

MAMMOTH tales

FALL-WINTER 2023



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



LUKE KLOBERDANZ
Executive Director/CEO

OUR PARTNERS



Ice Age Trail Alliance staff and volunteers give hundreds of presentations to groups across the Upper Midwest and beyond each year. Almost all these speaking engagements end with a Q and A session where an audience member asks, “When will the Ice Age National Scenic Trail be completed?”

While I typically respond that it will never be complete (due to ongoing maintenance, reroutes, and changes in land ownership), the reality is that one day, there will be a continuous Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

But the real question is, how do we get there?

The Ultimate Goal

With an eye toward a continuous Ice Age Trail, Alliance staff – with the help of volunteers – address the many complexities around land acquisition, collaborate with partners, and secure funding for trailbuilding projects. Efforts also include hiking with classrooms of fourth graders, leading large-scale trail construction events, or the aforementioned public presentation. And the purpose of this work? **To engage people in Trail development while leading to the ultimate goal: the Trail's completion.**

And this prompts the next question: how can members and non-members help?

Becoming an Alliance member, volunteering to restore a landscape, building a new segment, leading a hike, or providing financial support are all incredibly helpful in meeting our mission. **However, sharing your passion for the Trail (and the Alliance) is absolutely critical.**

Speak Up for the Trail

As the number of Alliance members and Ice Age Trail users grows, so does the impact of our collective voice. There is always strength in numbers, and a common cause creates positive change. Together, we are stronger.

We see the Trail grow when our voice is heard everywhere, from Main Street businesses to City Halls to Capitol Hill.

Please talk to your friends about the Trail, introduce co-workers to it, and share your volunteer adventures with your neighbors. Tell your village clerk, town chair, city council member, or county board member how important the Trail is to you. And when you're out and about on the Trail and in small Wisconsin communities, tell the people you encounter, the barista, the wait staff, the convenience store clerk, or the motel owner, that you're there because of the Trail.

Talk about the Trail whenever, wherever, and to whomever—the more you do, the more we do—the louder and stronger our voice will be. And the sooner the Trail will be complete.

Luke Kloberdanz



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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:

The Grand Staircase, proudly built by Alliance trailbuilding volunteers, awaits hikers along the newly reconnected and re-opened Rib Lake Segment. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

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.

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Critical Link Permanently Protected

LYSIANNE UNRUH, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Thanks to strong bonds of friendship, an important portion of the McKenzie Creek Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is now permanently protected.

Until recently, a handshake agreement with a private landowner was the only thing that kept a ¼ mile of Ice Age Trail on the ground. This minor portion of Trail is a critical link between DNR-owned land (McKenzie Creek Wildlife Area) and county forest land.

As it happens, an essential role of chapter volunteers in land protection successes is as a trusted connection between their friends and neighbors and the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Craig Knowlan, a long-time Trail supporter and Alliance volunteer, proved to be just that.

“When his neighbors, Leo and Sharon Themmes, were ready to sell their property, Craig encouraged them to contact the Alliance,” said Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation. “When technology and other aspects of the sale proved daunting to the sellers, he stepped in to help them, watching out for their best interests.”

The trust the Themmes had in Knowlan formed many years ago. “My dad and Leo were co-workers,” said Knowlan. “Leo was the one who told my father about 80 acres for sale across the road from him – the land I now own.” Friends since the 1970s, Themmes, a block mason, helped Knowlan build his basement; the two men traded labor back and forth for many years. “But, now, I mostly help Leo,” said Knowlan, acknowledging Themmes’ advancing years.

Dean Dversdall, former Chapter Coordinator for the Indianhead Chapter, facilitated the original handshake agreement with Themmes in 2007. A few years ago, Dversdall approached him about a permanent easement, but at the time, Themmes wasn’t interested. “We stayed hopeful, but it meant a three-mile road walk if things didn’t work out,” said Dversdall.

In the meantime, Knowlan retired. With more free time, he got involved with the Chapter, becoming a Trail Adopter. Since the Ice Age Trail runs right past his house, it made sense for him to maintain the section of the McKenzie Creek Segment traveling through the Themmes’ property. “Once Leo started talking about how he wasn’t using the back 40 as much anymore, I knew it was time for him to contact Kevin,” said Knowlan.

With this crucial link secured, an area gem is intact, and the Trail will continue to travel uninterrupted along the McKenzie Creek Segment. Highlights include a scenic walk along the Clam River, mature forests, and small pocket wetlands. Not surprisingly, it’s Knowlan’s favorite – although he’s quick to acknowledge there are many beautiful segments in Polk County. But, hiking the McKenzie Creek Segment will always feel particularly sweet.



Positive Relationships Create a Win for the Trail and its Users

DAVE LONSDORF, DANE COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER

A positive working relationship between the Ice Age Trail Alliance and local government units has again benefitted the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and its nearby residents. As a result, there will be welcome additions to the Alliance's Moraine Kettles Preserve in Verona this fall: a short trail reroute, two new spur trails, and more acreage with restored prairie, savanna, and woodlands.

These improvements came about because developers are building a 150-unit housing development, with a projected 750 residents, along the Preserve's western border. Per City of Verona requirements, developers must include parks and open space. The benefits of a good relationship between the City and the Ice Age Trail Alliance emerged at this point: The City encouraged the developers to work directly with the Alliance to determine the green space parameters.

During ensuing conversations, the developers requested spur trails into the Alliance's Preserve from the adjoining neighborhood. Then, with the City's support, the developers provided seven acres of "buffer," enlarging the Preserve's footprint adjacent to the development. Two one-acre land additions – at the south end of the Preserve and in the middle – will contain short spur trails.



A five-acre addition at the Preserve's north end contains a kettle pond and will allow for a short Trail reroute. Consequently, the new route will take hikers past a glacial remnant and let them safely cross a busy highway at an intersection.

Initially, Dane County Chapter volunteers, who have spent considerable time restoring the Moraine Kettles Preserve, were concerned about the large development going in adjacent the Preserve. But, they gradually realized it would create an opportunity to introduce the Ice Age Trail's beauty and charms to 750 new users and potential Alliance members.

"Good neighbor relations will be necessary to ensure homeowner compliance at property boundaries," adds Claire Finucane, the Alliance's Property Steward. "Also, we'll want a good relationship when raising awareness about the Preserve's prescribed burns near their property lines in spring."

The transformation of the 20-acre Moraine Kettles Preserve from a farm field to a restored prairie has long been a labor of love for me, a volunteer Trail Steward. Steve Pence, the Alliance's Land Restoration Specialist, and I are already working to plant prairie on the three land additions, which enlarge the Preserve by about 30%. Soon, the new neighbors will have easy access to the Trail for morning or evening strolls and enjoy the ever-changing profusion of prairie plants blooming each season.

CAMPAIGN GOAL ACHIEVED: PROPERTY PROTECTED IN MARQUETTE COUNTY!

Thanks to generous supporters, Marquette County will host one more mile of Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Future Trail will travel through a gorgeous 106-acre property, home to endangered Karner blue butterflies. Hikers will enjoy sweeping views, traversing hummocky terrain, and wandering through prairie loaded with wild lupine.

Thanks to everyone who donated to this campaign, and to *Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust* for matching half of every donation (up to \$175,000). And to anonymous donors who matched donations from Sand County residents.

Collectively, your support helps the Alliance conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age Trail.

Hartland Marsh Stewardship Plans Revealed

STEVE PENCE, LAND RESTORATION SPECIALIST

It was the end of March, and winter refused to leave. The weather alternated from cold and windy to snowy and rainy; the predominant landscape color was dull brown. I was waiting patiently (barely) for spring to bring color to the world.

Pat Witkowski, volunteer Trail Coordinator for the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter, and I were walking around the Hartland Marsh Preserve. We wanted an onsite discussion of habitat management goals for this property, which the Ice Age Trail Alliance owns. As we strolled across the boardwalk connecting us to the island in the middle of the marsh, an American bittern hurriedly took off from its resting spot. This was really exciting for two reasons: American bitterns are secretive marsh birds that blend into the surrounding habitat – only their distinctive call, the sound of water burbling out of an old-time hand water pump, reveals their location. And they are one of the first bird species to start migrating north. Their presence indicates spring is oh, so close!

Earlier in the morning, I was disheartened as I drove through the industrial park on my way to the property. I couldn't help but wonder what the Preserve would look like with so much development around it. But, as Pat gave me a tour, my mood quickly changed. To my surprise, the oak woodlands surrounding the edge of the property and on the island were ecologically intact! Yes, buckthorn and other brush were present, but we did not find much else for invasive species.

A few months later, on my second visit to the Preserve, I was excited to see what I would find. I was not disappointed. Although buckthorn was visible, everything else had greened up, too, and I found native forbs starting to grow. Pat had told me many shooting stars were still present on the property; she was not lying! On the island, I felt nervous walking off Trail. It seemed like shooting stars covered every inch of ground!

So, what came of our rambles and conversation?

Get the buckthorn under control, LONG TERM! According to Pat, there have been multiple attempts to control it, but the success was short-lived each time. A Fall, 2000 *Mammoth Tales* article by Marlin Johnson details the chapter's effort to remove buckthorn and honeysuckle to make way for prairie wildflowers, grasses, and

The Hartland Marsh Preserve boasts acres of shooting stars. Their graceful stalks line the Trail and spread throughout the Trail corridor.
Photo by Jeff Romagna.

Hear the sound
of an American
bittern!





oak trees on the island. Even though the buckthorn grew back, their efforts allowed native forbs, like shooting stars, to gain a more significant stronghold in the woodlands.

Then, about 10 years later, volunteer Paul Mozina nearly singlehandedly removed buckthorn from the entire property, only to have it come back, again.

Enjoy a blast from the past, read Johnson's article.



Why will this time be different?

First, consistent care and a systematic approach: The Alliance's newly established Habitat Improvement Program (HIP – for all of you cool 90s kids!) offers significantly more staff support to volunteer efforts. We develop, oversee, and help execute property management plans for properties like the Hartland Marsh Preserve.

Second, the careful and controlled use of herbicides: Although we do everything not to use chemicals, sometimes it's the most efficient and least destructive option. This is one of those situations. In the past, volunteers cut back buckthorn, but it quickly re-sprouted. This time, we will treat the stumps with small amounts of herbicide. We'll follow this with foliar spraying over the next few years to ensure the root systems are dead and will not re-sprout (a step not done previously).

Third, native seed collection and dissemination: Once buckthorn is under control, we will collect native seed flourishing in the oak woodland habitat (as the shooting star has) and help spread it. The goal is to increase plant diversity and create better habitat for pollinator species and wildlife, like migratory birds.

The Hartland Marsh Preserve provides valuable green space for plants, animals, and people amid urban development. Our care of this Preserve benefits everyone, including Ice Age Trail hikers!

How you can get involved

To help restore and maintain Alliance-owned properties, pitch in at a winter Habitat Improvement Project. Winter is an ideal time to cut down honeysuckle, buckthorn, and cedar trees, all woody invasives that take over and compromise forests.

Save the date, or register now for these HIP events:

Jan 12 & 13:
SwampLovers
Preserve, Table
Bluff Segment,
Dane County



Jan 26 & 27:
Hartland Marsh
Preserve,
Hartland Segment,
Waukesha County



Feb 9 & 10:
Steenbock
Preserve, Gibraltar
Rock Segment,
Columbia County



Langlade County Chapter: Celebrating 50 Years!

