

MAMMOTH tales

SPRING 2023



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



LUKE KLOBERDANZ
Executive Director/CEO

Twenty years ago, I was an elementary school teacher planning a thru-hike of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. After two years of volunteering as a chapter coordinator and one year as an MSC member, I decided to see what the Trail had to offer. I needed a break from pushing a mower, and the lure of what was around the next bend was too much to resist.

In 2003, the Alliance didn't have an official Guidebook (although I had a draft to work from), and smartphones didn't exist in my life. The series F maps at the time didn't have a ratio including enough Trail on each map. My wife let me use the walls of her painting studio to recreate the Trail using a torn-apart DeLorme Atlas. I drew in connecting routes and ultimately charted a path. I talked with friends and past thru-hikers, spent more time at outdoor stores than was reasonable, and cut the handle off my toothbrush.

On Friday, June 13, 2003, I left Potawatomi State Park and spent the next 47 days working toward Interstate Park. What I learned along the way shaped my future, even though I didn't know it at the time. The people I met, the places I saw, and the experience of walking across Wisconsin inspired a lasting dedication to the Ice Age Trail and Ice Age Trail Alliance.

As I think back over the past 20 years, the growth of the Alliance and Trail is remarkable. So often, our work can feel like watching an oak grow, but it does grow. In the past 20 years we:

- reached tens of thousands of new Trail users by creating outreach and engagement programs like Saunters, Ice Age Trail Communities, and Ice Age Trail Campuses;
- became the only National Scenic Trail organization that is an accredited land trust and protected a remarkable 88 properties;
- went from having a small office in a basement to having a beautiful headquarters that is mortgage free;
- increased our staff from 7 individuals asked to do too much to 21 who are involved in training, education, outreach, trail construction, land protection, and resource management;
- more than doubled our memberships from 2,364 to 5,448;
- nearly doubled our volunteer hours, reaching the new height of 84,349 service hours in 2022;
- And most importantly, increased the Trail from 570.5 completed miles to 683.7!

These numbers do not reflect the incredible growth in enthusiasm for the Trail in the past 10 years. As more people turn to the Trail for personal wellness, its rate of use accelerates. Thanks to all of those who have come before us, those with us today, and those who have yet to discover the Trail, we will continue this growth.

There will undoubtedly be challenges in the next 20 years as we continue working toward creating a continuous Ice Age National Scenic Trail. However, thanks to the strong community we have and continue to build, I am confident in our ability to meet any challenge we face.

Thank you!

Luke Kloberdanz

OUR PARTNERS



DIRECTORS EMERITUS

Joe Jopek
Dave Kinnamon
David Lovejoy
Dave Phillips
Robert Rusch

LEADERSHIP MEMORIAL

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
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OUR mission

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

ON THE COVER: *Hikers ascend a rise along the McKenzie Creek Segment during a spring backpacking trip. 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, PO Box 128, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

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PRESIDENT'S report



PATTY DREIER
President

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is an amazing organization. But, it's also a Movement – a group of people with the same aims – generating an uncommon energy that fuels excitement, garners ever-greater attention, and drives momentum and results.

I see and experience this uncommon energy on and around the Ice Age Trail:

- The couple on a First Day Hike in central Wisconsin. They moved here from Utah for the Ice Age Trail (“Tell them we came 1,800 miles to hike the Trail,” they said.).
- The two young women from Illinois who had “heard of the Ice Age Trail” and began their adventure near Janesville during the Mammoth Hike Challenge.
- Last July's MSC event in Marathon County drew 88 volunteers who donated 2,184 hours to build an 873-foot-long boardwalk and craft more than 1,500 feet of brand-new tread.
- An MSC volunteer who builds Trail because it gets him outdoors, lets him use his hands, and gives him a break from his desk job.

Uncommon energy! I see it in our chapters, staff, partners, donors, and membership. The result? Uncommon potential. And our momentum grows every year.

Our Movement is a legacy in the making for anyone who gets involved.

The Alliance is more than a land trust, though it is remarkable to protect land into perpetuity. I prefer to think of us as a trust for life and living. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail offers us a way to live our own lives better, healthier, and in service of something bigger than ourselves. It provides a way to conserve land and restore natural habitats, affording us a way to improve our natural environment and benefit those who come after us.

Our Movement continues to gain ground. Last year was a record year for volunteer service hours (84,349), membership (5,448), and land acquisitions (13). Uncommon potential bolsters 2023, too!

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve as President of the Ice Age Trail Alliance! Thank you for this opportunity. President-Elect John Kolbe will do a great job in this role. He has demonstrated uncommon energy, expertise, and commitment in his Chapter leadership and Board roles.

Our organization will continue growing this extraordinary Movement. It will take all of us together: Executive Director/CEO Luke Kloberdanz and our exceptional staff, a skilled Board in concert with our Triad Partners, generous donors, and the best volunteers found anywhere.

This Trail by Patty Dreier

**This trail
This footpath
Coursing of course coursing through
Wisconsin
High and low
Rural and urban
Dry and wet
Near and far
For all people
For all seasons
For all time and all reasons
Awaits**

**This trail
Awaits those who want to get away
Or get a way through whatever life has
brought their way
This trail awaits
Awaits those who choose not to miss the
chance, the challenge, the pain
Who won't let fear or bug or muck or rain
or cold or wild or river or road hold
them back from
This movement
This pace
This place
This land
This trail**

**This trail
Winding
Reminding us of his story
Her story
Their story
Our story of ice and melt of all that's felt
when we connect to water and land
Chapter to chapter
Trail section to trail section
Person to person
Heart to heart
Goal to common goal to common ground
around a mission
This trail awaits**

You won't want to miss it!

2023 Ice Age Trail Annual Conference & Membership Meeting

April 20-23, 2023

Blue Harbor Resort • Sheboygan

Register now:
[IceAgeTrail.org/
annual-conference](https://IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference)

This is *the* best weekend of the year to talk Trail with other hiking enthusiasts. Meet new friends or reunite with past hiking partners or Trailbuilding volunteers. Learn about volunteering and building Trail. And, celebrate the accomplishments of everyone who makes the Trail what it is.

There's a Fun, Action-Packed Agenda Planned with...

Many, great shuttled hikes

Thursday—Your Adventure:

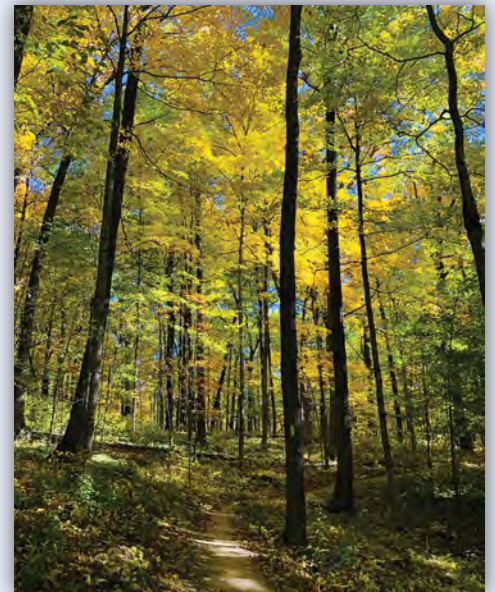
- Greenbush Segment, Long (8.5 miles) and short option (5.6 miles)

Friday—Choose Your Adventure:

- Walla-Hi Segment (2.3 miles)
- FarOut Hike at LaBudde Creek Segment (1.5 miles)

Saturday—Choose Your Adventure:

- Dunes Segment (2.7 miles)
- Two Rivers (3.0 miles)
- Behind the Scenes at Brownrigg-Heier Preserve (up to 4 miles)
- Bird Hike with Glacial Lakes Conservancy (up to 3 miles)
- FarOut Hike at LaBudde Creek Segment (1.5 miles)



Walla Hi Segment. Photo by Cheryl Barrett



Greenbush Segment. Photo by Lou Ann Novak.



LaBudde Creek Segment. Photo by IATA staff.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE news

ST. CROIX
continued

DUNN

Chippewa
F

A variety of informative sessions

- ✓ Learn about Ice Age Trail history and geology.
- ✓ Discover how the Trail inspires artists.
- ✓ Hear stories about Wisconsin parks.
- ✓ Find out about the Alliance's Habitat Improvement Program.
- ✓ Learn what to expect at a Trailbuilding project. And, how to correctly blaze the Trail!
- ✓ Get the ins and outs about FarOut directly from the Apps' creator!

