

MAMMOTH tales

SUMMER 2021



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



MIKE WOLLMER
Executive Director

Seasons Change...And So Do We

It's a beautiful morning here in Cross Plains, bright sun, not a cloud in the sky, and a heavy blanket of frost! Ten days ago, it was 91 degrees. Dare I think about our friends up north? It's the middle of May!

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail, however, remains a constant. Thanks to you – hikers, donors, volunteers, chapter leaders, and corporate partners – it's woven into Wisconsin's landscape. Because of that, the Ice Age Trail benefited from the national trend of exploring our country's natural assets.

This past year encouraged us to adapt and reconsider how we operate. The last 63 years have been rewarding at every level, and we continue to look forward. Our staff and structure have evolved, our Board has embraced new challenges associated with growth, and our programs refocused. We have a bright future that relies on the 2021-2023 strategic plan, adopted by our Board at the annual conference in April.

A wide array of chapter leaders, partners, donors, and other stakeholders participated in developing it – Thank you! Our new plan is quite a departure from our last plan. It's tight and focused on four challenging, yet achievable goals. Check it out on our website (iceagetrail.org/iata/strategic-plan-annual-reports/). It's an easy read, just two pages!

I'm particularly excited about our goal focused on *"Strengthening our Capabilities."* The Ice Age Trail Alliance is a unified organization, and all of us have skin in the game. It's time to use and empower everyone, more than ever, including our chapters. This year, we will be listening and probing for ways to utilize past successes, reinvigorate missed opportunities, and, most importantly put new ideas into action.

Our team here in Cross Plains has grown, with a couple more key positions coming aboard this summer. Exciting times lie ahead.

As always, thank you.

OUR PARTNERS





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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: *A carpet of wild geraniums greets hikers along a one-mile section of the Montrose Segment after years of dedicated restoration efforts by Dane County Chapter members. Photo by Dave Caliebe.*

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

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

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Spirit Stick Award

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

The recipient of this year's Spirit Stick Award is **David Lonsdorf**, Dane County Chapter.

Mike Wollmer, Executive Director, summarized David's remarkable contributions with the following words:

Congratulations, Dave!

We're proud to select you as the most deserving caretaker of the Spirit Stick. I'm not sure there isn't a volunteer role Dave hasn't played and accepted enthusiastically within the Ice Age Trail Alliance. He has contributed to many Mobile Skills Crew events, countless local Dane County projects, served as a Dane County chapter leader, and on our Board of Directors, where he served six years – two as president. He has volunteered locally, statewide, and even dabbled in our national presence, having traveled to Washington, D.C. with our team to advocate with our representatives and agency partners.

Dave was on the cutting edge, recognizing the Ice Age Trail and the land that hosts it as inseparable partners, bringing great value to each other. He's helped protect land with a passion in every manner. He's advocated with local government, coordinated fund-raising events, led the effort to establish Verona as a Trail Community, promoted hikes, and planted prairies.

As an accomplished chain-sawyer, he has dulled more chains and burned more brush than I can UVdT&VLeh YZY SαX d^ V é ^ j }_R] point. Please be careful with the Spirit Stick; it's very dry wood.

Learn more about David Lonsdorf in the Volunteer Spotlight on page 22.



David Lonsdorf was surprised at his home by a team of Ice Age Trail Alliance staff bearing the Spirit Stick. This unusual award presentation was necessitated by the virtual Annual Conference. From left to right: David Lonsdorf, Spirit Stick winner, Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager, Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Philanthropy, and Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation.

Spirit Stick Won't Soon Forget 2020-2021

Reflections shared by Richard Smith, Chippewa Moraine Chapter volunteer, and the 2020 Spirit Stick award winner and caretaker during the past year.

For a while in spring, Spirit Stick thought the world had gone mad, even spinning to a stop. The usual time for being transferred to a new guardian came and went, as Stick patiently stood by and observed humanity working out a new way of living in response to the plague.

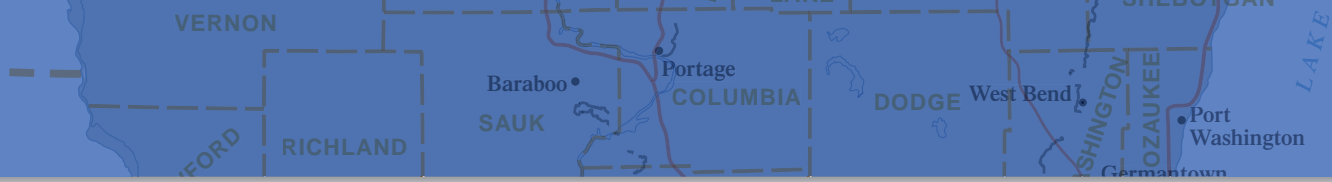
Not to say that this is new stuff for the wizened wood spirit, whose memory spans eons. Spirit Stick had seen the ice come and bury trees at Two Creeks and had seen the forests return to the landscape scraped bare, inviting people of good heart back to the forest.

Spirit Stick had always observed that, despite their good hearts, people fail to see the world beyond the moment. But the glacial landscape gives us perspective.

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Richard Smith, the 2020 Spirit Stick recipient, carefully holds the cherished walking stick so its carved face may be seen by all. Photo by IATA staff.



Trail Steward of the Year

The Trail Steward of the Year recognizes a volunteer whose work contributes in an extraordinary manner to Trail management and development. These contributions include: strengthening landowner and/or partner relations; trail layout, design, and construction; or significant trail maintenance, improvements, or stewardship efforts.

This year's award recognizes **Jerry Sazama**, Chippewa Moraine Chapter.

As Diane Harp, Chippewa Moraine Chapter member wrote in her nomination of Jerry Sazama:

Jerry Sazama is the backbone of trail maintenance and trailbuilding in the Chippewa Moraine Chapter. If you're looking for Jerry, you can find him on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, checking to ensure the local segments are in tip-top shape. When a section needs attention, he schedules well-attended trail improvement events and gets the work done.

In his quiet manner, Jerry encourages "newbies" in the fine art of trailbuilding and maintenance. He offers instruction and suggestions in a way that helps, not harms, and doesn't make people feel like they've done something wrong. He's quick to say thanks and to give credit for a job done well. Jerry's leadership acumen extends to his enormous contributions during Ice Age Trail Alliance's Mobile Skills Crew events. He's a well-liked crew leader, capably leading volunteers to craft new tread or build boardwalks or retaining walls. He helps keep his team in good spirits while producing quality work.

Jerry's dedication to the Ice Age Trail and his interest in being a team player also leads him to be neighborly. He organizes crews of local chapter volunteers to assist Blue Hills Chapter members with maintenance in Rusk County. His excellent rapport with local landowners has helped negotiate Trail usage between hikers and horse riders. Although Jerry would rather be on the Trail than in a meeting, he's served on the Alliance board, and he's an active member of the local Land Conservancy.

Learn more about Jerry Sazama in the Volunteer Spotlight on page 23.



Jerry Sazama, in his element at a Mobile Skills Crew event, helps lead the morning round-up by describing the day's projects. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



Public Partner

This award recognizes individuals whose work in the public sector has provided dedicated, ongoing service for the Ice Age Trail, above and beyond regular duties.

This year the award went to Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator, National Park Service – Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

As former Trailway Director, Tim Malzhan, wrote in his nomination of Dan Watson:

Dan Watson consistently provides unwavering, dedicated service in ways which far exceed his regularly assigned duties. Notable impacts Dan has had on behalf of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the Ice Age Trail Alliance, include:

- Creating, implementing, and managing a volunteer safety program, Trail Safe!, that is recognized for its excellence service-wide and throughout the entirety of the National Trails System by Federal agencies and non-governmental partners. Dan takes National Park Service (NPS) standards, and protocol to heart and thoroughly examines and evaluates policy directives for merits and objectives. He consistently applies and communicates standards and protocols in a practical, real-world fashion.
- Building and maintaining trusted relationships with Alliance volunteers and staff, and private and public entities who are engaged in the work of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, statewide.
- Significantly raising the awareness of the Ice Age Trail, the Alliance, and Alliance volunteers, nationally and throughout the NPS culture, enabling the Alliance to become a household name in the world of NPS volunteerism.
- Leading the NPS Volunteers In Parks recognition program for the Ice Age Trail. Dan sincerely respects and values the contributions and sacrifices of everyday citizens make to the Alliance in support of the Trail.
- Helping the Alliance secure competitive NPS grant awards. Dan's proclivity for crafting compelling narratives backed with factual data has served the work of the Alliance well.



Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator, National Park Service – Ice Age National Scenic Trail, has worked with the National Park Service for over 40 years with the last 14 associated with the Ice Age Trail. Dan's commitment to the Park Service, the Trail and the Alliance is only surpassed by his commitment to our volunteers. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

In the Mud Award

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

Gerald Anderson, Langlade County Chapter

Mark Balhorn, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter

Boy Scout Troop 113, Lodi Valley Chapter

Vicki Christianson, Chippewa Moraine Chapter

Lee "Butch" Clendenning, High Point Chapter

John Collins, Waushara County Chapter

Gary Hitchcock, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter

Kristi Kenyon, Dane County Chapter

Patricia Mishkar, Central Moraines Chapter

Ron Retzke, Central Moraines Chapter

Jeff Saatkamp, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

Megan Schliesman, Dane County Chapter

Julie Schneider, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter

Brent Sieling, Dane County Chapter

Warren Stouffer, Superior Lobe Chapter

Sandy Street, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

Lee Taylor, Rock County Chapter

Jeremy Vechinski, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter

Timothy Weege, Rock County Chapter

Gary Wensing, Dane County Chapter

Cheryl Whitman, Indianhead Chapter

Becky Whitmore, Lakeshore Chapter

Cory & Tami Wiese, Chippewa Moraine Chapter

Arno Wilke, Waushara County Chapter



Mark Balhorn, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter member and "In the Mud" award winner, operates a post hole digger in preparation for a sign post. Photo courtesy of Mark Balhorn.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE AWARDS



Volunteers in Parks (VIP)

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

Impressive numbers prevail in spite of the pandemic applied constraints. 1,499 volunteers provided 53,297 hours of service, totaling \$1,449,677 in private sector value, while adjusting to COVID-19 challenges and protocols!

At this year's NPS VIP awards ceremony, 85 volunteers were recognized for passing various volunteer-hours mileposts since the inception of the program in 2007.

1,000 Volunteer Hours:

Rebecca Burton, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Barbara Ceder, Indianhead Chapter (Polk/Burnett County)
Yvonne Fort, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
John O'Neill, Washington/Ozaukee County
Amy Onofrey, Lodi Valley Chapter (Southern Columbia County)
Sam Picone, Langlade County Chapter
Brent Sieling, Dane County Chapter
Dan Wallace, Dane County Chapter

3,000 Volunteer Hours:

Jon Bishop, Dane County Chapter
Bob Held, Superior Lobe Chapter (Barron/Washburn County)
John Kolbe, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Kevin Kuhlmann, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Jim Parry, Dane County Chapter
Darrel Ruechel, Portage/Waupaca County

4,000 Volunteer Hours:

Dennis James, Rock County Chapter
Tess Mulrooney, Dane County Chapter

6,000 Volunteer Hours:

Jerry Sazama, Chippewa Moraine Chapter (Chippewa County)
Richard Smith, Chippewa Moraine Chapter (Chippewa County)
Ed Spoon, Dane County Chapter

10,000 Volunteer Hours:

Tom Wise, Dane County Chapter

Friend of the Trail

This award recognizes individuals, foundations, businesses and other organizations for their strong support of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. A recipient has accomplished one or more of the following:

- Given significant monetary contributions over many years.
- Partnered with the Ice Age Trail Alliance or promoted the Ice Age Trail in a unique or significant way.
- Built coalitions, partnerships or other forms of local support that have contributed significantly to the ongoing success of the Ice Age Trail.

This year the award went to the **Lodi Sausage Company & Meat Market**.

As Patti Herman, Lodi Valley Chapter member, wrote in her nomination of the company:

The Lodi Sausage Company & Meat Market has provided for the care and feeding of current and future volunteers, both within the Lodi Valley Chapter area and around the state. They have done this by providing their crowd-sized grill and award-winning products for a number of events, including:

- The Lodi Valley Chapter's annual National Trails Day Mammoth Fun Run & Walk.

- The Lodi High School Service Day, during which the Lodi Valley chapter partners with the school to work with approximately 80 youth who help maintain and enhance local Trail segments.
- The Lodi Saunters program, as well as Saunters programs around the state, by providing discounted food products. They have also provided cash support to the Lodi Saunters to help cover transportation costs.
- The Mobile Skills Crew events where they've provided plenty of brats and hotdogs for hungry volunteers.



The Lodi Sausage Company & Meat Market also supports the work of the Alliance through their Business Membership and epitomizes what it means to be a Trail Community partner. They go above and beyond to contribute to the success of the Ice Age Trail Alliance through their support of Trail events in the Lodi area, as well as statewide.

Thousand-Miler Award

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

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

Edward "Yedi" Abell, Cedar Grove
Kristin "Leapfrog" Abell, Cedar Grove
Sande "The Source" Becker, Kiel
George "Pace" Boulamatsis, Racine
Janet "Glacial Pacers" Cariveau, Burlington
Roxann "Sunny Erratic" Dunst, Gleason
Gerald "Natty" Favret, Eau Claire
Emily Ford, Duluth, MN
Judy Geisler, Fort Myers, FL
Andrew Getschmann, Sun Prairie
Gary Goplen, Stoughton
Jason "Tattoo" Gultch, West Allis
Robert "IATrekker" Hanson, Stone Lake
Sean "Liquor" Hartwell, Madison Heights, MI
Laura "Energizer Bunny in Human Form" Hinesh, DeForest
Sally Jansen, Middleton
Steven "Twinkle Toes" Jilk, Marathon
Nancy "Mastodon Mama" Johnson-Cramer, Middleton
Karla "Map Girl" Larson, Birnamwood
Carla "Norske Nana" Moore, Merrill
Larry Pagel, Oshkosh
Dennis "Mighty Mouse" Raabe, Plover
Kathleen "Forever Young" Young Raabe, Plover
Nancy Radke, New Berlin
Scott "Scott from La Crosse" Ramsay, Saint Ansgar, IA
Barbara "Glacial Pacers" Roeder, East Troy
Anerka "Eagle Eye" Simic, Hartland
Gus Smerud, Onalaska
Patti "Glass Papaya" Smerud, Onalaska
Justin "Storm Trooper" Smith, Lake Tomahawk
Pam "P.S. Lightfoot" Smith, Mosinee
Fred Stadler, Oshkosh
Robyn Swanson, Elkhorn
Kris "Hair Tie" Van Handel, Madison
Jared "Scooter" Wildenrad, Madison



Thousand-Miler, Robyn Swanson, pauses at the end of her 1,000-mile journey for a moment of reflection at the western terminus. Photo courtesy of Robyn Swanson.

Ice Age Trail Alliance Years of Service Awards continued on page 32.

Make Your 2021 Award Nominations!

If you know an outstanding Ice Age Trail volunteer, partner or friend, shine a light on his or her work by making a 2021 award nomination.

Visit www.iceagetrail.org/awards-iata/ to get started.

Thank you for recognizing your fellow volunteers!



LAND CONSERVATION highlights



An old bur oak helps foster a healthy habitat, providing shelter and sustenance for insects, birds and other wildlife; by some estimate, a staggering 2,300 species are known to be associated with oaks. Photo by Emily Meier.

Big Habitat: The Why of Alliance Preserves

EVA BALLERING, LAND STEWARD

The Ice Age Trail Alliance owns and manages more than 50 preserves spread across 11 Wisconsin counties. These properties protect renowned glacial features and important historical sites, elevating the hiker experience with appealing landscapes. However, these big and uninterrupted parcels of land also contain mature forests, healthy wetlands, rushing streams, and remnant prairies. They provide habitat for native species, up and down the food chain, along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Alliance-owned preserves, by the very nature of their sizable acreage (20 preserves are over 40-acres, eight are over 100-acres), foster what ecologists deem 'interior habitat.' For example, in the depths of a mature forest, a specialized range of plant and animal life exists. Some of these species depend on the health of specific trees for building nests and particular plants or insects for food. The decaying forest floor offers hiding places, bedding material, and rich soil for fungi. Like wolves or bears, some of the animals require large unbroken tracts of such habitat to hunt and breed.

However, the amount and quality of this habitat have gradually decreased as housing developments, roads (especially interstate highways), logging, and agriculture have fragmented the landscape. This same fragmentation is experienced in the interior habitats of prairies as well. Ecologists point to the environmental 'edges' created when forests are cut, or prairies are tilled for farming. Ecological changes along edges may irretrievably alter what's important about a particular interior habitat for the species dwelling there. While many species thrive on degraded edge habitats, this disruption contributes to a distinct loss of biodiversity.

Another challenge facing biodiversity is our changing climate. Ecologists predict the composition of forest species will shift notably in the lifetime of today's children. As species struggle with adapting to a new environment, they may become sick and die. This situation creates an easy target for detrimental pests and diseases and openings for the establishment of invasive species.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's role in the health of Wisconsin's landscape will only continue to grow.

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Reforestation Efforts Help Transform a Preserve

LESLIE HANSHEW
Lakeshore Chapter Volunteer



Brownrigg-Heier Preserve
Manitowoc County
April 30-May 2, 2021
Participants: 60
Volunteer Hours: 730

PROJECT PARTNERS:
DNR Wisconsin Forest Landowner
Grant Program
West Foundation

As usual, Wisconsin weather did not disappoint. One day required puffy jackets and stocking caps, while the next allowed for shorts and sunscreen. A half-mile trek through beautiful woods and challenging hills opened up to reveal a recently harvested pine plantation. Tree stumps hid amongst the fire-seared ground; sticks and tree limbs made for tricky terrain. In time, sweat equity and careful caretaking will transform this field into a more natural and sustainable forest.

They came from near and far. What drew these volunteers – Lakeshore Chapter members and player and coaches from the UW-Oshkosh girls volleyball team – to the Brownrigg-Heier Preserve, located on Lakeshore Chapter turf, was a deep love for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail and a



(Left) All smiles, members of the UW-Oshkosh girls volleyball team, pair up to plant saplings to benefit future generations. Photo by Amy Lord. (Right) Intent on leaving a legacy, two members of the Lakeshore Chapter team up to dig a hole, drop in a prepared sapling, and tamp earth around it in a reforestation effort on the Brownrigg-Heier Preserve. Photo by Leslie Hanshaw.

desire to expand and improve the Ice Age Trail for future generations. These hard-working volunteers hand-planted 5,500 trees on the Brownrigg-Heier Preserve near Kiel, Wisconsin, over a long weekend spanning April 30-May 2, 2021.