DANA BOLWERK, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER
OF THE BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE CHAPTER

Many numbers are associated with the Ice Age National Scenic Trail: 1,200 miles through 30 counties, the Wisconsin Glaciation 10,000 years ago, the 1.8 billion-year-old bedrock at the Dells of the Eau Claire and Grandfather Falls. (Shameless plug: You can find these and other incredible numbers throughout the *new* 2023 Ice Age Trail Guidebook.)

But one special number is being celebrated in 2023: The 50th anniversary of the Langlade County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Contrary to the – literal – glacial pace that developed features along the Ice Age Trail, early chapter members hit the ground running. The small group, including Joe Jopek, who was, at the time, a county extension agent, met regularly to identify possible Trail corridors. Jopek also took it a step further, contacting anyone who had an outdoor interest about joining their group.

“Initially, we called our local Trail group the ‘Ice Age Trail Committee,’” said former, long-time Langlade County Chapter Coordinator Jopek.

The Committee’s Trail planning efforts persuaded the Langlade County Board of Supervisors. In July 1974, the Supervisors adopted a resolution approving the Trail’s passage through county forestland and encouraging private landowners to cooperate with the project.

Trail creation began in 1975 after a federal grant funded the employment of a four-person trailbuilding crew to clear the Trail corridor planned by the Committee. By fall, they had marked the five segments known today as Parrish Hills, Highland Lakes, Summit Moraine, Lumbercamp, and Kettlebowl.

“...someone asked, ‘What do we do now?’”
“We lead hikes!”
Jopek answered.

Once the Trail was established, someone asked, “What do we do now?” “We lead hikes!” Jopek answered. And he did, along with fellow chapter members who joined the effort to maintain and promote the Trail through Langlade County.

Jopek, a tireless advocate for the Trail, raised awareness about the Trail and its local segments by writing newspaper articles and giving radio interviews. This media attention garnered eager chapter members. Jopek admits he modeled his efforts after Ray Zillmer, the visionary who championed a linear national park in Wisconsin commemorating continental glaciation.

Jopek is quick to acknowledge his fellow chapter members who shared his dedication to maintenance and promotion. Recently, he counted up 87 individuals who participated throughout the Chapter’s first 50 years.

“To establish the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and maintain its presence on the landscape and in communities over the years by selfless, dedicated volunteers is a noteworthy accomplishment,” he said.

Jopek remembers lean years for the Trail as a whole. In the early days, Chapter support came from the Ice Age Trail Council formed by the various entities working to carry out Zillmer’s vision for a long-distance hiking trail.

“There was no staff, other than Congressman Henry Reuss’ aides – especially Sarah Sykes,” Jopek continued. He remembers receiving phone calls from Reuss who regularly checked in to see how things were going for the Trail in Langlade County.

Much like a parent who is proud of all of their children, Jopek said he cannot pick just one “favorite” segment.

“Langlade County segments are all personal favorites because of their varying natural features along with the 50-plus years of memories I experienced while on them for work or play,” he said. “Treasured memories are of our chapter hikes and the many hikers my wife Peg and I have met over the years.”

continued on back cover

About Dana Bolwerk: Dana Bolwerk is an aspiring Thousand-Miler (with lots of segments yet to explore). Every day spent on the Trail is a good day. She lives in West Salem with her husband, son, and their dogs Tailer and Coconut.

As winter sets in, a hiker captures a quiet moment along the rugged and scenic Summit Moraine Segment. Photo by Kristen Wangerin.

TRAILBUILDING highlights

A daunting view: The vegetation greeting volunteers at the start of corridor clearing along the Ice Override Preserve. Photo by Kris Van Handel.

Great success: A section of cleared corridor with a ribbon of brand-new tread traveling through the Ice Override Preserve. Photo by Kris Van Handel.

A Chapter-Led Initiative Creates New Trail in Langlade County

MELINDA NELSON AND JARED WILDENRADT, LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBERS



Members of the Langlade County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance led the charge from start to finish: locating land and crafting tread for a yet-to-be-named 1.3 miles of Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

This new stretch of Ice Age Trail travels across the Ice Age Trail Alliance-owned Ice Override Preserve in Langlade County. A fundraising campaign in September 2021 helped purchase this property and three other parcels in Northern Wisconsin.

The Preserve's property, which is along the County's 26-mile road walk, was first spotted "For Sale" by Jared Wildenradt, an eight-time Thousand-Miler, and Langlade County Chapter member. His hiking hobby leads him to daydream about breaking up long road walks with blazed segments.

Wildenradt's timing was exceptional. In April 2021, he discovered the property. In May 2021, he walked it with Kris Van Handel, a fellow chapter member, and Kevin Thusius, the Alliance's Senior Director of Land Conservation. With the 44.5-acre property showcasing high-relief glacial terrain and dramatic views, Thusius deemed it a good candidate for

an upcoming fundraising campaign. By September 2021, generous Alliance donors helped permanently protect the land for future Trail.

Refusing to let momentum lag, the Chapter began clearing brush in October, and Becky Wadleigh, the Alliance's Landowner Engagement Specialist, and Chapter volunteers, Brian and Melinda Nelson, installed property markers in November. These efforts allowed Patrick Gleissner, the Alliance's Trail Operations Coordinator, to flag a potential Trail route in Spring 2022. Then, with follow-up visits by Alliance staff and chapter volunteers, the final flag line emerged. Trailbuilding waited until experts completed an archeological study in December 2022.

Eventually, the Chapter received the go-head, and a small volunteer team heroically tackled the next step: vegetative management along the Trail corridor—the previously logged land contained many slash piles and thorny raspberry bushes to cut through. Brush cutters, a "goat" mower, and chainsawing occurred on multiple days to clear the corridor, preparing it for the new Trail.

Summer 2023 arrived with multiple work days filling the calendar. A collaborative effort by Chapter volunteers led to more corridor clearing and the beginnings of the four-step tread installation. Additional trailbuilding support came from Alliance volunteers from Wisconsin Rapids, Amherst, Menasha, Madison, and Chicago. In August, a WisCorps crew completed most of the remaining corridor clearing and rough-tread construction.

In Fall 2023, a Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) for long-distance, multi-day hikers was built as a local Eagle Scout project. Several work days scheduled throughout September through November, led by Chapter volunteers, continued to bring the Trail closer to being blazed and opened to the public — stay tuned!

The Alliance-owned Ice Override Preserve was purchased with financial support from Prairie Springs: the Paul Fleckenstein Trust, donor matching funds, and the State of Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

IAT-U offers Camaraderie and Hands-On Training



JOHN MUIR PARK SEGMENT

Marquette County
July 12 – 16
Participants: 56
Volunteer Hours: 1,471

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Marquette County Chapter
- Athletic Brewing Company through its Two for the Trails Program
- The National Park Trust and National Park Service for the financial support through a Challenge Cost Share grant.

IAT-U participants get hands-on experience during the Signage and Blazing workshop. Photo by Miranda Murphy.



Learn more and view project photos.



Ice Age Trail University (IAT-U) offers curious or insatiable knowledge seekers the opportunity to learn trailbuilding techniques from experienced staff and trained volunteers. This season's hands-on courses (full or half-days) dove into topics ranging from the basics of Trail maintenance to the proper use of equipment.

Here's what a few participants had to say about their IAT-U experience this summer:

► **Joe Welter**, a member of the Superior Lobe Chapter and trailbuilding volunteer: "The Boardwalk Building workshop was work, and it was fun. Working in a team environment was a joy, accomplishing something with immediate and impressive results. Experienced crew members gladly shared their knowledge and taught the rest of us. I look forward to using what I learned in future projects.

The Vegetative Management class offered a stroll through a prairie, plant identification, and discussion about invasive species, opening my eyes to how widespread invasives are in my area of Wisconsin. It was rewarding to discover

how the Alliance's partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has enhanced land management, benefitting birds, butterflies, animals, and plant diversity.

Through the Survey 123 training, I learned to use a software program that helps Alliance staff inventory and track the lifespan of structures, like boardwalks, along the Trail. Since IAT-U, I've used Survey 123 to document bridges, boardwalks, and signs for the Superior Lobe Chapter."

► **David Bennett**, Chicago resident and first-time volunteer: "This was my summer of outdoor breathing. I needed to

renew my relationship with the world outside my stale office air and flickering screens. Attending IAT-U was part of that plan. I spent time walking the prairie and learning the good plants from the bad plants, how to read the pitch of the Trail and fix it, and how to fire up a brush trimmer (safely). In the process, I met new friends and discovered hidden connections.

Everyone came to the weekend with kindness and willingness to help each other grow. Everyone left their egos miles from the hills and Trail we tended.

It all started with a "yes." Yes, I wanted to learn something new. Yes, I was willing to get dirty. Yes, I wanted to meet new people. Yes, a little next-day aching was okay. IAT-U succeeds when people say Yes and use their agency to work together for a collective mission."

► **Priscilla Matthews**, 2022 Thousand-Miler: "It was my first time attending an Alliance event, and I wasn't sure what to expect. I just knew I was interested in getting information and developing skills that would help me with my goal to start giving back to the Trail after I completed it last fall.

I attended two workshops: Vegetation Management and Trail Signage and Blazing. I liked both, but for very different reasons.

In the Vegetation Management session, Land Restoration Specialist, Steve Pence, walked us through the prairie to identify native prairie flowers and invasive species. We pulled some invasives, and it felt good knowing it would make the prairie healthier. I gained practical knowledge I can use both on the Trail and at home.

I especially enjoyed the Trail Signage and Blazing workshop. Riley Dupee and Pat Witkowski shared their knowledge and skills, and then our group blazed the John Muir Trail. Putting what we learned to practical use and seeing immediate results was gratifying. I can't wait to go back to hike it and remember the fun we had blazing."

► **Joe Welter** sums up IAT-U this way: "It's incredible: the willingness of Alliance staff and experienced volunteers to share their knowledge, explaining not just what to do, but why. It's hugely rewarding to be part of an organization that demonstrates how valuable its volunteers are by teaching them what they need to know to be an integral part of the organization."

The Eastern Terminus Rejuvenated!

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



STURGEON BAY SEGMENT

Door County
September 6 – September 10
Participants: 157
Volunteer Hours: 3,544

PROJECT PARTNERS

- The Lakeshore Chapter members
- The Friends of the Potawatomi State Park
- The Department of Natural Resources Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
- The National Park Trust and National Park Service for the financial support through a Challenge Cost Share grant
- The Dwight and Linda Davis Foundation

“I love working on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail because what we do today will live on after we are gone,” said Cheryl Gorsuch, Lakeshore Chapter Coordinator. “It will provide our children and grandchildren with a legacy of connecting with nature and preserving the land for future generations.”

And since the Eastern Terminus is either the start or end of a 1,200-mile adventure, it’s fitting that seasoned volunteers worked alongside children with many years ahead of them. Together, the generations revitalized an important stretch of the Ice Age Trail.

“The chance to work at the Eastern Terminus is pretty special. It’s an honor to create a Trail befitting of the joy and celebration inherent in the terminus,” said

Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager.

The project’s impetus, Caliebe pointed out, came from moving the terminus stone from a spot shrouded in the woods to a hilltop perch with sweeping views. The new location created an opportunity to reroute the Ice Age Trail and establish the event’s focus: rejuvenation.

