

## LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL CONDITIONS

*(As of July 31, 2018)*

Due to situations beyond the control of the Langlade County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, conditions are constantly changing. Hikers are urged to contact the chapter coordinator (715-623-2645) to check on current conditions in advance of any trip on one or more of the segments.

"You Are Here" signs, installed in 1997, are at select sites or where the trail crosses public roads on the Kettlebowl, Lumbercamp, Old Railroad and Parrish Hills segments.

### KETTLEBOWL

**This segment is closed due to a pending logging operation from the Sherry/Oak Road Trailhead north. If any questions, please contact the chapter.**

**LUMBERCAMP - Distance: 12 miles Wisconsin 52 to County Trunk A**



*Boulder field on South Slope of Summit Lake Moraine east of Baker Lake - Photo by Lee Auner*

Markings were checked with some replacement and brushing this spring on the stretch from County Trunk A to County Trunk S. The stretch from Wisconsin Highway 52 west to Otto Mauk Road was checked last spring, including some mowing of thick brush just west of Baker Lake. The routed trailhead sign at Otto Mauk Road was restored last year.

Recent logging has occurred along portions west of Highway 52. Also a portion of the stretch east from County Trunk S to the Fischer Lake intersection has been damaged by inordinate 4-wheel vehicle use and is scheduled for repair by the county. Caution is advised in these areas.

The boulder strewn slopes near Baker Lake and a former logging camp are features to be observed. The rugged terrain is part of a recessive moraine which stretches from Summit Lake to north of the Village of White Lake.

Local sportsmen have fixed up the stone cellar at the former Norem Lumbercamp site just west of Otto Mauk Road for overnight use. Hikers are encouraged to exercise good trail stewardship if using the historic structure.

**OLD RAILROAD - Distance: Approximately 9.5 miles County Trunk A to U. S. 45.**



*Spsychalla Lodge-Old Railroad Segment at Jack Lake Cross Country Ski Area, County Trunk J.*

Starting Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 am, approximately 4 miles of this segment from County Highway A to Pence Lake Road and the rail grade north of County Highway J to just west of Spsychalla Lodge will be officially used as part of a county ATV-UTV trail.

The affected portion of the segment will be rerouted as a Mobile Skills Crew Project scheduled October 9-14<sup>th</sup> with some advance work by chapter volunteers starting this spring. A detour is also under consideration for hikers until the reroute is completed. If any questions contact the chapter coordinator.

Markings were also checked and replaced this spring on the stretch from US 45 to the County A trailhead. Recent logging has occurred along the trail just north of County A so caution is advised. The stretch from the south crossing of Pence Lake Road to US 45 was mowed and markings checked this spring.

Recent logging has occurred on this segment, especially in the Veterans Memorial Park and Pence Lake Road areas. Caution is advised. The segment steward also reported a couple wet areas on the east side of Jack Lake

Lake levels in the area have raised with late melting of the snow base and recent rains. The bog walk is reported to be above the high water levels but hikers should be aware of this condition and if necessary consider bypassing the bog walk by following the Game Lake Nature Trail around the lake to make the trail connection east or west.

Five features of this segment are Veterans Memorial Park, bog walk, Clearwater Stonehole, the Koepenick-Pearson rail grade and Spsychalla Lodge. The latter facility was completed in 2015 and offers shelter for trail users but overnight use is discouraged. There are two primitive campsites along the segment on Game and Jack Lakes.

Veterans Memorial Park is a county facility with cabins, developed campground, picnic area, beach, non-motorized boat access and a native plant arboretum. Hikers have used the park as a base camp while hiking through the county.

**HIGHLAND LAKES - Distance: 13.5 miles US 45 to County Trunk T**



*The trail crossing of the Eau Claire River's west branch. A babbling brook or raging torrent?*

This segment is incomplete and requires a hike along a stretch of Forest and Kleevers Roads in the Town of Upham for approximately 4.5 miles to complete a trip from the eastern trailhead at US 45 to County Trunk T.

An interesting feature along Forest Road is the Bogus Swamp Natural Area. Watch for a state marker about the unique area on the east side of the road. The natural area marker is slightly under a mile north of the Bogus Road intersection with Forest Road.

