all backgrounds and walks of life so we can grow together. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail offers extraordinary benefits all around. Our vision is a grand dream. Let's make sure everyone who wants to reap the benefits and share in the dream has the chance.

OUR PARTNERS





2110 Main Street
PO Box 128
Cross Plains, WI 53528

(608) 798-4453 (p)
(800) 227-0046 (p)
(608) 798-4460 (f)

info@iceagetrail.org
www.iceagetrail.org

VOL. XXXIV, NO. 3
FALL-WINTER 2021

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Patty Dreier, Stevens Point, WI

President Elect

John Kolbe, Delafield, WI

Treasurer

Maureen Skelton, Madison, WI

Secretary

Sue Greenway, Cumberland, WI

Vice President Leadership Development

Robert Funk, Whitewater, WI

Vice President Development

Mark Glasser, Ellison Bay, WI

Vice President Personnel

John Kolbe, Delafield, WI

Assistant Secretary

Mike Wollmer, Cross Plains WI

LEADERSHIP MEMORIAL

Dick Cates
Tom Drought
Cora Dversdall
Joyce Erdman
Ody J. Fish
Roy Gromme
Russ Helwig
Gary Klatt
Warren Knowles
Henry Reuss
Sarah Sykes
Marion "Barney" Viste
J.J. "Doc" Werner
John Zillmer
Raymond Zillmer

OUR mission

The mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is to conserve, create, maintain, and promote a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

ON THE COVER:

Come hike the Ringle Segment. It's a testament to our dedicated volunteers and a landscape's haunting beauty formed by glaciers. You'll learn more about the successful completion of the rerouted Ringle Segment, a trailbuilding project spanning 5 years and 11 mobile skills crew events, in the Spring 2022 issue of this magazine. However, in the meantime, make time to immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of this signature segment. Photo by Justine Kapitzke.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) publishes *Mammoth Tales* for its members and friends. Together with the National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local units of government, businesses, and volunteers from around the state, the IATA works to preserve Wisconsin's glacial heritage through the development of the Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail.

The IATA welcomes your comments. Email them to lysianne@iceagetrail.org, call us at (800) 227-0046, or send them to *Mammoth Tales*, c/o IATA, PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

Editor: Lysianne Unruh

Printer: Action Graphics, Butler, WI · (262) 373-1999 · www.actiongraphicsink.com
Printed with soy-based ink on 10% recycled, Wisconsin-sourced paper.

Designer: Lynn LaSpisa

Mammoth Tales template and IATA logo design by Celtic, Inc., Brookfield, WI (262) 789-7630 · www.celticinc.com

CONTENTS

2	President's Report
4	National Park Service Update
5	Welcome Melissa!
6	Land Conservation Highlights
10	Trailbuilding Highlights
13	Outreach & Education Highlights
14	Philanthropy Highlights
15	Donor Spotlight
16	Trail Adventures
17	Trail Wisdom
18	Thousand-Miler's Journal
22	Chapter Highlights
29	Member & Donor News

DIRECTORS

Dana Chabot, Minneapolis, MN
Ellen Drought, Milwaukee, WI
John Hutchinson, Sun Prairie, WI
Ed Madere, Janesville, WI
Rob Malewicki, East Troy, WI
Linda Mertz, Rubicon, WI
Nancy Peterson, Milwaukee, WI
Benjamin Swanson, Cross Plains, WI
Danny Tang, Madison, WI
Matthew Underwood, Madison, WI
Timothy Yanachek, Madison, WI

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Adam Cahow
Robert Cromer
Joe Jopek
Dave Kinnamon
Terry Kohler
David Lovejoy
Dave Phillips
Robert Rusch

STAFF

Executive Director and CEO

Mike Wollmer
mike@iceagetrail.org

Director of Trail Operations

Position vacant

Director of Land Conservation

Kevin Thusius
kevin@iceagetrail.org

Director of Philanthropy

Luke Kloberdanz
luke@iceagetrail.org

Director of Marketing and Community Relations

Melissa Pierick
melissa@iceagetrail.org

Outreach and Education Manager

Amy Lord
amy@iceagetrail.org

Trail Program Manager

Dave Caliebe
dave@iceagetrail.org

Communications Manager

Lysianne Unruh
lysianne@iceagetrail.org

Membership and Grants Coordinator

Eric Sherman
eric@iceagetrail.org

Field Operations Coordinator

Patrick Gleissner
patrick@iceagetrail.org

Special Projects Coordinator

Brad Crary
brad@iceagetrail.org

Saunters Project Coordinator

Sarah Pearce
thinkoutside@iceagetrail.org

GIS Specialist

Tiffany Stram
tiffany@iceagetrail.org

Administrative Assistant

Jo Ellarson
joanne@iceagetrail.org

Communications Support Specialist AmeriCorps & VISTA Intern

Justine Kapitzke
justine@iceagetrail.org

Trail Program Intern

Riley Dupee
riley@iceagetrail.org

Chainsaw Training for Volunteers

DANIEL W. WATSON, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Chainsaw training for Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers is now officially offered by the National Park Service (NPS). In 2019, the NPS mandated all non-wildland fire chainsaw operators receive actual certification training and created the National Chainsaw Safety Program (NCSP). Before this decision, our volunteers received chainsaw safety orientation classes through Ice Age Trail-University (IAT-U) gatherings hosted by the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

With an implementation deadline of October 31, 2022, we have made good progress toward fully executing this new certification training process. In 2020, we hosted 3 courses and certified 31 volunteers at various levels of chainsaw operation. As of this writing, in 2021, we have hosted 3 classes that certified an additional 34 sawyers, with an upcoming class scheduled in October to accommodate another 12 students. In 2022, we will provide courses which will certify another 36-48 volunteers. In addition, the Alliance and the NPS are working hard to identify good trailwide training sites where we can bring this training closest to our volunteers' home areas. Previously we offered classes in Taylor, Dane, Waushara, and Barron counties, with the upcoming October course in Waukesha County.

While existing Ice Age Trail sawyers await an opportunity to attend an upcoming certification course, they may continue to operate chainsaws provided they meet the following conditions:

- Their previous IAT-U chainsaw training has not yet hit its three-year expiration date
- They have a signed OF-301A Individual Volunteer Agreement on file with the NPS
- They have reported to the NPS as having viewed all eight *Trail Safe!* videos
- They maintain current certification in First Aid and CPR
- They request all mandated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the NPS

Additionally, we want to ensure the highest level of safety for those who directly assist our sawyers (commonly referred to as “swampers”). The Ice Age Trail Chainsaw Policy also directs “swampers” to have a signed volunteer agreement, maintain First Aid and CPR certification, complete the Trail Safe! videos, and secure required PPE from the NPS.

If you are a sawyer, a swamper, or have interest in joining the program, please view the Ice Age Trail Chainsaw Policy found at iceagetrail.org/wp-content/uploads/IATR-Chainsaw-SOP-2021.pdf.



A student practices a plunge or bore cut under supervision of the instructor. Photo by Daniel Watson.

“Since taking the new NPS/USFS certification class in July of 2020, my safety awareness and sawing techniques have improved. The more I operate my saw, the more attention I pay to managing risk factors insuring a safe sawing outcome.”

~ John Kolbe, Ice Age Trail Alliance Board President-Elect & Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter Leader



Welcome, Melissa!

MELISSA PIERICK, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING
AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A perk of working for the Ice Age Trail Alliance is that you can take lunch-break hikes on the Trail. Recently, I hiked over to Mammoth's Back Preserve, a section of Ice Age Trail along the Cross Plains Segment newly forged by volunteers.

I hadn't been to the Preserve since day one of the August Reconnect Mobile Skills Crew event, in which I participated. As I retraced my steps along the new Trail, I remembered all the branches I lopped. I looked at the giant brush piles to which I had added. And, I thought about the volunteers I worked with that day: the UW math professor who had never hiked the Ice Age Trail before, but thought the volunteer work sounded like fun (even in 90-degree heat); and the man who, despite having a family farm to take care of, came out because he wanted to support the Trail.

I thought about how much I learned that one day I was a swamper. It was a "lightbulb" moment for me. That's the day I came to fully understand what it meant for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to be supported and created by volunteers.

At the time, I was a month into my role as the Alliance's Marketing Director. With about 200 miles of the Trail hiked, I'd read about volunteer support. I had seen announcements about work crews and projects. But until I was onsite, part of a swamping crew, I didn't REALLY get it. But now I do. And it gives me even more excitement for the Trail and admiration for everyone who volunteers, in all capacities.

When I switched careers (from the corporate world of telecommunications) and came to the Alliance, I told everyone my goal was to ensure everyone in the state knew about the Ice Age Trail. Hiker or not, the Trail is such a valuable resource; people should know it exists. There shouldn't be lifelong residents of the state, living across the street from the Trail for years, who don't know it's there. (That's exactly my story, by the way.)

I've now expanded my original goal: People need to not only know about the Trail, but also the INCREDIBLE volunteer support that makes it a reality. I look forward to spreading that message far and wide.



(Above) Melissa and her dog, Daisy, set off on a hike along the Gibraltar Rock Segment. (Inset right) Melissa and Daisy at one of the stunning lookout points along the Gibraltar Rock Segment. Daisy, however, is done with the view and wants to keep hiking. Photos by Sandi Reichert.

Learn a few more fun facts about
Melissa in this recent interview:
iceagetrail.org/meet-melissa-pierick/

LAND CONSERVATION highlights

Major Trail Protection Successes Thanks to Major Donations

KEVIN THUSIUS, DIRECTOR OF LAND CONSERVATION

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is experiencing its most successful trail protection efforts in recent history due to several key factors, most notably – generous funding to secure land.

With the recent surge in land prices, many landowners decided to take advantage and sell their properties. The landowners contacted us directly for two of the properties; they knew we might be interested buyers. The other two acquisitions were on the open market, listed with real estate agents. For each purchase, though, the Alliance had to move quickly or lose the opportunity to secure the land for the Ice Age Trail.

We could only protect these properties if we had the funding available to purchase these lands immediately. As it turns out, the solution lay with a private foundation that had worked with the Alliance during the last two years, Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust. This time, Prairie Springs provided \$360,000 to help purchase three properties. Then, in September, they granted another \$200,000, which was matched by donors, like you, to help secure the fourth property.

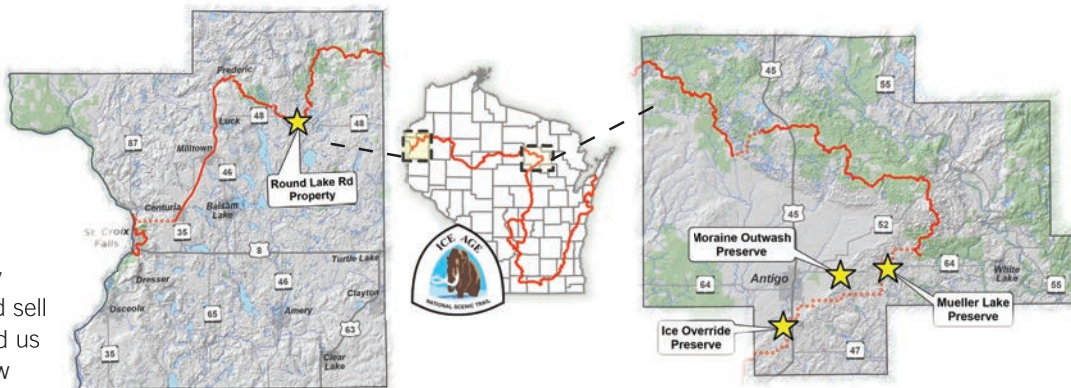
Four Land Protection Successes:

■ **Terminal Moraine Expansion:** With the purchase of the 33-acre Bolen property, the Alliance increased the size of its **Outwash Moraine Preserve** in Langlade County to 113 acres. The property boasts one of the best examples of a terminal moraine along the Ice Age Trail, coupled with excellent views of the famous Antigo Flats.

The entire Preserve is open to the public, but there are no trails or other amenities at this time. If you visit, please be sure to stay on the property and off of private lands.