A crew removed the vegetation crowding around the terminus stone to offer a grander vista. Other volunteers revealed ancient bedrock as they scraped back soil, uncovering the Niagara Escarpment’s weathered beauty – hidden for thousands of years. “All we needed to do was to fill in the gaps between what looked like gigantic puzzle pieces or an

old Roman road to create a safe walking surface,” said Caliebe. Volunteers also replaced decrepit timber steps with slabs of dolomitic limestone quarried only a few miles away. And finally, crews revived an existing staircase, adding more stones to shore it up.

Immediate gratification rewarded the reinvigorated terminus and its volunteers. On Saturday afternoon, two hikers (one of which was Lisa Szela, the Alliance’s Volunteer Support Coordinator) walked their final steps in their thousand-mile journeys, their boots crossing ancient bedrock pavers and climbing freshly set stone steps.

They touched the terminus stone and posed for photos before a magnificent view, celebrating with family and friends.

“I love working on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail because what we do today will live on after we are gone.”

Learn more and view project photos.



SCAN ME

Learn about two other large-scale MSC events that happened during a busy trailbuilding season:

STORRS LAKE SEGMENT

Rock County
June 21-25, 2023
Participants: 51
Volunteer Hours: 1,181

Learn more and view project photos.



IOLA SKI HILL SEGMENT

Waupaca County
August 10-13, 2023
Participants: 101
Volunteer Hours: 2,237

Learn more and view project photos.



A Blessing in Disguise Becomes a Ribbon-Cutting!

MELISSA PIERICK,
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS



RIB LAKE SEGMENT

Taylor County
September 26 – October 1
Participants: 152
Volunteer Hours: 4,388

PROJECT PARTNERS

- High Point Chapter
- Lee "Butch" Clendenning and Gale Clendenning
- Bob and Ann Rusch for decades of commitment to the Ice Age Trail and being the driving force in rebuilding the Rib Lake Segment

Bob Rusch, long-time champion of reconnecting the Rib Lake Segment, proudly cuts the ribbon, officially opening 5.3 miles of Trail. Photo by Troy Stoneberg.

Enjoy a
20-minute
ribbon-cutting
ceremony video.



▶ SCAN ME

What is typically a devastating turn of events, turned into a blessing in disguise for the Rib Lake Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

In 2008, a Taylor County landowner revoked permission for the Ice Age Trail to be on their land. This closed the Trail; And, for 15 years forced hikers onto a 3+ mile road walk between blazed portions.

"It hurt to lose the rights," says Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "But ultimately, it turned out to be a great thing for the Trail and hikers."

While the Trail's former path followed old logging roads and ski trails, the new route better follows the terminal moraine of the Wisconsin Glaciation. "Hikers now get to enjoy a more intimate experience with glacial history," says Thusius.

The new route "is ten times more scenic and spectacular," says Bob Rusch, Taylor County landowner who played a critical part in reconnecting the Rib Lake segment.

What's most important about the Trail's new route is that it is permanently protected. And that is thanks to the generosity of many landowners and the dedication of Rusch, who began efforts to reopen the Rib Lake segment in 2009.

In fact, Rusch became one of the Ice Age Trail Alliance's first conservation buyers—specifically purchasing land for the Trail from two landowners (Steve Peters and Cathy and Dennis Scheithauer). Then, he persuaded two additional landowners to donate easements on their land for Trail (Kyle Patrick and Beverly and Bob Butler). In doing so, the first portion of the Trail was established from the Rusch Preserve Trailhead to Rustic Road.

Additional landowners then stepped forward (Kristin and Rodney Strobach, Jim Dillon, and Cindy Hanke) with easements to continue the Trail's path to Bear Ave. Then, in 2019, Rusch and his wife, Ann, donated 110 acres of land including a portion of the terminal moraine.

To complete the blazed connection to the East Lake Segment, siblings Butch and Gale Clendenning donated three Trail easements on their land.



A line of hikers enjoy a beautiful autumn day out on the newly re-opened Rib Lake Segment. Photo by Bob Kaspar.

“It is thanks to the collective generosity of these landowners that hikers will forever have blazed Trail to hike near Rib Lake,” says Thusius. “This segment is a remarkable example of landowners coming together for the greater good.”

It wasn’t just landowners that came together to make the Trail happen: volunteers came out in force, too. In all, 10 Alliance trailbuilding projects took place along the 5.3 miles of Trail; five happening in 2022-2023.

“Rib Lake has been a home-away-from-home for the Trailbuilding crew and volunteers for the past few years,” says Chad DuChateau, Director of Trail Operations for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “They worked in all conditions there, including six inches of snow last April!”

The volunteers also got to do all the jobs: build boardwalks (16 are found along the segment) and bridges (6 are crossed), create retaining walls, place stepping stones, and build a “grand staircase”—in addition to creating and blazing 5.3 miles of tread.



A group of hikers stop to express their appreciation to Bob Rusch for all his efforts to reconnect the Rib Lake Segment. Photo by Bob Kaspar.

On October 1, the reconnected Trail officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and hike. Nearly 200 people showed up to be among the first to hike the new segment.

“This was super special to experience,” says Luke Klobberdanz, Executive Director for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “Hiking alongside Trailbuilders makes you see the path in a whole new light. It’s fun to share in the joy of the person who built the stone steps you’re walking up—and to marvel at what they created. The passion for this segment and the time and effort put into it, is clearly evident when you hike the Trail here. The landowners and volunteers that have made this happen have truly left a legacy for generations to come.”

Learn more
and view
project photos.



SCAN ME

Connecting Across Borders

KATIE CERVENKA, FIELD ENGAGEMENT INTERN

The passion for hiking along glacial landscapes extends beyond Wisconsinites. In fact, non-Wisconsin households make up 10% of Ice Age Trail Alliance memberships. Chicagoland residents make up a substantial portion of that group!

It's no wonder that avid hiker, Alliance volunteer, and Chicago resident Alice Weinert led the charge to bring Chicagoland's Alliance members together. Her goals included fostering community, introducing the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to the area's outdoor devotees, and ultimately forming a "Chicago-based Collective" of Ice Age Trail enthusiasts.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance readily supported Weinert's goals. A small team formed – Alliance staff and Chicagoans, Wayne Janik and Alice Weinert. Together they designed three events to reach various audiences.

Weinert organized the first event in the Lincoln Square neighborhood at the Chicago Public Library's Sulzer Regional Library. The program targeted newbies with a Discovering the Ice Age Trail presentation. Pat Witkowski, longtime Alliance volunteer and Thousand-Miler, shared her Thousand-Miler journey and highlighted her favorite parts about the Trail.

Weinert unveiled Ice Age Trail itineraries she created for this event. The itineraries offered ideas for day trips, multi-day hikes, and even a fall foliage tour along the Trail, most within a two-hour drive from Chicagoland. Catering to the Chicago-based audience, Weinert distributed a guide detailing the modes of public transportation for traveling to Trail Communities. "When you live in an area with robust public transportation, having a car is optional," says Weinert. "I wanted to show there is a way to get to the Trail." As a result, Weinert hopes her resources will help Chicagoans rethink their access to the outdoors, especially when it comes to adventuring on the Trail.

Weinert was shocked by how many event attendees were interested in Trailbuilding. "We answered logistical questions for 20 minutes!" she commented. "It shows there is a volunteer pool waiting to be engaged outside of local Chapters."

Next, Alliance staff hosted a Hiker Meet-Up at the Sketchbook Brewing Company in Skokie. New members, seasoned hikers, and volunteers socialized and enjoyed local brews. Sue Vogel, originally from Wisconsin, was the type of Trail enthusiast the event planners hoped the Meet-Up would attract.

As a child, Vogel's family camped and hiked in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. As an adult, she has organized camping trips for her Chicago friends, introducing them to magical places like Scuppernong Springs and nearby Ice Age Trail segments. "They are amazed at the history, geological significance, and bogs, wetlands, forests, and prairies," said Vogel.

Last year, she attended Trailtessa: Be FIERCE, a multi-day backpacking trip. Vogel was inspired by the educational experience while connecting with a great group of people.

Monty and Alice Weinert, Chicago resident and Alliance volunteer, greet attendees at the Chicago Public Library's Sulzer Regional Library. Photo by Katie Cervenka.





Ultimately, the community atmosphere brought Vogel to the Hiker Meet-Up. “I liked how social the event was,” said Vogel. “Building a community with other Chicago-area hikers is great, and I am motivated to hike with the Chicago-area group.”

Finally, REI in Vernon Hills offered a setting for outdoor enthusiasts to learn about the Trail. Alliance staff set up a booth outside the store and sold merchandise, including the 2023 Guidebook. Inside the store, Alliance staff and Janik shared about the history and mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, volunteer opportunities, and ways to enjoy the Trail.

The success of the three events demonstrates the power of the Ice Age Trail to foster community beyond Wisconsin’s borders. The Trail brings people together whether someone hikes 1 mile or 1,000 miles, works at an MSC Project, or participates in the Mammoth Hike Challenge.

The Chicago-based Collective will continue to bloom into its full potential, taking many forms as it grows. Members plan to host group hikes, support nearby Alliance chapters at local work days, and host social events. Weinert reflected, “We are creating a community who can experience the Trail together!”

CONNECT

To connect with the Chicago-based Collective, contact info@iceagetrail.org. If you’re from out-of-state and interested in hosting similar-style gatherings where you live, email Amy Lord, Outreach and Education Manager, Amy@iceagetrail.org.

Scan the QR code to download Ice Age Trail itineraries, most trips are within a two-hour drive from Chicago. Created by Alice Weinert.

Scan the QR code to download public transportation options from Chicago to the Trail. Created by Alice Weinert.



Hikers and Ice Age Trail enthusiasts socialize at Sketchbook Brewing in Skokie, Ill. Photo by Amy Lord.



Alliance staff host an information booth outside the REI store in Vernon Hills before their well-received presentation. Photo by Amy Lord.



A Trail Family Builds Bridges

LYSIANNE UNRUH, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

At 7:45 a.m., on a fine Friday in July, five members of the Chippewa Moraine Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance gather in a local coffee shop: Bruce France, Jerry Sazama, Steve White, Norm Card, and Vicki Christianson.

Their mood: elation. Days before, they had built a 36-foot bridge. Project Leader, Bruce France, had budgeted five days for the project, but they'd gotten it done in three and a half. Plus, they'd brought it in \$280.00 under budget. That made them the happiest of all.

Bob Mitchell and Steve White investigate the pitch on the original bridge.
Photo by Julie Mitchell.

For their enthusiasm, you would think the work had taken place on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. But, the bridge was off Trail, on a popular, three-quarters-of-a-mile loop at the Brunet Island State Park. Chapter Coordinator, Vicki Christianson jumps in with an explanation: The Chapter enjoys a close working relationship with Zach Thon, the park's property manager.

Thon keeps the parking lot on County Highway CC plowed all winter, providing year-around access for the Firth Lake and Chippewa River segments. "Zach was incredibly helpful last Fall when we built a 736-foot boardwalk, replacing a dilapidated structure along the Firth Lake Segment," says Christianson. "He let us store lumber and build frames in the parking lot, and helped us transport materials to the project site."

