

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S** report



## MIKE WOLLMER Executive Director

#### **OUR PARTNERS**















### New Faces...

Today, I'm reflecting on the abundance of new faces across the Ice Age Trail and the Alliance, as evidenced at our 2022 Annual Conference in Stevens Point. Of the 450+ attendees, almost 40% were first-time attendees – a direct reflection of the Alliance's growth in membership since 2020.

At the Saturday evening Awards Ceremony, recent Thousand-Milers packed the front of the stage. Of the 81 members of this exclusive group, the vast majority were new faces! Then again, excitingly, new faces gathered during the Youth Summit. It was great to see these young folks' interest in the Ice Age Trail. They bring tremendous value; they will be among those who sustain the Alliance's mission and those of other conservation-focused organizations through their future career choices.

Stop by our office, and you'll see more new faces. We currently employ our largest staff ever. Between full-time, part-time, seasonal, and interns, we now have 22 people on staff. Of them, six employees joined our team this year alone. The energy and commitment of these folks are keeping all of us on top of our game!

In early 2020, the UW-Whitewater's Fiscal and Economic Research Center (FERC) released a report indicating the Ice Age Trail enjoyed 2.3 million visitors annually. But, as people flocked to the Trail in record numbers during the pandemic – new faces indeed! – it became clear this number was outdated. So, in recognition of the Trail's newfound popularity, we're working with FERC to provide a new study reflecting the Trail's remarkable surge in popularity.

Finally, as many of you may know by now, a new face will occupy my office in January 2023. I'm confident my successor will thrive. Great opportunity and plenty of new faces will continue to shape the Alliance's future.





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SUMMER 2022

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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: The Trail ambles through shady woods along the Valley View Segment. It's a perfect spot to explore during summer's sweltering days. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

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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## **AWARDS** spotlight

## **Spirit Stick Award**

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's Spirit Stick symbolizes 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 person each year.

The recipient of this year's Spirit Stick award is **Debbie Krogwold**, a resident of Amherst Junction and Chapter Coordinator for the Portage/Waupaca County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

Krogwold has volunteered with the Waupaca County Chapter (now the Portage/Waupaca chapter) since 1996. She has participated in Trail maintenance and Trail event promotion, in addition to being Chapter Coordinator. She's also helped maintain good neighbor relationships with property owners.

Krogwold is known for efficiently communicating organization-wide information and supporting Alliance initiatives, especially the large MSC work events that take place across the state. In addition, she answers calls from hikers looking for assistance, helping them coordinate with local Trail Angels or driving them herself.

"Debbie inspires through her passion for the Trail as shown by her hours of volunteer service in every aspect including trail maintenance, trail promotion and administration as chapter coordinator," says Mike Wollmer, Executive Director/CEO of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "The Ice Age Trail has become embedded in her and her husband's way of life. She is an ideal ambassador of the Trail and the Alliance on all levels."

In her nomination of Krogwold, long-time volunteer Sharon Dziengel said "Debbie embodies the spirit of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail through her welcoming enthusiasm and warmth to all involved. These qualities and her commitment to the Ice Age Trail Alliance have contributed to her successful leadership."

Learn more about Debbie Krogwold in the **Volunteer Spotlight** on page 22.



Debbie Krogwold, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter Coordinator, proudly displays the Spirit Stick, which will accompany her to Trail-related events all year. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

## **Henry S. Reuss Award**

Baraboo •

The award is named in honor of the late U.S. Congressman who was instrumental in securing the Ice Age Trail's status as a National Scenic Trail. It is given to an individual whose work through government channels at multiple levels has made a significant impact on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The award emphasizes the recipient's ability to move influential parties to take an active role in the Alliance's mission, which is to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Trail.

For the first time in nearly two decades, the Ice Age Trail Alliance bestowed the prestigious Henry S. Reuss Award. This year's recipient is state representative **Amy Loudenbeck** (R-Clinton).

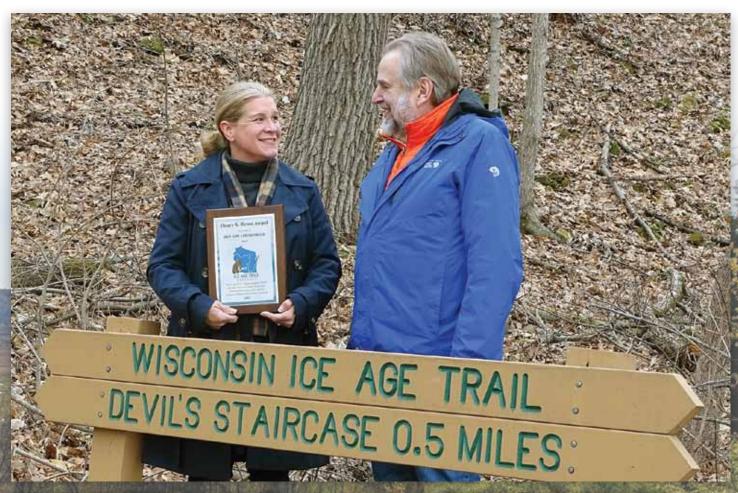
"Representative Loudenbeck has been a staunch supporter of the Ice Age Trail and the Alliance," says Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "As a result, she's championed the primary source for funding land protection of the Trail: the State's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program."

As a member of the Joint Finance Committee for the past four budgets, Rep. Loudenbeck has made it a priority to keep the Stewardship Program in place and authored a plan to help reduce borrowing while maintaining current funding levels.

Rep. Loudenbeck and her staff worked with and communicated with stakeholders regularly to share information about the unique assets and intricacies of how various programs work to safeguard priorities like the Ice Age Trail.

"She's willing to fight for the Trail in the legislature and protect Wisconsin's important landscapes," says Thusius.

"I've had a great relationship with the Ice Age Trail Alliance and I'm honored to receive this prestigious award," says Loudenbeck. "I appreciate the Alliance's dedication to the Ice Age Trail. Their work has a positive impact across Wisconsin and their pro-active support and advocacy were incredibly helpful to ensuring a successful reauthorization of the Stewardship Program."



Ice Age Trail Alliance Executive Director, Mike Wollmer, recognizes the contributions of Amy Loudenbeck, Wisconsin Representative (R-Clinton), to land protection efforts on behalf of the Ice Age Trail. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

# AWARDS spotlight continued

### Trail Steward of the Year Award

The Trail Steward of the Year recognizes a volunteer whose work contributes in an extraordinary manner to Trail management and development, including planning, layout and design, construction, maintenance, or stewardship work. It is awarded to one recipient each year.

Gerald "Jerry" Pfeifer, a Trailwide member and resident of Mt. Horeb, was named Trail Steward of the Year.

Pfeifer, who has volunteered with the Ice Age Trail Alliance since 2012, has a long history of leading crews at large-scale MSC trailbuilding events, says Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

"In 2021, Jerry led crews that constructed more than 900 feet of boardwalk across the state," says Caliebe. "Additionally, he became a trusted leader to not just lead a boardwalk crew, but to oversee multiple crews, thinking ahead and keeping the project on schedule."

When more experience is needed at a project, Caliebe says Pfeifer will change his plans to attend.

In addition to working on large-scale projects, Pfeifer mows the Montrose Segment of the Ice Age Trail, helps out at workdays hosted by the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and regularly organizes tool trailers – coming up with better ideas for storing equipment.

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

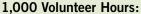


Caliebe, Ice Age Trail Alliance Trail Manager, smile for the camera. Photo by Cameron Gillie. 6 MAMMOTH tales | Summer 2022

#### **Volunteers in Parks (VIP)**

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

In 2021, **1,354** volunteers provided **63,284** hours of service, totaling **\$1,806,129** in private sector value. And, at this year's NPS VIP awards ceremony, **110 volunteers** were recognized for passing various volunteer-hours mileposts.



