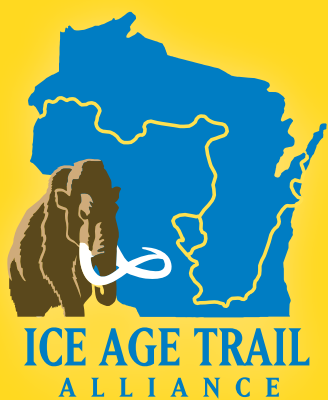
A yellow banner featuring a map of Wisconsin with county names. The word "MAMMOTH" is written in large, blue, serif capital letters, and "tales" is written in a smaller, black, lowercase sans-serif font to its right.

# MAMMOTH tales

SUMMER 2017





# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



**MIKE WOLLMER**  
*Executive Director*

We're deep into the planning process which will generate our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. While strategic planning is the obligation of our Board of Directors, it doesn't happen without the voices, opinions and vision of members of the Alliance. Many of you stepped up and provided insight for our facilitators. You've continued to take leadership roles by helping to bring into focus the broad strategic areas which were identified. In late July, the Board will be presented with a "mid-process" report. They will receive recommendations from various work groups which the board will be able to fine-tune over the course of the summer.

Leadership and transition have been constant themes in virtually every work group. We have solid leaders throughout the organization and this is clearly evident with our Board. Transition between our presidents, officers and committees were seamless this year. Strong, capable directors joined the Board and an eager "bench" of candidates has been developed. Our staff has an average tenure with the Alliance of over 9 years...very long by any organization's standard. We have chapter leaders who have committed to their roles in extraordinary fashion, and often for a very long time. Who will follow?

We hear, in the Trail and Land Trust worlds, "Forever is a long time" as our mission and vision extend out ahead of us. The Alliance

is critically dependent on new blood. We will need to continue identifying the leaders who will guide the organization into the future. During the early stages of the planning process one of you offered this comment: "You need to have some young timber to have a healthy forest". It has resonated for me all year; it certainly applies to our strategic direction.

In the last issue of Mammoth Tales, you were introduced to our new president, Marcy Kempf. She's picked up and advanced where Bob Funk's term left off. Like Bob, she respects our history and everyone who's helped write it. At the same time, she brings "new eyes" with a vibrant, confident, and professional vision for our future. New faces and new ideas have always refreshed and strengthened our progress.

The moment is right for all of us. Let's take advantage of our strong leadership. Let's celebrate our successes, learn from our missteps, and continue to create, support and protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail with an "Alliance" which welcomes the future with its cultural richness, diversity and opportunity.

## OUR PARTNERS





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VOL. XXVIII, NO. 2  
SUMMER 2017

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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vacant

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John Zillmer  
Raymond Zillmer

## OUR mission

The mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is to create, support, and protect a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

### ON THE COVER:

The "elusive" next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and Trail users were spotted on a ledge in Devil's Lake State Park. Photo by Cameron Gillie, [ThePinHoleThing.com](http://ThePinHoleThing.com).

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) publishes *Mammoth Tales* for its members and friends. Together with the National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local units of government, businesses, and volunteers from around the state, the IATA works to preserve Wisconsin's glacial heritage through the development of the Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail.

The IATA welcomes your comments. Email them to [lysianne@iceagetrail.org](mailto:lysianne@iceagetrail.org), call us at (800) 227-0046, or send them to Mammoth Tales, c/o IATA, 2110 Main Street, PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

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# AWARDS spotlight

The Ice Age Trail Alliance has a robust awards program, and each April at our Annual Conference we look forward to honoring some remarkable contributors to our collective efforts to create, support, and protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. What follows is a summary of those recognized earlier this year at our conference in Chippewa Falls.

## Spirit Stick Award

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's Spirit Stick award signifies long-term dedication and service to the Trail, carried out in a spirit of cooperation, optimism and enthusiasm. The recipient leads by example and inspires those around them. A trailwide award, the Spirit Stick is presented to only one recipient each year.

The recipient of this year's Spirit Stick Award is Pat Witkowski. At the Alliance's awards ceremony, executive director Mike Wollmer summarized Pat's remarkable contributions with the following words:

"This past year was a tough call. A number of strong nominations generated a lot of discussion. When the dust settled, we had a formidable recipient.

Pat Witkowski serves the Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter as their Trail Maintenance Coordinator. Her contagious personality and zeal for



*A beaming Mike Wollmer congratulates Pat Witkowski who, genuinely humbled by the Spirit Stick award, wears a slightly amazed expression. Photo by Adam Smith.*



*Pat Witkowski, with her trademark smile and easy laughter, is the 2017 recipient of the Spirit Stick award. Congratulations, Pat!*

the Trail has garnered an ever increasing number of volunteers who keep the Trail, in her chapter, as some of the best around.

No one I know of can turn a regular, off-the-street, unassuming bystander into a volunteer quicker than Pat. Before you can say "Witkowski" she has a tool, paintbrush or pick in their hands! She engages folks with FUN..... she assembled the Chainsaw Crew and Mowing Crew. She established the Monday Mudders and the infamous Blazin' Babes! Recognizing the quality of their work, the Blazin' Babes have been invited to work all over the state by other eager chapters.

She's a familiar face at the majority of the Alliance's local, statewide and special events all year long. She's a Thousand Miler, a local TV star, diplomat extraordinaire, a magnificent ambassador to an increasingly diverse audience and holds the record for being the dirtiest, muddiest, filthiest volunteer you'll ever meet. Watch out for the Pat-Attack! She's contagious."

## Friend of the Ice Age Trail

This award recognizes individuals, foundations, businesses and other organizations for their strong support of the Ice Age Trail through sizable monetary contributions, enabling new capacity within the IATA; partnering with the IATA or promoted the Ice Age Trail in a unique or significant way; or built coalitions, partnerships or other forms of local support that has contributed significantly to the ongoing success of the Ice Age Trail.

This year the award goes to REI, Recreational Equipment, Inc. As Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Outreach and Education wrote in his nomination of REI:

"The old saying, "put your money where your mouth is", is symbolic of the actions and contributions made by REI, Inc. to the Ice Age Trail Alliance for over three years. They represent the complete spectrum of support, from dollars and cents to putting work boots and hiking boots on the ground. The sizeable donations REI has made, over \$75,000 in the past three years, help the Alliance meet its mission and get closer to the vision of a completed Ice Age National Scenic Trail. This annual support is wide ranging, covering Mobile Skills Crew costs ... [and] by donating gear to help young Saunterers, often from underserved and underrepresented populations, take their first steps on the Ice Age Trail."



## Crew Leader Emeritus Award

The Crew Leader Emeritus award recognizes individuals who have chosen to retire from actively leading crews after having provided a minimum of 6 years of exemplary and consistently dedicated service as an IATA Crew Leader.

Bob Broman, West Bend  
Gary Klatt, Whitewater  
Lyle Lidholm, Watertown  
Rachel Roberts, Middleton

John Shank, Milwaukee  
Butch Siegel, Waupaca  
Keith Veldhuizen, Barronett  
Barbara Wollmer, Cross Plains



*Highly valued for their service and leadership, Crew Leaders Emeritus with their plaques. Back row, left to right: Gary Klatt, Keith Veldhuizen, and John Shank. Front row, Barbara Wollmer and Lyle Lidholm. Photo by Adam Smith.*





# Trail Steward of the Year

The Trail Steward of the Year award recognizes a volunteer whose work contributes in an extraordinary manner to Trail management and development. Whether it is through strengthening landowner and/or partner relations; trail layout, design, and construction; or through significant maintenance and trail improvement efforts (mowing, chainsaw, & signage).

This year’s award recognized Chet Anderson of Saint Croix Falls. As Tim Malzhan, Director of Trail Operations, wrote in his nomination of Chet:

“Chet became acquainted with the Ice Age Trail in 2009 when he thru-hiked the entire Trail. Since then, Chet has become a Crew Leader in good standing, is one of the Alliance’s top boardwalk builders, and is a respected leader in the Indianhead Chapter and beyond.

He anchored the Alliance’s effort to improve the Trade River Segment... Chet thoroughly investigated unsafe boardwalk structures and provided needed documentation for planning purposes...In addition to his substantive local trail maintenance and stewardship efforts (trail mowing, chainsaw, signage) throughout Polk and Burnett County, Chet is a highly respected veteran at MSC events. As a Crew Leader, he enables everyone to engage in all the steps of boardwalk construction



*Chet Anderson, also sporting an NPS jacket for 3,000 hours of volunteer service, accepts his IATA Trail Steward of the Year award from Mike Wollmer. Photo by Adam Smith.*

from digging in pans to adding the kickrail. He gives generously of his time, his spirt, his talent and financially to make the Ice Age Trail the best it can be.”

# Years of Service Awards

The following individuals have been a constant presence in support of the Ice Age Trail. Recipients of Years of Service awards have provided a foundation of consistency and continuity in our volunteer ranks, and we thank them.

## 10 Years of Service Award

- Jon Bishop, Madison
- Nancy Bucuk, Williams Bay
- Bill Hershey, Gleason
- Barb Jatzak, Eagle
- Peter Klima, West Bend
- Steve Brandt & Lynda McDonnell, Minneapolis, MN
- Peter Packer, Williams Bay
- Gene Simon, Merrill
- Mark Struve, Milwaukee
- Russell Werner, Merrill

- Theresa Werner, Bellville
- Fred & Karen Wollenburg, Dalton

## 20 Years of Service Award

- Brian Engel, Dousman
- Paul Mozina, Milwaukee

## 40 Years of Service Award

- Gerald & Signe Emmerich, East Troy
- David Phillips, Madison



*Mike Wollmer (left) warmly recognizes Dave Philips’ 40 years of service to the Ice Age Trail. His long-standing commitment began in 1977 as a volunteer with what was then the Ice Age Trail Council. His tenure brought increasingly responsible roles including Board President. As he likes to say, “I came, I saw, I stuck around.” Thank you, Dave. Your presence has helped the Ice Age Trail Alliance grow into the fine organization it is today. Photo by Adam Smith.*

# Douglas “Stickman” Sherman Scholarship:

The Stickman Scholarship honors the work of Doug “Stickman” Sherman, a long-time Alliance volunteer who hand-carved hundreds of hiking sticks for Saunters students.