All the nodding heads at the table agree: Thon is an all-around good guy. So, when Thon applied for a Chippewa County Community Foundation grant to build a new bridge, but received only half the requested amount, it seemed right for the Chapter to get involved. They volunteered their time and expertise; the grant covered the cost of supplies.

"They are amazing," says Thon, shaking his head. "They can out work anyone, me included, and some of them are in their 70s and 80s. They're jumping around, stacking rocks, laying stringers, and hauling deck boards."

Possibly the oldest person at the table, Jerry Sazama readily admits to his 80 years. "Getting involved with Trailbuilding after retirement has kept me young," he says. "It's given me a passion, purpose, and a way to stay active." Besides his chapter involvement, Sazama has been a fixture at MSC events. He's participated in 64 projects since 2009 – the year he joined the Alliance – and he's invested in training, becoming an MSC Crew Leader.

Bruce France, offers insight to the Chapter's motivation. "There's a humanitarian aspect to it," he says. "We're all family. The DNR staff is like family. They helped us, and we were simply helping out a family member." France points out, this sense of family is what leads the Chapter

The brand-new Chippewa Moraine Chapter-built bridge with a much-improved approach. Photo by Norm Card.

to help the Superior Lobe, Blue Hills, and Taylor County chapters with projects, too. Their work has ranged from building kiosks and boardwalks, to stabilizing structures, and helping with spring clean up along Trail sections hit hard by winter ice and snow damage.

Chippewa Moraine Chapter members don't take their good fortune for granted. "We're lucky," says Christianson, confirming their ability to help with projects beyond their county. "We benefit from having large communities like Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls to draw members from."

This benefit is evident in the wealth of experience and expertise sitting around the table. Bruce France joined the Chapter after years of volunteer service with Habitat for Humanity, as a lead carpenter, building houses. And before that, he enjoyed a 35-year career as City of Eau Claire engineer. Norm Card brings 42-years-worth of experience with the University of Eau Claire, providing classroom support electronics. The two, who live in Eau Claire, carpool to projects.

Steve White and Jerry Sazama hail from Chippewa Falls. White explains he learned his Trailbuilding skills from MSC legend, Rich Propp. Although, later conversations will reveal he is also a crucial member of the Chapter's Trail Maintenance team.

Everyone laughingly agrees Sazama's legal background isn't good for much of anything. Then, France throws him a bone: "At least Jerry hands out business cards wherever he goes; that brings people into our chapter."

"That and his winsome personality," says Card. The good-natured ribbing makes the group the noisiest in the coffeeshop.

In reality, though, Sazama plays an important Chapter role: Trail Maintenance Coordinator. For 10 years, he has headed up the small team that clears winter damage and trims summer growth, setting up the dates and places for the projects. He readily admits that depending on the nature of the project, he either "guides the

// We're serious about safety, but we also have a lot of fun.

//



The bridge-building team:

Norm Card, Bruce France, Dan Masterpole, Bob Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, Dave Rassmussen, Jerry Sazama, Dan Smetana, Zach Thon, and Steve White.

efforts or stands back and lets people with better skills take over."

"We're serious about safety, but we also have a lot of fun," says Sazama. "We love to joke around, so if you join our crew, you'd better have thick skin. We're a family and we poke at each other."

But, in all seriousness, the 36-foot-long bridge was built to Ice Age Trail Alliance standards, France points out. He used the Alliance's *Trail Structures Notebook* when designing the cribs for the bridge abutment, determining the number of stringers – the logs that provide strength and stability – deck boards, and diagonal bracing.

The new bridge creates a much more accessible path with its ground-level approach. The previous structure had a

steep approach – "like climbing an esker," says Sazama. "Now, so many more people will be able to enjoy this walk in the woods when they visit the park."

Not surprisingly, the bridge-building team's focus is outward, toward improving the corner of the world they live in. And they are quick to acknowledge the contributions of fellow chapter members who couldn't join them this morning. "Ultimately," says France, "what brings Chippewa County Chapter members together is a willingness to be productive for others."

To learn about volunteer opportunities within the Chapter – leading hikes, Trail maintenance, and more – email: ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org



Sharon



Gary



Sue

Before Lacing Up Your Boots, Read What Sharon, Gary, and Sue Have to Say!

TRICIA BAKER, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Every hike starts with a single step. But wait... um... before the first step, it would be helpful to know where to park for the segment you are hiking. And it would be good to understand how long the segment will be and how rigorous the adventure is. That way, you'll know how much water to bring, how much time the hike could take, and whether distance or terrain is appropriate for young children. And to be honest, it would be nice to know the character of the segment, what types of geologic formations you'll be passing, and whether you should watch for special features. And hey, it would be amazing to know if you can stop for a sandwich along the way or get fresh water. In other words, before you tie the laces on your hiking boots, there is some vital information you are going to need.

Sharon Dziengel, Gary Hegeman, and Sue Knopf agree. They feel passionately about providing the critical information that allows the rest of us to maximize the enjoyment and safety of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. They invest their time and expertise every three years to deliver the information. You've got the information you need to hike confidently because of Sharon,

Gary, Sue, and the large team of volunteers who work with them. Sharon, Gary, and Sue are the inspiration and powerhouse behind the valuable Ice Age Trail resources we need to enjoy the Trail – the Guidebook, the Atlas, and the Databook.

The first Guidebook was created in 2002 after Triple Crown hiker Sharon Dziengel used tri-fold maps, chats with Ice Age Trail Alliance chapter leaders, and descriptive prose from the 1970s book *On the Trail of the Ice Age* by Henry Reuss as the resources to plan her 2002 thru-hike. "While I hiked, I had a lot of time to think, so I thought about how to create a Guidebook. I talked to the Executive Director of the Alliance along with other staff members and the Board of Directors. We met and discussed how to do this with a volunteer team. With this team, my notes, and local maps, we created the first version of the Guidebook."

Since that first edition, the core team of Ice Age National Scenic Trail hiking resource "gurus" has grown to include field editor coordinator Gary Hegeman, graphic designer Sue Knopf, and an entire volunteer network of field editors, writers,



GIS professionals, and photographers. The team also includes Alliance staff who weave the field editors' notes and suggested updates into the various resources. As part of this process, they handle the bulk of the editing – although the eagle-eyes of Gary, Sharon, and Sue have offered many valuable corrections. Altogether, the staff and this team of dedicated volunteers have honed the publication of these resources into a highly efficient process.

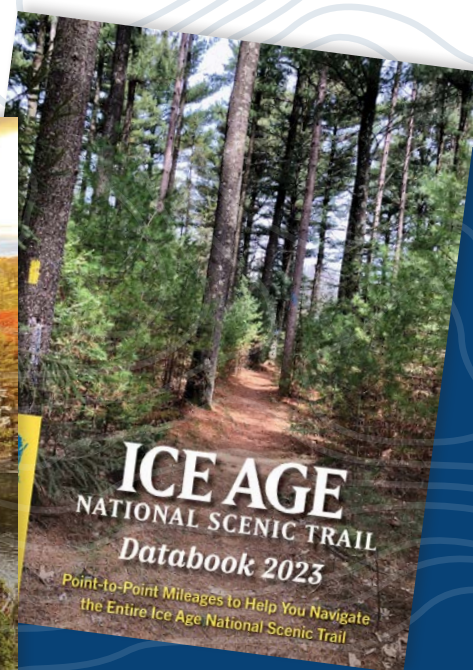
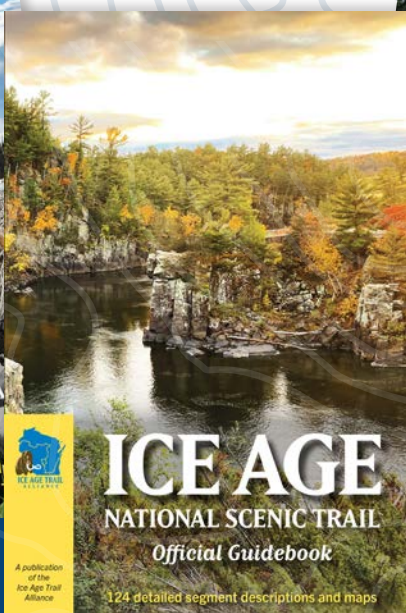
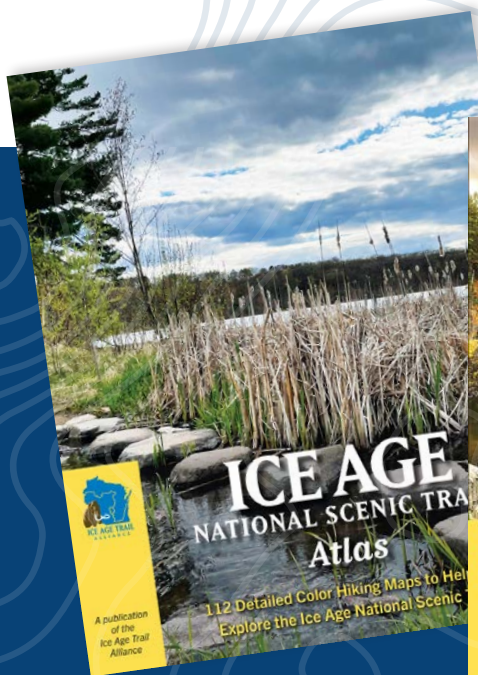
► **Gary Hegeman**, an avid thru-hiker, leads the Field Editing process. He organizes and briefs the volunteers who walk every segment and every connecting route to scout changes and offer boots-on-the-ground feedback. Gary then takes this information, checks its veracity, and sends it to Alliance staff.

► **Sharon Dziengel**, who was instrumental in writing early drafts of the Guidebook and Databook, assists Gary with double-checking the Field Editor's notes, editing the Databook, locating Thousand-Miler quotes for the Guidebook, and making decisions about the photos to include in the Guidebook.

► **Sue Knopf**, an avid hiker from La Crosse, innovated the Thousand-Miler Map and Checklist. "I'm about as far from the Trail as I can be, so to orient myself and understand how much of the Trail was blazed versus connecting routes, I designed the 'Big Map.'" In addition to the map, Sue leads the layout and design for the other three resources. For the 2023 Guidebook, she helped rewrite "The Hike" sections and implemented the idea of GPS coordinates for the Trail Access and Parking section.

Check the Ice Age Trail Guidebook, Atlas, or Databook before you lace up your hiking shoes for your next segment. Review the parking instructions, the segment length, the ruggedness rating, and all of the other information that allows you to hike our beloved Trail with joy and abandon. Then, please take a moment to remember the entire volunteer team that invested their time and creativity to develop the books and maps you are holding in your hands.

***About Tricia Baker:** Tricia Baker is a volunteer writer for the Ice Age Trail. She works in sustainability to decarbonize our building stock. She and her husband hike the Trail every chance they get.*



The 2023 edition of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Atlas, Guidebook, and Databook are for sale in the Alliance's online store. To purchase your copies today, visit:

IceAgeTrail.org/HikerResources

The Long-Term Vision of Burr Oak Legacy Society Members

SARAH DRISCOLL, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

On a hot summer day, the welcome shade of a nearby burr oak tree will draw hikers under its branches, limbs stretching up to 100 feet high and spreading 80 feet wide. The longevity of these slow-growing giants may exceed 200 to 300 years, aided by rough, textured bark resistant to prairie fire flames, and its long, deep tap root provides drought tolerance. During its considerable lifespan, burr oaks provide food – high-calorie acorns – and habitat for wildlife, including insects, birds, squirrels, and more.