The sapling warriors were first inspected and trimmed. Then, volunteers soaked each tree in a root stimulator solution, keeping their feet moist until Mother Nature could do some watering of Her own. Finally, in groups of two and armed only with a planting bar, a strong back, and a sense of teamwork, volunteers carefully tucked the young trees in the ground.

This project helped convert a portion (25%) of a pine plantation, established originally in the 1950s, to a more natural and sustainable forest. The newly planted trees are hardwood species estimated to have increased adaptive capacity to changing climate, including white oak, bur oak, black cherry, and sugar maple. With a bit of luck and cages for protection

from furry invaders, these trees will grow to create a habitat for all to enjoy.

Yet, the majority (75%) of the former plantation remains in pine, which has reached its peak and will continue to decline in value. With the guidance of a certified forester, the remaining acres will be logged and replanted with the help of future volunteers. However, in the short term, the hands of amazing volunteers will remove garlic mustard in May and invasive brush in September.

The transformation of the Preserve will contribute to the region, an area of more than 1,000 contiguous acres of heavily wooded northern forest, including the 160-acre Walla Hi County Park. This large-scale habitat is a unique refuge for wildlife, who struggle with ever-increasingly fragmented landscapes. Ultimately, it will also benefit humans looking to reconnect with nature – the Preserve will one day be home to a section of the Ice Age Trail.



Two Trail Easements Secure Nearly a Mile of Trail

KEVIN THUSIUS, DIRECTOR OF LAND CONSERVATION

Earlier this year, the Ice Age Trail Alliance secured two more trail easements to secure permanent trail rights. These two easements share some similarities but also contain differences.

How they are different:

- One is in the densely wooded canopy of Taylor County, and the other is mainly along an open agricultural landscape in Washington County;
- One protects just over a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile while the other more than a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, and will host a future parking area;
- One will be new Trail in the future while the other has hosted the Trail for decades;
- One was purchased, the other easement was donated.

How they are similar:

- They are both relatively narrow trail easements;
- The easement language is nearly identical;
- They both took about four years to complete the process;
- Neither would have happened without landowner's willingness to share their land with trail users.

The Alliance is humbled and honored to work with landowners like these:

We thank the Cindy Hanke family for working with us to help close the gap in the Rib Lake Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Taylor County. Their community-mindedness allows us to come one step closer to reopening a section of Ice Age Trail lost in 2008. We also thank Jeff Saatkamp for his generous financial support, which made this acquisition possible.

We also thank the Margaret and Delyle Beyers family for hosting the Ice Age Trail for many decades. Their donation of an easement ensures that this portion of the Holy Hill Segment, in Washington County, will be a permanent part of the local landscape.



DNR Secures Property Along LaBudde Creek

In the “it’s never too late to celebrate a success” category is the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) purchase of a 63-acre property in Sheboygan County in 2020. For more than four years, the Alliance and DNR staff worked with George and Margaret Schur to divide and acquire a portion of their property. The goals of these landowners, to preserve land along the creek, also aligned with our conservation ethic.

And what a property it is. The glacier left behind a rolling landscape full of gravel, rocks, and an occasional boulder. Among the hills are open fallow fields slowly converting to woodlands after agricultural practices have ended. Moving down the elevation, you will find forested uplands then forested wetlands. In the lowest region of the property lies LaBudde Creek, a class 1 trout stream. Along the banks are several active springs, and spring seeps which fill the creek with clean, clear, cold water.

This new State Ice Age Trail Area (SIATA) is open to the public. There is a small parking area on the south end of the property.

Trail layout has begun, and plans include building Ice Age Trail and a loop trail in 2022.

Thanks to the DNR staff for all their efforts to acquire this property for the Trail. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program – a valuable State program dedicated to land conservation – fully funded the purchase of this property.



OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpacks

AMY LORD, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MANAGER

Summer is in full swing, and we've got another way to enhance your hiking adventures!

Please stop by one of our Ice Age Trail Communities and check out (literally) one of our Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpacks! These portable and informative kits contain everything you need to interact with and learn more about Wisconsin's flora and fauna while hiking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail!

As you seek out the next yellow blaze, deepen your connection to the nature around you using the Wisconsin wildlife, birds, wildflowers, and tree identification guides. You will gain a closer look at critters through binoculars and learn how to navigate the Ice Age Trail with a compass, along with maps in our Atlas. A copy of our Guidebook is included, too, for segment descriptions, area amenities, and parking information.

The Explorer Backpacks were made possible with support from the **National Park Foundation** and **Granite Gear**, who generously supplied the backpacks.

At this time, Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpacks are available in select public libraries. As state park visitors and nature centers re-open, we

plan to have Explorer Backpacks at a few of those locations as well. (Please call ahead to make sure the Explorer Backpacks are available for check out.)

Explorer Backpacks are available in public libraries of our Ice Age Trail Communities:

- St. Croix Falls Public Library, St. Croix Falls
- Cornell Public Library, Cornell
- Lodi Public Library, Lodi
- Rosemary Garfoot Public Library, Cross Plains
- Verona Public Library, Verona
- Hedberg Public Library, Janesville
- Milton Public Library, Milton
- Irvin L. Young Memorial Library, Whitewater
- Delafield Public Library, Delafield
- Hartland Public Library, Hartland
- Slinger Community Library, Slinger
- West Bend Community Memorial Library, West Bend
- Manitowoc Public Library, Manitowoc
- Lester Library, Two Rivers
- Door County Library, Sturgeon Bay



The Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpacks contain everything your group needs for a day of exploration: Ice Age Trail Guidebook, Ice Age Trail Atlas, Pocket Naturalist Guides, "Trees" Fandex Field Guide, Binoculars, Compass, Rite in the Rain Journal, Magnifying Glass, Scat Identification Bandana, Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics Tag, and a First Aid Kit. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.



Eva Ballering, Land Steward for the Ice Age Trail Alliance, demonstrates the ease and convenience of an Explorer Backpack. Photo by Elena Mederas.



Mammoth Hike Challenge is BACK!

It's Time to Hike 41 in '21 (41 miles in 2021)

We are excited to announce the return of the Mammoth Hike Challenge for 2021!

The Mammoth Hike Challenge encourages you (and family and friends) to hike 41 miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail during the month of October. It also invites you to visit at least three designated Ice Age Trail Communities (choose from 14). The Ice Age Trail traverses the entire state of Wisconsin, coursing through quintessential small towns and large urban areas, up and down hills, across prairies, and deep into the Northwoods alike. There may be no better way to explore the beauty, glacial landscapes, and Wisconsin communities than by hiking the Trail.

In 2020, as Wisconsin and the rest of the country adjusted to the constraints of the pandemic, people discovered a renewed interest in exploring local gems – like the Ice Age Trail, which remained open! A day hike or weekend of backpacking along the Ice Age Trail was an easy, convenient, and welcome diversion. Families experienced the joy of unplugging from technology and plugging into sunshine, bird song, and long views.

Now, in 2021, as communities begin to open safely and welcome back visitors, we hope the Mammoth Hike Challenge will again motivate outdoor enthusiasts. We hope you'll choose to seek out well-loved and lightly traveled Ice Age Trail segments. Look ahead to October and begin planning your sightseeing adventure in a new area of Wisconsin. Research Trail segments in a county to which you've never been. Book hotels or campsites, now – don't delay.

Exploring our Trail Communities is an excellent way to dive deep into the Wisconsin experience of supper clubs and the tall tales told at the local watering holes. Grab a coffee and a sweet treat from a local bakery and check out one-of-a-kind treasures only found in small-town shops! Trail Communities range from small roadside stops to bustling metropolises. They are a vibrant aspect of the Ice Age Trail hiking experience.

REGISTRATION OPENS AUGUST 1st

Stay tuned!

The 2021 Commemorative Patch
will be unveiled late summer!

For more details:

www.iceagetrail.org/mammoth-hike-challenge

2020 Mammoth Hike Challenge: BY THE NUMBERS

7,242 Registrations

1,937 Online completion forms submitted

3,649 Commemorative patches mailed out

3,105 Completion certificates printed

54% Completion rate

OVER \$309,000 Spent in our 13 Trail Communities
during the Mammoth Hike Challenge

TRAILBUILDING highlights

Gleaming Structures Greet Hikers Along the Waterville Segment

CHRISTI LEE

Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter Volunteer



Waterville Segment
Waukesha County
April 21-23, 2021

Participants: 31
Volunteer Hours: 615

PROJECT PARTNERS:

The generous donors who contributed to the 'Close the Waterville Gap' campaign.

Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust led the 'Close the Waterville Gap' campaign by offering a dollar-for-dollar match of up to \$25,000 in support of the project.



Keeping boots dry for the next two decades, this 133-foot-long bridge and boardwalk, one of four new, gleaming structures along the Waterville Segment, span a gully and notoriously wet area. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

For the first trailbuilding event of the 2021 season, 31 volunteers came together over three days to replace decaying boardwalks on the Waterville Segment in Waukesha County. If raw lumber could gleam, the word would describe the four new structures now greeting hikers who enter the segment at its southern end in the Town of Ottawa.