Northwest of Kleevers Road, the segment parallels the Parrish terminal moraine for over 3 miles. Just north of 5 Points, is a gap cut by the West Branch of the Eau Claire River through the moraine and shaped later for a railroad grade. Shortly beyond 5 Points the trail crosses the Eau Claire's west branch requiring a ford or a bit of creativity to get around it. West of the stream crossing inordinate 4-wheel vehicle use has created water-filled ruts requiring some careful steps.

In 2009, the Knights Templar Club granted permission for the trail to cross their land on a logging lane north of Kleevers Road. Gates and carsonite trail markings were installed on that stretch in 2010. Yellow blazing and directional arrows at critical intersections for the stretch between County T and Kleevers Road were checked this year.

#### **PARRISH HILLS - Distance: 12 miles County Trunk T to Lincoln County Line**



*Just east of Nelson Firelane, a vista from Blackberry Ridge. Photo by John Prokops*

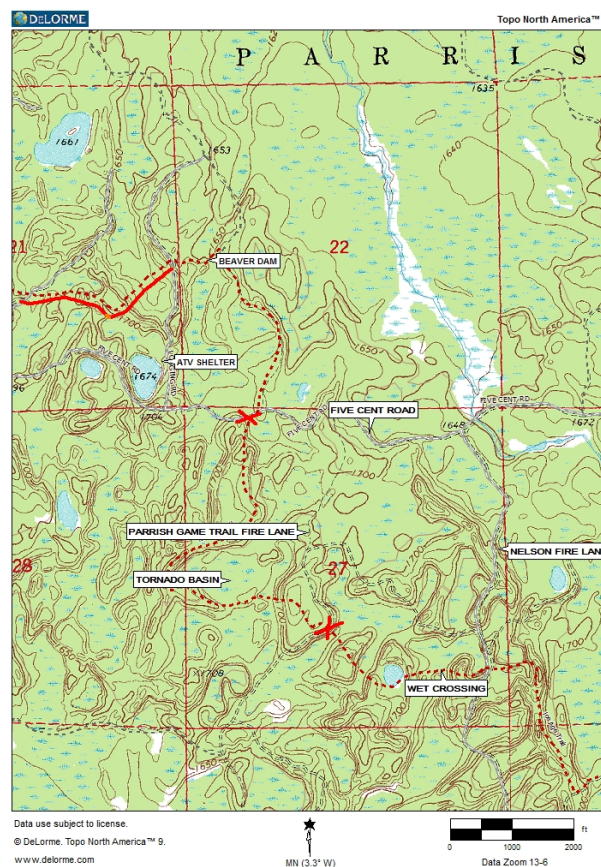
An April 2011 tornado devastated a portion of the segment south of 5 Cent Road. The Ice Age Trail is shown as red dashes but the section in the tornado affected trail is closed between the **red Xs** shown on the following map. A re-route via ATV/UTV trails on the Parrish Game Trail Fire Lane and Five Cent Road is provided until the chapter is able to re-establish the original trail.

Depending on ground water levels, the segment also has several wet crossings which will require a bit of creativity to get around them. Logging is occurring on state and county owned land south of the Prairie River ford so caution is advised. A half mile stretch affected by logging in 2016 and remarked last spring is shown as orange in Section 21 on the map.

Beaver activity observed in 2016 has created a water crossing challenge in the area. The approximate location of the beaver dam is identified on the following map. Beaver activity was also reported in 2016 near the Old Truck Marker 2.5 miles north of the trailhead at County T. If desired, the beaver dam and the Section 21 logged area can be by-passed via 5 Cent Road and County Trunk Highway H to the trail crossing. Markings were checked this spring with reports of wet areas and logging activity just west of a former clear cut near the Old Truck Marker.

The ford across the Prairie River southeast of the hamlet of Parrish has a firm bottom and the water level is usually below the knees. Northwoods Chapter members regularly check the stretch from County Trunk H west to Lincoln County.

Some features of the Parrish Hills segment include the Old Truck marker, natural lakes, wetlands Blackberry Ridge, the Prairie River ford and the eastern edge of the Harrison Hills at Baldy Hill.



**STRETCH OF PARRISH HILLS AFFECTED BY LOGGING SHOWN IN ORANGE AND THE CLOSED TORNADO AFFECTED TRAIL SHOWN BETWEEN RED Xs.**