A photograph of a forest path with a yellow banner at the top. The path is made of dirt and stones, winding through a lush green forest. The banner is yellow and features a map of Wisconsin in the background. The text "MAMMOTH" is in large blue letters, and "tales" is in a smaller, black, lowercase font.

MAMMOTH tales

SPRING 2021



PRESIDENT'S report



BOB FUNK
Board President

Welcome everyone to spring, a season for enjoying nature and the glorious opportunity to be outside. Whether you walk your dog, head out with your family for a day hike, or have taken on the challenge to become a Thousand-Miler, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail provides a chance for quiet recreation while following the glacial history of Wisconsin. During the past year, a record number of people discovered the Ice Age Trail, and the Alliance membership has grown to over 4,500 strong. I'm excited to welcome all our new members.

2020 was an excellent year for land acquisition, thanks to the many who contributed to our land protection efforts. It was also the year where despite COVID-19 limitations, 1,499 volunteers donated 53,297 hours as dedicated caretakers of our wonderful Trail. While some of our efforts understandably shifted during the pandemic, we continued to maintain our high standards of providing a top-notch Trail experience for all. In 2021, I invite you to join one of the small-scale Trailbuilding and Stewardship Reconnect projects available through your chapter or one of the large-scale events scheduled later this summer.

Please know your Board actively continues to support the staff and the overall Alliance mission. We're in the final stretch of creating the next strategic plan that will guide us through 2023. Presented this April, it demonstrates our commitment to conserving land, creating meaningful trail experiences, and optimally engaging all our members and volunteers.

Please join me during our virtual Annual Conference and Membership Meeting scheduled for April 15-17. We will have plenty of educational and informational programs for you to choose from and enjoy. We'll present the popular Mammoth Awards program on Friday evening, which honors well-deserving volunteers and partners. The annual membership meeting will take place on Friday afternoon with updates from our staff and Directors. Members will elect Board Directors and have an opportunity for comments and questions. During the conference, I will proudly pass the President's baton to the competent Patty Dreier. Patty has a long tenure with the Alliance, a tremendous knowledge of land conservation, and an interest in driving collaborative objectives within our organization.

I have enjoyed my tenure as President and wish to thank my fellow Directors, chapter leaders, Mike Wollmer, and his staff for their passion and assistance. I will continue to be active with Alliance swinging a pick mattock, running a chainsaw, and working with our Board. I look forward to seeing you on the Trail and at future Alliance events.

With gratitude,

Bob Funk

OUR PARTNERS





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VOL. XXXIII, NO. 1
SPRING 2021

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J.J. "Doc" Werner
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Raymond Zillmer

OUR mission

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

ON THE COVER: Along the St. Croix Falls Segment, stepping stones lead the way in a forest drenched in springtime green. Photo by Eimile Chelberg.

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.

Editor: Lysianne Unruh

Printer: Action Graphics, Butler, WI · (262) 373-1999 · www.actiongraphicsink.com
Printed with soy-based ink on 10% recycled, Wisconsin-sourced paper.

Designer: Lynn LaSpisa

Mammoth Tales template and IATA logo design by Celtic, Inc., Brookfield, WI
(262) 789-7630 · www.celticinc.com

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2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE news

Join Us on Zoom!

This virtual, professionally hosted, three-day event, **Thursday, April 15, through Saturday, April 17**, offers a heart-warming opportunity to interact with the folks who are at the center of the Ice Age Trail Alliance family. It gives new and seasoned members an opportunity to enjoy a full slate of speakers and workshops. It's a wonderful way to ask questions, share wisdom, and deepen your Ice Age Trail knowledge.

**Fee: \$75.00 per household;
\$25.00 for students (ages 25 and younger).**



For a complete workshop schedule, and to REGISTER, please visit: **iceagetrail.org/annual-conference/**





Ice Age Trail Alliance 2021 Annual Conference • April 15-17, 2021

Session Highlights

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 and Board of Director Elections

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.

Awards Celebration Event

Join us Friday evening as we celebrate the accomplishments of our tremendously generous volunteers! Find out who gets a National Park Service vest or jacket. Discover who'll be the next caretaker of the Spirit Stick. Cheer for the Trail Steward of the Year. Recent Thousand-Milers are recognized, too!

Hikers' Forum — Wisdom from the Trail

Wonder what your chances are of meeting a bear? What cowboy camping entails? Or, how people survive heat and ticks on their way to the coveted thousand-miler status? This session is your chance to hear Ice Age Trail adventures of those who most recently completed their Thousand-Mile journey.

What's on Tap — 2021 Reconnect Events

Whether it's shaping tread, building boardwalks and bridges, or weeding prairies and removing invasive brush, the season ahead is representative of our steadfast commitment to creating, supporting, and protecting the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Trip Planning, Logistics, and Navigation

There's a wealth of resources to help you plan your thousand-mile journey, and the IATA staff is eager to demystify them. Learn the ins and outs of the interactive hiker resource map, including Trail Alerts. Discover helpful details embedded in the Guthooks' mobile app. Get the inside scoop on how to connect with chapter leaders or arrange shuttles.

The Family Track

Join us on Saturday for a line-up of workshops geared towards hiking with kids. Learn how to keep your outings fun and imbue them with natural teaching moments.

The NextGen Track

Join us on Saturday for a slate of workshops geared towards those college-aged or younger. We'll focus on topics like nature's positive influence on health and wellness and the impact of climate change on habitat and trail conditions.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Track

Join us on Saturday for an inspiring line-up of workshops geared towards Trail enthusiasts interested in ensuring the Ice Age Trail is a welcoming space for all.

Geology of the Ice Age Trail

Back by popular demand, this program offers an outstanding explanation about the glaciers' impact on Wisconsin's landscape.

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This provides Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. members with official notice of the IATA's Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, April 16th, 2021 at 1:00 pm, via Zoom.

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/annual-conference/. You are welcome to attend the Annual Membership Meeting without attending other parts of the conference.

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:

Benjamin Swanson (Cross Plains, WI; Region 2)

Current directors recommended for election:

Patty Dreier (Stevens Point, WI; Region 3)

Bob Funk (Whitewater, WI; Region 1)

Sue Greenway (Cumberland, WI; Region 3)

Edward Madere (Janesville, WI; Region 2)

Nancy Peterson (Milwaukee, WI; Region 1)

Tim Yanacheck (Oregon, WI; Region 2)

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. PROXY

I hereby appoint Marilyn 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 16th, 2021 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: _____, 2021

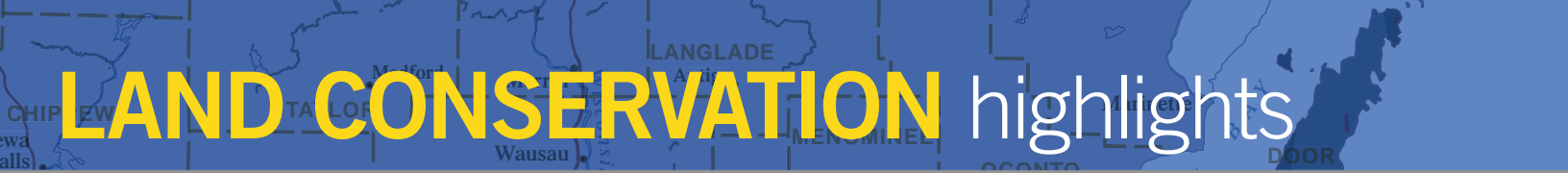
Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Please return to:

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.
PO Box 128, 2110 Main Street
Cross Plains, WI 53528

(A proxy is for use by those who are not planning to attend the meeting via Zoom.)



LAND CONSERVATION highlights

Ice Age Trail Alliance Entrusted with Swamplovers Preserve

KEVIN THUSIUS, DIRECTOR OF LAND CONSERVATION

On November 24, 2020, the ownership and management responsibilities of the Swamplovers Preserve, a 433-acre property perched on the rolling hills of southwestern Dane County, transferred from the Swamplovers Foundation to the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

“After considerable thought and collaboration, we signed the paperwork with complete confidence,” said Lee Swanson, a founding member of the Swamplovers Preserve. “Gerry, Tom, and I have full faith in the Alliance’s commitment to the land we’ve cared for during the past 33 years.”

The seeds of this historic moment were cast in 1987 when a team of visionaries – Lee Swanson, Gerry Goth, Tom Keuhn, and the late Joe Keuhn (Tom’s brother) – purchased the property, once plotted for development. Acquired initially as hunting grounds for outdoor recreation, these acres became prized for their natural features including presettlement vegetations such as bur and white oak savanna interspersed with prairie and marsh.

Ecological restoration quickly became a focus for the landowners. As they employed large-scale management practices, Swamplovers Preserve transformed into a biodiversity hotspot. Situated at the edge of the Driftless region and within the Black Earth Creek watershed, it boasts high-quality habitat areas: open-water waterfowl breeding ponds, faithfully restored prairie, southern sedge meadow, oak savanna, and woodland communities.

“Humans once manipulated the land within the Swamplovers Preserve as a way to sustain their families. Now much human effort has gone to converting it back closer to its original state,” said Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “It’s a showcase of native plants and animals and a source of continued study and inspiration.”