Work crews mainly consisted of local Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter members, plus a few seasoned boardwalk builders from nearby chapters. Among the locals were several first-time volunteers who, like many, came to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as hikers during the year of COVID-19, fell in love, and ultimately stepped up to the next level of engagement. Welcome!

On Day One, April did her best to remind everyone that spring arrives according to its own whims. The weather featured sunshine one minute, snow pellets hurtling down the next, sun again, then a sloppy, wet blizzard—all accompanied by an unceasing chilly wind. Despite atmospheric conditions and challenging terrain, volunteers made good progress on the first two structures: an ambitious 20-foot bridge and a 210-foot boardwalk spanning a marshy area. Thanks to prep-work by local chapter members, including clearing vegetation,

disassembling old structures, and pre-assembling boardwalk frames, fieldwork proceeded as rapidly as possible for a task that requires repeated leveling and measuring.

On Day Two, exuberant birdsong greeted the morning, and sunlight glinted off frost-covered garlic mustard (a project for another time) as work began on the third and fourth structures. These consisted of a short crossing over a narrow stream and a longer boardwalk through a muddy wooded area. Here, volunteers also shifted the trail slightly to circumvent the root ball of a tree felled by a tornado in 2019.

On Day Three, the weather continued fine as the project wrapped up, with all finishing touches installed. With it being Friday, the segment reopened in time for weekend hikers. Mobile Skills Crews will return to Waterville in September for phase two of segment improvements, including more new structures and everyone's favorite: new tread to eliminate a road walk.

In honor of Earth Day, a friend of the Trail provided special cookies for volunteers to enjoy with lunch on Thursday. Hand-decorated in blue and green icing representing oceans and continents, the cookies were complete with a tiny red heart in the vicinity of Wisconsin. Nothing could have summed up prevailing feelings better.

A Storytelling Route through the Blue Hills

DAVE CALIEBE
Trail Program Manager



Blue Hills Trail Layout and Design
Rusk County
May 1 - 4
Participants: 19
Volunteer Hours: 504

Creating 17 miles of new Ice Age National Scenic Trail is not a quick or easy process. While bushwhacking through the Blue Hills of Rusk County, with unseasonable hot temps waking up the bugs as an added burden, questions flowed through my head, “Where am I? How far back is it to the vehicle? Why are we doing this? How does this help the Trail or Hiker?”

This saunter through a carpet of trout lilies has everything to do with the last question. While the trail layout and design process began in the field last October, it started many years before. The Ice Age Trail Alliance approached Rusk County, garnering support for the idea of rerouting the Ice Age Trail. The current route through the Blue Hills is rough, hard to maintain, and generally unspectacular. However, hidden to most are numerous geologic wonders that have made the region, for decades, a destination for scientists and those filled with wanderlust and a sense of adventure.



Patrick Gleissner, IATA Field Operations Coordinator, and volunteer, Dave Carew, stop to take in the wonder of the talus slopes of the Blue Hills Felsenmeer. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

The numerous advances and retreats of the continental ice sheet carved deep valleys, whittled down once tall mountains to mere “hills.” It also created severe freeze and thaw cycles, reducing the brittle quartzite cliffs to talus slopes. Cool air still flows from the base of the Blue Hills Felsenmeer, a reminder of the conditions which created it.

When Congress created the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in 1980, the main charge of the Ice Age Trail was to interpret the geology of the last Ice Age. The new route within the Blue Hills aims to bring these geological features together in an illuminating narrative. It will also makes it easier for people to find and appreciate their significance in Wisconsin’s glacial landscape.

Someday, when this route is complete, it will be a signature segment, drawing hikers from across the Midwest. It’ll be a destination, not a pass-through. The anticipated use creates an even greater impetus to continue laying out and designing a Trail that is not only intuitive for hikers but respects the landscape and the geology that created it.

Last October, crews scouted broad swaths of deep woods to find control points – places to either avoid or visit. In this event, after a short session covering the basics of sustainable trail layout and design, crews of three to four volunteers began to flag route options within two-to-three-mile sections. The landscape had changed since the October event. The snow had melted, trees and flowers were budding out, and the aftermath of winter logging activities was readily apparent. Visiting in various seasons is essential to a successful trail layout. Areas that were dry in October were soggy in May, alerting us to the need for a boardwalk or a route across higher ground. Even after four days on the ground in the fall and now four more in the spring, there will be many more days and hundreds of hours ahead before this new route becomes a reality.

Read *Dreamers of Trail Layout* by Beth Shimmyo in the Spring 2021 issue of *Mammoth Tales*.

View photos at iceagetrail.org/highlighting-the-glacial-beauty-of-the-blue-hills-region/



A One-Mile Section Blooms!

TESS MULROONEY
Dane County Chapter Volunteer
&
DAVE CALIEBE
Trail Program Manager



Montrose Segment
Dane County
May 18 – 20
Participants: 20
Volunteer Hours: 351

PROJECT PARTNERS:
New Glarus Brewing Company



A new boardwalk beckons beyond the revitalized woods where a swale of native, wild geraniums thrives. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

Along the Montrose Segment, the mile-long section, between Piller Road and the Badger State Trail, has been a way to get between here and there since it opened in 2009. It had hikers traipsing between two cornfields and through a small set of woods containing beautiful large oaks. Still, over the years, buckthorn and garlic mustard had infiltrated the area, choking the understory. Unfortunately, these invasive species are the first to emerge after winter and leaf out in the spring, allowing them to shade out native plants and dominate the landscape. At the same time, their presence adds toxicity to the soil affecting fungi, and over time, trees. As a result, this section was nothing special.

A renaissance, however, is afoot thanks to dogged efforts, beginning in 2018, by the Dane County Chapter. Small groups of volunteers painstakingly removed gnarled fencerows filled with buckthorn, box elder, honeysuckle, and barbed wire. During numerous Trail Improvement days, the shrubs fell to chainsaws,

opening the land to sunlight repulsive to garlic mustard. Not only that, but volunteers also spent hours picking it in spring before it could disperse its seeds.

With the encroaching invasive plants and shrubs removed, native plants thrived. Pockets of ramps and wild geranium began spreading through the woods. Then came blue cohosh, three colors of violets, Jack in the pulpit, and Solomon's seal. An oasis has formed through diligent, determined work.

With the woods becoming more resilient and welcoming to native species, the effort turned toward working with the farmer with whom the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has an easement. The hope is to better manage and improve the 50-foot strip along this section as rows of corn have crept ever closer to the Trail, creating maintenance issues. Productively, a dialogue has opened between the farmer, DNR, and Alliance to find a balance that is amenable to all parties. This conversation resulted in planting prairie seeds along and within the easement to create a native buffer between the Trail and agricultural fields. There is still a learning curve as we work with one another.

From the beginning, a stretch on the east side of the woods needed further observance to see

how foot traffic and hydrology interacted and whether a boardwalk would be required. After a decade, it became apparent that standing water and muddy conditions were standard. While Covid-19 pushed the project back a year, a new boardwalk rose through multiple prep days and three days of construction to enable easier passage for hikers.

We hope that when you walk through this segment in a few years, prairie grasses will greet you in the open areas, and woodland wildflowers will continue to dot the floor of the small woods. These changes will not be evident all at once. In the first year, prairie seeds sleep, then in the second year, they creep, and by the third year, they leap to provide what will be a short-grass prairie. We know many bird species enjoy short-grass prairies; while we've worked, sandhill cranes have circled and strutted nearby to inspect the changes.

A week after the boardwalk was built, 100 volunteers from Blackhawk Church's Love Madison event joined in cutting down additional buckthorn and honeysuckle on the property. A year from now all of the brush piles should be burned. The transformation of this short one-mile section in the past three years is remarkable, and it's only going to get better!

TRAILBUILDING highlights *continued*

Welcome, Patrick Gleissner!

Greetings, I am overjoyed by the opportunity to be a member of staff with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA). I'm also excited to work with countless outstanding people both in the office and from our VIP corps. I am a Wisconsin native, having spent most of my life in the Milwaukee area. Although recently, I have become a Wausau transplant. I have always found myself seeking out nature and solitude whenever needing a recharge.

After researching backpacking on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, I became aware of the IATA and began volunteering at Mobile Skills Crew events. After applying (too late) for a position on the Seasonal Trail Crew in 2019, I made it known to anyone who would listen that I was available for anything, which led to a limited-term position surveying sections of the Ice Age Trail in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This led to a part-time position in the Trail Program, which transitioned into my current position as Field Operations Coordinator.

I assist in bringing our trail projects to life by assembling information for compliance, making maps, and ensuring items needed for the trailbuilding season are in order. I also compile data and reports to help further the planning for new sections of Trail. Each day brings a new challenge. With that comes a new appreciation for the Ice Age Trail and all that it represents, from the geology it highlights to the communities it serves.

After completing a B.S. in Sociology from UW-Milwaukee, I spent time working in many fields. From IT to climbing guide to program manager for an urban outdoor camp. I have also spent time working in a gear shop, so any gear heads out there will find a kindred spirit when talking ounces and layers.