Patty Dreier, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter Jerry Krause, Central Moraines Chapter (Marathon County) James Luebke, Dane County Chapter Patty Mishkar, Central Moraines Chapter (Marathon County) Michael Pelech, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter David Van Thiel, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter Gary Wensing, Dane County Chapter

#### 3,000 Volunteer Hours:

Nanette Del Monaco, Indianhead Chapter (Polk/Burnett County) Richard Haas, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter John Helling, Indianhead Chapter (Polk/Burnett County) Barbara Johnson, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter Debbie Krogwold, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter Melanie Lord, Dane County Chapter

#### 4.000 Volunteer Hours:

Wanda Brown, Indianhead Chapter (Polk/Burnett County) Ruby Jaecks, Northwoods Chapter (Lincoln County) Bob Kaspar, Dane County Chapter John Kolbe, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter Fred Nash, Blue Hills Chapter (Rusk County) Jim Parry, Dane County Andrew Whitney, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter

#### 6,000 Volunteer Hours

Bob Funk, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

#### 10,000 Volunteer Hours:

Dave Lonsdorf, Dane County Chapter Gary Werner, Dane County Chapter Pat Witkowski, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter



Pat Witkowski, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter member was recognized for her 10,000 hours of volunteer service on behalf of the Ice Age Trail. She is flanked by Eric Gabriel (left), NPS Superintendent and Dan Watson (right), NPS Volunteer Coordinator. Not pictured: Dane County Chapter members, Gary Werner and Dave Lonsdorf. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

## **Thousand-Miler Recognition**

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 connecting routes.

The following individuals completed their hikes before April 1, 2022 and officially joined the ranks of Ice Age Trail Thousand-Milers:

Russell Albee, Brookfield Thomas Albee, Brookfield Scott Allen. Milwaukee Michele Amacker, Madison James Anello, Shorewood Michael "Uncle Vortex" Bankhead, Madison Pam "Fair Haired Lady" Bowe, Chippewa Falls Randy Brinkmann, Waukesha Dustin Brockway, Wauwatosa Wanda "Flicker" Brown, St. Croix Falls Martin "Trunks" Burnett, Jackson, Mich. Mary "Glacier Tracer" Cieslewicz, Menomonee Falls Ari Clouse, Chicago, III. Gail "Pointer Sister-Gail" Colrud, Stevens Point Sue Cook, Madison Bruce "Elusive Critter" Davis, Madison James Deich, Eau Claire Lisa DeLanev. West Bend Yolanda "Squatter" DeLoach, Wausau Dan Dorrough, Canandaigua, N.Y. Ruth Dorrough, Canandaigua, N.Y. Hannah "LASIK" Francis, Madison Jeffrey "Chasing Yellow Blazes" Frazer, Dalton Tina "Java" Ghislain, Twin Lakes Cameron Gillie, Madison Brianna Grace, Jackson, Miss.

Sue "It's in my car" Greenway, Cumberland Kathy Hanson, Stone Lake Diane Nelson Harp. Chippewa Falls Meg Haserodt, Brodhead Margaret Hess, Woodstock, III. Laura "Energizer Bunny in Human Form" Hinesh, DeForest Andrea Hippe, Eland Fenton Hippe, Eland Matthew Hippe, Eland Silas "Maps!" Hippe, Eland Helen Hogan, Wales Teresa Jolivette, Eau Claire Wendy "Crockpot" Kelley, West Allis Mary Kempf, Kewaskum Tess Kieselhorst, New Lisbon Claire Kopetsky, Madison Ellen Kreger, Onalaska Richard "Skittles" Larson, Webster Lynn "Pointer Sister-Lynn" Larson, Plover Tina "Tumbelina" Liebetrau. Janesville Jazmin "Slug Queen" Martens, West Allis Diana Matthews, Nashotah Patty "Boardwalk Bette" McCormick, De Pere Kathy "K2" Mehls, Chippewa Falls Erik Melberg, Waukesha Lori Mertens-Pellitteri, Madison Fred "Chief" Nash, Weyerhaeuser Marilynn "TwoN" Nash, Weyerhaeuser

Mary "Spark / Plug" Nennig, Wisconsin Rapids Andrew "Master Navigator" Nowak, Thorp Andrea "Stormy" Odrzywolski, Wauwatosa Janine Onsager, Oregon Jeff Pepp, Wisconsin Rapids Lois Pestka-Wruck, Hatley Erin Pikus, Green Bay Therese "Spark/Plug" Riedel. Wisconsin Rapids Kathy "K1" Robinson, Eau Claire Lisa Ruesch, Hartford Tim "Just Tim" Rutter. Janesville Carol "Estatoee" Sandberg, Durand Don Saunders, Edgerton Laura Schneider. Waunakee Jen "Chica" Beck Seymour, Franklin, N.C. Greg "Sunsets" Seymour, Franklin, N.C. Mary Smaby, Wild Rose Mike Smaby, Wild Rose Lucas Smith, Cincinnati, Ohio Serena Stipek, Cadott Christy Sullivan, Madison Kris "Hair Tie" Van Handel, Madison Linda Vanderloop, Menomonie Douglas Walder, Oak Park, III. Christopher White, Green Bay Jared "Scooter" Wildenradt, Madison

A robust class of Thousand-Milers circle up for a photo. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



MARINETTE

### "In the Mud" Award

The "In the Mud" Award recognizes volunteers who have made outstanding contributions to the Ice Age Trail over the year. The individuals listed 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.

Ronald Becker, High Point Chapter (Lincoln County)
Russ Brown and Genie Metoyer, Waushara County Chapter
Brent Brye, Central Moraines Chapter (Marathon County)
Grant Burdick, Indianhead Chapter (Polk/Burnett County)
Jack Burton, Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter
(Sauk/Northern Columbia County)

Kathy Claude, Lakeshore Chapter (Fond du Lac – Door Counties) Susan Greenway, Superior Lobe Chapter (Barron/Washburn County)

Thomas Kasprovich, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter

Dave Keber, Rock County Chapter

Kathy Kehl, Waushara County Chapter

Mark Lindau, Blue Hills Chapter (Rusk County)

Mike Livesey, Dane County Chapter

David, Noah, and Cody Mentjes, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

Brian and Melinda Nelson, Langlade County Chapter JoAnn Parks, Chippewa Moraine Chapter (Chippewa County)

James M. Parry, Dane County Chapter

Kevin Quinn, Lakeshore Chapter (Fond du Lac – Door Counties)

Richard Roe, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter

Steve Scharenbrock, Blue Hills Chapter (Rusk County)
Shana and Steve Stangler, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter
Buddy Watford, Central Moraines Chapter (Marathon County)
Ashley Wille, Rock County Chapter
Gary Witkowski, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

Gary Witkowski, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter The Gibraltar Rock Crew, Lodi Valley Chapter (Southern Columbia County)

## Make Your 2023 Award Nominations!

Shine a light on an outstanding Ice Age Trail volunteer, partner or friend! Nominate them for a 2023 award. To get started, visit iceagetrail.org/awards-iata/

A stellar group of "In the Mud" award winners proudly display certificates recognizing their extraordinary contributions to chapter efforts. From L to R: Kathy Claude, Dave Keber, Buddy Watford, Ashley Wille, Cody, Dave, and Noah Mentjes, Gary Witkitowski, Richard Roe, Melinda and Brian Nelson. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



# LAND CONSERVATION highlights

## Welcome, Claire Finucane!

I am excited to start my journey as the Property Steward for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Growing up in the Madison area afforded me countless weekends to enjoy the Ice Age Trail. The Gibraltar Rock Segment is a favorite: I can always count on a beautiful sunset view.

I grew up on a small hobby farm where I raised chickens, goats, and a pony. Our family spent a lot of time hiking, camping, skiing, and days on Rock Lake, immersed in and enjoying Wisconsin's incredible scenery. You can still find me enjoying all four seasons: hiking, camping, swimming, hammocking, skiing, or kayaking.

My appreciation for the outdoors led me to study Environmental Sciences and Conservation Biology at UW-Madison. I learned about Wisconsin's forests, prairies, and waterways, which expanded and deepened my love for diverse ecosystems. Once I graduated, I searched for jobs that would allow me to spend my time and effort conserving Wisconsin's



natural resources. I worked for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for a year in the Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services. And, now, I find myself with a fantastic opportunity ahead at the Ice Age Trail Alliance!

On my second day as Property Steward, I participated in the Habitat Management event along the Gibraltar Rock Segment, allowing me to meet and chat with many Alliance volunteers. Together, we worked to remove cedar trees from the slopes of the Steenbock Preserve and restore the former prairie's glory. It was immensely satisfying to watch the landscape change as the day progressed.

After meeting so many hardworking people who care about the Ice Age Trail, and conservation in Wisconsin, I feel optimistic

about what is to come. I look forward to meeting more volunteers and friends of the Ice Age Trail while working as the new Property Steward.

Claire got out into the field on her second day! As the ink was drying on her onboarding paper work, she was out at the Habitat Management event at Steenbock Preserve, breaking in her hand saw and meeting volunteers. Photo by Justine Kapitzke.



### Pollinators Benefit from a Restored and Enhanced Trail Corridor

MIKE ENGEL, PRIVATE LANDS BIOLOGIST, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail connects us to nature, where we can restore and enhance our minds and bodies. But the Trail is not just for people. It is home to countless plants, animals, and insects. It provides habitat and corridors connecting diverse ecosystems, as it winds through the state.

