



In the Mud" Award Nomination: The "In the Mud" award is given to IATA member volunteers who display dedication to the mission and goals of the IATA and a willingness to roll up their sleeves on behalf of the Ice Age Trail. An In the Mud recipient:

- * Consistently shows up at workdays and dives into the dirty work
- * Makes significant efforts to establish the Ice Age Trail
- * Epitomizes the bedrock volunteer spirit responsible for building trail

Recipient information

Name: Jim and Amy Onofrey

Jim and Amy Onofrey moved to the Lodi area and literally dug right into the Ice Age Trail! This enthusiastic and dedicated couple offers the Trail a variety of talents.

Gibraltar Rock is one of the gems of the Ice Age Trail. Jim and Amy help make hiking up to "the Rock" an enjoyable experience, volunteering as Trail stewards for the Gibraltar Rock Segment, hiking it regularly and clearing it as needed. As part of this commitment, Jim became certified as a SAWYER through IAT-U and Amy took the First Aid and Safety training in order to be able to respond to any injuries incurred while maintaining (or hiking) the trail. Working as a team they have logged many volunteer hours attending to downed trees and otherwise keeping the Trail in good shape. Jim and Amy have also volunteered at Mobile Skills Crew projects and Trail maintenance projects, both within the chapter and around the state.

Amy has played an important role in chapter leadership, serving as secretary and now treasurer. She has been an invaluable part of planning and hosting our chapter's annual National Trails Day event, the Mammoth Fun Run & Hike. Seeing opportunities to be involved beyond the chapter, Amy helped plan the 2015 Chapter Leader Summit at the IATA Annual Conference. She attended IAT-U in 2016, and became part of the inaugural Property Monitoring training. Since then she has been a real asset for the Alliance as she travels around the state to visit Ice Age Trail Alliance's property interests and report back on their condition.

Jim's "get er done" attitude prompted him to be one of the first people in our chapter to complete the IAT safety initiative courses through the National Park Service. Despite his busy work schedule, he recently used his muscles and SAWYER skills at the Steenbock burns. It was no surprise that Amy helped out too!

Amy has been section hiking the Trail with a special purpose: She focuses on inviting people who have never been on the Ice Age Trail to participate in her section hikes, thereby using hiking as a way to do outreach on behalf of the Trail.

Jim and Amy's quiet love and care of the Ice Age Trail makes them very deserving of the 2017 "In the Mud" Award nomination.