A sea of Black-eyed Susan greet hikers as they travel through the Swamplovers Preserve along the Table Bluff Segment.

In rapidly developing Dane County, the desire to preserve this local gem led the owners to seek an agreement with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (then known as the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation).

By 2005, a conservation easement was signed with an eye towards the future when the Ice Age Trail Alliance would assume full ownership and Dane County would hold a conservation easement on it.

In the intervening years, the Swamplovers Foundation and the Ice Age Trail Alliance worked in partnership to manage the Preserve. In 2006, the Preserve was bisected by the Table Bluff Segment of the Ice Age Trail and the public got to see this jewel first hand.

“We are honored to have worked closely with the Swamplovers founders to continue their vision for the property,” stated Mike Wollmer, Executive Director of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. “As an accredited land trust, we’re in a position to be knowledgeable, effective caretakers and ensure the protection of the Preserve past anyone’s lifetime – it will be a sanctuary forever.”

The Ice Age Trail Alliance will continue to welcome researchers and anticipates embedding their findings into its adaptive restoration management plans for the Swamplovers Preserve. The Preserve will remain host to busloads of students, teachers, and many other individuals and groups who want to immerse themselves in the learning this outdoor classroom offers. The yellow blazes will continue to help hikers navigate the Ice Age Trail’s route through the Preserve’s woods and prairies. The white or blue blazes will offer additional loops or spurs for the public to walk.

Only a portion of the Preserve is open to the public at this time. The founders continue to live within the property boundaries. We respect their privacy. Please pay attention to signs and stay on the blazed trails when visiting.



If you would like to support the on-going land management and stewardship efforts related to the Swamplovers Preserve, please donate:
iceagetrail.org/swamplovers-fund/

You may direct questions about the Swamplovers Preserve fund to Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Philanthropy, email: Luke@iceagetrail.org, or phone: 608-798-4453 ext. 226.

LAND CONSERVATION highlights

continued

Good News!

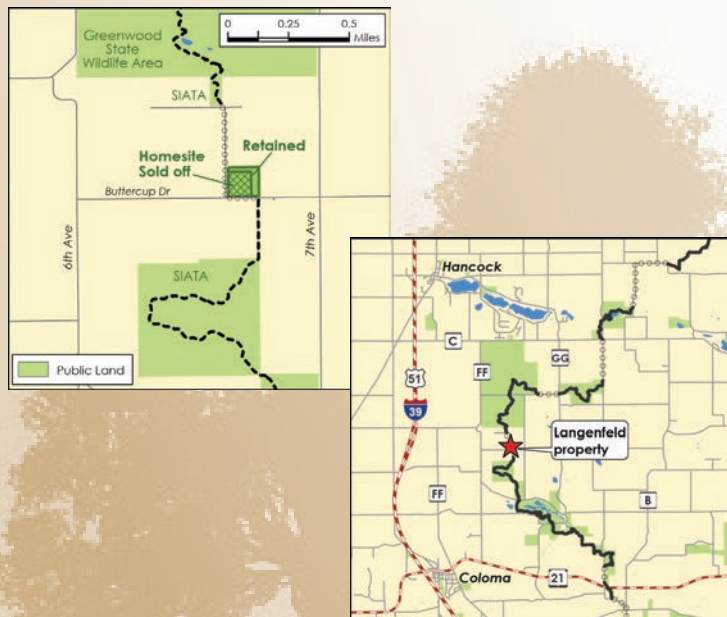
We're off to a great start in 2021, celebrating property acquisitions spanning the end of 2020 and into the new year!

Langenfeld Acquisition

The Ice Age Trail Alliance recently acquired a property between Hancock and Coloma, WI that will add 0.3 miles of off-road trail on the connecting route between the Mecan River Segment and the Greenwood Segment. The Alliance purchased the 10-acre property from Christopher and Gwen Langenfeld and sold the 6.5-acre homesite. A 3.5-acre Conservation Parcel was retained to host the future section of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.



A snowy view of the Langenfeld property which will one day host Ice Age Trail. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



Indian Trail Farms/Dega Acquisition

Dane County is finalizing the purchase of 295 acres of land adjacent to Indian Lake County Park, which would expand the county park to approximately 800 acres. The Alliance has voiced their support of the purchase, as it would provide a much-needed connection between the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and Indian Trail Road to the south. The proposed reroute of the Ice Age Trail would eliminate road walks along Highway 19 and part of County Road K between the Indian Lake Segment and the Table Bluff Segment.



Serenity now. A view of Indian Lake at Indian Lake County Park. Photo by Nick Lane.





Ice Age Trail Community Partnership Thrives in Slinger

ELENA MEDERAS, IATA COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SPECIALIST AND AMERICORPS VISTA MEMBER

In October 2020, the Ice Age Trail Community of Slinger opened a multi-use, community trail that hosts a new section of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The multi-year effort to build the trail came about through strong partnerships and coordination between the Village, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), and multiple landowners, businesses, and community organizations.

The new route of the Slinger Segment replaces a previous 0.7-mile road walk with a new 0.9-mile section of Ice Age Trail connecting the Slinger Segment to the Cedar Lakes Segment. The scenic trail corridor passes through Slinger's Community Park and continues north along wetlands adjacent to Little Switzerland Ski Area.

Slinger's Village Administrator Margaret Wilbur happily reports that the trail has already generated a lot of interest in the Ice Age Trail and in healthy recreation opportunities available in the village.

"People are just loving it, and it's getting a lot of use," says Wilbur.

The multi-use trail does more than extend the Ice Age Trail; it is also an invaluable addition to the Slinger community. Wilbur notes that the trail's proximity to the middle school provides kids with a connection between the school and the village park. This keeps kids, as well as Ice Age Trail hikers, off of the busy highway 175 and onto a safe pedestrian passageway between key points in the village.

Steps to design the proposed route and secure land for the trail began in early 2018, when the village reached out to property owners to gauge interest in the project.

"We wanted to make sure their concerns were met," Wilbur says of private landowners along the proposed trail route. "The property



The Village of Slinger acquired two properties and one trail easement to secure the new trailway. The new route of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail eliminates a 0.7-mile roadwalk.

owners were great to work with and were very supportive of the project."

Finding shared enthusiasm and support among members of the Slinger community, the Village successfully acquired two land parcels from St. Peter's Church and Harold Roethle, as well as a trail easement through land owned by Raco V, LLC. In addition, Wilbur and her colleagues in the Village have cultivated a partnership with Slinger High School to add improvements to the trail, including kiosks, benches, shelters, and a bike rack.

The project was made possible through a WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant and community funding. As a newly-minted Ice Age Trail Community in 2018, the IATA supported the city's efforts to secure the WDNR grant and expand the Slinger Segment.

A group of Ice Age Trail volunteers officially marked the trailway with yellow blazes during the Washington County Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) project in mid-September, ahead of the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the trail in October.

"Amy Lord and everyone at the Ice Age Trail Alliance have been really fantastic to work with," says Wilbur. "The ribbon cutting event that we had in October was a lot of fun. With the pandemic, we were very careful to keep it as safe as possible. It was a lovely community event."

The tremendous response from the community has prompted the Village Board to prioritize the creation of new trails, walking paths, and bike paths in 2021. Wilbur looks forward to working with IATA on future projects to invite people onto the Ice Age Trail and showcase the unique history and natural spaces of Slinger.



Slinger Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Monty the Mammoth and Hootie the Owl oversee the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new multi-use trail in October 2020. From left to right: Joe Fay, Slinger - Allenton Rotary; Monty the Mammoth - Ice Age Trail Alliance; Russ Brandt - Village of Slinger President; Hootie the Owl - Slinger School District Mascot; Wally Steger - Slinger-Allenton Rotary. Photo courtesy of Village of Slinger.



Hikes and families follow yellow blazes as they hike the new multi-use, community trail in Slinger. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

2021 RECONNECT EVENTS



Trailbuilding and Stewardship

A lot of promise fills 2021, yet we will err on the side of caution with COVID-19's uncertainty still present. The ability to pivot and remain flexible carried the day last season. This mindset created the 2021 schedule, and we will employ it throughout the year. Although Reconnect events may not have the same base camp amenities as Mobile Skills Crew events in the past, the projects' organization and professional heart remain, along with camaraderie and fun.

Small-Scale Events: To provide the best chance of success, we will warm up with small-scale projects requiring crews of **25 volunteers or less**. These events will not include food service or base camp amenities, and participants will bring sack lunches.

Large-Scale Events: As the season progresses into late summer and fall, if conditions warrant, we will expand our projects' scope. These large-scale events will allow us to accommodate groups of **50 or more volunteers** and offer camping. No food service is planned, though coffee and hot water will be available each morning. Participants will bring their meals.

Stay up-to-date by regularly visiting iceagetrail.org/2021-reconnect-events/



Large-Scale Events: Season at a Glance

July 28-August 1, Valley View and Cross Plains Segments, Dane County

To complete the Valley View Segment extension, we will create a wetland crossing that features stepping stones and a 400-foot-long boardwalk. New tread through Mammoth's Back Preserve will connect Stagecoach Road to County Road P.