On your next hike, take a moment to appreciate buzzing bumblebees and colorful butterflies flitting about a blooming prairie. Not only are they fascinating and beautiful creatures, but they pollinate most of our flowers, including the foods we eat. Jeff Trandahl, Executive Director and CEO of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) says, "Monarch butterflies and other pollinators are essential to keeping our natural ecosystems productive and our agricultural lands thriving." So, appropriately, the NFWF recently awarded the Ice Age Trail Alliance a grant to improve pollinator habitat.

The Alliance is joined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dane County Parks, Dane County Land and Water Resource Department, Groundswell Conservancy, Riverland Conservancy, and Madison Audubon Society. Together these partners will enhance 1,800 acres of land and create 900 acres of new habitat on property already open for public recreation.

Grant activities include collecting seeds from native prairie plants, converting former agricultural land to prairie, and enhancing existing prairies by planting a broader array of native species benefitting diverse insect populations. For example:

- Karner blue butterflies will enjoy plentiful lupine.
- There will be more grassland available for the endangered rusty patch bumblebee.
- A half a million new milkweed stems will support Monarch butterflies.

The Alliance will restore and enhance 170 acres at SwampLovers and Holmes Preserves, both along the Table Bluff Segment. Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation, says, "We're excited by the focus of this grant funding. It supports and elevates our ongoing efforts to enhance and diversify habitat within two Alliance-owned preserves situated in the heart of Monarch breeding territory – Dane County."

Additional Ice Age Trail segments will benefit from restoration and enhancement efforts on Dane County Parks land at Prairie Moraine, Badger Prairie, Ice Age Junction, Indian Lake, Halfway Prairie, Liebetrau Prairie, and Springfield Hill. In addition, Riverland Conservancy will enhance its trail corridor with better habitat in Sauk County. Madison Audubon, a founding member of the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative and other partners are dedicated to collecting over 230 pounds of milkweed seeds over the two-year grant period. Grant project partners will use these seeds in their own habitat improvement efforts.

This project is 1 of 11 funded by the NFWF which partnered with Bayer Crop Science to secure private funds to fund this project.



A Monarch butterfly sips nectar from a New England aster, an important source of sustenance before its fall migration to Mexico. Photo by Greg Thompson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



The life cycle of the endangered Karner blue butterfly depends on the wild blue lupine flower. Photo courtesy of Mike Engel.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

NFWF works with the public and private sectors to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker, funding more than 19,700 projects and generating a total conservation impact of \$6.8 billion. Learn more at **nfwf.org.** 



A field of lupine found along the Emmons Creek Segment of the Ice Age Trail. Photo courtesy of Mike Engel.

# LAND CONSERVATION highlights .....

## On the Path to Trail Protection

BECKY WADLEIGH, ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE LIAISON WITH NORTH CENTRAL CONSERVANCY TRUST

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail's development has been a multigenerational, decades-long pursuit for the Krogwold Family. In the late 1980s, Wendell Krogwold, a fourth-generation farmer and avid outdoor recreator, invited the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation (now the Ice Age Trail Alliance) to create three-quarters of a milelong walking trail through his property. Then, decades later, in 2021, his son, Wayne, and Wayne's wife, Debbie, took his vision a couple of steps further. They worked with the Alliance to protect the land hosting this length of Ice Age Trail, ensuring its place within this rolling, glacial landscape for future generations.

During the 1980s and '90s, the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation and its partners began hosting Ice Age Trail corridor planning meetings for area landowners. Since the Krogwold property was located along the proposed corridor for Portage County, Wendell attended them to learn more about the Ice Age Trail concept and what it would take to become a Trail host. He then worked with volunteers from the Portage County Chapter to establish a section of Ice Age Trail through his property with a handshake agreement - a non-binding, non-contract, trust-based arrangement.

Wendell has always loved the outdoors and outdoor recreation. As an accomplished cross-country skier, he liked the idea of accessing the Ice Age Trail from his backyard and taking it down to the Iola Winter Sports Club for a morning ski. Wendell was also interested in helping others get outside and enjoy nature. So, he worked with his neighbors and other landowners to gain permission for the Trail to go through their properties as well.

Wayne knew from a young age he wanted to be a farmer like his father. When Debbie met Wayne, he ran the family's dairy operation and grew 800 acres of crops each year. Debbie suspects farming led Wendell and Wayne to their strong land ethic and desire to protect, conserve, and steward

what they could.

1994 was an important year for Wayne and Debbie Krogwold. A serendipitous series of line dancing lessons first brought Wayne and Debbie together. Their first date was a hike on the Dells of the Eau Claire Segment, and as Debbie puts it, the rest is history. It was also the year Debbie was first introduced to the Ice Age Trail – during the Portage/Waupaca County Hike-a-Thon – and became an active volunteer (also a lucky year for the Alliance!). As a result, Debbie has been the chapter coordinator for the Portage/Waupaca County Chapter since its inception in 2019 after serving for 15 years as the Waupaca County Chapter Coordinator. Serendipitous, indeed!

In 2020, the Krogwolds decided to sell some land, including the parcel hosting the Ice Age Trail. Their desire to keep the Trail on the

property and preserve the surrounding natural area led them to contact Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation for the Alliance. Purchasing this land fit nicely into one of the Alliance's goals: permanently protecting land for the Trail. Thusius worked with the Krogwolds to incorporate several easements into the sale of their parcel, protecting roughly 0.75 miles of Trail and more than 16 acres of land.

"From the initial contact to the final signing of papers, our experience was effortless. Kevin was great to work with, keeping us informed along the way," says Debbie of the transaction. "Any concerns we had, he promptly addressed. The Alliance met our asking price, which was comparable to other sales in the area. It is heartfelt to know this land will be available for the Trail now and into the future."

Over the years, the Krogwolds have enjoyed sharing the Trail with hikers, swapping adventure stories, and learning about other parts of the Trail across the state. They are happy to know future hikers will have an opportunity to enjoy the topography, woodlands, and solitude offered by the Trail meandering across land generations of their family valued so much. Thanks to Wayne, Debbie, and Wendell Krogwold, their commitment to protecting, creating, maintaining, and promoting the Ice Age Trail will be part of a lasting legacy.

Since 1986, the creation of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail has resulted in the permanent protection of more than 20,000 acres of land in Wisconsin. Yet, more than 500 miles of gaps exist between trail sections, requiring an estimated 1,000 land transactions to fill. The generosity and partnership of landowners and the hard work of volunteers are crucial to the continued creation and enjoyment of the Ice Age Trail.



Local landowners (L - R), Wendell Krogwold, Ed Seefeldt, and Lowell Klessig meet to discuss details related to hosting the Ice Age Trail. Photo courtesy of Debbie and Wayne Krogwold.



### A Handshake Agreement Becomes **Permanently Protected Property**

The purchase of 10-acres and a 6-acre easement from the Krogwold family exemplifies a long-standing goal of the Alliance: turn handshake agreements into permanently protected property. The easement highlights the Krogwold's dedication to maintaining the Ice Age Trail's presence in Portage County, solidifies the route of the New Hope-Iola Ski Hill Segment, and protects .75 mile of Trail. It allows for improvements along the segment, including vegetative restoration, reroutes, and new Trail structures to improve the hiker experience.

Wayne and Debbie Krogwold. Photo courtesy of Debbie Krogwold.



# TRAILBUILDING highlights

# Fresh Tread in a Storybook Setting

AUTHOR: ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Rib Lake Segment Taylor County May 18-22, 2022 Participants: 102 Volunteer Hours: 2,338

PROJECT PARTNERS:

AKHG by Duluth Trading Company Only In Wisconsin Giving REI Bob and Ann Rusch Taylor County Forestry Department Camp 28 Java Journey

Mann Made Pizza and Ice Cream New Vision Wilderness Therapy WiscoStone

**Silver Creek Sanitation** 

The Ice Age Trail brings all sorts of folks together, and this MSC event was no exception. First-time volunteers, New Vision Wilderness students, a pair of TikTok celebrities (you can also find them on Instagram at "thruhikers"), and a long-distance hiker passing through joined seasoned trailbuilders as they cut fresh tread on the Rib Lake Segment. This confluence of novelty and experience resulted in more than 3,000 feet of completed trail, with a generous head start on another 1,000 feet!

