



MAMMOTH tales

FALL-WINTER 2022



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



MIKE WOLLMER
Executive Director

Nothing is forever.

While true to a point, the Ice Age Trail Alliance doesn't accept that premise. The Ice Age Trail, the land, volunteerism, conservation, and dedication are forever. That will never change.

The Alliance is positioned to keep our commitment to the mission...conserving, creating, maintaining and promoting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Our volunteers, professional staff, dedicated Board, and influential partners collaborate to march the Alliance forward at an aggressive pace.

Our work starts with the LAND. As an accredited land trust, the Alliance has stepped confidently into the lead role of protecting land. Our first priority is protecting a mosaic of properties to host the Trail. We don't stop there. A key element in every acquisition project is the quality of the land and its potential to be improved and cared for.

Then comes the TRAIL. The Alliance commits thousands of hours and considerable financial resources every year to create the Trail with sustainable trail layout and design, surveys, compliance issues and trainings. Volunteers play a key role in this work.

Sharing the gifts and opportunities of the Ice Age Trail with everyone is the responsibility of MARKETING, OUTREACH and EDUCATION. The Trail belongs to the vast diversity of the people. It is not our role to define the personal value the Trail may bring to an individual or community, but rather create a welcoming portal that allows trail-users to experience the venue on their own terms.

There are financial challenges for the enormous project. While we are appreciative of the public funding for the Ice Age Trail, federal, state and local resources have diminished significantly over the last 20 years. That said, our public partners are fighting to change that. We are so fortunate to be blessed with a huge and passionate membership base. With this "horsepower", our PHILANTHROPY team has cultivated very generous individual donations, which have greatly impacted various programs and initiatives. Foundations and corporations have favored the Alliance with an increasing number of grants that allow us to successfully complete projects that many times exceed expectations! We are also humbled by the *future generosity* of donors who include the Alliance's work in their estate planning.

This is my last Executive Director's report. The Alliance is in great shape. If you are reading this, *it's because of you*. While I'm moving on, the Alliance is confidently moving forward.

Thank you!

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OUR mission

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

ON THE COVER: Youngsters participating in the Mammoth Hike Challenge stop to examine wonders along the Ice Age Trail. Photo by Christina Callies.

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, call us at (800) 227-0046, or send them to Mammoth Tales, c/o IATA, PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

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LAND CONSERVATION highlights

The Final Puzzle Piece

CLAIRE FINUCANE, PROPERTY STEWARD

In 2007, a Taylor County landowner revoked his handshake agreement with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, creating a gap in the Rib Lake Segment. Since the Ice Age National Scenic Trail could no longer cross his land, the reroute included a 2.8-mile road walk.

In the intervening 15 years, Taylor County landowners partnered with the Alliance to close the gap. Among these fine folks are a generous brother and sister duo, Butch and Gale Clendenning. They stepped forward, offering the Alliance the land necessary for creating a more encompassing off-road experience along the segment.

The Clendenning family goes back generations in Rib Lake. In 1881, Peter and Ida Clendenning were one of the first five families to settle in Rib Lake, moving there to help operate the new sawmill. Later in 1954, Butch and Gale's father, Charles, purchased the first 20 acres of land that would be passed down to them and eventually become part of the Ice Age Trail. A year later, in 1955, Charles purchased an additional 40 acres. Finally, in 1996, Butch and Gale's mother, Frances, bought the last 20 acres.

Butch and Gale grew up in Rib Lake. They fondly remember hunting, fishing, and picnicking on the land. Butch lived nearly his whole life in Rib Lake while working for the Taylor County Highway Department, and Gale was an operating room nurse in Marshfield.

Butch began volunteering with the Alliance in the 90s, although his involvement spiked when he retired in 2014. He is currently the High Point Chapter co-coordinator, and he finds himself occupied with Trail maintenance, a task shared with other volunteers. As an active chapter member, he was keenly aware of the successful effort between the Alliance and local landowners to protect the Trail through Taylor County, permanently. However, getting to those new properties would mean a 3.7-mile walk on a busy road.

Butch knew they had the final piece to the puzzle. Gale remembers her brother's excitement about donating the

Trail easements, "He was the one who pushed me."

"It was me and Gale, or nothing," said Butch, reflecting on what made him choose to donate the three easements. This land will protect a half-mile section of Trail between County Road D and Surek Road. Then, a half-mile walk along Surek Lane will connect hikers to another four miles of Trail, all in the process of being built – a grand opening slated for fall 2023.

Butch and Gale each own property where the Trail will be built and share ownership over part of the land, creating the circumstance for three Trail easements. "It made us feel good that we were contributing to something we believe in," said Butch about the recent donation.



Charles Clendenning, father of Butch and Gale, purchased the original acreage that would be passed down and eventually become part of the Ice Age Trail.

The Clendennings are excited about the opportunity to support the Trail and their hometown through their recent easement donation. "This is good for our town, too," said Butch. "The new Trail will be within half a mile of the village limits." The easement donations followed an August 2022 celebration of Rib Lake becoming the newest Ice Age Trail Community.

The Clendennings look forward to the MSC events that will build Ice Age Trail on the Trail easements they donated. And they're excited about being able to access it for a hike from their nearby properties. When asked what he thinks hikers will enjoy about this section of the Trail, Butch responded, "I have come to appreciate the swamps and the bogs." He hopes others will as well.

TRAILBUILDING highlights



Return of the Tread-Eye

CREW LEADER TRAINING

HANNAH FRANCIS, VOLUNTEER AND
DANE COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER*



New Hope-Iola Ski Hill Segment

Portage and Waupaca Counties

Date: June 9 – 13, 2022

Participants: 16

Volunteer Hours: 420

PROJECT PARTNERS:

AKHG by Duluth Trading Company

Only in Wisconsin Giving

REI

National Park Trust and National Park
Service Challenge Cost Share grant

"I need everyone to imagine a salad," instructed Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator – National Park Service, on the first day of crew leader training. Gathered in the Iola Winter Sports Club lodge on a sunny spring morning, we proposed everything from "you know, a standard salad, with lettuce, tomato, and dressing," to "well, I was thinking fruit salad", or "tuna salad!"

"That's the idea," Dan said, walking us through what it meant to be a designated or functional leader and how to mitigate risk in the field. "We all have different mental models of our ideal salad. As we go into trail work, you must share your mental model with your crew so everyone knows what kind of salad you're talking about."

So, our four days of learning operational leadership, trail construction, and situational awareness began. We pretended to be brand new to trail work to teach each other about a McLeod (a metal rake-like tool with a flat, sharp edge and prongs on the other). And yes, I did just learn that it's not spelled "McCloud") and

about its Care, Use, Safety, and Storage (CUSS), along with the other trailbuilding tools, down to the loppers.

"ROUND UP!" roared Patrick Gleissner, the Alliance's Trail Operations Coordinator, on the second day. After the first day of trailbuilding and leadership theory, we all were itching to grub some pines and move some soil around. So, we formed tread out of the Plainfield sand, the soil series under our feet, and tried to make it hydrologically invisible.

We learned the secret to a good trail is that water won't get stuck anywhere. Not "seeing" that the trail is there, water will flow off, minimizing erosion. We practiced drawing the backline (how far upslope the trail should go), then taught our crew about the bench (the tread you walk on, about 24-30 inches wide). We molded the backslope, then ensured the critical edge still allowed water to move along.

By day three, we were leading our own crews. I remembered that explaining the whole process isn't overkill; it is never

Dan Watson leads the classroom discussion about creating a shared mental model. Photo by Dave Caliebe.





Patrick Gleissner offers instruction, discussing safe maneuvers during hands-on rock work training. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

too much for new trail volunteers. Despite working with folks who have volunteered for more years than I have fingers, there is always more to learn. In fact, during the entire training, I was in the presence of trailbuilding giants and volunteer extraordinaires. Becky, Steph, and Mark S. (too many Marks!) could've led the four-step tread construction with their eyes closed. Yet, newbies and seasoned crew leaders leaned into the exciting potential of introducing a new volunteer to trail work.

Our trusty instructors threw all kinds of scenarios at us less-seasoned crew leaders in training. Andrew wandered off and got 100 bee stings under my watch, but we got him medical attention in time; Beth showed up at our section after wandering away from Rob or

Jeremy's crew, but Riley led her back; Becky was a perpetual newbie, but by the end she stopped storing the tools in the middle of the trail. We passed around candy and laughed as the rain soaked our tread. Eventually, we marched out of the woods thoroughly inundated in water and trailbuilding.

Our last day wrapped up with a shared mental model of what it takes to be a good crew leader. Our salad was a mix of quality trailwork and dexterous leadership. We dubbed our crew leader class the "Return of the Tread-Eyes" as the first class to occur since 2018 and a nod to the Jedis who used the Force well. Our Crew Leader Class wishes for the force to be with you all, and we can't wait to see you at a trailbuilding event soon!

P.S. Beyond trail building, we had many adventures. After Friday's trail work, we went to Sunset Park and swam in a gorgeous kettle lake just a few miles up the road from Iola Winter Sports Club. Ernie the thru-hiker wandered through, and we got to sit with him around Friday's evening fire. Debbie (the Spirit Stick holder!) brought us more dessert than we could eat—we were so excited to see her show up every morning, stacks of Tupperware in hand! Riley and Mark found oyster mushrooms in the woods and cooked them up with brats for our Saturday dinner. Rob led a wood chopping seminar. With patience and precision, Beth and Becky built a fire out of wet wood after a rainstorm. Steph and Mark made friends with the folks at Central Waters Brewing and refilled the team supply.

* Learn more about Hannah Francis in the Volunteer Spotlight on page 19.

Crew Leadership Training offered annually by the Alliance (with a two-year pandemic pause) continues to build the MSC brand. The training replenishes the pool of Crew Leaders who support statewide MSC trail projects and local chapter-initiated events. Interested volunteers are invited to complete an application and participate in a phone interview with the Director of Trail Operations. Volunteers known to the Alliance through their work on past MSC projects, who exhibit a solid understanding of tread construction, and ultimately show interest in a teaching and leadership role within their chapter and MSC events are accepted into the training.



New Trail and a Bonus!