I love to challenge myself to step out of my comfort zone. I used my motorcycle as my form of transportation for a year, which can get cold and nerve-wracking in a midwestern winter. Following that, I lived in my van for a year. When I am not working, I spend time woodworking or adventuring with my partner, Lisa, and our dog, Piton. I enjoy working on and driving my 1951 Willy's Truck and spending too much time making CAD drawings of projects I don't compete. I'm also okay with spending just a bit too much time doing nothing and enjoying being alive. You will always find me with a pocket knife and a lighter. Survival tools are only helpful if you have them at hand.



PHILANTHROPY highlights

Joining Forces to Improve Water Quality

LUKE KLOBERDANZ, DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

The Ice Age Trail Alliance is proud to call Wisconsin home. The land, the people, and the Trail connecting these places and communities are core elements of our work. In recent years, the Alliance launched its Corporate Friends program, further advancing our mission to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The family is growing!

Recently, the Alliance joined in partnership with an iconic brand, New Glarus Brewing Company and its Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc. Charitable Foundation. Established in 1993, the New Glarus Brewing Company's philosophy is based on individuality, cooperation, and the employment of 100% natural ingredients to produce world-class, handcrafted beers. Like the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, which meanders exclusively throughout the state, the New Glarus Brewing Company proudly claims their beers are brewed "Only in Wisconsin".

It only makes sense that two organizations fully committed to improving the lives and lands in Wisconsin work together to benefit all Wisconsinites (and out-of-state visitors)!

Beyond our shared statewide focus, Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc. finds the dedication and passion of the Alliance's volunteer force compelling, along with the Alliance's strong promotion of its partners, and most importantly, our conservation ethic. Of particular interest to Only in



Wisconsin Giving, Inc. is how we care for wetlands and waterways by crafting boardwalks with significant consideration of these ecosystems.

While doing good in Wisconsin, the Alliance and Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc. found our match by improving water protection and quality. The Alliance is honored to put the Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc. funds to good use creating boardwalks across the state in 2021 and 2022. A small volunteer team built the first one along the Montrose Segment in Dane County during May 18 – 20, 2021.

So, the next time you consider a cool beverage, please support our friends and reach for a New Glarus Brewing Company libation after a hike or when around the fire. Cheers to the Ice Age Trail, Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc., and all things Wisconsin.

When kindred spirits come together, it's all smiles. Members of the Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc. Charitable Foundation present a \$25,000 check to Ice Age Trail Alliance staff. Standing left to right in front of an enormous vat of New Glarus Brewing Company brew is Ciaran O'Neill-Culhane, Eric Felt, Riley Miller, Mike Wollmer, Kari Haser, Luke Kloberdanz, and Drew Cochrane. Photo by Susan Moen.



THOUSAND-MILER journals

Say Yes EMILY FORD

Most often in my life, I say yes. Yes, to walking the railroad tracks as far as I could in one day when I was 12. Yes, to changing my major to geology after one “Geochemistry of the Environment” course. Yes, to moving to Duluth, Minnesota, on a whim with a former college roommate. Yes, to applying to the current job I hold, even though I knew I was well under-qualified. And yes, to a proposed 1,000-mile trek in the winter simply because I had the time and it sounded fun.

That’s been my life for 28 years.

My “yes” to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail turned into something quite bigger than I could’ve ever expected.

To prepare for the trek, I started an excel spreadsheet that held several tabs. One for an itinerary and people who would drop off supply boxes, another for food I would need for ten weeks, and the

last one for gear I had to acquire somehow on a budget. Things started to pull together. I had extra cash from a photoshoot for the Duluth Trading Company, so I bought supplies for a quality sleep system. I borrowed the tent I would live in through the winter, and sponsors provided me with a pack and some clothing. I felt lucky.

Then Diggins came into my life. She is a three-year-old black Alaskan Husky. I found her by posting on a mushers Facebook page that I was looking to borrow a sled dog for a 1000-mile trek through Wisconsin. I received only one reply. The rest, in short, is the telling of two strangers enduring hardships and accomplishments over ten weeks. She had her harness and a pack that she carried full of her gear. I will undoubtedly love her for the remainder of my existence.

The morning we left Duluth, I squeezed my dog, Zulu, as hard as he would tolerate and told him to take care of Flo (my partner) while I was away. A couple of buddies drove us to the eastern terminus in

Emily and Diggins spend a few minutes enjoying mild temperatures and sunshine during a well-earned rest break. Photo courtesy of Emily Ford.





So much more came out of the trip. I met some amazing folks who support the Ice Age Trail.

Potawatomi State Park. I hugged Flo as tight as they would tolerate, and I said that I would be home as fast as my legs would carry me. We parted ways as Diggins and I headed up to the eastern terminus plaque to begin a new, short chapter in our lives.

I had no expectations going into the trip. In my mind, I had lived in Minnesota long enough to know winter: I was going to hike back home through the winter with my borrowed dog. So much more came out of the trip. I met some amazing folks who support the Ice Age Trail. I hiked with people who have put their sweat into maintaining the Trail. I hiked with Thousand Miler Wannabes, who searched for hours and hours to find us on the Trail to bring me a hot beverage and Diggins dog snacks. So many people reached out to offer their support. To this day, it is still mindboggling.

We experienced beautiful overlooks, rivers, and savannas with mild day temps and wonderfully chilly nights. As the weather turned colder, I realized my gear was only good enough for mid-minus 20-degree weather for sleeping. I was able to lean on folks who had reached out. I have a clear memory of sitting atop a hill after getting through miles of knee-deep snow along the Kettlebowl Segment, with a daytime high of minus 10-degrees and the forecast predicting a nighttime high of minus 20-degrees. I had one bar of cell service, and I messaged a stranger asking to stay at their house. Oddly enough, they said yes! I ended up staying at their place for several nights while hiking as many miles as I could during the day. I could probably write pages and pages on the kindness of strangers.

The night skies welcomed Diggins and me with open arms. The sun setting in the west would let me know it was time to find a spot to set up the house. I would always try to point the tent door to the west. As the moon swapped spots with the sun, the stars revealed themselves on the clear nights. We would hunker down to listen to whoever was still bustling about in the forest; sometimes the wolves or coyotes, the owls hooting or the mice scampering across the snow. True silence was rare, but I didn't mind.

As we neared the end of our trip, my head and heart were full of many emotions and thoughts. I told Diggins multiple times that we could turn around and spend more time together on the Trail in the wilderness. But I knew that it had to be time to end.

When it was time to say goodbye to Diggins, my body crumpled atop of hers in a heap of tears. Her handler gave me a good squeeze as



Diggins capably breaks trail along the her 1,000-mile journey with Emily. Photo by Emily Ford.

I squeezed Diggins so tightly. I tried to get the words I rehearsed for many, many days while we hiked, but I couldn't get any to come out in between my sobs.

The Ice Age Trail brought me back to the center of myself. Back to the person I love to be. A more patient, curious, and adventurous human being. From the kettles and moraines to the flats and eskers, I found lost parts of myself and lost parts of myself I had picked up over time. I found solace with being a visitor in a wolf's territory as well as in community with strangers that housed my borrowed dog and me. I still feel lucky.

There are adventures out there for us to say yes to. But it takes the courage to look fear in the face and telling it to move out of the way. To find your adventure, it may be just up the road, or it may be 1,000 miles long.



David Lonsdorf: Leading by Example

A COLLABORATIVELY WRITTEN ARTICLE BY VOLUNTEERS AND IATA COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

David Lonsdorf is famous for his versatility. “Dave has really done it all. From getting filthy at trail construction projects to being board president to, most recently, fundraising for land protection, states Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation. “His honesty and humor provide a refreshing and enjoyable experience for those around him.”

During his six years on the Ice Age Trail Alliance board, two of which were as president, he joined each of the committees to learn about the organization’s inner workings. He didn’t hesitate to offer ideas and take on committee work. Similarly, his leadership roles within the Dane County Chapter have run the gamut from equipment manager to being the current chapter co-coordinator. Dave revived the Hike-a-Thon, the primary fundraiser for the Dane County Chapter. He and his wife, Marilyn Chohaney, led the effort for nine years. Former Chapter Coordinator, Tess Mulrooney, observes, “Whether the issue is administration, trail work, or land stewardship, Dave has given the matter serious thought and stepped in to supply a solution.”

Dave, leading by example, dedicates incredible hours to projects capturing his imagination. Chapter Co-Coordinator, Bob Kaspar, recalls, “While walking through the Verona Segment recently, I came upon him and his wife, completing a brush pile burn along the Trail near Badger Mill Creek. Dave had been at a corridor clearing/brush pile burn at the Cross Plains Segment on Saturday, then led the clearing and burning along Badger Mill Creek on Sunday, returning on Monday to finish the burning.”

“As a volunteer, Dave sees the larger picture of conservation along the Ice

Age National Scenic Trail, says Mike Wollmer, Executive Director. “Trail improvement, land protection, and preservation are all equal priorities.” He has been instrumental in restoring two Alliance properties in Dane County, the Moraine Kettles Preserve and Mammoth’s Back Preserve. Over seven years, at Moraine Kettles, Dave and his crews turned cornfields into a prairie, restored woods, rerouted trails through prairies, and added a parking lot. With similar enthusiasm, he’s helping chapter members transform Mammoth’s

Back Preserve, which is now three years ahead of schedule.

Dave also brings civic-mindedness to his volunteer work with the Ice Age Trail, having helped the City of Verona obtain Trail Community status. Dave’s been quick to raise his hand offering to lead teams of volunteers from the annual United Way Season of Caring events and Love Madison events through the Blackhawk Church engage in trail improvement. He has sponsored many workdays for Operation Fresh Start, a program for disconnected youth, on county lands hosting the Trail.