■ **Mueller Lake Preserve and Crevasse Fills:** The **Mueller Lake Preserve** in Langlade County contains one of the most interesting geologic stories of any the Alliance has purchased. According to Dave Mickelson, Emeritus Professor in Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, this 79-acre property, immediately east of Mueller (pronounced Muller) Lake, is home “to crevasse fills, an uncommon occurrence worth pointing out. A crevasse is a deep, wedge-shaped opening in the surface of a glacier, forming where the ice is brittle. Crevasse fills are open to the sky, and in some areas, they are close to the ice margin. A stream, or streams, deposits gravel in them. Sometimes, this flowing water deposits a complete cover of gravel over the thin ice and the crevasse beneath it. As the ice melts, the gravel in the crevasse collapses, but not entirely, and still stands as a ridge. Thus, it could be mistaken for an esker, formed by sand and gravel deposited in a closed tunnel. However, the ridges created by a crevasse fill are usually shorter than eskers, and they occur groups.”

This property is not yet open to the public, so we ask your patience before visiting.



Dick and Judy Bolen are all smiles as they show Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation, some of their favorite spots along their property which expanded the acreage of the Outwash Moraine Preserve. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



(Above) A sweeping view of the undulating terrain created by long-ago crevasse fills. Photo by Kevin Thusius. (Left) A lidar image of the crevasse fills within the Mueller Lake Preserve. Image courtesy of David Mickelson.



■ **Establishing an Anchor:** After receiving a tip from an avid hiker, the Alliance purchased land adjacent a long connecting route, eager to anchor future Trail development in this area of Langlade County. In what we now call the **Ice Override Preserve**, this 44.5-acre property showcases where the older Hancock Moraine was overridden by the later Almond Moraine, leaving behind high-relief glacial terrain. The Preserve falls along a Trail desert – a 24.7-mile connecting road walk in Langlade County. What's more, the nearest camping along the Trail is approximately 16 miles away in Marathon County.

This property is not yet open to the public. However, we plan to open it sometime next year after we've developed a short section of Ice Age Trail and a dispersed camping area. For more information, see the accompanying article on page 8.

■ **Existing Trail Gets Protected:** For decades, the Ice Age Trail has been on the ground as part of the Pine Lake Segment, east of Luck, WI, in Polk County. What many hikers don't realize is much of this Segment is on private land. In the summer of 2021, one of the landowners, Brunkow Hardwoods, inquired into our interest in purchasing their land. The newly-named, **Round Lake Road property**, is now home to ½ mile of permanently protected Ice Age Trail.

Long-distance hikers will be happy to know we're exploring camping opportunities on the mostly wet property.

These four properties would not have been protected for future Ice Age Trail without the generosity of the Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust and the donors who graciously matched the challenge grant.



A view of the hummocky, high-relief terrain formed by overlapping moraines. Photo by Kris Van Handel.

As a side note: Funds remaining after the purchase of these properties have been placed in the Alliance's Prairie Springs Land Protection fund, named in honor of the initial donors. When land purchases qualify for reimbursement (from state, federal, or private sources), the reimbursed funds will go back into the Prairie Springs Land Protection fund for future acquisition opportunities. Therefore, initial gifts have an even greater impact on Trail protection.

To learn more about Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust, see the Philanthropy highlights article on page 15.

An outstanding view along the Pine Lake Segment. Photo by Eva Ballering.



Avid Hikers Help Locate Land for More Off-Road Trail

KRIS VAN HANDEL, LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER

When headed towards the Western Terminus, hikers know Langlade County is where the Ice Age National Scenic Trail becomes more rugged and remote. Yet, they start their trek through Langlade County with a road walk.

The Plover River Segment is the last off-road stretch in Marathon County. After completing it, hikers will find themselves at County Road HH. They will head north for a half-mile and then take a right onto West Bear Lake Road (a connecting route) and enter Langlade County. They will walk along Old 26, Crestwood, Polar, and Oak roads (and more) for 24 miles before arriving at the Kettlebowl Segment.

My partner, Jared, and I are avid hikers and have completed the entire Trail numerous times. (In September, Jared became a Thousand-Miler for the sixth time and I for a third.) I enjoy hiking in the northern part of the state because of its rugged remoteness and the narrow single-track trail we find weaving through the Northwoods.

Our time on the Ice Age Trail convinced us to give back and become volunteers on behalf of the Trail. Although we live in Madison, our volunteer work centers in Langlade County, especially the Kettlebowl Segment, which is close to my family's cottage. This familiarity with the area enabled us to recognize the opportunities in a piece of land for sale along the connecting route. It might be, we thought, a way to get more off-road trail through Langlade County, and maybe a spot for a dispersed camping area (DCA).



Jared Wildermuth sets off to explore the nuances of the property. Photo by Kris Van Handel.

Jared looked into the property, compared it to the approved corridor, discussed the land with Langlade County Chapter Coordinator, Joe Jopek, and then sent the information off to Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation at the Alliance.

Last spring, Kevin asked us to explore the property and provide information and photos to him. Based on what we could see from the road, we did not have high expectations. But, as we started our hike around the property, we were pleasantly surprised with our discoveries. We followed an old, tree-lined logging road that soon brought us to an open view of the landscape. We could see the rolling hills and layout of the land since the area had been recently logged. The grass and brush hadn't yet grown too tall, so we had an easy time bushwhacking our way to the top of the first hill. We stood on top and noted the terrain, wondering what may have occurred in this area as the glacier went through. To the south, there appeared to be some water, and after walking in that direction, we found a small kettle pond.

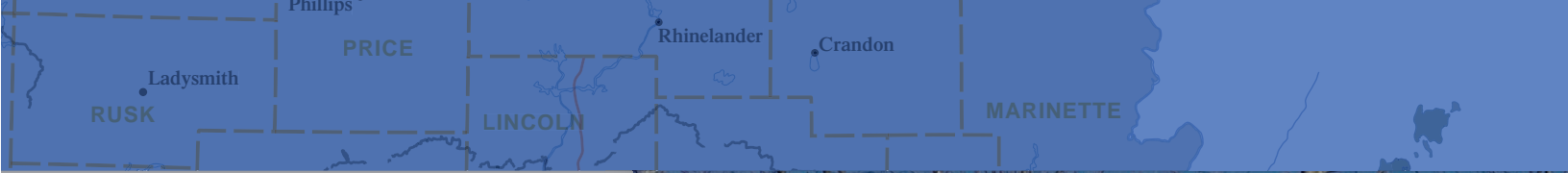
The land continued to be hilly, so we split up to cover more area. I headed off toward another high point while Jared took the low route and followed the property line for a while. I stood on a stump and watched Jared hiking through the brush. As the crow flies, he wasn't too far away, but traveling up and down the hills would take me a bit of time to get to him.

I continued walking toward the highest point, where I could look out over most of the property. It was a pretty neat view. I took some time to imagine what route the Trail could take through the property. I enjoy the challenge of hiking hilly terrain, so I envisioned the Trail going up, down, and around many of the hills. It would certainly be a fun segment after a long trek on the road!

Upon arriving at the cottage, we uploaded all of our photos and sent an email to Kevin who sent Jared periodic updates. We were excited to learn the Alliance put in an offer on the 44.5-acre property! Kevin



The 'approved corridor' is a one-to-three-mile-wide corridor developed through extensive planning, open house meetings, and plenty of walking/driving miles. Usually led by the Alliance's National Park Service partners, this process meets federal and state regulations and determines a future route for the Ice Age Trail. It also lets the public and landowners know about the Trail and the Alliance's interest in connecting through the area.



invited us to walk, for a second time, what would eventually be named the Ice Override Preserve. This time, he and an appraiser would join us.

On a sunny, July afternoon, we walked a similar route as before. By now, the grass and brush had grown taller and thicker, which made our travels a little more difficult. The appraiser brought topographic maps, and we discussed possible trail routes and dispersed camping area (DCA) locations along with the geological features. Kevin shared what he'd learned from Dave Mickelson, Emeritus Professor in Geoscience at the University of Wisconsin – Madison: two moraines had overlapped, creating the hummocky terrain throughout the property. It was an enjoyable afternoon, and we left feeling excited about this opportunity for the Ice Age Trail and Langlade County.

New segments of Ice Age Trail are definitely exciting, and that's one thing that keeps me hiking it. In the last five years I've hiked the Ice Age Trail, it has become an important part of who I am and what I enjoy doing. I am excited to see the progress we can make, and I hope you are too!

See you on the Trail!

The Ice Age Trail Alliance acquired this and several other properties in 2021 because the Alliance had easy access to funds, specifically the Robert and Victoria Land Conservation Fund and Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust. Having this capital in hand made it possible to react quickly to this property and others on the open market.

Kris "Hair Tie" Van Handel has section hiked the Ice Age Trail three times and is working on her fourth completion. She has also hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail, the Porcupine Mountains, and a variety of State and National Parks. When Kris isn't hiking, she enjoys photography, swimming, bicycling, and cross-country skiing. Kris lives in Madison with her partner, Jared, and dog, Penny. Follow Kris on Instagram @kris_vanhandel.

A happy discovery: a small, kettle pond now residing on the Ice Override Preserve. Photo by Kris Van Handel.

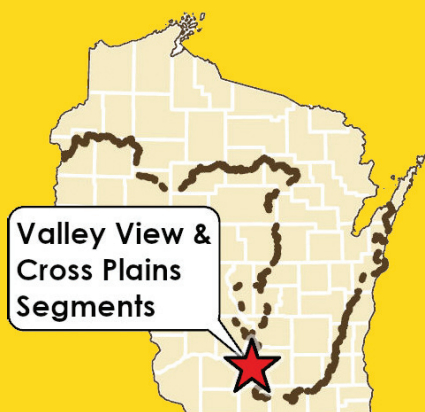


TRAILBUILDING highlights

A Great Leap Forward

DAVID LONSDORF

Co-Coordinator of the Dane County
Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance



Valley View and Cross Plains Segments

Dane County

July 28 – August 1

Participants: 86

Volunteer Hours: 1,852

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Duluth Trading Company
REI

New Glarus Brewing Company and its
Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc.
Charitable Foundation

Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources Friends Grant

Dane County Chapter's Land
Preservation Fund

Dane County's effort to close the gaps took a great leap forward in the sweltering heat of late July and early August when volunteers built and opened three new miles of Ice Age Trail. Two sites just east of the Ice Age Trail Alliance headquarters in Cross Plains benefited from this labor – the Mammoth's Back Preserve in Cross Plains (and part of the Cross Plains Segment) and the Valley View Segment in the Town of Middleton.

Eighty-six volunteers from across the state gathered for this Reconnect trailbuilding project and donated 1,852 hours of time and effort. At Mammoth's Back Preserve, they constructed a 150-foot boardwalk and cleared and blazed more than a mile of



(Left) A volunteer crew of swamplers builds brush piles – for winter bonfires – of honeysuckle and buckthorn branches after a team of sawyers cleared the trail route. (Right) Skilled and seasoned volunteer crews built this 400-foot boardwalk, which now floats above the mud along the Valley View Segment. Photos by Dave Caliebe.



trail circling the base of the large outcrop. Numerous large brush piles grace the sides of the trail, awaiting winter conditions for proper burning.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance purchased Mammoth's Back Preserve in February 2020 along with 46 acres of surrounding farmland. Funds provided by local donors and friends of the trail, matched by grants from Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and the Dane County Conservation Fund, made this acquisition possible. The Dane County Chapter also provided funds from their Land Preservation Fund to help defray legal costs associated with the purchase.

The stewardship group of the Dane County Chapter, led by Gary Werner and Tom Wise, has had at least 20 chapter workdays since then to clear invasive Eastern red cedar and buckthorn trees off the bluff. This effort exposed a high-quality remnant prairie across the top of Mammoth's Back Preserve, which has already responded well to the clearing. In future years, volunteers will restore the farmland and adjacent Alliance-owned Black

Earth Creek wetlands with many acres of prairie plants and other native species.