RICK GAMBLE, MSC VOLUNTEER
AND DANE COUNTY CHAPTER
MEMBER



New Hope-Iola Ski Hill Segment
Portage and Waupaca Counties
Date: June 22 – 26, 2022
Participants: 117
Volunteer Hours: 2,962

PROJECT PARTNERS:

AKHG by Duluth Trading Company
Only in Wisconsin Giving
REI
National Park Trust and National Park
Service Challenge Cost Share grant
Paul and Laura Przybelski
Iola Winter Sports Club
Iola-Scandinavia Community Fitness
and Aquatic Center
Portage/Waupaca County Chapter
members

My first MSC trailbuilding event with the Ice Age Trail Alliance event was in October 2021, the final push to finish the Ringle Segment. I arrived on Thursday knowing nothing about trail construction, and two days later, I was hooked. Since then, I have attended at least part of every MSC trailbuilding event, enjoying the dirt, sweat, and time with increasingly familiar faces.

Fast-forward to June 22, 2022, the start of the New Hope-Iola Ski Hill Segment MSC. This event would be my first time participating in all four and a half days. Looking at the weather forecast (extreme heat, followed by rain, then more heat plus humidity), I knew it would be an extra-hard couple of days. However, I also



A nearly complete 100-foot boardwalk hugs the shoreline. By the end of the October, it will offer hikers a way to enjoy a wetland teeming with serenading frogs. Photo by Patrick Gleissner.

knew that, just like the other MSC events, I would have the opportunity to try new things and learn new skills. I could not wait to get started.

A new task for me on the first day was clearing brush. I was handed a gas-powered spinning blade-on-a-stick and donned my PPE (gloves, helmet, face shield, hearing protection). Then, along with a partner, I started clearing a trail corridor through waist-deep ferns and brush. A grubbing crew (root-and-rock removers) followed us, and a tread crew (path creators) the next day. This progression is one of the many things I love about MSC events. You can go from nearly impassable underbrush to a beautiful, sustainable trail in a few short days; an effort enjoyed for generations.

Over the next few days, I had the opportunity to experience several other MSC “firsts”:

- Using a pull-all to dislodge a root ball the size of a small car.
- Loading, hauling, and unloading boardwalk materials.
- Learning to cut hillside tread in incredibly sandy soil.
- Seeing thousands of baby frogs emerge from the wetlands and hop into the woods.

Heat shortened our days, and rain slowed our work, yet everyone remained in good spirits. As a result, we completed nearly all the planned work for the event, and volunteers could tackle a bonus project (alluded to in the title above). A small-but-mighty “strike force” (later dubbed “swamp rats”) was sent to another section of the segment a mile away to repair and replace two submerged boardwalks. Our efforts reopened one-and-a-half miles of Trail between County Road T and Krogwold Road—a section closed for three years!

You may ask yourself: Why dedicate time and resources to building new Ice Age Trail where it already existed? Thankfully Patrick Gleissner, Trail Operations Coordinator, addressed this at the first round-up: Having dedicated Ice Age Trail encourages year-round hiking on the Iola Winter Sports Club property. Plus, it allows the Trail to follow some truly beautiful features bypassed on the existing ski trail route.

Although it will take another MSC event in October to complete the mile-and-a-half reroute, Patrick was right. When finished, this section will offer breathtaking views of kettles, a new 24-foot bridge, and 100 feet of boardwalk through a wetland teeming with frogs that cannot wait to serenade future hikers.

A First-Timer's Experience

SCOTT RICKERT, MSC VOLUNTEER
AND LAKESHORE CHAPTER
MEMBER



LaBudde Creek Segment
Sheboygan County
August 18 – 21, 2022
Participants: 101
Volunteer Hours: 2,030

PROJECT PARTNERS:
AKHG by Duluth Trading Company
Only in Wisconsin Giving
REI
Brotz Family Foundation
Maihaugen Foundation, Inc
DNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship
Program Friends Grant
Lakeshore Chapter members

Like so many others who've roamed the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, I wanted to give something back. A quick Internet search and up popped the Ice Age Trail Alliance. So, I joined the Lakeshore Chapter in March 2022 and signed up for all four days of the LaBudde Creek Segment MSC trailbuilding event.

I arrived Thursday morning feeling nervous and curious about my job placement. When the Crew Leader Manager announced my assignment, my anxiety turned to glee. I would be helping build a 100-foot-long boardwalk along the Walla Hi Segment (a satellite project of the LaBudde Creek Segment MSC event). My boots have tramped through Walla Hi County Park in all seasons, living only four miles away. Many times, standing water in the wet, muddy



The lumber brigade forms next to the stack of planks needed for building a 100-foot boardwalk. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

hollow, now slated for a structure, had stopped our hike short. So, you could say I was interested in its completion.

Upon arriving at the Lax Chapel Road trailhead, I found, to my surprise, the lumber, pans, and other boardwalk-building material waiting in the parking area.

Turning to Mark, our team leader, I asked, "How do we get this stuff to where it's supposed to go? Cripe's sake, that's a half mile away!"

"We carry it." He replied with a straight face.

My thoughts raced: *Yikes! – He is serious! This old body is going to break! There's a reason they sent along that AED!*

Mark laughed, sensing my dismay. But then, he reassured me by saying, "Don't worry, everyone from the event will help us."

On cue, more than 50 willing people materialized and organized a lumber brigade. Soon, everything required to construct the boardwalk had been transported a half-mile to the work site and organized into neat stacks. Next, skilled crew members demonstrated safe tool usage and offered a primer on boardwalk construction. Then, we set to the task of boardwalk building.



The brigade stretches out down the hill to the construction site, carefully handing boards along, one-by-one. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

As the day went on, team members swapped jobs based on fatigue, boredom, or the desire to learn a new skill. We joked about tool names and were grateful for the lack of mosquitoes. It rained for a period, but that didn't slow us down.

By Friday afternoon, 100 feet of the most excellent boardwalk was open to the public. Then, on Saturday and Sunday, crews dug holes and placed posts for trail signage. Although the crew composition changed each day, each post was perfectly installed.

All told, the push to complete the Ice Age Trail took a step forward during this MSC event. Thanks to the efforts of 101 volunteers, a brand-new $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile Trail extension opened. This effort was a worthy feat in itself. Still, crews also upgraded two structures and maintained a half-mile of existing Trail. They also built a new boardwalk (the one I've described above) and scouted out another mile of potential new Trail.

I am boastfully proud of what we accomplished. With the management team leading from the front and providing helping hands and instruction, diverse people with different skill levels and backgrounds worked like a happy, friendly family to get all the jobs done.

TRAILBUILDING highlights continued

Explore Marathon County's Newest Gem!

White Cedar Segment
Marathon County
July 13 – 17, 2022
Participants: 88
Volunteer Hours: 2,185



PROJECT PARTNERS:
Prairie Springs: The Paul
Fleckenstein Trust

Judd S. Alexander Foundation
The friends and family of Barbara
and Jerry Larson
Marathon County Landfill
Lisa and Paul of Lisa's @ Lakeside
Central Moraines Chapter members

AKHG by Duluth Trading Company
Only in Wisconsin Giving
REI
Wausau & Marathon County Parks
& Recreation Foundation

This less-than-a-mile-long gem in Marathon County offers passage through a tranquil white cedar swamp, now hosting an 873-foot-long boardwalk. Well-crafted tread – more than 1,500 feet of it – traverses the hemlock-and white-pine-dotted eskers rising from the forest floor.



A happy crew worked together to fasten deck boards along an 873-foot-long boardwalk. Photo by Holly Lorentz.

To learn more and view project photos, please visit: iceagetrail.org/explore-new-gem-marathon-county

One Step Closer to Reopening the Rib Lake Segment!

Rib Lake Segment
Taylor County
September 14 - 18, 2022
Participants: 102
Volunteer Hours: 2,625



PROJECT PARTNERS:
AKHG by Duluth Trading Company
Only in Wisconsin Giving
REI
Bob and Ann Rusch
Taylor County Forestry Department
New Vision Wilderness Therapy
University of Minnesota Outdoors Club
High Point Chapter members

Fledgling Crew Leader Rob Fisk (under the tutelage of seasoned stone-master Wendell Holl) was pitted against the stubborn stones of Taylor county, while finishing The Grand Staircase – soon to make the "must see" list for Ice Age Trail hikers. However, the heart of the project was the half-mile of flowing tread carved from the side of the terminal moraine.



A volunteer shows off the new stone staircase and retaining wall. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

To learn more and view project photos, please visit: iceagetrail.org/one-step-closer-to-reopening-the-rib-lake-segment

OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

Inspiring Girls to Become Strong, Smart, and Bold

MIRANDA MURPHY, FIELD ENGAGEMENT INTERN

This past summer, the Ice Age Trail Alliance collaborated with the Girls Inc. of Greater Madison, a program based at the Goodman Community Center, to get youth outdoors. Girls Inc. is a national organization fostering an inclusive learning environment for girls and nonbinary-identifying-youth from fourth to ninth grades. The organization's mission – to inspire all girls to become strong, smart, and bold – also encourages active, healthy habits. As a result, Girls Inc. of Greater Madison's partnership with the Alliance – since 2021– has been a good fit. Outings on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail offer participants appropriate risks and the opportunity to master physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges.

The season's first hike brought 30 elementary-aged kids from the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) camp out to Devil's Lake State Park. They hiked parallel to the Ice Age Trail on the Tumbled Rock path near the shoreline. Once they arrived at the North Shore, they enjoyed lunch in the shade and then took a long nature walk by the beach. The kids were fascinated by the teeming wildlife which included turkey vultures, minnows, snails, and a snake!

The Adventure Club's 15 middle schoolers explored the Table Bluff Segment. They hiked up to "Picnic Hill" and then aided in ecosystem preservation by removing clover, an invasive species. A snake or two was also discovered. More fun activities rounded out the day, including leadership skits, trivia kickball, and a trivia singing competition.

An Indian Lake County Park outing gathered 75 kids from multiple Girls Inc. sites within Madison. The participants spent the day engaged in yoga, meditation, hiking, and crafts. The event's finale: an ice cream truck arrived, dispensing treats for all.

In the fall, the Alliance teamed up with a Girls Inc. leader, Jade Koenigs, to lead 10 kids from Madison East High School on an all-day hiking trip at Devil's Lake State Park. Recruitment began at the beginning of the school year as Alliance staff attended a Freshman First Day event and Open House night. The Alliant Energy Foundation provided a \$1,790 grant to help make this adventure possible.



Above: Shoes off and smiles out, a happy group of hikers cool off at the edge of Devil's Lake. Photo by Rachel Ancheta.



Left: Adventure Camp participants take advantage of shade before their next activity. Photo by Miranda Murphy.



Below: A group of friends get silly while hanging out together on the shores of Indian Lake. Photo by Girls Inc. staff.