Aug 25-29, Ringle Segment, Marathon County

After completing Phase Two of the reimagined Ringle Segment in 2020, we shift to Phase Three which picks up where we left off at Mole Brook Road. Boardwalks, stonework, and yes, more rotten granite await!

Sept 15-19, Waterville Segment, Waukesha County

We aim to give hikers a half-mile reprieve as we move the Ice Age Trail off a busy rural road. In the plans: new tread construction, boardwalk construction, and tread maintenance.

Oct 6-10, Ringle Segment, Marathon County

Fingers crossed as we make the final push to complete the nearly 7-mile reimagining of the Ringle Segment. In the plans: tread construction, stonework, and plenty of signage. Hopefully, a toast will celebrate the opening of the new Ringle Segment.

Oct 21 – 23, Wildcard, Stay tuned...





Small-Scale, Local Events: Season at a Glance



TRAILBUILDING

The crews for these tightly focused events may be composed primarily of local chapter members and additional folks as needed.

April 21-23, Waterville Segment, Waukesha County

The boardwalk builders of Waukesha County take on the task of replacing four bridges and boardwalks.

May 1-4, Blue Hills Trail Layout and Design, Rusk County

Following up from last fall, this Trail Layout and Design event in Rusk County will focus on refining possible trail routes and connecting impressive geologic features.

May 18-20, Montrose Segment, Dane County

A new 330-foot long boardwalk on the Montrose Segment will keep boots dry and the Trail open and passable.

July 7-10, Jerry Lake Segment, Taylor County

It's time to replace the structures built over Sailor Creek with a heavy-duty Forest Service bridge.

*Stewardship events, noted by the month in which they will take place, await specific dates. Finalized details will populate the Alliance's event calendar, be sent as project announcements, and will appear here: iceagetrail.org/2021-reconnect-events/

STEWARDSHIP*

Along with creating access to the outdoors for people, the Alliance works to create habitat for native plants and animals.

Brownrigg-Heier Preserve, Manitowoc County

To keep this preserve's hardwood forest healthy, projects include:

- **April 30-May 2:** Tree Planting
- **May:** Garlic Mustard Removal
- **September:** Invasive Brush Removal

Swamplovers' Preserve, Table Bluff Segment, Dane County

This 433-acre preserve is packed with species diversity. To maintain high-quality habitat, projects will include:

- **May-July:** Prairie Weeding
- **September-October:** Seed Collecting
- **November:** Invasive Brush Removal
- **December:** Selective Tree Removal

Mammoth's Back Preserve, Dane County

The preserve was doubled in size in 2020, giving us plenty of work to do!

- **October:** Invasive Brush Removal

Steenbock Preserve, Gibraltar Rock Segment, Columbia County

The Alliance will continue to clear trees from the historic ridgetop prairie.

- **February 18-20:** Cedar Removal
- **November:** Invasive Brush Removal

TRAILBUILDING highlights



A Successful Completion of Phase Two!

ELENA MEDERAS

IATA Communications Support Specialist
and AmeriCorps VISTA Member



Ringle Segment
Marathon County
October 5-11, 2020
Participants: 71
Volunteer Hours: 1,754

PROJECT PARTNERS:
Marathon County Solid Waste
Department
The Duluth Trading Company
Stormy Kromer
The Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources— State
Stewardship Friends Grant

For long-time Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) volunteers, the October 2020 Ringle Segment MSC-Reconnect event was the culmination of years of hard work rerouting and reimagining the Ringle Segment in Marathon County. After five MSC events, Phase Two, composed of the 3-mile section of Ice Age Trail between Poplar Lane and Phoenix Street, was open to hikers.

During this final week-long push, 71 volunteers gave 1,754 hours to build 51 feet of boardwalk, an eight-step stone staircase, over 100 feet of stone retaining wall, and an impressive 3,800 feet of tread. Luckily, clear blue skies, temperatures in the 60s, and the astounding beauty of Autumn in Wisconsin greeted these trailbuilding volunteers – a welcome reprieve in a most abnormal year.

The event could only occur with special considerations for volunteers' safety and health. MSC veterans agreed that the pandemic impacted the MSC experience as they made do with a paired down base camp, one without shared meals or group activities. Yet, volunteers adapted to the new circumstances to bring about the Ringle Segment's transformation.

For me – a first-time MSC attendee and trailbuilding newbie – it was the first glimpse into the demanding and gratifying world of trailbuilding on the Ice Age Trail. I traveled north with an assembly of Alliance staff members to meet with Duluth Trading Company representatives and join the effort. Our crew of photographers, marketing specialists, and communications staff meandered along the golden, leaf-strewn Trail to the Ringle project site. The day was a whirlwind



Alliance staff members Elena Mederas and Luke Klobberdanz and MSC crew leader David Carew hoist a stone into place with rock bars. Photo by IATA staff.

of introductions, laughs, and exhaustion as we immersed ourselves in rock work and hauling rotten granite. The event provided the Duluth staff ample opportunity to photograph volunteers working on the Trail.

What I carry with me from my first trailbuilding experience is the sense of confidence I had in fellow volunteers when cooperatively hoisting hundred-pound stones with rock bars; the ache in my arms after shoveling and hauling endless buckets of rotten granite; and the sense of accomplishment when looking at the amount of trail our group of volunteers built in a single day.

When I visit the Ringle Segment in the future – whether it is one month or ten years from now – I will proudly know the exact stone I helped place on the eight-step stone staircase. It is a small contribution to the astounding 14,567+ volunteer hours spent on this section of the Ringle Segment. Still, I now understand and appreciate the effort that goes into building even a single step.



Volunteers transported hundreds of pounds of rotten granite during the Ringle Segment MSC event to distribute along soft tread. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

Ringle Segment Phase Two

*Building 3 miles
of Ice Age Trail
between
Poplar Lane and
Phoenix Street in
Marathon County*



May 15-20, 2018: 191 volunteers contributed more than 3,700 volunteer hours to build over 3,000 feet of new tread.



April 25-27, 2019: 106 volunteers contributed 2,038 hours to build two boardwalk structures and construct a few hundred feet of tread.



May 15-19, 2019: 172 volunteers contributed 3,124 hours to open 1.4 miles of new Trail, including 9 new boardwalks totaling 514 feet in length.



August 13-18, 2019: 115 volunteers gave 3,951 hours to build 168 feet of stone retaining walls, 251 feet of elevated boardwalks, and a 24-foot and 16-foot bridge, set 21 stone steps, and moved 50,000 pounds of crushed granite.



October 5-11, 2020: 71 volunteers gave 1,754 hours to build 51 feet of boardwalk, an eight-step stone staircase, over 100 feet of stone retaining wall, and an impressive 3,800 feet of tread.

Dreamers of Trail Layout

BETH SHIMMYO

Dane County Chapter member
and trailbuilding volunteer



Rusk County
Trail Layout & Design
October 28 – 31
Participants: 10
Volunteer Hours: 357



*Rock formations like this one that evoke a sinking ship were among the finds of the weekend.
Photo by Dave Caliebe.*

Sometimes hikers on the Ice Age Trail are lucky enough to find themselves on a newly-built stretch of tread. The volunteers who build these sections are familiar with the yellow pin flags marking the trail's centerline. But hikers may wonder how does the trail go from an undeveloped parcel of land to a flag-line?

Trail layout is an iterative multi-year process. On October 28-31, 2020, ten volunteers from across the state gathered for a long-anticipated early step in the Blue Hills "Dreamer" reroute. Fine weather, a bright full moon, and the rushing waters of Hemlock Creek made camping and cross-country exploring in the couple inches of snow an enjoyable experience.

Before the event, the Alliance staff worked with local Chapter Coordinator and Blue Hills native, Fred Nash, to identify known control points. These are scenic rock outcroppings and felsenmeers that the trail should visit or narrow passages between private property and waterways that it must stay within. Alliance staff uses existing maps to design a sustainable route, identifying potential trail corridors that respect the terrain's contours and avoid areas of frequently harvested softwoods. However, these computer-generated corridors are just a first step in deciding where the trail goes.

The proposed routes and surrounding areas have to be explored in person to identify problems or scenic opportunities. This discovery is where volunteers become involved. In a Zoom briefing beforehand, we learned about the Avenza app

and its capabilities and examined annotated topographic maps. The weekend's goal was not to identify a route for the trail's centerline but to explore the area on foot. A topographically ideal route might be littered with tree debris from a harvesting operation, and a gorgeous rock formation might be a hundred feet away but hidden from view.

We spent the first half-day touring several points of interest as a group. Then we broke into two-person crews to explore our assigned two-to-three-mile sections intensively, over two days. Guided by the computer-generated trail corridors but not limited to them, we used ribbon-flagging on trees to mark a couple of potential corridors for the trail. We took photos and recorded data in the Avenza app as we found notable points. Some sections had good footing and gentle slopes, but most were littered with rocks.

The late-October absence of leaves and undergrowth greatly aided our efforts. While the leaf-off season is ideal for initially exploring an area, visiting a proposed trail route in multiple seasons is essential. It is the best way to gauge flooding, visual screening by foliage, and other factors that may not be apparent out of season. In spring, these possible routes will be checked out again. Further steps of layout and design will happen before trailbuilding volunteers can take a tool to the ground by a line of yellow pin flags. Hopefully, the weather will be just as nice and the mosquitoes just as few.