FREE
Certified CPR
and First Aid
Training!

Come to the conference, leave ready to be a Swamper! This is the once-a-year training required for Swamper roles at Alliance projects (it's also required for Sawyers). Training sessions will be offered multiple times during the Annual Conference. Pre-registration and pre-workshop homework is required to receive certification.

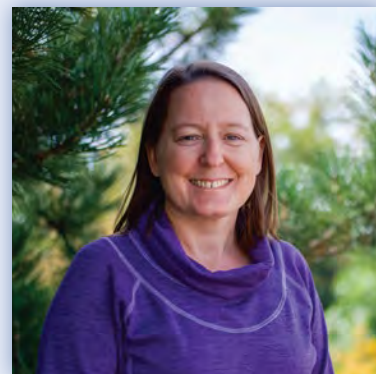
Many inspiring, engaging speakers



Craig Richard
Keynote Address
Adventurer, athlete,
musician, survivor



Scott Spoolman Session speaker
Award-winning author



Alice Bodnar
Session speaker
FarOut COO & General Counsel



The Thruhikers: Renee and Tim
Session speakers
Thru-hikers, adventurers, and social
media stars

And many more!

For a detailed schedule of events and to register, visit IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference
Come for it all or just a day! It'll be great to see you.



Conference Rates & Registration

Early-Bird Rate *Register by March 17*

3-day pass: ~~\$300~~ \$275

2-day pass: ~~\$250~~ \$225

1-day pass: ~~\$200~~ \$175



Each pass includes: three catered meals per day (plus breakfast Sunday!), shuttled hike transportation, access to all speakers and sessions, plus plenty of fun and camaraderie.

Visit IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference to register.

To mail in your registration, download and print the registration form available at IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference.

Official Meeting Notice | 2023 Annual Meeting

This provides Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. members with official notice of the IATA's Annual Membership Meeting, Friday, April 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan, Wis.

The meeting takes place during the Alliance's Annual Membership Conference. More information about the conference is available at 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:

- Stephanie Hoff (Somerset, WI; Region 3)
- Ron Retzke (Hatley, WI; Region 3)

Current directors recommended for election:

- Ellen Drought (Shorewood, WI; Region 1)
- Mark Glasser (Ellison Bay, WI; Region 1)
- Rob Malewicki (East Troy, WI; Region 2)

Amendments to the IATA's bylaws will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. A document outlining proposed changes to the bylaws is available at IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference. View Friday's event listings and look for the Annual Meeting tab. If you would like a copy of the document mailed to you, please call the IATA office at (800) 227-0046 or email info@iceagetrail.org.

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. Proxy

I hereby appoint Sue Greenway, Secretary, or Patty Dreier, President, as my proxy (with full power of substitution) to attend the IATA's Annual Membership Meeting to be held Friday, April 21, 2023 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: _____, 2023

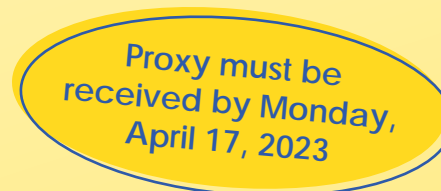
Signature: _____

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 in person.)



LAND CONSERVATION highlights

Welcome, Steve!

STEVE PENCE, LAND RESTORATION SPECIALIST

Hello Everyone!

The Ice Age Trail Alliance has a long history of land stewardship on its properties. I am excited to be a part of expanding this effort. A definite perk of my new role is the opportunity to work on some of Wisconsin's most beautiful and pristine habitats. And, since October 2022, I've had the privilege of meeting and working with many fantastic Alliance volunteers.

I grew up in southern Wisconsin and regularly spent time outdoors camping, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. I attended the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, graduating with a BS degree in Wildlife Ecology: Research and Management. I worked with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in my early post-college years, managing habitats from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. Along the way, I had some incredible opportunities banding waterfowl and Peregrine Falcons, conducting surveys of rattlesnakes and Bald Eagle nests, and reintroducing elk into northern Wisconsin.

My first introduction to the Alliance and its mission was through a job with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, restoring the habitat for the endangered Karner blue butterfly. At the time, we were helping the Alliance make the John Muir Park Segment more amenable for this crucial insect. The efforts included removing invasive brush from a tree line and sowing native prairie plant seeds into a former agricultural field. A few years later, the prairie boasts a healthy showing of wild lupine, the only food on which the Karner blue larvae feed.

I had a great time working with the Alliance staff and volunteers during the event. I was impressed by how much we accomplished and everyone's excitement about contributing to this long-term effort. People wanted to participate in something that benefited butterflies and improved the segment's scenic value for hikers.

My most recent job with a private company focused on habitat restoration brought me to Dane County. I had the opportunity to work on some amazing projects in the area, which solidified my passion for habitat restoration. This experience led to my new position with the Alliance, heading up the Habitat Improvement Program.

My work focuses on the Trail corridor and Alliance-owned properties. It includes controlling invasive species, converting former agricultural fields to restored prairies by planting native



species seeds, and improving woodlands by removing invasive brush to promote native tree species and woodland forbs. I'm also looking forward to spring, the season for prescribed burns. It's a way to reintroduce fire into the landscape, historically a natural process prairies and oak woodlands rely on to stay healthy.

My work centers on appropriate regional restoration. For example, in the northern Kettle Moraine, I'm helping the Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter plant native tree species in the Alliance-owned Otten Preserve (Kewaskum Segment). As a result, we're transforming a former agricultural field into a healthy woodland consistent with the Kettle Moraine ecosystem. In southern Wisconsin, the focus for Alliance-owned Preserves like SwampLovers' (Table Bluff Segment), Mammoth's Back (Cross Plains Segment), and Steenbock (Gibraltar Rock Segment) is prairie restoration. In support of my role, MSC volunteers removed invasive brush and trees from bluff prairies, oak savannas and woodlands in January and February to prepare for future broadcast burning.

My wife (also in the restoration field and who will be dragged along to many events) and I are excited about settling down and exploring the impressive natural areas with our dog, Smokey. We're excited about working with passionate volunteers, meeting hikers, and becoming a part of the Ice Age Trail community.

Learn more about Steve by visiting:
iceagetrail.org/welcome-steve



Introducing the Habitat Improvement Program

KEVIN THUSIUS, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF LAND CONSERVATION

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a thousand-mile footpath tracing Wisconsin's glacial history and highlighting the landscape's scenic beauty. A deliberately designed route. Whenever possible, the Ice Age Trail Alliance has shaped the hiker's experience through thoughtful consideration of the Ice Age Trail's surroundings. For instance, intentionally routing the Trail along a vernal pond provides lucky hikers with a chorus of frogs on a warm spring day.

Similarly, managing the vegetation – removing invasives and clearing brush – along the Trail corridor showcases a grand, old oak or provides access to a long view, creating a sense of wonder and enjoyment for the hiker. Each time we've turned a former agricultural field into a vibrant, diverse prairie, we've enhanced the Trail's user experience. In some areas, we've been able to restore habitat to what it was like in the 1800s – pre-European settlement – effectively creating a natural history museum for hikers to explore.

Because of the Trail's linear nature and combining smaller individual projects, one notices the actual landscape-level management. In western Dane County, for example, the Alliance and its partners now own and manage nearly 2,000 acres of land connected by the Ice Age Trail. This shared vision enables us to accomplish impressive habitat restoration projects, making meaningful impacts for hikers and rare critters.

Managing vegetation takes knowledge, skill, time, funds, and persistence. Therefore, the Alliance is excited to introduce our new Habitat Improvement Program (HIP). It will reinvigorate our efforts to create a more cohesive habitat management strategy along the Ice Age Trail and through the its varied ecosystems.

Thanks to generous and forward-thinking financial gifts from a group of volunteers, the Alliance is now implementing this program. We've taken the critical step of hiring a staff person dedicated to habitat improvement – enter stage left Steve Pence, our new Land Restoration Specialist.

The program will initially focus on Alliance-owned properties and existing habitat projects. We will expand to new areas as time and resources become available and the program flourishes.

In 2023, the Alliance will set the stage for future HIP successes by:

- Presenting program goals at the Alliance's annual conference
- Updating, strengthening, and enforcing various policies related to pesticide use and burning
- Furthering several habitat restoration and improvement projects in southern Wisconsin
- Training volunteers to safely and comfortably use vegetative management tools
- Leading several prescribed broadcast fires
- Surveying additional Alliance-owned lands for future habitat improvement

The Alliance continues to seek additional funding for this program from individuals, grants and partners. If you are interested in supporting Habitat Improvement along the Trail, please contact our Philanthropic Manager, Sarah Driscoll at sarahd@iceagetrail.org or 608-798-4453, ext. 227.