From Vision to Reality: the Stage is Set

What's happened for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail over the past two years has been nothing short of incredible. Twenty (20!) properties have been permanently protected by the Alliance for the Trail; with six more likely to be protected before 2022 comes to a close. This was only possible thanks to generous support of hundreds of individuals, foundations like *Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust*, and members like you.

Your support has helped the Alliance close gaps along the Trail's route and set the stage for the tangible next step: trailbuilding.

Trailbuilding turns our protected land from green spaces on a map into yellow-blazed Trail. It's how we connect communities and create meaningful access for Ice Age Trail users of all types. It's what turns the vision of a completed Trail into reality.

Converting pin flags on property into Trail tread does not come easy. It involves thousands of hours of planning, designing, and building. It takes remarkable dedication from hundreds of

volunteers. It requires considerable financial resources. And, it needs your continued support.

Contribute today to ensure the Alliance can build new Trail next year and beyond, visit IceAgeTrail.org/Donate2022.

Preparations for the 2023 trailbuilding season are well underway. The calendar is plotted. The work efforts are being planned. And with your support, 2023 will be a success: volunteers will have the tools and supplies they need to build boardwalk, cut tread, paint blazes, restore landscapes, and ultimately meet the vision of the Alliance. Your donation will help make a completed Trail reality.

Together we have set the stage for new Trail miles and connections across Wisconsin. With your continued support, the Ice Age Trail experience will expand onto the lands you've helped protect.

*The Trail is for everyone and we're honored to be creating it with you.
Thank you for your past support and your future generosity.*



Volunteer efforts transformed pin-flagged Trail corridor into freshly carved ready-for-hiking tread. Photos by Rick Gamble.

Help Blaze New Trail: Donate Today.

Visit IceAgeTrail.org/Donate2022

Any amount you give will support volunteer Trailbuilding efforts next season.
You'll get us ever closer to a completed Trail.



Improving the Hiking Experience with Athletic Brewing Co.

SARAH DRISCOLL, PHILANTHROPIC COORDINATOR

As you walk over a new boardwalk, you might not necessarily focus on what's underfoot. Instead, you see the spring wildflowers blooming and swallows circling the prairie. And, later, the happy memory of the day sticks with you.

It can be easy to take boardwalks, bridges, or puncheons for granted. Yet, before volunteers construct a new structure over a soggy section, you may have focused on the mud clinging to your boots instead of enjoying your surroundings.

Updates to the existing Ice Age Trail segments are essential to improving the hiking experience. Over time, boardwalks and bridges age and need replacing. Trail construction methods and standards evolve, and even use by hikers can cause wear and tear on the Trail.

Over the last two years, the Ice Age Trail Alliance has partnered with Athletic Brewing, a non-alcoholic beer company dedicated to making great-tasting craft brews. (The company has won over five-dozen international brewing awards, including Gold and Silver, for its Run Wild and Free Wave IPAs in the 2022 US Open of Beer Championships.)

In addition, Athletic Brewing donates 2% of all sales to trail and park cleanups, maintenance projects, constructions, and access. Through their 'Two for the Trails' program, named after a tradition

of taking two brews to toast post-trail adventures, Athletic Brewing Co. has donated more than \$2 million to trail and park projects worldwide – from Australia to the United Kingdom and here in Wisconsin on the Ice Age Trail.

In 2022, Athletic Brewing Co. supported the construction of a 350-foot boardwalk on the Lodi Marsh Segment that keeps hikers' feet dry as they cross a wetland. In 2023, Athletic Brewing Co. will support the replacement of a boardwalk at the John Muir County Park in Marquette County. And, again, once volunteers build the new, longer structure across a historically muddy area, your memories will be of walking through a fen as you circle Ennis Lake. This experience will stick with you instead of the mud on your boots.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is grateful for its partners that help further the mission of conserving, creating, maintaining, and promoting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Next time you decide which brew to grab to toast your Trail adventure, consider supporting Athletic Brewing. You'll enjoy an award-winning non-alcoholic beer while supporting trails and parks worldwide. And next time you walk over a boardwalk, take a moment to appreciate your dry feet, the trees around you, and the supporters and volunteers who make it all possible.



Two hikers and their dog take advantage the new Lodi Marsh Segment boardwalk, keeping boots and paws mud-free, even as volunteers put on the finishing touches. Photo by Bob Kaspar.



In addition to their Two for the Trails Program, Athletic Brewing, as a part of its IMPACT program, donates 1% of revenue to non-profit organizations that support positive impact and opportunity from the ground up. As of 2022, Athletic Brewing is proudly a Certified B Corporation™. Its full-flavored non-alcoholic brews and hop-infused sparkling waters are available for purchase on www.athleticbrewing.com.

Sorry to be Done but Happy to Have Completed

MICHAEL HOURIGAN, THOUSAND-MILER ON 8/12/2022

In 2019, between Christmas and New Year's Day, while my family was otherwise disposed, I decided to walk a portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The temperature was adequate and I had time to travel the hour or so from rural Racine to Stony Ridge in the Southern Kettle Moraine. My intention was to do it as an out and back, which happened, but I also added the homesteads across the road and Big Hill. I remember taking a picture from Big Hill and sending it to Dawn, my wife. I was inspired two-fold – I had taken the initiative to do this on my own and the sights were quite incredible. I was hooked from the beginning – I would hike the Ice Age Trail.

I've lived in Racine County my entire life. Rural Racine. As a child I would walk the farm fields, creeks, and woods finding the beauty – appreciating the adventure – each day brought. I was fortunate to have this in my youth. Of course, it wasn't recognized at the time, but certainly is now, as it prepared me for both hardships and the appreciation of nature.

I crossed creeks in four seasons, found fossils under bridges, built forts in woods, and learned to appreciate the diversity of life around me. I shared my haunts with others and others shared theirs with me. There weren't real boundaries. Some were defined by signage and others were anecdotal. At age 10 feign ignorance and all boundaries fade away.

Stepping onto Stony Ridge Segment took me back to the days of my youth. I needn't worry about the boundaries in my adult life as a defined trail was laid out before me while respecting landowners' wishes. I could literally play in others' backyards with permission at age 50 while discovering new sights, growing an appreciation of the state I live in, and selfishly reaching for a goal of finishing the entire trail through segment hiking.



Michael Hourigan, encircled by friends and family, holds a poster commemorating his Thousand-Miler finish. Photo courtesy of Michael Hourigan.

Two years and eight months later, here I am. I've hiked the Ice Age Trail. All of the times I've travelled by car from Racine County to the northern segments I've reminded myself that while long by car, I've walked that distance and at least two-fold. Over 1,100 miles within one state is impressive. Not by mileage, necessarily, but it gives a sense of just how large this country actually is.

I fear I've hit the point where is actually too much to write. What I've gained from hiking the Trail is almost immeasurable. First, but not foremost, is the appreciation I have for the state in which I live. For 49 years I drove/rode the streets of Wisconsin looking toward the woods. I like to refer to my hike as seeing Wisconsin from the back door – looking to the streets from the woods or prairies. Of course, there are connecting routes (CRs) where my metaphor would not have made sense, if not for the Trail putting me in places I'd otherwise not have experienced: the towns or rural byways defined by the route.

There is, of course, an educational aspect to the Trail. Driftless area, kettle, moraine, esker, lobe, and more. There's found great explanation of what is being experienced while hiking. Add in the local chapter efforts which may include tree identification and local histories through signage along the trail, there is much more to learn. Specific to me I've identified nearly 100 bird species and countless wildflowers, plants, fungi species using online apps while hiking.

Through introspection I've learned I'm comfortable being uncomfortable. Hiking the Trail I've learned that while uncomfortable, I recover quickly. Uphills eventually even out providing time to recover and regain breath. Rain eventually stops providing time to dry out. Hectic roadways eventually fall back into the woods to allow concern and noise to fall away. I also learned I grow stronger as the day grows longer. The mind is an odd cohort.



There are events in one's life which define who one is or who one may become. The Ice Age Trail has been a 1,150-mile stream of discovery and definition. If willing, it can move us outside our comfort zones in many, many different ways. It introduces us to new people, to new visuals, to new hardships, to new joys.

I'd be remiss to not write a bit more about the people I've had the privilege (yes, privilege) to meet while on the Trail. These people range from Uber drivers who shuttled me to trailheads to those "few" I hiked with on multiple segments. They are also the hoteliers, business owners, restaurateurs, and the random families who invited me to their picnics. If one wants to experience people at their best go on a hike. Don't be afraid to initiate a conversation. Pay attention to what others have to say. Be a nice person. It's really quite simple and the rewards for the minimal effort come back ten-fold.

If pressed for a single word to describe my experience I couldn't do it. But, I can summarize it in two words: humbled and awed. I am and will be forever grateful this line in the dirt exists. To those who manage and facilitate the trail – my many, many thanks. I'm sorry to be done but happy to have completed.



The cordwood path along the Point Beach Segment beckons hikers toward the lake. Photo by Michael Hourigan.

A winter view from the overlook along the Gibraltar Rock Segment. Photo by Michael Hourigan.



Farewell, Mike Wollmer!



Mike will be retiring at year's end following a long and remarkably successful term as the Alliance's executive director. A small sample of Mike's friends and fans were invited to express accolades for his years of service with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. You're invited to express your well-wishes via an electronic card. Please visit kudoboard.com/boards/bkxhLmbe and add your sentiments.



The July 28, 2006 edition of the satirical newspaper *The Onion* included an article titled "Nonprofit Fights Poverty with Poverty." A sample line:

"Our crack team of anti-poverty activists is totally devoted to marshalling every resource at our disposal," Lindstrom said as she stood under a flickering light bulb in the office's bathroom and added some water to an old toner cartridge to squeeze every last drop of usable ink from it.

I remember laughing hard at the article, but also feeling uneasy. I had started with the Ice Age Trail Alliance two months prior, and this all sounded a little too familiar. At the time, the Alliance was operating out of a dingy basement office, which we (mostly) jokingly referred to as the Den of Despair, in an unremarkable downtown Madison office building. Relations between volunteer leaders, staff, and our board of directors were at low tide. That September, we had to send out a special fundraising letter because a consultant had told us that it was dodgy to wait two months for our usual year-end campaign.