The \$500 scholarship goes to a young adult preparing for college who has volunteered with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, displays a love for the Ice Age Trail, and plans to pursue a degree in the environmental or education fields.

This year’s award goes to Emily Admunson of Frederic, Wisconsin.



*A snapshot of Emily from her application: “Trail eyes ... means you have become one with nature...You are no different than the frog hopping along or the pine tree standing tall and strong. You are just trying to enjoy the peacefulness and serenity that nature provides. Watching the sun break through the branches of the towering trees or hearing a stream gurgles as the water runs over the rocks allows us to escape from the real world and find our inner peace with nature.” Photo by Adam Smith.*

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS

### Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Awards

Any Ice Age Trail volunteer who reports his or her volunteer hours is on the path to recognition through the National Park Service's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) awards program.

At this year's NPS VIP awards ceremony, more than 175 volunteers were recognized for passing various mileposts ranging from 100 hours to 6,000 hours (cumulative) of volunteer service.



*Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator for the National Park Service, honors a beaming David Longsdorf who sports his 6,000 hour volunteer NPS vest. Thank you, Dave, for all the time you've spent caring for the Ice Age Trail! Photo by Adam Smith.*

### Hartzog Outstanding Volunteer Service Group Award:

The **Mobile Skills Crew Program** won **national recognition** for its passion, enthusiasm, and friendly sense of community. Since 2002, these attributes brought 13,408 volunteers on 146 project events and generated a total of 265,351 volunteer hours towards making the Ice Age National Scenic Trail a reality. Lauded was its "formalized methodology of approaching trail construction and maintenance". In tandem, systematic and professional-level trainings have enabled volunteers to fully participate in Trail stewardship. Also noted was the keen desire to connect diverse communities to the Trail, leading to the successful, on-going establishment of new partnerships.



*The dedicated, professional teamwork approach to trailbuilding, which brought the Mobile Skills Crew program national recognition, is evident in this recent photo of work on the Ringle Segment. Photo by Cameron Gillie.*

### "In the Mud" Award

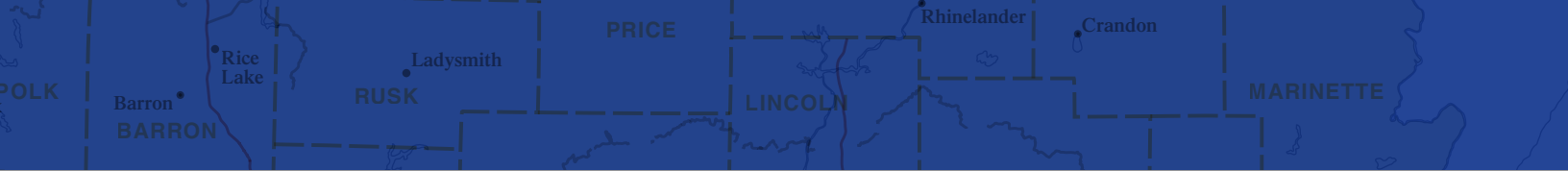
Our "In the Mud" award recognizes volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the Ice Age Trail over the year. The individuals below received the award for consistently coming to workdays and diving into the dirty work, epitomizing the bedrock volunteer spirit that drives the progress toward completing the Trail.

Bruce France, Chippewa Moraine Chapter  
Anne Helsley-Marchbanks, Dane County Chapter  
Paul Reitzel, Indianhead Chapter  
Gerald Anderson, Langlade County Chapter  
Adam Evans, Langlade County Chapter  
Amy & Jim Onofrey, Lodi Valley Chapter  
Rick Bie, Marathon County Chapter

Jim Zastrow, Marathon County Chapter  
Virginia Buening-Henkel & LeRoy J. Henkel, Jr.,  
Rock County Chapter  
Bonnie Nommensen, Walworth/Jefferson County  
Dave Hock, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter  
"Blazing Babes", Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

*The "Blazing Babes" of the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter were recognized with an "In the Mud" award. Back row, left to right: Jessica Woodward, Sherri Ritz, Ann Green, Judith Rose  
Front row, left to right: Barbara H. Johnson, Pat Witkowski, and Christine Miller Not pictured: Kris Jensen. Photo by Adam Smith.*





## Hartzog Enduring Service Award:

Dean Dversdall, Indianhead Chapter Coordinator, won recognition across the Midwest Region for being “one of the Trail’s finest stewards by every measure.” His passion and commitment is evident in the 7,177 volunteer hours since 2007 he’s contributed to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. As Dan Watson wrote in his nomination letter:

“Dean is a VIP recruiter par excel lance. You cannot talk to Dean without talking about the Ice Age NST, or being recruited to provide support. Dean has served as the trail’s Indianhead Chapter Coordinator since 2005. He helped start a neighboring trail chapter and has strengthened a four county area of the trail, while simultaneously contributing to critical trail-wide needs...



*Dan Watson, of the NPS, who nominated Dean Dversdall for the Enduring Service Award, gives Dean a hearty and congratulatory welcome to the podium. Photo by Adam Smith.*

He cheerily rolls up his sleeves and gets his hands dirty alongside everyone else... buys the mower gas, fixes what’s broken, installs trail signage, coordinates all local trail events...secures the food and beverage, leads the event all day, finds time to show a “newbie” the ropes, lights the bon fire... and most likely can be found washing the dishes and hauling out the trash before it’s all over.”

Dean selflessly advances the work of building, maintaining, and protecting the Trail at all levels: board leadership, facilitating land acquisition, Mobile Skills Crew leader, spear-heading hikes, and providing taxi service for thru-hikers.

## Hartzog Outstanding Park Volunteer Program:

Designed to get the next generation intimately connected to the Trail through an immersion experience, the **Saunters Program** was recognized across the **Midwest Region** for its “growth spurt.” In six short years, Saunters boasted a 366% increase in the number of school districts involved, and a 614% increase in students served. Extraordinary advances include introducing diverse populations – rural youth in northern Wisconsin to urban kids of Milwaukee – to the well-being found on the Trail.

*Luke Kloberdanz rallies the troops prior to leading students from the Colfax, Frederic, and Lodi school districts on a multi-day backpacking trip. Photo by Dawn Kish Photography.*



The award photos were provided courtesy of Adam Smith, of Adam Smith Photography. More photos related to the Mammoth Achievement Awards and the National Park Service Awards can be found at:

[www.adamsmithphotographywi.com/Ice-Age-Awards/n-c7q63W](http://www.adamsmithphotographywi.com/Ice-Age-Awards/n-c7q63W)

## MAKE YOUR 2017 AWARD NOMINATIONS!

If you know an outstanding Ice Age Trail volunteer, partner or friend, shine a light on his or her work by making a 2017 award nomination. Visit [iceagetrail.org/volunteer/awards](http://iceagetrail.org/volunteer/awards) to get started. Thank you for recognizing your fellow volunteers!

## Thousand Miler Award

Nothing captures the imagination quite like the thought of hiking the entirety of a long-distance path like the Ice Age Trail. Our organization recognizes anyone who reports completion of the entire Ice Age Trail (and can have their accomplishment verified) as a Thousand-Miler. To qualify for Thousand-Miler status, an individual must have hiked all 1,000+ miles of the Ice Age Trail, including all connecting roads.

The following individuals recently completed their hikes and have officially joined the ranks of Ice Age Trail Thousand-Milers.

Ann Green, Milwaukee	Kyle Kneeland, Hartford	Andrew Saeman, Waukesha
Jean Herold, Eagle	Scott Kneeland, Hartford	Mike Summers, Portland, OR
Randall "Dean" Herold, Eagle	Jerry Krause, Weston	Ricky Swanson,
Barbara H. Johnson,	Michael Livesey, Middleton	Colorado Springs, CO
Milwaukee	Holly Lorentz, Elkhorn	Thomas Vergeront, Sun Prairie
Chase Jones, West Salem	Michael Maziarka, La Crosse	Michael Visuri, Brown Deer
Jon Jones, West Salem	Pete Nagan, Appleton	Dianne White, Madison
Andrew Kneeland, Hartford	William Roberts, Madison	Jared Wildenradt, Cross Plains



*Scott Kneeland of Hartford created a big-time family adventure by section hiking the Trail, over the course of four years, with his sons Andrew (age 11) and Kyle (age 8). Photo by Adam Smith.*

## New Crew Leaders in Good Standing

John Barker, Antigo	Ruth McCann, East Troy
Becky Burton, Milwaukee	Mark Miner, Dousman
Emily Fuger, Monona	Sam Picone, Summit Lake
Wendell Holl, Lodi	Tony Schuster, Chippewa Falls
Dennis James, Janesville	Mark Struve, Milwaukee
Steve Konkol, Sun Prairie	Kevin Welton, Madison
James Luebke, Middleton	

*(Right) Emily Fuger, Dennis James, Ruth McCann, and Steve Konkol, proud members of the "Purple Rain" Crew Leaders class, circle up for a photo commemorating their new status in the world of trailbuilding. Photo by Adam Smith.*



## Crew Leaders in Good Standing

Our Crew Leader award recognizes any person who meets "Crew Leader in Good Standing" requirements. To meet and maintain "in Good Standing" requirements, individuals must demonstrate advanced leadership qualities, safe working practices, effectively lead volunteer crews on or off trail, maintain skill-based certifications, and serve in

a Project Team role at one or more Mobile Skills Crew events within a 15-month time frame.