Rising Water, Raising Boardwalks

PATRICK GLEISSNER
Field Operations Coordinator



Bohn Lake Segment
Waushara County
October 23 – 24
Participants: 13
Volunteer Hours: 202



Volunteers lift the deck frames to insert a 2X12 board on top of the existing header to raise the boardwalk above the encroaching water. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

We revisited the Bohn Lake Segment in October 2020 to perform emergency trail work. Bohn Lake is a member of a chain of lakes and ponds, remnants of a glacial tunnel channel created millennia ago. These bodies of water formed as a meltwater river flowed beneath glacial ice. Buried blocks of ice, left behind when the tunnel collapsed, created the lake basin. Bohn Lake has no water inlet or outlet; it is essentially a large bathtub with no drain. As a result, the lake's water level fluctuates from year to year, sometimes by several feet. The rainy weather of the past few years raised the water to levels not seen in a generation.

Thirteen volunteers raised the recently constructed boardwalk (MSC 2019) designed for this eventuality – except we didn't expect it so soon! During the original construction, the support posts were intentionally cut 12 inches longer than needed for this exact reason, and boy did it pay off! To raise the boardwalk, the crew began by disassembling portions of the deck, lifting the frames, and inserting a 2x12 board on top of the existing headers. Then we put back the pieces. Since the lake had also gotten wider as it filled, we added five boardwalk sections at each end. A five-member crew spent two days creating 300 feet of new tread, about ten feet upslope of the encroaching water and brought it in line with the extended boardwalk.



The disassembled decking ready for the next step in the raising process. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

The weather was cold and damp, with a bit of mist thrown in for fun. Spirits were jovial. Even behind facemasks – which kept faces warm and volunteers safe – smiles could be seen. One wet boot and two pairs of waders filled with water were the only casualties of the weekend. Luckily, there were spare socks and pants packed in vehicles. Hopefully, the lake will quit filling up!

Home Sweet Ice Age Trail

BILL POLACHEK, VOLUNTEER WRITER FOR THE ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

Did you know that the Ice Age Trail Alliance has 433 members from other states including Alaska? We reached out to several members from other states to see what motivates them to maintain their long-distance memberships.

Betsy O'Neill, Pennsylvania

Former Residence: Antigo, WI

Looking through my trail journal reminded me of my all-time favorite segment, the Grandfather Falls Segment in Lincoln County! It's absolutely beautiful along the Wisconsin River. I started hiking the Ice Age Trail segments in Langlade County



Betsy, her father, and her brother Jay.

as a teenager with my parents and their friends. My goal was to hike every Ice Age Trail segment by age 60, but that's not going to happen – I don't have enough time off. However, I'd like to complete all the segments, eventually. I hike whenever I can when I come home and always expect to support this great organization. If you have any interest in outdoor life, the Ice Age Trail is a great way to experience it. If you get lost in Waukesha county, you are in spitting distance of civilization. In other parts, you might not see a human for days. It's not just a state treasure; it's a national treasure. My life has been good to me, and part of my role is to make sure a resource like this remains available, not just to me but also to other people.

Roy Bixby, North Carolina

Former Residence: Waukesha, WI

My favorite segments were the ones in Waukesha County due to easy access and my familiarity with them. I liked parking on Highway C and hiking adjacent to a farm field up through the back part of Pinewoods Campground. My favorite times were early winter, as the snow was starting to fall, but before, the trails became tough to manage due to too much snow. Once on a hike, I stopped and read one of the signs indicating the Ice Age Trail was maintained entirely by volunteers. My work schedule didn't allow for much volunteering, but I went to the website and saw that it was possible to join. I thought it was the least I could do.

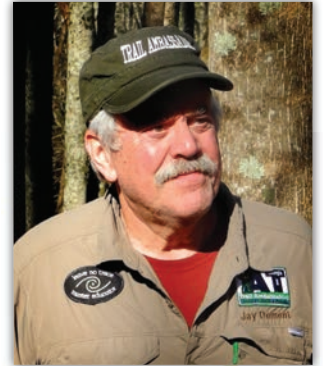


Roy on the Ice Age Trail near Chippewa Falls.

Jay Dement, Georgia

Former Residence: Chicago, IL

I moved to Georgia in 1996. In 2008, I had to give up an expensive golf habit due to the economy and found my way back to the woods. A couple of years ago, at the Partnership for National Scenic Trails conference, I attended an Ice Age Trail presentation. I felt a tug at my heart when seeing the images shared. I have added it to my "bucket list". There's something very home about it for me. Chicago is my city, but I think of Wisconsin



Jay Dement

as my state. I support several hiking related activities. I'm a life member of a few trail organizations here in Georgia, and I'm a charter member of the American Hiking Society. When it comes to wilderness and wilderness-like areas, that's where I put my money.

Margaret Wilson, Maine

Former Residence: Madison, WI and former IATA board member

I spent many years around the Appalachian Trail in the Virginia area. The idea of a long-distance trail became very appealing as it allows a different opportunity to get outside. The Ice Age Trail Alliance has made amazing progress in Dane County; they've created additional connecting segments north, west, and south of the city. I love the idea of the Mobile Skills Crew events, and I have been promoting the idea of them with our local land trust here. I have also been impressed with the public/private partnerships that have grown with Dane County and the State.

Alison Radigan, North Carolina

Former Residence: Lisbon, WI

The Ice Age Trail is seven miles from my parents' home. My father was an avid outdoorsman, so we spent a lot of time on the Trail, mostly the Monches, Lapham Peak, and Pike Lake segments. My father passed away unexpectedly in 2014. Our family asked that donations be made in his memory to the Ice Age Trail Alliance. On the first anniversary of his death, which was also two days after our wedding, our family and close friends participated in a workday on the Monches Segment. We love the combination of woods, meadow, river, boardwalk, and bridge. It also brings back wonderful memories and a sense of connection to my dad.

continued on page 31

OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

Trailtessa

Trail Retreats Designed for Women by Women!

Happy Hours: Introduction to Hiking the Ice Age Trail (virtual)

During the month of May, join the Ice Age Trail Alliance and special guests for an introduction to hiking with a virtual workshop series. Take time to connect with one of your passions, learn tips and tricks from experts, and be part of a community of like-minded Ice Age Trail enthusiasts who follow their joy exploring the Ice Age Trail.

Speakers include: Kathy Vincent, the first female thru-hiker who completed the entire Trail in 1997 and hiked with her then 2-year old daughter. Melanie McManus will join us to share her story of hiking the entire Ice Age Trail and how it inspired her book, *Thousand-Miler: Adventures Hiking the Ice Age Trail*.

Details: Tuesday evenings in May, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Presentations will be recorded and made available to paid registrants after each workshop. Registration fee (includes all four presentations): **\$25**



On Your Own Summer Solstice Hike

Celebrate the Summer Solstice, June 20, by hiking 20 miles on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Savor the start of summer with a hike on our own, or as a team to combine your miles. Head out anytime on June 19 or June 20. Experience the joy of setting your course on the longest day of the year.

Registration: free to hike!

Please share your delight with us on social media by using these hashtags: #Trailtessa #BeBright #IceAgeTrail #OptOutside #ForceOfNature #SummerSolsticeHike



Backpacking 101: October 22-24

Kettle Moraine State Forest- Northern Unit

Registration: 10 women (maximum), ages 21 and up

Cost: \$100 per attendee

Be strong and self-sufficient. You'll carry your own pack and gear on the multi-day backpacking trip. Be immersed in rugged beauty. Hike along glittering kettle lakes, through mesic forests, and across winding boardwalks. No previous backpacking experience for Backpacking 101- open to women and girls who have NOT participated in a previous Trailtessa backpacking trip before.

Registration opens July 1st.

For more details and to REGISTER, please visit:
iceagetrail.org/trailtessa-force-of-nature/





Seek. Discover. Engage.

AMY LORD, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MANAGER

The Ice Age Trail Alliance partnered with UW-Whitewater and a local company, Slipstream, LLC., which created an interactive mobile app. Using the power of a smartphone, **StriveOn!** will activate and connect hikers to unique places along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Currently, 13 Trail Communities (St. Croix Falls, Cornell, Lodi, Cross Plains, Verona, Janesville, Milton, Whitewater, Delafield, Hartland, Slinger, West Bend, Manitowoc-Two Rivers) with their nearby trail segments, local businesses, restaurants, and attractions are featured in the app for your next Ice Age Trail adventure.



It's easy as 1-2-3!

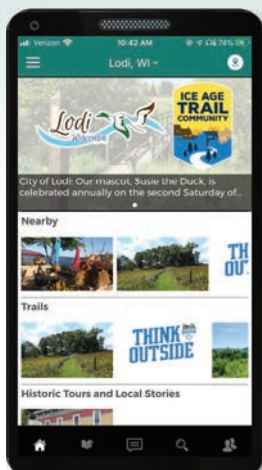
1.

Download the free StriveOn! app by hovering your phone over this QR code. Tap on the web address that pops up and follow the instructions.