That is the world Mike Wollmer walked into when he took over as executive director, first in a volunteer capacity in late 2006, then in an official capacity in 2007. What has happened since? This table tells part of the story:

	Upon Mike's Arrival	Upon Mike's Departure
Alliance budget	\$750,000	\$2,500,000
Full-time staff	6	15
Headquarters	Den of Despair	Beautiful office directly on the Ice Age Trail
Number of Thousand-Milers in previous year	4	83

We could brainstorm a lot of reasons why Mike made such a positive difference for the Alliance. A few words from the criteria for the Spirit Stick, our organization's most treasured award, seem appropriate: (nominees shall) "carry out their service on behalf of the Trail in a spirit of cooperation, optimism, and enthusiasm." Mike embodied those values from his first day on the job, in spite of the challenging circumstances. Over time, despite the occasional erratic dumped in the middle of the path forward, there was always an overriding sense of positivity.

Mike's approach is captured by something he would say periodically at staff meetings: "We're not saving babies here." Mike understood that, for all the passion our members, volunteers, and staff have for the Ice Age Trail, at the end of the day, it's just a hiking trail. Let's enjoy ourselves.

Eric Sherman, Membership Coordinator



The following quotes come to mind when I reflect on Mike's legacy:

"The idea of Wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders." – Edward Abbey

"What is the essence of Life? To serve others and to do good." – Aristotle

"A new adventure is coming up and I am sure it will be a good one." – Sigurd Olson

Mike, a heartfelt thanks for your defense of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and your service to others. And, may the Trail be your path to a new adventure and your continued efforts to do good.

Eric Gabriel, National Park Service – Superintendent





Mike's enthusiasm, sense of humor, and leadership when it relates to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is something that will be greatly missed, but never forgotten! Thank you for all your years of dedication; your contributions are evident and appreciated.

Make sure you work just as hard in retirement at relaxing, as you worked to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age Trail. I hope to see you out there!

Katie Frauen, National Park Service –
Outdoor Recreation Planner-Trail Manager



It has been my privilege to know and work with Mike since my arrival on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in 2007. Mike has been a tireless champion of the Trail and the myriad things it encompasses – the volunteers who craft it, the diverse partnerships that strengthen it, and the solace it brings to all who travel it. Mike's guiding hand is evident in all aspects of what the Ice Age Trail has grown to become, and in how it will continue to evolve. I wish him "easy hiking" from now on. He has earned it.

Daniel W. Watson, National Park Service –
Volunteer Coordinator



Congratulations on your retirement, Mike. You have much to be proud of during your tenure at the Ice Age Trail Alliance. You've helped create a legacy benefiting Wisconsin residents and visitors for generations to come. The Alliance has, without a doubt, become one of the most impressive conservation organizations in the state. Your leadership and vision have been significant drivers of that success.

When I became the executive director of Gathering Waters back in 2016, I immediately looked for individuals and organizations to emulate. Your creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, and ability to recruit and retain high-quality team members were qualities that inspired me then and continue to influence me today.

Thank you for your years of service to conservation and the Ice Age Trail. Enjoy your next chapter.

Cheers,

Mike Carlson, Executive Director, Gathering Waters: Wisconsin's
Alliance for Land Trusts



Mike, we cannot thank you enough for all the ways over the years you gave of yourself so the Ice Age Trail Alliance could continue to develop, grow, and serve. All of us are beneficiaries of your efforts. What a legacy!

Patty Dreier, Alliance Board
President



I recall meeting Mike Wollmer about 15 years ago when the Ice Age Trail Alliance office was still in the basement of a small downtown Madison building. Heavy rain had partially flooded the office. File boxes (with land records) sat on top of tables or file cabinets, and the room smelled bad. Mike was cordial and apologetic about the state of affairs. He explained that he was relatively new on the job, and was very optimistic about the Alliance's future. I was unimpressed.

But under Mike's leadership, the future he envisioned, even in that dark moment, has come to pass and much more. With unflagging enthusiasm, a pragmatic leadership style, and a touch of magic, Mike has, more than anyone else, guided the Alliance over the past decade and a half to its current place as a premier trail and environmental organization. Membership, trail use, volunteer participation, donations, and educational outreach reached levels few others dared to hope for.

When I became a board member and later board president, I learned much more about the running of the Alliance. I quickly realized Mike's hand was on every operational component, even leading MSC trailbuilding events crews. I worried about what we would possibly do if Mike were to retire or move on to some other opportunity because he just seemed irreplaceable to the functioning of the organization.

But, it seems Mike's final gift to us is to make that concern moot. The Alliance is strong and stable and will continue to thrive even in Mike's absence. So, farewell, Mike, thank you, and may you continue to believe in a bright future!

David Lonsdorf, Dane County Chapter Member



Volunteering Spans the Ages

DANA BOLWERK, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE CHAPTER

After seeing an article asking for volunteers, **Richard Haas** started volunteering with the Waukesha County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance in 2007. Although retired at the time, Haas was a past superintendent of parks and forestry for the City of Wauwatosa, so volunteering on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail seemed like a good fit.

"It got me back out into the field," he said. "There's satisfaction in what I do, and I enjoy it."

Haas hit the ground running with his volunteer efforts. He's quick to tell you there are 32 trailheads in Waukesha County and 22 boardwalks – all of which he has personally maintained and/or helped replace.

At 91, Haas said he doesn't hike as much as he used to and is cutting back on his trail work. Although let's be frank: "cutting back" is a relative term as he still handles the trimming and maintenance of the trailheads in Waukesha County. He is also an active member of the Monday Mudders – a group of volunteers who get together weekly to do trail work.

"It varies between 5 and 12 people each week. Everyone gets along. It's amazing how much work we can get done during a three-hour project," he said.

New volunteers are always welcome to join Monday or other chapter work days. He said the only qualification is a willingness



Richard Haas and his trusty weedwhacker beat back weeds threatening to engulf a boardwalk. Photo by Pat Witkowski.

to work and added there are multiple tasks for all abilities.

"We introduce everyone at the start of a workday and encourage anyone to keep coming back," Haas said. Volunteers are also needed to lead educational seminars or events, including leading hikes. "People want to know where the good areas are and what kind of condition the Trail is in."

While he has praise for the unique beauty of each of the Ice Age Trail segments in the area, his favorite is the 5.6-mile Eagle Segment. It travels within the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Southern Unit, bringing hikers through the Scuppernon Prairie and Kettle Moraine Low Prairie State Natural Areas. Visually, hikers may observe lots of wildlife, including cranes, multiple species of ferns, and Brady's Rocks, which are part of the Niagara Escarpment. Haas took a leading role in a project near Brady's Rocks and began

some of the brush clearing himself before a crew arrived for the rest of the effort.

"Volunteering is a very personal thing. It makes you feel good and gives you a sense of pride that you're part of the larger National Trail System," he said. "I like being outside. It's great to see others out hiking and enjoying the Trail."

"Make Sure You Stay With Them."

Before becoming involved in Trail work, Richard and his wife Kristine (who have two daughters: Victoria and Tamra) taught country line and partner dancing. In 2003, shortly after Kristine was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Richard became involved with the southeast Wisconsin chapter of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Before Kristine died in 2005, she told Richard to "stay with them," and he has been an avid advocate ever since. He has shared literature and volunteered for multiple events, including their largest fundraiser, the Purple Stride Event in Milwaukee, which raises up to \$250,000 annually for pancreatic cancer research. More information about PCAN can be found at <https://pancan.org>.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Waukesha County Chapter, including the Monday Mudders, contact Pat Witkowski at gpwit1976@gmail.com.



Please contact the Alliance at iceagetrail.org
to learn more about volunteering with your local chapter.

Hannah Francis, 28, is a self-described "city girl gone rogue." She was born in Chicago and grew up riding bikes and buses in the city. However, it wasn't until she attended Smith College in Massachusetts that she fell in love with trails through hiking and leading orientation trips for first-year students on the Appalachian Trail. An undergraduate degree in environmental geoscience compounded her love of trails, and she was on the collegiate swim team.

"As a swimmer, I'm used to pushing my body and being athletic. And in geosciences, the way to learn is to go out and look at rock formations. Being outside helps clear your mind," she said. "(Before starting my masters in Wisconsin), I knew about drumlins, eskers, and moraines. But, to be around some of the best glacial features in the United States, if not the world, really gives depth and added appreciation to what I learned."

Francis moved from Massachusetts to UW-Madison to pursue a master's degree in soil science and agroecology in 2018. Her first-time volunteering with the Ice Age Trail Alliance was that October. She had just finished thru-hiking the 300-mile Superior Hiking Trail and showed up to her first MSC Trailbuilding event on the Ringle Segment.

"I didn't know anyone or anything about trailbuilding, but I did know how to be outside and work hard physically," she said. "I just showed up on a cold October day and found a grassy field full of cars near a big tent. Everyone wants new people to learn and enjoy themselves. I felt welcomed. It was great!"

"The first time I picked up a pick mattock and started carving away, it was empowering. I was hooked. It's incredible to see how the Trail



Hannah happily volunteered her backpacking expertise during the pack shakedown of the Long-Distance Hiking Seminar offered at the Alliance's Annual Conference in April 2022. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

can move through the landscape sustainably," she said.

Francis completed her master's degree amid the COVID-19 pandemic and decided to plan another adventure.

"It was a hard (final) semester to finish. I didn't know what it would be like not being able to work [in an office] with people, so I thru-hiked the Ice Age Trail," she said. "Being able to walk the soils I'd studied the previous two years was a treat. I met some incredible people, and the landscape was magical. Wisconsin is stunning."

It took her 49 days to complete her hike, finishing on June 18, 2021. Along the way, her boyfriend and other friends supported her, meeting her on weekends with new supplies.

Since completing her hike, she has continued to be an active volunteer, mainly with the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. She's also completed chainsaw training and crew leader training offered by the Alliance. She has also participated in multiple MSC trailbuilding events. While her full-time job as an outreach specialist for UW-Madison's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and training for the Ironman 70.3 World Championship (St. George, Utah) at the end of October, make for

big days, she still finds time to squeeze in trail work ... and drag some friends along, if possible.

"It's a good way to be outside and part of a team. During trailbuilding, you find community, get to be outside, and learn something new. There are tasks for everyone. Oh, and there are always snacks," she said. "If anyone is nervous about volunteering, they can reach out to me."

Hannah has graciously agreed to share her contact information with readers. You may reach her at hannahf94@gmail.com.

Dana Bolwerk is an aspiring Thousand-Miler (with a lot of segments yet to explore). Every day spent on the Trail is a good day. She lives in West Salem with her husband, son, and their dog, Tailer.

