MAMMOTH tales

Spring 2020

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE
“Twenty Twenty” sounds repetitious, doesn’t it?

Sometimes, repetition can be a good thing! The Ice Age Trail Alliance and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail are far better off after the remarkable year we completed in 2019. And, truthfully, 2020 is shaping up to be a similarly notable year.

Volunteerism flourishes. The 82,880 hours logged in 2019 demonstrates the enthusiasm and dedication of our proudest asset – our volunteers – to the Ice Age Trail. I know these hours are always understated…our volunteers are too modest.

Great land acquisition successes. We protected land with increasingly creative strategies. While Federal, State, and local funding sources were utilized in a number of cases, generous donors also stepped up with donations. Unique fundraising events helped make up shortfalls on some key properties in Marathon and Dane Counties. I would be remiss to not thank my colleagues on staff and the Board of Directors for dealing with unexpected challenges on a timely basis.

Exciting Trail progress! Three words: GO WALK RINGLE. The Trailbuilding efforts in Marathon County over the past three years has been incredible. In collaboration with the Central Moraine Chapter, nine large-scale Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) events have redefined our capacity and vision of the Trail as a world-class recreational experience. We’ll be back in June and October of 2020 to finish what we’ve started.

No money, no mission. It’s a fact in every non-profit organization. I am humbled by your generosity and we do not take it for granted! Our entire staff, led by our Philanthropy team, continues to make inroads with foundations and corporations to help leverage your dedication, enthusiasm, and accomplishments. This passion and solid financial footing enable the Alliance to bring a unique and credible value to these entities and their decision-makers.

Massive outreach efforts. We’re meeting our commitment of getting 10,000 fourth graders out on the Trail before July 2020. Thanks to generous support – and confidence in the Alliance – from the National Park Foundation and our Triad partners at the National Park Service and Department of Natural Resources, we’re doing it!

Dive into the excitement! Our Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in April is a great way to get a front row seat into the inner workings of the Alliance. You’ll be able to meet staff, rub shoulders with the most dedicated volunteers, and learn all sorts of fun and useful things that will add to your knowledge of the organization and the Ice Age Trail itself.

With the great achievements of 2019 having provided a solid foundation for 2020, letting 2020 be a bit repetitious is just fine with me. Of course, I’m expecting sunny, 70-degree weather, all season long.
OUR mission
The mission of the Ice Age Trail Alliance is to create, support, and protect a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

ON THE COVER: Jared Wildenradt hikes amid budding trees and ephemeral wildflowers along the Hemlock Creek Segment which spans Barron and Rusk Counties. Photo by Kris Van Handel.

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, 2110 Main Street, PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

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#### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-12:30 pm</td>
<td>Choose Your Adventure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hike: Hartman Creek Segment - Long Hike and Central Waters Brewery Tour</strong> (boxed lunch at the brewery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hike: Hartman Creek Segment - Short Hike and Ruby Coffee Roasters Tour</strong> (boxed lunch at the roastery)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am - 4:15 pm</td>
<td>“Listening Session” Small-Group hike (Limit 15 people, car-pool)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:45 pm</td>
<td><strong>Long-Distance Hiking Seminar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 1: Trip planning, Logistics &amp; Navigation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 2: Gear &amp; Packing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 3: Leave No Trace, First Aid &amp; Meal Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 4: Hikers’ Forum - Wisdom from the Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Volunteer Grit: Where to Find It and How to Keep It!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Geology of the Ice Age Trail, West Side of Green Bay Lobe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Agency House at the Portage: Geographic Intersection, Cultural Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• What’s on Tap: 2020 Trail Development, Construction and Stewardship Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 4:15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Concurrent Sessions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Think Outside with the Ice Age Trail Alliance</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacies: Past, Present and Future</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Artifacts from Ice Age Peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 – 5:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Social Hour - Cash Bar - Silent Auction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 – 8:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Awards Banquet &amp; Celebration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Dinner 5:30 – 6:45 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- NPS Awards 6:45 – 7:15 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Pictures for NPS award winners 7:15 – 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mammoth Achievement Awards 7:30 – 8:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 – 8:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Pictures for award winners 8:15 – 8:30 pm</strong></td>
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#### SUNDAY, APRIL 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>Coffee available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td><strong>Closing Remarks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 -Noon</td>
<td><strong>Emmons Creek Segment Photography Field Trip with Cameron Gillie, (ThePinholeThing.com, AroundWisco.com) and Ice Age Trail Alliance staff (Limit 30, carpool)</strong></td>
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#### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 am</td>
<td>Coffee available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Registration Open</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – 7:45 am</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 12:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Choose Your Adventure</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Hike: Bohn Lake Segment</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Field Trip: The Moraines of Eastern Portage County</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Field Trip: Shop Stevens Point (on your own)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Board of Directors’ Meeting</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>Chapter Leadership Summit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 – 4:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Annual Membership Meeting &amp; Elections for Board of Directors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15 – 4:45 pm</td>
<td>Annual Board of Directors’ Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 – 6:00 pm</td>
<td>Social Hour - Cash Bar - Silent Auction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 – 7:30 pm</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Presentation:</strong> Justin Isherwood, Isherwood Farms, Plover</td>
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#### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 am - 4:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Registration Open</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 – 7:45 am</td>
<td>Breakfast Buffet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Integrated Forest Management for the Ice Age Trail
This presentation will examine innovative ways to manage forests along the State Ice Age Trail Areas (SIATA), consistent with its goals and objectives, which prioritize aesthetic and recreational values.

Guess the Trail Segment
The wildly popular game is back with new segments, new visuals, new clues, and new prizes! Bring your friends and knowledge of the Ice Age Trail to Guess the Segment!

Welcome Reception for New Attendees
We invite first time Annual Conference attendees to this casual reception to meet and mingle with other newbies.

Hiking at a Photographer’s Pace
Photojournalist Cameron Gillie is backpacking the Ice Age Trail documenting the unique landscapes, communities, and culture of Wisconsin with his camera.

What Makes up the Trail?
The Alliance began a formalized process in 2019 to document the bridges, rock walls, benches, kiosks, parking areas, etc. of the Trail. Get a first look at a portion of the data, how the information helps the Alliance, and how you can help.

For a complete list of sessions visit: www.iceagetrail.org/annual-conference/

Chapter Leadership Summit
Whether you’re merely curious, or deeply involved in your chapter’s leadership, come share about the events and activities you and your chapter cohorts have found work well. New ideas, brainstorming, and plenty of discussion keep this session fresh.

Annual Membership Meeting
This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as members under the big Ice Age Trail Alliance tent. This meeting is free and open to all members.

Keynote: Justin Isherwood, Isherwood Farms, Plover
Justin Isherwood, a potato farmer from Plover, WI, is also an accomplished author. Isherwood is passionate about a farmer’s responsibility to the land and people. He notes, “It is, or ought to be, in the bones of every farmer, the will to defend the land’s identity, its power and its mysteries.”
Saturday, April 25

Long-Distance Hiking Seminar
If you’re carefully considering a thru-hike as your next big adventure, or if you’ve decided to section hike the Trail in weekend jaunts, then these sessions are for you!

Moraines at our Doorstep – Geology of the Ice Age Trail along the West Side of the Green Bay Lobe
Only 20,000 years ago the ice sheet edge was about three miles east of Stevens Point. Rushing streams, as they flowed into Glacial Lake Wisconsin, deposited the nearly flat sand and gravel plain on which the city now sits. As the glacier melted back, it left hummocky moraines that are an outstanding feature of the Trail in Waushara and Portage counties.

The Agency House at the Portage: Geographic Intersection, Cultural Crossroads
The crossing point between the Fox and Wisconsin rivers has been a keystone of travel and migration in Wisconsin ever since post-glacial waters carved their channels. Explore the cultural history of the portage, particularly through the experiences of Juliette Kinzie who chronicled her personal journey from the front-row seat of Portage’s Fort Winnebago Indian Agency.

Volunteer Grit: Where to Find It and How to Keep It!
Volunteerism is a time commitment, but also a commitment of strength, resources, patience, and personal values! Let’s take a moment to discuss the generational changes in volunteerism and new methods to attracting and retaining volunteers for the Ice Age Trail Alliance and its chapters.