BEFORE: A former agricultural field now part of the Alliance-owned Muir Preserve along John Muir County Park Segment. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



AFTER: Dedicated restoration efforts brought a native prairie to life in the Alliance-owned Muir Preserve. This healthy habitat supports native plants and wildlife and offers hikers a scenic view. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



The Ice Age Trail's Native Seed Benefactor

MELISSA PIERICK, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Most prairies and savannas you encounter along the Ice Age Trail have, unfortunately, not happened naturally. Rather, they are the result of the hard work and restoration effort of many people, including Ron Endres.

Endres can be described as the Ice Age Trail Alliance's native seed benefactor. That's because for the last 10 plus years, he has collected, processed, and then donated hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of seeds to the Alliance. Seed which is then strategically spread on properties along the Trail, including: Valley View Preserve (on the Valley View Segment), Hickory Hill and Mammoth's Back Preserves (on the Cross Plains Segment), the Holmes Preserve (on the Table Bluff Segment), the Ice Age Junction Preserve (on the Verona Segment) and the SwampLovers (on the Table Bluff Segment).

What's more impressive than the amount of seeds donated, is the amount of time Endres devotes to collecting seeds: 12-14 hours a day, 7 days a week, from late Spring until the end of November.

Endres doesn't know anyone else who does what he does on this scale. "No sane individual would want to do something this tedious," he says.

So, why does he do it? For the love of native ecosystems and creating habitat.

Endres' prairie restoration journey began more than 30 years ago, when he and his wife Sheila purchased a 15-acre property adjacent to the Valley View Segment (and a few years later added another 6.5 acres). Back then there were no Internet resources, so he had to learn by pestering his neighbors who had restored land. They suggested Ron volunteer with groups like Dane County Parks, the Alliance, and The Prairie Enthusiasts. These groups taught him how to restore and maintain land and collect and process seed. He took advantage of a DNR-sponsored landowner incentive program to begin restoring a small piece of his land plus 39 acres of neighboring land, and a large section of Ice Age Valley View Segment, to savanna. He collected seed for this project and realized how much he enjoyed the process.

After discovering how expensive prairie seeds are to purchase, and how many seeds are needed for a restoration project, Endres decided he could help organizations with their prairie restoration efforts by collecting and processing seeds for them.

In addition to the Alliance, he donates to many different land trusts, school groups, and other non-profits throughout the region. Over the years, he has supplied seed for more than 100 restorations.



Ron Endres walks along a prairie path carrying bags full of native seed he's harvested. Photo courtesy of Ron Endres.

"Ron has definitely had an impact on prairies in southern Wisconsin," says Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation Strategy with the Alliance. "He's single-handedly helping to diversify plant species while vastly improving the Trail user experience."

"The preserves along the Ice Age Trail are great examples of Ron's generosity," says Thusius. "When Hickory Hill is in bloom, it is jaw-dropping, thanks in large part to Ron's efforts."

Nearly a Year-Long Process

Endres' seed collection process starts as soon as the first spring flowers set seed. He keeps his eyes open for blooming plants and revisits the sites when the seeds are ready to harvest.

Because of the relationships he's built with Dane County Parks and the Alliance as a volunteer, Endres is allowed to harvest seed on their lands to be used to help other non-profits. In addition, he's cultivated relationships with many individual landowners who allow him to harvest on their properties. He also finds pockets of plants he's interested in harvesting in unusual places, like parking lots, strip mall gardens, people's backyards, even the garden in front of the Alliance's main office. "I would never just pull the car over and harvest," he says. He always asks for permission first.

To supply the volumes of seed Endres has requests for, he finds areas where there are large patches of a species. "I don't have the time to hunt down a species one plant at a time so I find patches that I can harvest like the wind."

Upon collecting seeds, he sets them out to dry in kiddie pools. When the seed is dry he processes it using a hammermill, housed at an Ice Age Trail location in Lodi. This machine chops up the plants making it possible to separate the seed from its chaff (material covering it) with hand screens.

At this point he bags and labels the seeds for the different organizations who have submitted requests. Since every organization has different needs and different habitats, Endres tailors his donations to fit. An oak savanna, for example, supports different plants than a wetland does. This year, Endres knew several of the Ice Age Trail seed requests were for upland, rocky and dry areas of Swamplovers' and Mammoth Back Preserves. So, along with seeds for wet, mesic, savanna and woodland species, he harvested seeds appropriate for the upland areas.

When all the seed orders are filled, Endres personally delivers the seeds.

"The payoff for my work is watching the reactions when the organizations

receive their seed," he says. "I get a thrill when they send photos of the project being planted, specially when they get kids involved. And finally going to the sites years later to see the results."

After his last delivery, Endres goes into hibernation for a bit, until the spring thaw. Then, the process begins again.

"Hikers may not realize the work that's behind the blooming plant they're taking pictures of," says Thusius, "but they see how beautiful it is. And that's a pretty great thing for Ron to have provided."

Ron Endres' 2022 Ice Age Trail Alliance Seed Donation Stats:

- 128 species of plants
- 200 pounds of seed
- \$80,000 value



In early December, Alliance staff gladly received 13 bags of seed, hand collected and cleaned by Ron Endres (pictured right, next to Kevin Thusius, Steve Pence, Chris Russell, and Jerry Goth.)

The SnOTTs: A story of health, community, and the Ice Age Trail

SARAH DRISCOLL, PHILANTHROPIC MANAGER

Writing “I Don’t Like Hiking the Ice Age Trail” posts on Facebook is one way to draw the attention of the Trail’s hiking community. But that wasn’t necessarily Theresa Jansen’s goal. Instead, through her posts, she wanted to highlight the challenges she faced while hiking and why she continued to do so. It came down to improving her health and the quality time it allowed her to spend with her husband, Brock. Her message, though, resonated with a lot of people. So much so it spurred a movement that ultimately raised money for Ice Age Trail volunteers.



Theresa Jansen shares SnOTT storyboards with her friends and fans. Photo courtesy of Brock and Theresa Jansen.

Brock and Theresa Jansen’s unique Thousand-Miler journey began in 2013. To start, they walked the blazed Trail segments and biked the connector routes. They wanted to connect all dots while incorporating various forms of exercise.

By 2021, the pair had completed about 330 miles but decided it was time to finish the entire Trail. So, over the next few months, they spent most weekends hiking and biking, meeting up with other hikers.

From nearly the beginning, Theresa struggled with a painful foot injury. It contributed to a frustrating hiking experience which she openly shared about on social media.

“Theresa’s posts in the Thousand Miler WannaBes Facebook group stood out. She gave people permission to admit the miles and terrain are hard, or they don’t feel that hiking is the most wonderful activity,” said Brock.

Once they had completed 600 miles, Theresa began to question whether she’d be able to complete the Trail. So, she decided to “create the fun,” says Brock.

The pair embraced their slow-and-steady hiking pace (one to two miles per hour). Then, with the help of a fellow Thousand Miler WannaBe, they came up with the Snails on the Trail – SnOTT – moniker. Within 72 hours, they found a graphic

designer, created the SnOTT logo, priced patches, and planned their first group hike.

Over the next year, the Jansens planned group hikes and meetups where each attendee received the custom SnOTT patch. In addition, they gave out patches to passing hikers and, on one occasion, drove over an hour out of their way to ensure a thru-hiker got a SnOTT patch.

Soon, the SnOTT movement was all over social media. Smiling faces of people holding up their SnOTT patches showed up again and again. New people

joined hikes to get a coveted SnOTT patch. Theresa says the fun she had in meeting and motivating people and handing out SnOTT patches helped her to forget about the pain she was experiencing. In all, they passed out over 600 patches.

But it was more than the patches. Brock and Theresa spread a sense of community and belonging on the Trail, motivating others to achieve goals.

“It surprised us how much support we got,” said Brock. “We showed an unlikely couple could complete this goal.”

Brock says the SnOTTs are inspiring because they’re not celebrating a Fastest Known Time (FKT) or winter thru-hike. Instead, the SnOTTs recognized and elevated how achieving a seven or eight-mile hike is a fantastic day. All goals, he says, no matter the size, are worthy of celebration. For some, it may mean taking the time to walk down to the end of the driveway to get the mail, which Brock says one couple let them know the SnOTTs had inspired.