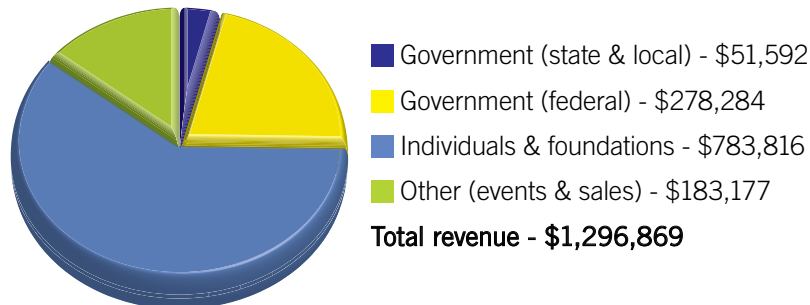
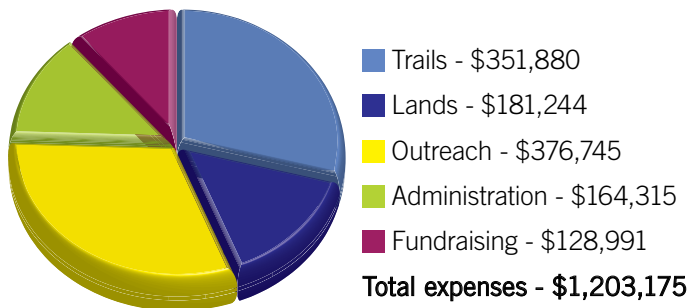
The following individuals have been a committed source of support in trailbuilding efforts:

Joe Aldstadt, Germantown	Emily Fuger, Monona	Tim Malzhan, Lodi	Jennifer Stehley, Centuria
Chet Anderson, St. Croix Falls	Bob Funk, Whitewater	Tony Martinez, Rhinelander	Mark Struve, Milwaukee
John Barker, Antigo	Doug Galaszewski, Germantown	Ruth McCann, East Troy	Albert Sulzer, Cross Plains
Daniel Bartell, Bear Creek	Travis Griffin, Ripon	Dolly McNulty, Two Rivers	Tom Teeple, Black River Falls
Laurel Bennett, Dalton	Drew Hanson, Madison	Mark Miner, Dousman	Kevin Thusius, Cross Plains
Charlie Booher, Middleton	Alan Henn, Poynette	Fred Nash, Weyerhaeuser	Jeannine Wahlquist, Madison
Wanda Brown, St. Croix Falls	Wendell Holl, Lodi	Michael Pelech, Trempealeau	Bill Welch, Lodi
Becky Burton, Milwaukee	Dennis James, Janesville	Phil Peterson, Waupaca	Kevin Welton, Madison
Dave Caliebe, Eau Claire	Heidi Johnsen, Algoma	Jerry Pfeifer, Kenosha	Theresa Werner, Belleville
Brad Cray, Dane	Thelma Johnson, Cumberland	Sam Picone, Summit Lake	Jane Wester, Thiensville
Heather Darbo-McClellan, Glendale	Bob Kaspar, Madison	Gail Piotrowski, Wausau	Mack Whitmore, Chilton
Lisa Delaney, West Bend	Gary Klatt, Whitewater	Rich Propp, West Bend	Pat Witkowski, Oconomowoc
David Ditlefsen, Centuria	Luke Kloberdanz, Lodi	Daniel Rambo, Wauwatosa	Barbara Wollmer, Cross Plains
Sharon Dziengel, Mt. Pleasant	Steve Konkol, Sun Prairie	Tim Rutter, Janesville	Mike Wollmer, Cross Plains
Joanne Ellarson, Mazomanie	Bob Lange, Baraboo	Jerry Sazama, Chippewa Falls	Donald Yochem, West Bend
Pete Englund, Polk City, IA	Lyle Lidholm, Watertown	Tony Schuster, Chippewa Falls	
Rita Fox, Edgerton	David Lonsdorf, Verona	Mark Sethne, Platteville	
Jim Fritz, Neenah	James Luebke, Middleton	Ed Spoon, Verona	



# ANNUAL report

## IATA Revenue and Expenses 2016



**2,620** volunteers  
**75,677** volunteer hours

**17 SAUNTERS PROGRAMS**  
**1,749 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS**

**3** New Board of Director Seats

**10.1** MILES  
of Upgraded Trail Signage

**3,673** members

IATA is  
**58** years old

**10** MSC events

**7** ICE AGE TRAIL COMMUNITIES WELCOMED

**3** MSC training events

**10** Land Acquisitions

Trail Structures Built **76**

**426.64** Acres Protected

Feet of Elevated Boardwalks **1,476**

**14,000** Feet of Sustainable Trail Tread

### ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

As we continue to fulfil on the goals of our 2015 – 2017 Strategic Plan, take a moment to read about the highlights of the 2016 successes you made possible. Our 2016 Annual Report is available on line at [iceagetrail.org/wp-content/uploads/IATA-2016-Annual-Report.pdf](http://iceagetrail.org/wp-content/uploads/IATA-2016-Annual-Report.pdf)

# LAND CONSERVATION highlights

## Verona's Moraine Kettles Preserve — An Ice Age Trail Success Story

DAVID LONSDORF  
Dane County Chapter



*David Lonsdorf's vision realized: Once former agricultural fields, a prairie in the Moraine Kettles Preserve blooms in full summer glory. Photo by David Lonsdorf.*

Volunteer crew leader, James Luebke, carefully rolled the last large stone into place along the low wall, guarding the roots of the large shagbark hickory tree. Dirt was added to fill in the gaps and tamped into place with the heavy tamping bar. Everyone breathed a big sigh of relief. Then, one-by-one, big grins spread across the faces of the crew leaders and other volunteers – the new trail was finally finished!

It had been almost two years and taken hundreds of hours of volunteer time for the trail to get to this point. The almost one-mile-long re-route snakes through the 24-acre Alliance-owned Moraine Kettles Preserve. Land which encompasses two recently planted prairies, and two separate woodlots, gradually being restored to fire-tolerant oak savannas. In addition, six neighboring landowners have agreed to incorporate parts of their properties into the overall vegetative management plan, enlarging the wooded restoration by an additional eight acres.

The spring woods are alive with wildflowers – many geraniums, Solomon seal, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and shooting stars can be seen during May. The five kettle ponds in the “north woods” are all full of water, flow slowly from one to another, and harbor wood ducks, mallards, and geese. A bald eagle nest has been sighted from the Preserve this year too! By June, the prairies become the focus of interest. Half-a-dozen species

of grasses, and nearly 50 species of forbs, begin their cycles of growth and flowering which last all summer. In fall, attention returns to the woods as the trees develop their color and begin to drop their leaves.

This spectacular result seemed far away even a few short years ago. The property was originally purchased in 1991 by the Alliance from farmer Ray Gust through the foresight of then Ice Age Trail Director Gary Werner. The Alliance allowed Gust to continue to farm the fields on the property and the Ice Age Trail passed alongside the fields and through the woods. Gradually, the woods became choked with invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle,

and the Trail became a narrow corridor through an impenetrable tangle of branches and brambles. It was a place to put your head down and quickly hike through, and was largely avoided in summer because of the infestation of mosquitoes.

That all began to change about five years ago as Dane County chapter volunteers began a slow (at first) process of removing and burning the buckthorn and brush. Over time, with the assistance of several large United Way and other group outings, the pace quickened. The brush was almost totally removed to reveal a degraded, but still intact, oak woods. The two areas of farmland were “reclaimed” in the fall of 2014, with the help of a grant obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service by the Alliance's Director of Land Conservation Kevin Thusius. They



*Volunteers from Blackhawk Church help build tread, as part of the re-route through the Moraine Kettles Preserve. Their good, happy energy, providing the final bit of momentum, helped bring the long-term vision for this land to fruition. Photo by David Lonsdorf.*

*continued on page 11*



# OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

## Verona Becomes the 7th Ice Age Trail Community

DAVID LONSDORF  
Dane County Chapter



*Jon Hochkammer, City of Verona Mayor, Le Jordan, Verona Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Mark Geller, Town Chair, and David Lonsdorf, member of the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Photo by Amy Lord.*

On May 6th, community members of all ages gathered at Badger Prairie County Park in Verona to celebrate the Town and City's designation as the Alliance's 7th Ice Age Trail Community. The event featured hikes, activities for youth put on by the Verona PTO and a ribbon cutting ceremony. Almost 100 people attended the event which featured a Tyke Hike led by Lodi Valley Chapter member Patti Herman, speeches by Verona Mayor Jon Hochkammer, and Town Chair Mark Geller, and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Le Jordan.

After the ceremonies, a bus took almost 60 people to Prairie Moraine County Park for a leisurely five-mile hike back to Badger Prairie. This hike was led by Dane County Chapter member David Lonsdorf and featured several stops highlighting the glacial geology along the Trail, and almost a mile of newly re-routed Trail and restored landscape.

The hike started by climbing the terminal moraine of the glacier where hikers enjoyed expansive views nearly 30 miles to the south. After crossing through a large 10-year-old restored prairie behind the moraine, the group

crossed into the Alliance's property called Moraine Kettles Preserve. The preserve has two newly restored prairies (three years old) and about 20 acres of restored oak savanna where the Trail has been rerouted to take advantage of the restoration efforts. Hikers then entered the "Verona Gorge" along Badger Mill Creek where the glacial outwash carved a 100-foot deep channel through bedrock.

The Ice Age Trail Community program celebrates formal partnerships between communities along the Ice Age Trail and the Alliance. The community businesses are promoted through the Alliance website and social media, with at least two "community oriented events" each year hosted by the local chapter. Additionally, the community enjoys easy access to a well-maintained Trail segment. The Alliance benefits from increased community awareness of the Trail and support for the Alliance's mission to create, support, and protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Hikers benefit from increased services (lodging, food, laundry) for them as they pass through the area.

were planted with a robust mix of prairie seeds and Dane County chapter members added more seeds and hand plantings. The woods got additional help from a "forestry mower" to help clear brush on the Alliance's and neighboring lands, with their approvals.