Wisconsin’s Conservation Legacies: Past, Present and Future
Wisconsin has a proud history of thoughtful conservation, establishing numerous legacies that are written across its landscape. This presentation will highlight a 40+ year legacy of proactive lake management in Wisconsin.

Jon Gadbois, Poetry Slam
Slams are competitions where poets perform their work on stage and are judged by the audience on their flair, their read, their content and the feeling the audience gets after hearing the poem. Gadbois’ poetry is intended to be performed, so come check out this first-ever event at the Annual Conference.

Awards Banquet and Celebration Event
It will be a big night as we celebrate the accomplishments of our tremendously generous volunteers! Come find out who gets a National Park Service vest or jacket. Discover who’ll be the next caretaker of the Spirit Stick and who’ll be the Trail Steward of the Year. Recent Thousand-Milers are recognized, too!

Conference Lodging

HOLIDAY INN STEVENS POINT CONVENTION CENTER
1001 Amber Avenue • Stevens Point, WI 54482

Please make lodging arrangements by calling Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center 715-344-0200 and press #3.

Ask for the Ice Age Trail Alliance room block pricing using Group Block Code: ICE

Room rates: $82.00 single occupancy and $109.00 double occupancy

The Ice Age Trail Alliance group rate will be available until March 23, 2020 (or until the block is full).

Registration fees INCREASE after Friday, March 20, 2020.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ENDS FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020
Registration form due by Friday, April 3, 2020 (or before).
Reserve your spot on the bus for your favorite outings/hikes – don’t delay, limited seating!
Please see the other side of this form.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)
Name(s) ____________________________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ______________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________ Email ________________________________
Emergency Contact ___________________________ Emergency Phone __________________

MEAL and REGISTRATION FEES
A conference registration fee and three meals a day (served buffet style) are included in the conference packages listed below.
Registrations received by Friday, March 20, 2020 pay lower rate. Registrations sent in after March 20, add $25.00 per attendee. Registration ends Friday, April 3, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONFERENCE PACKAGE</th>
<th>COST BEFORE 3/20</th>
<th>COST 3/20 – 4/3</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT 1</th>
<th>PARTICIPANT 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three-Day (Thur, Fri, Sat)</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two-Day (Thur, Fri)</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two-Day (Fri, Sat)</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Day (Thur)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$125</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Day (Fri)</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$125</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Day (Sat) includes Awards banquet and Long-Distance Hiking Seminar</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$125</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Distance Hiking Seminar (Sat) (includes lunch)</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

_____ I prefer gluten-free meals
_____ I prefer vegan meals
_____ I prefer vegetarian meals

Total for participant 1:
Total for participant 2:
Registration Total:

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION:
Name on Credit Card ____________________________
Credit card # ____________________________
Credit card expiration date: ____________________________ CVV # ____________________________

OR make check payable to Ice Age Trail Alliance. Mail to: PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528
2020 Annual Conference Registration Form

To help us plan transportation needs and site logistics, please check all the boxes that apply:

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
- Skunk and Foster Lakes Segment Hike
  8:00 am – Noon
  LIMIT: 50 attendees
- Schmeckle Reserve Hike
  8:00 am - Noon
  LIMIT: 50 attendees

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
- Bohn Lake Segment Hike
  8:00 am – 12:30 pm
  LIMIT: 50 attendees
- Field Trip: The Moraines of Eastern Portage County
  8:00 am - 12:30 pm
  LIMIT: 25 attendees
- Shop Stevens Point
  On your own. Carpooling. Shops open at 10 am.
- Chapter Leadership Summit
  8:30 am – 11:30 am

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
- Hartman Creek Segment - Long hike and brewery tour
  8:00 am – 1:00 pm
  LIMIT: 50 attendees
- Hartman Creek Segment - Short hike and roastery tour
  8:00 am – 1:00 pm
  LIMIT: 50 attendees
- “Listening Session” Small-Group Hike
  8:00 am – Noon
  LIMIT: 15 attendees
- Long-Distance Hiking Seminar
  10:00 am – 4:15 pm, 4 sessions, FEE: $75.00 may be applicable, see description.
  LIMIT: 90 attendees
- Awards Banquet
  National Park Service awards
  IATA Mammoth awards

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
- Complimentary Breakfast (7:00 am) & Closing Remarks (8:00 am)
- Emmons Creek Segment Photography Field Trip
  9:15 am – Noon, car-pooling
  LIMIT: 30 attendees
Official Notice —
2020 Annual Membership Meeting

This provides Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. members with official notice of the IATA's Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, April 24th, 2020, 2:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point, WI.

The meeting takes place during the IATA's Annual Membership Conference. More information about the conference is available in this issue of Mammoth Tales and at www.iceagetrail.org/2020-annual-conference/. You are welcome to attend the Annual Membership Meeting without attending other parts of the conference.

Below is a summary of items to be covered during the meeting. You can get a large-type copy of the bylaws amendments (with explanations) at the website listed above or by calling the IATA (800-227-0046).

ITEM I: VOTE — BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

In January, all IATA members were sent a list of Board of Directors candidates recommended by the IATA's Leadership Development and Executive committees. Members did not submit any additional nominees by petition. Therefore, the final list of candidates is:

**New director-nominees**
- Mark Glasser (Ellison Bay, WI; Region 1)
- Rob Malewicki (East Troy, WI; Region 2)

**Current directors recommended for election**
- Maureen Skelton (Madison, WI; Region 2)
- Matthew Underwood (Madison, WI; Region 2)

ITEM II: VOTE — BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The proposed revisions to the Corporation bylaws shown below are the product of the Bylaws and Policy Committee of the Board of Directors. This committee was comprised of current and former board members and chapter leaders.

Proposed deletions are marked in strikethrough red type. Proposed insertions are marked in underlined red type. Explanations follow each set of proposed edits and are marked in italicized blue type.

Article II, Membership.

Section 5. Privileges of Membership.
  b. Other Privileges. Other membership privileges include participation in various activities, programs and publications of the Corporation and as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors. Members may be appointed to committees by the President if confirmed by the Board of Directors.  

This edit clarifies the President's and the Board's role in committee appointments.

Section 9. Notice and Waiver of Notice.
  a. Notice. Notice of any regular or special meeting shall be given by oral or written notice delivered to each member of record entitled to vote at such meeting not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting, either personally, by mail, by email, or by official Alliance publication, by or at the direction of the President…

This edit clarifies how meeting notices may be delivered.

Section 10. Quorum. Eighteen (18) voting members of the Corporation, present in person or via teleconference, or represented by proxy (consistent with Article III; Section 12), shall constitute a quorum…

This edit clarifies how members may participate in meetings to reach a quorum.

Section 17. Chapters.
  f. Chapter Finances and Contractual Obligations.
  (1) The Board of Directors shall allocate to each chapter a portion of membership dues collected by the Corporation from the chapter's members for the chapter's use in carrying out its responsibilities, and may allocate additional funds in its discretion. Each chapter may raise additional funds consistent with Alliance policies and procedures needed to carry out its responsibilities consistent with the Corporation's policies and non-profit status.  

(2) A chapter shall not enter into contracts or agreements involving in excess of $1500 without written authorization of the Executive Director without the prior written authorization from the Executive Director. All expenditures shall be consistent with the Financial Procedures Policy.

These edits clarify how Alliance policies relate to chapter fundraising efforts and other chapter business activities.

g. Chapter Annual Membership Meeting. Each chapter shall hold a chapter annual membership meeting, preferably between November 15 of one year and March 15 of the following year. Notice of the date and time of the annual meeting
shall be mailed or emailed to all chapter members and the Executive Director not less than ten (10) days nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting. The meeting agenda shall include the following action items. Reports on each item shall be submitted to the Executive Director within 14 days.