In September of 2022, after hiking all the connector routes they had previously biked, Theresa and Brock had just 10 feet of the Trail left to finish. So, in true SnOTT fashion, they planned a celebration, inviting the hiking community to join them for their last steps on the Trail.



They also wanted to raise money to give back to the Trail that had given them a sense of community, health, and adventure. In particular, they wanted to support the volunteer chapters maintaining the Trail. The Jansens reached out to each chapter to find out where support was needed and shared this with attendees of their final hike. The SnOTT celebration raised \$620, which the Jansens matched. The donations were distributed to Chapters accordingly.

As the Jansens' story shows, support for the Trail comes in all forms. From hiking and spreading the word to creating and maintaining Trail to raising funds, the Ice Age Trail Alliance is grateful to have such ardent supporters.

To read more about Brock and Theresa Jansen's adventures on the Ice Age Trail visit <https://ontheiceagetrail.blogspot.com/>

(Right) Theresa and Brock bask in their accomplishment: becoming Thousand-Milers. Photo courtesy of Brock and Theresa Jansen.

(Below) Members of the SnOTT community gather around Teresa and Brock in celebration of their accomplishment. Photo courtesy of Brock and Theresa Jansen.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

2023 Trailtessa RETREATS

Super fun retreats designed
by women for women.

Sign up today:

iceagetrail.org/trailtessa-force-of-nature

Discover YOU. BE YOU: Bold. Audacious. Strong. Adventurous. Choose how you want to be.

Be Adventurous

Saturday, May 13 – Sunday, May 14

Introduction to Camping

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit

If you've wanted to dip your toe into the world of camping, but don't know where to start, join us for this retreat weekend. You'll gain confidence for future camping adventures as you set up your tent and cook meals with intrepid, camping novices. We'll create a great **community space** including a **camp lounge**, **trail mix bar**, and plenty of outdoor fun. Gear will be available for those who need it.

*Registration includes attendance at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources OutWiGo Green event.

Be Light-hearted

Wednesday, June 21

An On-Your-Own Hike

Anywhere on the Ice Age Trail

Celebrate the Summer Solstice with an **on-your-own hike** on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Head out solo or gather friends and family. Take advantage of the extended daylight and watch the sunrise or set from a favorite spot along the Trail.

No registration required. Please share your hike photos though, and use the following hashtags: #Trailtessa #ForceOfNature #BeLightHearted #SummerSolstice

Be Bright

Saturday, July 15, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

A Classic Summer Hike

Janesville Schools Outdoor Laboratory, Rock County

Let your heart be bright, delighting in a classic summer night: a late-setting sun, cricket songs, and pulsing fire flies. Enjoy a guided hike along arboretum paths through beautiful mature forest, prairie, marsh and wetlands. It's magical under the light of the moon and around a bonfire. Light refreshments will be available.





Be Curious

Saturday, September 16, 2:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Habitat Improvement Project

Table Bluff Segment, Dane County

Wander through acres of native prairie plants, collecting seeds for future planting projects from a biodiversity hotspot, SwampLovers Preserve. This 433-acre property, perched on the rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin, includes wetland, prairie, and oak savanna hosting resident and migratory wildlife. Come eager to learn more about biodiversity – why various species, habitats, and ecosystems are crucial to a healthy planet – and how seed collecting helps support it.



Be Fierce

Friday, October 20 – Sunday, October 22

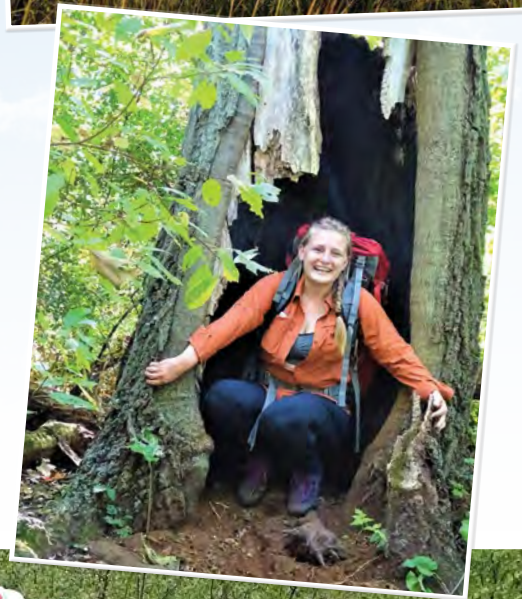
A Backpacking Skills Adventure

Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit

Backpacking 101 requires strength and self-sufficiency as you carry your gear-filled pack on this multi-day trip. You'll be immersed in rugged beauty, hiking along glittering kettle lakes, through mesic forests, and across winding boardwalks. No previous backpacking experience necessary but expect to hike a total of approximately 25 miles during the trip. Open to women who have NOT participated previous Trailtessa backpacking trips.

Registration limit: 24 women, ages 21+

Cost: \$150/attendee (registration opens July 1)



Think Outside: Providing a Non-Linear Trail Experience

SARAH PEARCE, SAUNTERS PROJECT COORDINATOR

On paper or a computer screen, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, all 1,227.5 miles of it (at the most recent count!) presents a linear experience. Consequently, we introduce the Ice Age Trail as a line on a map to participating Think Outside fourth graders. And this approach makes total sense: Here's the Trail; it stretches across our state from one side to the other. Here's why it takes that path; it follows the edge of the last glacier. It's a logical introduction, right?

However, a glorious discovery is that the students' experience of the Trail is much more complex. Get a group of nine and ten-year-olds together to hike, and they are anything but linear! Instead, they take in everything around them, notice things most adults never do, and ask a million questions. Students experiencing the Trail in unexpected ways is what we want to see and encourage. Especially when they make important connections as they get to know the natural world around them.

It takes a special person to lead and facilitate these high-energy (though not necessarily fast) hikes! We are grateful to have

a fantastic cadre of knowledgeable and talented volunteers willing to guide our Think Outside fourth graders. These guides have in-depth knowledge of, and passion for the Trail and the natural world and are especially suited to share it with students. In addition, they understand how to meet kids where they are, fostering an intrinsic love of the Trail and excitement for exploration.

Luckily, this is an equally beneficial relationship. We hear over and over from hike leaders just how they look forward to these outings. Appreciating the curiosity and questions students bring, these volunteers learn to see the Trail through the students' eyes.

This past fall, more than 3,500 Wisconsin fourth graders had the opportunity to explore the Ice Age Trail. We look forward to getting an additional 4,000 students scheduled in the upcoming months for their non-linear Trail experience. We'd also like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers who are making Think Outside field experiences happen!

Elm Lawn fourth graders from Middleton circle up around Fred Paasch before heading out on a hike at Indian Lake County Park in Dane County. Photo by Amy Unbehaun.





"Before becoming a Think Outside volunteer, I had helped maintain the Ice Age Trail, mainly mowing it and clearing downed trees. While I liked being able to give back in that way, I really wanted to do something where I could share my love of the Trail and teach others about it. The Think Outside program was exactly what I was looking for!

It's so much fun to hike with a group of kids. I love telling them all about glacial features and the Ice Age Trail. You never know what questions fourth graders will ask, or comments they will come up with. Every trip is different, and it's never boring. I'm really glad to volunteer in this way, helping to get kids outside learning about the Ice Age Trail and Wisconsin."

– Kris Van Handel

"I am very grateful to help out with this program. Hiking with a bunch of 4th graders is truly a rewarding and fun way to spend an afternoon. They are so energetic and curious about the local environment."

– Cheryl Whitman

"It's been awesome to share in the kids' enthusiasm as they experience nature on the Ice Age Trail. As a hiker and naturalist, it feels great to teach the kids about the Trail and the amazing natural world it meanders through!"

– Dave Kelly

"Our volunteer, Mark, was so patient with the students' excitement. I could tell he loves what he does and it made the hike so much more enjoyable. My students couldn't stop talking about our field trip when we got back! This trip to the Ice Age Trail is an amazing experience that I know my students will never forget."

– 4th grade teacher from Redgranite Elementary School



**National
Park Foundation**™

The NPF Open Outdoors for Kids program is made possible by private philanthropy, including support from Youth Engagement and Education premier partner **Union Pacific Railroad**, and supporting partner **GoGo squeeZ**. Additional funding is provided by Alicia and Peter Pond, Apple, Columbia Sportswear, Sierra, Parks Project, Humana, The Batchelor Foundation, Inc., and many other donors.