The prairies are now entering their third year, and are "leaping" into full flower. The old Ice Age Trail has been re-routed into a more interesting and sustainable path. The 150-year-old trees in the oak savanna are beginning to re-emerge, and some burr oak seedlings are taking root. The 10,000-year-old kettle ponds and terminal moraine are once again able to tell their part of the grand story of the Ice Age through the eyes of Ice

Age Trail users. Moraine Kettles Preserve has now become a "destination" instead of a quick walk through. Trail users couldn't be more pleased.

**Staff note:** As often is the case, it takes the strong will and desire of one person to move mountains. In this case, David Lonsdorf was that person. By being able to see through the invasive brush and imagine the possibilities for the agricultural fields, he set the vision. He asked for help from volunteers and staff, and then, he put his sweat and muscle to the test and got to work. Thank you, Dave. Your vision and drive made the Moraine Kettles Preserve a destination for Trail users.

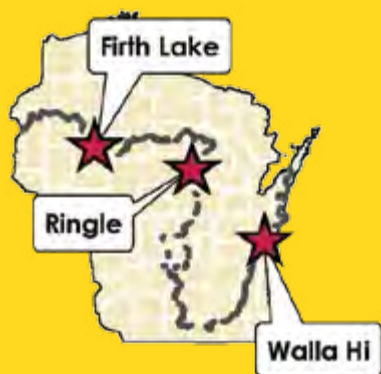
# TRAILBUILDING highlights



## The Spring Tripleheader — MSC Mini

TONY SCHUSTER &  
DAVID GRAMLING

Events Participants



April 7 - 8

**Ringle Segment, Marathon County**  
**Firth Lake Segment, Chippewa County**  
**Walla Hi Segment, Manitowoc County**  
Participants: 146  
Volunteer Hours: 1,994

Ever important chainsaw and brush clearing happened in three separate locations (Chippewa, Marathon, and Manitowoc counties) on the same weekend in early April. The purpose of these early season, two-day events was to set the stage for larger trailbuilding projects on these same Ice Age Trail segments later in the season.

We invited volunteers who were part of the "Tripleheader" events to submit their boots-on-the-ground perspective. However, with construction continuing on 1.7 miles of new trail on the Ringle Segment in Marathon County, a few short weeks later, the scope of that project is captured on page 13.

### Firth Lake Segment, Chippewa County

By Tony Schuster, Chippewa County Chapter Co-Coordinator

Who would schedule an MSC project for the first week in April in Chippewa County? You can reasonably expect 6"-8" of snow on the ground, most of the



*Spring arrived early in the northwoods enabling a hardy group of volunteers to clear corridor and grub out stumps in anticipation of future tread construction along the Firth Lake Segment. Photo by Dave Caliebe.*

likely crew members still working on their tans in Arizona, and the only welcoming committee a frost-hardy assemblage of wood and deer ticks. But, as a shakedown for an ambitious season, it could not have turned out better. First, we had to accept a gnarly side slope instead of anything as pleasant as a Bob Marley tune. Second, the weather turned warm; the snow disappeared and 30 hardy souls arrived for a day of trail clearing.

The crew had many of the winter-toughened MSC regulars, a good representation of local chapter folks still immune to the call of Arizona, and even a couple of volunteers from Eau Claire County Forestry Department on whose lands we would be working. A real plus was the appearance of a half-dozen representatives of the Chippewa Valley

All-Terrain Vehicle Club. They were there, in part, because our re-route will permit a section of county forest road to be converted from Ice Age Trail to ATV trail. Although they travel differently, they can work on our trails any time.

Work went quickly with this able and motivated crew. By late afternoon on Friday, we had finished all the clearing work planned for the weekend. So, with Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Specialist, scrambling to keep everyone gainfully employed, we spent Saturday grubbing out stumps and clearing duff from the future path. After two days of hard work we were tired but looking forward to the October MSC project on this Trail segment. We are ahead of schedule already.

### Walla Hi Segment, Manitowoc County

By David Gramling, Lakeshore Chapter member

I learned it takes a lot of hard work for a narrow walking trail to become a reality. As trail angels, my wife and I have supported hikers with rides to trail heads and overnight stays. When I discovered our nearby county park was to become part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, I eagerly helped locate and flag routes, gaining insight into how new trail is designed.

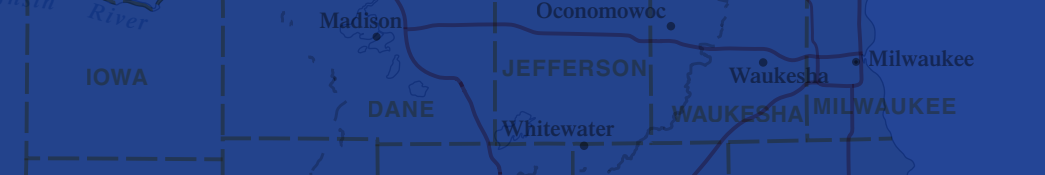
My first day of trailbuilding began with a short lesson from my crew leader about the difference between a pick mattock and a McLoed. Clearing duff for tread



*Excellent progress was made along the Walla Hi Segment due to a combination of thorough pre-planning, beautiful weather, and plenty of hard-working volunteers. Photo by Brad Cray.*

*continued on page 25*





## A Landscape Crossroads Reimagined

**RICK BIE**

*Marathon County Chapter Leader*



**Ringle Segment, Marathon County**

**May 17 – 21**

**Participants: 107**

**Volunteer Hours: 2,539**



*One of the many rocks appraised for its usefulness is carefully slid into place by volunteers. A hand-crafted, rock staircase, like this one, requires teamwork and well-established safety protocols. Photo by Cameron Gillie.*

For five days in May, over 107 volunteers gathered atop the terminal moraine just outside of Hatley, WI with the mission of constructing a new hiking trail. The ambitious Ringle Segment reroute – moving the Ice Age Trail off of corridors designed for vehicles and for skiing – promises to be a premier hiking destination; one to treasure for many generations to come.

As much of the corridor had been cleared of trees and brush during April's "Tripleheader" event, the primary task in May was constructing and shaping sustainable tread. Much of this involved moving buried rocks, none of which had budged for over 10,000 years. Each and every stone pulled from the heavy, wet soil had to be appraised for utility: set aside to use for rock wall? Too small for anything useful? Or, way too big to even consider yanking out?

Midway into the new corridor between the Mountain Bay State Trail and Poplar Road sits one such "way too big" rock: an enormous, mossy glacial erratic that, if you look at it just right, has the appearance of a stately stone lion standing sentinel over the Trail as it descends into a rock-strewn kettle.

Mother Nature added some intrigue, tossing all four seasons at us over the course of a week. Sweltering heat and humidity early on, with thunderstorms to-boot; followed by overnight frost and chilly drizzle. Gale-force winds billowed into the kitchen tent, liberating poles that crashed into the dishwashing station.

Nonetheless, we persevered. Nay, we conquered! We built 3,000 feet of breathtaking new trail, prepared 800 meals, hand-crafted two rock staircases fit for the Clampetts' Beverly Hills mansion. We reinforced old friendships and made new ones. We built trail, but more significantly, we built relationships and built leaders.



*The enormous, mossy glacial erratic. Look closely... "it has the appearance of a stately stone lion standing sentinel over the Trail as it descends into a rock-strewn kettle." Photo by Rick Bie.*



## Boardwalk Training IOI

DAVE CALIEBE  
Trail Program Specialist



**Eagle Segment, Waukesha County**  
**May 31 – June 2**  
**Participants: 55**  
**Volunteer Hours: 804**



### 1. The Training

The goal was to impart the skills needed to build sustainable wetland structures. The 21 participants in the training worked hands-on to learn all the steps of boardwalk construction and how to navigate unforeseen challenges. In the past five years, the Alliance built nearly 9,000 feet of bridges, boardwalks, and puncheons – the new class of boardwalk builders will have ample opportunities to put their new skills to the test in 2017 and well-beyond. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

### 2. Prep Work

Successful projects are predicated on communicating a shared mental picture of success in planning and organizing the work beforehand. In this case, Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter leaders were deeply involved with staff in advance agency communications, structure design, preparing and submitting applications for regulatory approvals, and construction material management. Ultimately they gained a more complete understanding of the necessary steps to take, the ones needed to achieve positive outcomes once the pick hits the ground. Prior to the event, the chapter organized the cutting-to-size of all the lumber, treated cut ends with wood preservative, and assembled 100 boardwalk frames needed for this training and the upcoming October Mini MSC event. (This effort took 33 volunteers, and 200 hours, to prep for 775 feet of boardwalk.) Photo by Sherri Ritz.







### 3. And More Prep Work

Both boardwalk locations for this training were accessible by machinery – without damaging the Trail – allowing for delivery of the frames and deck boards to two sites. Without this mechanical benefit, 29 frames and over 400 deck boards would have been carried by hand or hauled in wheelbarrows. Even with this advantage, 20 Scouts, 10 parents, and 8 other volunteers spent an hour-and-a-half moving the remaining materials to the boardwalk locations. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

### 4. Compliance

An important aspect of all wetland structure projects is measuring and documenting existing conditions, the work in progress, and the finished product as built. This information is used to report back to the regulatory agencies (WDNR, Army Corps, County) that we did what we said we would do, and how we did it. In the permitting process, the IATA submits detailed maps, design drawings, a project narrative and a practical alternative analysis describing the need, the alternative options evaluated to meet the need, and structure specifications such as the length, height above the ground or water. In this photo, the distance from the bottom of the frames to the ground was 19" - right in line with what we submitted. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



### 5. The Test

"Make sure you wipe your feet first," the crew jokes as the first backpackers walk across the just-finished 95-foot-long, and the 98-foot-long boardwalks. There is a palpable sense of joy, pride, and even a little anxiety as the first hikers try out a new section of trail or boardwalk. Will it hold? Will they like it? Maybe we could've made the transition smoother. The smiles and congratulations of the hikers bring the joy and pride to the fore. Whew. Photo by Dave Caliebe.