**This edit adds a specific reporting responsibility for chapter leaders relating to the chapter’s annual meeting.**

**Article III. Board of Directors.**

**Section 2. Number.** The number of voting directors comprising the Board of Directors shall be eighteen (18). No more than eight (8) directors nor less than four (4) directors shall reside in, or be affiliated with or own property in, each of the three geographical regions as designated on the map of the State of Wisconsin attached to these Bylaws as Exhibit A. At least five (5) of the voting directors shall be current or previous officers of a chapter. To the extent practicable, every effort will be made to maintain a minimum of five (5) directors with current or previous service as an officer or other leadership role of a chapter.

*These edits ease restrictions related to where board members reside and their previous volunteer experience with the Alliance. While a wide range of geographic representation and volunteer experience is ideal, the intent of the new language is to increase the ability of the board’s Leadership Development Committee to consistently recruit the best candidates possible.*

**Section 9. Annual Meeting.** An annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in the month of April in each year, immediately following the annual meeting of the members, for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before the meeting, election of officers, and confirmation of committee chairpersons and members.

*This edit further defines the activities of the board’s annual meeting.*

**Section 10. Regular Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly and may provide by resolution for additional regular or stated meetings of the Board. All such meetings shall be held at the direction of the President at a fixed time and place…

*This edit clarifies the president’s role in establishing date and time of all board meetings.*

**Section 20. Conflict of Interest.**

b. Any director having duality of interest or conflict of interest on any matter shall be removed from the meeting, abstain from voting on the matter, and shall not be counted in determining the quorum for the vote on the matter. In addition, he or she shall not use his or her personal influence on the matter, but may briefly state his or her position on the matter and may answer pertinent questions from other directors prior to formal discussion and voting since his or her knowledge may be of great assistance.

c. If a director is uncertain as to whether he or she has a duality or conflict of interest which requires abstention, or if a director asserts that another director has such a duality or conflict, the Board, by majority vote of those present other than the director having the possible conflict, shall decide whether abstention is required. If so, the director will be deemed to have abstained consistent with items b. and c. above.

*These edits clarify several points related to conflict of interest and private inurement.*

**Article X. Corporate Acts, Loans, and Deposits.**

**Section 1. Corporate Acts.** Unless otherwise directed by resolution of the Board of Directors or by law, all checks, drafts, notes, bonds, bills of exchange, and orders for the payment of money of the Corporation, and all deeds, mortgages, conveyances, and other written contracts, agreements and instruments to which the Corporation shall be a party, and all assignments or endorsements of stock certificates, registered bonds, or other securities owned by the Corporation shall be signed by the President, the President Elect or by any Vice President and countersigned by any different person who is a Vice President, the Secretary or Assistant Secretary, or the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer. The Board of Directors may, however, authorize any one of such officers…

*These edits clarify authorities of specific officers.*

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**Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. Proxy**

I hereby appoint Marilynn Nash, Secretary, or Robert Funk, President, as my proxy (with full power of substitution) to attend the IATA’s Annual Membership Meeting to be held April 24th, 2020 and any adjournment thereof and to vote on my behalf on all matters that may properly come up for membership approval during the meeting.

Dated: ____________________________, 2020

Signature: __________________________

Printed name: _________________________

Please return to:

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.
PO Box 128
Cross Plains, WI 53528

*(A proxy is for use by those who are not planning to attend the meeting in person.)*
The relatively flat, loamy sand soils of eastern Marathon County are great for growing vegetables such as sweet corn, beans, and potatoes. Amid the crop fields and center-pivot irrigation systems is a hidden natural gem – Rice Lake. This spring-fed, beautiful, undeveloped marl lake is surrounded by a thick white cedar forest. In 2014, the Alliance acquired a 41-acre property from North Central Conservancy Trust (see the Summer 2014 edition of Mammoth Tales for this story) to guide alignment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in this area devoid of off-road hiking and camping opportunities.

As intended for in 2014, the Alliance has since been able to expand the size of the Rice Lake Preserve. This opportunity arrived in late 2019 and the Alliance had to move quickly to acquire the adjacent property. This expansion creates a stunning canvas on which a new section of the Ice Age Trail may be built. Not only does the new 22.7-acre acquisition allow for an immediate road-to-road connection for future Trail, it also boasts a beautiful wetland forest along with a high ridge flanking the banks of Rice Lake Creek.

Thanks to our swift actions and ability to use existing capital, within several weeks of the seller contacting the Alliance, we were able to purchase the property using existing assets. As the Alliance increases its role in land protection, it is becoming more and more important to use privately raised funding to acquire these important Trail lands.

In this case, the Alliance purchased the property without having raised the entire amount needed to acquire the property. The Alliance used a combination of cash from general operations, the Robert and Victoria Connors Land Resource Fund (Connors Fund), and borrowing. Now those sources of funding need to be replenished so the Alliance can be ready for the next purchase. We anticipate using the state’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund to retroactively pay for a significant portion of the purchase, but remain approximately $27,000 short of being able to fully fund the acquisition.

We continue to seek grants from foundations and corporations, but are also seeking donations from individual donors. If you are interested in being part of the Rice Lake Preserve expansion and protecting future Trail corridor, please contact our Director of Philanthropy, Luke Kloberdanz at luke@iceagetrail.org or 608-798-4453, ext. 226.
"This is the best field trip ever!" – Luck Elementary 4th grader

“Wow, look at these gorgeous views!” – 4th grader from West Middleton

“It was calming and peaceful. I like that I was able to get exercise. I could hang out with my friends while I was walking. I hope I can come back another day.” – Jefferson East Elementary 4th grader

Imagine reactions like the ones above multiplied by 10,000 kids, and you can appreciate the power behind our audacious goal: Connect and engage 10,000 fourth graders with the Ice Age Trail.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is an educational trail by the very nature of its unique landscape, created by the receding glaciers thousands of years ago. It sparks wonder and awe as it takes hikers past world-renowned glacial features: eskers, kames, kettle lakes, and more. It naturally provides the setting for thinking outside as it offers both a lifetime of learning and adventure.

We strongly believe in sharing this natural story with tomorrow’s leaders through hands-on experiences. Our Saunters program has been around since 2008 and aims to honor Henry David Thoreau’s statement, “It’s a great art to saunter,” while infusing core educational concepts into field experiences along the Trail.

It wasn’t a stretch then, to create Think Outside. This initiative, a result of an August
2019 grant award from the National Park Foundation, is geared specifically for fourth graders and is designed to be a bite-sized introduction to the Ice Age Trail. It is ideal for educators who are curious about how to get their students beyond four walls and weave nature’s classroom into their curriculum.

While school districts and teachers are interested in getting students outside, small budgets and the hesitation of busy teachers to tackle the logistics have been barriers to getting kids into an outdoor classroom setting like the Ice Age Trail. Think Outside removes these barriers. Funding through the initiative covers transportation costs and provides resource materials teachers can incorporate into their curriculum and plan their field experience. Alliance staff and experienced volunteers serve as hike guides and answer questions before the group even sets foot on the Trail.

But, beyond getting 10,000 boots on the ground, our true, heart-felt goal is to introduce the Trail to the next generation. We aim to create positive, lasting memories, and ignite a passion in our youth. They will be the ones who continue our mission of creating, supporting, and protecting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Think Outside is made possible by a grant from the National Park Foundation through generous support of partners including Union Pacific Railroad and donors across the country.

Right: West Middleton Elementary School, Middleton School District: Ice Age National Scenic Trail Superintendent Eric Gabriel joined the fun on a hike at the Indian Lake Ice Age Trail Segment, Indian Lake County Park, Dane County. Photo by Amy Lord.

Upper left: Richmond School, Sussex: Volunteers have played a key role in leading hikes, sharing their knowledge about the Ice Age Trail and helping students enjoy being outside! Photo by Richmond School representative.

Lower left: Weston Elementary, D.C. Everest School District
Corporate Spotlight: Fontana Sports

LUKE KLOBERDANZ, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

As the snow and ice begin to subside, and plants come to life providing a veil for glacial hills and valleys, many of us will carefully sift through our warm weather hiking equipment. We will go online, or pull out maps, and begin planning our adventures. Meanwhile, Alliance volunteers will tune up mowers, sharpen chainsaws, plan hikes, and test pick mattocks for the trailbuilding months ahead. Undoubtedly, some of these tools of the trade will require replacement or repairs, just like those seasoned packs and boots.