The Alliance-owned 106-acre Valley View Preserve lies about five miles southeast of Cross Plains. Unfortunately, a wetland blocked the trail heading west from the Preserve, resulting in a long, unpleasant, and, at times, dangerous road walk. Thanks to this project that is no longer the case! Additional Reconnect volunteers built more than 400 feet of boardwalk through thick mud and constructed trail on either end to result in a much safer and more pleasant 1.6-mile hike through the marsh and the woods. Once hikers reach Timber Lane, they will have a newly mowed and signed path along the road right-of-way as they head toward Cross Plains.

The Dane County Chapter grew by almost 500 members in 2020, as people sought refuge from the pandemic in outdoor spaces. These two beautiful new trail improvements significantly add to the Alliance's goal of providing high-quality recreational opportunities that are easily accessible to all.

New to an Old Trail

RILEY DUPEE
Trail Program Intern



Ringle Segment
Marathon County
August 25 - 29
Participants: 78
Volunteer Hours: 1,972

PROJECT PARTNERS:
Duluth Trading Company
REI
New Glarus Brewing Company and its
Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc.
Charitable Foundation
Dudley Foundation
Judd S. Alexander Foundation
National Park Foundation
National Park Service



(Above) A trio of volunteers and Ice Age Trail Alliance staff work together to reinforce a stone step. Photo by Lisa Krueger. (Right) A new section of tread reinforced with rotten granite. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



The Ringle reroute is a massive Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) project that has been around for a long time. (For 5 years and 11 events, in fact.) It is so well known and the work so demanding that, within the MSC community, the name “Ringle” is akin to a four-letter word. It is the largest trail improvement project in 20 years.

I am new. So new that Mike Wollmer, Executive Director for the Ice Age Trail Alliance, once described me as “very green,” and he was very right. When I started my internship three months ago, I had never worked on a trail project. When Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager, informed me I would be on the tread crew at Ringle, I said, “cool beans, Dave,” and he laughed at me. I didn’t know how to perform this most-basic trailbuilding task, but I was about to learn.

There are so many nuances to cutting a trail, and it’s a little like writing with the wrong hand, at first. But, all of the experienced volunteers at an MSC project want you to have the best experience possible. None of them will set you up for failure. They share their knowledge and skills freely and kindly. Fred Nash, Wendell Holl, and Anne Helsley-Marchbanks each taught me a slightly different way to swing a pick mattock so I could find one that fit my body best.

I learned the basics of full-bench construction: how to cut the backline, then the tread, then the backslope, and finally establish the critical edge. I learned how to make a trail “hydrologically invisible,” so water will sheet off when it rains and not take my fresh tread with it. Anne showed me how to finish a trail, walk it with my eyes closed, and feel how my feet moved over it. She shared her knowledge of how to use a McLeod, only scraping parallel to the trail surface.

When I wasn’t cutting tread, I hauled five-gallon buckets of “rotten granite.” It’s a crumbly, granite gravel used to harden the

trail’s surface or make a trail where one cannot be cut, like in the middle of a boulder train. Dave started to explain what a “boulder train” was but then just showed me the long stretch of granite boulders along the flag line. Then, he handed me a bucket.

When each workday was over, I was bone-tired and covered in all manner of forest debris. Being new to an old trail is a bit like trying to drink from a fire hose. But, when I got back to camp, one of my many new friends would hand me a beer, tell me I did a good job, and help me find my place by the campfire.

TRAILBUILDING highlights

continued



The Waterville Success Story

THE TRAIL PROGRAM TEAM



Waterville Segment
Waukesha County
September 15 - 19
Participants: 97
Volunteer Hours: 1,900

PROJECT PARTNERS:
Duluth Trading Company
REI
New Glarus Brewing Company and its
Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc.
Charitable Foundation
Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein
Trust
Preserve at Hunters Lake Homeowners
Association
The Friends & Family of Spencer Hicks
The hundreds of individual donors who
gave to the Waterville Gap Campaign

Great things happen when Ice Age Trail enthusiasts get behind an idea, like an easement purchase along the Waterville Segment, known for its oak forest, wetlands, and prairie. Permanently protecting this strip of land gave us the green light to build a new half-mile section of tread and boardwalk parallel to a busy connecting route.

It began in 2020 with a reawakened love of the outdoors in many Wisconsinites. And, the rapid success of our 'Close the Waterville Gap' campaign perfectly distilled this excitement. The goal: purchase an easement to help eliminate a dangerous road walk in Waukesha County. The call to action went out in July of 2020, and by September, we had exceeded our fundraising expectations.



(Above left) A volunteer crew helps construct the 0.9-mile of new trail along the Waterville Segment. Photo by Dave Caliebe. (Above right) A seasoned volunteer crew fastens the kick plates along the new 425-foot-long boardwalk. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

A significant boost came from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust, which funded the \$25,000 match. In an astonishing show of grassroots philanthropy, individual donors stepped up to give generously, fueling the campaign. In less than five months, we'd met our fundraising goal and had purchased the easement.

"Members of the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter generated a good deal of the excitement for this project," said Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Philanthropy. "The Blazing Babes stuffed hundreds of envelopes and created promotional videos to share on social media. Chapter leaders wrote letters and sent them to potential donors, and many, many chapter members provided financial support."

Then, just when everything was all set (or so we thought), the lumber market went bananas. We briefly explored the launch of another fundraising effort to overcome the soaring lumber prices. Then, in April 2021, the stars aligned. A family approached the Alliance looking for a way to memorialize their father, Spencer Hicks. They asked if they could still donate to the 'Close the Waterville Gap' campaign. This segment is where the family spent hundreds of hours

building structures and caring for bluebird houses. They eagerly agreed to help fund the Waterville boardwalk construction. (Their contribution will also help support the new boardwalk along the Hartland Segment, Wildcard event, October 21-23.)

It was this type of positive energy and good luck that maintained our momentum. In little over a year, from fundraising to land purchase to boardwalk construction, a new section of Ice Age Trail opened. Once again, an incredible assist came from chapter members. Focused teams helped with pre-project planning and preparation. Then, during the project, chapter members helped lead volunteer crews or whipped up homecooked meals to satisfy hungry appetites.

Throughout four-and-a-half days and 1,900 volunteer hours, 97 volunteers blasted through invasive species, created a delightful sittin' circle under a young oak, and cut tread to route the Ice Age Trail onto newly purchased easements. Additionally, crews revitalized the existing trail by building a beautiful boardwalk and constructing short reroutes to eliminate erosion. These and other upgrades to the Waterville Segment have it shined and polished, so it's almost like new.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

Think Outside — It's Back!

AMY LORD, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MANAGER

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is an educational trail by the very nature of its unique landscape, created by the receding glaciers thousands of years ago. It sparks wonder and awe as it takes hikers past world-renowned glacial features: eskers, kames, kettle lakes, and more.

The Ice Age Trail is also a place for mental and physical rejuvenation for hikers of all ages. It is an opportunity to unplug and tune in to the woods and prairies' sounds, smells, sights, and textures. So naturally, it provides the setting for thinking outside as it offers a lifetime of learning and adventure.

In 2019, with a grant from the National Park Foundation, the Think Outside program was created. An off-shoot of the Alliance's popular Saunters program, Think Outside is designed as a bite-sized introduction to the Ice Age Trail specifically for fourth graders. It is ideal for educators curious about getting their students beyond four walls and weaving nature's classroom into their curriculum.

Like many things over the past 18 months, Think Outside was put on hold as school districts were dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Lesson plans were virtual. Field trips were cancelled.

We are so happy to say Think Outside is back for the 2021-2022 school year. We are looking forward to working with schools across Wisconsin and beyond to get fourth graders outside exploring the Ice Age Trail.

Think Outside offers:

- Transportation reimbursement for partnering school districts
- Resource materials for teachers
- Assistance planning their Ice Age Trail hiking experience
- A free National Park Pass for participating fourth-grade students.

Our goals are still the same: get 10,000 pairs of boots on the ground and introduce the Trail to our youth. These adventures help shape the next generation's minds, positively affect their mental and emotional well-being, and foster tomorrow's leaders through immersive, hands-on experiences.



In 2019, students from Hatley Elementary enjoyed a wintery saunter along the Ringle Segment. Photo by Hatley Elementary staff.



Sarah Pearce, Saunters Project Coordinator. Photo by IATA staff.

Sarah Pearce joined the Ice Age Trail Alliance in October 2019. With the pandemic and the pause of Think Outside, Sarah took time off to focus on her family. Now that Think Outside is back, so is Sarah! We want to welcome and officially introduce her as the Saunters Project Coordinator. Sarah works with teachers to schedule their Think Outside presentation and field experience and with the volunteers who share their passion and expertise with the students.

The National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance are proud to offer NEW online learning opportunities for educators and hike leaders!

Enjoy a 4-part video series with an accompanying digital scavenger hunt and various games and activities to enjoy while hiking the Trail. This wealth of resources also includes the interactive StriveOn mobile app.

Explore our digital offerings at
iceagetrail.org/think-outside/



Think Outside is made possible by a grant from the National Park Foundation through generous support of partners including Union Pacific Railroad and donors across the country.

Plenty of Work Ahead: Turning Protected Land into New Trail Miles

Photo by Dave Caliebe.

LUKE KLOBERDANZ, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

By all measures, 2021 will be a monumental year for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Thousands of young learners visited trail segments across the state to experience, first-hand, the impacts of glaciation on Wisconsin. Exploration opportunities expanded for all, with the addition of 6.05 miles of recently constructed off-road Trail. Plus, Alliance supporters, partners, and trustees of Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust enabled more land to be protected this year than any previous year in our history.

Protecting land is the critical first step toward getting the Ice Age Trail off roads. It's a process that typically takes months—if not years—of steady negotiations, planning, and execution. But this year, things came together quickly. Very quickly. (For more information, read the Land Conservation highlights article on page 6.) And, now the stage is set for what comes next: a lot of trailbuilding.

In the coming months and years, future Ice Age Trail routes will be carefully planned and designed to ensure it shares the beauty of the land with all who follow its path. Alliance staff, volunteers, and partners will explore by snowshoe and boot, laying out a route worthy of our National Scenic Trail designation. They'll identify areas suitable for dispersed camping as well as parking.

Then, the lines on the map will be turned into reality:

- Boardwalks and rock walls will be designed and installed.
- Work days will be scheduled.
- Materials will be ordered.
- Tools will be cleaned and sharpened.
- Signage posts stained.
- Blazes will be painted.

And it will happen because of the support of people like you.

Your 2021 year-end donation will help support Trail construction efforts in 2022. With your help, the volunteers, who dedicate countless hours to Trail construction, will create miles of new off-road Trail for current and future generations of hikers to enjoy.

Your donation will turn a dream into reality. It helps create the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and bring it closer to completion.

To donate, visit iceagetrail.org/year-end-2021/

Thank you for joining us.



A team of volunteers cuts fresh tread along a flag line, which marks the new trail route through the woods. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



A volunteer crew builds a boardwalk, an essential structure for preserving wetlands and keeping hikers' boots dry. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust

LUKE KLOBERDANZ, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

You'd be hard-pressed to read the Alliance's emails, articles, or social media posts during the past two years, without seeing the name Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust.

That's because this Trust has been integral to the Alliance's land protection efforts for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. After first donating to the 2019 year-end campaign, the trustees, Carolyn and Jay Scott, have become generous partners of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

At the start of 2020, soon after we launched our 'Close the Waterville Gap' campaign, Prairie Springs approached us. They wondered if a \$25,000, 1:1 match would assist the \$60,000 fundraising goal. We thought it would and quickly announced this opportunity to our friends and supporters. In a few short weeks, 331 individual donors helped meet, and exceed, the goal. The Alliance used those funds to Close (and improve) the Waterville Gap (see page 12).

Then, within a few months, Prairie Springs joined the Alliance to protect a parcel in Marathon County along Rice Lake Creek and adjoining Alliance-owned property, the Rice Lake Preserve. The 'Protect Rice Lake' campaign included a land purchase and funding to build future Ice Age Trail. In addition to a \$20,000 contribution, the Prairie Springs trustees offered a \$12,500, 1:1 match, encouraging 138 donors to support the effort. Work on the Rice Lake Preserve is slated to begin in 2022.