## Personal Notes from a New MSC Volunteer

JOHN KOLBE

Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter



**Blue Hills, Rusk County**  
**June 1 – 3**  
**Participants: 59**  
**Volunteer Hours: 1,471**

If you like cutting a trail through a remote forest area, and sharing that experience with 59 other volunteers, deer, bear, ticks, and gnats, then this project was designed for you! This segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail had been damaged by multiple storms. It required a large crew to address the dozens of fallen trees and encroaching brush. When the call came for volunteers, especially those that like to work with chainsaws, I signed up for my first experience with the MSC.

When I arrived on Wednesday afternoon, I was greeted warmly and was introduced to the people I would work with for the next three days. It was quite easy to remember names because at that moment, it was either "Mike" or "John" for the most part. At dinner that evening, I did not know what to expect, and I was blown away by the quality of the meals. In fact, during my three days on site, I ate better there than I do at home, all thanks to Thelma and the project support crew!

I was also surprised at the thorough planning and organization orchestrated to make this a fun and productive experience for volunteers



*A smiling chainsaw crew poses with 30-foot-long timber logs from which they will fashion a bridge across a wetland drainageway. Photo by Tim Malzhan.*



*A chainsaw certified volunteer adeptly shapes timber to be used for constructing a bridge. Photo by Michael Maziarka.*

like myself. Although I maintain the Monches Segment of the Trail in Waukesha County, until this MSC event, I had no idea of the depth of the Alliance's trail construction, maintenance and stewardship program.

Importantly, safety was paramount in all that we did. There were 15 miles of rough, rugged and remote trail carved into seven focused work areas. With that, came multiple opportunities to clear trail, create noise with my chainsaw, and work up a hearty appetite. In one situation we came across five blown over trees with the root ball half in the ground and half out of the

ground. When we sawed off the branches, leaving only 15 feet of the trunk intact, the root balls pulled the trees back into an upright position. Humorously, it appeared some giant had sliced off the tops of the trees. Fallen trees also blocked a wetland drainageway, making it impassable. The team cut three 30-foot-long sections of stout timber creating a means for hikers to cross the standing water. This hadn't been part of the workday plan, however, it was a creative solution to an event of nature.

A unique aspect of this project was the many miles of heavily wooded terrain the project area encompassed. This distance required four chainsaw crews, four mowing crews, three weed-whacking crews, and two signage crews each day. By the end of three days, 59 volunteers (18 of them from the Chippewa Moraine Chapter) contributed over 1,500 volunteer hours, built new friendships, learned new skills, and completed work on more than 14 of the 15 miles of trail. Impressive!



# THOUSAND MILER journals

## A First in the Fourth MIKE SUMMERS

I crunched up the snow-covered remnants of the Niagra Escarpment in Wisconsin's Potawatomi State Park on a sunny, 32-degree December day. My westbound thru-hike of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (IAT) had begun, and I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Neither did anyone else.

No one had attempted a self-supported thru-hike in the winter months, and many thought it a little strange to try.\* But for me, the dreaded "fourth season" of backpacking invoked not fear, but intrigue. This hike would be a test to see if I really enjoyed backpacking, even in the most unforgiving of conditions.

After a year of planning, researching, and visualizing the trek, I started toward the IAT's western terminus with a frameless backpack overloaded with cold-weather gear, shoulders already aching, a sweat breaking on my brow as I snowshoed in only base layers.

This was not quite what I had had in mind.

The winter of '16/'17 was a mild one for Wisconsin. Historic weather data showed record low temperatures of forty below zero in some parts of the state, and I packed enough gear along to combat these extreme possibilities. I often found myself praying for cold, snowy weather so I could add layers and lighten my pack.

At times I got the cold I wanted. Out in the open farms, along the roads, and in the prairies, wind raced through unobstructed. I often hiked into these cold, biting winds, clear-lensed ski goggles necessary for forward sight. On a brisk 6-degree morning, I forded the Prairie River barefoot, breaking through ice and sinking into the slushy riverbed as I crossed.

I vowed to walk all the road walk sections, even when it was 35 degrees and pouring rain. After denying a ride from kind passerby, he said, "It seems like a miserable day to be walking." And he couldn't have been more right; I was miserable. But six hours later, I was dry and happy with a new book in tow thanks to a trail angel in Verona.

*continued on page 19*



*The dreaded fourth season reveals a serene beauty. It was a beautiful day for a hike.  
Photo by Mike Summers.*

### Stats:

**Miles: 1077 (+17 extra)**

**Days: 58**

**Off days: 5**

**Nights outside: 33**

**Nights inside: 25**

**Avg. MPD on**

**hiking days: 20.3**

**Total \$ spent on hike:**

**1652.07**

**\$/mi: 1.53**

**\$/day: 28.41**



*The solitude and perfection of cowboy camping.  
Photo by Mike Summers.*





## A Bold Attempt JONNAH PERKINS

*Wet spring trails greeted Annie as she traveled through the Northwoods. Photo by Long Nguyen.*

When you mention the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, most people picture the civilized, buffed out trails of the southern and eastern segments. These trails are heavily trafficked by runners and hikers, flocking to the beauty of the forest, from Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago. Farther up in the northern part of the state, there are wild, remote sections of trail many would not imagine could be found in Wisconsin.

This adventure is exactly what ultrarunner Annie Weiss, was after when planning an attempt to break the fastest known time (FKT) on the Ice Age Trail. The personal time-trial-trend is growing in popularity in the ultrarunning community. Setting a new FKT, or even pursuing one, is a coveted notch on the belt of ultrarunners. On May 1st, Annie set out to complete the roughly 1,200 miles of the Trail system in 19 days. That's three days ahead of the current record of 22 days and 6 hours set by Jason Dorgan in 2007. This meant Annie would need to average over 60 miles per day to meet her goal. When I talked with Annie a few weeks ahead of her departure, she was brimming with optimism and a healthy dose of trepidation for completing her plan, especially the northern segments.

Annie started her voyage at the western terminus in St Croix Falls, just across the

Minnesota border in Polk County. From there, the Ice Age Trail traverses a wild landscape through Northern Wisconsin; a foreboding labyrinth of obstacles testing the grit of even the most seasoned trail runner. Spring in Northern Wisconsin is a formidable and unpredictable place to cross on foot. Snowpack melts into thigh-deep bogs, beavers dam up streams, black flies swarm, and strong winter and spring storms knock over trees on to the Trail. All of these challenges add to the soul of an FKT attempt, making every mile a test in itself.

Annie has competed in some of the toughest ultramarathon races in the country, including Leadville Trail 100, a 100-mile race across the Rocky Mountains, where the elevation ranges from 9,200 to 12,600 feet. Annie's attempt to set a new FKT of running the entire length of the Ice Age Trail seemed like a natural progression in her running career. As a registered dietician, she had a strong nutritional strategy and her daily running plan was dialed in with scientific precision. Annie was aware of the challenges she faced by attempting her goal in the springtime but was ready to face whatever the Trail threw at her. Every segment is managed by local chapter leaders who gave Annie valuable insider information about the nuances of each segment. These generous caretakers see to the maintenance of their

segments, foot-by-foot, mile-by-mile, county-by-county, to keep the Ice Age Trail system alive.

The Ice Age Trail meanders through several multi-use areas offering recreational land for hunters, fishers, ATV's, and snowmobiles. Commercial loggers are also granted special permits to harvest timber from the same forests through which the Ice Age Trail passes. All of these activities have different trail markers used to identify their routes or mark trees for logging operations. For a runner trying to stay on the Trail, this can be mentally exhausting, especially when compounded by the stress of running a vast numbers of miles each day. Annie went off the Trail several times and second guessed herself even when she was on the right track.

Her support crew met her at road crossings and offered company on the Trail when it was logistically feasible, but Annie's effort ultimately came down to the health of her body. On her 10th day, after over 400 miles, she decided to end her adventure. Her ankles and feet had become so swollen with infection putting shoes on was painful. Abandoning her FKT quest, for her health and future running endeavors, took as much strength as the running itself. Sadly, it's the failures that test us the most.





Ultrarunning is a vulnerable sport. We push our bodies to the outer reaches of human endurance and ask trails to play a character in our self-imposed suffering. Through the

struggle comes great clarity, creating a beautiful bond which unites the trail running community. The trail is not the enemy, the trail is the vehicle for our enlightenment and is at

the heart of the sport. The real taskmaster is the clock and it always will be so as long as speed is the measure of greatness.

Annie's ambitious goal is a true testament to her athletic vision and fearlessness. Her experience on the Ice Age Trail didn't dampen her spirit, it fueled her passion to explore her limits. She is currently planning her next attempt of setting the speed record on the Ice Age Trail and will enter that effort full of wisdom and tenacity.

*Jonah Perkins is a competitive ultra distance trail runner and lives in rural Blue Mounds, WI with her husband and two small children. She also helps manage her family's large CSA farm, Vermont Valley Community Farm LLC. Read more of her stories about life and running at <https://theultrafarmer.com/>*

*Left: Annie Weiss, all smiles at the western terminus, faces her adventure full of possibility. Photo by Carrie Highman, Dream Lens Media.*



## THOUSAND MILER JOURNALS *continued from page 17*

Despite the many hardships of winter hiking, it's the generous people of Wisconsin who made this hike possible. I stayed with trail angels for 19 of the 58 nights, each person unknown prior to the journey. The other 33 nights I slept outside, near the trail. Half of those nights were spent cowboy camping under the bare trees and open

sky. On seven occasions I strolled into a bar for a burger and a beer only to get talking with the locals and become the recipient of unbelievable trail magic. Twice pet dogs introduced me to owners who invited me into their home. Without these acts of kindness, the hike would have been much tougher.

The warmest day of the trip, at 55 degrees, just so happened to be the last. After climbing up and over the Hospital Esker in St. Croix Falls, I raced towards the western terminus, less than a mile away now as the sun set alongside me. I fled down rock staircases slick with ice and over snow packed smooth as glass from countless visitor footsteps. I rounded the last corner and saw my destination as the day's light waned.