Our gear and tools are not the only thing getting the once over before the busy hiking and trailbuilding season builds steam. The “to do’s” of planning and implementing Mobile Skills Crew events, restoring oak savannas, and scheduling hikes for thousands of fourth graders are checked off one by one. Underlying all of these tasks is the steady work of securing the funds to make a busy 2020 possible.

The Alliance has enjoyed steady growth in the revenue department over the years. This success reflects the dedication of our volunteers and the support of foundations and our Corporate Friends. While new partnerships are always being developed, the Alliance appreciates the long-term support of many organizations. Fontana Sports Specialties has been a foundational partner of the Alliance for many years, partnering on outdoor events, hosting fundraisers for the Trail, and even letting a retired Monty live in the owner’s office.

As you prepare to replace packs, boots, and trekking poles, please consider visiting our Corporate Friends. To sweeten the deal, Fontana Sports will give the Alliance 20% of every purchase our friends and fans make through April 15th. All you have to do is take the coupon located on the back cover of this magazine into the store, or use the code online, when you make a purchase. As the old saying goes, it takes a village to build a Trail.

Note: See coupon on page 32.

Luke Kloberdanz (left) and long-time friend of the Trail and members of the family-run business, Fontana Sports Specialties, Elizabeth Ganser, John and Judith Hutchinson. Photo credit Fontana Sports Specialties staff member.
October's Wildcards

The 2019 Mobile Skills Crew season finished with not one, but two, curtain calls. Crews fanned out between two project areas to stage the last act in the “Building for the 23rd Century” tour.

Ringle Segment: A Year of Perseverance

Alaina Dedo

In a world where we are conditioned to expect things almost immediately, it can be challenging to slow down, to have to wait. It can be even more difficult to leave a task undone, especially when snow will fly and flowers will bloom before you can pick up where you left off. On a gray Saturday afternoon, volunteers were reminded of bittersweet reality: the MSC season was wrapping up before their eyes, yet the Ringle Segment would remain under construction until 2020.

The hike out to the worksite each morning was rejuvenating – the sun shining through bright yellow leaves as they floated to the ground, the dank smell of the cool forest floor filled nostrils. It was a time to soak in the senses that autumn offers. Cool, mild weather was embraced by volunteers as jackets were thrown on the ground; forgetting these woods were once filled with clouds of mosquitoes and high humidity.

Immeasurable amounts of time were devoted to the Ringle Segment in 2019, furthering the goal to officially complete the ~6-mile segment from Mountain Bay Trail to County Road N. All season long, hundreds of unique Trail experiences were had by volunteers, dozens of friendships were made, and tons of sweat equity were put into building over 2.3 miles of brand-new Trail. While a picture from that Saturday afternoon may have shown rain-soaked volunteers and mud caked tools, what it didn’t reveal is that we accomplished exactly what we had set out to do – continue our progress. The Ringle Segment was left as it should be – set up for success in the year to come.

Summit Moraine Segment: Devilish Mother Nature

Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Specialist

The wrath of Mother Nature does not pay mind to our work and this indifference was laid evident in Langlade County. After a record-setting MSC event in 2018 to open 10 miles of the former Old Railroad Segment along with many hours of follow up work painting blazes and maintaining the new Trail, a July storm rolled through, toppling trees indiscriminately (with a devilish focus on trees with crisp yellow blazes), rendering the Trail impassable.

Langlade Chapter members, with help from sawyers and volunteers from around the state, spent many days clearing windfalls and reopening the Trail, but another push was needed to complete the job.

Small crews worked diligently to safely take down the dangerous snags and fully reclaim the Trail corridor. It was a routine carried out many times across the Trail during this storm-ravaged year; assess the tree(s), figure out where the pressure is and where the danger zone is, and begin cutting. After three strenuous days, the hazard trees were removed and chainsaws put away, ready for the next storm.
Musings…A Preview of the 2020 Trailbuilding Season

TIM MALZHAN, TRAILWAY DIRECTOR

2020 portends electrifying developments affecting nearly 100 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

In the Blue Hills of Rusk County, an ancient mountain range and one-of-a-kind wilderness experience beckons; in the Chequamegon National Forest, stunning terrain distant from the muddy footprint of today’s trail excites; in Marathon County, the 7-mile ‘Landscape Crossroads’ of the Ringle Segment moves closer to fruition. These, and dozens of companion projects, of all sizes and shapes, in counties across the state, will feed new narratives, inspire new visions, and fire the imaginations of generations to come.

It’s an exciting new decade of legacy undertakings…please join us!
# 2020 Trailbuilding Season at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PROJECT NAME</th>
<th>THE BIG PICTURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 30-31</td>
<td>John Muir Segment, Marquette County</td>
<td>Collaborative events create new and enhance existing Trail experiences. Get your feet on the ground where John Muir trod to reestablish prairie and prep for new tread. Sawyers, swampers, and crew leaders needed!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5-8</td>
<td>Holy Hill Segment, Washington County</td>
<td>High water in 2018 and a Polar Vortex in 2019 chilled efforts to build 574 feet of sorely needed elevated boardwalk. <strong>Weather dependent</strong> and sure to excite. <strong>BONUS</strong> – Saturday, the <strong>Winter Rendezvous</strong> returns!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27-29</td>
<td>Gibraltar Rock Segment, Columbia County</td>
<td>“Gib” first opened in 2005 to instant acclaim. This event enhances the Trail experience by clearing eastern red cedar and gets a jump on spring to-dos. Sawyers, all-important swampers, and crew leaders needed!</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1-7</td>
<td>Trail Layout &amp; Design, Blue Hills Segment, Rusk County</td>
<td>The vision is audacious – explore the unknown, design a one-of-a-kind experience, and uncover stunning natural features in the most remote area of the state the Ice Age Trail passes through. <strong>By Application.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19-21</td>
<td>Montrose Segment, Dane County</td>
<td>A vital connection in southern Dane County needs you. Help build 350 feet of boardwalk and fine-tune more than 2 miles of Trail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3-7</td>
<td>Ringle Segment, Marathon County</td>
<td>Greatness in the making, this event celebrates connections, teamwork, and the 40th anniversary of Ice Age National Scenic Trail designation. Help put the exclamation point on 4.6 miles of new trail completed! Deep-woods stonework, tread construction, and more lies ahead.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24-28</td>
<td>Crew Leadership &amp; Skills Training, Marathon County</td>
<td>4 Days. &quot;As solid of a leadership training program as one can find.&quot; Crew leaders of all ages are the next generation who will carry the wisdom of today and the inspiration of tomorrow forward. Is it you? <strong>By Application.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30-Aug 2</td>
<td>Ice Age Trail University, Taylor County</td>
<td>Enhance existing skills and grow under the big trees of the Chequamegon National Forest. Hybrid trainings in Trail Layout &amp; Design, Project Planning, and more. Please visit the IATA website for course offerings in early February.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 20-23</td>
<td>LaBudde Creek Segment, Sheboygan County</td>
<td>“Buddy” is a quiet gem whose features grow on you with each visit. Join in and build 150 feet of boardwalk, tune-up 3 miles of trail, hop on a satellite crew for a special assignment or maybe...just maybe...glimpse the future with new trail development planned to the north.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 17-20</td>
<td>West Bend Segment, Washington County</td>
<td>This 3-prong attack in the mid-Kettle Moraine features new trail, new bridges, and new opportunities for expanded Trail adventures around the City of West Bend.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 7-11</td>
<td>Ringle Segment, Marathon County</td>
<td>With a little luck, this event starts the northern push of Phase 3 on the reimagined Ringle Segment. Boardwalk, bridge, stone – this is a keeper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 21-24</td>
<td>Wildcard!</td>
<td>Save the dates and stay tuned for Wildcard details moving forward.</td>
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For more information and to register: iceagetrail.org/volunteer/mobile-skills-crew-program
Two curving, half-moon shaped boardwalks and a 48-foot bridge spanning a small ravine stirred up quite a bit of excitement after they were built during a June 2019 Mobile Skills Crew event. As the sawdust settled, and the final kick rail was secured into place, what emerged was the exclamation point on the nine-mile Cross Plains Segment. This 1.5-mile section of Ice Age National Scenic Trail, along with its .4-mile white-blazed loop, highlights what was once the lake bed of a proglacial lake which formed in the face of melting glaciers.