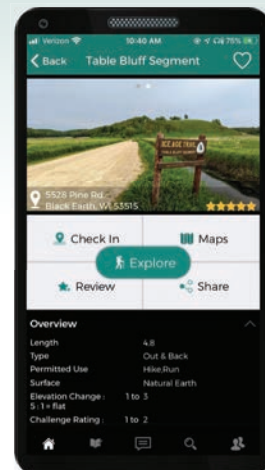
2.

Once downloaded, you may create an account by entering your name and email. When opened, the geo-location-based app, will automatically alert you if you are near a featured item. For example, if you are located in Lodi, WI, StriveOn! will automatically display segment descriptions and eateries.



3.

When you are onsite at a trailhead, open the Trail segment in StriveOn! and click the EXPLORE button to activate engagement points along the Trail. Start hiking! Be sure to have your phone ringer ON so you can hear when you encounter an engagement point.



You may watch a short instructional video to learn how to use the StriveOn! app:
youtube.com/c/iceagetrail/videos

See you on the Ice Age Trail!

THOUSAND-MILER journals

What a Journey! LAURA HINESH

Looking back upon my journal, I am surprised to see my adventure started on October 27, 2018. It was my day off, and I wanted to see the sunrise from the top of Gibraltar Rock. Arriving around 6:00 a.m., I remember how dark it was at the start of my ascent and being caught off guard by a family of raccoons also traversing the path. Unfortunately, there was no view of the rising sun that morning. Not letting the disappointment get me down, I explored the area and discovered, to my great excitement, a yellow blaze, and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Having the whole day to enjoy the outdoors, the thought, why not? came to my mind. And so, my very first out and back hike on the Ice Age Trail took place.

It wasn't until December 7, 2019, that I decided to hike the Ice Age Trail in its entirety. One-third of my hikes were solo, with most taking place at the beginning of my journey when hikes were only about two hours away. Once they exceeded that distance from home, more planning, gear, and hiking buddies were needed. I chose to car camp. I liked that I didn't need to carry as much weight on hikes, yet I could have items in the car that made my experience enjoyable, like having a dry place for my journal. Keeping a journal became part of my routine. Once I became serious about completing the Ice Age Trail, it was my way to remember what transpired on each hike: where I hiked, the weather, who I met, who I walked with, and what I saw.

My family taught me to respect all flora and fauna. An admiration for the great outdoors has been in my very soul for as long as I can remember. Over the years, spending time in nature has helped me overcome the depression plaguing me since my teens. Truly, nature heals the soul, body, and mind. I saw beauty in every season: From icy, snow-filled trails of winter to spring's slushy, muddiness; from the buggy hum, water-filled ruts, and summer's sucking mud to fall's crisp temperatures and colorful landscapes.

As the Ice Age Trail heals the soul, it demands respect and offers lessons. I learned that 1,200 miles were no small feat and what I am capable of physically and emotionally. My longest hike, a personal best at 28.2 miles, was completed in nine hours and twenty minutes. No wonder I wore out a pair of boots in less than a year! Bike shuttles, over time, strengthened my body so that hills are no problem now. Completing the Trail was my goal. My more significant reason was for Brett, my son with disabilities, and others like him who, no matter their struggles, always have a smile on their face. They never give up, trying until they succeed. My goal is little compared to that. My reason is huge because they matter.

The Ice Age Trail gave me refuge from the chaos of 2020. I am so thankful for COVID-19 (though not for the loss of lives); it gave me the time, nine months, to complete my journey. I'm also thankful for members of the Thousand Miler WannaBes, the kindness and help from neighbors and friends, like-minded, goal-driven hiking buddies turned friends, fantastic weather, and a cure for my depression. On August 11, 2020, at the Eastern Terminus in Potawatomi State Park, I became the 233rd Thousand-Miler, a WannaBe no longer!

Good luck to those of you still striving to achieve your thousand-mile goal. Never give up! It is attainable. Even if it isn't, you will walk away with a better sense of who you are and new life skills. Life is short. Don't waste one moment on the "what ifs". Live in your moment!



Laura Hinesh ends her thousand-mile journey at the Eastern Terminus. Photo courtesy of Laura Hinesh.



Laura stands on a beaver dam along the Northern Blue Hills Segment in Rusk County. Photo courtesy of Laura Hinesh.



An uplifting view along the Eagle Segment in Waukesha County. Photo courtesy of Laura Hinesh.

History, Hemlocks, and Hummocks: The Ice Age Trail Around Wood Lake Has Them All

ROBERT “BOB” RUSCH

On September 26, 2020, an inspiring 3.6-mile hiking trail and learning opportunity, the Wood Lake Loop, opened in Wisconsin's Northwoods. Fifteen interpretive signs identifying geological and historical sites, especially those focusing on the area's early logging history, have been installed along the loop. These points of interest add educational, historical, and cultural value to the hiking experience, serving to engage and more deeply connect the community to its public land.

This loop trail was brought to life by the Taylor County Forestry Department with its partners, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and the Rib Lake Historical Society LLC. The first step towards creating this walking path began in 2016 when County Forester, Jake Walsiak, came across unnatural, curving earthen ridges. Thinking them strange and curious, he contacted Bob Rusch, manager of the Rib Lake Historical Society. Bob studied the site and explained how the three-foot-high ridges came to be. In 1906, as the Rib Lake Lumber Company was extending its logging railroad, the crew building the right of way encountered a hill. As the laborers used horse-pulled carts or “slushers” to excavate the railroad grade, the equipment left the ridges of earth behind.

Bob proceeded to share photos taken in the 1920s depicting workers using slushers as they built State Highway 13. He also mentioned that the Historical Society had over 10,000 photographs in its online collection. The images included pictures of men peeling hemlock bark for the tannery, log drives on Wood Creek, and thousands of logs floating in Wood Lake. They also portrayed the Rib Lake Lumber Company's shay locomotive at Camp 4, which operated from 1906 to 1973. The idea was born: Use these photographs to illustrate local historical events along the Ice Age Trail.

On a clear day in January 2019, Jake Walsiak, Bob Rusch, Lee “Butch” Clendenning, Co-Coordinator of the High Point Chapter, and Tim Malzhan, former Trailways Director for the Ice Age Trail Alliance snowshoed around

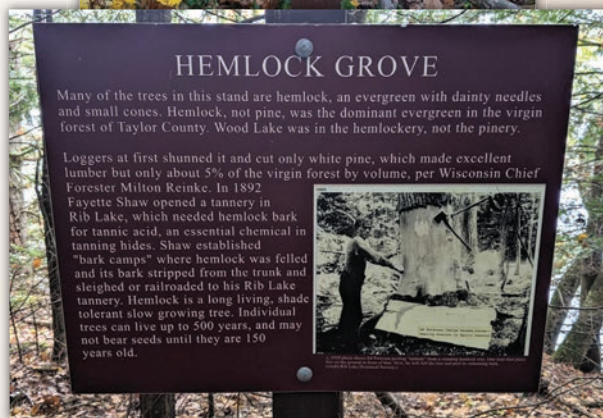


A map of the Wood Lake Loop Trail greets hikers at the trailhead and points out the location of the fifteen interpretive signs. Photo by IATA staff.

Wood Lake. Their mission was to identify all possible sites for interpretive signs. The ad-hoc committee had a nice problem: there were more worthwhile potential sign sites than expected, including eagle nests and hummocks, the glacier-formed steep hills in the area. It took six months to whittle the list down to the best of the best.

Jake Walsiak worked with his county forestry committee, which unanimously approved funding for the signs. The Alliance wrote an informative explanation of high relief hummocky topography and provided an attending color illustration. High Point Chapter Co-ordinators, Butch Clendenning and Buzz Meyer, organized a group of hardworking volunteers, including Abby Barten, Jennifer Medina-Gray, and Ron Becker. They hauled signs and posts, dug post holes, and erected the signs. In September, the Chapter hosted an inaugural hike of the Wood Lake Loop Trail as part of its dedication.

All parties involved cordially invite you to enjoy the peaceful forest setting as you walk the loop which circles Wood Lake, a spring-fed 67-acre body of water. The Wood Lake Segment of the Ice Age Trail follows the loop trail's western and southern portions. The white-blazed northern part of the loop, known as the Camp 4 Trail, highlights the historic Logging Camp 4 site, which was in operation from 1906 to 1910. Hikers may access the loop trail from the Wood Lake County Park, which hosts a boat landing, picnic and swimming areas, rustic camping, drinking water, and restrooms.



This sign, one of fifteen along the loop, showcases fascinating local history paired with a black and white photo from the Historical Society's holdings. Photo by IATA staff.

Robert “Bob” Rusch hails from Taylor County, near Rib Lake, WI, where he lives with his wife, Ann, on the beautiful Rusch Preserve. This 170-acre preserve hosts impressive geological formations, beautifully forested land featuring several historic sites, and a section of the Rib Lake Segment of the Ice Age Trail. Rusch, a long-time member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the High Point Chapter, is also manager of the Rib Lake Historical Society.

Duluth Trading Company Hits the Trail With a New Trail Partnership

We sat down with Ricker Schlecht, Duluth Trading's SVP of Product, Visual & Creative, to discuss our newest corporate partnership.