All told, 102 volunteers donated 2,338 hours of their time to complete this chapter in the Rib Lake chronicles. We'll be back in September to pick up where this tale left



Seasoned trailbuilder, Wendell Holl, and newbie Kelsey Fisk fine-tune the tread after constructing the stone retaining wall. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

off. In subsequent phases of the project (planned for fall 2022, spring 2023, and fall 2023) additional sections will be constructed.

"Projects like this are broken into manageable phases," says Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "Ultimately we have a 1,200-mile Trail to care for. So, we have to balance the work that must be done along it with our volunteer crew."

Once complete, this storybook setting will spill plenty of secrets about Wisconsin's Northwoods' geology, geography, and botany. The new trail will run across the top of the Perkinstown Terminal Moraine, pass several large erratics and ephemeral wetlands, and have a few stream crossings.

Its path will go through well-managed forests with white pines, hemlocks, oaks, and sugar maples. "This segment is going to be beautiful with a great Northwoods feel," says Caliebe.

This Trailbuilding project is made possible by the generous support of Bob and Ann Rusch, Taylor County residents and members of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. They provided necessary funding to complete the project.

When complete, the new 2.5-mile portion of Trail will connect to an existing 1.5-mile spur trail, which takes hikers through the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Rusch Preserve. Since it currently dead ends, the spur trail is not technically part of the Ice Age Trail. Once the two portions are connected, however, it will all be official, blazed Ice Age Trail.

The four new miles of Trail (which will become part of the Rib Lake Segment) will replace the 2.8-mile road walk that currently connects segments in Taylor county.

"We worked diligently to get permanently protected land for the Trail," says Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Protection for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "We're really happy we're able to close a gap in the Trail in Taylor county."

# **PHILANTHROPY** highlights

## In Support of Small, Locally-Owned Businesses

SARAH DRISCOLL, PHILANTHROPY COORDINATOR

When I first started segment hiking the Ice Age Trail, I wrote a list of five reasons I wanted to hike the Trail. One of my reasons included seeing more of Wisconsin and its natural areas. So far, I've been very successful. I've hiked over eskers and beaver dams; seen a porcupine and countless pileated woodpeckers; and have walked through prairies and even an Enchanted Forest.

But I've also learned the magic of the Trail extends beyond the limits of the actual footpath. As I've traveled throughout the state hiking new segments, I've stopped in at new-to-me breweries and restaurants in search of a post-hike meal. I've slept in hotels, motels, or campgrounds, and I've always found welcoming people at every stop. As it turns out, I love discovering the communities near the Trail almost as much as I love exploring the Trail itself.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's Trail Community program has long recognized the importance of the villages and cities the Trail travels near or through by developing a mutual awareness-raising relationship. In a similar vein, the Business Membership program recognizes the businesses that choose to support the Alliance's mission to protect, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age Trail.

With a donation to the Alliance, these businesses, as well as our corporate partners, receive promotion on our website and social media channels. Again, this program takes the form of a mutual awareness-raising relationship benefitting both the Alliance and its business members.

When planning your next trip to a new, or even familiar, community, consider supporting one of the Alliance's Business Members. In many instances, Business Members are small, locally-owned companies: breweries, distilleries, yoga studios, realtors, gas stations, meat markets, running stores, and wineries. Each time you by a drink, meal, service, or wares, know you are supporting and strengthening a business that has chosen to do the same for the Ice Age Trail.

Most recently, we've welcomed a variety of local supporters to the Business Member program including Wisconsin Veteran's Winery and Farm in Cornell, Stevens Point Area Co-Op, Fleet Feet in Madison, and Inland Seas Woodcraft in Milwaukee. For a full list of our Business Member's or to learn more about how to become a Business Member, visit iceagetrail.org/iata/corporate-friends.



A hand-crafted, sustainably sourced Inland Seas Woodcraft coffee table reflects the natural beauty of the Great Lakes Region. Photo courtesy of Pete Hill.



The inviting tasting room of the Wisconsin Veteran's Winery and Farm located in Cornell, an Ice Age Trail Community. Photo courtesy of WVW&F.

# **OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights**

## **Explore Our Newest Trail Communities!**

## Rib Lake: Where the Ice Age Ends, and Your Adventure Begins!

Located in northeastern Taylor County, the Village of Rib Lake rests on the rolling landscape of the Perkinstown terminal moraine, the edge of the last glacier. Rib Lake began as a lumber mill town where from the 1880s to the late 1960s it was home to one of the biggest mills in the state. Rib Lake, a 320-acre lake and the Village's namesake, provides excellent fishing thanks to the Rib Lake Fish & Game stocking efforts!

Hikers exploring the East Lake and Rib Lake segments of the Ice Age Trail are within one mile of the Village, giving them a chance to resupply or eat a meal. It's best to stock up, too! Rib Lake is the only town near the Trail for 30+ miles to the east and 40+ miles to the west.

The Village offers gas/convenience stores, groceries, taverns, restaurants, and lodging. It also boasts a coffee shop, laundromat, and camping at Lakeview Park, including restrooms and showers. Camping is also available outside of town at Wood Lake County Park, complete with a picnic shelter and swimming beach. The Park, owned and maintained by Taylor County, has a 3.6-mile interpretive loop trail identifying logging history and glacial features.



Within easy walking distance from downtown, the new pier at the edge of Rib Lake, a 320-acre body of water, provides an ideal fishing experience. Photo courtesy of the Village of Rib Lake.

For more information, please visit: **riblakewisconsin.com**. Submitted by the Village of Rib Lake

### Merrill: Enjoy the City of Parks' Natural Beauty

The City of Merrill, located along the scenic Wisconsin River at its confluence with the Prairie River, boasts 16 parks and more than 1,300 acres of parkland. Merrill proudly offers a small, family-friendly community with an outstanding quality of life: small-town charm, career opportunities, excellent schools, and fantastic four-season activities.

For hikers exploring Lincoln County's nearby Ice Age Trail segments – Averill-Kelly Creek Wilderness, Turtle Rock, Grandfather Falls, Underdown – Merrill offers plenty of lodging and dining options. Get your caffeine fix at First Street Coffee Station and celebrate a hike's end at the Sawmill Brewing Company. Shop boutiques, antiques, and thrift stores. And stop in at Northwoods Maple Farm for their maple butter and syrup.

At the outskirts of Merrill is Council Grounds State Park, a 500-plus-acre gem located along the Wisconsin River. The River Bend Trail is a seven-mile paved walking/biking/hiking trail following the Wisconsin River through Merrill. It travels from Council Grounds State Park to the Pine Ridge Shopping area offering scenic rest areas complete with benches, interpretive panels, wayfinding signs, and fishing and wildlife sighting opportunities.

Merrill hosts events all year, beginning with dog sled races in January. Enjoy 4th of July fireworks and get fresh Maine lobster at Lobsterfest on the 30th. Kickoff October hiking at Barlyfest, a tribute to microbrews.



A view of the historic two-arch bridge connecting Stange Park to the T.B. Scott Library. Photo by Dan Wendorf.

You may find a complete list of annual events at:
 merrillchamber.org/visitors-guide

For more information, please visit: merrillchamber.org

Submitted by Dan Wendorf, Parks & Recreation Director

#### Itineraries: Plan your next adventure!

Enjoy a uniquely Wisconsin experience: Explore exceptional restaurants, attractions, historical landmarks, and Ice Age Trail segments in each Trail Community. Download itineraries, today: iceagetrail.org/our-trail-communities/

#### Antigo: Stroll, Explore, Discover!

Enjoy friendly residents, history, events, and outdoor recreation offered in the small, northern Wisconsin community of Antigo. For hikers exploring the Lumbercamp or Kettlebowl segments of the Ice Age Trail, or who've walked many asphalt miles along connecting routes, Antigo offers a welcome reprieve.

The Langlade County Historical Society (also the home of the Welcome Center) shares the community's history with stories, memorabilia, and artifacts. Visitors can find event and destination information in the 24-hour Welcome Center Vestibule. On Fifth Avenue and Clermont Street, Yesterday's Sign Park displays vintage neon and porcelain signs from historic Antigo businesses.

The two-mile-long Springbrook Trail meanders along the Antigo Lake Basins, ball fields, Antigo Lake RV Park and Campground, playgrounds, an 18-hole Disc Golf Course, and a naturally scenic wooded area (all within city limits). In addition, families will enjoy the Clara R. McKenna Aquatic Center with its outdoor splash pad.

Listen to local musicians on Mondays and Thursdays at Music in the Park, located in City Park West at the historic bandstand. The Antigo Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Heinzen Pavilion. The Langlade County Fairgrounds will host the County Fair on July 28-31.