I was done with my hike. I had reached the end, the small plaque on a rock.

It was strange to have reached my destination. All of a sudden, there it was: the finality of what has been on my mind for so long. The Ice Age Trail had now been thru-hiked in winter.

The next day, I got a ride to the suburbs of Chicago to stay with friends. Wisconsin's small town back roads stood in stark contrast to dense urban sprawl I now found myself in. I went from

hiking 20 miles per day through snow, sleet, and ice to lounging on a couch, reading all day. Gone was the exciting unknown of the hike and in its place an eerie feeling of displacement in a bustling society.

Brief lines of questioning about my walk were typically summed up as follows:

"How was the hike?"

"It was great! The people were so nice. It was so fun."

End of inquiry.

But how can that suffice? The beauty I saw, the miracles of trail magic, the peace and quiet I found, and the people I met...all lost in translation.

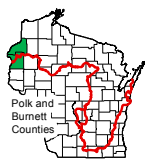
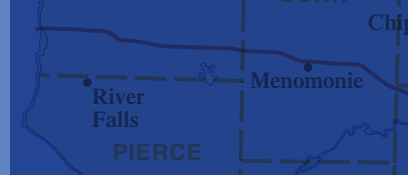
*\*Editor's Note: It should be noted, a substantial portion of Lyle Lidholm's Thousand-Miler hike was completed during the winter of 2008.*



*The all too familiar icicles of winter hiking. Photo by Mike Summers.*

*A complete version of Mike's entertaining winter adventure can be found here:  
[www.improbablebutpossible.com](http://www.improbablebutpossible.com)*

# CHAPTER highlights



## INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Dean Dversdall**  
(715-205-4487, [EdgeLong@lakeland.ws](mailto:EdgeLong@lakeland.ws))

Spring arrived, finally! We celebrated by attending the IATA Annual Conference where many Indianhead Chapter members received awards for volunteer service.

Dean Dversdall received the Enduring Service Award from the National Park Service. Chet Anderson received the Ice Age Trail Alliance Trail Steward of the Year and the NPS 3,000 hour award. Numerous members also received recognition by the NPS for their volunteer hours: Joe Snyder, Gregg Westigaard, and Dan Winterhauser received the 1,000 hour award; Larry Billig, Steve Brandt, Stephanie Lundeen, Mark Lutz, Paul Ritzel, John Schletty and Thomas Warth received the 250 hour award; Art Martin, Patti Mattson, Michael Tibbets and Jeanne Vogel received the 100 hours award. Kudos to all.

William Johnson and Roxanne White supported the IATA booth at the bi-annual Midwest Mountaineering Expo. Several trail maintenance days happened in May, one where kids from St. Croix Falls High School pitched in. We also cleared corridor followed by the annual Trail Adopters meeting at JJ's Hwy 35 Pizza. The fun, informative meeting, hosted by Wanda Brown, determines what parts of the Trail needs the most help for the season.

Our two Bird Hikes were graced with beautiful weather and great attendance. Brian Collins led one of the hikes and the other was sponsored by the Audobon Society. We hosted our first Tyke Hike on the Riegel section of the St. Croix Falls Segment and enjoyed a lovely morning with some special kids hiking the well-maintained trail.

- Cheryl Whitman



*Tyke Hikes let kids be kids. Here they sprawled out and got silly, as they interacted with geological features along the Trail, in this case, a huge boulder found on the Riegel section of the St. Croix Falls Segment. Photo by Cheryl Whitman.*



## SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Bob Held**  
(715-822-3428, [HeldHarbor@gmail.com](mailto:HeldHarbor@gmail.com))

Superior Lobe Chapter volunteers have a respectable list of activities:

- Dan Watson presented the Trail Safe program and his experiences as an NPS employee at our annual meeting.
- Snowshoes were strapped on for a hike on the Hemlock Segment in February.
- Hosted our annual Moonlight Hike in the Timberland Segment in March

- Twelve Barron high school students (and their teacher) helped us with slight reroutes to avoid wet areas, widen out the trail with loppers, remove limbs and a few down trees, and do some blazing. Kudos to that group.
- Post winter, we've been on the Trail removing trees and limbs, draining wet areas, and lowering beaver dams.
- Each month meeting has started with a viewing of the NPS Trail Safe video series.
- Members attended the Alliance Annual Conference where Thelma Johnson, Keith Veldhuisen and Letitia Koppa were presented awards.
- Displays at local events include: Midwest Mountaineering Expo, Hunt Hill Audubon Camp, Heritage Canoe Museum, and more...

- A Leopold bench and birdhouse were dedicated, posthumously, to IATA volunteer Tom Doyle, during a short ceremony followed by snacks and coffee at Murphy's dam recreation area.

- Timothy M. McRaith



## BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Fred Nash**  
(715-353-2948, [nashfd@bevcomm.net](mailto:nashfd@bevcomm.net))

Chapter members and hikers are appreciating the accomplishments of the June 2016 Mobile Skills Crew event. Work included construction of a 16-foot, free-span bridge at North Lake and trail tread reroutes due to beaver activity.

In August 2016, a youth group from North Dakota (attending Camp Amnicon near Superior) assisted the Blue Hills Chapter, camping along the trail and performing corridor clearing tasks for two days. Fred Nash coordinated the project, prepared their campsite, and led the group on a geology and history 'walk and talk.' They plan to volunteer again this summer.

Fred Nash coordinated with Director Emeritus Dave Lovejoy of Wisconsin Go Hiking, who chose the Blue Hills Segment this year for the groups' annual hike. The group said they enjoyed the challenge of navigating the storm damage. The Blue Hills chapter appreciated their great perspective!

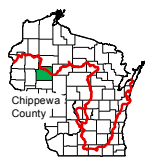
In February 2017, the annual Snowshoe Hike at Murphy's Flowage with the Superior Lobe Chapter was again a success.

Fred and Marilyn Nash assisted an Eagle Scout working on his project, and hikers who needed trail information, hiking guidance, and rides.

A 2017 MSC-Mini event, June 1-3, brought IATA volunteers to help with additional storm cleanup and to improve trail and signage.

- Marilyn Nash





## CHIPPEWA MORaine CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Richard Smith**  
(715-967-2164, [chapter@iatchippewa.org](mailto:chapter@iatchippewa.org))  
and **Anthony Schuster** (715-723-6114,  
[agsustr@charter.net](mailto:agsustr@charter.net))



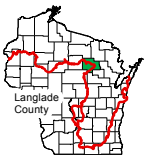
## HIGH POINT CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Buzz Meyer**  
(715-748-5627, [gtmeyer@charter.net](mailto:gtmeyer@charter.net))



## NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Ruby Jaecks**  
(715-551-1118, [brjaecks@outlook.com](mailto:brjaecks@outlook.com))



## LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Joe Jopek**  
(715-623-2645, [jjjopekj@frontier.com](mailto:jjjopekj@frontier.com))

We've relished getting out on the Trail for a hike in April.

The day was beautiful with a good turnout of new and

familiar faces. John Barker led the hike with sweep duties performed by our only Crivitz chapter member, Kip Macon. Officially it was the chapter's last hike on this particular stretch of the Old Railroad segment due to a displacement by the county's ATV system.

In June, the chapter will be hosting an International Walkers Association group outing. Dave Mickelson will lead the group on a special geology tour across the intersegment summit of the Summit Lake Moraine.

We have hikes planned into September and October celebrating our chapter's 40th anniversary of Ice Age Trail activity in Langlade County. Hikers will obtain a 40th anniversary hiker patch if they hike 2 out of the 3 hikes scheduled.

- Joe Jopek

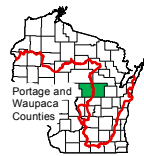


*It's beautiful day for a hike! This sentiment is clear in the smiles on the faces of Langlade County Chapter members. Their last official hike on this particular stretch of the Old Railroad segment, due to a displacement by the county's ATV system, brought out a strong showing of avid hikers. Photo by Joe Jopek.*



## MARATHON COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Gail Piotrowski** (715-370-2958,  
[piotrows@gmail.com](mailto:piotrows@gmail.com))



## PORTAGE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Julie Schneider**  
(715-570-6370, [jschneideriat@gmail.com](mailto:jschneideriat@gmail.com))

### Snowshoe Hike

Eleven snowshoers braved the fog and threatening rain on the New Hope Pines Segment on a hike led by Bob Freckmann in January. Two hike options were offered due to the uncertain weather. Thanks to Joseph and Lillian Paul who provided transport for those who chose the shorter option. Two enthusiastic hikers hiked the complete route out; they were ready for and deserving of the hot chocolate and treats at the end.

### Native American style flute donation

Many thanks to Thomas Kolbeck Sr. from Amherst for graciously donating a hand-carved Native American style flute to the IATA. Tom crafts his flutes out of local wood found along the Tomorrow River. Locally, Tom has played his flutes with the "Circle of Friends" group on Lake Emily in the shadow of the Ice Age Trail. Ruth Sommers sent the flute to the IATA Headquarters in Cross Plains.

### 2017 Information Tables/Displays

We're getting the word out about the Trail. Thanks to Ruth Sommers and Dave Farber, we had displays at the McMillan Library and the Greenway RV Spring Show. We'll also be at the Portage County Cultural Festival at SPASH, the Portage County Library for National Trails Day, the MREA Energy Fair in Custer, and Dairy Days at the Zoromski Farm in Custer.

- Julie Schneider



## WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Debbie Krogwold** (715-677-4974,  
[debbie.krogwold@co.waupaca.wi.us](mailto:debbie.krogwold@co.waupaca.wi.us))



## WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Jenny Addis**  
(715-249-5666, [addisjenny@yahoo.com](mailto:addisjenny@yahoo.com))

In February, we hosted our 18th Annual Candlelight Sweetheart Event ~ Hike, Snowshoe & Ski at Caribou Bay Retreat, in Richford, on the Wedde Creek Segment. A mild night brought out a crowd. Dedicated volunteers groomed the mile-long wooded loop and lined it with hundreds of luminaries, designed by 50 Tri-County 4th graders. Volunteers served hot drinks and chili, in the warm and cozy retreat center, while music by Flashback entertained throughout the night. Generous donors and local businesses donated handcrafted items for signature "Rustic Raffle". Proceeds benefited the trail in Waushara County.