"You know, I could say something corporate," laughed SVP of Product, Visual & Creative Ricker Schlecht in reference to the newly minted partnership between the Ice Age Trail Alliance and Duluth Trading. "But at the end of the day, this is really just two friendly Wisconsin neighbors getting to know each other better."

And the neighbor comparison is almost literal: "The Brooklyn Wildlife Segment is just a mile away from our distribution center in Belleville," said Schlecht. "It has been an incredible midday retreat for our staff, and an impromptu meeting place for years."

That thought of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail being a place where the Duluth Trading team works and plays struck a chord. "Giving back is something that's very important to Duluth," said Schlecht. "We're keenly aware of how a strong community helps our team stay healthy and productive. It also makes the area more



attractive to the visitors who travel to our stores. So, helping keep the Ice Age Trail well maintained seemed like the perfect opportunity to make that happen."

A partnership that already felt familiar

With that, the details of a partnership came together pretty quickly. "As it turned out, chapter volunteers and Mobile Skills Crew members have been wearing Duluth gear for years, so we had a warm

The Brooklyn Wildlife Segment provides a perfect spot for mid-day rejuvenation or walk-and-talk meetings for Duluth Trading staff, especially in early fall as the sumac begins to turn. Photo by Taylor Kokinos.





reception ready and waiting when we went to our first meeting,” said Schlecht. “When the Trailbuilding team started showing us pictures of their recent projects, we could pick out the Duluth gear the crews were already wearing. It was gratifying to know our workwear was making a difference.”

The perfect test of performance workwear

While Duluth Trading made its reputation in workwear for the trades, building the Trail adds another opportunity for the product development team. “Just the fact that the crew has to hike a couple of miles into the worksite before they even start digging, lifting and hauling makes a difference,” explained Schlecht. “This is a great chance to

put the wicking and flex technology we’ve been developing to the test in a pretty demanding environment. It’s also a great place to send our development team to get immediate feedback.”

Workwear for the greater good

Knowing the gear Duluth designs will be put to work building more of the Trail, and, by default, more great Wisconsin memories for visitors, is a real positive for everyone at Duluth. “The buzz about this during our team meetings has been really strong. Our Duluth Crew loves knowing we’re doing our part – and several have already been out volunteering. I mean,” added Schlecht, “what’s not to love about getting out of your office and digging some dirt?”

Writer Guy vs. The Rock: How a Day with the Mobile Skills Crew Softened Me to Rock Work

TERRY KJERSTEN, WRITER FOR DULUTH TRADING COMPANY

Officially I’m here on business as the Duluth Trading Company is a new supporter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. I’m the scribe covering a Mobile Skills Crew event for the catalog. But this trip is personal. A grudge with the glacier must be settled.

You see, I’m from Northern MN. To be specific, the Agassiz lakebed area where the glaciers first plowed the land pancake flat (I mean 20-miles-in-any direction-without-seeing-so-much-as-a-rise-in-the-horizon flat) and then deposited an ocean of tumbled granite boulders on that perfectly monotonous flatness as it receded. And those rocks have been the bane of farmers for centuries.

Each spring, the boy I once was, was drug out of bed to go “pick rocks.” Big rocks, small rocks, heavy rocks. We walked miles each day in flat, desolate, just-tilled fields, gathering up the rocks, loading them on skids, and depositing them in the rock piles that grew larger with each generation. If you missed one in the spring after the frost pushed it up, don’t worry, your combine would find it in fall, and you’d have another bright, shiny repair bill to remember it by. Farmers and rocks don’t get along.

So, I winced during the meeting when the team mentioned “rock work.” But the Mobile Skills Crew team leader

promised me a little therapy. “Come up and work with us,” the old sage invited. “We make them part of the trail, work them in, use them to our advantage.”

That had me intrigued. The glacier wasn’t the enemy to this guy. The glacier had dropped off a motherload of opportunity. So, I reported for duty the next week. And he dispensed more wisdom as we worked together:

“It’s a Jigsaw puzzle – with 500 lb. pieces.”

“Nature always puts the rock in almost the right place – we just have to coax it a little.”

“A rock staircase that climbs easily is soothing for tired hiking legs – these rocks make the trail easier.”

And as the day went on, the words sank into my stubborn Scandinavian thinking. These rocks weren’t the enemy. They were an opportunity for beauty and retreat. Sure, they were still heavy; we strained against the rock bars as we pried and hefted. But the rocks now served a purpose – this wasn’t a pile to be scorned, but a staircase to be climbed.

Somewhere on the trail that day, the rocks softened my attitude toward nature. And for that, I’m grateful.



Left to right: Luke Klobberdanz, David Carew, and Terry Kjersten wrestle a rock into place as they build an eight-step staircase. Photo Courtesy of Duluth Trading Co. Photographer David Nevala.

CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

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

We welcomed fall with a vivid Fall Colors hike on October 3, and a socially distanced potluck at the Lion's Park in St. Croix Falls. It was a lovely afternoon walk along the Ice Age Trail with a wonderful group of people. Unfortunately, a few weeks later, our chapter lost an extraordinarily special person. Chet Anderson died on October 23, after suffering a devastating stroke. His death caught us all by surprise – he was such a strong man. We thought we had many more years to share with him, but that wasn't the case. We are thankful, though, for the opportunity to have gotten to know him. We benefited greatly from all he did for our chapter and the Alliance. He will be missed by many throughout the state of Wisconsin.

- Cheryl Whitman



Chet Anderson dressed to nines for Swanky Saturday at a Mobile Skills Crew event. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

the Hemlock Creek Segment; a beautifully routed sign at the "Doyle" parking lot; and a kiosk in Barronett was re-stained and updated with additional pictures and maps and other information about the Ice Age Trail. We surprised Dan Brereton, our sign maker and bridge and boardwalk builder, with a bench dedication as well.

- Audrey Held & Letitia Crisler



A bridge built by Dan Brereton along the Hemlock Creek Segment. Photo by Dan Brereton.



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

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

Members of the Blue Hills Chapter were intimately involved in the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Trail Layout and Design event held October 28 – 31, 2020.

This training event required wandering the Northwoods in Rusk County and logging over 80 miles in the process of finding a new Ice Age Trail corridor. Covering basic trail layout and design principles, the group learned about data gathering tools and trail basics. Ten volunteers spent 357 hours over four days narrowing down the corridor options for a future reroute.

Shuttles, advice, coordination, cutting and removing downed trees, and improving signage were other volunteer accomplishments.

- Marilyn Nash



Dave Caliebe, Trail Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and his team of Trail Layout and Design volunteers, stop to investigate a rock outcropping, known locally as Devil's Elbow, in an area which may host new Ice Age Trail. Photo by Patrick Gleissner.



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

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

Don Erickson has been the backbone and workhorse of the Superior Lobe Chapter for many years. We recently recognized him with a bench dedication in his honor. We also applaud our trail maintenance crew, whose efforts have garnered rave reviews from our users. A big thank you to Dan, Bob, Wayne, Dale, Don, and others who keep our Ice Age Trail segments open and in good shape! Three recent projects include: a new sign and freshly cleared parking site on

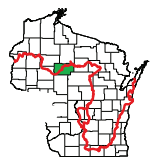


Don and Jan Erickson enjoy a moment of well-earned accolades and rest on the bench installed in Don's honor along the Hemlock Segment. Photo by Jeff Southern.



CHIPPEWA MORaine CHAPTER

Coordinator: Vicki Christianson
(ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org)



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Buzz Meyer
(715-748-5627, gtmeyer@charter.net) and
Lee "Butch" Clendenning (715-415-6713,
leecclendenning1@yahoo.com)

All things considered, 2020 was a good year for the High Point Chapter. The pandemic created an incentive for heading outdoors. Taylor County's large tracts of mostly roadless Northwoods provided an ideal place to enjoy nature. Buzz Meyer had a banner year shuttling 60 masked hikers, another indication of increased Trail use.

The Black Men Northwoods Retreat group, three father-son pairs, and two hike leaders enjoyed walking in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. James Mills, IATA board member and freelance journalist, arranged the weekend. It was part of the "It's All Yours" campaign, launched in 2015 by the National Forest Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service. "At its core," said Mills, "the Black Men Northwoods Retreat was meant to give all those involved a much-needed escape from the ever-present stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. But it also was our intention to reveal the healing power of the natural environment for those members of our community who need it most." See the Winter 2020 issue of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine for the full story.

Spring will bring another season of trail maintenance and general upkeep. A boardwalk will be a likely fix, for at least one of our three areas, challenged by beavers, intent upon hoarding all the water they possibly can.

A big thank you from Buzz and me to all the volunteers who made the Wood Lake Loop trail happen.

- Lee "Butch" Clendenning



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

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

The Northwoods Chapter build a new bridge below the big beaver dam on Turtle Rock Segment – the ever-moving target of a beaver dam that completely flooded out the original trail.