No wonder the Alliance's Burr Oak Legacy Society's name honors this majestic, native tree. After all, members of the Burr Oak Legacy Society make a lasting impact on the Ice Age Trail through giving. These members remember the Ice Age Trail Alliance in a will, trust, retirement plan, other legacy, estate, or planned gift.

Here are the reasons three members chose to become part of the Burr Oak Legacy Society:

Ten years ago, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail brought joy to my life through the experience of hosting base camp on my land for a nearby MSC event. As a result, I witnessed Ice Age Trail volunteers' fellowship and teamwork firsthand. From there, I began learning more about the incredible work done by Ice Age Trail Alliance staff and volunteers, much of which our individual giving supports.

While I give a yearly membership gift, I wanted to support the Alliance long after I have left this Earth. I decided to include a substantial donation in my estate plan/living will. It was easy to do, and I know the Alliance will put these funds to good use in their ongoing effort to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Trail for future generations. I encourage Trail enthusiasts to consider leaving a legacy gift to the Alliance.



ROB MALEWICKI

We are inspired by nature when out on a section of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, enjoying the Ice Age Trail's smooth tread and the diversity of native plants and animals. We appreciate Ray Zillmer's vision - creating a Trail traveling across Wisconsin - and we are grateful for all those who carry that passion forward today.

We have immense gratitude for the dedication of the volunteers and Alliance staff who construct the Trail and steward the lands by removing invasive species, planting prairie and trees, and conducting prescribed burns. We are delighted by volunteer work event attendance. We're amazed by the commitment of the volunteers who assume leadership roles in chapters all along the Trail. These efforts give thousands of people the chance to connect with nature's wonders.

Appreciation leads to action. One action that we have taken is to make a bequest gift to the Ice Age Trail Alliance. This gift is one small step toward creating a world where nature and people can thrive.



STEVE RICHTER AND LAURA COMINETTI



My appreciation and support of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail began with Trail running. In the 1990s, I trained for various trail races in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest. In 1996, one of the races I wanted to enter required proof of volunteer service to a trail organization. That led me to seek my first service opportunity with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Then, in 2002, my friend Timo Yanacheck and I became co-race directors for the Kettle Moraine 100, which we operated as a fundraiser until we stepped down in 2018. Each year, after expenses, we gifted race profits to the Alliance.

In 2007, I ran the entire length of the Ice Age Trail, setting the first Fastest Known Time record. That wasn't my goal when I started running. I wanted to experience the entire Ice Age Trail and only had three weeks of vacation. Once I decided to run it, I used the publicity I received to raise money for the Trail. Shortly afterward, I joined the Alliance Board, attended MSC events, and became a Yellow Blaze Club member.

My thru-run deepened my commitment to the Trail – I had experienced its beauty and the dedication of its volunteers. And then, my years on the board cemented my support for the Alliance as a well-run organization. When the Alliance established the Burr Oak Legacy Society, I excitedly said yes to supporting the Trail in perpetuity. It would have been easy to drag my feet about setting up and maintaining a long-term giving commitment. Still, the Burr Oak option motivated me to make it happen. I enjoy knowing I can support the Trail even after I am gone.

// I had experienced its beauty and the dedication of its volunteers. //



JASON DORGAN

LEAVE A LEGACY:

HAVE AN EVER-LASTING IMPACT ON THE TRAIL

To support the Ice Age Trail Alliance's efforts to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in perpetuity, join the Burr Oak Legacy Society.

Be sure to consult with a professional advisor on matters related to your estate plan. For questions or to help arrange a legacy gift to the Alliance, staff members are available to assist. Contact Sarah Driscoll, the Alliance's Director of Philanthropy at sarahd@iceagetrail.org or call **608-798-4453 ext. 227**.

If you've already included the Alliance in your estate plans or intend to do so, please let us know so you can be appropriately recognized.

As a Burr Oak Legacy Society member, you'll receive special recognition (including being listed in Mammoth Tales – see page 31). And, you'll receive an invitation (for you and a guest) to the annual Ray Zillmer-Henry Reuss Memorial Dinner and hike.





Father and Son on the Ice Age Trail

ERIC SHERMAN, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

FIRST

The first experience my dad and I had together on what is now the Ice Age Trail was in January 1985, or thereabouts, at Hartman Creek State Park, near Waupaca. My aunts and uncles lived in nearby Weyauwega, and the extended-family cabin was just a few miles east of the park, on Stratton Lake. Hartman was our go-to spot when we wanted a break from the cabin, our home away from home away from home.

That January outing was on skis, and what I remember most is the hills. Most were comfortably fun and left me wanting to do them again, holding nothing back the second time. At the top of the few steep ones, I leaned hard into my snowplow, all the way to the rubbery-legs moment when gravity gets the best of you. All semblance of control out the window, I then readied myself to sit and roll into the “dead bug” (as my daughter Indigo calls it) the moment I felt a crash coming on. Toward the bottom, once

it looked like I was going to somehow stay upright, my dad would whoop in celebration. *Att-uh-BOY!*

Along with the hills, I remember the deep kettle toward the northwestern end of the ski loop, which turned out to be one of those, “Hey, I remember this spot” spots when I passed by years later. I also remember the late afternoon light, with the sky turning coral and the snow transitioning from white to the coldest blue.

In addition to my dad, brother, and Uncle Dave, my Uncle Jim was with us, sort of. Jim disappeared shortly after we departed from the parking lot near Allen Lake, and we didn’t see him again until after we had wrapped around the west side of the lake and approached a parking area on Windfeldt Lane. Jim was *flying* along a trail on the south side of the road, doing an activity that also involved skis but otherwise had little in common with our activity. My immediate thought was, “What is THAT, and why on earth are we doing THIS?” My dad told me that Jim was doing something called skate skiing (as opposed to the classic skiing we were

doing), and that he was getting ready for a ski marathon called the Birkiebeiner.

From the parking area on Windfeldt, we continued back toward Allen Lake, fun hills behind us and sweet light fading. I was struggling with fatigue and the newfound realization that classic skiing was totally lame. I threw my kick wax under the bus. The conversation with my dad went something like this:

Me: “Dad, I’m slipping.”

Dad: “Makes sense...snow has warmed up since we started. Put on some more green.”

5 minutes later

Me: “Dad, still slipping.”

Dad: “Alright, try some blue.”

3 minutes later

Me: “Daaaad?!”

Dad: “Okay, violet.”

30 seconds later

Me: “How much longer?”

I don’t remember my dad’s reaction to his wilting son, but I know from my experiences with my own daughters that it may have fallen short of Zen. It’s possible he left Hartman thinking I had ruined his day. But he didn’t stop taking me places. Chalk that up to the memory filter, fast-acting and common to most parents, that lets through joy while straining out the oh-for-Pete’s-sake moments. (Also, in my dad’s case, the oh-for-cry-eye moments.)

When I think of that day four decades





later, what bubbles up first is fun hills and late-afternoon light. That's probably what was floating around in both our heads as we drifted off to sleep that night.

MOST THRILLING

Twenty years on, back in Waupaca County. My parents had retired there to be closer to family and the cabin. I had just started my job with the Alliance. We explored every Ice Age Trail segment in the area, and we fell in love with it. Our favorite was the new-at-the-time Skunk and Foster Lakes Segment, with its "sure reminds us of Vilas County" topography and forest cover. (Keep an eye out for hemlocks.) "Took Mom to Skunk today," was my dad's frequent report when catching up by phone.

One winter weekend, I was visiting my folks and suggested to my dad that we skip the groomed ski trails at nearby Hartman and instead bushwhack-ski at Skunk. The suggestion seemed a dud for the first part of our outing: 15 minutes down a crusty, well-trod trail that led to Skunk Lake. The last part of the day's adventure was significantly better, but nothing exceptional: breaking trail on the

white-blazed loop north of Skunk Lake.

The middle part was a significantly different matter. Skunk Lake that day was covered with a hard crust of snow over the ice. On top of the crust lay an inch or so of powdery fluff. We ventured out onto the lake, happy to escape the rut that had brought us there. We skied a little bit here and a little bit there, enjoying the novel views to the shoreline instead of from it. I was then moved by some benevolent spirit to try skate skiing.

Neither my dad nor I had followed in Uncle Jim's footsteps; we didn't have skate skis (too expensive) and just farted around with the basic side-to-side movement now and then. Any experienced skater would have described our form as squirrels reaching for acorns at the end of a very skinny branch. But that day on the frozen lake, something unusual happened. Not unlike the people who get a railroad spike through the skull and can suddenly name all the world capitals, the blend of crusty snow with a little powder on top turned us into Norwegian Olympians.

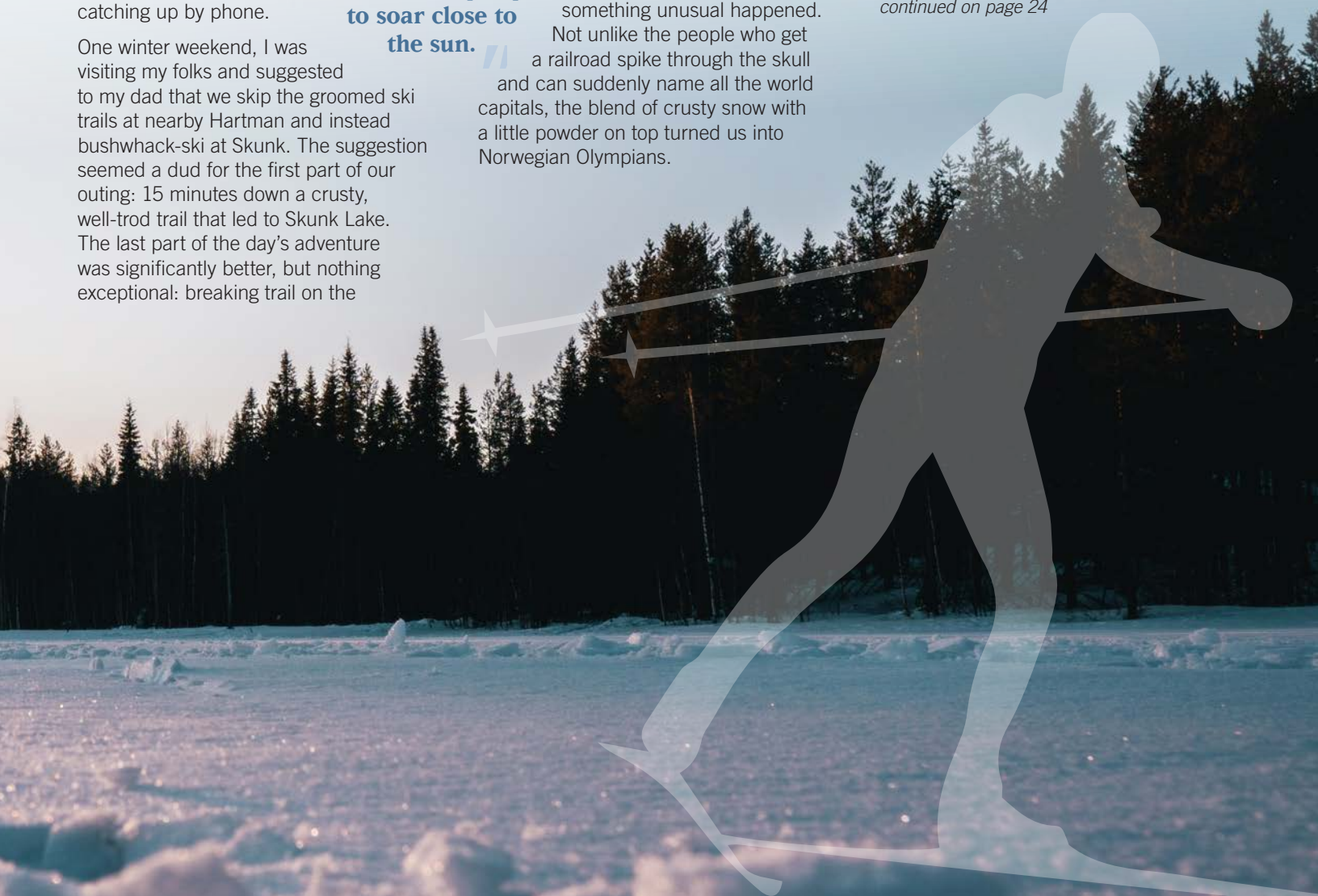
The positive feedback that came with the first stride, and each thereafter, was a shock. Each shift of weight was accompanied by a firecracker blast underfoot, then a giddily long glide on the opposite leg. I had never moved even remotely so fast on skis across flat ground. The experience was also tinged with dissonance, an inability to understand how this could be happening. Why don't I feel clumsy? Where's the friction? Have we stumbled upon the world's sole downhill-tipped lake?