A view of the two-mile-long Springbrook Trail as it parallels its namesake meandering through the City of Antigo and Langlade County. Photo courtesy of the Langlade County Economic Development Corporation.

For more information, please visit: **antigochamber.com**. Submitted by Langlade County Economic Development Corporation

## Sturgeon Bay: Come for the fun. Stay for the memories!

Situated on the Eastern Terminus of the Ice Age Trail, Sturgeon Bay is a stunning coastal city and offers guests endless recreational opportunities. The Sturgeon Bay Segment offers hikers three widely varying experiences. It starts with a rail-trail hike along the Ahnapee State Trail, transitions into an urban hike, then finishes with a quiet, forested trek through Potawatomi State Park.

Sturgeon Bay is a Door County destination celebrating a rich maritime history and breathtaking views in all four seasons. There's something for everyone in Sturgeon Bay! Enjoy the beautiful public waterfront, visit the Door County Maritime Museum, savor local libations, experience the "Bridge Walk," or shop in one of the downtown shopping districts.

Are you planning a hike? Make a weekend of it with the whole family. With one-of-a-kind bed & breakfasts, unique inns, and quality hotels, Sturgeon Bay boasts many lodging options. Destination Sturgeon Bay's staff will help you discover the secret treasures of our community – we'll let you in on what the locals know!



"Woolly", a life-sized sculpture of a mammoth in Bayview Park, graces the Ice Age Trail route through Sturgeon Bay.

Plan the perfect Door County experience. Contact the office (920.743.6246) or visit: **sturgeonbay.net**Submitted by Destination Sturgeon Bay

## TRAIL adventures

## The Hiking Trail

Author: Christel Maass

Oh, to get away from the city, the traffic, the construction, and the never-ending backup beeping destroying my mind.

The trail it waits for me, welcomes me.

The daypack heavy upon my back, boots kicking up dirt, dry, colorful leaves crunching underfoot;

the wind strumming the treetops; a deer peering at me, snorting, then softly bounding away;

a snake slithering from the path, to hide under a mossy log; red squirrels scolding me for intruding—

some of the only sounds I wish to hear amid the solitude.

Christel Maass and her husband, Terry Rindt, love hiking the Ice Age Trail and supporting the Alliance. Christel, a former archivist, read more poetry during the pandemic, and started writing it. She found inspiration in nature—or rather a particular robin. When not on a trail, Christel enjoys gardening and making her Fox Point yard into a wildlife retreat.



A poem's inspiration: a stately tree along the Milwaukee River Segment. Photo by Christel Maass.

### Get Ready for the Mammoth Hike Challenge! This October!

Find your own adventure, solitude, and inspiration along the Ice Age Trail! Join us for the third-annual Mammoth Hike Challenge during October 2022.

Hike 42 miles on the Ice Age Trail, visit three Trail Communities, and earn a limited-edition patch and certificate.

Registration opens August 1, 2022. The Challenge kicks off October 1. Begin planning your hikes, now!

For more information, please visit: iceagetrail.org/mammoth-hike-challenge/



## 1,200 Miles of Artistic Inspiration

MELISSA PIERICK, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

For some, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a source of adventure. For others, it's relaxation. For a Madison-based art professor, the Trail will be a source of inspiration for the next six months.

Edgewood art professor, Robert Tarrell, will be on Trail this summer, fall, and winter en plein air painting and drawing during a teaching sabbatical. En plein air is a French expression meaning "in the open air", and refers to the act of painting outdoors with the artist's subject in full view.

Many times, colleagues go to exotic places for sabbatical, says Tarrell, who's been a professor for 34 years. He even went to six national parks out west during his last sabbatical. But, he says, "There's something to be said about exploring what's in your backyard."

Tarrell has gone to a few sites along the Trail (like Gibraltar Rock) many times during his life. But it wasn't until about 10 years ago that he realized these sites were along the same Ice Age Trail, which ran through the state. As Tarrell learned more about the Trail, he became more intrigued by it. Ultimately, he decided he wanted to experience more of it, especially the northern segments. So, he made the Trail the subject of this sabbatical.

Tarrell plans to segment hike the Trail, and draw or paint every day. He'll take his painting gear (including French easel, canvas, brushes, and paints) with him, to paint on-site, en plein air. Being outdoors in the elements, with ever-changing light and air, "makes en plein air challenging but exciting, too. You have to have a lot of grit to plein air," he says, noting that bugs, temperature, and precipitation all can interfere with a creation.

"Painting outdoors teaches one how to see," he said in his sabbatical application. "Learning to see is a life-long process. The result of plein air painting is a greater appreciation of the Wisconsin landscape."

Tarrell considers himself a combination en plein air painter, in that his paintings will all start on the Trail, but could be completed in his backyard or studio.

Since he teaches during the school year, Tarrell typically only paints during the summer when things are green. Therefore, he's especially looking forward to being on the Trail this fall, and painting the colors he sees.

He has no set goal for how many pieces of art he'd like to create. But said his last sabbatical produced about 40 pieces.

An exhibition of Tarrell's Ice Age Trail-inspired work will be on display at the Edgewood College Art Gallery in spring 2024.

In the meantime, you can check out some of Tarrell's work displayed on his website, **http://roberttarrell.com/**.



Watch for artist Bob Tarrell on the Trail this summer and fall.

## TRAIL adventures continued

## The Case for Connecting Routes

MARY CIESLEWICZ, THOUSAND-MILER

Anyone who hikes the Ice Age National Scenic Trail speaks enthusiastically about its fauna, flora, and geological features. Each hike offers lessons on myriad topics: beavers, butterflies, derechos, erratics, fossils, flowers, and ticks. In addition to traversing natural spaces, the Ice Age Trail is also composed of connector routes. These rural roads link blazed sections of Trail together, and in many cases, they bring hikers into cities and towns. The designers of the Ice Age Trail intentionally placed the Trail near populated areas so hikers could discover the uniqueness of Wisconsin life.

Knowing many aspiring Thousand-Milers merely tolerate road miles and other hikers eschew them entirely, I devote this essay to the joy of hiking connectors, hoping to inspire an appreciation for the miles marked not by yellow blazes but by white stripes.

While hiking on the Ice Age Trail, I had an epiphany: The Trail's proximity to people, either townspeople or rural residents along the connector routes, enhances the chances people from distant parts of the state might also find connections.

I owe this realization to a summer's day chance meeting on Fern Avenue – a Marquette County connecting road – when I paused to talk to a man carving a totem pole in his farmyard. As we talked, I learned about Marcus Frank's woodworking passion, which included making an exquisite barn quilt just the year before. Like a trail in the woods, our conversation meandered. Marcus described deer conservation in the county and taught me about sandpoint wells, common in areas with fast-draining sandy soil left behind by glaciers.

"I was surprised you stopped to talk with me," said softspoken Marcus, just as I was about to leave.

"I'm glad I did," I said. "It was great to meet you and learn about the totem pole, the trees, the farm, and the area."

"When you talk to people," he said, "you find that most people are friendly."

That simple, frank statement became my steady companion on every subsequent hike. As it happens, "connector" is the perfect name for these routes. They make it possible to connect to the people living in Wisconsin today as you walk in the footsteps of those who lived here ten thousand years ago.

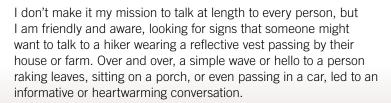


The barn quilt that caught Mary's eye while hiking past Marcus Frank's property. Photo by Mary Cieslewicz.

As you hike connectors, expect the une



Marcus Frank sits next to the totem pole he is carving from a tree planted on the property in the 1960s. His woodworking journals guiding his work are spread out in front of him. Photo by Mary Cieslewicz.



I stopped at the Fern Avenue farmyard because I was surprised to see someone carving a totem pole in the middle of Wisconsin. That's how I met 88-year-old Marcus Frank and learned he had watched the tree he was carving grow from a sapling he planted with his father into a giant pine. Pondering this chance encounter throughout the rest of my hike that day, I realized my moments with Marcus had enhanced my entire hike.

I decided to create a framework to shape future connector hikes. I settled upon four questions to consider before the start of any connector and to guide me on the journey:



Once strangers, now friends, Mary Cieslewicz, Marcus Frank, and Peg Oettinger smile for the camera. Photo by Nancy Radke.

- Who will I meet?
- What will surprise me?
- What will I learn?
- How are the lives of the people here affected by the terrain the glaciers bequeathed to them?

Framing each hike with these questions has made every connector hike an adventure. Rarely have I finished a hike without answers.

As you hike connectors, expect the unexpected. Be open to the possibilities. If there is an opportunity for a conversation or adventure, take it. You might think you should keep hiking and come back another day, but remind yourself: you might never pass this way again.