Share your passion for the Ice Age Trail with future conservations. Become a Think Outside hike leader. Email thinkoutside@iceagetrail.org. Then, we'll connect you with a fourth-grade classroom.

Please note: There are still a few openings for the Think Outside program in 2022/23. If you are (or know a fourth-grade teacher, please visit (or tell them about) iceagetrail.org/think-outside to learn more about the program and register!

Stepping Back So Others Can Step Up

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

Featuring: Bill Welch

Bill Welch, of Lodi, Wis., has been a member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance's (IATA) Lodi Valley Chapter for about 20 years. His passion for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail started when he and his partner, Patti Herman, went on a Saturday hike shortly after moving to the area.

"We met people we resonated with, and some were involved with the Ice Age Trail," Welch said. "We became increasingly involved and made really good friends we've had for 20 years."

From there, a new journey began. At the time, a group called the Friends of the Scenic Lodi Valley hosted work days and coordinated trail maintenance. Welch and Herman became involved, and later, this group transitioned into the Alliance's Lodi Valley Chapter.

"I got involved in mowing and, about that time, I became trail coordinator because we didn't have one," he said. "Being a new chapter, we were going by the seat of our pants, so eventually, we started seeing what other chapters were doing and found things to do."

In addition to his local leadership work, Welch became more involved with MSC events and became a crew leader in 2009. He also carried the Alliance's Spirit Stick in 2014; "one of the highlights of my life," he said. (One of the Alliance's most prestigious awards, the Spirit Stick recognizes long-term dedication and service to the Ice Age Trail.)

Welch and Herman played leading roles in helping develop outreach and engagement with local schools and other youth groups. These activities were a natural fit for Welch, who retired from a career as an early childhood educator/administrator and national trainer with early childhood programs.

Welch has also been able to guide students to explore new careers. For example, he recalls being with a group who so enjoyed their volunteer work they wished they could do similar activities for a living. Welch quickly listed the different outdoor-based career opportunities they could pursue.

"What gets me going is when we have youth out on the Trail. Over the last eight years, we've had school kids come out and (for example) trim branches on the Steenbock Preserve so a sawyer could get in to do their work. We figured we've had 1,000 kids from different school groups over the years."

Welch also has experience facilitating group work and strategic planning, which was beneficial during his terms on the Alliance's Board of Directors. In addition, his volunteer work has involved a lot of administration work (coordinating and overseeing trail maintenance activities). Still, his passion lies in the relationship building that Trail work fosters.



Lodi high schoolers impress Bill Welch (right) with their collective strength, hoisting a log ready for the brush pile. Photo by Amy Lord.

"Working with teams and other volunteers is always rewarding. We joke about – of three priorities – getting work done is the third and last. It's mostly about relationships with people and camaraderie. It exemplifies a Margaret Mead quote, 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,'" he said.

With the uptick in hikers on the Trail over the last three years, the Lodi Valley Chapter's membership has more than quadrupled. It is exciting for Welch and others to see interest in and appreciation for one of Wisconsin's gems. It's also exciting to have more people involved to ensure the upkeep and activities of the Trail continue. He wants people to know they are welcomed and valued for any time they give to the Trail.

Of the projects Welch has been involved with, helping with stonework on the Gibraltar Rock Segment was memorable.

"We are so fortunate to live in the shadow of Gibraltar Rock. There's nothing else like it," he said. "We had a dedicated crew that came out monthly and put in 400 hours to build steps on the segment."

Welch, 76, said he and Herman will remain involved with the Lodi Valley Chapter. All volunteers are valued, but he says his stepping back is an opportunity for someone else to step-up – something they wouldn't be able to do if he stayed in his current role.

"I'm not moving away. I'll still be here to tell everyone what to do," he quipped. "Within weeks of me announcing I was going to retire at the end of last year, someone stepped up ... and now he's stuck with it for the next 20 years!"



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

Featuring: Ed Spoon

All he wanted to do was run a chainsaw.

In late 2009, Ed Spoon volunteered for a workday with the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA). He was wrapping up a 36-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 33 years as a criminal investigator – and was looking for an opportunity to use his chainsaw.

“It’s blossomed since then,” he said. “I get the most satisfaction from fixing things and making things better. You can work a couple of hours and see the Trail is better than when you started. It’s nice for volunteers to get that kind of satisfaction when helping on a project.”

His skills as a sawyer – running the chainsaw to clear debris from and near the Trail – grew. Then, as someone who wanted to make things better, he helped develop and assumed the role of trail maintenance coordinator. As coordinator, he oversaw crews that helped fix drainage problems and improved the Trail’s tread.

“There wasn’t someone overseeing it at the local level,” he said. “We now have trail monitors who cover all the Trail segments in Dane County. It works well. People walk their section of the Trail and let us know the conditions. It allows us to respond more quickly and keep the Trail in good shape.”

He joined the Dane County Chapter shortly after his first workday in 2009. In addition to Trail work, he served four years as chapter secretary. Eventually, he served as the chapter maintenance coordinator for seven years. In 2018, the Alliance honored him with the Trail Steward award for his skills as a “good project manager whose communication style is always timely, respectful and succinct. ... (He) can always be counted on to see a project through to completion and to lend a hand wherever needed,” according to his nomination.

Spoon has served as a crew leader manager for MSC events. One of his most memorable projects was building the Springfield Hill segment in 2014.

“It was a really good learning experience and also stressful. Volunteerism is a big thing in Dane County; we had 110 volunteers in the field on Saturday,” he said. “I was very involved in that project and tried to do two or three MSCs each year. But, we also have a lot to do in Dane County with maintenance, so I like spending my time here.”

He said volunteers are always welcome to the chapter and other trail events.

“Come out and try. It doesn’t have to be trailbuilding. A significant part of our chapter membership is focused on habitat restoration



Ed Spoon makes sure a sign's crossbeam is level before affixing it with screws. Photo by Bob Kaspar.

and prescribed burns. Still, other tasks include: maintaining databases, keeping track of volunteer hours, and more,” he said. “Never assume you can’t do something. We’re very accommodating, and there’s something everyone can do.”

In addition to giving back to the Trail, Spoon does quite a bit of hiking. On Sept. 25, 2019, he completed his last section of the Appalachian Trail, which he section-hiked during 13 trips. And, in September 2020, he and a friend through-hiked the 300-mile Superior Hiking Trail.

“That experience (section- and through-hiking) affects how I see the Ice Age Trail. I try to see the Trail through the eyes of the backpacker. The Ice Age Trail is very, very different from the Appalachian Trail, but they’re both National Scenic Trails, and goals for the trails are the same,” Spoon said.

Spoon has two grown children: a son, Evan, with the U.S. Coast Guard in Sacramento, and a daughter, Emma, a seventh-grade science teacher in Grand Marais, Minn. She and her husband, Shane Steele, are competitive trail runners and spend quite a bit of time on the Superior Hiking Trail.

Ed plans to “step back for a little bit” but will still lead maintenance work on the Valley View, Madison, and northern half of the Verona segments. He’s proud of his contributions to the Trail and chapter, including his effort in organizing local trail work processes. He hopes it continues.

Welcome, Lisa!

LISA SZELA, VOLUNTEER SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Hello everyone! I am grateful to be part of the Ice Age Trail Alliance team! I appreciate all the volunteers who help make the Ice Age National Scenic Trail an incredible experience. I'm excited to step into the organization's brand-new Volunteer Support Coordinator position.

My role includes being the initial point of contact for volunteers and developing tools and training to support volunteer activities. I expect my activities will evolve based on the needs of our volunteers and organization.

Since November 2022, I've met with chapter leaders to learn more about what they do best and where I can provide support. And, lately, I've been attending the chapters' annual meetings, getting to know even more of the behind-the-scenes folks who support the Alliance's mission. The Habitat Improvement Program events in January and February also allowed me to meet volunteers passionate about vegetative management and habitat restoration. I enjoyed working side-by-side with you, removing invasive brush and trees from the oak savannas and woodlands of several Alliance-owned preserves. I'm also busy planning the Chapter Leadership Summit for the Annual Conference as well as regional trainings.

Although I live in Madison now, I grew up in a small town "just north of Green Bay" (Sobieski, if any of you have heard of it!). Growing up, my sister, cousins, and I spent hours outdoors. We climbed trees, navigated our way home through the brush, caught crayfish in the river, and built snow forts in the yard. As an adult, I re-discovered my love for the outdoors in La Crosse, Wisconsin, taking advantage of all the opportunities for outdoor recreation among the bluffs and along the Mississippi River.