This nine-mile segment, which winds its way across the Cross Plains township, beginning at Hickory Hill Street in the village of Cross Plains and ending on Timber Lane at the edge of the city of Madison, highlights the edge of the terminal moraine. Along the way, it showcases where the Laurentide ice sheet ground to a halt, marking the eastern boundary of the Driftless area. The ghosts of the glaciers are exceedingly present in the rushing, melting water which carved the post-glacial streambed of the Black Earth Creek Valley. They haunt the weathered dolomite bedrock jutting from the valley walls in massive formations.

The geologically significant landscape features found within the Cross Plains area are what brought several public entities together in partnership to preserve this important glacial history. When you hike the southernmost mile of the Cross Plains Segment, you access parcels of land comprising an Ice Age National Scientific Reserve unit, now referred to by the National Park Service (NPS) and other partners, as the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains. The idea, already percolating in the 1950s, was to establish a hiking trail through Wisconsin, which would follow the entire length of the moraines marking the edge of the last glacier. With a little more effort by visionaries, Congress, in 1964, approved creating nine Ice Age National Scientific Reserve units.

These nine Ice Age Reserve units, administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), were created to preserve, protect, and interpret the outstanding examples of glaciation in Wisconsin. You might recognize a few of them: Interstate Park in Polk County, Devil’s Lake State Park in Sauk County, and the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The nucleus of the Cross Plains Unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve is another of them.

Then, the Ice Age Trail earned its official designation as one of eleven National Scenic Trails in 1980 as part of the National Trails System Act, also created by Congress. For a long time, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, as it wended its way through the state, connected five of the nine reserve units, except for the one nearest the second largest population center in Wisconsin, the Cross Plains Unit of the Ice Age Reserve.

In 1975, the DNR purchased the first 100 acres within what was outlined as potential boundary lines for the Cross Plains unit. A 60-acre purchase followed, but the next purchase followed much,
Much later. It wasn’t until 2001 when Congress appropriated funds for the National Park Service (NPS) to purchase the property owned by James and Jane Wilke, that new land was added within the boundaries. The “Wilke property,” as it is known, is now home to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Interpretive Site which will be home, shortly, to NPS staff offices. Then, during the next decade, adjoining pieces of land were purchased by other public entities, turning the area into a complex composed of 700 acres of public land.

However, the big picture vision – the eventual protection of 1,700 acres of geologically significant features which showcase the glacier’s effects on the landscape – guided these land purchases (and future ones, too!). This vision grew out of a general management plan guided by the National Park Service in 2008 (and an environmental impact statement written in 2010), but it was created in tandem with public partners and stakeholders who were eager to participate in this land protection effort.

These partners came together in a way that is harmonious and yet adds layers of complexity. One parcel of land, the Cross Plains Scientific Reserve, is owned and managed by the DNR; the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Interpretive Site is owned and managed by the NPS; Shoveler’s Sink Waterfowl Production Area is owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and the Cross Plains Wildlife Area is managed by Dane County Parks. Altogether, these properties and partners make the effort to preserve and interpret the glacial story, within the boundaries of the Ice Age Complex, a notable partnership effort.

However, a significant piece was missing from this picture: public access to this geologically captivating and very public land. Drew Hanson, a member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), a former staff member, and now independent consultant, began advocating for the IATA, DNR, and NPS to start building trails on the site. Hanson refers to the Ice Age Trail as the “People’s Path,” remarking on how much more approachable it is for some hikers who may be intimidated by the larger peaks of famous trails like the Pacific Crest Trail or the Appalachian Trail.

Tim Malzhan, Trailway Director for the IATA, was also a huge player in promoting the Ice Age Trail at the Ice Age Complex. He proposed what would ultimately be a 2019 Mobile Skills Crew Trailbuilding event to the National Park Service and Dane County. In Malzhan’s words, the efforts at Cross Plains are “important for both recreational and conservation purposes.”

Efforts by advocates like Malzhan and Hanson did not fall on deaf ears. As Pam Schuler, NPS Ice Age Trail Manager noted, there are thirty schools within ten miles of the complex. The NPS understands that offering children and their parents an easy way to get outside and connect with nature is a crucial component in ensuring our nation’s parks and public lands will persevere. It makes sense, too, in a time when doctors are prescribing “the outdoors” for improved mental and physical health, to provide Dane County residents access to outdoor therapy that also immerses them in a landscape filled with geological wonders.

This recognition is what gave Malzhan and his team the green light to begin planning the 1.5-mile Ice Age Trail across two properties comprising the Ice Age Complex. Untold hours were spent in Trail layout and design. Nearly countless hours of work by members of the Dane County Chapter of the IATA helped prepare the site. Then, between 2018 and 2019, a total of five Mobile Skills Crew events, with their hundreds of volunteers and their thousand, upon thousand hours of volunteer time, brought this section of Ice Age Trail from a good idea, into reality.

Finally, in June of 2019, after a five-day Mobile Skills Crew event, which attracted 165 volunteers and garnered 3,751 hours of volunteer effort, the Ice Age Trail was officially connected to the sixth Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, the Cross Plains Unit, more than fifty years after Congress first gave a nod to the idea of Ice Age Reserve units.

Go ahead. Enjoy the exclamation point. Tromp across the boardwalks on the .4-mile white-blaze loop; it’s an easy walk with the kids and the dog. As you cross the boardwalks, know you are walking where there was once an enormous glacial lake. Then, strike out across the property, which will someday host a visitor’s center, and follow the yellow blazes for the final mile of the Cross Plains Segment. Head to the high ridge where the prairies roll away down the hill, and from this vantage point, you’ll be able to imagine where mile-high glaciers came to rest. A sandstone rock outcrop awaits you in the woods as does the segment endpoint on Timber Lane, just a stone’s throw from the city of Madison, Wisconsin’s second largest population center.
How do you convince your daughters to complete a 1,200-mile hike? You call it a quest. You call it a challenge. You let them dress up like fairies and princesses, choose their own hiking shoes, and give them the GoPro camera to record whatever they want. You make it a habit to stop at every playground you see, even if it means stopping twice in a short period of time. You attend a circus and visit zoos. You reward them for small accomplishments as well as large. In other words, you find fun in the millions of moments you spend together on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

At the start of our family’s through-hike, our daughters, Piper and Bristol, then 4 and 6 years old, respectively, wanted pictures of everything. Seeing the girls excited by what we were encountering, remains some of our most precious memories. Yet, to save on batteries and digital space, we invented a procedure where we’d stare hard at something and blink. This created a “memory picture.” It was a way to pay tribute to the trees and rock formations we hiked past, around, or fell over. Here are some of our favorite memories from our thru-hike.

**Blink.** We hike down the snowy Kewaunee Segment and discover Bruemmer County Park. The playground gives the girls a welcome break from the Trail. They discard gloves and scarves as they scamper around in the below-freezing temperatures. There’s a free county zoo, too, and they bellow in excitement as they run from enclosure to enclosure, peering at animals whose tracks they’ve seen the last several days.

**Blink.** We stop to point out various animal tracks on the Trail, and give the girls time to pull out their plastic tracking cards to decipher which creature made it. It isn’t long before they are pointing out tracks we cross, describing what animal left it, and what story it tells (a deer running from a wolf, or a red-headed sandhill crane sauntering along, for instance).

**Blink.** It’s a joy to see the girls’ confidence grow as they start to lead our family’s hike. They capably find the yellow blazes, tell us where to turn, and warn us about natural hazards. They raise their hiking poles in an “X” when they spot animals so we’ll approach them quietly.