Mary Cieslewicz also offers Ten Tips for Hiking Connectors on the Ice Age Trail. To learn more, please read: iceagetrail.org/the-case-for-connector-routes/.

# **VOLUNTEER** spotlight

## Leading with Passion, Humility, and Gratitude

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

Debbie Krogwold has been at the helm of the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Portage/ Waupaca County Chapter since its merger in 2020, having served as the coordinator of the Waupaca Chapter since the early 2000s. Hard work, a passion for the Ice Age Trail and fostering a welcoming atmosphere among chapter members have not only made her a friend to many but also deserving of the **2022 Spirit Stick Award** (read more about this on page 4).

"It was a shock. It is humbling to be included with all those people whose names are engraved on the Stick. Some are no longer with us, but it is an honor to have their spirits walk with me," Debbie said.

Krogwold first found herself on the Trail in the early 1970s and credits her love of nature and the realization that a career in science was possible to her high school biology teacher.

Krogwold participated in the first-ever Earth Day celebration in 1970 and later earned a degree in environmental health from Colorado State University. She spent plenty of time hiking in the

mountains of Colorado and was eager to find some hiking trails when she returned to Wisconsin in the early 1990s. Krogwold was the recycling coordinator for Waupaca County and became a member of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (today's Ice Age Trail Alliance).

"The people I worked with were active supporters of the Ice Age Trail. As a chapter member, the first thing I volunteered for was the annual hike-a-thon and then I became the hike's co-chair in 1997," she said.

Although there is a lot of work involved, Krogwold is quick to give credit to fellow chapter members for bolstering her, the chapter and – most importantly – the Ice Age Trail.

"It's important to recognize people for the work they do and to have fun doing it," she said. "I am proud of the friendships I have with members of our chapter and the staff at the Alliance. I'm so grateful for everyone."

Krogwold encourages new members to contact their local chapter and become involved. Chapter activities go beyond trail maintenance (although Krogwold loves a good day on the Trail



Debbie Krogwold displays the Spirit Stick for chapter members and Trail enthusiasts during a Spring Wildflower hike on Mother's Day. Photo by Mary Stewart.

with a pair of loppers). She said there are plenty of hikes, such as the Spring Wildflower and Full-Moon hikes the Portage/Waupaca County Chapter hosts, along with several outreach events.

"It's fun, no matter what role you have. It does take time, but when you have a good, supportive group of people around you to bounce ideas off and work together to develop plans, it makes all the difference. You're not alone," she said.

Krogwold is excited for the future of the Portage/Waupaca County Chapter and the Alliance.

"I'm just so proud of the way it's grown over the years," she said. "The staff at the Alliance are wonderful to work with, along with local landowners. They've been so supportive of the Trail. I am grateful they're allowing the Trail to be on their property. The landscape is gorgeous."

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.

## A Warm and Welcoming Trailbuilding Experience

TRICIA BAKER, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

This year's **Trail Steward of the Year** award winner is Gerald "Jerry" Pfeifer (read more about this on page 6). If you are reading this and have had a minimal connection with the Ice Age Trail, but are interested in more, consider Jerry's encouraging words: "**There is always a place for you!** No matter how busy your life is or the type of skills you have, we can always find a way for you to get involved."

The Ice Age Trail's beauty is its versatility: a place of refuge and beauty; adventure and challenge; togetherness and connection. And, for those who want to be more involved, it's a place to make new friends and to be part of creating something extraordinary for those who follow in our footsteps.

Jerry found friendship, companionship, and a newfound purpose on the Trail. From the day he showed up in 2012, a new retiree seeking a way to contribute, Jerry found the trailbuilding community "warm and welcoming." He got the idea to volunteer with the Ice Age Trail by reading an article in *Mammoth Tales* and the rest, as they say, is history.

"I wasn't a hiker or a trail builder, but I liked being with this group of people. At first, I didn't want responsibilities, but I started to do more and more as I got more involved. Soon, I was a Crew Leader and then Crew Leader Manager because I stepped up. I am doing something now that I didn't expect to do. My talent is getting people to work!"

Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager for the Alliance, agrees. "Jerry has always been great at large-scale projects. He even found a way to manage multiple projects simultaneously during a trailbuilding event. He took the initiative to create a better experience for everyone and delivered a better result."

How would one describe Jerry? "Forward-thinker, willing participant, proactive leader, ambassador, and team player," according to Caliebe.

Jerry has given to the Trail in countless ways, and along the way, he's had a great time with the friends he met through volunteering. But, the best prize for all his time and effort? "Last summer, I helped update the Waterville Segment boardwalks. Recently, when I hiked the segment with my five-year-old granddaughter, she said, 'My grandpa helped build this!' That was quite a reward."

To someone reading the *Mammoth Tales* for the first time, take a page from Jerry's book: **Join us. Be part of something warm and welcoming.** 

Tricia Baker hails from Summit. She's spent her career in business and marketing and started her own marketing firm, Baker Creative/Consulting. She serves on the Boards of an ad agency and a Milwaukee-based non-profit. In her free time, Tricia, along with her husband Brian, is hiking all segments of the Ice Age Trail.

Jerry Pfeifer (left) is a willing Duffer as he helps a volunteer crew craft tread along the Mammoth's Back preserve in Dane County. Photo by Bob Kaspar.



# **CHAPTER** highlights





#### INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

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

The Indianhead Chapter stayed busy this winter with many hikes and events despite the cold weather!

Most notably, we held our annual chapter meeting in January via Zoom, where we conducted chapter business and celebrated a beloved long-time volunteer, Dean Dversdall.

Dean has volunteered with our chapter for 26 years. Among his varied and numerous contributions, he: served as the Indianhead Chapter Coordinator, helped start a neighboring chapter, established a Trail Adopter program, coordinated local trail events, played a critical role in more than 10 land acquisitions, and helped execute 9 MSC events, to name a few. We are so grateful Dean is a part of our chapter. We loved celebrating him



The Indianhead Chapter Coordinators, Barb Ceder and Paul Kuhlmann, at the Luck Winter Carnival parade. Photo provided courtesy of Indianhead Chapter.

and his service to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Thank you, Dean!

Other chapter events included: a Full-Moon Solstice hike in December, a Full-Moon Snowshoe hike in January, and walking in the Luck Winter Carnival parade in February.

While we enjoyed winter, I know all of our chapter members and volunteers are excited as we gear up for summer on the Trail!

- Chelsea Dresen

#### SUPE Coordin (715-82

#### SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

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

The Superior Lobe Chapter wrapped up 2021 activities by attending a local Trick or Treat event. We handed out granola bars to the kiddos and hiking information to their parents!



The bright sunset rivaled the bright smiles on the Superior Lobe Chapter Snowshoe Hike in February. Photo by Sue Greenway.

Our winter activities brought out the hale and hardy as we held two annual events – a Snowshoe Hike in February and Full-Moon Hike in March. About 20 die-hard hikers showed up for each event and fun was had by all!

In fall of 2021, volunteer, Laura Sandstrom, received recognition from the Superior Lobe Chapter for 20 years of service and membership. Congrats, Laura!

Now, we look forward to the coming season, and warmer weather, on the Trail!

Sue Greenway



A cheerful group of hikers strapped on their snowshoes to plod through the snowy Trail at the Superior Lobe hike in February. Photo by Sue Greenway.



#### **BLUE HILLS CHAPTER**

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

Highlights for the Blue Hills Chapter center around developing a major reroute of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The new route will bring hikers to the edge of the last

glaciation, where there are many distinct and unique glacial features.

Furthering plans for the reroute, a small group of experienced Trail Layout & Design volunteers and staff evaluated and refined previously identified potential routes throughout the Blue Hills. Future projects will include additional planning, assessment, and completion of regulatory steps required by various entities.

Aside from that, our annual snowshoe hike, co-hosted with the Superior Lobe Chapter, was once again a success. And this year's annual meeting was conducted via email, with the hope we'll hold the meeting face-to-face again next year.

– Fred Nash



Volunteers, Dave Carew, Dave Ditlefsen, Jen Stehley, Fred Nash, and Alliance staff member, Patrick Gleissner, relax around the campfire after a day of Trail Layout & Design in the Blue Hills during a fall MSC project in 2021. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

🎙 Éau Claire

#### **CHIPPEWA MORAINE CHAPTER**

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

The Chippewa Moraine Chapter co-sponsored a snowshoe hike with the Girl Scouts in North West Wisconsin at Camp Nawakwa on February 26. We led a group of 25 scouts and adults around Picnic Lake. It was a beautiful day for a hike, with warm temps and blues skies. The girls had a great time.