After completing a Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology from Winona State University and living in La Crosse for a few years, I moved to Madison. I had planned to pursue a career in healthcare but realized it wasn't the perfect fit I had hoped it would be. While trying to figure out what to do with my life, I discovered the Ice Age Trail.

The Trail was easy to follow when I was otherwise a little lost. I'm sure many of you have also found the Trail to offer comfort or distraction in tough and confusing times. I initially set out to hike all Dane County segments, which quickly evolved into a goal of hiking all the segments; now, I'm almost a Thousand-Miler with nearly a 1,000-miles achieved!

Before the Alliance, I worked as a research coordinator at the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy and a member of the Overdose Prevention Team at Public Health Madison and Dane County. However, I volunteered with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, North Country Trail Association, Sierra Club, and Wisconsin Climbers Association in my free time.



The years I spent working with these groups deepened my appreciation for the outdoors. It also solidified my desire to work for an organization that meant a lot to me. As a result, I got so excited when I saw the ad for the Volunteer Support Coordinator position. The Ice Age Trail has played a vital role in my life, and I knew just how important our members and volunteers are to its existence and care.

I'm thankful for everyone's warm welcome. I'm consistently impressed by our volunteers' passion and dedication. I look forward to meeting even more of you at upcoming MSC events or while hiking the rest of the Trail!

To learn more about Lisa, visit:
iceagetrail.org/welcome-lisa

TRAILBUILDING highlights

Season at a Glance: 2023 Trailbuilding Schedule

We're excited to unveil the 2023 MSC schedule. We've got lots of fun things planned: a grand opening, sprucing up the eastern terminus, and trainings at John Muir's boyhood homestead. Plus, you'll learn new skills and make new friends.

April 27 – 30, Rib Lake Segment, Taylor County

If you like building boardwalk, or want more practice with the craft, this is the project for you! We're installing four structures to protect wetlands and keep boots dry along four brand-new miles in Taylor County.

May 17 – 21, Rib Lake Segment, Taylor County

Since 2022, the effort continues toward building four brand-new, gap-closing miles. We'll complete a 2.5-mile section and get a head start on the last mile.

June 8 – 11, Crew Leader Training, (Location TBD)

Learn the skills you need to lead the next trailbuilding generation. Aspiring volunteer crew leaders, please apply! If you're a proven leader, on or off the Trail, please consider submitting a short application.

June 21 – 25, Storrs Lake Segment, Rock County

We're building a boardwalk to address a perennially wet area of the Trail, which creates frequent closures. This structure will enhance the hiker experience through the Storrs Lake Wildlife Area, a popular recreation spot.

July 12 – 16, IAT-U: Trail Skills, John Muir Park, Marquette County

Learn new skills from experienced staff and trained volunteers. Ice Age Trail University (IAT-U) classes will include boardwalk construction, trail maintenance basics, the ins and outs of blazing, and more! Courses will have attendee limits. For course offerings, visit: iceagetrail.org/IATU-TrailSkills

August 9 – 13, Iola Ski Hill and Emmons Creek Segments, Waupaca/Portage Counties

Come help complete last year's reroute efforts on the Iola Ski Hill Segment and spruce up the Emmons Creek Segment with a new boardwalk and tread maintenance.

September 6 – 10, Sturgeon Bay Segment, Door County

Help reroute the Trail away from shared ski trails to a dedicated path leading to the recently relocated Eastern Terminus. Let's build a view-worthy Trail for the terminus, which now enjoys a scenic spot overlooking Green Bay (the bay, not the city).

September 26 – October 1, Rib Lake Segment, Taylor County

Add your muscle and enthusiasm to the final sections of this four-mile effort to reconnect the Rib Lake Segment. We will host a GRAND opening, complete with a celebratory hike! Begin the Mammoth Hike Challenge on freshly-constructed Trail.

October 18 – 22, Cross Plains Segment, Dane County

Help us take advantage of acres of public land as we work to extend the Trail by almost three miles, eliminate a road walk, and create a loop for additional hiking opportunities. Expect to clear corridor, build boardwalks, and cut tread. Join the annual pumpkin carving contest, too!

Join
Us!

For event details and
registration, visit
iceagetrail.org/MSC2023

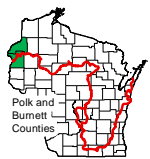


SCAN ME

Photo by Dave Caliebe.



CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Barbara Ceder (715-410-8069, barbara.ceder@gmail.com) and Cheryl Whitman (715-371-0048, cheryl_whitman@yahoo.com)

The Indianhead Chapter enjoyed the change of seasons with various Trail-related activities. In September, Cheryl Whitman and Barb Cedar attended the Polk County Tourism Conference in Amery and represented the Indianhead Chapter. October brought the chapter's annual Fall Colors hike on the Straight River Segment. At the end of the walk, beloved chapter members, Dean Dversdall and Thelma Johnson, joined the group for a glass of wine and snacks. Finally, chapter members staffed a table at the Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Expo in November, representing the Chapter, Alliance, and Trail well. Our Expo neighbors were the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the North Country Trail.

Paul Kuhlmann stepped down as Co-Coordinator at the end of November. However, he'll continue as an active chapter member, engaging in events and hiking the Trail as much as possible. Thank you, Paul, for your dedicated service.

Though the winter months are always beautiful and enjoyed in many ways, the Indianhead Chapter looks forward to warmer weather; another season of Trail maintenance, group hikes, and making unforgettable memories.

– Chelsea Dresen



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Sue Greenway (612-723-0354, SuperiorLobeChapter@iceagetrail.org)

In October, the Superior Lobe Chapter hosted a hike on the Timberland Segment. About 30 hikers, including youth, attended. Afterward, everyone met at Brickyard Pottery for brats and snacks. The kids especially enjoyed a craft project guided by the pottery shop owners.

Chapter members sent comments to the Department of Natural Resources, supporting silent sports use along the Tuscobia State Trail (TST). They want to keep ATVs from gaining additional access to the TST, especially the section between County SS to the Washburn County line, which is shared by the Ice Age Trail.

The Chapter gathered for their Annual Meeting in January. They enjoyed a presentation by UW-Eau Claire Professor, Kent Syverson, who shared his experience living off the grid in the Alaskan Wilderness.

– Bob Held



A yummy, post-hike meal encouraged hikers to gather at Brickyard Pottery, lingering in conversation and the chance to do crafts. Photo by Sue Greenway.



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

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

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's Trail Team led another Trail Layout and Design effort for the Dreamer Route in early November. A small group of volunteers completed the pin flag line for the entire reroute, even across a logged area. In addition, volunteers installed yellow pin flags (denoting the final route) for short distances. In May 2023, volunteers will complete the effort and place yellow pin flags marking the final route.

A storm in mid-December coated trees with about ½ inch of ice, followed by about 20 inches of snow. The heavy ice and snow resulted in an extended power outage and much tree damage, including broken trunks and limbs. In addition, many more trees were bent over and frozen to the ground under the snow. The Chapter is planning a spring clean-up effort, though, until then, Ice Age Trail through Rusk County may not be passable.

– Marilyn Nash



Avery and Leah Newman hiked through the Blue Hills after the epic snowfall and helped with Trail clean up by lopping branches of storm-damaged trees. Photo courtesy of the Newman family.



CHIPPEWA MORaine CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Vicki Christianson and Julie Koshier (ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Chippewa Moraine Chapter now offers an attractive patch as part of its Hiking Award Program. View it at: iceagetrail.org/hiking-awards. In addition, we've added an online payment option for those submitting a completed form. JM Screen Printing produced the patch in Cornell.



Built by many hands, the beautiful, new 73-foot boardwalk and bridge spans a marsh along the Firth Lake Segment. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



We thank chapter members and volunteers from across the state who helped us build a new 730-foot boardwalk and bridge along the Firth Lake Segment. A week before the project, at the Brunet Island State Park garage, chapter volunteers constructed 100 boardwalk frames and sealed all the cut ends. Then they transported and staged all the lumber at the project site. MSC volunteers worked their magic in mid-October, building the entire structure, including the bridge, in three and a half days. The 50-year-old boardwalk was dismantled and removed on the project's final day. The Brunet Island State Park staff deserve a shout-out for letting us use the park's garage as a project work and staging area.

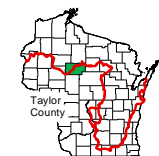
Visit the Alliance's Event Calendar for details about our chapter's hikes:

May 7: First Sunday Hike; June 3: National Trails Day Hike; August 6 and September 3: First Sunday Hikes; October 7: Parade of Colors Hike (shuttles provided); and, October 14: Hike and Meet Monty.