CLASS NOTES:

Father/Daughter Backpacking 101

ERIC SHERMAN, MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

"The forest smells so good...even better than the car, which smells like granola and cheesy bunny crackers."

– Pearl, shortly after arrival

"We need to lock these shoes in a safe and never smell them again."

– Pearl, shortly before departure

In October of 2021, I took my then-10-year-old daughter, Pearl, on an introduction-to-backpacking trip. We chose Polk County in northwestern Wisconsin, with a plan for a night of car-camping at Straight Lake State Park followed by a one-night backpacking hike on the Ice Age Trail's McKenzie Creek Segment.

Though I had identified several other segments along the trail's northern tier as strong candidates for our destination, ultimately, it was a rigged election. McKenzie is an old favorite of mine, a place where my wife and I enjoyed an epic day of hiking 15 years prior. A few lower-key hikes since have reinforced my high regard for it. To appropriate a turn of phrase from Aldo Leopold: I love all of the Ice Age Trail, but I am in love with the McKenzie Creek Segment.

What transpired on this most recent outing is well summarized by Pearl's quotes, above. Upon arrival, we were elated: Together!... Just the two of us!...In the woods!...It's fall! We then proceeded to take our lumps. By the end of our adventure, we were somewhere between lumpy and elated, which felt about right. Still in a joking mood, but also glad that the low points (which weren't *too* low) yielded experiences to learn.

In the interests of helping others who are planning parent/child adventures on the Ice Age Trail, and backpacking trips in particular, here are a few suggestions.



TIP 1: DON'T BE DISCOURAGED BY RAIN...

The morning after our first night's stay at Straight Lake, we fueled up at the highly recommended Café Wren in nearby Luck. From there, we headed to the McKenzie Lake trail access to start our hike. It had been a muggy fall, but not a wet one, with lots of days where it felt like it should rain

but didn't. This was the weekend the sponge finally got squeezed, with on-and-off rain for our entire seven-mile hike. Had you told us beforehand this was going to happen, we might have cancelled the trip. We were glad for what we didn't know, however, as we learned that hiking in the rain can be really enjoyable. The colors in the woods had a special pop, from the bright yellows of the decaying ferns and maple saplings to the deep reds of wintergreen berries and Virginia creeper. Smells were richer, too; it took no special effort to fill up on the aroma of forest decomposition, especially near pines. Mainly, however, the rain was enjoyable because it defied our expectations. As we made our way north, sometimes right along McKenzie Creek, sometimes on the ridge above, mostly at points between, the rain felt like a gift more than a burden.



TIP 2: ...BUT BRING THE UMBRELLAS

An earlier chapter in my life included a fair number of backpacking trips, and one thing that stuck with me from that period (and the accompanying obsession with gear) is the umbrella, which I learned about from ultralight-hiking guru Ray Jardine. For our hike, it proved again to be just the thing. Instead of having to stop repeatedly to put on or take off rain gear, we could just raise or lower our umbrellas. With the mild temperature we would have roasted in plastic clothing, but were liberated to dress as we pleased with the umbrellas up. Pearl found it entertaining to try and squeeze through archways of encroaching trees without getting her umbrella snagged. When the rain stopped, the umbrellas doubled as hiking sticks, and around camp, they doubled as mini gear shelters.

TIP 3: DON'T THROW THE BABY (CARRIER) OUT WITH THE BATHWATER

Speaking of gear: Parents, if you use a baby carrier like an Ergo or Baby Bjorn, hold onto it after your kids outgrow it, as it's a great piece of backpacking equipment. It nicely counter-balances a heavy load; I didn't feel the usual "how much longer?" backpacking disgruntlement until we reached Dinger Lake, more than five miles in. The frontpack is also a much better place than the backpack for your water bottle...no more grasping behind you blindly like a rake with a bent tine. The frontpack makes a good conversation starter, too, as those walking toward you may ask how well the carrier works for backpacking (after admitting with a smile to being mildly disappointed yours doesn't contain an infant).



TIP 4: KNOW YOUR CAMPSITE, AND DESCRIBE IT TO YOUR CHILD, BEFORE ARRIVING

Most of the walk in was smooth sailing and, in hindsight, we got a little carried away with the good vibes. Toward the end of our seven miles, the wheels started to fall off. Pearl, who had been chattering pretty much non-stop all day (even scolding me, at one point, for not holding up my end of the conversation), suddenly got very quiet. I asked a few times if she was okay, but all I got in return was an unconvincing, "Oh, nothing." It turns out that, aside from the obvious problems of being tired and soaked, she was worried about the terrain we were walking through, which had transitioned from the beautiful valley of McKenzie Creek, lined with towering white and red pines, to flatter ground and much younger, denser forest. She was concerned about where we would finally make camp, and upon reaching that spot, she started to cry, and stated that she missed her mama and little sister. My heart broke...what have I done? We sat down on a nearby stump, and I invited Pearl up on my lap for a hug and reassuring words. Given where we were, those words were hard to come by.

In planning, I had identified for our campsite a patch of county forest about a quarter-mile off the Ice Age Trail where primitive camping was permitted. It was next to a small pond that had, according to topo maps, a ridge on its western side. The pond turned out to be more of a swamp, and getting up onto the ridge

demanded more bushwhacking than we could stomach at day's end. We wound up on a low, flat, open area between the pond and a snowmobile trail. Though it was ultimately not a terrible spot, it was also charmless, and a far cry from the perfect site we had enjoyed the previous night at Straight Lake State Park.

My suggestion is to scope out your intended camping spot ahead of time, or go someplace you've hiked very recently and know well. This will help you paint an accurate scene not only for yourself but also your companion(s), so spirits don't nosedive upon arrival.

TIP 5: HAVE A PLAN FOR TENT TIME (LOTS OF IT, IN THE FALL)

As soon as we set up our tent, we started to feel better. We felt better still after enjoying our meal of freeze-dried pasta with marinara sauce and strangely bouncy meat bits. It was now 6 p.m., and Pearl cheerfully suggested we walk east along a part of the segment we had not yet covered. That was fun, and as we were crossing County O on the way back, Pearl spotted a mama black bear and two cubs crossing about a quarter mile up the road. After a few beats of staring in excitement, thoughts pivoted to the half-ass job I had done stringing up our food bag. We rushed back to camp and proceeded to execute a hoisting job that had me bursting with pride. Our food was now safe not only from bears, but also any teams of circus elephants that might wander through.

That brought us to 7 p.m., and darkness. I'm not the kind of person who has the skills or confidence to start a fire where there's no fire ring, so that was out. It had crossed my mind to bring along a few books or a deck of cards, but I left them behind when seized by ounce-count fever at the trailhead. So, the plan we backed into was to chat for a little while, then go to sleep, reasoning that the exciting, challenging day warranted an early bedtime.

Big mistake. There were a variety of factors at play that would have made it a rough night regardless: the swans on the pond were in a trumpeting mood, there were distant rumbles of thunder and flashes of lightning, raindrops blown off the trees drum-rolled our fly at perfectly



continued on page 22

irregular intervals, and humidity was off the charts — the word “dank” was invented so it could someday perfectly describe the inside of our tent. Still, the biggest problem seemed to be the restlessness caused by going to bed way too early. We tossed and turned for much of the night, and I recall at least three rounds of giving Pearl a backrub to help her drift back to sleep. Minutes passed like hours, and each check of the watch triggered a “You’ve got to be kidding me” response. Things really slowed down at 2:30 a.m., when nature called. Adhering to my least-favorite camping tradition, I laid there uncomfortably for a good long while, debating what to do. (In retrospect, the answer was pretty straightforward.) After an eternity, taking care of business was deemed the appropriate course of action. Out I went, shuffling toward the nearest tree, the fog of agitation just as thick in a standing position as lying down. For hours, from the confines of my sleeping bag, I had been picturing the sky as bringer of thunder and lightning and pelting rain and dank. Glancing up, however, I discovered that the sky was, in fact, cloudless, ablaze with starlight. Time, the weather, me... all now seemed officially jumbled ass over teakettle. Had my pee started drifting up toward the heavens, I would have simply shrugged and crawled back into the tent.

At 5 a.m., Pearl asked what time it was (answer: “Two hours until sunrise”), then asked if we could get up. That was followed by a fool’s errand of trying one last time to go back to sleep, before deciding we could take no more. Time to get out of there.

TIP 6: THERE’S NO SHAME IN A CAFÉ

At that point, I was even lower than I was the previous afternoon. My stomach was off, owing to the rough night and thoughts of the swamp water I had been drinking. (Even with five minutes of boiling, I had a hard time convincing myself it was sterilized.) Worse, with seven miles ahead of us and still 30 minutes from sunrise, Pearl announced she wasn’t feeling up for breakfast because of the butterflies in her stomach. We have gotten into trouble in the past when Pearl’s anxiety cuts

off her appetite, and I had a stretch of dread, imagining having to call 911, then imagining the account of our rescue in the Amery Free Press: KNUCKLEHEAD ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE EMPLOYEE NEEDS RESCUE ON HIS OWN DAMN TRAIL.

Fortunately, the move away from camp, along with onset of daylight, cured our ills. An hour in, Pearl asked for breakfast, and I breathed the biggest sigh of relief. From there, the day got nicer and nicer, and our walk out turned out to be just as enjoyable as the walk in, shoe odor notwithstanding.

Next came the best part of our trip, and it wasn’t even on the Ice Age Trail. We drove back to Straight Lake State Park and jumped into Rainbow Lake. It was a cleansing dip, just on the right side of bracing, that rinsed away both the funk of a soggy 24 hours and the accompanying feelings of vulnerability, stress, and fear.

From there, back to Café Wren. Owing, I would guess, to my Norwegian blood, I tend to associate enjoyment of outdoor adventures with denial of creature comforts. Café visits vs. on-trail meals were something to be embarrassed about. For this trip, I’m so glad I was able to come down off the high horse and embrace my recessive gene for glamping. Never have a bowl of apple-sweet potato soup, a cup of coffee, a molasses cookie, and idle chit chat with one’s daughter been more savored.



Phase Two Began: Strategy Development

Stakeholder Sustainability Project Update

MELISSA PIERICK, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In the fall of 2021, the Ice Age Trail Alliance embarked on its Stakeholder Sustainability Project in partnership with the National Park Foundation. This work, designed to help the Alliance create greater equity in all aspects of the organization while increasing access to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, is broken into three phases.

Phase One of the project (detailed in the Spring 2022 *Mammoth Tales*) is complete. It included an extensive review of the Alliance's foundational and guiding documents, organizational policies, and dozens of one-on-one interviews with stakeholders – both those known within the Alliance and those that are new (unknown) to the Alliance.