**Blink.** Piper runs when she sees the tent tops above Circus World in Baraboo, her little pink backpack flouncing back and forth in time with her pumping legs. Smiles are so bright as they watch jugglers, clowns, acrobats and dancing elephants. Their almost-rapturous expressions, when they actually get to ride an Indian elephant, made the torture of the Trail worth it. This stop provided a kind of joy that’s hard to explain, but easy to recall.

At the Western Terminus, Piper (left), Bristol (right) and Monty pose for the camera. Photo by Jeremy Nowicki.
Blink. Bristol and Piper on the edge of a cliff above Devil’s Lake, posing with their mother Nicole. Suddenly, something under Bristol’s foot wiggles. Lifting her foot reveals a snake, frantic to escape. Seeing no immediate exit, it hurtles over the granite ledge and shoots 60 feet down to the rocks below.

Blink. As the girls grow weary of hiking endless connecting routes, we declare a different theme each day. They relish dressing up as princesses, fairies, and paleontologists. But, on their favorite day, they find a personalized note from the Easter Bunny saying he’s hidden Easter eggs for them along the Trail. They run ahead the entire day, looking behind nearly every tree, root, rock, and bush for brightly colored plastic eggs with little toys and candies inside.

Blink. We make up games for the girls to keep their minds occupied as their little feet churn out the miles. We award points for solving a mental puzzle, or coming up with the correct trivia answer. We also give them “kindness” points for helping someone out, or climbing a particularly difficult section without complaining. Later, they’re able to redeem these imaginary points for extra play time, swimming, or a McDonald’s Happy Meal.

Blink. We celebrate mileage accomplishments with hundred-mile parties, whether we’re at home on a zero day or at a campsite for the night. Little presents and stickers are external motivations and help keep the girls going through some of the tougher sections of Trail, believe it or not, not everything on the Trail was fun!

Blink. Hearing Piper start crying over a rise in the trail ahead of me, then Nicole’s voice rising in alarm. Bristol, too, crests the rise and disappears before she also starts screaming. She comes running back, tears and mucus streaming down her face. Unbeknownst to them, they’ve disturbed a Bald-faced hornet’s nest.

Blink. In cold, mucky thigh-high water, the girls, with their backpacks, sit on our shoulders, on top of our packs, as we wade through the flooded Trail along the Storrs Lake Segment. Long grasses and sticks combined with the mud, threaten to trip us at every step. We debate if we should keep going, possibly into even deeper water, toward the next visible blaze. The girls perched motionless above us, sing little made-up songs of encouragement. Only a whimper escapes their lips when one of us almost falls.

It’s a challenge to motivate children to hike, let alone hike the length and breadth of an entire state. Yet with a little creativity, ingenuity, and always being willing to stop for a playtime break, it can be done. The key for us was to foster a sense of excitement and inject as much fun as we could into as many aspects of the Trail as possible. Even a near miss from a tornado seemed like an adventure (to the kids). We hope that you, too, will venture out on the Ice Age Trail, and create snapshots with your family. Savor every moment you can. Blink.

Nicole is a teacher and youth soccer director. She loves to have adventures whenever she has a spare moment. Jeremy is a full-time dad, part-time soccer and wrestling coach, and consummate wanderer who has spent most of his life outdoors. Bristol and Piper are busy with school and sports. The rest of the time, they’re busy playing. Their adventures are on Instagram @MagicWooliesHikingFam, or at their website and blog, MagicWoolies.com.
INDIANHEAD CHAPTER
Coordinator: Dean Dversdall
(715-205-4487, EdgeLong@lakeland.ws)

The Fall Colors hike in October was met with cold and wet conditions and the soggy 4.5-mile segment of Trail was scattered with ponds. The event was redeemed with excellent support by John Helling, and Dean Dversdall offered up his house for the potluck. The Wisconsin Go Hiking Club, hailing from Milwaukee, stayed in Luck for a few days and hiked area segments. In spite of the miserable weather, the Club which organized back in 1924 to “Promote health and good fellowship by hiking,” lived up to its name and hiked every day. The cold, damp weather also hung around for the Gandy Dancer Marathon. Thanks to the chapter members who braved the cold and helped make staffing the Woolly Mammoth aid station a fun event (six years strong!).

Our chapter hosted a successful trail improvement project in October. Under the skilled guidance of Chet Anderson, several dedicated volunteers removed and replaced a 144-foot boardwalk along the Straight Lake Park Segment. Thanks to the volunteers who supported this project, they did an awesome job. The Luck Elementary fourth graders and their teachers participated in the Think Outside Program sponsored by the National Park Service. Barb Delaney, a naturalist, enhanced the outing by pointing out trees and plants.

Several chapter members attended the Regional Rally in Birchwood where Fred Nash gave an intriguing slide show about upcoming Trail developments in Rusk County. We were well represented at the Midwest Mountaineering and Outdoor Expo along with members from the Indianhead, Superior Lobe, and Chippewa Moraine Chapters. Chapter member, Chet Anderson, presented about Isle Royale at our Annual Meeting in December. We look forward to the First Day hike on New Year’s Day and to a busy year ahead.

- Cheryl Whitman

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

The chapter led a Fall Colors hike on Hemlock Segment, north of Bolger Road, ending at Tagalong Golf Course. Great hiking conditions were enjoyed by 29 participants. The Hemlock Creek Segment boasts a new bridge, north of Bolger Road, built this fall by Dan Brereton.

Also, of interest to the long-distance hiker, Burnett County recently built a rustic, minimally maintained, one-room cabin near the Timberland Segment. It is accessible only by foot and has capacity for six people with two full-size bunks and two twin-size bunks. No electricity or running water is available, however, there is a pit toilet and a wood stove for heat in the winter months. For rental details go to burnettcounty.com/index.aspx?NID=1148

- Audrey Held

BLUE HILLS CHAPTER
Coordinator: Fred Nash
(715-353-2948, BlueHillsChapter@iceagetrail.org)
Detours and Reroutes were the theme of much of the 2019 trailbuilding season in Chippewa County. A detour between Firth Lake and Hwy CC was changed twice, providing a shorter road walk on what looks to be a fairly long-term detour. Another detour was resurrected when the Horseshoe Lake crossing was submerged, while still another two were necessitated by high waters on Picnic Lake.

A final detour had a happier outcome, however. What started out in 2018, as a detour to avoid an industrial-scale logging project was polished and perfected into a new permanent route for a section west of Picnic Lake (west of the Harwood Lake MSC project of 2013 and 2014). The project involved numerous chapter trail improvement days, both scheduled and short-notice, throughout 2019. The capstone event was installation of a new bench with a panoramic view.

2020 kicks off with a trail clean-sweep day on Saturday, April 18, chapter-led hikes on May 3, and June 6, and a family-focused Solstice hike on Friday evening, June 20. Trail improvement days are planned for one Saturday each month, and impromptu days are frequently added.

- Richard Smith

A sturdy bench provides physical relief and visual delight to cap off a newly completed segment midway between Picnic Lake and Deer Fly Trail. Photo by Jerry Sazama.

A group of middle school students have expressed interest in helping promote the Ice Age Trail, a promising idea as the Trail passes within a mile of the school. Science teacher, Becky Hebda, is spearheading the effort. I can think of few things more rewarding than bringing kids out into nature and maybe, just maybe, planting a seed of what is possible. Think of it: a kid, standing on the Trail and realizing, “I can follow this path for hundreds of miles, how cool is that?”

- Lee “Butch” Clendenning

The Northwoods Chapter volunteers had a busy late summer and fall clearing Ice Age Trail segments damaged in the July 19th storms. They did a great job along with the Northwoods Chapter Support Crew Leader, Bruce Jaecks. We’d like to commend the entire Support Crew for their dedicated work on projects above and beyond maintaining their respective sections of the Trail.

The Support Crew created a reroute for a badly damaged storm area along the Harrison Hills Segment. The original section of Trail will be re-established after a logging operation takes place this winter. In the Timberland Wilderness Segment they built two structures, a new boardwalk in front of a large beaver dam and replaced a bridge no longer deemed safe.

Our annual Fall Color hike was held in September, the colors were great in the beautiful rolling hardwoods of the Harrison Hills Segment.