# CHAPTER highlights *continued*

A special presentation titled “Trail Guide Tune Up to Hiking Longer, Stronger and More Mindfully”, by member and avid hiker, Cathy Favelle, Owner of Corequest Yoga & Spa, had everyone on their feet at our annual meeting. We also elected a new Coordinator, Jenny Addis, who had been our Membership Coordinator, since 2008. Jenny is excited to continue working for the Ice Age Trail and side-by-side with such a hard-working and selfless organization. The chapter is grateful and thanks Bob Jozwowski, outgoing Coordinator, for his service.

We also participated in Waushara County's Blue Ribbon Kid's Day. With a total of 978 registered guests, this family focused event continues to be a great opportunity for our chapter to promote the Trail, healthy activities, and reach a high volume of families and kids.

- Jenny Addis



## MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Gary Ertl**  
(608-369-3543, [garebear510@hotmail.com](mailto:garebear510@hotmail.com))



## HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

**Scot Harvey (608-335-2286, [sdharveygroup@outlook.com](mailto:sdharveygroup@outlook.com)) and Debby Capener (262 930-9713, [debbycapener@gmail.com](mailto:debbycapener@gmail.com))**

We've been busy with outreach during this quarter as we revive our chapter. We hosted an informational meeting with Luke Kloberdanz as our speaker. Strategic locations are now stocked with brochures. Temporary signage is in place (again) around construction occurring on the historic Portage Canal. Hikes, sponsored by our chapter, are planned for June through November.

Our first trail maintenance day was held in April. Nineteen Boy Scouts and their parents cleared brush and invasives off a section of the Trail east of



*A sense of purpose and desire to serve brought this group of people together. The Heritage Chapter hosted their first trail maintenance day in April and nineteen Boy Scouts and their parents helped clear brush and invasives. The chapter also partnered with the Historic Canal Preservation group on the project. Photo by Scot Harvey.*

Portage. We also partnered with the Historic Canal Preservation group on the project.

We extend a big thank you to the other chapters who offered support and expertise as we move forward.

- Debby Capener



## BARABOO HILLS CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Donna & Neal Meier**  
(608-356-7678, [IATABarabooHills@gmail.com](mailto:IATABarabooHills@gmail.com))



## LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

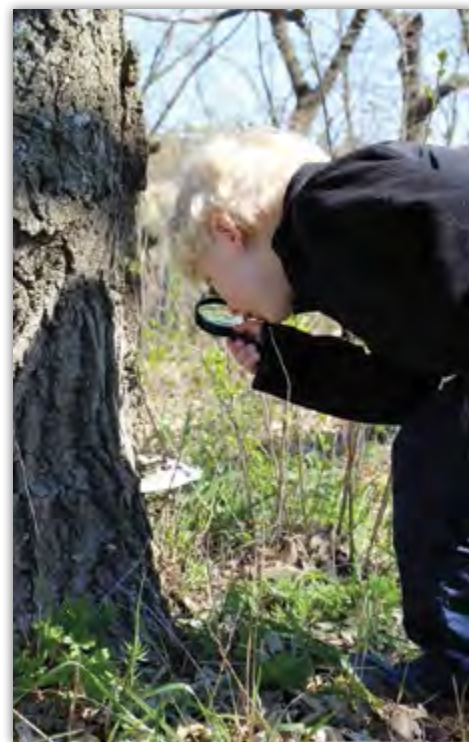
**Coordinator: Joanna Fanney**  
(608-577-9984, [iwannahike2day@gmail.com](mailto:iwannahike2day@gmail.com))

February found chapter members and others warming themselves by the flames produced by the numerous burn piles on the Gibraltar Segment. Cedar piles, created with the help of numerous school groups during fall, were burned as efforts continue to clear and restore a portion of mesic prairie.

We are pleased to welcome new segment monitors who will help keep local trail segments in excellent hiking condition. Chapter members and friends came together in March to celebrate another year of trail activities at our annual meeting. We honored “In the Mud” nominees Jim and Amy Onofrey for all their contributions on a local and statewide level.

Chase Jones, the first hiker to claim “youngest 1000-miler status, and his dad (Jon) shared stories and photos from their hike.

Icy conditions kept people away from full moon hikes for a few months, but the onset of warmer conditions brought people back to enjoy the trail by moonlight. Hikers welcomed the return of sandhill cranes to the Lodi Marsh as they enjoyed a hike held in conjunction with the Lodi Reads Leopold Celebration. The chapter also started offering monthly Tyke Hikes



*A curious lad with a magnifying glass gets a closer look at a shelf mushroom he found during Lodi Valley Chapter's Tyke Hike. The chapter started offering monthly such hikes to encourage families to enjoy the Trail together – This hike, held on Earth Day, attracted 60 hikers, many of whom were first-timers on the Ice Age Trail.*



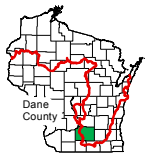


to encourage families to enjoy the trail together – The hike that was held on Earth Day attracted 60 hikers, many of whom were first-timers on the Ice Age Trail. Our “Devils Lake to Gibraltar Rock” hike continues to be popular in its 8th year, with a dozen hikers joining us for our 11-mile saunter.

- Patti Herman



*Cheers! The Dane County Chapter knows how to celebrate a successful Hike-A-Thon as they raise a glass to one of their sponsors: The Wisconsin Brewing Company.*



## DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinators: Tess Mulrooney (608-257-5595, [tlimmsn@aol.com](mailto:tlimmsn@aol.com)) and Anne Helsley-Marchbanks (608-231-3479, [ahelsley@wisc.edu](mailto:ahelsley@wisc.edu))**

Our sixth annual National Trails Day Hike-a-Thon on June 3 drew a record 92 hikers and recruited at least 20 new IATA members. It also netted \$5,000 for the chapter and the IATA. A total of 50 hikers chose the 20-mile option beginning in Green County at the south end of the Brooklyn State Wildlife Area. Another 42 picked the six-mile hike from Prairie Moraine County Park. Both hikes ended at Badger Prairie County Park in Verona.

Verona joined the growing list of Ice Age Trail communities and the celebration included an interpretive walk led by Dave Lonsdorf. The \$500 donation by the Verona Chamber of Commerce to the Hike-a-Thon is a tangible example of the partnership between the IATA and Trail communities.

Verona was also the site of a trail reroute two years in the making. 100 volunteers from Madison's Blackhawk Church turned out to help experienced volunteers complete the last 1,000 feet of trail. Controlled burns, including ones this spring, sustaining our ongoing seven-year restoration there, would not have been feasible without the support of neighboring landowners.

Moraine Kettles will gain off-road parking access later this year when the IATA builds a parking lot off Highway M, using some of the \$100,000 included in Dane County's 2017 budget for capital projects benefitting

the Trail. Other projects this grant will fund include parking lots at the Cross Plain Ice Age National Scientific Reserve and Liebetrau Prairie.

- Dave Jenkins



## ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Dennis James (608-302-1885, [djames84@outlook.com](mailto:djames84@outlook.com))**



## WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinators: Andrew Whitney (262-949-0286, [andywhitney1@yahoo.com](mailto:andywhitney1@yahoo.com))**

January found the Walworth-Jefferson County Chapter braving an icy New Year's Day Hike in the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy (Williams Bay) followed by a yummy potluck. Wisconsin winters don't deter us from trail-related work – we simply hold an annual indoor workday (and potluck) at the home of Barb and Jerome Converse.

Members, committed to outreach, helped man the booth at the Garden Expo and staffed the booth at the Canoeconia, both events in Madison. We also set up a display at the Sky Circus (kite flying event) in Delavan, to let visitors know about the Trail. Barb Converse and Co. put on one of their Mammoth Hunt children's outreach events in the Milton Library. As usual, it was enthusiastically received.

A popular Owl Hike in February drew a large number of people as did our Full Moon Hike, which turned out quite well in spite of the threat of poor weather. In April, one of the bigger chapter outings was a Signs of Spring Hike. With the event posted on the DNR website, Outdoor Wisconsin contacted us about filming the event. It was quite interesting being involved in a televised production! You can see how it turned out: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJT\\_TACyZs8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJT_TACyZs8)

- Vince Lazzaroni



*A taste of fame! The Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter was filmed in April during their Signs of Spring Hike.*

# CHAPTER highlights *continued*



## WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Kris Jensen**  
(262-370-9929, [Krisjen1846@gmail.com](mailto:Krisjen1846@gmail.com))

Our 2017 “Boardwalk Blitz” is well underway. The chapter expects to replace 775 ft. of old, worn walkways by the end of the year. Trail Coordinator, Pat Witkowski, Alliance staff, and DNR representatives put in hours of pre-planning for the project. Early spring work began with frame construction. Students in an Arrowhead High School manufacturing class put together sections for a boardwalk to be installed in Hartland. Another group of 30 focused volunteers knocked off an amazing 100 frames during a workday in April. Some of these sections were used to complete two spans of boardwalk on the Eagle segment during the IATA Boardwalk Training event. Participants worked diligently “In the Mud” to get things done.

Corridor clearing workdays in May and June set the stage for later installations. Two separate Eagle Scout projects will include replacement of shorter structures at Lapham Peak and in the Southern Kettle Moraine. Our building spree will be finalized with an MSC-Mini project scheduled for Oct. 26th through Oct. 28th. Many thanks to all volunteers assisting with our “Year of Boardwalks”.

A significant donation from the Goehner Company near Dousman greatly decreased costs related to our “Year of Boardwalks” series of projects. They provided 1,300 ft. of white oak, as well as, precutting of the wood. The estimated value of their contribution is \$10,000. Hikers will enjoy an improved trail experience for years to come as a result of their generosity.