— Vicki Christianson



The patch available to those who hike all Ice Age Trail miles in Chippewa County. Photo courtesy of Vicki Christianson.



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

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



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

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

Thanks to the landowner, the Northwoods Chapter created a nice reroute greatly enhancing the Averill Kelly Creek Wilderness Segment. And more Trail improvements will be coming.

We held our Fall Color Hike in conjunction with the celebration recognizing the City of Merrill as an Ice Age Trail Community. Forty hikers from across the state joined us. They enjoyed a colorful landscape and the Wisconsin River flowing beside the Grandfather Falls Segment. A festive and supportive celebration followed at the Sawmill Brewery. WELCOME MERRILL.

We have a new rock bench! Loggers noticed the original Leopold bench by the trailhead had disappeared. They very generously replaced the bench with a giant rock. THANK YOU, LOGGERS.

— Ruby Jaecks



Northwoods Chapter volunteer, George Hendrickson, tries out the new rock bench and gives it a thumbs up. Photo by Bruce Jaecks.



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

At a chapter meeting, just over a year ago, Dave Tlusty made a generous offer to provide planning and framing materials for a chapter storage shed. Lee Auner's offer to host the structure at his property immediately followed. These generous commitments quickly encouraged more. Polly Blazek offered to buy the floor, Peg Jopek and John Barker raised their hands to purchase a door, and Curt Denevan agreed to pay for metal siding and roofing material. Additional financial support for unexpected expenses came from Bill Morley, Jim Schleif, Sam Picone, and Julie and John Rose. A few days later, Lloyd Godell agreed to be project foreman and his son, Mike, donated cable to reinforce the structure's wooden foundation. And just like magic, the chapter had a shed to store its mower, trail tools, and materials.



Dave Tlusty and Lloyd Godell starting on the chapter storage shed on a winter day in 2021.

However, the realization of the shed took a year of hard and meticulous labor by Dave and Lloyd. In November, a crew hauled the structure over a snowy farm field to its new home. A big and solid thanks to all who made it happen.

Since 1975, chapter members have led group hikes on various segments, until the pandemic put a crimp in this activity. But this year, hikers enjoyed some real adventures.

On a dreary day in April, Brian and Melinda Nelson led several brave souls on a hike, which ended in a light rain. In September, they led a large group on a scenic loop tour atop the Summit Lake Moraine between the Lumbercamp and Kettlebowl segments. The day was dreary as well, but intermittent rain did not dampen the group's enthusiasm. On a beautiful October day, the Nelsons assisted Dave Tlusty with a large group on a roundabout hike of the Summit Moraine Segment. During the hike, companionship reigned within the group, and did not diminish upon return to the parking lot.

— Joe Jopek



The shed parked in its new home at Lee Auner's place. Photo by Lloyd Godell.



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Chuck Schwartz (schwartz_charles@sbcglobal.net) and Karla Larson (715-350-9024) CentralMorainesChapter@iceagetrail.org

The chapter enjoyed a resounding success for its fourth annual Hike-A-Thon in October. Approximately 100 new and returning participants relished the camaraderie and the beautiful fall day along the

continued on page 24

CHAPTER highlights *continued*

PIERCE



The newly-minted trailhead sign for the White Cedar Segment. Photo by Gail Piotrowski

Ringle Segment while supporting our efforts to maintain and enhance the Trail segments in our care.

We held several trail maintenance days in the fall to improve the hiking experience for Trail enthusiasts.

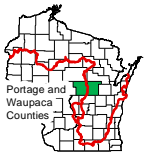
The Alliance officially approved the name of the newly constructed White Cedar Segment. Upon approval, dedicated chapter volunteer Jerry Krause created an official trailhead sign. It was installed in time for a neighborhood “meet and greet” hosted by the Alliance, the North Central Conservancy Trust, and a group of chapter members. We are pleased to report the segment is popular among its neighbors and visiting hikers.

The chapter sponsored an informational booth at the Boomer Expo at the Central Wisconsin Convention and Expo Center in Rothschild in early October. Again, event attendance seemed to rebound as life returned to normal.

Trail supporter, Patrick Gosz, arranged for Gail to make a presentation to a local Kiwanis (Golden K) club in late November. Members were incredibly attentive, expressing a variety of connections to the Trail and its geology.

Milwaukee Burger’s Company’s Community Monday program featured the Central Moraines Chapter on December 19. Chapter members enjoyed the opportunity to greet restaurant patrons and share information about the Trail. The company will donate a portion of the evening’s proceeds to the chapter.

– Gail Piotrowski



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

October opened with our Annual Hike-A-Thon hosted by a cadre of chapter volunteers along the New Hope/Iola Ski Hill Segment. The cool weather and threat of precipitation resulted in limited guest numbers, yet all had fun. Then, a late October MSC event along the Iola Ski Hill Segment continued progress toward a 1.5-mile reroute. Finally, more than 200 fourth graders participating in the ever-popular Think Outside program arrived at Hartman Creek State Park. Chapter volunteers Amanda Fischer, Lynn Larson, Phil Peterson, Mark Ulrich, and Central Moraines Chapter Coordinator Gail Piotrowski welcomed the students and led the hikes.

A temperate November allowed us to reroute a small length of Trail within our New Hope Segment near CTH Z, reclaiming the use of a formerly submerged bridge. In addition, tools were cleaned, sharpened, and inventoried – ready for the 2023 construction season!

December’s ice storms brought several corridor cleaning opportunities as chapter members removed downed trees laden with snow and ice. Mid-month, chapter leaders met at Rich and Carol Roe’s home for a 2023 planning meeting followed by ‘make-your-own’ wood-fired pizza. Thank you, Rich and Carol, for your generous hospitality! 2023 opened with our now annual First Day Hike. Chapter leaders led nearly 60 hikers through a winter wonderland along the Iola Ski Hill Segment, followed by everyone enjoying a cup of hot chocolate and fruit breads.

Parts of the Emmons Creek Segment remain closed due to continuing logging operations, necessitating a reroute along the Faraway Valley Loop to 2nd Avenue. This area will be a focal point during the 2023 August MSC event, along with completing the Iola Ski Hill Segment reroute.

– Mike Pelech and Debbie Krogwold



Volunteers Dan Bartell, Tim McAuliffe, and Bob Anibas assisted in the placement of this Aldo Leopold bench along the Waupaca River Segment in memorial to our treasured long-time volunteer, Butch Siegel. ‘Butchmon! YaHey!’ Photo by Rich Roe.



In April 2022, the Alliance staff entrusted me with the Spirit Stick. In October, I took it on a walk while enjoying the quiet serenity along the Iola Ski Hill Segment, the site of a recent MSC boardwalk project. A forever memory... Photo by Debbie Krogwold.



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Position open



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Jeff Frazer (608 369-0339, morgmule@yahoo.com)



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

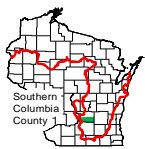
Coordinator: Debby Capener (262-930-9713, BarabooHillsHeritageChapter@iceagetrail.org)

We completed several goals this quarter, including hosting two hikes. The Halloween-themed hike proved popular with 40 people in attendance. We also made progress putting together a Hiking Award program separate from the one we've shared with the Lodi Chapter for a number of years. Then, a WisCorp crew, under the direction of Alliance staff and volunteers, repaired the boardwalk along the Merrimac Segment which was burned during a freak accident last spring.

We also made great progress in bringing the cities of Baraboo and Portage into the Ice Age Trail Community fold. Both communities have submitted the applications indicating interest and commitment!

The City of Portage continues its effort to pave a multi-use trail along the dredged Historic Portage Canal. The Ice Age Trail route through town shares this path. I've walked the shared section with city employees to determine where to install Trail signage. We look forward to a grand opening next spring/early summer, including a hike along the original Marquette/Joliet portage route. 2023 is the 350th anniversary of that portage.

– Debby Capener



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Amy Onofrey (608-213-9855) and Mandy Crary (608-235-7747) or LodiValleyChapter@iceagetrail.org

The Lodi Valley Chapter organized several activities during 2022's last quarter. First, we partnered with Fontana Sports to host the Fall Colors Run in October. More than 60 people participated in this run/walk along the Gibraltar Segment. Proceeds from the event will help support our future work on the Trail. We're ever-grateful to Fontana Sports for working with us to make the day a success.