Dave motivates his crews with his spirit. His chapter members note that whenever Dave leads an event, he will stop on the way to the worksite and talk about the land, the Trail, and the purpose of putting Trail in a particular area. His intimate involvement, at all levels, makes David a fluent ambassador for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

“He is a pleasure to work with,” says Bob Kaspar, “and his enthusiasm for the Trail is infectious.”



Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

We can’t predict what will encourage someone to become an Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteer. To escape plodding crowds and piles of vegetables at the Dane County Farmers Market was incentive enough for Dave Lonsdorf. The week prior, a Dane County Chapter member, staffing an information table at the market, had told him about the Ice Age Trail and the chapter workday. The following Saturday, he opted to attend.

“I decided to go do that instead so I wouldn’t have to go to the farmers market,” remembers Dave. “The first event was a trail signage post-installation at Prairie Moraine Park in mid-July, led by Gary Werner. I recall carrying a 4x4 post up the Moraine from the parking lot and then digging it in. It was so hot. I got pretty dehydrated and had to quit after one post!”



Photo by Cameron Gillie.



Jerry Sazama: We Make a Life by What We Give

TRICIA BAKER, VOLUNTEER WRITER FOR THE ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

Gerald Sazama (Jerry) is named after his Uncle Gerald, who lived to be 99 years old. When young, Jerry asked his Uncle Gerald the secret to his long life. Uncle Gerald offered this wisdom: **don't stop moving!** Jerry has indeed taken that advice.

If you have volunteered for any Ice Age Trail Alliance Mobile Skills Crews events around the state over the past 12 years, you have likely met Jerry. You will find him at the seven to eight major trailbuilding events per year acting in his current role as volunteer Crew Leader Manager.

Since retiring from his Chippewa Falls law practice, Jerry became involved in maintaining the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. After years of running marathons, with his wife of 53 years consistently found cheering at mile 17, Jerry was no stranger to being active. But with retirement came the time to give back – and he has done so in a big way.

During an average summer week, Jerry is in the forest three days working on Ice Age Trail segments where the local Chippewa Moraine Chapter manages 20 miles of Trail. During a few months each winter, Jerry moves to Arizona, where he volunteers for the US Forest Service on designated wilderness land. This past winter, Jerry led nine volunteers to complete a two-mile remake of a trail in the Santa Rita Mountains.

Jerry loves to hike and has a special love for the wild. He points out that we all have access to wild places because someone built trails – someone before us invested time and energy so we could enjoy it. As Jerry says about our Trail, “They were built by people – people I will never know – but they are a gift.” And every time Jerry volunteers on the Ice Age Trail, he recognizes it as a chance to give a gift back.

In addition to Uncle Gerald's advice to ‘keep moving,’ Jerry heeds this quote by Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.” This year Jerry received the **Ice Age Trail Alliance Trail Steward of the Year** award for his unswerving allegiance to giving back.

Thank you, Jerry, for giving us access to the beautiful state of Wisconsin and keeping our Ice Age Trail and its volunteers ready for the next generation of grateful hikers.



Jerry, ready for work in his hardhat and carrying his signature clipboard, leads morning round-up at a Mobile Skills Crew event. As volunteer Crew Leader Manager, Jerry briefs his fellow volunteers about the project scope, special safety measures, and organizes everyone into their respective crews for the day. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

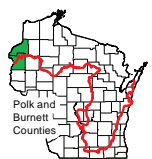


As summer vegetation threatens to take over, Jerry runs the Billy Goat mower along one of the Ice Age Trail segments in Chippewa County, creating easier passage for hikers. Photo by Vicki Christianson.

Tricia Baker

hails from Summit, Wisconsin. She started Baker Creative/Consulting, a marketing firm, after a career in business and marketing. Tricia also serves on the Boards of an ad agency and a Milwaukee-based non-profit. In her free time, Tricia, along with her husband Brian, hikes Ice Age Trail segments on her quest to become a Thousand-Miler.

CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

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



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

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

The Superior Lobe Chapter found ways to gather during the past few months safely. We held our annual meeting via Zoom in January. Patrick Gleissner, Ice Age Trail Alliance Field Operations Coordinator, presented updated plans for an updated Ice Age Trail route through the Blue Hills. Undeterred by sub-zero temps, 13 hikers plodded through February snow on our 20th annual Snowshoe Hike on the Hemlock Loop. The following month, we ventured to the Trail again for our Spring hike along the Timberland Segment. We enjoyed spring sights of open water, geese, ducks, and watercress. Other hikers have been getting out on our Trail segments as well, and we have been assisting them by providing shuttle services.

Two of our longtime Chapter volunteers were recognized at the IATA Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in April. Laura Sandstrom reached the twenty-year membership milestone. A very active member of our Chapter, she regularly attends meetings and events and regularly inspects and helps maintain the Tuscobia Segment. An avid birder, she has enriched our Chapter over the years by leading hikes where she identifies bird species. Warren Stouffer was recognized with the "In the Mud" award for all his efforts to maintain and improve the Bear Lake Segment. We congratulate and thank both Laura and Warren for their years of service.

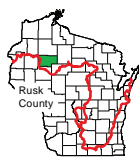
The Superior Lobe Chapter selected David M. Mickelson, Emeritus Professor of Geoscience, Geological Engineering and Water Resource Management at UW-Madison as Environmental Educator of the Year. Dr. Mickelson's distinguished career is devoted to researching and teaching earth surface processes. His efforts have increased the awareness and appreciation for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail among thousands of people.

We installed a new shed at Brill along the Tuscobia Segment to house a 60-inch Cub Cadet zero-turn mower. Both the mower and shed have been made available by generous donations from Mary Hilfiker.

- Bob Held



Dale Crisler and Chapter Coordinator, Bob Held, show off the new mower shed along Tuscobia Segment. Photo by Don Erickson.



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

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

The Trail Layout and Design Reconnect event was held in the Blue Hills Chapter region in May. Over four days, 18 volunteers and three Ice Age Trail Alliance staff members hiked through the area, exploring potential trail routes. They worked to refine corridor options highlighting glacial features. This event further narrowed down options identified during a previous 2020 Trail Layout and Design event.

Due to the pandemic, we had more hikers out on the Ice Age Trail. Our Chapter Coordinator, Fred Nash, provided a greater than usual number of shuttles. Keeping up with our routine activities, volunteers assessed trail segments and conducted trail maintenance. We expect to conduct regular trail maintenance during the summer. Also, Chapter members participated in virtual and email meetings.



First female, winter thru-hiker, Emily Ford, and her dog, Diggins, take a moment's rest as they make their way through the Blue Hills region. Photo by Fred Nash.

In February, Chapter Coordinator, Fred Nash, happened to see thru-hiker, Emily Ford, at a junction of the Trail and a road. She indicated that water would be helpful. Happy to help, Fred and Marilyn Nash positioned a sealed gallon of water on the trail for her. Emily found the water and even photographed her dog, Diggins, as he inspected it.

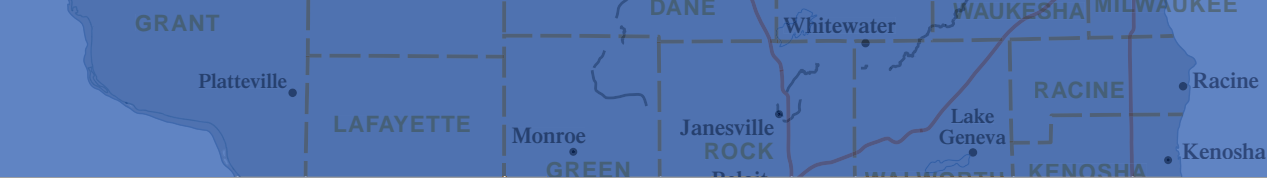
- Marilyn Nash



CHIPPEWA MORAINES CHAPTER

Coordinator: Vicki Christianson
(ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org)

We are in the process of getting new, official trailhead signs for each of our segments! Richard Erickson, the tech teacher at Cornell High School and member of our Trail Community committee, is partnering with our Chapter to create the signs. His students will be routing the lettering. These signs, which will identify the Ice Age Trail and the segment name, will be posted with the trail designations by late May.



(Above) Two students from the Cornell High School tech program pose with the new signage they routed for the Chippewa Moraine Chapter. Photo by Vicki Christianson. (Left) John Stupak installing a series of rock steps on a steep hillside trail by Picnic Lake on the Harwood Lakes Segment. Photo by Vicki Christianson.



Trail maintenance has begun. In April, the Harwood Lakes and the Chippewa Moraine Segments were given a spring cleaning ahead of the annual "Adventure North" 50K race based out of the David R. Obey Ice Age Inter-

pretive Center. From April to October, we will have a trail improvement day one Saturday each month.

In 2020, there were detours on Picnic Lake (Harwood Lakes Segment) and Horseshoe Lake (Chippewa Moraine Segment) due to flooding of these kettle lakes. The detour on Picnic Lake has been officially upgraded to yellow blaze status, and there is a new route for the Trail on the east and south sides of Picnic Lake. On Horseshoe Lake, the submerged boardwalk is being removed, and a new route for the Trail – to replace the detour – is in the planning stages.