In 2021, land protection opportunities flooded the Alliance (see page 6). We shared this unique challenge with Carolynn and Jay (along

with their daughter, Kasandra, and dog, Hank). Once again, their love for the Trail came through, and they generously agreed to help. They contributed \$360,000 to purchase three properties and offered another \$200,000 for a 1:1 match campaign to protect a fourth. We successfully met the match as 624 individual donors joined the cause.

The funding gained through this most recent match exceeded the purchase price of the fourth property. Therefore, at the Scott's request, the Alliance created the Prairie Springs Land Protection Fund where we will place additional funds raised during the campaign. As the Alliance receives reimbursement for land protection work from our partners, we will replenish this fund. Therefore, the fund will live on and protect land well into the future.

The Alliance's Prairie Springs Land Protection Fund is named in honor of Paul Fleckenstein. A dedicated supporter of conservation efforts, Paul worked with a variety of organizations to protect Wisconsin's natural beauty. The Alliance's fund celebrates Paul's memory and commitment to these causes.

How the Prairie Springs Land Protection Fund works:

- The Alliance purchases a property.
- The Alliance seeks and receives partial reimbursement of the purchase price from DNR and other sources.
- The reimbursed amount goes back into the Prairie Springs Land Protection Fund.

Fall colors descend on trees growing along a moraine's ridge spanning one of the properties Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust helped protect. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



Making the Way Easier for Others

PATTY DREIER, PRESIDENT OF THE ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

After the 2020 Mammoth Hike Challenge and on my quest to someday become a Thousand-Miler, I continued chalking up hiking miles through the winter. Then, one morning, as I hiked through snow that had fallen in the early hours, I had the Ice Age Trail all to myself. Except for the sign that a single hiker and dog had traveled this segment sometime earlier. Their tracks were now windswept, but they broke the trail for me and gave me warm company.

Isn't it like that? How the people before us have made it easier for us to follow. They may not have begun their journey with the intention to break trail for us, but we became beneficiaries anyway. All it took was for them to get out there and put one foot in front of another.

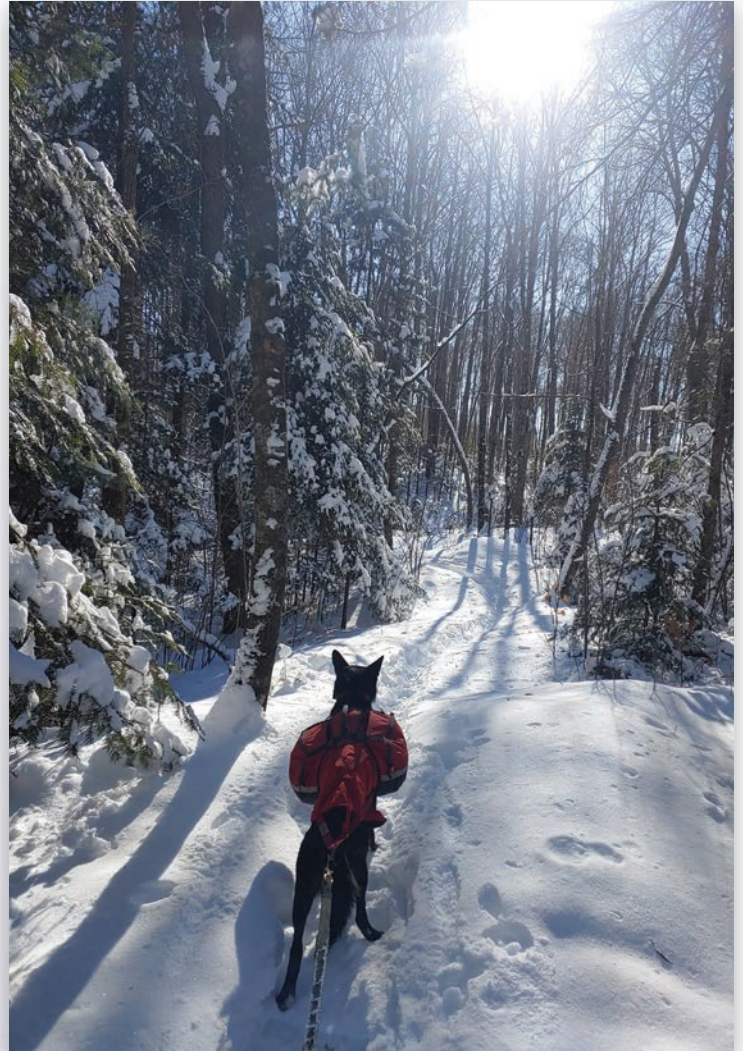
Because hiking provides ample time for thinking, and I had nearly nine miles of thinking to do, I found myself reviewing my 60 years. How had I made things easier for others who had followed my footsteps? What difference did it make, and how could I know? How could I dedicate my life in even higher service to those hiking down the trail behind me?

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail offers many tangible ways to break trail. We clear trail corridor through a newly acquired parcel of land so the path can best tell the story of glaciers and time and people. We paint yellow blazes to mark the way. We donate money for training volunteers, laying the foundation for future trailbuilding projects. These are among many opportunities for us to make the path easier and better for others.

Earlier this year, as thru-hiker Emily Ford strove to become our first female Thousand-Miler during a winter season, a dump of snow came followed by frigid temperatures. This wintry blast happened as Emily and her Husky, Diggins, traveled across northern Wisconsin. Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteers living in the vicinity tracked Emily's progress. They timed her arrival, snowshoeing a segment just before she and Diggins approached to hike it.

A community of Alliance volunteers coordinated their efforts to break trail for Emily! Talk about going the extra mile for another! According to Emily, the snow had been over the top of Diggins' back. Seeing these snowshoed tracks ahead of her helped her, mentally and physically, as she endeavored toward her goal.

Supporting the Ice Age Trail gives us extraordinary exercise in "walking our talk." It's great to be part of an alliance of people who purposely get out there to make strides for others. We don't need to carry the world's burdens in our backpacks. We simply need to call ourselves to the task of putting one foot in front of the other—to break trail for people who, in turn, break trail for others. And the rest is history.



Diggins eagerly pulls Emily forward along a segment of Ice Age Trail broken by others. Photo by Emily Ford.

Patty 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.

Hiking Tips from the World of Literature

COMPILED BY ERIC SHERMAN, MEMBERSHIP AND GRANTS DIRECTOR

For those needing motivation to hike in November...

It was a cold still afternoon with a hard, steely sky overhead, when he slipped out of the warm parlour into the open air. The country lay bare and entirely leafless around him, and he thought that he had never seen so far and intimately into the insides of things as on that winter day when Nature was deep in her annual slumber and seemed to have kicked the clothes off. Copses, dells, quarries and all hidden places, which had been mysterious mines for exploration in leafy summer, now exposed themselves and their secrets pathetically, and seemed to ask him to overlook their shabby poverty for a while, till they could riot in rich masquerade as before, and trick and entice him with the old deceptions. It was pitiful in a way, and yet cheering – even exhilarating. He was glad that he liked the country undecorated, hard, and stripped of its finery. He had got down to the bare bones of it, and they were fine and strong and simple. He did not want the warm clover and the play of seeding grasses; the screens of quickset, the billowy drapery of beech and elm seemed best away; and with great cheerfulness of spirit he pushed on towards the Wild Wood, which lay before him low and threatening, like a black reef in some still southern sea.

– Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

For those just finishing a challenging and/or disappointing hike...

I limped into the hut, shattered and panting, hung up my pack, changed my boots for a pair of slippers from a box in the entranceway, and went down a flight of narrow stairs to a low-ceilinged dining room. Two teen-age boys, eagerly hospitable, greeted my anxious questions with loudly incredulous hilarity. Yes, of course I could have a bed! No, there'd been no need to confirm my reservation! Yes, I could get something to eat right away! I sat at a table, reeling as much from relief as from exhaustion. A plate of steaming goulash and polenta was brought over. I devoured it and, still at the table, I lay down on my bench... and fell into a long, semi-comatose stupor.

By the time I was rested enough to get up, a curious shift had taken place in my feelings about the day. I seemed to have become aware, for the first time, of the grandeur of the landscape I'd just climbed through. It was all the more powerful for its starkness. Stretches of the trail came back to me on a current of mysterious pleasure. It was as if a second hike, joyous and invigorating, had begun to superimpose itself on the one I thought I'd taken. I'd experienced this alchemy before – the day's accumulated fretfulness and discomfort turning into pure exhilaration....

– James Lasdun, *Alone in the Alps*, *The New Yorker*, April 4, 2016

continued on page 32



THOUSAND-MILER'S journal

What I Learned Backpacking the Ice Age Trail

CAMERON GILLIE

Hiking an entire National Scenic Trail is bound to change you in some ways. You have a whole lot of time to think about things as you walk alone with only your thoughts for 1,200 miles.

I'm a photojournalist, and I set out to tell the story of Wisconsin's landscapes, communities, and people for a photography book. Here's what I learned on a personal level:

The Landscapes:

The terrain left behind by the glaciers is, in my opinion, Wisconsin's premier natural feature. Arizona has the Grand Canyon, Florida has the Everglades, and Wisconsin has the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Every day I hiked the Trail, I developed a much deeper appreciation for the wonders of the natural areas of Wisconsin.

When we first moved to Wisconsin in 2008, I looked into the Ice Age Trail. I had never heard of it, and at first glance, I thought, "How interesting can a hiking trail across the agricultural state of Wisconsin

be?" I never gave the Ice Age Trail much thought until years later when I took a freelance photography job for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. As I traveled around the state photographing trailbuilding events, I also hiked Trail segments. Almost every time I finished a hike, I would say to myself, "Wow, that was way cooler than I thought it would be." Last week, as I was finishing the Trail, I hiked the beautiful McKenzie Creek Segment. I said it again, "Wow, that was way cooler than I thought it would be." In fact, it may be one of my favorite segments. The Trail never stopped amazing me right through to the end.

Driving across Wisconsin, the roads generally follow the easiest terrain. Walking a National Scenic Trail, you take the more inspiring route – the path less followed. The Ice Age Trail is a surprisingly rugged trail following the terminal moraine left behind 12,000 years ago as the glaciers receded. It's a far more picturesque way to cross the state than driving.

Cameron Gillie.





The Communities:

The small towns of rural Wisconsin are full of friendly, warm people. Even the smallest towns will surprise you with interesting characters and their stories. Stop in a tiny grocery store for a soda, and you might wind up in an hour-long conversation. I'm originally from a small town in Northern Minnesota. I've always joked it takes forever to get across a city because of traffic, and it takes forever to get across a small town because you have to stop and talk to everyone. It took me 113 days over two years to complete the Trail, in part because I kept stopping and having so many of these hour-long conversations.

Across Wisconsin, there were, of course, many cafes and bars, just as I expected. But, there was also the unexpected, like a Monastery in St. Nazianz where I was their guest for the night. There was a small, sunrise wedding I happened across in Devil's Lake State Park. I met a girl, and her mother, walking her sheep down the road getting then ready for the Portage County fair. A *New York Times* best-selling author, passing through town, sat at the table next to me in a coffee shop in Kewaskum. You'll never know who you will meet crossing the state on foot.

Open doors and talk to strangers! Stop in a cafe to order lunch and talk to the owner. You'll meet hard-working people who love their communities and their neighbors. Your backpack is always the conversation starter. Ask them a few questions, and you might wind up hearing all about their lives and the rich history of their town.

The People:

I saw hiking the Ice Age Trail as a reintroduction to my rural Minnesota roots. I have lived in what a small-town boy would call "big cities," where I worked as a photojournalist. So, I've lived on both sides of the political and cultural lines assigned to rural and urban communities by politicians and cable news channels.

Before I even started the hike, I vowed not to talk politics with anyone I met along the way. I just saw people as human beings and didn't label them liberal or conservative. If a cafe owner is cooking me a



Lighthouse in Algoma. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

hamburger after spending days in the woods, why should I care at all who he voted for? I'm just grateful for his food and hospitality. You'll never meet anyone you agree with on absolutely everything, not on the Ice Age Trail or anywhere else.