The findings of the first phase informed Phase Two, which began over the summer. The goal of this phase is strategy development; how can the Alliance advance its efforts to further diversity, equity, and inclusion on the Trail and broaden its base of stakeholders?

To identify strategies, a two-day Stakeholder Sustainability Summit was held in July. Facilitated by lecturer Lindsay Bernhagen, Ph.D, from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, the Summit brought together 32 participants from across the country with varying backgrounds and knowledge of the Trail. The participants discussed what the Alliance could do to increase equality in decision making and how it (including the Trail) could grow to accommodate new, diverse voices.

“As a Stakeholder Sustainability Project Summit participant, I became part of an intentional community dedicated to the equitable use and expanded connections along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail,” says Emily Foster Hill, Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education.

“Through the invaluable guidance of Montpelier Descendants Committee founding Chair James French, we learned how to strategically approach targeting nature gap areas and identified criteria to evaluate, while recognizing and accepting known and unknown challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The embedded layers of integrity throughout this project are unparalleled, and the Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education will remain a supportive partner each step of the way.”

Specifically, participants reviewed the main goals of the Alliance's strategic plan, then came up with ideas that could be implemented to increase inclusivity and access to the Trail.

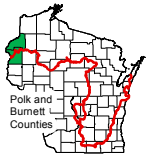
“I really appreciated being part of the summit,” said Zaynab Baalbaki, educator and diversity and inclusion champion. “I felt like my input was valuable and everyone involved contributed. There was genuine intention. The feedback given will be heard and used as guidance going forward,” she said.

To involve more voices in the discussion, the information from the summit, including guiding questions, is being presented to additional groups for input. Ultimately, this input will help form an evaluation tool, which the Alliance will use to measure its success as it works toward ensuring inclusivity in the organization and on the Ice Age Trail.



Photos by Dream Lens Media

CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Barbara Ceder (715-410-8069, barbara.ceder@gmail.com) and Paul Kuhlmann (715-338-6567, pkscfwi@yahoo.com)



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

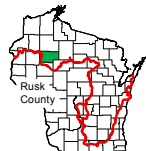
Coordinator: Bob Held (715-822-3428, HeldHarbor@gmail.com, SuperiorLobeChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Superior Lobe Chapter hosted a dedication of Wisconsin Historical Society marker #698 in June at CTH-SS trailhead along the Tuscobia Segment. The marker recognizes Hulda Hilfiker's efforts in the 1960s to convert what was once a busy railroad line from Tuscobia to Park Falls to today's recreational trail. In 1984, the section from CTH-SS to Balsam Road was designated Ice Age Trail.

Then, in July, the Chapter hosted a friend-raising event at Agonic Brewing in Rice Lake. The event drew a large crowd of area residents and folks from nearby Rusk and Chippewa counties, eager to learn more about the proposed Dream Route in the Blue Hills. The program and opportunity to mingle offered chapter members the opportunity to introduce themselves and the work they do on behalf of the Ice Age Trail to many new faces.

Also, Chapter nomination efforts in 2019 materialized in David Mickelson, Emeritus Professor, Geology and Geophysics, receiving the Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2020 Conservation Educator of the Year award. However, the organization recently presented the award after pandemic-related delays.

– Bob Held



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Fred Nash (715-353-2948, BlueHillsChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Blue Hills Chapter welcomed collaboration with the Chippewa Moraine Chapter for a July trail improvement day. Volunteers worked on mowing, signage, bridge repair, and corridor clearing.



Before: Log crossing on the Northern Blue Hills Segment. Photo by Marilyn Nash.



After: A successful trail improvement event resulted in a wide, sturdy bridge now welcoming hikers. Photo by Fred Nash.

In other news, the Chapter joined the Superior Lobe Chapter's friend-raising event at Agonic Brewing Company in Rice Lake, where participants learned about the upcoming reroute in Rusk County.

Seven chapter members volunteered during the 2022 MSC Trailbuilding season, participating in statewide events that improve the hiker experience: boardwalks, bridges, and stone walls.

– Marilyn Nash



CHIPPEWA MORAINES CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Vicki Christianson (ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org) and Serena Stipek (715-829-7939, serenawhatever@yahoo.com)

The Chippewa Moraine Chapter sponsored the taxidermy of a great horned owl donated to the David Obey Ice Age Interpretive Center. Visitors will soon see the owl soaring from the ceiling, a great addition to the Center's collection of Chippewa Valley animals.

Our Trail Crew installed three new Dispersed Camping Areas (DCAs). The first DCA already resided on Landmark Conservancy land, near 267th Avenue along the Chippewa Moraine Segment. It required the creation of a blue-blazed spur trail, linking Ice Age Trail to it. Look for it on the north side of Horseshoe Lake. The Chapter built the second set of DCAs along the Firth Lake Segment. Both sites, east of the boardwalk at the south end of Firth Lake, offer tent pads for three to four tents and rustic seating.

We are excited to announce our entry into the Hiking Award program. Hike all segments and connecting roads in Chippewa County and receive a 'CHIP off the old MORAINES' patch and certificate! Registration information is at: iceagetrail.org/hiking-awards-programs.

– Vicki Christianson



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Buzz Meyer (715-748-5627, gtmeyer@charter.net) and Lee "Butch" Clendenning (715-415-6713, leeclendenning1@yahoo.com)



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

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

The Northwoods Chapter had a good summer. Volunteers kept the segments in our care in good condition, in spite of Mother Nature's efforts to mess things up behind our backs.

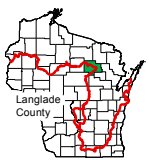
A highlight: Merrill becoming an "Ice Age Trail Community". We're delighted to welcome Merrill and form a strong partnership. We look forward to connecting community members with the Trail and everything it has to offer.

Bruce Jaecks designed and made a "Chainsaw Holder". An old gulf cart with bucket attached makes it easier for us to get a chainsaw out onto the Trail. Wheeling it is much easier on the shoulders than carrying it!

– Ruby Jaecks



The Chainsaw Holder fashioned by Bruce Jaecks. Photo by Ruby Jaecks.



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

Co-Coordination: Gail Piotrowski (715-370-2958)
and Karla Larson (715-350-9024)
CentralMorainesChapter@iceagetrail.org

The Central Moraines Chapter's summer focus supported the construction of the new White Cedar Segment, which breaks up a long road walk between the Ringle and Lola-New Hope Segments. A reprieve from CTH-Y, the 0.6-mile long segment offers hikers views of a White Cedar swamp from an 873-foot boardwalk and a large observation platform. In addition, long-distance, multiday hikers will appreciate the secluded Dispersed Camping Area (DCA) situated on an esker.

Chapter volunteers put significant time and energy into upgraded footings in chronically wet areas that had become especially problematic with increased traffic and rising water tables. Especially notable are the native timber puncheons a dedicated crew of volunteers installed. They crafted them from wood salvaged from several large white pines that had blown down across the Thornapple Creek Segment.

As I write this, plans are underway for the Central Moraines Chapter's 4th annual Hike-A-Thon. We anticipate that by the time you read this, we will be reporting another successful event!

– Gail Piotrowski



The White Cedar Segment's observation deck encourages moments of reflection and deeper appreciation of the segment's beauty. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Debbie Krogwold
(715-677-4974, wdkrogwold@wi-net.com)

The Portage/Waupaca County Chapter supported June's MSC Trailbuilding event along the Lola Ski Hill Segment. Volunteer crews built a 200-foot boardwalk, a 25-foot bridge, stone steps, and about 0.7 miles of trail. Temperature and humidity were high with little breeze under the 120-foot white pine and oak canopy, yet crews fared well. Safety training and a slowed work pace brought everyone back to camp safely each night. During this event, a team split off to the neighboring New Hope Segment to replace a submerged boardwalk, which was KEY to this segment's reopening. Chapter volunteers followed up with tread rebuilds and corridor cleaning through July and August, making this segment a spectacular hike destination.



Chapter volunteers – Jeff Pepp, Dan Bartell, Rich Roe, Cindy Bredow, Mary Stewart and Gail Colrud – clear corridor in preparation for the October MSC Wildcard event! Photo by Debbie Krogwold.

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CHAPTER highlights *continued*

PIERCE



The New Hope Segment section, from Hwy T to Krogwold Road, is now OPEN after a three-year closure due to high water! Crews worked diligently during the June MSC event to construct these fabulous boardwalks! Photo by Wayne Krogwold.

Along the Emmons Creek Segment, the Chapter and Alliance staff reestablished a section of trail lost to timber harvest necessitated by oak wilt. Now, hikers can enjoy what we think is a far better route. It takes advantage of the Far Away Valley Loop, which contains excellent examples of oak savanna and drumlin trains.

Volunteer Ruth Sommers headed an informational display at the Portage County Library in Stevens Point. It beckons would-be hikers, encouraging them to 'Take The First Step' on the Ice Age Trail.

Volunteer Amanda Fischer headed up an Ice Age Trail experience for visually impaired children along the Hartman Creek Segment. Parents and children felt moss, trees, and rocks with their hands and bare feet along two miles of trail! This group hopes to return in 2023.

A huge callout of THANKS to ALL Chapter volunteers for their work, time, and good humor during this super-busy season!

– Mike Pelech



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Waushara County Chapter volunteers kept busy maintaining the Ice Age Trail this summer. This effort didn't go unnoticed by locals and visitors, who praised our well-maintained segments. Thanks to our dedicated Trail Maintenance crew, the Trail received four mowings. They cleared fallen trees, replaced posts, and repainted signage. As a bonus, they refurbished our utility trailer and added a loading ramp. We also certified another sawyer, now totaling a five-person crew.

We collaborated with the Waushara County Health and Parks Departments to host the Walk-the-Waush Challenge from June 1 through September 3. The event encouraged the community to walk, hike, run, and roll as many miles as possible, utilizing the county's parks and trails.

As part of the Walk-the-Waush, we hosted three family-friendly hikes. During the kick-off event, a National Trails Day hike on the Greenwood Segment, hikers meandered along the rolling terrain through oak savannah, grasslands, and prairie to a panoramic view. Then, in July, we hosted two events. CoreQuest Yoga & Spa owner, Cathy Favelle, led a sunrise meditation that included a gentle, pre-hike yoga sequence. Chapter volunteer A.J. McCaskey followed this quiet time with a guided hike. Later in the month, Diane Lueck, a retired UW-Stevens Point instructor of the 'Becoming an Outdoor Woman' program, led a Wildflower hike for all abilities on flat, easy terrain. The post-challenge celebration and award presentation included a 5K Run, Walk, Roll.