For a good 10 minutes, we flew from one side of the lake to the other, two pucks on an air-hockey table.

Reality then set in. We weren't conditioned for this, nor did we have the right equipment. So, back to classic skiing. But buoyed by the thought that we had a few minutes, anyway, to soar close to the sun.

continued on page 24

**...buoyed
by the thought
that we had a few
minutes, anyway,
to soar close to
the sun.**



WORST, AND BEST

In 2013, my parents left Waupaca to return to Madison. They landed in a home a short distance from the Ice Age Trail's Verona Segment. The portion of the segment passing through a ridgetop prairie south of McKee Road became their new favorite. "Took Mom to the prairie today," was my dad's new shorthand report.

In August of 2022, my parents transitioned from their home to an assisted-living apartment. My dad was being battered by leukemia, while also serving as full-time caregiver for my mom, who has Alzheimer's. As predicted, the move from their home to assisted living was very hard on my mom, which in turn was very hard on my dad. Several times a week, he texted my siblings and me with a plea: "Can someone take Mom for a walk? Not sure how much more of this I can take."

I answered his call one day in September and drove over to pick up my mom. As I entered their apartment, my dad started putting on his hiking boots. Apparently,

while I was driving over, my mom had told him that he needed to come, too. I took him aside and asked if there was any way he could stay home and take the break he needed, but he lowered his head, muttered something under his breath, and continued to the front door.

After a wordless 10-minute drive to the trailhead, we got out and started walking. It was a weird day... muggy, mid-sixties, but with a cold north wind and low clouds. Hardly the stuff of good cheer. For the first quarter-mile, I saw zero chance of this walk lifting anyone's spirits.

My dad and I had become armchair botanists in recent years, and our walks through the many prairies restored by Dane County Chapter volunteers took on an additional layer of excitement as we played name-that-flower. "What's that one?" my dad would ask. I would either state the name off the top of my head or consult the app on my phone. (Or, throw out a name with confidence and then check the app after my dad had turned his back.) "Rattlesnake-master," I'd say.

// **My dad seemed whole again, unburdened.**

"Ah, that's right," he'd say. Sometimes, he'd make the opening bid: "Culver's root, right?"

Today was no different. About one-third of the way in, my dad's anger-induced tunnel vision started to ease as the plants began to grab his attention. Each instance of pausing to appreciate a different flower brought my dad to life, like a blow-up beach toy and a bicycle pump.

Purple giant hyssop, WHOOSH.
Tall boneset, WHOOSH.
Partridge pea, WHOOOOOSH.

By the time we started the final third of our hike, my dad was chatting freely with my mom and me. From where we were 45 minutes ago, the weather remained unchanged, but the atmosphere around the three of us was entirely different. My dad seemed whole again, unburdened.

Squint a bit as you watched him stride down the home stretch, and he looked little different from the fortysomething beaming as his child navigated a Hartman hill, or the sixty-something rocketing across Skunk Lake, no care in the world except where the boot would land next.



The author's parents, Springfield Hill Segment.



Connection Creates Continuous Trail!

The big someday goal is a continuous Ice Age National Scenic Trail coursing through Wisconsin.

It's what drives our land protection efforts – acquisitions highlighting hummocky terrain, kettles, eskers, and other glacial features.

It spurs Trailbuilding volunteers to work in all conditions, sweltering heat, clouds of mosquitos, rain or shine, turning protected land into blazed Ice Age Trail.

The heart and soul of the someday goal is connecting people to the Trail and the land hosting it. Fostering a heartfelt appreciation for what the Trail offers doesn't need to wait for it to be complete. **This affinity forms as Trail enthusiasts collect native prairie seeds, plant trees, remove invasive species, or head out on a hike.**

When it comes to creating connections, someday starts now. It begins with giving

kids their first experience on the Trail. More than 50 volunteers helped lead Think Outside hikes for nearly 9,000 fourth-graders during the 2022-2023 school year.

And the kids love it. "It was cool to see the stuff we learned about in school, in real life," said a student. "I learned about a lot of things that I haven't seen or experienced before in nature," said another.

Today's children will carry the Trail's legacy forward into the future.

These are the kids who may someday become chapter leaders, Trail angels, or Trailbuilders. They will be the ones to wield a chainsaw, pick mattock, or McLeod in service of building future Trail.

Their awareness of and enthusiasm for the Trail is what will bring about the big someday goal – a continuous Ice Age Trail.

**"The
Ice Age Trail
was amazing, one of
the best field trips ever!"**

We saw a BIG rock that was taller than me and all my classmates. The rock was hard to climb, but me and all of my classmates did it because we can do anything if we work hard. It was an amazing field trip!"

Red Granite Elementary student after hiking a section of the Hartman Creek Segment

**HELP CREATE CONNECTION:
DONATE
TODAY.**

Visit IceAgeTrail.org/Donate2023

Any amount you give will ensure the Alliance can continue connecting people to the Trail, fostering a heartfelt appreciation for what the Trail offers.

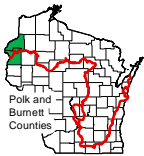
*Scan the
QR code to
donate now.*



**THE TRAIL IS FOR EVERYONE. WE'RE HONORED TO BE CREATING IT WITH YOU.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT AND YOUR FUTURE GENEROSITY.**

THANK YOU

CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: Barbara Ceder (715-410-8069, barbara.ceder@gmail.com) and Cheryl Whitman (715-371-0048, cheryl_whitman@yahoo.com)



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Sue Greenway (612-723-0354, smgreenway1@gmail.com, SuperiorLobeChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Superior Lobe Chapter hosted its second annual Ice Age Trail Hiking Club series, eight hikes highlighting local Ice Age Trail segments. We visited each segment, some more than once, generally hiking a five-mile distance. Afterward, we broke bread at an area restaurant and possibly drank some ale with our new friends!

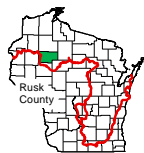
We also sponsored new and unique-to-our-Chapter events: An All-Abilities Hike on the Tuscobia Segment, with co-sponsor Rice Lake Special Olympics. Out There Nordic provided lessons on hiking pole use and Access Ability Wisconsin provided an all-terrain outdoor wheelchair. Afterward, we dined on hotdogs, chips, and sweet treats provided by one of our members.

A summer highlight involved leading hikes for nearly 100 children in the Cumberland Schools Foundation Camp, grades 1 through 6. The walks ranged in difficulty to challenge each age group. With a literacy focus, Women Educators from Delta Kappa Gamma co-hosted the hikes. They turned a hike in the woods into a sensory experience; the kids journaled about what they saw, heard, smelled, touched, and even tasted! Later, the kids wrote a story in the classroom based on their experience!

—Sue Greenway



Ellen Kreger, Superior Lobe Chapter volunteer, walks with several students from the Cumberland Schools Foundation Camp. Photo by Sue Greenway.



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

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

The Northern and Southern Blue Hills segments received much attention this summer. Maintenance efforts began in May with an Alliance-sponsored roving crew tackling winter storm cleanup. Then, in June, local volunteers conducted another round of maintenance involving chainsaws, mowers, and loppers. In addition, Chippewa Moraine Chapter volunteers helped improve two damaged bridges, extending their lifespan.

In July, Blue Hills Chapter members appreciated the assistance Chippewa Moraine Chapter folks offered. The joint-chapter volunteer crew mowed, installed signposts, and wielded loppers. Extra challenges included heat, humidity, mosquitoes, and deer flies.

Summer brought a steady stream of hikers to Rusk County, with reports of high mosquito zones (they were back this year!) and requests for shuttles.

—Marilynn Nash



How many volunteers does it take to fix a pole saw? Blue Hills Chapter volunteers all smiles at a Trail Improvement event. Photo by Marilyn Nash.



CHIPPEWA MORaine CHAPTER

Coordinator: Vicki Christianson (715-827-0379 text only, ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org)



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

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



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

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

Northwoods Chapter volunteers do a great job maintaining Ice Age Trail segments in Lincoln County. Their efforts keep the segments in good condition for hikers to enjoy. As a result, three segments received extra attention and improvements this summer:

- The Averill-Kelly Creek Segment's Kelly Creek received a new bridge. A small crew composed of Alliance staff, a volunteer from the Central Moraines Chapter, and WisCorps members built it. (A big thank you to the landowners who host this segment for allowing the Chapter to make improvements!)
- Along the New Wood Segment, chapter volunteers re-opened about a mile of Trail previously re-routed due to storm damage a few years ago.
- Finally, the WisCorps crew created a short re-route along the Harrison Hills Segment due to a boundary change.

—Ruby Jaecks



The beautiful, new bridge built across Averill-Kelly Creek Segment's Kelly Creek. Photo by Ruby Jaecks.



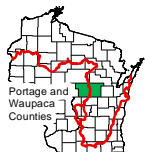
LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Bill Morley (414-745-7947, langladedcochapter@iceagetrail.org)



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

Coordinator: Chuck Schwartz (715-851-8720, CentralMorainesChapter@iceagetrail.org)



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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



A big THANK YOU to the Blazing Babes who visited the Portage/Waupaca County Chapter in August to blaze and install signage on the recently completed 1.5 mile re-route at the Iola Ski Hill. Chapter members shadowed the Blazing Babes with plans to form an in-house Blazing Crew. A fun time had by all! Photo by Debbie Krogwold.



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Randy Lennartz (920-787-2333, randylennartz@outlook.com)

On Labor Day, the Waushara County Chapter marked its sixth year collaborating with the Waushara County Health and Parks Departments on the Walk-The-Waush Hiking Challenge. The summer-long Challenge, including four group hikes, encouraged healthy activities and exploration of places like Pleasant Lake, Redgranite, and Mount Morris. August's Glow hike enticed 85 hikers to get their "Glow" on and hike one mile beginning at the village park, around the mill pond, and through downtown Wild Rose. Fun.