The Chippewa Moraine Chapter is developing a hiking patch reward program. So far, we've designed our brochure and an information page. And, we voted on a patch slogan at our meeting in March. The winner is "Chip Off the Old Moraine", an idiomatic nod to our chapter name – Chippewa Moraine. We will be launching the program later this summer.



A group of Girl Scouts joined the Chippewa Moraine Chapter on a beautiful and sunny winter day in February for a hike around Picnic Lake. Photo by Sherry Jasper.

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



#### LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



#### CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

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



## PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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



The Portage/Waupaca County Chapter members welcomed 2022 with a First Day Hike at Hartman Creek State Park! The scene was snow-laden pines, brisk temps with little to no wind, and quiet peacefulness. Ten hikers shared in the joy of being out on the Trail, while gaining knowledge of the glacial features provided by retired geologist, Terry Gerlach. A wondrous day! Photo by Debbie Krogwold.



Trailtessa BE Blissful!: More than 50 women from near and far gathered together for this snowshoe event at Hartman Creek State Park in February. Subzero temps were no match for these adventurous spirits! A bowl of soup and freshly made bread from Gyspy Moon topped off a perfect day! Photo by Patty Dreier.



Hikers will experience a 'new look' to the Waupaca River Segment this year! Invasive species have been removed from DNR property along the river, opening up the landscape. Six chapter members (Patty Mork, Teresa Aspeslet, Rich Roe, Mic Pelech, Ben Schultz, and Ray Disterhaft) assisted the DNR Fisheries Project Team with brush removal. Photo by DNR Fisheries staff.



#### WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Waushara County Chapter hosted the 24th annual Candlelight Sweetheart Snowshoe & Hike on Saturday,

February 19. More than 100 attendees laced up their hiking boots and snowshoes and took a lap or two on the candlelit trails of the rustic venue, Caribou Bay Retreat, in Coloma. Throughout the night, folks enjoyed camaraderie while enjoying hot cider and cocoa and roasting marshmallows around the campfire. Indoors, the well-heated Retreat's Event Center displayed the signature Silent Auction items. We had a unique lineup of items ranging from rustic benches and vacation getaways to one-of-a-kind pieces created by talented, local craftsmen and generous businesses within the community. We raised more than \$2,500.00! All proceeds will maintain and support the Ice Age Trail in the county. We also encouraged attendees to send in their best candlelight photos. Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers and generous donors for making this event possible!

The Walk-the-Waush Challenge is back! The chapter will collaborate with the Waushara County Health and Parks Departments to bring this free, fun, family-friendly challenge to the community. The 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. This year's challenge begins June 1 and runs through September 3. It is free and open to all ages and abilities. So, mark your calendars for the guided hikes to get everyone started!

- Saturday, July 9, Yoga Sunrise hike at Mt. Morris Hills Park. Yoga portion led by Cathy Favelle, avid hiker, member, and owner of Corequest Yoga Studio & Spa. Times TBD.
- Saturday, July 16, Wildflower Nature hike, for all abilities, on the Bannerman Trail. Led by Diane Lueck, avid hiker, member and retired UWSP College of Natural Resources Outreach Specialist and National Director for (BOW). Time TBD.

In case of inclement weather, the hikes will be canceled. Visit the Washaura County Chapter Facebook page and iceagetrail.org/events/ for more information on upcoming events and hikes.

– Jenny Addis



Swedish Candles and luminaries greeted attendees as they arrived at Caribou Bay Retreat. Photo taken by Jack Zelienka.



#### MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Gary Ertl

(608-369-3543, vbjbgertl@hotmail.com)



#### BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

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



#### LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

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

The year started with our First Day hike, which is always a nice way to welcome the new year. February found us

back on the Steenbock Preserve with a hardworking group of volunteers and staff. We cut and burned cedar in our continued efforts to restore the prairie that once graced the land. If you haven't been there recently, you'll be amazed at how the view of Lake Wisconsin is opening up with the work being done the last few years.

March included some workdays on the Lodi Marsh in preparation for the boardwalk construction project planned for April, a joint project between the Dane County Chapter and the Lodi Valley Chapter. While spring refused to cooperate and snow and rain contributed to extreme muck on

the construction site. volunteers and staff pushed through the challenging conditions to complete the 370foot boardwalk that will greatly enhance the hiking experience on the segment. We appreciated the assistance of the Lodi Middle School hiking group, the Trail Trekkers, who came out one afternoon to help us transport materials to the site.

In early April, we had a potluck gathering of members, a chance to reconnect after our pandemic isolation. Cameron Gillie, a photographer who has hiked the entire Trail and documented his hike with photographs, was our featured speaker and shared some of his amazing photos.

- Patti Herman



Volunteers from the Lodi Valley and Dane County Chapters joined forces to make reality a 370-foot boardwalk through Lodi Marsh that will greatly enhance the hiking experience on the Lodi Marsh Segment. Photo by Bill Welch.



#### DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

Two significant land acquisitions occurred in Dane County over the past few months. The first was a 40-acre property across Woods Road from the University Ridge golf course, purchased jointly by Dane County, the cities of Madison and Verona, and the Town of Verona. The second was another 40 acres along Lee Road south of Lodi Marsh purchased by the Alliance with considerable help from the Dane County Land Fund of the Dane County Chapter.



Dane County Chapter volunteers conducted a prescribed burn on the Holmes Preserve, using the Ice Age Trail as a burn break. Photo by Gary Werner



Dane County Chapter volunteers, Ed Spoon and Bob Kaspar, took advantage of winter conditions to burn several brush piles along the new extension of the Valley View Segment. Photo by Bob Kaspar.

Through the fall, winter, and spring, land steward volunteers burned more than 200 slash piles created last year from clearing invasive trees and brush from 14 oak savannas and 15 remnant or planted prairies and oak woodlands. In addition to 345 acres of burns at nine sites, the chapter burned another 148 acres of prairie and oak savanna this past April at Springfield Hill, the Andersen/Hickory Hill Preserves located above Cross Plains, and Prairie Moraine County Park in Verona. After the burns of April, the eradication of garlic mustard and other invasives resumed in early May.

On the trailbuilding side, the chapter, in cooperation with the Lodi Valley Chapter and Alliance staff, built a boardwalk in the Lodi Marsh Segment

and moved the Trail out of an extremely wet corridor. Further revisions to the segment will happen in the late summer to reduce erosion on the current Trail. The Verona Segment has reopened, although work needs to be done to reconnect old and new pieces, and an extension and rebuilding of boardwalk is on our agenda. Further sewage line work will temporarily close the segment again this year or next, north and east of last year's work.

In between those two segments, we are planning new Trail heading south out of Indian Lake County Park in anticipation of major roadwork on Highway 19 next year. This project is still in the planning process.



#### **ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER**

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

The Rock County Chapter enjoyed a busy and productive summer and fall in 2021. Astonishingly, Trail Angels gave as many rides to hikers in 2021 as the previous 4+ years

combined. We installed 10 Aldo Leopold benches on the 3-mile Milton to Janesville Segment with the assistance of an Eagle Scout project in the spring and a Venture Scout project in the fall. On the September United Way Day of Giving, the chapter hosted Beloit Health Care employees for a workday where we widened a ½ mile of Trail on the Devils Staircase Segment.

Many Trail Angels joined in Trail stewardship activities on all of the Rock County Segments. Corridor widening occurred on all our trails, a wayfinding project began at the Janesville School Outdoor Lab, participants in our Walk Across Rock County hiking award program increased, and we saw new volunteers coming to workdays.



The Rock County Chapter tool trailer is looking neat and spiffy with some new decals! Photo courtesy of the Rock County Chapter.

Thanks to Steve Dean and the employees of Mocha Moment for donating their time and sales proceeds to the chapter's fundraiser in October, as well as all who came and contributed. The chapter also put up our second annual Christmas Tree at the Tallman House in Janesville. We are a bit biased in our thinking that of all the trees there, ours had the most thought put into it.

Anticipating an even stronger 2022, over 20 volunteers assisted in developing our Annual Operating Plan for 2022. A focus will be on recruiting new volunteers, and as we hope Covid restrictions are in our review mirror, we plan to see a return of employer and school-led stewardship events. The spring of 2022 started a bit slow, but we have an active Trail stewardship year planned.

Rock County Chapter's 2022 mantra: If you set the bar high and you fall short, you are still miles ahead!

continued on page 28



The moon shone brightly during the Walworth/Jefferson Chapter Full Moon Hike in March at the UW-Whitewater Nature Preserve. Photo by Bill "Kangaroo" Knickrehm.



#### WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter December meeting was a holiday potluck; it was nice to gather in person with fellow members. We learned the 2021 Mammoth Hike Challenge brought at least 300 individuals through the Ice Age Trail Community of Whitewater - a success! Also, a local, nondenominational church presented our chapter with an award for our Good Earth stewardship activities.

We started 2022 with our annual New Year's Day hike at Kishwauketoe Conservancy in Williams Bay. We enjoyed great participation despite threatening weather. In February, we held our first indoor workday in two years. Additionally, chapter members helped staff the Alliance booth at Madison's Garden Expo. Our Moonlight hikes are becoming regular fixtures of the spring season. We held one on Valentine's Day and another one in mid-March. Additionally, our relationship with the Ice Age Trail Campus of UW-Whitewater continues to bring dividends; the campus asked us to participate in a Diversity Forum and introduce the Ice Age Trail to students.

The chapter regularly works with Scouts trying to achieve Eagle rank. The most recent project proposed includes installing signage containing QR codes on mileposts. Once the project is complete, hikers will be able to access a great deal of information about the Trail that otherwise would not fit on conventional signs.

For 20 years, the chapter has offered Weekly Walks on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. To mark this amazing milestone, our Chapter designed a commemorative T-shirt. It will be available to chapter members and the regular walkers. Attendees will be stylishly attired in these shirts at our mid-July celebration.

- Vince Lazzaroni



#### WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY **CHAPTER**

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



#### WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY **CHAPTER**

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



#### LAKESHORE CHAPTER

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

I hoped to include a picture of an early spring flower, but nope, not one little flower in bloom along the lakeshore; in

fact, it is snowing as I write this highlight! Welcome to Wisconsin's postwinter weather!

After several years of meetings and discussions, the Wisconsin DNR, the National Park Service, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance decided to move the Eastern Terminus boulder at Potawatomi State Park to the old ski hill parking lot. The move places the terminus rock in a location with more parking and a spectacular view (not in front of the pit toilets)!

The Lakeshore Chapter has a super group of trail stewards. They've been hiking their sections and reporting trail conditions to crew leaders after winter storms, high winds, and the wettest March on record. There are

trees to remove, water issues to solve, and boardwalks to repair and install.

Another spring project is to refresh and resign all signage in the Northern Kettle Moraine from Highway P through Fond du Lac County. We are removing the old plastic blazes and painting blazes on posts, as well as clearing the area around them. Kathy Claude and I started on this long-overdue task last year, but we quickly realized we needed to recruit more volunteers due to the project's scale.

- Cheryl Gorsuch



Trail stewards with the Lakeshore Chapter had much to report on their sections - including windfalls, waterlogged portions of Trail, and boardwalks in need of repair - after a period of winter storms, high winds, and the wettest March on record. Photo courtesy of the Lakeshore Chapter.

# MEMBER & DONOR news

January I — May II, 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:

Greg "Ole" & Mary Bauer Andrea Camenisch William Davies & Mary Ross Robert Hance Stuart Hansen & Erica Eddy Michael Hourigan Dawn & Jay Jaehnke Jerry Krause Jeffrey Kuesel Alfred Lustig & Janice Watson James Mooney Ryan Petersen Gordon & Patricia Pierce Melanie Popa **Dacy Reimer** 

Laura & Robert Schneider **Gregory & Diane Whiffen** William Arthur Zorr **Anonymous** 

#### **BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY**

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

David & Kathy Adam Bess & Bernard Alberg Mike & Sally Armbrust John F. Barker John & Sharon Bloodgood **Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz** Gary & Jean Britton Nancy Brownrigg **Robert & Victoria Connors** Jerome & Barbara Converse Cathy DeLain Julia & Chad Dibler Jason Dorgan Patty & Tom Dreier Dean Dversdall Joanna Kramer Fanney David & Carol Farber James & Susan Fiore

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#### **MILESTONES**

Andrew Fulrath

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#### Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

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continued on page 30

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## **Ice Age Trail Guidebook Photo Contest**

### Calling All Photographers: Submit your favorite Ice Age Trail photos!

Get a FREE 2023 – 2025 edition of the Ice Age Trail Guidebook, if one, or more, of your photo(s) is featured in it.

What makes the Guidebook so valuable, besides detailed segment-by-segment descriptions and maps, is the high-quality, expressive photographs it contains. Most of these images were snapped by Trail enthusiasts, and their submissions wonderfully capture the Trail's beauty.

#### How to participate:

- 1. Submit up to 10 of your favorite images via filesharing programs (Dropbox or Google photos are preferred, and they are free) to info@iceagetrail.org. (If you do not use a filesharing program, please attach photos individually, sending them one-by-one to minimize file compression.)
- 2. We request the original file (not cropped or altered with filters). We need as many pixels as possible for print reproduction.
- 3. We welcome a variety of images: general landscape, flowers, and wildlife, and especially attractive subject matter (for our purposes) includes people interacting with and having fun along the Trail.

  And, if Fido is your hiking companion, please make sure he's leashed in the photos you submit.

- 4. **Bonus:** It's helpful if a yellow blaze is present in the photograph to establish Ice Age Trail identity, but we're not looking for photos prominently featuring blazes.
- 5. Vertically-oriented photographs are rare, so please send us some of those, too!
- 6. Please label your photos with the following naming convention: Photographer's name, segment name, county. (i.e.: John.Doe-Table Bluff Segment-Dane County).

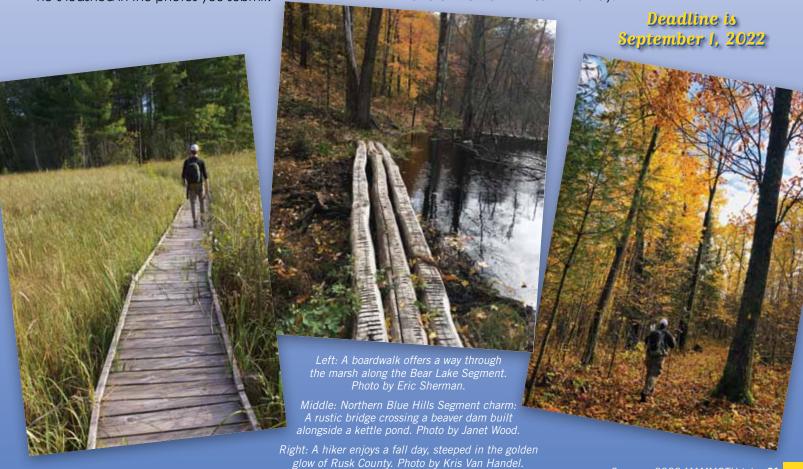
#### What's in it for you?

How 'bout some Love, Love, Love...

If your photograph(s) are selected for use in the 2023-2025 Ice Age Trail Guidebook your name will appear in the photo credits, and you will receive a free copy of the Guidebook, a \$30.00 value.

If your photograph(s) are selected for other publication purposes, say an Alliance blog post, your name will appear in the photo credits, and you'll get the thrill of knowing your photo helped express the key point in a story.

And, yes, lots of LOVE. You will receive our immense appreciation for so generously sharing your love of beauty and of the Trail with us in this way.







PO Box 128 Cross Plains, WI 53528

## **TRAIL** terminus

## **Years of Service Awards**

#### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Jenny Addis, Waushara County Chapter Tom Alberg, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter Jim Bolitho, Dane County Chapter Debby Capener, Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter (Sauk/Northern Columbia County) Nanette Del Monaco, Indianhead Chapter (Polk/Burnett County) David Earles, Dane County Chapter Reuben Glass, Dane County Chapter Mark Glasser, Lakeshore Chapter (Door - Fond du Lac Counties) Lance Henrickson, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter Monny Hjerstedt, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter Candace Jenkins, Northwoods Chapter (Lincoln County) John Kolbe, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter Edward and Sue Ellen Madere, Rock County Chapter Mark Miner, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter Jerry Pfeifer, Trailwide Richard Propp, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter Barbara J. Unger, Dane County Chapter Robert Virnig, Dane County Chapter

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Jim Zastrow, Central Moraines Chapter (Marathon County)

#### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Joanna Fanney, Lodi Valley Chapter (Southern Columbia County) Anthony and Nancy Schuster, Chippewa Moraine Chapter (Chippewa County) Judy Wildermuth, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter

#### **30 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD**

Barbara and Jerome Converse, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter Dolly McNulty, Lakeshore Chapter (Door - Fond du Lac Counties) Daniel Rambo, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter

Thank You!