Mark your calendars for the 25th annual **Candlelight Sweetheart Snowshoe & Hike** scheduled on **Saturday, February 18, 2023, from 4 PM-8 PM**, at Caribou Bay Retreat in Coloma.

– Jenny Addis



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Position vacant



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

Coordinator: Debby Capener (262-930-9713, BarabooHillsHeritageChapter@iceagetrail.org)

After our merger a few years ago, our chapter found its footing. We consistently have 10-12 volunteers for the trail maintenance days we host several times per year. In addition, a chapter member went through Crew Leader Training offered by the Alliance, so now we have the expertise to manage erosion control and do other tread fixes.

An energetic group has started meeting regularly to plan and execute chapter hikes, outreach activities, and our presence at community events. Our first chapter-sponsored activity will be a Halloween-themed hike on October 22.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the City of Portage will have completed the dredging of the historic Portage Canal. And, hopefully, the multiuse, paved path alongside it will display yellow blazes again! It should be beautiful!

See you on the trail!

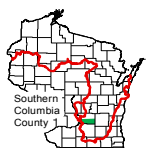
– Debby Capener



Chapter Coordinator, Debby Capener, carefully paints a blaze during a chapter-led trail maintenance event. Photo by Deb Langacker.



Pictured L to R: Christina Smith-Gallagher, Friends of the Lodi Library; Bill Welch, Chapter volunteer; Luke Klobardanz, Director of Philanthropy for the Alliance; and Ann Groves Lloyd, Mayor of Lodi.



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Amy Onofrey
(608-213-9855, LodiValleyChapter@iceagetrail.org)

A six-panel kiosk was installed in Doctor's Park in downtown Lodi along with a beautiful bench, which we celebrated with our Trail Community partners. In addition, volunteers spruced up the existing kiosks and mowed the trails to ensure a positive hiking experience for all. We also cleaned up along a part of the connector route as part of the chapter's involvement in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Work continued rehabbing the section of the Gibraltar Segment that begins at the Horton Trailhead at the corner of CTH-V and CTH-JV. Volunteers created water diversions, and a brief reroute around an eroded section. They also continued work to install stone steps in a portion that kept getting washed away.

Monthly activities have included Full Moon Hikes, Tyke Hikes, Trail Enhancement Days, and our chapter meetings. In addition, chapter members are busy preparing for the October Fall Colors Run and the expected visitors as part of the Mammoth Hike Challenge.

– Patti Herman



Two mascots, Susie the Duck and Monty the Mammoth, bond during a community event in Lodi. Photo by Patti Herman.



Dave Lonsdorf weed whacks the Verona Segment as part of the Verona Segment rebuild efforts. Photo by Bob Kaspar.



Barry Owens takes a breather, with Janet Wood, Michele Amacker, Evan Fry and Denny Caneff continue debarbing in the Madison Segment. Photo by Bob Kaspar.



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: Bob Kaspar (608-239-0168, bobkaspar@sbcglobal.net) and Tom Gross (608-347-5154, tagr@umich.edu), or DaneCoChapter@iceagetrail.org

Summer has been a time of restrained but purposeful activity for the Dane County Chapter's Trail Crew. In June, volunteers led by Ed Spoon installed several check dams and a drainage dip and debarred a length of the Madison Segment, just north of McKee Road. We returned to the segment in July, just a bit north of the previous project, and built two reroutes of a more sustainable nature, along with putting in more check dams.

A few days later, Ed and Bob Kaspar installed a signpost in the Brooklyn Wildlife Segment showing the Dane/Green County line, a worthy spot for long-distance hikers to note. Later that week, more than a dozen volunteers showed up to build tread reestablishing the Verona Segment between the Lincoln Street Bridge through an area formerly known as Horseshoe Woods. A second phase of the Verona sewer project will affect the segment next year. And, Chapter members have attended public meetings to ensure protection and improvements for the Trail.

Fall plans for the Chapter's Trail Crew include an extension (and reroute) to the Indian Lake Segment. Recently, the county purchased land

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CHAPTER highlights continued

PIERCE

adjacent to Indian Lake County Park for park expansion. Having Trail across this property will eliminate the Highway 19 road walk, especially since the state is planning a reconstruction of Highway 19 past the park.

Meanwhile, the Chapter's Stewardship group continues to do an immense amount of work clearing invasives along the Trail corridor and Alliance-owned preserves. They have attempted to eradicate spotted knapweed and sweet white clover on Mammoth's Back Preserve, along with Japanese hedge parsley, honeysuckle, and buckthorn throughout the county.

And finally, the Dane Daubers continue their work refreshing the blazes around the county. At the moment, the Cross Plains Segment is their focus.

— Bob Kaspar



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Dennis James
(608-302-1885, RockCoChapter@iceagetrail.org)

Summer 2022 saw a lot of Ice Age Trail improvements in Rock County done by an excellent group of volunteers. Several years long, major invasive species clearing projects were closed out. We're ready to move on to our new areas of concern. With summer rains and temperatures, mowing occurred more frequently. Still, we were able to do other projects as well as brush clearing. In June, the Chapter installed a memorial bench on the east end of the Arbor Ridge Segment in memory of Dakota, Gary Hegemen's hiking companion, during his journey to becoming a Thousand-Miler. Along the Devil's Staircase Segment, we "rescued" a limestone step from the Rock River and got it back in place. Sheer perseverance and talent brought it up the slope. There are a few more stone steps to pull out of the river.

The Chapter also completed its wayfinding project at the Janesville School Outdoor Laboratory (JSOL). We installed new kiosks with maps and marked major intersections with directional signage to help users of the JSOL navigate more easily. We also replaced a set of wood steps along a trail with ten 200-pound stones. This effort improved



Tim Weege, Dave Keber, and Michael Palmer proudly show off their hard work along the Devil's Staircase Segment. Photo by Dennis James.

hiker safety and will also reduce maintenance costs. Finally, Uniquely Wisconsin interviewed Tom Presny, Dean Paynter, and Dennis James about their volunteerism in Rock County. We'll share information on when and where to view these episodes.

Mark your calendars for our Candlelight Hike on Saturday, January 7, 2023, along the Storrs Lake Segment.

— Dennis James



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: Andrew Whitney (262-949-0286, andywhitney1@yahoo.com) or Gary Hitchcock (305-794-4600, hitchcockhives@gmail.com)



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: John Kolbe (414-588-3448, jrkolbe@outlook.com)

Outreach took center stage this summer, paired with trail maintenance projects.

Just as the Hartland Segment's Aldo Leopold Overlook needed new steps and erosion mitigation, in walked Eagle Scout candidate, Nate Loboski, and his supporting scout troop. Fifteen gravel-filled box steps



A team of Kohl's employees pitch in, assisting with the mammoth task of upgrading the Eagle Segment's boardwalk. Photo by Pat Witkowski.



enhancing safety, protecting oak roots, and providing erosion control emerged over two weekends.

A springtime 'Meet & Greet Fair' hosted by our chapter brought new energy and volunteers into our midst. As a result, we had plenty of help as we tackled replacing decaying decking on the 328-foot boardwalk along the Eagle Segment. In addition, these new members enjoyed cutting boards to length and staging them for transport.

Chapter member and Kohl's employee, Bill Pharr, connected his colleagues with us for two outstanding events! First, Kohl's employees cleared invasives and freed oaks in the Hartland Marsh Loop. Then, for the second event, they joined us for the decking project in the Eagle Segment. They helped transport lumber, remove existing decking, and lay down new boards.

Lastly, the Blazing Babes have taken on a rewarding Trail Community project. Once a month, they help maintain a section of the Ice Age Trail along the newly restored Delafield Bark River Parkway.

— John Kolbe



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator: Steve Stangler (414-719-2568, stevestangler@gmail.com)

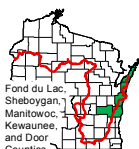
The Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter had a full spring and summer with hikes, special events, and monthly work nights. We improved the Loew Lake Segment in May, replacing a parking lot kiosk and adding a boardwalk. Later in the month, Chapter volunteers John O'Neil, Tom Route, and Jake Jacobson supported the Hartford Union High School's Day of Service. Thirteen students and three teachers cleared invasive honeysuckle from the Trail corridor.

The Chapter participated in the Kettle Moraine State Forest - Pike Lake Unit's Discovery Day Event in early June. We led a guided hike and staffed a table, providing attendees with information about the Ice Age Trail. July's Loew Lake Buck Moon Hike gave hikers a beautiful glimpse of the moon reflecting on the lake while an owl called from the woods. Finally, we held our annual picnic in August, complete with brats and smiles.

Thank you to the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, with funding provided by West Bend Mutual Insurance Company, for the parking lot expansion/improvement project, completed in July, at the Lockman Preserve/West Bend south trailhead. The additional parking doubles the current capacity. It's a wonderful improvement for hikers on a popular section of the West Bend Segment. The Chapter will be ready for more Mammoth Challenge hikers!

Our Chapter was, once again, pleased to be the recipient of the June 2022 "tip jar" at The Hub, the Volunteer Center of Washington County. The Chapter received a \$525 donation. Thank you so much socialgoodbrews.org, for all you do for the Trail and our community.

— Lisa Ruesch



LAKESHORE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Cheryl Gorsuch (920-860-1061, LakeshoreChapter@iceagetrail.org)

A successful MSC trailbuilding event from August 18 to 21 in Manitowoc and Sheboygan Counties improved the Ice Age Trail along the Walla Hi and LaBudde Creek segments. Alliance staff and chapter and statewide volunteers helped build boardwalks and



Mark Struve tests out a puncheon built by Lakeshore Chapter volunteers near the Parnell Segment's Butler Lake. Photo by Bruce Berres.

puncheons. In addition, they established a new three-quarter-mile trail from the Ridge Creek subdivision to highway MM along the LaBudde Creek Segment.

Also, the Wisconsin DNR improved and enlarged the parking lot on the Town of Rhine State Ice Age Trail Area property and helped create a level spot for the chapter's new shed. The shed will allow the southern crew of the Lakeshore Chapter to store their mower and tools in one location, close to where most mowing occurs. The Alliance helped fund the project using the newly created Chapter Resource Fund to supplement what the chapter set aside to purchase a shed.