A small volunteer crew led by Riley Dupee, the Alliance's Field Operations Specialist, crafted the final tread section for the Pleasant Lake portion of the Chaffee Creek Segment. They turned a challenging, rocky, steep slope into a unique climb, coined the Goat Path. Those of a certain age call it the "Old Goat" Path.

The Chapter revamped the Mecan River Segment's State Hwy 21 road crossing and parking area. Volunteers constructed 470 feet of tread and relocated and refurbished the kiosk and associated signage to accommodate a new parking area along an improved highway.

The Chapter hosted its 26th annual Fall Color Hike and Dog Walk on October 15. And planning is underway for the annual Candlelight Sweetheart Hike and Snowshoe event in mid-February 2024. Mark your calendars!

— Randy Lennartz



Participants of the "Glow Hike" in August light up the night during a one-mile hike in and around Wild Rose. Photo Lyle Buettner.



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Jeff Frazer (608 369-0339, morgmule@yahoo.com)



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

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

Our chapter has two new Trail Communities! Baraboo celebrated on May 20, and Portage on June 3. Monty joined us for both events and participated in Portage's Canal Days Parade. About 30 people attended each ribbon cutting. The new part of the Portage Canal Segment opened on May 3. It looks great, complete with benches, lighting, and informational signage about the city of Portage. Come take a look!

We continue to strengthen our knowledge as we deal with erosion. A rock work crew headed by Wendell Holl helped us build stone dips and rock steps to address a badly eroded area. We also refreshed all the painted signage along our segments. And, we are holding regular chapter meetings on a bi-monthly basis to help us plan and socialize.

A straight-line rainstorm went through Baraboo at the end of July. Numerous trees around the city and in Devil's Lake State Park fell or snapped in half, including about 40 trees that went down along our segments. Thank you to volunteers John Kolbe, Ed Spoon, Wayne Miller, Brad Addink, and Rob and Kelsey Fisk for clearing them in a week.

The second annual Midwest Crane Festival, sponsored by the International Crane Foundation and the Aldo Leopold Foundation, will be held on November 10 and 11. We are partnering with them to offer hikes along our segments before and after the festival. The festival is a great way to see all 15 species of cranes in the world, and festival goers will appreciate our glacial topography.

—Debby Capener

continued on page 28



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: Amy Onofrey (608-213-9855) and Mandy Cray (608-235-7747),
LodiValleyChapter@iceagetrail.org

The Lodi Valley Chapter hosted two annual hikes, the Devil's Lake to Gibraltar Hike and the National Trails' Day Mammoth Run/Walk. We also continue to offer our monthly Tyke Hikes and Full Moon Hikes. Monthly maintenance and stewardship days keep the Trail in good shape for all who visit the area.

Chapter members participated in Lodi's National Night Out in August, providing a fun activity for youth and sharing Trail information with adults. Monty the Mammoth appeared in the Susie the Duck Day parade, riding in style in a decorated trailer. And we rolled out our new Glacial Drifters hiking award patch, which has been getting rave reviews!

The Chapter is especially pleased to announce the installation of a new interactive kiosk at the Chamber of Commerce office in Lodi. This kiosk, designed cooperatively by chapter members and Alliance staff, has three panels. They include a map allowing people to "travel" to the Lodi area segments, spin a dial to see pictures highlighting various segments, and create a trail name. It is an excellent addition to our Chapter's outreach, and we appreciate the Chamber hosting the display.

—Patti Herman

The interactive kiosk designed cooperatively by Lodi Valley Chapter members and Alliance staff offers Chamber of Commerce visitors a playful introduction to the Ice Age Trail. Photo by Bill Welch.



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: Bob Kaspar (608-239-0168, bobkaspar@sbcglobal.net) and EJ Temme (608-630-4775, ej.temme@gmail.com), or
DaneCoChapter@iceagetrail.org

The Dane County Chapter's prescribed burn crew conducted 20 burns at 11 sites along Dane County's Ice Age Trail segments during spring. The crew burned more than 555 acres of prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodlands. We assisted the DNR and National Park Service in burning oak savanna within the Cross Plains State Park section of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve. We also did several burns for Dane County Parks on Dane County Ice Age Trail land. The stewardship crew works every weekend of the year. You can help if you'd care to.

The Chapter's Trailbuilding volunteers have also accomplished much this year. Ed Spoon led crews at the Madison Segment, making incremental improvements in the Trail through University Ridge Golf Course. Most recently, 16 volunteers spruced up the west trailhead at Woods Road, eliminating invasives and building a drainage dip to stop erosion near the road. Using a mower and Trail signage posts, Ed and Mike Livesey put in a white-blazed trail along Lodi-Springfield Road to create a safe loop from the Robertson Trailhead through the western end of the Lodi Marsh Segment.

More recently, a major MSC project added mileage to the Cross Plains Segment through, and adjacent to, National Park Service land along Old Sauk Pass Road, reducing the road walk between Cross Plains and the Valley View Segment.

Officials unveiled the Indian Lake County Park draft plan on

August 17. If the process moves quickly enough, the Chapter may be able to construct Trail to Indian Trail Road to remove the road walk from Highway 19, slated for rebuilding in 2024.

Finally, on August 28, the Chapter had its first in-person meeting since January 2020, at the Badger Prairie shelter just off the Ice Age Trail. All had a good time.

—Bob Kaspar



The Trail crew responsible for sprucing up the Woods Road Trailhead at the west end of the Madison Segment and building a drainage dip to reduce runoff from Woods Road. Photo by Ed Spoon.



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Rock County Chapter sprang into action this spring and summer with a full task list for each of our segments. We continually knocked items off and found new opportunities for improvement to add to the list.

The National Park Service's Rock County Trail Corridor Plan finally reached its journey's end. Now begins the task of eliminating connecting routes.

The community of Evansville and Gibbs Lake park now have official, and blazed routes. The excitement for the Trail in Evansville is palpable.

Fifty-one volunteers donated 1,181 service hours to complete an 856-foot boardwalk during an MSC event at the Storrs Lake Wildlife Area. Following the project, 14 Rock County Chapter members spent 7 days completing boardwalk's railings and a 52-foot puncheon.

The Chapter extends special thanks to Skip and Wendy Drew of Milton for hosting the MSC campers and Pat Witkowski, from the Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter for confirming and re-blazing the Storrs Lake Segment route. Gary Witkowski, also from the Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter, helped with the pre-builds, worked on the boardwalk during the project, and helped during the seven-day post-project boardwalk and puncheon project. Dave Keber allowed us to store the lumber and complete the boardwalk pre-builds at his home.

Two Eagle Scout projects improved elements along the Trail. In June, Reese Courtney installed two bridges across a ravine and widened a section of Trail at the Janesville School Outdoor Lab property. Nolan Courtney installed a kiosk on the Devil's Staircase Segment.

On August 20, Amy Lord, the Alliance's Outreach and Education Manager attended the Milton Maker Market and Pork Roast, well-staffed with Chapter volunteers. On August 27, Dennis James gave a presentation on the Ice Age and the Ice Age Trail for the Grove Society in Evansville.

—Dennis James



A rainy day didn't dampen spirits or hinder the installation of blazes along the Evansville Segment. Photo by Sue Ellen Madere.



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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

On June 2, the Chapter celebrated National Trails Day by sponsoring a hike along a 20+ mile length of Ice Age Trail. The Chapter set up an informational booth at the Walworth County Fairgrounds for the Dairy breakfast. Attendees were eager to plan summer activities, including hikes on the Trail.

July began with the Chapter marching in Whitewater's Fourth of July parade, and the month ended with chapter members attending a retirement party for the Superintendent of the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, Anne Korman. The month's most significant event was the Chapter's 30-year anniversary celebration, complete with hiking, kayaking, a potluck picnic, and wonderful fellowship (including a competitive game of croquet).

—Vince Lazzaroni



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: John Kolbe (414 588-3448, jrkolbe@outlook.com) and Barbara Johnson (414-964-7635, barbjoh@hotmail.com)

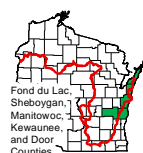


WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Steve Stangler (414-719-2568, stevestangler@gmail.com)



Bill (Kangaroo) Knickrehm, Barb Converse, Vince Lazzaroni (and not pictured, Nancy Lazzaroni), and Jerome Converse were recognized by fellow Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter members for their 30 years of service to the Chapter and the Trail. Photo by Andy Whitney.



LAKESHORE CHAPTER

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

Greg (Spike) Keiler, Lakeshore Chapter volunteer, tested an all-terrain Track Chair – a battery-operated chair – on two hikes along the Point Beach Segment. The Green Bay Chapter of "Wings Over Wisconsin" owns the chair and a park ranger delivered the chair to the Trail access parking lot.

Spike tried various settings and found one allowing him to keep up with fellow hikers; however, we discovered that, generally, Ice Age Trail boardwalks will be too narrow for the chair. Happily, along the Point Beach Segment, Spike was able to use the wide kick rails to cross the boardwalk. Although, in the future, before individuals use the Track Chair on Ice Age Trail segments, the Trail will need to be assessed for clearance.

The Friends of Point Beach purchased a Track Chair and it will be available by September. The Track Chair can be reserved by calling the Point Beach State Forest office at 920-794-7480.

—Cheryl Gorsuch



Greg (Spike) Keiler participates in a chapter hike along the Point Beach Segment with the aid of Track Chair. Photo by Dolly McNulty.

June 1 — September 30

YELLOW BLAZE CLUB

The Yellow Blaze Club recognizes members who support the Alliance with gifts of \$1,000 or more annually. Thank you to all our Yellow Blaze Club members:



David & Kathy Adam	Dorothy Gertsch & Dale Beske	David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney	Mark & Heather Sharafinski
Francisco Aguilar & Elizabeth Ross	Mark & Linda Glasser	David & Lois Lovejoy	Terry Sherven
Bernard Alberg	Patrick Gray	Alfred Lustig & Janice Watson	John Shillinglaw
Ross Ament & Connie Ellis Ament	Greenbush Trail Runners	Mary Lutz	John & Karen Silseth
Eloise Anderson	Sue Greenway	Shannon M. Lutze	Maureen Skelton
Jeff & Judy Archibald	Mark & Molly Griffin	Edward & Sue Ellen Madere	Don Smalley
Linda & Jim Arshem	Robert Hance	Rob Malewicki	Ronald Smith & Paulette Walker Smith
Carrie & Mark Asplund	Dr. Kurt Hansen	Doug & Tracy Marconnet	Ed & Paulette Spoon
John Bak*	Stuart Hansen & Erica Eddy	Susan Marguet & Ron Nash	Fred Stadler
Rodney Bartlow	Jack Hansen & Joan V. LeGare-Hansen	Michelle & Chris McArdle*	Margaret Stafford
Greg & Mary Bauer	Gail Hanson	Cheryl McCollum & Steven Ottelien	Phil Stefanik
Natalie Beckwith	Paul & Philia Hayes	Dolly McNulty	Kimberly Stepien & Andy Maulbetsch
Craig & Karen Benson	Joe Hebda	John & Bonnie Meerschaert	Jane Stoltz
Woody & Tena Benson	Peggy Hedberg	Erik Melberg & Jazmin Martens	Troy Stoneberg
Laura & William Bird	Deb & Tom Heier	Robert T. Melzer	Betty A Storey
Wayne Block	Karen Ann Helwig	Linda Mertz & Alan Scrivner	David & Sandy Street
Alastair Boake & Nancy Vrabec	Patti Herman & Bill Welch	Don Meyer	Antony Stretton
Gary & Jean Britton	Mary Hertel	David & Vin Mickelson	Benjamin & Briana Swanson
Sue Bronson	Chad & Kristin Hietpas	William Morley & James Schleif	John & Deanna Swanson
Brock & Lynn Brownrigg	Kristin Hill	Charles Mowbray	Lee & Jacqui Swanson
Nancy & Lou Bruch	Stephanie Hoff	Tess Mulrooney	Brian Theyel & Elizabeth Sullivan
Maggie Carrao	Ellen Hohenfeldt	Fred Nash	Marcia Thomas
Michael Cavey	Michael & Dawn Hourigan	Marilynn Nash	Jerry & Lori Traughber
Debbie Cervenka	Kathy Hoven	David Nelsen	Jim Trumpy
Dana & Patricia Chabot	Karen Huser	Patrick & Betsie O'Brien	Elizabeth A. Uihlein
Mary Cieslewicz	John & Judith Hutchinson	Randy & Joanna Parlee	Tom & Bonnie Umhoefer
Kathy Claude	Dawn & Jay Jaehnke	Dean & Jayne Paynter	Tom & Melissa Underwood
Virginia Coburn	Dennis James	Sarah & Charlie Pearce	Lysianne Unruh & Jason Dorgan
Ellen & Michael Comiskey	Dan & Paula Jarzemsky	Carol Perkins	William Ralph Van Haren
Victoria Connors	Kris Jensen & John Mesching	Nancy Peterson & Jason Jentzsch	Maureen & Ben Vander Sanden
Jerome Converse	Nancy Jesse & W. Paul Menzel	David Phillips	Barbara Voigt
Susan Cook & Karyn Graham	Mary Jones	Melissa Pierick	Sherri Voigt
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Leigh Cyrus	Kristi Kenyon & Gary Wensing	Melanie Popa	Nianqing Wang & Leilei Song
Aga & Mark Dahms	Tess Kieselhorst	Emily Potter	Dr. Karen Wedde
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Judith Derse	Darcy Kind & Marc Vitale	Dacy Reimer	Jennifer Werner
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Karl Dickson	Pat Klatt	Harriet Ribbens	Andrew Whitney
Dr. Charles Dorgan	Brian Klawikowski	Sue Richards	Donna & Jeff Whittle
Patty & Tom Dreier	Ed & Star Ann Klobberdanz	Anne M. Riendl	David Wilber
Debra & Edmond Drewsen	Luke Klobberdanz & Letha Kelsey	Glenn & Sherri Ritz	Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink
Ellen Drought	Susan Knopf	Nicholas & Monica Robertson	Tom Wise
Christopher Dunn*	John R. Kolbe	Gayle Rosemann & Paul McElwee	Pat & Gary Witkowski
Dean Dversdall	John Komenda	Ann & Bob Rusch	Pauline Witte
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Joanna & Dale Fanny	Cynthia & Scott Kuenzi	Jonathan Schneider	Janet & Levi Wood
Gordon & Judith Faulkner	Jeffrey Kuesel	Laura & Robert Schneider	Tim Yanacheck & Ann Heaslett
Kathy Fleege	James La Charite	Tommye Schneider	Ledell Zellers
Michael & Yvonne Fort	Leah Lalor	Elisabeth Schraith	Janet Zimmerman
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Randy & Carol Franke	Meg & Peter Layton	Ruth J. Schuette	Anonymous (11)
Charles & Anne Frihart	Leon & Liz LeVan	Spencer & Sarah Schumacher	
Bob Funk	Sally Lewis	Nancy Schuster	
Pamela & Gary Gates	E. David Locke	Tony Schuster	
Dan & Virginia Geraghty	Larry Loizzo	Jen & John Shank	

* New Yellow Blaze Club members

To support the Alliance at the Yellow Blaze Club membership level, please visit IceAgeTrail.org/yellow-blaze-club/

BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

The Burr Oak Legacy Society recognizes members who have made a commitment to support the Ice Age Trail Alliance through legacy gifts. To learn more about the Burr Oak Legacy Society, see page 20. Thank you to all our Burr Oak Legacy Society members:

David & Kathy Adam
Bess & Bernard Alber
Mike & Sally Armbrust
John F. Barker
John & Sharon Bloodgood
Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz
Gary & Jean Britton
Nancy Brownrigg
Denny Caneff
Robert & Victoria Connors
Jerome & Barbara Converse
Cathy DeLain
Julia & Chad Dibler
Jason Dorgan
Patty & Tom Dreier
Dean Dversdall
Joanna Kramer Fanney
David & Carol Farber
James & Susan Fiore
Andrew Fulrath
Bob Funk
Tom & Jan Gilbert
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Sue Knopf & James Rothwell*
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

Neal & Donna Meier
Buzz Meyer
Susan Mischler
Tess Mulrooney
Melinda & Brian Nelson
Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee
Nancy Jo Patterson
David W. Phillips
Gail Piotrowski
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Daniel Rambo
Kay Rashka
Steve Richter & Laura Cominetti
Darrel Ruechel
Ann & Bob Rusch
Ellyn Satter
Richard & Lynne Schifreen*
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Gerald & Mary Schwoch
Ralph Stamerjohn
Julie Starks
Jane Stoltz
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Tony Stretton & Philippa Claude
Libby & John Stupak
Lee & Jacqui Swanson

Sarah Sykes
David Tenenbaum
Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor
Blaise Vitale*
Brook Waalen & Stephanie Lundeen
Wendy Watson
Becky White
Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink
Tom & Bonnie Wise
Pauline Witte
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Jessica & Doug Woodward
Anonymous (18)

* New Burr Oak Legacy Society members

If your legacy plans (including retirement, bequest, estate plans, etc.), include the Ice Age Trail Alliance, please let us know. Contact Sarah Driscoll, Director of Philanthropy, at sarahd@iceagetrail.org or 608-798-4453 ext. 227.

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

Harrison Brandt
by Mercedes Martin

Wanda Brown
by Rebecca Dobrowski
Barb & James Hasling

Maggie Carrao's 80th birthday
by Kathleen Borner
Gal Pals
Kathleen Garton
David & Glenda Henning
The Kay-Clem and Weiss-Mohamed Families
Karen & Mike McArdle
Various friends and family

Claire & Chris's Wedding Guests
by Claire Eldred & Chris Keenan

Steve Cohen
by Janice Gatzuras

David & Shelley Hamel
by Marc & Jenny Chipault

Eileen Harris & Andy Whitney
by Chad & Julie Dibler
Marvin Herman & Judy Licata
Barbara Roeder

Tim Malzhan & Brad Crary
by Dan Rambo

Jessica Marx & Wade Peardon
by Robert & Susan Root

Jeff & Lynn Melendy
by Rick Hanson
Richard & Donna Melendy
Jill Pierret

Janine Onsager
by Sarah Driscoll

Gene & Connie Pemrich
by Kristen Kulzick

Steve Richter and his retirement from The Nature Conservancy
by Farmers for Sustainable Food

Nicole Ross
by The Law Center, S.C.

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

Bruce Adams
by Carol Scott & Bruce LaPointe
Wisconsin Go Hiking Club

Charles Adleman
by Barbara Hjort

Donald Chapel
by Dale & Penny Schaber

Daniel "DJ" Clark, Jr.
by Donna Duwe

Constance (Connie) Elizabeth Coyle Perkins
by Virginia Bormett
Stephen Drake
Susan Gruber
Linda Hellenbrand
Jeryllyn Malliet
Mary & Thomas Moody
Michael Nikula
Roger Perkins
Carolyn Starr
David & Beverly Urben
Various friends and family

Robert E. Culligan
by Judith DeCoster

Joe Drewry
by Andy & Jane Drewry
Dan & Chris Drewry
Ellen Drewry
George Drewry
Russ Drewry
Ashley Fink
Jason Fink
Amy Jarvi
Jamie Drewry's colleagues in the Job Rotation Program
Julie & Rick Packard
Jill Reitz
Mary Rekoske
Julie Sena
Various friends and family

Donny Fostner
by Jennifer Fostner

Daniel Frankel
by Kathleen Marquardt

Mary Anne Gerlach
by Carl Albin

Kelly Hatch
by Christina Kellogg

Bill Holtmann
by Dale & Penny Schaber

Heidi Johnsen
by Kimberly Blumert
James Honigmann
Megan Lunt
National Corporate Housing
Gail Piotrowski
Jamie Pospyhalla
Anonymous

Dave Hovde
by Dale & Penny Schaber

Mohammad Saeed Mike Kiarang
by Zahra Kiarang
Kevin Peters

Wendell Krogwold
by Darrel Ruechel

David I. Lobbig
by Marc & Jenny Chipault

Ken Madden
by Mary Statz

Betsy McChain
by Wisconsin Go Hiking Club

Barbara McKinley
by Shannon Brekken
Benjamin & Jeanine LaBerge
Sally Lewis
Ellen Wing

Edna Pfeiffer
by Wisconsin Go Hiking Club

Michael F. Vogl
by Wisconsin Eagles Campers Club

Gary John Walloch
by Geni Scalio

John "Jack" Weidensee
by George Hess
Leslie Klukas
Lisa Snyder
Jay Tesch
Pat & Adam at MahlerClean



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Celebrating by Hiking and with a Patch!

Appropriately, the Langlade County Chapter celebrated its 50th anniversary with a hike along a portion of the Lumbercamp and Summit Moraine segments on October 7. The event featured multiple hike options and shuttles throughout the day. If you missed October's celebratory hike, worry not.

All Ice Age Trail enthusiasts are invited to hike 50 miles within Langlade County, or choose a creative unit of measurement, like 50 steps, 50 potato sheds, or 50 silos. Participants who do so (and pay a small participation fee) will receive the Hummock Hiker 50 patch. It is offered for a limited time, May – December 2023, and celebrates the 50-year milestone in the Chapter's history. Get all the details, scan the QR code or visit IceAgeTrail.org/hiking-awards.

Hiking
Awards
Link



TRAIL terminus

Exciting Times Ahead

At the beginning of 2023, Jopek stepped down as Chapter Coordinator as Bill Morley, chapter volunteer, stepped up. Admittedly, there have been learning curves as the Chapter adjusts to new leadership. None-the-less, exciting times are ahead.

"The segments are in great shape due to all of our segment stewards and volunteers," said Morley.

A successful Alliance-led fundraising campaign in 2021, secured 156.5 acres across three properties in Langlade County for future Trail. Excitement is palpable as the next generation of Trail stewards build a brand-new segment in Langlade County.

(Read about their efforts to establish one mile of Trail at the Ice Override Preserve on page 9.)

They, too, bring an intensity and passion for the Trail. "The Ice Age Trail is a great place to get outside and meet new people," said Chapter member, Kris Van Handel. She is halfway through her fifth round of segment-hiking the entire Trail (her partner, Jared Wildenradt has segment-hiked the Trail eight times). "We've met many people through hiking and have friends we would have never met without the Trail.

► "Everyone should come out and try some part of the Trail. If you're sitting on the couch, you're missing out," she said.



LANGLADE COUNTY

ICE AGE TRAIL