I met a lot of great people along the way. I think that was the best part of the hike. I'm thankful for the conversation and hospitality. After days in the woods, it was always nicer than you can imagine coming in from the cold, the rain, heat, bugs, or whatever mother nature was throwing at me that day. Just sitting down on a chair to rest weary legs and to have someone to talk to was always sublime after a 14-mile day.

I'm usually an introvert, but the best piece of advice I can give anyone hiking the Ice Age Trail is to talk to strangers and enjoy their company! The people you meet along the way are the best part of any journey you take.

One thing that continues to blow my mind every time I look at a map of Wisconsin, and the Ice Age Trail is, "I walked that entire distance!" This may seem weird, but it makes the state seem so much smaller to me than it used to. Maybe Wisconsin is much smaller, and we are all far more connected than we think.



Devil's Doorway in Devil's Lake State Park. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

Cameron is a national award-winning photographer whose 30-year career included working as a staff photographer at daily newspapers, wedding photography, and fine art photography. He was on staff at the *Naples Daily News*, a three-time winner of the "Best use of Photography" in the international "Pictures of the Year" contest. In addition, he was awarded many national awards for his newspaper photojournalism and wedding photography.

Cameron has worked as a contract photographer and volunteer photographer for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. His photographs are often featured in Alliance publications, social media, and website.

Learn more about Cameron at AroundWisco.com or follow him on [instagram.com/around_wisco/](https://www.instagram.com/around_wisco/) or [facebook.com/aroundwisco](https://www.facebook.com/aroundwisco)

THOUSAND-MILER'S journal

Trail Magic

YOLANDA DELOACH

The human experience allows for growth and change if we are open to it. We may find ourselves lost in situations we didn't imagine we would ever encounter. Ultimately, it is our choice to stay on the wrong path or seek a new one.

My year on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail helped me to leave a spirit-crushing path. During my newbie days, someone told me there was magic on the Ice Age Trail. I was intrigued, but I also thought it was cliché – something cool to say about hiking. But as my miles added up, this magic began to reveal itself.

My adventures began in my home county of Marathon on the Plover River Segment. Because the Trail winds through Marathon County, I could access many miles of it within an hour's drive. This was perfect, as my first hikes coincided with the beginning of the pandemic, April 2020. As a result, I hiked the Marathon County segments twice that month. Immediately, the Trail's magic introduced itself on a sunrise hike. Sunbeams filtered through the trees, illuminating the carpet of ramps spreading as far as I could see.

In May, I started hiking in surrounding counties, and I utilized my bike to shuttle myself. My high-school-aged daughter shuttled me for all of Langlade County, where bike shuttling would have involved long distances. Getting a teen out of bed before dawn took bribing with Kwik Trip coffee and donuts. Her contribution allowed me to experience the magic of skinny dipping along the Summit Moraine Segment and listening to loons call at Camp Susan on the Highland Lakes Segment.

I camped throughout the north, which I wanted to complete before the start of November's gun deer season. By now, Trail magic was everywhere. The stars over Taylor County sparkled and pulsated with enough energy to wake me during the night for a quick peek. A deer bleating next to my tent during the night startled me awake in Polk County – I had never heard such a sound before. It leaped away through the woods, cueing me it was a deer.

In the Chequamegon National Forest, I awoke before dawn to October snow, the magic of the season's first snowfall. Wolves howling in Rusk County, where I lay in my sleeping bag with no cell service, let me know we walk this earth with incredible creatures. It was comforting to know Fiona (my 2019 Nissan Frontier) stood guard a few yards from my tent. A fox darted across my path in Chippewa County. A porcupine scurried up a tree in Taylor County. And ticks and mosquitoes made sure to announce the impact the forest's smallest creatures could have. Both of my bear sightings took place on remote gravel roads. But Trail magic also showed itself in the volunteers who took time to shuttle me. The minutes I spent riding with them became mini-tour sessions. They offered gems of knowledge about their area I wouldn't have known otherwise.

I completed from Polk County to Portage County as planned before gun deer season. I thought maybe I would be emotionally healed by this point. I was on my way. But I had to keep moving. It was time to head south. I thought I was leaving the best behind: the beaver dams, the bears, the isolation, the ruggedness – everything I loved about the Trail. But the southern portion brought a different kind of magic. People.



A snug home away from home while hiking the Ice Age Trail through Green County. Photo by Yolanda Deloach.



The kindness of strangers allows for "garage squatting" during the pandemic. Photo by Yolanda Deloach.



With Covid surging, social distancing was crucial. As I reached out to Trail Angels for overnight lodging, I chose to stay in garages, setting up a camping cot next to Fiona. I tented in yards. With minimal contact, I arrived at a convenient time for my hosts, always bearing maple syrup from my area, and was gone before sunrise. One of my hosts in December was a Thousand-Miler with whom I'd previously hiked. We wore coats and ate socially distanced dinners together in her garage. A couple from Illinois messaged me the directions to their land for camping. A shuttle volunteer offered their lake house for shelter when early spring rain was forecasted. I slept in the basement of a couple's home who'd made a wonderful meal and homemade cookies.

Winter arrived with cold nights either in my tent or a garage. I got up each morning in the dark, drove to the trailhead, where I ate breakfast. Fiona offered heat while I enjoyed coffee, oatmeal, and NPR before starting the day. Each day was a race with the sun to complete as many miles as I could before dark. The winter's highlight was hiking Holy Hill on a foggy Sunday. I was treated to the basilica's noon bells as I made my way through the snow and heavy fog. Magic.

In Manitowoc County, I stayed in a monastery and a convent. I witnessed the monks chanting prayers and shared meals with them. Conversation was allowed at the first night's dinner, but the second night's meal was silent. Interacting with these monks added richness to my Trail experience and gave me a St. Nazianz history lesson. At the Holy Family Convent, Sister Carmen Marie led me to a quiet garden

house behind the massive convent, housing well over one hundred nuns. The garden house offered two nights of respite (after daytime hiking). I wandered the convent's cemeteries and marveled at the women who gave their lives to service.

Closing in on the Eastern Terminus required long road walks. Winds roared across open fields. I began to wear a bandana over my face to protect against windburn. Nevertheless, road walking appealed to me. When I was twelve, in 1980, I read both of Peter Jenkins' books, *A Walk Across America* and *The Walk West*, which described his experience walking across the country. Road walking offered me a chance to experience everyday America: the farms, small towns, and hidden burgs that comprise Wisconsin's countryside.

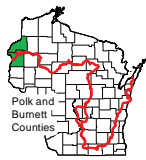
I celebrated the Trail's completion with nearly a dozen fellow Wannabes, three of my five children, and one of my grandchildren. My year on the Trail had come to an end. I accomplished what I came to do. I solo hiked 85 percent of it, which allowed time for reflection, healing, and growth. I hiked the remaining 15 percent with others. But only near the end of the year, after the magic had done its work.

While my feet followed the Trail, my mind released a destructive route. I began walking the new path I was seeking. The Ice Age Trail showed me life-changing trail magic is real and available to anyone willing to believe.



(Left) Yolanda Deloach. (Above) A sunrise and cup of coffee is a perfect way to start the day! Photo by Yolanda Deloach.

CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Barbara Ceder
(715-410-8069, barbara.ceder@gmail.com) and
Paul Kuhlmann (715-338-6567, pkscfwi@yahoo.com)

The Indianhead Chapter filled spring and summer with many successful hikes and trail improvement days, accumulating plenty of volunteer hours! The season kicked off with the annual Adopt-a-Trail Meeting and pizza party for all Trail Adopters in the Chapter. We had the pleasure of meeting 61 returning Trail Adopters and welcoming 13 new Adopters into their roles. We also established two blaze crews for our portion of the Trail.

We were excited by the return of the annual City of Trails Run in St. Croix Falls this summer. Twenty-three members assisted with the race, while our dedicated Trail Adopters spent weeks leading up to it clearing their Trail sections. Beyond that event, many trail improvement days brought our volunteers together for hours of hard work and smiles.

Volunteers of all ages joined in on the fun, including our youngest Trail Adopter, 8-year-old Logan! Other successful spring and summer events involved group hikes (including our always-fun Family Tyke Hike at Straight Lake State Park) and a chainsaw training to certify more sawyers for our Chapter.

Lastly, one of our greatest successes was establishing an Indianhead Chapter Communications

Team to improve our communications efforts to Chapter members and the public. We are so thankful for our great volunteers who contribute to our Chapter in many ways. So many exciting fall and winter days are ahead on the Ice Age Trail!

— Chelsea Dresen



Volunteers, Niki and Logan, clearing Trail along the Pine Lake Segment. Photo by Wanda Brown.



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Bob Held
(715-822-3428, HeldHarbor@gmail.com,
SuperiorLobeChapter@iceagetrail.org)

Summer kept Superior Lobe Chapter volunteers busy with summer trail maintenance activities. The familiar hum of mowers was frequently heard, cutting a fresh path for hikers on the Trail.

We saw an increased number of hikers, and provided a fair number of shuttles.



Eight Superior Lobe Chapter volunteers spent a day slinging brats and raising funds, staffing Louie's Brat Haus in Cumberland. Photo by Audrey Held.

Eight volunteers staffed the Louie's Brat Haus in Cumberland on August 12 for a Chapter fundraiser. We had fun and raised a good amount for a few hours of work.

— Bob Held



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Fred Nash
(715-353-2948, BlueHillsChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Blue Hills Chapter collaborated with the Chippewa Moraine Chapter for a trail improvement day on July 15. Volunteers from both Chapters came together to share efforts working on mowing, signage, and corridor clearing.

As the weather warmed, more hikers and aspiring Thousand-Milers on the Trail kept our Chapter busy. We provided an increased number of shuttles, and advice about trail logistics and collaboration. Additionally, we conducted routine trail assessment, followed up with further trail maintenance, and distributed pamphlets, magazines, and maps.



Volunteers at a Blue Hills Chapter trail improvement day held on July 15, 2021, in collaboration with the Chippewa Moraine Chapter. Photo by Marilyn Nash.



Six Chapter members volunteered at statewide trail maintenance projects, building structures such as boardwalks, bridges, and stone walls, which are much appreciated by hikers.

– Marilyn Nash



CHIPPEWA MORaine CHAPTER

Coordinator:
Vicki Christianson

(ChippewaMoraineChapter@
iceagetrail.org)

Several years ago, the Chippewa Conservancy purchased land at the south end of Otter Lake, containing a beautiful example of an esker. It is hoped this property will be incorporated into future Ice Age Trail. The Ice Age Trail Alliance raised \$5,000 toward a parking lot for this property, which is now installed and accommodates a school bus turn-around. You are welcome to come and hike this esker's length as an out-and-back. You may hike until you reach the bench at the east end of the esker and then return the way you came. Location: 45.048793, -90.944114

The Bohemian Hall-Lodge 141, south of Cornell, sponsored a hike on the Chippewa River Segment on August 8 to raise money or donate food items for food pantries in Cornell and Cadott. The hike, led by JoAnn Parks, was well attended by families. Hikers raised \$610 for the two food pantries, along with a large box of food items.

A mighty crew of 10 volunteers worked to dismantle 2 platforms at Camp Nawakwa. In return for our labor, we were able to keep the usable lumber for maintaining our boardwalks. Our lumber storage area is nicely stocked and will supply us with many boards for upcoming projects. A big thank you to our volunteers who worked during that event.

– Vicki Christianson



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Buzz Meyer
(715-748-5627, gtmeyer@charter.net) and
Lee "Butch" Clendenning (715-415-6713,
leeclendenning1@yahoo.com)

We've seen more and more people using the Trail during the spring and summer. The severe storms, hitting many parts of the state during July, thankfully missed Taylor county.

In early July, 20 volunteers, along with students from New Vision, installed a new 24-foot bridge and 154 feet of new boardwalk along the



The Walk to End Hunger hike held along the Chippewa River Segment. Photo by Vicki Christianson.

Jerry Lake Segment. They also improved a long stretch of existing boardwalk. A hearty thank-you to all who helped out!