- Ruby Jaecks

Heading into the winter season, we will be enjoying a respite from gnats, mosquitoes, and trail maintenance. It’s a time to reflect on the past season and plan for the next. 2019 brought a record number of shuttles for the Spirit Stick award winner of the same year. Buzz Meyer logged over 3,200 miles shuttling 54 parties, topping the previous record of 53 set in 2016. An additional six rides from his Co-Coordinator brings the High Point Chapter total to 60 shuttles for the year.

A group of middle school students have expressed interest in helping promote the Ice Age Trail, a promising idea as the Trail passes within a mile of the school. Science teacher, Becky Hebda, is spearheading the

- Buzz Meyer

Northwoods Chapter Support Crew (from left to right), Harold Burt, Bruce Jaecks (Support Crew Leader), Ron Cortte, Jim Lake, and Don Gehrmann, is all smiles having built a new replacement bridge on the Timberland Segment. Photo by Ruby Jaecks.

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CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Gail Piotrowski (715-370-2958) and Steve Kaiser (352-249-6366)
CentralMorainesChapter@iceagetrail.org

Fabulous fungi, marvelous maples, and outstanding oaks have been enjoyed by both fourth graders and women of the LAEGOS hiking group as they’ve hiked the beautiful Ice Age Trail segments in the Central Moraines area.

The Alliance’s Think Outside initiative, through a National Parks Foundation grant, funded transportation costs, thus encouraging field trips allowing area fourth graders to experience, firsthand, some of the glacial features they’ve studied as part of their Wisconsin geography curriculum. Chapter volunteers enjoyed leading these kids on hikes and visiting them at their schools beforehand.

The chapter was privileged to host four (that’s right – four!) Mobile Skills Crew events during 2019. The events of August and October opened a substantial stretch of the Ringle Segment and set the stage for opening new Trail in 2020. After the Regional Rally, in November, we were excited to take regional IAT leaders on a hike of the ever-growing Ringle Segment. We’ve also noticed adventurous folk from the area out hiking the new sections of this segment and exploring the flag line. Outreach events continue: a presentation for the UWSP, Wausau campus, College of the Emeriti; One percent Friday at the Stevens Point Area Co-op; and Community Monday at Wausau’s Milwaukee Burger. Look for us at the 2020 Boomer Expo – early April at Cedar Creek in Rothschild!

- Gail Piotrowski

PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

Waushara County Chapter brought fall to a close with its annual Fall Color Hike & Dog Walk – going strong for 21 years – on the newly renovated Bohn Lake Segment. A total of 23 hikers and 7 dogs weathered the elements to experience the new loop trail and 160-foot elevated boardwalk serving as a new overlook to this hidden gem. As always, all participating four-legged friends received free doggie treats courtesy of our friends at Front Porch Pets in Wild Rose.

Our most anticipated event of the year, the annual Candlelight Sweetheart Hike & Snowshoe, is scheduled for Saturday, February 15, 2020, at Caribou Bay Retreat, in Coloma. Thanks to members, Jack and Mona Zelienka, owners of the establishment, attendees can hike and snowshoe the candlelit trail, enjoy camaraderie around the bonfire, hot chili and beverages, live music, and participate in our signature Rustic Raffle with all proceeds going directly to building, maintaining, and supporting the 25 miles of Ice Age Trail that winds throughout the county.

Looking for a personal challenge or just a fun, healthy activity you, your family, and friends can enjoy in 2020? Our chapter is collaborating with the Waushara County Health and Parks Departments to host the third Walk-the-Waush summer challenge. In 2019, registrants logged an outstanding total of 1,758.60 miles by walking on participating trails and parks within the county. The chapter will also host three unique guided hikes to get everyone started. Check out our Facebook page or join our mailing list for more information on all future events and hikes.

- Jenny Addis

WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

Coordinator: Scot Harvey (608-335-2286, BarabooHillsHeritageChapter@iceagetrail.org)

Chapter volunteers and local groups accomplished a lot of trail work prior to winter setting in. A new shed for storing all our equipment was designed and built by Jack Burton with help from Bob Lange. The folks working our saws were kept busy. A special thanks to Bill Barthen for the many hours put in. Debby Capener coordinated our monthly work events, and the last one of 2019 was in cooperation with Riverland Conservancy members to clear the parking lot on Marsh Road. It was a great 2019 and the chapter is looking forward to an exciting 2020!

- Scot Harvey
Lodi Valley Chapter

Coordinator: Joanna Fanney
(608-577-9984, LodiValleyChapter@iceagetrail.org)

We were pleased to help more than 130 youth get out on the Ice Age Trail over the past few months. This included high school students cutting and stacking cedar as part of their homecoming service day; fourth graders helping with some cedar lopping and enjoying a hike; Boy Scouts cutting invasive sumac; and Brownies getting familiar with the Trail by hiking it. In addition, youth hiked the Trail as part of our monthly Tyke Hikes and our Full Moon hikes. We will continue to look for opportunities to engage youth in activities on the Trail.

Our chapter participated in Lodi’s National Night Out, providing a fun, ring-toss game for children and information for adults. Our community outreach also included attending various Chamber of Commerce and City Council meetings as part of our Trail Community efforts.

Chapter volunteers worked with volunteers from the Dane County Chapter to replace the roof on the Robertson Trailhead kiosk. The chapters are also cooperating to update the information provided at the kiosk.

The chapter welcomed the invitation to partner with Fontana Sports to carry out this year’s Fall Color Run in October. Sixty-four trail runners and walkers braved very cold temperatures to enjoy the great views from the Gibraltar Rock Segment which starts at the Merrimac Ferry and ends at its name sake, Gibraltar Rock. We are pleased. The efforts of twenty chapter volunteers resulted in generous event revenue sharing on the part of Fontana Sports. We look forward to partnering with them for next year’s event.

-Patti Herman

A Brownie troop enjoying the “big bench” on the Gibraltar Rock Segment. Photo by Bill Welch.

Dane County Chapter

Co-Coordinators: Bob Kaspar (608-239-0168) and David Lonsdorf (608-212-1135)
DaneCoChapter@iceagetrail.org

The chapter continues to face the challenges of wet conditions on many of its segments, however, happily, the near-constant wetness of the east side of the Piller Road woods along the Montrose Segment will acquire two new footbridges in 2020.

The year had its share of blessings. The Cross Plains Segment, at Old Sauk Pass Road, site of two 2019 Mobile Skills Crew events, now has the final boardwalk decked with its kick-rail plate installed. Youth from Operation Fresh Start continued to have work days on this Dane County property, and chapter volunteers hosted numerous weekend trail improvement events, as well, to clear out invasive shrubs and trees. It’s quickly become a popular section of the overall segment, and its popularity exceeds hiking. While painting white blazes on the loop trail, I observed a woman painting a picture of the newest boardwalk. Winter work days brought us volunteers from other chapters who helped give back to the Trail. Along the Madison Segment, the tunnel under Hwy M opened in November with signage in place and a split-rail fence on both sides of Hwy M to encourage peace between hikers and bikers.

-Tess Mulrooney

Rock County Chapter

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

The Rock County Chapter covered a lot of ground in 2019 and has more to go in 2020. Chapter Coordinator, Dennis James, was awarded the Midwest Region’s George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, Individual Volunteer Category by the National Park Service. It is a much-deserved honor for Mr. James who continued on page 26

Chapter Coordinator, Dennis James, answers questions from travel reporters ahead of a hike on the Arbor Ridge Segment. Photo by Sevie Kenyon.

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Spring 2020 MAMMOTH tales 25
CHAPTER highlights continued

The chapter hosted popular Wednesday evening hikes across the county during 2019 with as many as 20 people participating. Trail improvement days involved community groups and organizations such as the Eagle Scouts, Boy Scout Troops, businesses, civic groups, the county, cities, and towns of Rock County. During August, the chapter hosted a group of national travel writers touring the area. The writers hiked Trail segments Arbor Ridge and Devil’s Staircase. For most of the visitors, this was their first introduction to the Ice Age Trail, and they were able to see for themselves, its beauty and charm.