- Kris Jensen



## WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Tom Alberg**  
(262-242-2521, [alberg@ameritech.net](mailto:alberg@ameritech.net))

We kicked off our 2017 season with an inspiring presentation by the Kneeland Family who completed hiking the entire trail in 2016. The boys, Andy and Kyle, are the youngest hikers to become Thousand-Milers at the ages of 10 and 7. Hiking with their father Scott over a five-year period, they described their motivation and how they kept the hiking fun and exciting. The presentation was followed by a chili potluck lunch, our annual business meeting and elections.

It seems we are good at scheduling our hikes on rainy days, which put a “damper” on some of the hikes. We’ve held a Welcome Spring Hike, and enjoyed a nice turnout for our Earth Day Hike on the Holy Hill Segment. We partnered with Yellow Wood, a new outdoor gear store in Whitefish Bay for this year’s Earth Day Hike. Yellow Wood has a nice Ice Age Trail display within their store and made a donation to the Trail that day. Thank you Yellow Wood! Our first Moonlight Hike of the year was in May.

Tuesday evening work nights have become a summer tradition for the chapter. We’ve worked at the Otten Preserve in Kewaskum removing deadfalls and pulling garlic mustard. All efforts are now being focused on

a half-mile reroute between Waterford and Pleasant Hill Roads. Corridor clearing and prep work were completed in time for a bigger Saturday workday. Volunteers completed quite a bit of 4-step tread construction. All Segment Leaders have been busy keeping their segments in good condition since winter and spring winds left us all with plenty of cleanup work!

- Lisa DeLaney



## LAKESHORE CHAPTER

**Coordinator: Dan Mitchell**  
(920-497-8444, [dan.mitchell1756@gmail.com](mailto:dan.mitchell1756@gmail.com))

Exceeding expectations, scores of eager volunteers, including a number of neighbors, worked hard and had fun making tread in March at Walla Hi County Park in southwest Manitowoc County, preparing for the September 13-17 MSC project.

We’re making plans for the ribbon cutting ceremony and free tours for the Manitowoc/Two Rivers Trail Communities celebration. With the enthusiastic participation of the city’s staff, we will guide free tours and activities around the area: a ColdCache hike in Point Beach State Forest; a cultural tour of museums and the West Gardens (from whom we received a healthy grant for our Walla Hi project); a birding hike led by renowned local birder Jim Knickelbine (Executive Director of Woodland Dunes, Two Rivers); a Tyke Hike at Neshotah Beach; and a professionally led photography hike.

In May, with the help of more than a dozen folks, we re-laid 200+ feet of cordwalk leading to Lake Michigan, with supplies provided and delivered by Point Beach State Forest.

In June, we re-routed a portion of the trail as a switchback to control erosion and to ease the effort needed to climb a steep embankment in Henry Schuette Park, Manitowoc.

July offered another way to help the IATA by staffing a food tent at the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days near Algoma; a fun way to meet people from all over the state, making them more aware of the Trail, and with IATA sharing in the profits from the food sales.

— Dan Mitchell



# MEMBER & DONOR news

January 1st — June 12th, 2017

## THE IATA WELCOMES...

### NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome 216 new members to the Ice Age Trail Alliance!

### NEW YELLOW BLAZE CLUB MEMBERS

The Yellow Blaze Club consists of members giving annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Thank you to the following new members:

**Kirk Fox**  
**Kelly Hatch**  
**Sharon Hughes**  
**Thelma Johnson**  
**Edward & Sue Ellen Madere**  
**Elisabeth Schraith**



## MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts were received from:

**American Family Insurance**  
thanks to Emily Potter

**GE Foundation**  
thanks to Anne Davies-Walsh

**Illinois Tool Works Foundation**  
thanks to Mark Ulrich

**Johnson Controls Foundation**  
thanks to Richard Schreiner

**US Bank Foundation**  
thanks to Randall Sawicki

## BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

The Burr Oak Legacy Society recognizes those who have made a commitment to support the Ice Age Trail Alliance through their estate plans. We are honored to celebrate those people today for their future gifts toward the growth and success of the Ice Age Trail.

**Anonymous (9)**  
**David & Kathy Adam**  
**Bess & Bernard Alberg**  
**John & Sharon Bloodgood**  
**Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz**  
**Nancy Brownrigg**  
**Jerome & Barb Converse**  
**Jason Dorgan**  
**Joanna Kramer Fanney**  
**David & Carol Farber**  
**James & Susan Fiore**  
**Bob Funk**  
**Tom & Jan Gilbert**  
**Jerry Goth**  
**Roy & Sue Gromme**  
**Tom Gross & Linda Hein**  
**Dr. Kurt Hansen**

**Deb & Tom Heier**  
**Russell & Karen Helwig**  
**Mary Hilfiker**  
**Marcy & Nathan Kempf**  
**Linda Levengood**  
**Susan Lindsay**  
**David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney**  
**David & Lois Lovejoy**  
**The Lundberg Family —**  
**Herb, Corrine, Kimberly (Lundberg Taylor),**  
**Barton, and Rodrick**  
**Neal & Donna Meier**  
**Tess Mulrooney**  
**Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee**  
**Nancy Jo Patterson**  
**David W. Phillips**  
**Carol Prchal**

**Dan Rambo**  
**Ann & Bob Rusch**  
**Elisabeth Schraith**  
**Gerald & Mary Schwoch**  
**Lee & Jacqui Swanson**  
**Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor**  
**Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink**  
**Tom & Bonnie Wise**  
**Mike & Barbara Wollmer**

## TRAILBUILDING HIGHLIGHTS *continued from page 12*

exposed roots to be grubbed out, made worse by the small beech trees growing from a larger tree's root system. New side hill construction highlighted the difference between building a truly sustainable trail and the exposed rocks and roots found on the existing park trails. The crew working on the easement connection made real progress removing scrub trees and moving big rocks.

A chainsaw safety class was also offered to bolster a skillset among trail volunteers. Safety was reinforced with some scary pictures of what could happen if not taken seriously, including some funny videos of what did happen to those who lacked proper training.

It was great to be a part of a large group of volunteers, including some of my neighbors, who were ready to dig in. Some members of our crew came from as far away as Illinois – it was fun to get to know them, too! I figured the Ice Age Trail would put our sleepy little park on the map. I just didn't think it would happen so soon.

It's a great relief to walk the new trail segment without worry of hidden barbed wire and prickly ash. However, there is plenty left to do for the next Mobile Skills Crew event in September. With more time, and many more fired up volunteers, I'm sure there will be one more beautiful segment in the thousand-mile string of gems.

# MEMBER & DONOR news



continued

January 1st — June 12th, 2017

## MILESTONES

### Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

**Carolyn, Sue, Penny & Dora**

by Dora Cline

**John Helling**

by The Evon D. & Jack H. Keck Foundation

**Dr. Jill Holz**

by Noelle Dowling

**Peggy & Jim Leu**

by Nancy Leonhardt

**Chris Miller & Kris Jensen**

by Milwaukee Art Museum

**Barb Voigt**

by Dora Cline

### Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

**Bob Bird**

by Nancy Leonhardt

**Briana Burns**

by Tom & Patty Kuehn

Anne & Paul Koeppe

**Irene Cline**

by Sharon Bloodgood

**Cora Dversdall**

by Deb & Dick Erickson

**Bob Ellarson**

by Col. Ralph Olsen, M.D.

**Keith Gillie**

by Tamara Greco

**Buzz Hardy**

by Tom & Bette Drought

**Kenneth Hughes**

by Various Family Members  
& Friends

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Jerome & Joan Clauer

Sharon Dehli

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by Robert & Carol Broman

Buzz Meyer

Therese Moscinski

**Christine Joan Ulfing**

by Vincent Ulfing

**David Underwood**

by Various donors through  
David's Ice Age Trail Memorial  
GoFundMe campaign  
AND those donating directly to  
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# THANK YOU to Our Generous Donors

January 1st — June 12th, 2017

## \$10,000 – \$25,000

Bess & Bernard Alberg  
National Park Foundation, Washington, DC  
REI, Sumner, WA

## \$4,000 – \$5,000

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# TRAIL terminus

## Outstanding Trail Leader Award

Tim Malzhan, Director of Trail Operations, was honored with the prestigious Outstanding Trail Leader award presented by American Trails at the 23rd International Trails Symposium on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

American Trails honors the contributions of leaders who are working for the advancement of trails across the country and around the world. The award for Outstanding Trail Leader recognizes individuals who have made compelling and significant contributions to the trails movement in their home states—advocating, designing, building, maintaining, promoting, and adapting technologies.

As Pete Englund, Trail Crew Foreman for the Iowa DNR, who nominated Malzhan for the award, states, “Tim says that “trailbuilding is people building.” He believes the work the volunteers do, not only touches them in profound ways, but also carries on to people who use the Trail. His gratification for the volunteers he works with shows in everything he does. [Tim’s] dedication to the trails community shows through the stories and laughter around project campfires by those who have been touched by his work.”



*Tim Malzhan, with his eye trained on the grand vision of building, maintaining, and protecting the Ice Age Trail, is equally willing to roll up his sleeves to bring an MSC project to completion. Photo by Dave Caliebe.*

Tim Malzhan fell in love with the Ice Age National Scenic Trail during a thru-hike in 1991. Upon joining the Alliance in 2000, Malzhan's passion for the Trail led him to create the successful Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) Program to support the building and maintaining of the Ice Age Trail. The first event of this model program was held in 2002. MSC harnesses the dedication of ordinary citizen volunteers, who are trained in advanced trail construction and crew leadership techniques. Malzhan also created the “trails notebook” series. These notebooks

provide standards and give direction to the trailbuilding efforts of volunteers statewide.

American Trails presents the National & International Trails Awards Program to recognize the tremendous contributions of volunteers, professionals, and other leaders who are working for the betterment of trails both nationally and internationally in both rural and urban settings.