Children posing with Santa during the Lodi Valley Chapter Tyke Hike. Photo by Patti Herman.

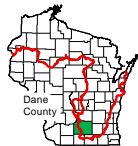
In November, the fourth-grade class from the Lodi Elementary School showed their skills with loppers as they helped take down invasives along the Gibraltar Segment. Monthly Full Moon Hikes and Tyke Hikes included Santa in December, with the jolly man in red joining hikers for hot cocoa and cookies.

The Lodi Trail Community was the second-most-visited Trail Community during the October Mammoth Hike Challenge! We were delighted to welcome many hikers to our community during this popular event. In addition, some of our members assisted with hiker shuttles.

Chapter members met with the Lodi-Lake Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce to share 2023 plans and explore how we can support one

another. The Chamber has a new office, and discussions are underway to create an Ice Age Trail Community display in the new space. We're also glad to see more local businesses selling Alliance items in their shops.

– Patti Herman



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Bob Kaspar (608-239-0168, bobkaspar@sbcglobal.net) and EJ Temme (608 630-4775, ej.temme@gmail.com)



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Fall of 2022 was quieter for Trail Stewardship in Rock County. Still, because of the milder weather, we did get out to perform some essential trail maintenance. We cleared Trail at Gibbs Lake County Park and Storrs Lake Wildlife Area. We're happy to report Rock County's Corridor Plan is moving forward and that Gibbs Lake and Evansville have blazed Trail.

We enjoyed a rewarding fundraiser in November at Mocha Moment in Janesville. The Chapter made presentations to the Janesville City Council, the Rock County Board, and four Town Boards. The Rock County Board also passed another resolution supporting the Ice Age Trail in the county.

In early January, the Chapter and the Janesville School District cohosted a candlelight hike at the Janesville School Arboretum. In the first 30 minutes, 150 hikes came through. By the evening's end, we had counted nearly 500 participants, with many hiking the ½-mile loop 2 and 3 times. In addition, the 1850s Hornby Cabin was open with a crackling fire, allowing children to see how early Wisconsin settlers lived. The Education Center was also available with its excellent taxidermy examples of Wisconsin wildlife.

The Chapter also hosted its annual candlelight hike in January at Storrs Lake, with a record 400 people showing up. Thanks to Jayne and Dean Paynter, our bonfire/refreshment stop is exceedingly popular. The milder temperatures over the two nights contributed to the large turnouts. Excellent volunteers made and set out the candles and staffed the candlelight hikes. Chapter members participate in five events every winter to highlight our trails and parks.

– Dennis James



The Hornby Cabin provides a welcoming stop during a candlelight hike hosted by the Rock County Chapter and the Janesville School District. Photo by Paul Stengal, Janesville School District.

CHAPTER highlights *continued*



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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

In September, the Chapter participated in a Story Telling event hosted by the City of Whitewater, an Ice Age Trail Community. Then, we hosted a hike in the Southern Kettle Moraine State Forest, kicking off the Mammoth Hike Challenge locally. On October 1, we offered a 3-, 5-, 10-, 15-, or 20-mile hike, introducing 40 hikers to Whitewater Lake, Blackhawk, and Blue Spring Lake segments. Chapter members provided shuttles.

Also, in October, a young man working toward his Eagle Scout badge installed marker posts along the Trail to which QR codes would soon be affixed. When scanned, these codes will provide hikers with information about the Chapter and the Trail. Next, chapter members gathered for a potluck and pumpkin carving to welcome autumn and celebrate the close of the summer season. Doubling down with spooky spirit, chapter members participated in the City of Whitewater's "Ghoul's Night Out" Halloween event, and then a few days later, we marched in the UW-Whitewater – Homecoming parade. We held our annual calendar planning meeting in mid-November, organizing ourselves for the upcoming year. In December, we joined in Whitewater's lighted Christmas parade.

As a chapter, we've hosted Weekly Walks for 20 years – 2022, the anniversary year. We celebrated this milestone with commemorative t-shirts and a hike! In addition, we plan to celebrate our 30th year as a chapter in 2023 – more details coming, soon.

– Vince Lazzaroni



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: John Kolbe (414 588-3448, jrkolbe@outlook.com) and Barbara Johnson (414 964-7635, barbjoh@hotmail.com)

For the Chapter's October meeting, members put aside the usual business agenda to celebrate the recent MSC project at Lapham Peak with a soup and chili potluck. A slideshow of event highlights played on a loop throughout the evening. And volunteers had a chance to reconnect with fellow crew members and share favorite project recollections.

Chapter prep-work for the Lapham Peak Segment reroute began in late summer, with chain-sawing and grubbing along the established flag line. Following the MSC event, Chapter members added additional signage with some help from Friends of Lapham Peak. Robust naturalization of the decommissioned Trail helped make it clear to hikers that "the Trail doesn't go here anymore!" They also repositioned a bench, moving it from the old Trail to the new. Finally, they added another bench to the new boardwalk's bump-out, enhancing wildlife viewing opportunities in the surrounding wetland.

Throughout late fall and early winter, our Monday Mudders crew began clearing a tree line on a recently acquired



A new bench proudly rests along a brand-new boardwalk built during an MSC event featuring the Lapham Peak Segment. Photo by Pat Witkowski.

easement in the Town of Ottawa. The expected installation of a brand-new Trail in 2023 will connect with the Scuppernong Segment in Southern Kettle Moraine Forest. Hikers will enjoy a safer and more pleasant off-road walk and open views of the restored prairie on private property adjoining the easement.

Trail improvement work continued into mid-December when 27 hearty volunteers weathered below-freezing temperatures to begin re-decking an ailing boardwalk in the Eagle segment. Pushing past the scheduled work time, this group wowed our Trail Coordinator by completing the entire project in one go.

Our chapter generated many brush piles between corridor clearing and invasives removal in 2022. Now, heading into deep winter, burn crews will be kept busy reducing those piles to ashes.

Fall-Winter 2022 issue correction: Chapter member Bill Pharr was incorrectly identified as an employee of Kohl's; he is not.

– Christi Lee



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



LAKE SHORE CHAPTER

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

The Friends of the Kettle Moraine recognized the Lakeshore Chapter volunteers at their annual meeting in November.

The Friends honored the work of our "southern crew" in maintaining the Trail through the Kettle Moraine State Forest. They also acknowledged our efforts to install a storage shed on the Rhine property, part of the LaBuddle Creek Segment. Cheryl Gorsuch and Myron Hafele attended, representing the Lakeshore Chapter. The event included unveiling a new mural in the Ice Age Visitor Center, a catered dinner, and a presentation by Herman Bender called "The Kettle Moraine as a Mythical-Sacred Landscape."

Joe Giesfeldt, Deputy Superintendent of Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit, and Samantha Lindquist, Superintendent of the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine, were instrumental in the shed's installation. They prepared the site, enlarged the parking lot, and augured holes for the posts for the kiosk and gate. This effort is an excellent example of working jointly with our DNR partners.

Ken Schoenike and John Elliot built benches for Dispersed Camping Areas (DCAs) along segments within the Lakeshore Chapter territory. Chapter members harvested, peeled the bark, and hauled the cedar logs out of the woods. As a result, the benches recently found resting spots in several DCAs

– Cheryl Gorsuch



Lakeshore Chapter members pose proudly in front of their new shed. From left to right: Gene Markiewicz, Myron Hafele, Kathy Claude, Cheryl Gorsuch, Greg "Spike" Keiler, Ken Schoenike, and Scott Rickert. Photo by Marilyn Hafele.

MEMBER & DONOR news

September 16 — December 31, 2022

THE IATA WELCOMES...



NEW YELLOW BLAZE CLUB MEMBERS

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

Ross Ament & Connie Ellis
Ament
Woody & Tena Benson
Susan Cook & Karyn Graham
David Eisch

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Mary Jones
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Janet & Levi Wood
Ledell Zellers

BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

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

David & Kathy Adam
Bess & Bernard Alberg
Mike & Sally Armbrust
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Susan Lindsay
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Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

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continued on page 28

MEMBER & DONOR news *continued*

MILESTONES

Emma Jane Shumway

by Carrie & Mark Asplund

The marriage of Kaitlin & John Teich

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Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

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Go to iceagetrail.org/hiking-awards to download the hiking log for a particular region. Once you've hiked the area's miles, follow the instructions for each chapter's program (currently there are 11 hiking awards), pay a small fee, and collect a patch.

Learn more at: iceagetrail.org/hiking-awards