We held a First-Sunday-of-the-month Hike on May 2, and a May Flower Hike on May 5 for the Natural Resources Foundation on the Chippewa River Segment. We got to enjoy peak spring blooms for both of these events.

- Vicki Christianson



HIGH POINT CHAPTER

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

The High Point Chapter had a notable Valentine's Day this year. Lee Clendenning drove out to the Wood Lake Segment at the eastern-most border of our Chapter's region in 30-below temperatures

to extend a seasonally apt invitation to thru-hiker, Emily Ford. He tacked up a note offering the ambitious, first female winter thru-hiker a place to stay. Thankfully, Ford found the invitation. A few days later, she and her dog, Diggins, spent the night indoors catching up on laundry and calories. We are proud we were able to support them on their journey.

We recently made progress towards acquiring a critical easement along the Rib Lake Segment. This acquisition is part of ongoing efforts to eliminate a road walk, which is on pace for completion in the next few years.

One of our summer projects is rebuilding a bridge on the Jerry Lake Segment. A volunteer group of 25 will work from July 7-10 to rebuild the bridge.

- Lee "Butch" Clendenning



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

Coordinator: Ruby Jaacks
(715-551-1118, brjaacks@outlook.com)



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

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

After a long winter in Marathon County, the wildflowers and ramps have begun to decorate the forest floor. Birds are celebrating in the treetops, and chapter members and friends county-wide got back out on the Ice Age Trail. Maintaining, improving, and exploring are the new buzzwords here. Several projects have been tackled and completed already, and more trail improvement days have been planned. Already this year, many cars are filling trailhead parking lots around the county.

The biggest excitement around here is the two Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) projects planned for August and October on the Ringle Segment. Phase Three in August picks up where we left off last fall, and the October project will be the final push to complete the nearly 7-mile reinvigorated segment, opening up fresh new landscapes for hikers to explore. Coupled with the opening of the "New" Ringle Segment will be a new name for the segment, better suited to its history, geography, and location. What will it be? Stay tuned!

Also, in the works is a new hiker patch for deserving hikers who complete the entire Ice Age Trail in Marathon county. Wow! So much excitement and anticipation in our Chapter this year!

- Patty Mishkar



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

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CHAPTER highlights *continued*



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

On January 9, 2021, the Waushara County Chapter received news that its good friend and member, Arno

Wilke, had passed away. Arno served as an at-large board member and a dedicated volunteer, always ready to lend a helping hand whether trail work, serving his favorite coffee at an event, or shuttling hikers. Arno's wishes are to have memorials in his memory sent to the Chapter to support the Ice Age Trail segments in Waushara county. Arno will forever be remembered as a true "Trail Angel"!

This year, February's annual Candlelight Sweetheart Hike – COVID Style was created! We invited the community to hike, cross-country ski, or snowshoe Waushara's unique landscape on its Ice Age Trail segments. We decorated the trailheads at Bohn Lake, Mecan, and Greenwood Segments with luminaries. We didn't leave out our signature rustic-themed fundraiser, either! From Friday through Sunday, we hosted an online silent auction that took place in the comfort of our attendee's homes. We had a unique lineup of items ranging from rustic getaways to one-of-a-kind, craftsmanship and more. We raised an outstanding \$1,918.00! The proceeds will go towards maintaining and supporting the Trail in the county. We thank our dedicated volunteers and generous donors for making this event possible!

The Walk-the-Waush Challenge is back! The Chapter collaborates with the Waushara County Health and Parks Departments to bring this fun, family-friendly summer challenge to the community. Our goal is to encourage and inspire everyone to walk, hike, and roll as many miles as possible, utilizing 13 designated trails and parks in beautiful Waushara County. The challenge takes place beginning Memorial Day, May 31, through Labor Day, September 6. It is free and open to all ages and abilities. Activities include prize giveaways, treasure hunts, photo contests, and more! You can register now at the Walk-the-Waush Challenge 2021 Facebook page and find out more details.

- 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)

The Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter started the year off strong with our annual meeting at the end of January. We successfully held this year's meeting virtually. We re-elected our current Chapter Coordinator, Debby Capener, and Treasurer, Pat Theis. We discussed conducting training on trail/tread maintenance to address wet areas of the segments we host. An additional virtual meeting was held with Dave Caliebe, Ice Age Trail Alliance Trail Program Manager, to discuss local projects. Our first training is scheduled for June 10.

We conducted several re-routes of the Ice Age Trail through the City of Portage as construction and canal dredging has started. We anticipate more re-routes will be needed in the future as these projects continue. Please consult the website for updates before hiking through this historic town.

We continue to upgrade and refresh signage throughout our region.

This year promises to be busy with volunteer activities and Trail usage. Regular trail maintenance days are scheduled throughout the summer. And, hikers seem to be out in force! Already, our wonderful Trail Angels have supported hikers with several shuttle trips.

See you on the trail!

- Debby Capener



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

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



Several volunteers and IATA Trails Program Manager, Dave Caliebe (far right), spread out as they make their way across the snowy field, planting seeds during the Montrose Prairie planting event. Photo by David Lonsdorf.



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Dane County Chapter stayed occupied this winter with projects to burn brush at several sites. Along the Springfield Hill Segment, Jim Parry led efforts to clear several acres in advance of an extensive prairie planting, and dozens of walnut trees were removed for sale. At the Mammoth's Back Preserve, Gary Werner and Tom Wise were in charge of brush removal from this magnificently preserved bluff prairie that offers outstanding views in all directions. And along the Lodi Marsh Segment, Jon Bishop organized clearing and woods restoration around "Dave's View."



The restoration crew went from winter right into “prescribed burn season” and made up for a year missed due to COVID by performing more than a dozen successful burns on Ice Age Trail Alliance-owned properties and County Park lands along the Trail. These burns will greatly help restore prairies, oak savannas, and oak woodlands and eliminate woody invasive species such as honeysuckle and buckthorn.

Not to be outdone, our trail crew built a small new trail section at Halfway Prairie (Indian Lake Segment) over several days in April. Efforts there were led by Ed Spoon and Chapter Co-Coordinator, Bob Kaspar. This summer, we are planning for several trail building projects, including three boardwalks, and about a mile of new trail near the Cross Plains Reserve along the Cross Plains Segment.

Finally, IATA Trails Program Manager, Dave Caliebe, joined us to plant a strip of new prairie along the Ice Age Trail in Montrose on March 7. It was his first prairie planting!

- David Lonsdorf



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

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

Despite not getting onto the Ice Age Trail until April, the Rock County Chapter had a great start to 2021.

We started with workdays to clear Trail segments and focus on new projects. We were able to clear the Storrs Lake Wildlife Area just off of Bowers Lake Road and the Milton to Janesville rail-to-trail.

Over the last year, the water table in Rock County dropped low enough that the east side of Bowers Lake is open and passable again. This section has been flooded since 2018. We are working with the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the National Park Service (NPS) on an 800-foot boardwalk to ensure this section can remain open in the future should flooding reoccur.

Several members of our Rock County Chapter were recognized at the IATA Annual Membership Meeting and Conference in April. Tim Weege and Lee Taylor received the “In the Mud” award. They were nominated by fellow Chapter members for their outstanding work on the Trail. Dennis James received his 4,000 Hour acknowledgement from the NPS, and his ten-year volunteer pin from the Alliance. Dennis was also awarded the ‘Parks Volunteer of the Year for 2021’ by the City of Janesville.



One of five loads of litter that filled this pickup to the brim, collected during the May Day Trail Cleanup. Photo by Dennis James.

On May 1, we coordinated a May Day Trail Cleanup with the Facebook Group ‘Rock County Clean’, and the Janesville Sustainability Committee. The turnout was beyond anyone’s expectations. Over 50 volunteers arrived at Palmer Park in Janesville at 9 AM and were deployed along the Ice Age Trail in Janesville, and to other multiuse trails and parks. All 11 miles of the Janesville Segment, the Peace Trail, and Monterey and Palmer Parks were cleaned. Thanks to the hard work of participants, we removed 5 pickups worth of trash from these areas. This will become an annual event.

- Dennis James



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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

As the march toward post-COVID normalcy continues, the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter has looked forward with hope. We planned the Chapter’s activity calendar for the year ahead as well as could be predicted. Starting things off strong, we welcomed the new year with our annual New Year’s Day Hike at a local nature preserve near Geneva Lake. With dozens of socially-distanced, mostly non-Chapter participants in attendance, we concluded a successful start to the year with a



Hikers trek through the snow on a New Year’s Day hike at the Kishwaukee Nature Preserve, Williams Bay, WI. Photo by Andrew Whitney.

post-hike champagne toast around a campfire. Continuing to stay active with hikes, we held a moonlight hike on frozen Whitewater Lake near the end of February. We trekked through the somewhat slushy (but not too deep) snow cover. And in April, another moonlight hike at the Town of Linn Nature Preserve took place. The “Weekly Walks” program, a very successful outreach initiative started many years back by past Chapter Coordinator, Russ Helwig, continued this year without missing a step.

Monthly meetings have been held via Zoom, during which we elected the year’s slate of Chapter officers. We even continued the tradition of having speakers of interest join our meetings, including Dan Watson of

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CHAPTER highlights *continued*

the National Park Service and Chapter Secretary Eileen Harris. Monthly trail maintenance workdays have also carried on, with Gary Hitchcock continuing his role as coordinator of the Trail Adopters, while also now serving as Co-coordinator for Chapter.

