



# The Langlade Erratic

A newsletter on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in  
Langlade County, Wisconsin  
September, 2018

*Published by the Langlade County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance*

## "45 YEARS AND COUNTING . . ."

**HI...COME JOIN YOUR TRAIL BUDDIES AT THE MEETING  
OF THE LANGLADE COUNTY ICE AGE TRAIL CHAPTER.**

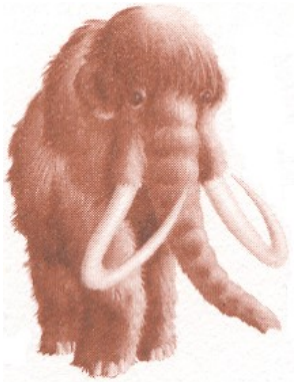
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 - 7 PM**

**WOLF RIVER ROOM**

**LANGLADE COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER**

**837 CLERMONT STREET, ANTIGO**

**HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND ALONG WITH A FRIEND OR MORE.**



## October Steps

Exactly 45 years to the Saturday of our Mobile Skill Crew week-end, the Jopek Family, minus son Tim, were walking along a new stretch of the Ice Age Trail in Marathon County with Roger Drayna. The former teacher turned corporate publicist was showing us the ropes of making trail. He was stapling onto trees yellow cardboard markers with a giant blue snowflake inside a profile of Wisconsin. Not very durable in surviving wintry winds or a spring cold rain but here we are 45 years later and the Ice Age Trail as a movement has not only survived but thrived.

The movement evolved from the idea of one man, Ray Zillmer, with a passionate vision of a statewide hiking trail offering residents and visitors exercise and fostering an appreciation of Wisconsin's glacial heritage.

In its 60 years, the movement has resulted in a resilient membership organization with local chapters in partnership with the National Park Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. It has provided the resources, leadership and a dedicated volunteer commitment to eventually complete the 1100 plus miles of trail which was once only a man's dream.

As sort of a celebration of the alliance's 60 years and our 45 years of Ice Age Trail activity in the "County of Trails", the Mobile Skills Crew is coming to Langlade County to reroute a big portion of the Old Railroad Segment. The dates of the big event are October 9th-14th with the volunteer crew's base at the group camp area in Veterans Memorial Park. Come one, come all. Young and Golden Aged. Come for the five days, a day or a half day. Register online at <https://www.iceagetrail.org/event/mobile-skills-crew-old-railroad-segment-langlade-county/>

There is need for trail builders, skilled workers, kitchen staff, greeters, bakers, registrars, tools clerks, drivers and ATV/UTVs operators. Working crew members will be fed 3 meals daily and allowed to park their tents or campers in the base area at no costs. From reports of chapter members who have been at other Mobile Skills Crew projects, the companionship of a trail building crew offers memorable experiences and the deep satisfaction of contributing to an improved stretch of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Hope you are able to join us for the big event and celebrate our trail years and memories.

## Trail Steps

*45 years ago trail building was not a major undertaking for chapters . A trail was identified and with host landowner support, chapter volunteers or paid crews went out to brush and mark the new course.*

*Today it is a different story. It is more complicated as the following by John Barker will ably reveal just one aspect of the complicated trail building process today.*

*A big thanks to John for sharing his experience but especially in volunteering to conduct the plant survey on the proposed trail section.*

This fall IAT we will have a MSC crew in Langlade County to reroute the Old Railroad Segment of the Ice Age Trail. Being a National Scenic Trail, a number of preliminary approvals, recommendations and permits are needed for the project to proceed.

A survey for Toothwort species *Dentaria diphylla* and *Dentaria maxima* was recommended by the DNR because these species are hosts for the endangered West Virginia White Butterfly. The plants' presence has been recorded in the unspecified past, within the area between Pence Lake Road and Pence Lake Tower Road in the Town of Upham.

Toothworts have white flowers with four petals and are members of the mustard family. At first glance the name Toothwort seems whimsical, but wort is an archaic word for root and the roots of these plants have toothlike scales so there is a commonsense reason to call these small herbaceous plants toothworts and assign them the Genus name *Dentaria*.

My background is in biology and I was "hired" to conduct a survey for these plants. Initially, I did not know where the specified area was, but with the good guidance of the well informed chapter coordinator, I was sent off in the right direction. So it was that on May 19th and 20th I surveyed the corridor of the flagged trail and 15 - 20 feet on either side of

the corridor on May 26th between Pence Lake Tower Road and Pence Lake Road. Beginning at Pence Lake Tower Road, the first 200 feet of the trail corridor runs along an old logging road that is wooded on both sides. The trail corridor then turns north off the logging road and into the woods and meanders toward a small unnamed bog lake and then southwest toward Pence Lake Road.

Deciduous trees dominate but along the bog lake there are some standing and some fallen hemlock. The last 250 - 300 feet of the trail corridor near Pence Lake Road is largely open with grasses, dandelion, wild strawberry and other herbaceous plants currently dominating. Jack Pine, planted Red Pine, some spruce and fir trees have sprung up and will in coming years dominate this area. Trilliums, Wood Anemone, Wild Lily of the Valley and Clintonia abound in the wooded sections. Black Berry brambles blocked the surveyor in some places.

In general, the survey area has been disturbed by human activity. Perhaps, only the bog lake is relatively undisturbed. Not too far from the south shore there appears to be a floating mat of blue berry and a small Black Spruce in seemingly poor condition which is not unusual for this tree growing in water logged environments. I didn't wade out to check further because I was not sure of the firmness of the lake bottom. Evidence of human presence is seen everywhere, a lilac bush in bloom on higher ground near the bog lake, an old discarded aluminum dishpan, a piece of rusty metal and a large bolt protruding out of the ground and cut over stumps of the original tree cover abound. Logging roads crisscross the landscape near the survey area.

I did not see the object of the survey, *Dentaria diphylla* and *Dentaria maxima* in the trail corridor or 15 - 20 feet on either side of the corridor. Since a survey for Toothwort was recommended but not required, the DNR and IATA staff seemed satisfied with the survey results.