



The Langlade Erratic

A newsletter on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in
Langlade County, Wisconsin
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"46 YEARS AND COUNTING . . ."

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019 - 7 PM

WOLF RIVER ROOM

LANGLADE COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER

837 CLERMONT STREET, ANTIGO

HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND ALONG WITH A FRIEND OR MORE.



Future Steps

Thursday, October 3rd @ 7 PM

Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator for the National Park Service, will be present at the chapter meeting to discuss trail safety and other trail matters. Dan was last here for our February, 2010 meeting to discuss trail safety and accident reporting procedures.

He created the "Trail Safe!" program available on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail website at

<https://www.nps.gov/iatr/trail-safe.htm>

Over the years, Dan has been largely responsible for attaining regional and national recognition of many Ice Age Trail volunteers and programs. He is a real advocate for volunteers and their safety.

Saturday, October 5 @ 9 AM

National Trail Day hike - Bring a lunch. Meet in front of the Forestry Office, Fairgrounds, Antigo.

Wednesday October 16 to October 20th

Mobile Skills Crew Wild Card Event.

Check <https://www.iceagetrail.org/mobile-skills-crew-program/project-schedule/> for details. The location to be announced later.

Moraine-Outwash Steps

In August, Shane Krueger of Antigo's Krueger and Steinfest met with Kevin Thusius, the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Director of Land Conservation, Lloyd Godell and editor. Plans for a driveway with a culvert and a parking lot at the alliance's Moraine-Outwash Preserve were discussed. Hopefully construction will be underway this year since the purchase of the parcel in 2014. Plans also include a selective logging operation next year. Plans are in the works for interpretative signage and even a trail.

Blazing Steps

The famed Blazing Babes returned to the county in May to apply their meticulous marking skills to the rerouted Old Railroad Segment. Some of the crew were at last October's Mobile Skill Crew event but decided to do their thing in fairer weather. Those who made it for the May blazing were Pat Witkowski, crew leader, Ann Green, Kris Jenson, Barb Johnson, Chris Miller, Sherrie Ritz, Judy Rose and Jessica Woodward. Regrettably the July storm ruined some of their week long artistic effort but the chapter appreciates their determination and skill to mark the trail better.

Storm Steps

It was Friday, July 19th and we were in Baraboo. I checked our answering machine, which kept ringing so I knew something had happened. The next day we learned that a major storm had devastated a large part of the landscape that we call home.

It was an impressive example of nature's destructive force in less than 2 hours. But more impressive was the human response to the destruction which occurred that night.

Lloyd Godell shared some details on the impact of the massive weather system that ripped through here and other areas.
240,000 total acres affected
160,000 acres of those being private.

The response to the natural disaster by 29 trail volunteers who helped with the clearing effort was greatly appreciated as none of the five segments here had to be closed.

Some of those involved in assessing and clearing the destruction along the trail offered the following thoughts on the effort still ongoing weeks after the storm.

"We were saddened to see so much devastation on the beautiful trails of Langlade County. These feelings were replaced with inspiration and admiration because of the number of volunteers who came together to make the trails safe and hikeable again. As new members of this chapter, we felt proud to be part of this great chapter and team." Melinda Nelson, Arbutus Lake, WI

Coming from our home base in Stone Lake, we had no idea that there was this much devastation along Lumbercamp (hiked 7/30) and Old Railroad (8/8). Most impressive along these routes was the expert chainsaw work on some very sizable trees knitted together in many complicated configurations. Given that this was all accomplished quickly, and without the benefit of heavy equipment back in there, is a staggering image.

The communication, willpower, and team effort shown in these weeks is a shining example of what can be done with great skill, pride and leadership. Bob Hanson, Stone Lake WI

*We both felt whether we were walking the trails or helping to clear the trails, there's something special about being on the trails. We both wanted to "give back" after what the volunteers have done for the trails we have hiked.
Gary & Sharon Vaughan, Appleton, WI*

When I first saw the July 19 storm damage (I was out of town that weekend) I knew it would be bad on the trail because I came home to a tree on my roof and 6 other large spruce trees snapped off. The trail was much worse, but, because no one was seriously hurt in our storm area, I was glad. How so many pitched in to help really is satisfying. Initial sadness turned into let's get this trail open! Lee Auner, Deerbrook

The following are those who pitched in where and when it really mattered.

Parrish Hills - 8.5 Volunteer Hours

Gerald Anderson, Rhinelander.

Highland Lakes - 21 Volunteer Hours

Sam Picone, Summit Lake, Gerald Anderson, and Bob and Kathy Hanson. Stone Lake WI.

Old Railroad - 207.75 Volunteer Hours

Adam Evans, Molly McKay, Don Evans, Merrill, Gerald Anderson, Bob and Kathy Hanson, Dave Tlusty, Jared Widenrad, Madison, Kris Van Handel, Madison, Samara Pillsbury, Oshkosh, Gary and Sharon Vaughan, Appleton, Don Belanger, Melinda and Brian Nelson, John Barker, Lee Auner, Dave Caliebe and his crew of seven sawyer.

Lumbercamp - 37.75 Volunteer Hours

Melinda and Brian Nelson, Lloyd Godell, Mark Schwengel, Bowler, Lee Auner, Bob Hanson and Kathy Hanson.

Kettlebowl - 78.5 Volunteer Hours

Jared Wildenrad, Kris Van Handel, Todd McMahon, Madison and Gary and Sharon Vaughan.

Most deserving of our praise and thanks for a job well done is this volunteer crew who scouted, sawed, trimmed and marked trail in the midst of a landscape turned asunder by the destructive storm of July 19th 2019.