Thanks to our new volunteer and chainsaw sawyer, Tom Jones, and Bruce Jaecks, we have re-opened the south end of the Harrison Hills Segment. It had been re-routed since the July 19, 2019 storm

Art Hochnadel and Gerald Gomben work together to build the Bridge on Turtle Rock Segment. Photo by Bruce Jaecks.



that caused the removal of many, many trees. Hats off to our volunteers for keeping our segments in good hiking condition – we've seen a big increase in traffic on the Ice Age Trail this year!

On a sad note, three of our long-time members and volunteers passed away. Tim Obukowicz, also a Thousand-Miler, passed away in September, Jean Schaefer in October, and Herb Schotz, in November. Herb Schotz pioneered the Ice Age Trail in Lincoln County, advocating for its existence. He and his son were instrumental in the layout and design of it throughout the county. He also held the Chapter Coordinator position for many years.

We will dearly miss these members.

All three indicated they wanted memorials sent to the Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail. Plans for these funds include erecting another shelter and enhancing the local Trail segments they loved so much.

- Ruby Jaecks



Tom Jones works to re-open the south end of the Harrison Hills Segment after storm damage. Photo by Bruce Jaecks.



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

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

When there are snowballs the size of fists and plenty of food, friends, family, and romantic hearts will gather for a breathtaking stroll along the Ice Age Trail. Eighty-three hikers, ten volunteers, and four dogs joined the Central Moraines Chapter for their second annual Hike-A-Thon. We raised \$3,500 to help build, maintain, and protect this phenomenal hiking trail for today and for generations to come. We can't thank our hikers, and business sponsors enough for



Two Hike-a-Thon participants undaunted by the wet, snowy conditions, demonstrate their high spirits as they goof-off for the photographer. Photo by Rachel Riehle.

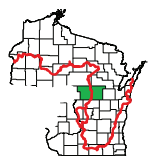
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CHAPTER highlights *continued*

their overwhelming support. We enjoyed being with many old friends and delighted in making new ones. Togetherness and friendship are truly the spirit of the Ice Age Trail.

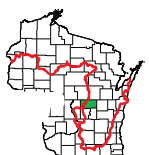
We celebrated the opportunity to pull pin flags after a week-long effort to complete a boardwalk, a rock staircase, rock crossings, and brand-new tread. These features can be found by those who meander through the ever-changing terrain along the Ringle Segment. Thank you to the Ice Age Trail Alliance staff for their leadership and planning. Thank you to the volunteers who gave their time and energy. Now, hikers, runners, and snowshoers can enjoy more trail. It's beyond amazing!!

- Steve Kaiser and
Rachel Riehle



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Waushara County Chapter got creative. We sought to keep our hikers engaged and safe while utilizing the Ice Age Trail during the pandemic. Rather than hosting in-person hikes, we promoted virtual activities.

Our third annual Walk-the-Waush Challenge began the first day of summer, June 20, and ran through August 31. Its goal is to encourage and inspire the community to walk, hike, and roll as many miles as possible while utilizing designated trails and parks in Waushara County. We made it easy and safe for all participants by supplying needed materials online. Instead of hosting guided hikes, we put together weekly photo contests and treasure hunts via our social media to keep our participants engaged. In September, we hosted a virtual Awards Ceremony for the 59 participants who collectively racked up 2,623.76 miles!!

We also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Ice Age Trail becoming a National Scenic Trail by hosting our 22nd annual Fall Color Hike and Dog Walk from October 9 through October 11. Hikers participated in this fun, family-friendly hike by



Congratulations to our 2020 Walk-the-Waush Overall Winners, Bill and Sandy Schafer and companion, Champ, of Hancock. They each logged an incredible 264.26 miles! They received an engraved plaque and \$50 donation to a charity of choice, the St. Jude Children's Hospital. Photo by Randy Lennartz.

hiking, walking, running, or rolling their favorite segment(s) throughout the three-day event. They brought us along for the adventure by posting photos of their hikes on our Facebook page and entering our "My Dog" photo contest. All photo winners received healthy doggie treats courtesy of our friends at Front Porch Pets in Wild Rose.

In late October, we hosted the Mobile Skills Crew Wild Card event on the Bohn Lake Segment. It was not the optimal time of year to stand in the water to raise a boardwalk. Still we had plenty of volunteers register, enough waders to keep folks dry, and enough lumber cut and treated. Our main goal was to raise and lengthen the boardwalk installed September 2019 and shift the Trail to higher ground in a few spots to provide more room for the rising water. Thanks to the dedicated volunteers that worked together and put in the hard work!

- Jenny Addis



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Gary Ertl (608-369-3543, vbjbgertl@hotmail.com)



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

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



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

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

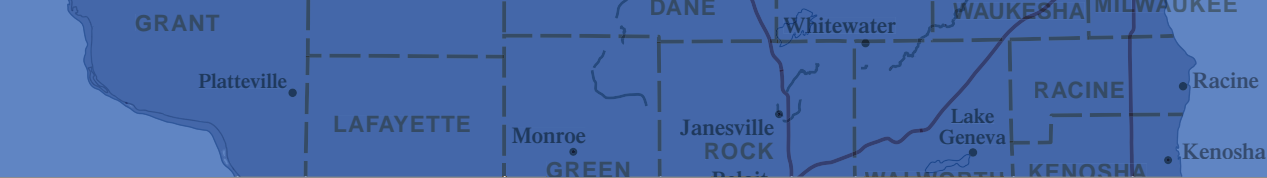
A new youth hiking club started in October, called the Lodi Middle School Trail Trekkers. Organizers report

that 35 students in grades 6-8 have signed up for the weekly hikes along the Ice Age Trail. Hikers can earn a "Trekkie" patch for completing trail segments. The Lodi Valley Chapter and the Alliance provided start-up funds for this club.

We were pleased that many Mammoth Hike Challenge hikers visited Lodi, an Ice Age Trail Community, as they hiked the local segments. Our online itinerary included a video welcome from the mayor of Lodi and links to many local businesses and attractions. Video clips also highlighted the



Lodi Middle School Trail Trekkers do some socially distanced hiking on the Lodi Marsh Segment. Photo by Paula Tonn.



rainbow bridge, remnant prairies, glacial features, and the Merrimac Ferry. A big thank you to Lodi High School student Norah Lee, who helped create the videos.

Like all of you, we're missing the events we would usually be enjoying during this quarter: High School Service Day, annual visits to the Trail by 4th-grade classes, Full Moon hike with holiday cookies and cocoa, and the Santa Tyke Hike. The memories of these experiences will have to carry us along as we look forward to returning to our Trail activities in 2021.

- Patti Herman



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinator: David Lonsdorf (608-212-1135, dblonsdo@wisc.edu) and Bob Kaspar (608-239-0168, bobkaspar@sbcglobal.net) or DaneCoChapter@iceagetrail.org



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Rock County Chapter celebrated these Fall 2020 successes:

Chapter leaders, Jayne and Dean Paynter, were recognized by the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Association's state-wide Community Service Award for their long history of volunteer service to Rock County trails. Our Chapters heartfelt congratulations and thanks go out to them.

The Rock County Historical Society did not have their annual Christmas Tree display in the Tallman House due to COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, they opted to have 100 trees set up outside for a free walk-through display. A tree, donated to our Chapter, was decorated by Dean and Jayne Paynter, Lee and Ginny Henkel, Ed and Sue Madere, and Dennis James. Many thought our tree showed the most imagination.

If you read and enjoyed *The Lost City of Z* by David Grann, we recommend *Tropical Plant Collection – From the Field to the Internet* by Scott



The bench installed along the Storrs Lake Segment in honor of Scott Mori. On bench left to right – Laurie Gasper and Kathy Mussey, Scott's sisters. Back row, left to right – Ken Manthei, Dean Paynter, Dennis James, and Tim Weege. Photo by Sevie Kenyon.

Mori. Originally from Milton, Wisconsin, Mori spent 40 years as a botanist with The New York Botanical Garden focusing on lowland New World tropics flowering plants (the Amazon). Mori passed away in August of 2020 at the age of 79. In his last book, he credits his passion for studying plants and wildlife to the time he spent at Storrs Lake Wildlife Area. He would haul

his canoe a mile from his home to spend time on Storrs and Bowers Lakes. With his passing, his sister Laurie Gasper wanted a memorial in his name at Storrs Lake. The Rock County Chapter worked with her and the DNR to select a suitable location. The bench was installed on December 10th, 2020, by Ken Manthei, Sevie Kenyon, Dean Paynter, Tim Weege, and Dennis James. It overlooks Storrs Lake at the boat launch. Family and friends of Scott Mori were in attendance.

- Dennis James

The Ice Age Trail themed Christmas tree decorated by Rock County Chapter members for the Rock County Historical Society display.



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

In our chapter, small group teams—Blazin' Babes, Monday Mudders, sawyer, and mowing crews—maintained our Ice Age Trail segments despite the restrictions the COVID-19 pandemic imposed on groups of volunteers. They cleared away invasives, disassembled a decaying overlook, repaired long stretches of boardwalk, and upgraded signage.



A group of nine runners from the group Trail Sisters Waukesha challenged themselves to run, in one day, all 50 miles of 'Walk the Wauk' during the Mammoth Hike Challenge. Photo by Jenn Collins.