As conditions improve, we are excited at the prospect of having a busy and interactive summer!

- Vince Lazzaroni



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



Volunteers gathered garlic mustard and buckthorn, and cleared a deadfall during a workday on the Hartland Marsh Loop. Photo by Pat Witkowski.

Despite pandemic-imposed limits, persistence pays off at improving the Ice Age Trail in Waukesha County. Our Waterville Segment was the focus of a Reconnect Trailbuilding event in April to replace bridges and boardwalks. Preparation involved clearing invasives, bringing in new lumber, and constructing foundations. Over three workdays, encouraged by spring sunshine and undeterred by occasional snow squalls, 31 volunteers removed old structures and installed 450 feet of new boardwalk and three new bridges. All this progress in our 'Close the Waterville Gap' campaign benefitted from support from Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust, for which we're grateful. This coming fall, a half-mile of new trail will help move the route away from a busy road, and another boardwalk will be replaced.

On May 1, nearly 30 volunteers gathered at the Hartland Marsh Loop along the Hartland Segment. They divided their maintenance labors among three crews. A great many bags

of garlic mustard were gathered by one crew, a wide swath of buckthorn around some grand oaks were cleared by a second crew, and an intrusive deadfall was chain-sawed by a sawyer crew.

The trail maintenance work of our volunteers is an encouraging sign of a return to normalcy in our Chapter. Another is the return of our Chapter's Tyke Hikes, led by Peter Dargatz. This summer, these weekly hikes will alternate between mornings and early evenings, meeting along different segments highlighted in our Walk the Wauk program, to hike out and back with some play and exploration along the way.

- Robert Root



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



LAKESHORE CHAPTER

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

An unusually warm spring greeted us this year, and our Chapter volunteers jumped at the opportunity to get an early start at spring clearing on the Ice Age Trail. That is, until the snow returned on April 21!

Volunteers have been working on the Trail to remove plastic blazes from trail posts and replace them with painted blazes. They have also been installing 4x4 posts with direction arrows in the Kettle Moraine. This work will help to clarify the Ice Age Trail route in areas where "volunteer" trails have developed from recent heavy traffic on the Trail.

In addition to trail work, we have also been keeping busy with building benches. Our master bench builder, Ken Schoenike, along with Bruce Berres and John Elliot, recently built a couple of cedar benches. One was donated for the Silent Auction at the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in April. The other is now in place for hikers to enjoy at the dispersed camping area near Tisch Mills Creek at Weber's Woods, along the Tisch Mills Segment.

Finally, we are overjoyed that the City of Sturgeon Bay has recently joined the Ice Age Trail Community family. We look forward to the bonds and opportunities this partnership will create. To mark this special occasion, a celebratory hike and community designation event took place on May 29 in Door County.

- Cheryl Gorsuch



A new boardwalk built during a Reconnect Trailbuilding event on the Waterville Segment. Photo by Sherry Ritz.

MEMBER & DONOR news

January 1st — May 12th

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:

Michael Cavey
Erik DeMaegd
Kristi Kenyon & Gary Wensing
Tess Kieselhorst
Jane & Kenneth Mount
Susan Richards
Krista Schmidt
Daniel J. & Mary F. Simon



MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts were received from:

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thanks to Darrin Wasniewski

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thanks to Amy Leschke-Kahle

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thanks to Bradley Chopp
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Raytheon Technologies

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Thermo Fisher Scientific

thanks to Allan Veler

BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

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

David & Kathy Adam
Bess & Bernard Alberg
Mike & Sally Armbrust
John & Sharon Bloodgood
Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz
Nancy Brownrigg
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Corrine, Kimberly (Lundberg
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Brook Waalen & Stephanie Lundeen
Wendy Watson
Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink
Tom & Bonnie Wise
Pauline Witte
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Jessica & Doug Woodward
Anonymous (15)

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

Tim Andrews

by Kayla Goranson

Caroline Failon

by Brian & Kim Failon

Dick Haas's 90th Birthday

by Mr. & Mrs. Neil Voskuil

Peggy Hager

by Laurie Frost & Jeff Henriques

Susan Jensen

by Friends at CHM & HMI

Donna Pederson

by James Pederson

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

Amy Aguado

by Amy & Eric Lord

Chet Anderson

by Brad Crary & Sharon Dziengel
Gail Piotrowski

Sharon Bloodgood

by Brad Crary & Sharon Dziengel
Mary Lonien

Larry Bogenschutz

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Robert S. Connors

by Richard Dickinson

Tom Drought

by Ellen Drought
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MEMBER & DONOR news *continued*

MILESTONES

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January 1st — May 12th

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Spirit Stick Won't Soon Forget 2020-2021 *continued from page 4*

Spirit Stick saw many people of good heart joining together to take on the cause of helping the afflicted, resisting the spread of the great plague, and protecting each other. Still, it troubled Stick that not all people shared these gifts. It saddened Stick to see the suffering from the plague amplified by the unknowing and unwilling.

As Stick looked about the forest and the yellow-marked trail that wound through it, Stick could see the fruit of that spirit that could bring people together to build, honor, and love that trail. Stick knew it was possible.

Spirit Stick watched with hesitation at first, and then joy, at how — as time and season progressed — people began to emerge from their isolation into the arboreal realm and discover the yellow-marked trail. Stick thrilled as the numbers of people who found release from the plague on the path grew by the day.

Stick watched as the keepers of the trail invented new ways to work apart-together to keep it in good order and, in so doing, restored joy to their own good hearts.

As the plague began to show signs of weakening, people began to imagine returning to their past ways. Spirit Stick worried that, in their eagerness, people would return too soon, and in so doing, cause a resurgence of the plague. Stick cautioned that when the big ice left, life did not return as before; big events leave footprints for many generations, much as the landscape continues to spring back from the glacier's great weight to this day.

Stick is confident that those of good heart who love and tend the yellow-marked trail will take the lessons of the plague into their good hearts and return to banding together in joy and purpose to nurture and enjoy the path, in the spirit of offering a common gift to all.

And it pleases Stick to know how many people have newly discovered the timeless balm of just being on the trail.

Spirit Stick now readies to meet a new guardian, eagerly awaiting rebirth among the people of good heart who enjoy, love and tend the great path through the forest.

Big Habitat: The Why of Alliance Preserves *continued from page 9*

Preserves already are an essential oasis in a landscape fractured by development. As the climate continues to change, these large parcels of land will more readily act as buffers for extreme events or natural disasters. Large areas of healthy natural space will be crucial for groundwater recharge and filtration, stormwater retention, soil conservation, and drought tolerance. Suppose flooding or a fire eliminates a plant or insect from one part of the property. In that case, the surrounding area can reintroduce a population back into the injured site.

A significant benefit of the Alliance, as a land trust, is our ability to conserve large tracts of land. By protecting acreage with high species diversity and healthy populations, the land can adjust to climate changes with less risk of becoming imbalanced and unhealthy. Conservation and restoration of native habitat have been a focal point with our biggest preserves: Swamplovers Preserve in Dane County, Rusch and Marimor Preserves in Taylor County, Hartland Marsh Preserve in Waukesha County, and Brownrigg-Heier Preserve in Manitowoc County. With the

help of generous, conservation-minded landowners, we've been able to support such environmental stewardship.

Landowners have been and will continue to be key to our success protecting habitat. Each time we acquire property for a preserve, we contribute to the biodiversity of Wisconsin's landscape and species protection as the climate changes. If you are a landowner who would like to see your land protected and managed for wildlife and future generations of people to enjoy, you will want to find a land trust. If your land is located on the route of the Ice Age Trail, you may contact Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation, (608-798-4453, ext. 224, or kevin@iceagetrail.org). Learn how to alleviate the tax burden and permanently protect the conservation or hunting land you enjoy.

Financial contributions are also critical in protecting and managing Wisconsin lands, for habitat and the Ice Age Trail. For more information on how you can support our conservation efforts, visit iceagetrail.org/donate or contact Luke Kloberdanz, Director of Philanthropy, (608-798-4453, ext. 226, or luke@iceagetrail.org).



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Years of Service Awards

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

10 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Shirley Allison, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
David & Jeannie Georgson, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Ann Green & Barbara H. Johnson, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Joe Hebda, High Point Chapter
Jennifer Hellenbrand, Lodi Valley Chapter
Dennis James, Rock County Chapter
Louis Laffin, Trailwide
Donna & Marty Melchior, Lodi Valley Chapter
Colleen & Jan Mink, Marquette County Chapter
Tess Mulrooney, Dane County Chapter
James O'Neill, Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter
Judy Rose, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter
Yoshiro Saimi, Dane County Chapter
Don Smalley, Trailwide
Sandy Street, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Albert Sulzer, Dane County Chapter
Becky White, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Andrew Whitney, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter
Marjorie Wilhelm, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Jessica & Doug Woodward, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

20 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Cheryl Gorsuch, Lakeshore Chapter
Kris Jensen, Waukesha/Milwaukee County
A.J. McCaskey, Waushara County
Laura Sandstrom, Superior Lobe Chapter
Ann Vogl, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
Brook Waalen, Indianhead Chapter

30 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Michael & Yvonne Fort, Waukesha/Milwaukee County
Tom Gross, Dane County

40 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Darrel Ruechel, Portage/Waupaca County