Ahead for the chapter are two priority projects. The first is the continued excavation and cleanup of the Croak Brewery ruins along the Rock River in downtown Janesville; this project, important to the civic history of the area, enhances the hiker experience along the Janesville Segment. The second is new safety and footing improvements on the Devil’s Staircase to maintain trail viability into the future.

WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Andrew Whitney
(262-949-0286, andywhitney1@yahoo.com)

August provided a number of “just for fun” opportunities to the Walworth-Jefferson Counties Chapter members: A Hike and Wine Tasting in Lake Mills; camping at Interstate State Park; and enjoying the hospitality of our coordinator at his mid-month Birthday Bash. But, it wasn’t all play – we staffed a booth promoting the Ice Age Trail at the Elkhorn Area High School’s College Fair/Community Resource Fair.

The chapter participated in the inaugural “Day of Service” offered to members of the UW-Whitewater Freshman class. Students were bused to the Blue Spring Lake Segment, given an abbreviated Mobile Skills Crew-type introduction to tools and safe trailbuilding practices, and then let loose (with supervision). We interacted, again, with college students when UW-Whitewater Microbiology students helped replace signs and freshen blazes along the Trail. And finally, we participated in the UW-Whitewater Homecoming parade.

The chapter kept busy with a National Public Lands Day hike, introducing homeschooled children to the Trail, and leading a large group of fourth graders on a hike as part of the Think Outside initiative. We also gave talks to community groups, NAMI (National Association for the Mentally Ill), and at the Palmyra Public Library. Our collaboration with the City of Whitewater, an Ice Age Trail Community, had chapter members leading a camera crew along the Blackhawk Segment and to the historic Oleson cabin just off the Trail, as part of a promotional video put together by the Tourism Council.

We enjoyed our annual potluck and pumpkin carving get-together (always a good time) and hosted a Regional Rally. A final work day of 2019 entailed decking out a wintery-themed float that made appearances in multiple Christmas parades.

- Vince Lazzaroni

TERESA STEGEMAN, NANCY MORGAN, AND DORIS MANTHEY (LEFT TO RIGHT) GET GREAT JOY IN CLEARING GROUND ALONG THE CLOVER VALLEY SEGMENT AS THEY ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF A DISPERSED CAMPING AREA. PHOTO BY JUDY WILDERMUTH.

WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Barb Johnson (414-779-0996, barbjoh@hotmail.com) and Robert Root
(262-349-9339, rootco@msn.com)

The end of the month snowfall wasn’t the only surprise October 2019 gave us. It started with a tornado tearing across Waukesha County. The storm touched down to the west, near Dousman, raced toward the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit, and slammed into the trees on the Waterville Segment of the Ice Age Trail, just southwest of Lapham Peak. Our volunteer sawyers crew tackled the tangled debris from both north and south, and over a period of days, opened up the Trail again. The sawyers did additional follow-up work but even when that was done, some formerly open views along the segment are still closed.

Our volunteers were busy with other projects as well. They helped the Hartland Kiwanis on their Bark River clearing initiative between...
Centennial Park and Hartbrooke, opening up the sights and sounds of the river. On another afternoon, potentially the last of several workdays on the Aldo Leopold Overlook off Maple Avenue in Hartland, volunteers cleared the way for re-seeding the site. Over two dozen woodpiles are ready for winter burning there, and twice as many are ready from days of clearing in the Hartland Marsh loop. The Blazing Babes group, who led a Signage 101 class at IAT-U in July, worked with participants from that class to help upgrade Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter’s Sauk Point Segment between Parfrey’s Glen and Devil’s Lake State Park.

Informative and entertaining speakers at monthly meetings included: Katlyn Pleur, who brought us up to speed on invasive species in Milwaukee County; Jayne Jenks from Waukesha County Parks, who demonstrated the nature of our watershed with an interactive Environscape; and Melanie Radzicki McManus, author of Thousand-Miler, who recounted stories about the Trail and others. Outreach events and a variety of trail hikes continue to keep us active.

- Robert Root
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:

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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.

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*continued on page 30*
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Louella Lupo
Tim & Caryn Malzhan
Mary Maselter
Jon & Aleta McGee
Mark & Elizabeth Muellenbach
Kathy Mulbrand
Jon Nadler
John Nelson
Mary Nennig
William & Charlotte Neumann
New Vision Wilderness
Vinay & Angela Nijhawan
Jefran Olsen
Optimist Club of Lodi
Bart O’Shea
Parks Plus Hiking
Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization, Inc. (PLATO)
Nancy Jo Patterson
Jerry Pfeifer
Edna Pfeiffer
Planetary Productions Ltd.
Charles Poat
Ken & Donna Pokora
Melanie Popa
Brad & Gail Powers
Rich Propp
John Purdy
TimPutra & Debra Scharff
Alison & Mark Radigan
Roxie Ann Radmer
Cliff Rafuse, Jr.
David Rasmussen
Nancy Reschke
Kenneth & Julia Richardson
Glenn & Sherri Ritz
Allan Robertson
Brett & Deanna Roecker
Holli Rudiger
John & Gail Schachtner
Steven Scharenbrock
Judi & Karl Schmid
Richard Schreiner
Victor Schultz
Lisa Schwarz
Frank & Martha Scott
Sentry Insurance
Cindy Sesolak
Beth Shimmyo
Jim & Sue Siepmann
Christopher Smith
Mowry Smith III
Allan Sommer
Ruth Sommers
Cindy & Lorand Spyers-Duran
James Stalnaker
Denise Steele
Doug Straus
Dr. John D. & Deanna Swanson
Kimberly & Eric Taylor
David Tenenbaum
Dustin Teske
Dawn Tessman
Ann Thering & Dave Eide
Jenny Ulbricht & Greg York
Barbara J. Unger
Paul Vastag & Karen Wegner
David Verhulst
Sherri Voigt
Volunteer Center of Washington County
John & Lila Waldman
Wal-Mart
Dick & Mary Weeks
Judy & David Weiss
Becky White
Barbara Whitney
Lillian Wiegel & Barbara Schacht
Audray & Ernest Wiesen
James Wollmer
James Youngquist
Benjamin Zellers
Janis Zimmermann
David Zuercher
Jan & Hans Zoerb
Joseph & Jan Zuercher
Anonymous (2)
A Deal for Trail Enthusiasts

ELIZABETH GANSER

At Fontana Sports, owners (John and Judith Hutchinson and daughter, Elizabeth Ganser), as well as staff, have a love for the outdoors with a passion for protecting the environment. We are constantly working to educate and equip customers with quality products for their next adventures so they too can enjoy the outdoors, and in turn, understand why it's so important to protect our lands. For those reasons, Fontana Sports uses outdoor retail as a platform to encourage outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.

One of the organizations we enjoy working closely with is the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Fontana Sports puts on two trail runs a year (Headlamp Hustle and Wisconsin Fall Colors Run) which benefit the Alliance as well as sponsor the Dane County Chapter’s June Hike-A-Thon. We also carry the Ice Age Trail Alliance Guidebook, Atlas, and apparel, helping connect silent sports aficionados with the Ice Age Trail.

John Hutchinson, Fontana Sports President is also on the Alliance’s Board of Directors. As a family and a corporation, we believe in the Alliance’s mission and the importance of having the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in our state.

Fontana Sports is a locally owned, family-operated Madison-based specialty outdoor retailer with more than seven decades of experience in Wisconsin. We provide outdoor clothing and equipment from quality brands such as Patagonia, The North Face, and Smartwool for a host of activities – including cross country skiing, snowshoeing, camping, travel, Nordic walking, and climbing. We hope you'll stop in and see why we've been Wisconsin’s local outdoor shop since 1949!

Through April 15th, 20% of any purchase made by friends and fans of the Ice Age Trail will be donated to the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Use code IATA20. Visit us at our downtown Madison location (216 N. Henry Street) or online at FontanaSports.com.

Visit Fontana Sports at 216. N. Henry Street in Madison or online at fontanasports.com and use code IATA20.

20% of your total purchase will go to the Ice Age Trail Alliance.