We are looking forward to hosting two Mobile Skills Crew events along the Rib Lake Segment in 2022. Nearly three miles of new trail will be built to eliminate a current road walk. The route has been selected and pin flagging is in place. The goal is to have the Trail completed by 2023.

– Lee "Butch" Clendenning



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Ruby Jaecks
(715-551-1118, brjaecks@outlook.com)

The Northwoods Chapter had a busy summer keeping up with storm damage. Mid-July, we sustained a lot of damage from a wind storm in the western part of Lincoln County. And again, at the end of July, we suffered significant damage throughout most of Lincoln County. We kept our new and old sawyers busy! I bet they never thought they were going to use their newfound skills so much.

In August, we completed the new three-sided shelter in the Harrison Hills in memory of Herb Schotz, which was his wish. A big thank you to



New three-sided shelter in the Harrison Hills Segment in memory of Herb Schotz. Photo by Chris Schotz.

continued on page 24

CHAPTER highlights *continued*



Volunteers, Lee Auner, Lloyd Godell, Joseph Wassenberg and Brian Nelson, moving signage on the Kettlebowl Segment. Photo by Joe Jopek.

those who donated memorial funds and the volunteers who helped prepare the site and transport materials for the project. You helped make the shelter a reality.

We also built and placed two new memorial benches on the Trail in memory of Jean Schaefer and Tim Obukowicz.

– Bruce and Ruby Jaecks



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Joe Jopek
(715-623-2645, jjjopekj@frontier.com)

The rain didn't stop our crew from completing the task of moving the Kettlebowl Segment to another location on Sherry Road. Brian and Melinda Nelson, along with Lee Auner, moved a trailhead sign last year, so the trio took right to pulling the Kettlebowl sign out for this move. Joseph Wassenberg, a new volunteer, joined in the extraction. Curt Denevan, Segment Steward, made new signs for the project and installed them with the help of Lloyd Godell. At the new trailhead, the entire crew cleared vegetation by hand before installing signage. Then, the Nelsons and Wassenberg followed Auner with a chainsaw to remove windfalls and mark a short section of the new Trail. Denevan and Godell completed the signage installation. Then, the rains came with severe winds, causing numerous trees and brush to fall on the Trail. However, the Chapter's certified sawyers, Lee Auner, Sam Picone, Jared Wildenrad, and Dave Tlusty, cleared the damage within days.

Before and after the clearance, Bill Morley and Jim Schleif spent many hours mowing, marking, and scouting a few segments. While Schleif mowed, Morley installed new You Are Here signs on the Summit Moraine Segment. As Segment Stewards, they also led two Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin field trips.

Lee Auner, on his initiative, removed trees and brush to restore a vista of scenic glacial features along the Highland Lakes Segment. With Kurt Nierode's mechanical support, Gerald Anderson kept the Parrish Hills Segment in top shape by brushing, blazing, mowing, and scouting of the stretch. Additionally, chapter members supported the local effort to



Volunteers, Dale Morehouse and Jerry Krause, clearing July storm damage. Photo by Gail Piotrowski.



Chapter volunteer, Chuck Schwartz, at the August Ringle Mobile Skills Crew event. Photo by Rachel Riehle.

attain the Ice Age Trail Community designation for the City of Antigo. Quite a busy summer.

– Joe Jopek

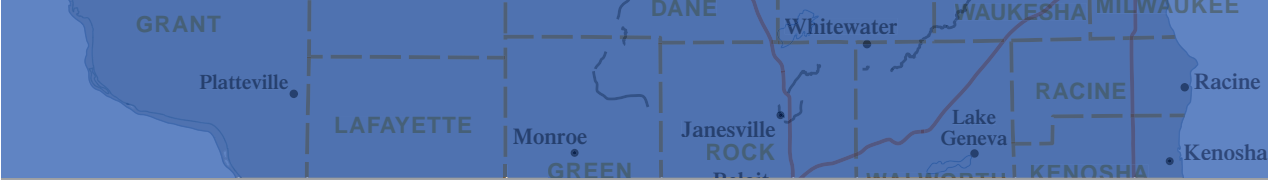


CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Gail Piotrowski (715-370-2958)
and Steve Kaiser (352-249-6366)
CentralMorainesChapter@iceagetrail.org

Mother Nature made all kinds of work this past spring and summer for the Central Moraines Chapter. Volunteers laid new puncheon along notoriously wet and muddy parts of the Dells of the Eau Claire Segment, significantly improving the hiker experience.

She created more labor as severe storms rolled through Marathon County at the end of July. Hundreds of trees came down along the Ringle Segment, many blocking the Trail. Chapter volunteers worked tirelessly, putting in long hours to clear it for hikers. The landscape along the Trail may have changed, but our members' hard work



Portage/Waupaca and Central Moraines Chapters project crew checking testing the sturdiness of the new 25-foot bridge spanning Allen Creek. Photo by Mark Ulrich.

and dedication to keeping the Trail open and usable for all did not. Congratulations to everyone on an incredible job; well done!

Rain, high humidity, and hordes of mosquitos did not stop 78 volunteers from giving their all at the August Ringle Mobile Skills Crew event. Also, by the time you read this, the October Mobile Skills Crew event to complete the re-route of the Ringle Segment will have taken place. The Trail will be open and welcoming hikers to a brand-new wilderness experience. We shall see if Mother Nature agrees with this timeline!

Also, the Third Annual Chapter Hike-A-Thon on the Dells of the Eau Claire Segment took place in September. It was a fantastic way to raise funds to support our local projects and a golden opportunity to introduce the Trail to new users.

– Patty Mishkar



PORTAGE/ WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Debbie Krogwold
(715-677-4974,
wdkrogwold@wi-net.com)

This summer, several Chapter trail improvement days concentrated on refreshing blazes and removing bramble and downed trees from passing storms. In addition, a few of these events served as training opportunities for new members of our volunteer workforce.

This summer also brought two special events! First, the restoration of the cabin shelter on the Waupaca River Segment, which needed a new roof. Chapter member, Rich Roe, coordinated the effort with the Waupaca Rotary, which provided the labor and expertise in metal roof

installation. Within four hours, the cabin had a facelift. Thank you, Waupaca Rotary!

Second, after being closed for two years, the section of Trail between Edminster Road and Hwy 54 in the Hartman Creek Segment was re-opened. A four-day IATA/Chapter/DNR/landowner collaborative event resulted in a 25-foot bridge with 132 feet of boardwalk spanning Allen Creek and adjacent lowland, making the crossing safe. Several prior trail improvement events also completed a re-route across the SIATA just north of the bridge. This section of the Trail will be the HIGHLIGHT of our Annual Fall Hike-a-Thon in October. Happy faces abound!

– Debbie Krogwold



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Jenny Addis
(715-249-5666, addisjenny@yahoo.com)

The Waushara County Chapter's dedicated trail maintenance crew went above and beyond to keep the Trail mowed and maintained over the summer. Four Trail maintainers also attended the recent chainsaw training. Kudos to our maintenance crew for all their hard work!

In June, we participated in the A+ After School Program - Camp Parkside. The K-2nd graders learned about the Ice Age Trail, Hiking 101, and created paper binoculars. We ended with a well-deserved hike and Ice Age Trail bingo game on the Bohn Lake Accessible Trail.

We collaborated with the County Health and Parks Departments to bring the 4th annual "Walk-the-Waush" Challenge to the community. This year, the Challenge encouraged 368 participants to walk, hike, or roll as many miles as possible utilizing the county's 13 designated trails and parks! In addition, we offered a Grandparents & Grandkids Hike on the Bohn Lake Accessible Trail as part of the Challenge. This unique, first-time event brought grandparents and grandkids of all ages together for an afternoon dedicated to making new memories on the Ice Age Trail.

We hosted a 5K Fun Run/Walk in September, a 3.1-mile hike on the Bannerman Trail. All participants received a medal, water bottle, Ice Age Trail stickers, and a healthy snack. Our Fall Color Hike & Dog Walk in October went off without a hitch as we explored the Mekan River Segment. Then, on Saturday, November 13, guest speaker, Peggy Farrell, will be back to present "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" to our members and community. Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will follow.



Camp Parkside students hiking with Chapter volunteer, T.Jay Roland, and Chapter Coordinator, Jenny Addis.

continued on page 26

CHAPTER highlights *continued*



Save the Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022, our Candlelight Sweetheart Hike & Snowshoe Event will be back, including the signature Rustic Raffle. If you are interested in volunteering or donating to our Rustic Raffle, contact Jenny Addis.

– Jenny Addis



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Gary Ertl
(608-369-3543, vbjbgertl@hotmail.com)



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

Coordinator: Debby Capener (262-930-9713,
BarabooHillsHeritageChapter@iceagetrail.org)

Things were busier than ever this summer, with state parks in our area seeing many visitors. In July, Dances with Dirt–Devil’s Lake race event (runs ranging from 10Ks to 50 miles) returned, bringing an influx of runners to the Ice Age Trail for the first time since 2019. Our Chapter worked with race volunteers to prep the Trail ahead of the races.

The Devil’s Lake Segment experienced major erosion along the section going up the East Bluff. The Trail had wiped out and was falling down the bluff. We worked to repair the Trail under the direction of Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager. In addition, several rock wall experts joined us to build a small retaining wall to prevent further issues. We refreshed the signage along that section as well.

The Portage Canal Segment, which passes through the City of Portage, continues to have two re-routes due to construction and dredging of the historic Portage Canal. However, if things go as planned, one section of Trail will be able to return to its original location by fall.

We are happy to report our Chapter has grown by 25 members over the past year, several of whom have helped with trail maintenance days.

See you on the Trail!

– Debby Capener



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Amy Onofrey
(608-213-9855, LodiValleyChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Lodi Valley Chapter has been busy with a variety of activities. In the trail maintenance category, we worked on stone steps in the Gibraltar Segment and clearing invasive sumac from the mesic prairie along that same segment. We have some new helping hands in the Chapter! We’re excited to have a newly certified sawyer, as well as an additional mower, to help keep local segments in great shape. In addition, our Chapter signed up for the “Adopt-a-Road” program. We are taking responsibility for quarterly trash pick-up along a section of highway that also happens to be a connector route for the Trail; we’ve been out twice so far.

Monty the Mammoth made an appearance in the annual “Susie Day” parade in Lodi in August. Chapter members also promoted the Trail

at National Night Out in Lodi during August. We stationed members at various trailheads on National Trails Day to greet hikers and give away free Trail items. Tyke Hikes have started again, and we continue to offer Full Moon hikes monthly.

We’re pleased to report that another youth hiking group has formed in the Lodi Valley. The K-5 hiking club, organized through the school, is a way to get youth out on the Trail. This group joins the existing Middle School Trail Trekkers and the Saunters program. We’re excited to support and hike with all of these groups!

– Patti Herman



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: David Lonsdorf (608-212-1135,
dblonso@wisc.edu) and Bob Kaspar (608-239-0168,
bobkaspar@sbcglobal.net) or

DaneCoChapter@iceagetrail.org

The spring and summer were busy for the Dane County Chapter, maintaining and improving the Trail while increasing Trail miles and reducing road walks within the county. In May, we eliminated a soggy portion of the Montrose Segment with a 400-foot boardwalk built during a Mobile



Monty the Mammoth hanging out with Susie the Duck at annual “Susie Day” in Lodi. Photo by Bill Welch.



Volunteer, Jerry Pfeifer, lays out kick rails along the 400-foot boardwalk built along the Montrose Segment. Photo by Bob Kaspar.



Volunteers, Jeannine 'Gus' Wahlquist and Beth Shimmyo, apply a new coat of stain to one of the benches at Springfield Hill. Photo by Bob Kaspar.

Skills Crew event. A month later, we rerouted Trail along the Table Bluff Segment to eliminate another soggy section.

Mobile Skills Crew volunteers returned to add about three miles of Trail along the Valley View Segment in July, including building two boardwalks and a bridge through a wetland. The project eliminated the road walk along Timber Lane with mowed Trail along the road right-of-way and the acquisition and use of an easement north up to Mineral Point Road. Subsequently, the US Fish and Wildlife Service approved Trail along Timber Lane past Shoveler Sink and Timber Lane from Mineral Point Road to its northern boundary. All in all, only about a half-mile of Timber Lane road walk remains.

