

## **"In the Mud" 2022 Nomination for Lodi Valley Chapter**



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

Our chapter's nominee for the In The Mud Award exemplifies the volunteer spirit of the Ice Age Trail Alliance...it is a group of 18 trail enthusiasts who came together over a six month period from May through October to construct a series of 15 stone steps on the Gibraltar Segment that made the segment a safer and more enjoyable place to hike. A total of almost 400 volunteer hours were recorded by this stalwart crew!

Only a couple of the volunteers had any experience with trail stone work at the start, but thanks to the crew leadership of Wendell Holl, Kevin Welton, and Bill Welch, the core group of eight volunteers grew into a skilled and experienced group of stone workers. While their physical accomplishments (safely moving 800 pound rocks) was amazing, the transformation into a trusting, efficient, safe, and enjoyable crew was a pleasure to behold.

The core crew consisted of: Wendell Holl, Kevin Welton, Scott Allen, Jim Onofrey, Owen Gwynn, Bill Welch, and Carl Owen.

Also contributing their considerable time and energy were: Becky Weum, Bill Barthen, Logan Lackershire, Randall Pirlot, Christian Wood, Liam Wood, Lawrence Wood, Steven Bauer, Robert Kirchmiller, Ron Pryor, and Dan Pecard.