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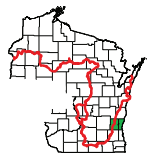
CHAPTER highlights *continued*



Given the number of hikers getting out on the Ice Age Trail for the first time during 2020, we managed to add chapter memberships while wrestling with limitations on maintenance and meetings. A mixed blessing of a year.

Two occasions for getting people out on the Trail without specific chapter leaders to guide them occurred in October. The Mammoth Hike Challenge inspired friends and families to walk 40 miles of Trail and visit three Trail Communities—the Trail Sisters of Waukesha ran 50 miles. Many hikers became avid chapter members. The Halloween Hike appealed to families and groups of friends who dressed in colorful costumes and photographed themselves at trailhead signs. Many outings resulted in photographs and comments shared with the chapter, which we reposted to our Facebook page. Everyone appreciated these occasions of good cheer.

- Robert Root



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Chapter Coordinator: Mark Muellenbach
(262-644-4512, iatawashozcty@gmail.com)

The cooperative, mild weather kept the Washington/Ozaukee County chapter busy this fall. In September, the Southern Kewaskum Segment MSC event was a huge success and a great addition to Washington County. Twenty-seven volunteers installed a 269-foot boardwalk, removed the old Waterford Road boardwalk, and added signage to a new trail section in Slinger.

In early October, a small group of volunteers spent a morning improving the Holy Hill Segment on the heels of a logging project. Chapter members cleaned up the trail corridor and added signage and new blazes to make it ready for heavy activity during the Mammoth Hike Challenge. In Slinger, a Trail Community event held in October highlighted a new Ice Age Trail section through the village. The event included a visit from Monty the Mammoth and an Explorer Backpack donation to the library. The backpack is available for community members to check out. It consists of an Ice Age Trail Atlas, Guidebook, and family activities.



Jade Schrader, Youth Services Librarian, Monty the Mammoth (Lisa DeLaney, chapter volunteer), and Leslie Schultz, Library Director pose with an Explorer Backpack. Photo by Amy Lord.

The chapter's "Meander the Moraine" program became extremely popular during the pandemic. Interest intensified again during the Mammoth Hike Challenge. We have had 103 completions in 2020, 70 of which have been since August. We welcome the increased activity and hope it continues into 2021 and the future.

The chapter is preparing to work on a new re-route of the Ice Age Trail north of Ridge Run Park. Crews with the City of West Bend have already started construction on the portions of the Trail in the park.

The chapter would like to extend a special "Thank You" to the Washington County Volunteer Center and The Hub Coffee Shop. As part of their "tip jar" donation program, our chapter benefited from tips left during September.

- Lisa Ruesch

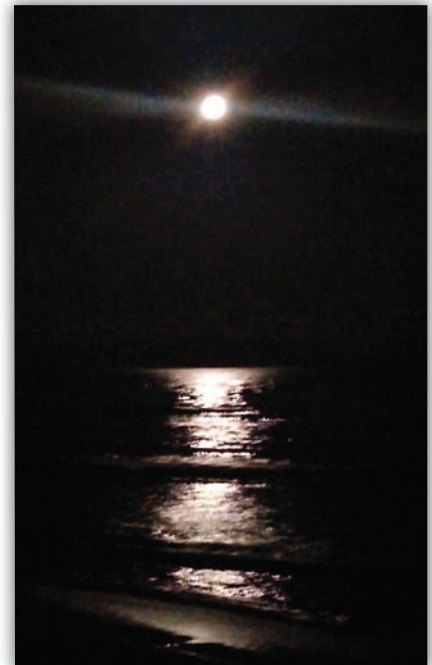


LAKESHORE CHAPTER

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

With COVID-19 restricting gatherings and travel, many people have opted for outdoor activities, including

hiking. The influx of hikers helped monitor the local Ice Age Trail segments as they reported water issues and downed trees. The Lakeshore Chapter hosted monthly hikes, May through November, highlighting segments from Sturgeon Bay in Door County to LaBudde in Sheboygan County. Our last three events of the year included an outing on Saturday, September 26, led by Bruce Berres at Point Beach State Forest. In October, Kathy Claude led a hike at Schuette Park, and Bruce Berres led the Full Moon hike along the Point Beach Segment in November. Unfortunately, the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit's Ice Age Trail Trekkers canceled their walks for the season. Hopefully, they will be able to resume hiking in the spring.



The moon over Lake Michigan as enjoyed during a Full Moon hike along the Point Beach Segment. Photo by Cheryl Gorsuch.

November's unusually mild weather extended our chapter's trail maintenance season. Our northern and southern crews responded quickly to trail issues reported by our diligent trail monitors and hikers. Also unusual were the many water issues requiring clearing around wet areas to create dry trails, and many trees downed by the strong winds and damp ground. Our sawyers, Bruce Berres, Dave Gramling, and Jim Powers, deserve a thank you for clearing trails.

- Cheryl Gorsuch

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September 16 — December 31, 2020

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TRAIL kiosk *continued from page 16*

Ann Swanson, Minnesota

The Ice Age Trail is beautiful and offers such interesting and dramatic terrain. There's something magical and mysterious about rocky cliffs and valleys with rocky cliffs. I love the feeling that comes from being in such an ancient place. I've lived my entire life in Minnesota and think it's a very beautiful state as well. However, there's just something about Wisconsin that I never get tired of, which keeps calling me. I love the geography, the hills, drumlins, river valleys, rock outcroppings, and the forests. My next goal is to continue on segments of the Ice Age Trail and get to Roche-a-Cri State Park...maybe next summer!

Erika Janik, New Hampshire

Former Residence: Madison, WI

We love hiking and never had to go far to find a segment of the Ice Age Trail. My favorite is the Table Bluff Segment in Cross Plains for the beautiful views, varied terrain, closeness to home, and that weird lounging alligator beside the Trail. I also love the Whitewater Lake Segment and the Emmons Creek State Fishery. The two things I love most about the Trail: the story it tells about Wisconsin's past and its accessibility to so many people in Wisconsin. Hiking took us to new places in the state and uncovered hidden gems like the Devil's Staircase in Janesville. We both fell in love with the idea of the Trail

and the goal of creating it. We even talked about one-day buying land along the Trail to help complete it — it's still possible!

Peggy Talbot, Florida

Owens land in Wisconsin

I'm a member because my husband and I own 95 acres in Marquette County. We harvest pines and also have a field we planted in lupine to attract the Karner Blue butterfly. The property is on a private lake, and the Ice Age Trail comes near it. We have hiked the segment near Portage, including Ennis Lake, known for the area where John Muir lived. We recently hiked part of the path near Baraboo. I have contacted the Ice Age Trail Alliance about the possibility of including our land. Right now, it looks like the Trail uses a road about half-mile away. I love the land and how it changes in different parts of the state. It's awe-inspiring.

Bill Polacheck is a writer living in the Milwaukee area. An avid environmentalist, he enjoys hiking, biking, and kayaking, and challenges himself to find beauty in the world around him on a daily basis.



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What YOU Said About the Mammoth Hike Challenge!

Our 15th anniversary is on Sept 30, we decided to start section hiking the Ice Age Trail together. Being in LaCrosse, we have to organize day hikes and the 2-4 hours of travel to get there. It's been something we both look forward to and has brought us hours of alone time and laughs. We have included friends and family into our adventure and some have started hiking the Trail as well. Also, I'm a COVID nurse and have found this Trail and Mammoth Hike Challenge to be the light at the end of a very long and hard tunnel every week. I hope the volunteers who work so hard on the Trail know how much joy and relaxation it brings to people. We appreciate the hard work and dedication they have to get people out to explore our great state.

– Kelsey and Adam Lyons, LaCrosse, WI

My boyfriend and I started hiking the IAT back in March this year. I had no idea when we started how meaningful the Ice Age Trail would become to me. I've discovered parts of myself, our relationship has grown stronger, and I have new found meaning in seeing kames, eskers, and kettles. We're almost half way done, but I know the Ice Age Trail will forever leave a yellow blaze on my heart. The Mammoth Hike Challenge was such a blessing – to be able to see the changing of the season up close and personal with Wisconsin nature.

– Jazmin Martens, Little Chute, WI

The Mammoth Hike Challenge was a wonderful way to socialize and stay active with my mom during the pandemic. My 81-year old mom had not really hiked much in the past. We challenged ourselves to some tough trails along the way, like the gorgeous but leaf, root, and stone-filled Pike Lake Segment. We both used trekking poles for the first time, visited beautiful new trails, and enjoyed visiting communities we had never been to before like Slinger and Hartland. My husband joined in on the fun for half of the hikes and he was happy to discover new-to-us trails that we will definitely return back to in the future. It was such a memorable experience and we are thankful for this opportunity!

– Lisa M. Ponto and Mary Bruemmer, Waukesha, WI

We greatly enjoyed exploring the Ice Age Trail during such a beautiful month of the year. I have been a resident of Madison for most of the past 25 years and I have only been on the Verona Segment of the Trail. We explored parts of Wisconsin we had never been to before and each time we were on the Trail we were just astounded by its beauty. Thank you to the Ice Age Trail Alliance for hosting this challenge. We are now lifelong supporters of this natural gem!

– Andrea Dinndorf
and Roberto García
Delgado, Madison, WI