The Lakeshore Chapter participated in Manitowoc's SubFest at Fourth on the Shore, an event attracting hundreds of people to the area. People flocked to the lakeshore with the promise of food vendors, music, local artists, nonprofit booths providing information, and a parade. Jim Powers, a chapter volunteer, staffed our booth, distributing Trail maps and brochures while talking to interested folks.

Finally, the Blazing Babes are helping with our ongoing efforts to resign and refresh signage in the Kettle Moraine Northern Unit. We hope to complete the project next year.

— Cheryl Gorsuch

MEMBER & DONOR news

May 12 — September 15, 2022

THE IATA WELCOMES...



NEW YELLOW BLAZE CLUB MEMBERS

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

David & Kathy Adam
Carrie & Mark Asplund
Laura & William Bird
Gary & Jean Britton
Mary Cieslewicz

Mark & Agnieszka Dahms
Mark & Molly Griffin
Kristin Hill
Karen Huser
Sarah Krebs

Charlie & Sarah Pearce
Gail Piotrowski
Dr. John D. & Deanna Swanson
John & Lila Waldman

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.

David & Kathy Adam
Bess & Bernard Alberg
Mike & Sally Armbrust
John F. Barker
John & Sharon Bloodgood
Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz
Gary & Jean Britton
Nancy Brownrigg
Robert & Victoria Connors
Jerome & Barbara Converse
Cathy DeLain
Julia & Chad Dibler
Jason Dorgan
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Marcy & Nathan Kempf
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Bob Lange
Lorraine Lange
Linda Levengood
Lyle & Susan Lidholm
Kate Lindsay
Susan Lindsay
David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney

David & Lois Lovejoy
The Lundberg Family — Herb,
Corrine, Kimberly (Lundberg
Taylor), Barton, and Rodrick
Rob Malewicki
Neal & Donna Meier
Buzz Meyer
Susan Mischler
Tess Mulrooney
Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee
Nancy Jo Patterson
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Tom & Bonnie Wise
Pauline Witte
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Jessica & Doug Woodward
Donald Yorde
Anonymous (15)

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

Harrison Brandt
by Mercedes Martin
Abigail Cantor
by Katherine Hall
Hannah Field & Ryan Muckenhirn
by Tammy & Roger Field
Kris Halverson
by Elaine Rosenau
Gigi Holland
by Sedate Holland Kohler
Catherine Howley
by Valerie Fredrickson
Sevie Kenyon
by Tara & James Garhart
Saeed Kiarang
by Sunfall on Main
Edward Madere's Years of Service
by WCMA Members
Paul Meyer
by The Alliance, Fitchburg
Caleb & Kelly Michiels
by Carrie Gille

Dr. David Mickelson
by Susan Ehrenclou
Chris Munz-Pritchard
by Jennifer Peterson
Joseph Ponte
by Naviant
Nicole A. Ross
by The Law Center, S.C.
Brittany Schaus's Birthday
by the Schaus Family Fund of the
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Emma Jane Shumway
by Carrie & Mark Asplund
Emily Stenhoff & Spencer Strunic
by Tyler Erickson
Erin Feldhausen & Matt Riley
Liz Jackson
Andrea Pearson
Kelly Stenhoff
Chrissy & Charlie Wittleder
Katelyn Wied
by Naviant
In recognition and appreciation of
Mike Wollmer's service to the Ice
Age Trail Alliance
by the Hertel Family

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

Paul Anthony Hamilton Beckett
by Kathleen Beckett
Terry Bossell
by Margaret Eichstaedt
Linda Brown
by David Ryan-Sukup
Nancy Brownrigg
by John & Shirley Nelsen
Janet Eubanks
by Amy & Tom Hynek
Lori Foti-Shaw
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Matt Horbal
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by Kristina Mousseau
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\$140,000+

The Estate of Mark D. Leitermann

\$100,000+

David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney

\$25,000

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\$10,000-\$15,000

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\$2,000-\$2,500

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Karen Huser

Kris Jensen & John Mesching

Brian Klawikowski

Larry Loizzo

Edward & Sue Ellen Madere

Rob Malewicki

Erik Melberg & Jazmin Martens

New Vision Wilderness – Northwoods

Charlie & Sarah Pearce

Nancy Peterson & Jason Jentzsch

Gail Piotrowski

Ron & Mary Retzke

Ann & Bob Rusch

Jeff Saatkamp

Schaus Family Fund of the Greater

Milwaukee Foundation

Tommye Schneider

Ronald R. Smith & Paulette Walker

Smith

Sunfall on Main

Dr. John D. & Deanna Swanson

Jim Trumpy

Tom & Bonnie Umhoefer

Tom & Melissa Underwood

Andrew Whitney

David Wilber

Wisconsin City/County Management

Association

Pat & Gary Witkowski

Mike & Barbara Wollmer

Anonymous

\$500-\$900+

Darrell Anders

Basics Cooperative Natural Foods

Andrew Bent & Anna Huttenlocher

Tim & Tara Bindl

Michael Cavey

Christopher Dunn

Dale Eckstrom

Fitz's On The Lake

Mark Harder

Thomas & Margaret Henzler

Stephanie Hoff

Humana, Inc.

Anne Therese Iwata

Kurt Kasdorf

Kohl's Department Stores, Inc.

Mary Krall

Main Street Market

Michelle & Chris McArdle

Patricia McKearn & Richard Smith

Barbara Mishler Ankarlo

Mark & Elizabeth Muellenbach

Tim Powell

John & Mary Lou Rashke

Glenn & Sherri Ritz

Barbara & Stephen Romberger

Gayle Rosemann & Paul McElwee

Thomas Route

The Alliance (Fitchburg)

Trail Magic Coffee Roasters LLC

Varian Medical Systems

Xcel Energy Foundation

Benjamin Zellers

\$250-\$450+

Scott Allen

AmazonSmile Foundation

Camille & William Banks

Kathleen Beckett

Bill & Jody Beers

Jeffrey Beiriger

Brenda Bland & Dave Sarocka

Lorraine Bradley

Deb Brock

Nancy & Kevin Brunner

Buchkowski Lumber

Patrick Cannon

Janet Cariveau

James G. Caya, MD

Vicki Christianson

Cirinity

Connexus Credit Union

Joe & Joanne Cox

Philip Dinsmoor

Jeff, Shelly & Ben Dohlby

Margaret Eichstaedt

Michael Fisch

Lee Francis

Michelle Fronsée

Lee & Mark Funke

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Tara & James Garhart

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Sue Greenway

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Medved

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Michael Hourigan

Philip Hudson

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Juli Kaufmann

Leslie & Daniel Kemp

Tess Kieselhorst

Ellen King

Robert Klinkner

Luke Klobberdanz & Letha Kelsey

Sue Kolaga

Christina Kornetzke

Sarah Krebs

Debbie & Wayne Krogwold

Eric & Mary Kuntz

Melissa & Christopher Kurtz

Leah Lalor

J.R. LaMontagne

Nick & Laura Lane

Kurt & Ellen Lingel

Lodi Sausage Company &

Meat Market

James Luebke

Matthew McClutchy

Scott McConnaha

Dolly McNulty

Katherine Mehls

Riley & Libby Meyer

Colleen Mortell

Tess Mulrooney

Sally Mundt

Meryl Lee Nelson

Michael Nichols

Vickie Nichols

Natasha Odette

Palo Alto Networks

Dean & Jayne Paynter

Jerry Pfeifer

PGA, Inc.

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Elaine Plank

Ken & Donna Pokora

Richard Propp

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Brian Rathgeber

Dacy Reimer

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Anne & Chad Rogalski

Ruder Ware

Scott Rupp

Matt Russell

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Leann Tigges & Gary Green

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Erin & Brian Trost

Lysianne Unruh & Jason Dorgan

David Verhulst

Kari Vike

Sarah Vilendrer Gonzalez

Blaise Vitale

Barbara Voigt

Erin Voss

Wal-Mart

Jim Waters

Judy & David Weiss

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Susan & Mark Wickman

Lillian Wiegel & Barbara Schacht

James Youngquist

Zabel's Sawmill

Jim & Sue Zach

Margaret A. Zweck

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LAND CONSERVATION highlights *continued from page 5*

supplies such as plows and cattle every year for 20 years.”⁵ However, a few years before, in 1834, the land comprising the Town of Schleswig had been surveyed and divided into square-mile and smaller units, opening up the area to White settlement.⁶

Twelve different owners in 125 years owned these 80 acres. Despite many failed farming attempts, the land avoided development and mineral extraction. As the sellers noted: the glacial terrain and rocky soil allowed a beautiful forest to flourish, but these qualities also made it a farmer’s nightmare. Not surprisingly, the property has been part of the DNR Forest Crop Law program (now the Managed Forest Law program) since 1959.⁷ This program incentivizes landowners, encouraging sustainable forestry practices. Consequently, this property is lush with beautiful trees, “there’s a lot of wonderful oak and maple trees, in addition to pine and aspen,” said the former landowner.

Yet, a shining beacon in this love story is the land’s geologic history. Because it is bigger and brighter than the chronicles of land ownership. And generously, it is still in effect today. As the former owners explained, the region’s terrain “does not recognize the boundaries of the property.” The hills, valleys, and kettle ponds are the outcome of the most turbulent glacial deposits, which “allowed the land to hold its own as an entity.” Because of the land’s outstanding kettle moraine glacial topography, it saved itself from farming and development. It couldn’t be tamed.

The former landowners are delighted the Alliance is permanently preserving this land. “It’s too precious of a place [for development] and the Ice Age Trail Alliance is saving it... A public purpose is a wonderful generational extension of the beauty of Wisconsin.”

Resources:

¹ Interview conducted with former landowners by Maura Hanley, Communications Specialist, Americorps-VISTA.

² “Northwest Ordinance.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, September 05, 2022, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwest_Ordinance.

³ “Tribal Lands Map,” Wisconsin First Nations American Indian Studies in Wisconsin, September 14, 2022, wisconsinfirstnations.org/map.

⁴ “Menominee Culture,” Milwaukee Public Museum, September 14, 2022, mpm.edu/educators/wirp/nations/menominee.

⁵ “Menominee Treaties and Treaty Rights,” Milwaukee Public Museum, September 14, 2022, mpm.edu/educators/wirp/nations/menominee/treaties-treaty-rights.

⁶ “Original Field Notes and Plat Maps, 1833-1866 and Resurvey Maps, 1858-2009,” Board of Commissioners Public Lands, digicoll.library.wisc.edu/SurveyNotes/Search.html.

⁷ Interview conducted with former landowner.