During the same Mobile Skills Crew event, volunteers built Trail around the hill at Mammoth's Back Preserve, north of Stagecoach Road, and constructed a boardwalk in a low spot. This new section of Trail eliminated a road walk on County P and part of Stagecoach Road. As a result of this effort, a continuous Trail now connects Mammoth's Back Preserve to the Glacial Valley Conservancy and into Cross Plains.

We continue to offer weekly stewardship opportunities, from the Brooklyn Wildlife Segment to the Lodi Marsh Segment. Check out the Ice Age Trail Alliance events calendar to find where and what the stewards up to, especially on the weekends.

Finally, the Dane Daubers, led by Jeannine 'Gus' Wahlquist, have been busy refreshing blazes and benches throughout the county.

— Bob Kaspar



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Dennis James
(608-302-1885, RockCoChapter@iceagetrail.org)



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Andrew Whitney (262-949-0286, andywhitney1@yahoo.com)

Although we didn't fully return to all our regular activities, spring and summer were still active for the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter. In May, we transitioned our monthly meeting from virtual to a hybrid. By August, we met in person. We welcomed guest speaker Anne Korman, the Superintendent of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. She reported the increased use of the state parks during the pandemic, with campgrounds frequently at capacity. A downside of this popularity is many newcomers seem to be unaware of the "Leave No Trace" principles.

At Anne's request, the Chapter assisted in petitioning the local Town Board to reconsider a zoning decision, which she felt would negatively impact the Trail near Bald Bluff. Fortunately, the board was willing to reverse their decision.



Volunteers keep the brush on the Trail at bay with the help of their trusty steeds, a.k.a., riding lawn mowers. Photo by Andy Whitney.

Weekly hikes and routine trail maintenance continued as usual, with chainsaws getting a hefty workout due to many downed trees. In addition, our Chapter participated in Whitewater's July 4th parade (and won a prize!) and set up a tent at Whitewater's "Maxwell Street Days" in August. We followed these events by hosting our own mini Mobile Skills Crew event, installing a trench drain along a particularly wet section of the Trail. We also held an outreach hike at Big Foot Beach State Park in Lake Geneva, followed by a wine tasting.

Finally, the Chapter continues to work with the local community. We are looking forward to participating in the UW-Whitewater Homecoming Parade, as well as a storytelling festival sponsored by the Whitewater Tourism Council in October.

— Vince Lazzaroni

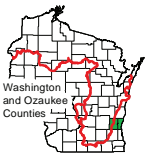
continued on page 28

CHAPTER highlights *continued*



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: Barb Johnson (414-779-0996, barbjoh@hotmail.com) and Robert Root (262-349-9339, rootco@msn.com)



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator: Mark Muellenbach (262-644-4512, iatawashozcty@gmail.com)

The Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter stayed busy this spring and summer with trail work and improvements. In April, 16 eager volunteers took up brush cutters, loopers, and handsaws to remove brush from the Trail, clearing invasive plants from the trail corridor and loop in the Lockman Preserve. In the meantime, our Blazing Babe, Judy Rose, freshened up trail blazes with her paintbrush skills! Several new volunteers joined us for this event, including folks from the Volunteer Center of Washington County, a group we enjoy.

June sent volunteers to a section near Pike Lake where they spent the afternoon hauling rocks and repairing or replacing about a dozen steps in two locations. In July, a crew of seven volunteers completed a trail re-route through Ridge Run Park, adding new posts and blazing trees. By the end of the day, hikers were already using the new Trail and sharing their compliments. Special thanks to Chapter volunteer, Rich Propp, for his preparation ahead of the trail improvement day and his expert guidance on the new trail layout!

Thanks to the successful 2020 Mammoth Hike Challenge and increased hiker activity last year, our Chapter added 130 new members to our ranks. We successfully led our first "New Member Welcome" meeting via Zoom in the spring. We're delighted to have more volunteers and hikers in our area.

– Lisa Ruesch



LAKE SHORE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Cheryl Gorsuch (920-860-1061) LakeshoreChapter@iceagetrail.org

Summer invasion! The northeast experienced an influx of mosquitoes. They peskily interrupted trail work and caused some hikers to run out of the woods. Summer's rain and warm temperatures certainly prolonged the situation.

Summer danger! The Lakeshore Chapter battled an invasion of wild parsnip, an herbaceous plant with a rosette of yellow flowers. It looks benign, but if the sap touches one's skin in the sunlight, it can cause a rash that leads to blisters and discoloration. Luckily, one of our local volunteers, Kathy Claude, is a Master Naturalist who is well-versed in identifying and eradicating this dangerous plant.

Summer rescue! Kathy developed a plan to educate hikers and volunteers about wild parsnip, including creating and posting signs near where it grows to warn about its dangers. Additionally, Chapter members will receive training about various eradication methods.

– Cheryl Gorsuch



Due to the dangerous sap this plant secretes, wild parsnip can pose a challenge to volunteers when trying to remove it. This wild parsnip plant was found growing in the Keystone parking lot of the LaBudde Creek Segment. Photo by Dave Gramling.

Volunteers, John Schuldt and Brian Seegert, install stone steps on the Pike Lake Segment. Photo by Mark Mullenbach.

MEMBER & DONOR news

May 13th — October 3rd

THE IATA WELCOMES...

NEW YELLOW BLAZE CLUB MEMBERS

The Yellow Blaze Club consists of members giving \$1,000 or more annually in unrestricted gifts.

Thank you to the following new members:

Bladen Burns

Pamela & Gary Gates

Linda & Mark Glasser

Nancy Jesse & W. Paul Menzel

Meg (Schmitz) & Pete Layton

Celia Meisel

Erik & Elizabeth Melberg

Linda Mertz & Alan Schrivner

The Sharafinski Family

Lynn Stansbury

Sally Stix

Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor

Jennifer Werner

Pat & Gary Witkowski



BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

The Burr Oak Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a commitment to support the Ice Age Trail Alliance through their estate plans. We are honored to celebrate those people today for their future gifts toward the growth and success of the Ice Age Trail.

David & Kathy Adam

Bess & Bernard Alberg

Mike & Sally Armbrust

John & Sharon Bloodgood

Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz

Gary & Jean Britton

Nancy Brownrigg

Robert & Victoria Connors

Jerome & Barbara Converse

Julia & Chad Dibler

Jason Dorgan

Patty & Tom Dreier

Dean Dversdall

Joanna Kramer Fanney

David & Carol Farber

James & Susan Fiore

Bob Funk

Tom & Jan Gilbert

Jerry Goth

Roy & Sue Gromme

Tom Gross & Linda Hein

Dr. Kurt Hansen

Deb & Tom Heier

Russell & Karen Helwig

Mary Hilfiker

Madeline Kanner

Marcy & Nathan Kempf

Dean & Mary Klinger

Bob Lange

Lorraine Lange

Linda Levengood

Lyle & Susan Lidholm

Kate Lindsay

Susan Lindsay

David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney

David & Lois Lovejoy

**The Lundberg Family — Herb,
Corrine, Kimberly (Lundberg
Taylor), Barton, and Rodrick**

Rob Malewicki

Neal & Donna Meier

Buzz Meyer

Susan Mischler

Tess Mulrooney

Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee

Nancy Jo Patterson

David W. Phillips

Carol Prchal

Daniel Rambo

Kay Rashka

Steve Richter & Laura Cominetti

Darrel Ruechel

Ann & Bob Rusch

Ellyn Satter

Elisabeth Schraith

Gerald & Mary Schwoch

Ralph Stamerjohn

Julie Starks

Tony Stretton & Philippa Claude

Libby & John Stupak

Lee & Jacqui Swanson

Sarah Sykes

Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor

Brook Waalen & Stephanie Lundeen

Wendy Watson

Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink

Tom & Bonnie Wise

Pauline Witte

Mike & Barbara Wollmer

Jessica & Doug Woodward

Anonymous (15)

MILESTONES

**Gifts to the IATA were made in
honor of:**

Lana Adele

by Mary Korkor

Harrison Brandt

by Mercedes Martin

Wanda Brown

by Donna Pederson

Charles Ransford Randy Case II

by Dr. Daniel & Paula Jarzemsky

Katie Fisher

by Jennifer Born Rutten

Ice Age Trail Meetup Group

by Kathryn Jeans Glaser

Cindy Hertzberg

by Mark Hertzberg

Srini Jayaraman & Stephanie Wolf

by Rozan & Brian Anderson

Padma Jayaraman

Aunt Geta & John Richman

Arnie & Marcy Roth

Melissa & Jim Sosman

Joe Jopek

by Cynthia & Mark Hertzberg

Justin Kania & Tess Ender

by Athena & Eric Salzer

Ben Killips

by Lindsey & Tyler Killips

David Kinnamon

by Chuck, Bob & Deb Lucas

Jim Powers

by Elizabeth Shuman

Brittany Schaus's Birthday

by The Schaus Family Fund of
the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Carolyn & George Schlotthauer

by Barbara A. Voigt

Joe Shaffer

by Emily Shaffer

Brian Vanderah

by Bill McAuliffe

David Verhulst

by Susan Hicks

Diane Yurasovich

by Katie Fisher

**Gifts to the IATA were made in
memory of:**

George Amelse

by Michael & Sarah Simon

Karl Andersen

by Mark & Karen Boettner

Christine Gilbertson

Duane Heidemann

Jennifer Jehn

Mary Jones

Janice Ketelle

Erna Kiessling

Joe Kollar

Eunice Wagner

Chet Anderson

by James Mooney

Shirley Awofeso

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Kali Baker

by Kathy Lewis

Barbara Bellart

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Beth Binz

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Lloyd & Jo Ann Bitzer

by The Bitzer Family Legacy Fund

Michael Callahan

by Jonathan Coblentz

Lee Dinsmore

by Joe & Peg Jopek

continued on page 30

MEMBER & DONOR news *continued*

MILESTONES

Tom Drought

by Bill Staudenmaier

Mark Ealy

by Fresia Stalker

Elizabeth Ann Ekola

by Don & Sue Marx

Sally & Gary Gaard

by Barbara A. Voigt

Dick Goree

by Dale & Penny Schaber

David Gorski

by Friends of Dave Gorski

Donna & Roy Nilsen

Margaret Mary Greeno

by Eileen Fitzgerald

Laurie Fitzgerald

Anne C. Johnson

Marjie & Peter Marion

Jean Trione

Spencer Hicks

by Ben Stanley

Gottfried Hotz

by Catherine Millard

Sandy & John Jantz

by Barbara A. Voigt

Jim Klein

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Rex Lundgren

by Pearl Mary Goetsch

Norman Olson

by Carlen Schenk & Barry Brezan

Bill Reiss

by Jennifer Reiss

Chris Rohr

by Wendy Anderson

Jennifer Fjelsted

Joseph Goss

Rodney Hemner

Richard Linton

Dale Lucier

Sara Richards

Barbara S. Webb

BreeSean, Tara, Amy & Katie

Connie Schaber

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Jean Schaefer

by Jean & Jim Craig

Herb Schotz

by Linda Becker & Gregory

Eichelkraut

Church Mutual Insurance

Company Foundation

IncredibleBank Foundation

Park City Credit Union

Gary Schwartz

Gerald & Charmaine Whitburn

Mary Seefelt

by Ruth Sommers

Jerry Sherman

by Eric Sherman

James Straube

by Mary Deneen

Ray Toburen

by Kay & Gary Jones

Bruce Vosseller

by Colomba Vosseller

Jacqueline Werner

by Aaron & Krista Hass

Laurie & Anthony Hilger

JoAnn & Robert Lindholm

Brett & Leslie Riemen

Jan & Stephen Smatlak

Ed & Paulette Spoon

Theresa Werner

David & Margaret Zwieg

Arno Wilke

by The McCarthy Grittinger Team

THANK YOU to Our Generous Donors

May 13th — October 3rd

\$560,000

Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust

\$100,000+

Ann & Robert Rusch

\$25,000+

Debbie Cervenka

Only In Wisconsin Giving, Inc.

\$15,000-\$16,500

Duluth Trading Company REI

\$10,000-\$13,000

Brady Corporation

Barbara & Jerome Converse

Lyle Lidholm

Joan Miller

Pauline Witte

Anonymous (2)

\$5,000-\$8,000

Greg "Ole" & Mary Bauer

Bemis Family Foundation

Michael Casler

Virginia Coburn

Ellen Drought

Carl & Lori Fisher

Pamela Hanson

Mary Hilfiker

Jen & John Shank

Sarah Wolgram

Anonymous

\$2,000-\$4,000

Bess & Bernard Alberg

Rodney Bartlow

Woody & Tena Benson

City of Delafield Tourism Office

Christine Dorgan

Dean Dversdall

Charles & Anne Frihart

Bob Funk

Colleen Hayes

Patti Herman & Bill Welch

Kristin Hill

John & Judith Hutchinson

IncredibleBank Foundation

Kris Jensen & John Mesching

Marcy & Nathan Kempf

Meg (Schmitz) & Pete Layton

Linda Mertz & Alan Schrivner

Charles Mowbray

Randy & Joanna Parlee

Nancy Peterson & Jason Jentzsch

Daniel Rambo

Jeff Saatkamp

Greater Milwaukee Foundation's

James A. Schleif and William H.

Morley Charitable Fund

Elisabeth Schraith

Maureen Skelton

Jennifer Werner

Theresa Werner

Gary Werner & Melanie Lord

Mike & Barbara Wollmer

Zpacks

\$1,000-\$1,800

Gerald Anderson

The Bitzer Family Legacy Fund of

Renaissance Charitable

Kathryn Briggs

Bladen Burns

Church Mutual Insurance Company

Foundation

Ellen & Michael Comiskey

Patty & Tom Dreier

Epic Systems Corporation

Gordon & Judith Faulkner

Bruce France

Pamela & Gary Gates

Linda & Mark Glasser

Sue Greenway

Gail Hanson

Joe Hebda

Karen Ann Helwig

Inland Seas Woodcraft

Dr. Daniel & Paula Jarzemsky

Padma Jayaraman

Nancy Jesse & W. Paul Menzel

Lane Kistler

Dean & Mary Klinger

David & Hilda Kuter

Leon & Liz LeVan

Lodi United Methodist Church

Holly Lorentz

Edward & Sue Ellen Madere

Rob Malewicki

Celia Meisel

Erik & Elizabeth Melberg

David & Vin Mickelson

Mark & Elizabeth Muellenbach

David Phillips

Randy Reddemann

Sue Richards

Anne M. Riendl

David & Kathleen Rusch

Schaus Family Fund of the Greater

Milwaukee Foundation

Phyllis Schippers & Timothy Maatman

Richard Schreiner

Ruth J. Schuette

Anthony & Nancy Schuster

Mark, Heather, Lottie, Lilian, Eloise &

Milton Sharafinski

Terry Sherven

Daniel J. & Mary F. Simon

Don Smalley

Sally Stix

Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor

UW Credit Union

Barbara Voigt

Patrick Walsh

Pat & Gary Witkowski

Tim Yanacheck & Ann Heaslett

Anonymous

\$500-\$900+

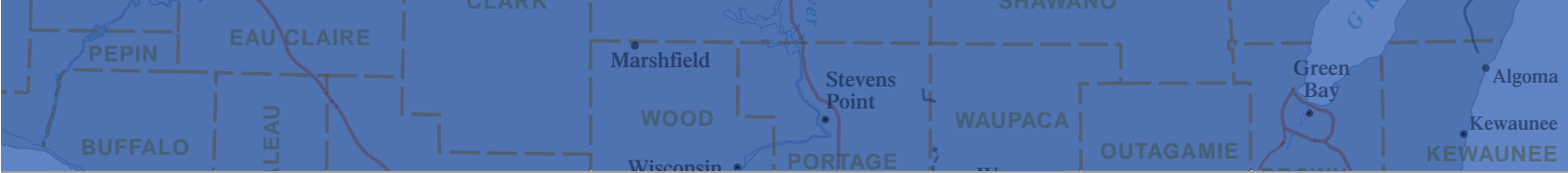
Noel Adams

AmazonSmile Foundation

Andi & Jose Aucapina

Marian Barnes

Andrew Bent & Anna Huttenlocher



Laura & William Bird
Black Box Fund
Nancy & Lou Bruch
Lynn Budzak
Tom Busse
Abigail Cantor & Alan Kalker
Michael Cavey
Vicki Christianson
Kelly Clark
Lawrence and Janet Clouse
Erik DeMaegd
Michael & Carla Di Iorio
Ruth & Daniel Dorrough
Christopher Dunn
Dale Eckstrom
Lynn Eschenburg
Doug Galaszewski
Thomas & Mary Gavinski
GE Foundation
Friends of Dave Gorski
Great Midwest Bank
Douglas Hagerman
Donna & Dwight Halfmann
James Hannas
Mark Harder
Thomas & Margaret Henzler
Indeed Brewing Company
Joe & Peg Jopek
Kathy Kehl
Janice Kettle
Darcy Kind & Marc Vitale
Doug Kitchin
Ed & Star Ann Klobberdanz
John R. Kolbe
Leah Lalor
Sara Mader
Casey Madura
Michele Malloy
Chad Metcalf
Robert & Linda Mlynarek
Tess Mulrooney
Park City Credit Union
Dean & Jayne Paynter
Ryan Peterson
Tim Powell
Michael Prichard
John & Mary Lou Rashke
Glenn & Sherri Ritz
Riverwater Partners
Gayle Rosemann & Paul McElwee
Thomas Route
David Schlosser
Gary Schwartz
Jim & Judy Schwarzmeier
Seek Dry Goods
Christina Smith-Gallagher
Betty A. Storey
Benjamin & Briana Swanson
Dr. John D. & Deanna Swanson
Barbara J Unger
Varian Medical Systems
Gerald & Charmaine Whitburn
Amy Wilcox & Rick Owens
Tom Wise
Janet & Levi Wood
Benjamin Zellers
Anonymous (2)

\$250-\$450
AbbVie
Abundant Joy Yoga & Wellness
Scott Allen
Kathleen Alpren
Paula & Robert Alt
Michele Amacker
Patricia & Tom Backe
William Banks
Linda Becker & Gregory Eichelkraut
Paul Beckett
Bill & Jody Beers
Mary Behan
Jeffrey Beiriger
Andrea Benton
Edward C. Berry, Jr.
Brian Blesi
Doug & Michelle Booher
Lorraine Bradley
James & Karen Buck
Patrick Cannon
Capitol Physical Therapy
Mike Carr
James G. Caya, MD
CDW
Connexus Credit Union
Susan Cook
Joe & Joanne Cox
Ann Coyne
Chuck & Gloria Cray
Brad Cray & Sharon Dziengel
Jessica & Brian Crombie
Susanne Dane & Liz Lusk
Anne Davies-Walsh
Robert & Sally Decker
Mary & Terry Devitt
David Ditlefsen & Jennifer Stehlye
Jeff, Shelly & Ben Dohlby
Mary Dresser
Gregory Drexler
Thomas Eck
Helen & Steve Emslander
David Farber
Karen Felder
Michael Fisch
Laurie Fitzgerald
Fleet Farm
H. Rob Foerster
Patricia Franks
Michelle Fronsée
Kate Garfield
Gitchi Adventure Goods, LLC
PearlMary Goetsch
Gary Goplen
Emily Haley Hernandez & Renee Medved
Steve & Midge Hall
Dr. Kurt Hansen
JoAnn Havel
Peggy Hedberg
Meghan & Dean Hessler
John Heywood
James Hogan
Mary & Mark Hollister
Kathleen Hoover
Michael Hourigan
Huron Consulting Group

IRONBULL, Inc.
Matt Ivens
Kathryn Jeans Glaser
Jennifer Jehn
Deborah Johnson
Ryan Juza
Nancy Kaiser
Juli Kaufmann
Leslie & Daniel Kemp
Rosemary Kilbridge
Pat Klatt
Luke Klobberdanz & Letha Kelsey
Susan Knopf
Sue Kolaga
Anne Korman
Debbie & Wayne Krogwald
Geri Krupp-Gordon
Eric & Mary Kuntz
Melissa & Christopher Kurtz
John LaMontagne
Nick & Laura Lane
Robert & Catherine LeFevre
Esther Locascio
Chuck Lucas
James Luebke
Patrick & Holly Maher
Matt Marek
Scott Mastro
Michelle & Chris McArdle
Matthew McClutchy
Brian McGowen
Dolly McNulty
Katherine Mehls
Robert T. Melzer
Riley & Libby Meyer
John Moore
Kathleen Mulbrandon
Sally & Theron Nash
John Nelson
Meryl Lee Nelson
Marilyn Ottum
Paul Patenaude
David Perez
Jerry Pfeifer
Dale Pinzino
Ken Pippert
Ken & Donna Pokora
Melanie Popa
Emily Potter
Richard Propp
Irene Qualters
Tom & Mary Jo Rademacher
Roxie Ann Radmer
Brian Rathgeber
John & Jan Reinartz
Nancy Reschke
Allan Robertson
Anne & Chad Rogalski
Barry & Ann Rogers
Hollis Rudiger
Matt Russell
Ruth Saecker
Mary & Rob Savage
Dale & Penny Schaber
Peter Scharenbroch
Brenda & Andy Schiessl
Megan Schliesman & Brent Sieling

Laura & Robert Schneider
Laura Schroeder
Maureen Schuck
Victor & Jayna Schultz
Carolyn Schur
Kathleen & Michael Schwantes
Cynthia Sesolak
Allan Sommer
Christine Sponagle
Jennifer Starin
State Bank of Cross Plains
Bill Staudenmaier
Frances Steffes
Rebecca Stelmachowski
John Stoesser
John & Louise Stolzenberg
Troy Stoneberg
Stephen Strommen
Ritchey & Maria Stroud
Tom Sullivan & Catherine Bonnard
Dawn Tessman
Ann Thering & Dave Eide
Douglas Thomas & Carol Zazubek
Leann Tigges & Gary Green
Mike Treder
U.S. Bank
Lysianne Unruh & Jason Dorgan
Rebecca Valcq
Kris Van Handel & Jared Wildenrad
Van Horn Automotive
Stacy Veldhuizen
David Verhulst
Justin Vollmar
Volunteer Center of Washington County
Shelly & Milena Vranjes
Wal-Mart
Ann Warzyn
Dick & Mary Weeks
Robert Weisberg
Judy & David Weiss
Cheryl Wessel
Steve White & Donna Martin
Brian Willard
Bonnie Wilmot
Jeff & Martha Wilson
Quentin Yoeberger
James Youngquist
Jim & Sue Zach
Jan & Hans Zoerb
Anonymous (3)



2110 Main Street
PO Box 128
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit #3808

TRAIL wisdom continued from page 17

Hiking Tips from the World of Literature

For those who like taking pictures (a little too much) while hiking...

The adventure is over. Everything gets over, and nothing is ever enough. Except the part you carry with you. It's the same as going on a vacation. Some people spend all their time on a vacation taking pictures so that when they get home they can show their friends evidence that they had a good time. They don't pause to let the vacation enter inside of them and take that home.

— E.L. Konigsburg, *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

For everyone, and particularly those hiking against a gale out of the freezing north...

Why anyone should desire to visit either Luc or Cheylard is more than my much-inventing spirit can suppose. For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move; to feel the needs and hitches of our life more nearly; to come down off this feather-bed of civilisation, and find the globe granite under foot and strewn with cutting flints. Alas, as we get up in life, and are more preoccupied with our affairs, even a holiday is a thing that must be worked for. To hold a pack upon a pack-saddle against a gale out of the freezing north is no high industry, but it is one that serves to occupy and compose the mind. And when the present is so exacting, who can annoy himself about the future?

— Robert Louis Stevenson, *Travels with a Donkey*

