

A background image of a Wisconsin map with county names like ST. CROIX, DUNN, CHIPPEWA, TAYLOR, LANGLADE, and others. Overlaid on this is a large photograph of a white gentian flower with green leaves.

MAMMOTH tales

SUMMER 2023



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S report



LUKE KLOBERDANZ
Executive Director/CEO

There was a time when the first few months of the year were a bit quieter for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. A chance to take a breath and regroup. I can tell you, that's not the case anymore. In fact, this issue finds the Alliance coming off one of the busiest springs I can remember...

The Alliance's Habitat Improvement Program got off to a hot start (pun intended). Staff and volunteers kept busy with a series of work events during the early part of winter—invasives were tackled, cedar felled, and giant piles of brush burned. The activities culminated with broadcast burns at 10 sites during April and May. In all, 538.5 acres of prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodlands were burned to improve vegetation and encourage growth of native plant species. If you're hiking the Trail this summer, you can see the positive impact a burn has at SwampLovers preserve (Table Bluff Segment) or Prairie Moraine Park (Verona Segment). It's exciting to see this program get its legs; we're looking forward to a summer of invasive removal (weeding) and seed collecting. Check out the event calendar on the Alliance website to see where and when you can participate.

Two new communities joined the official Trail Community family: Baraboo and Portage (read more about them on page 13). That means broader partnerships with businesses and municipalities as well as more hiker destinations to visit!

Staff and Board Members found themselves at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan at the end of April for the Annual Conference—it turned out to be our largest conference to date! About 500 Trail enthusiasts gathered to learn, hike, and celebrate. I looked around the room during the Saturday night awards and recognition ceremony and was, quite frankly, in awe. What a great group of people, all there because of their love of the Trail and the people who make it possible. I was honored to be among so many who have achieved so much on the Trail and given so much to the Trail. The recognitions that night included three people who have given 50 years of volunteer service to the Alliance: Joe Jopek, Peg Jopek, and Dede Cromer – that's 150 total years of service! On behalf of the entire Alliance organization and its members: THANK YOU for your steadfast support of the Trail over the last five decades.

It's neat to think this year is someone's first volunteering with the Trail. I wonder what things will be like on their 50-year anniversary? Given the momentum that continues to build for the Trail, it's plausible the Trail will be complete!

With your continued support I know it will be.

Hope to see you out and about this summer—whether at a trailbuilding event, seed collecting, or hiking—enjoy the Trail!

Luke Kloberdanz

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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: *Gentiana alba*, commonly known as cream or white gentian, blooms August through September in dry-mesic and mesic prairies and savannas. Hikers will typically find gentian in west-central and east-central Wisconsin counties; they're rare in the south-central region. Bumblebees are their primary pollinators. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

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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A yearly highlight for the Ice Age Trail Alliance staff is the Awards and Recognition Ceremony held Saturday evening at the Annual Conference. 2023 was no exception. Along with our partners at the National Park Service, we got to honor the contributions of members, volunteers, and hikers. Their time and talent in the previous year helped conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

We continue the celebration throughout the Awards Spotlight pages. We offer the accolades written by those who nominated the winners of the Spirit Stick, Public Partner, Friend of the Trail, and Trail Steward of the Year. We also recognize the incredible number of service hours donated. We're inspired and hope you are too! (The Awards Spotlight is not a comprehensive list of all awards and those recognized. For a complete list, please visit: IceAgeTrail.org/Awards)

Spirit Stick Award

This award recognizes 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 **Robert "Bob" Funk**, a Whitewater resident and a member of the Waukesha/ Milwaukee County Chapter.

Bob Funk is known for his humility, thoughtful communication, and calm demeanor – the hallmarks of an effective leadership style. He's also known for rolling up his sleeves and diving into projects. Since 2008, Funk has been a fixture at MSC events. As his trailbuilding skills evolved – crafting tread, rock work, and building boardwalk – he sought Crew Leader Training, wishing to guide future MSC volunteers. As a result, his role at MSC events expanded to include Crew Leader Manager, Technical Advisor, trainer for new crew leaders, and IAT-U instructor. Yet, at the end of the day, he can also be found lending a hand in the camp kitchen. And, at the local level, Funk actively participates in Monday Mudders, a weekly work group of the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter.

Funk's passion for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail led him to accept a term on the Board of Directors, which led to more. All told, he has been a board member for 11 years with 4 of those years serving as Board President. Here too, Funk has made a lasting impact through his involvement and dedication. He leads committees and actively participates in committee work. His diligence to details, thoughtful approach to challenges, and effective leadership has strengthened and moved the Alliance forward while focusing on sustainable growth. He has hosted numerous donor events, leading the way with his own decade-long commitment to the Yellow Blaze Club.

Learn more about Bob Funk in the **Volunteer Spotlight** on page 14.



Bob Funk is greeted to the stage by Debbie Krogwold, the 2022 Spirit Stick caretaker, and Dolly McNulty, the 2018 Spirit Stick caretaker, along with a long line of previous Spirit Stick award winners. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



Bob Funk is flanked by two previous Spirit Stick winners, Debbie Krogwold, caretaker in 2022, and Luke Klobierz, Executive Director and CEO for the Alliance, caretaker in 2011. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



Public Partner Award

This award honors an individual from a public or government agency who is consistently cooperative and who provides dedicated, above-and-beyond service to the Trail.

Jarrold Kehring manages more State Ice Age Trail Areas (SIATAs) than any other DNR property manager, and he encourages the acquisition of more properties to reduce Trail gaps!

As Andrew Hanson, Partnership Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources, noted in his nomination of Kehring, “With so many scattered properties to manage in addition to his primary responsibility as the manager of Hartman Creek State Park, one might imagine someone in his position saying, “enough is enough.” But not Jarrold. He unflinchingly encourages more acquisitions.”

In addition, in the past few years he has helped build three new parking lots for the Trail, expanded the Trail on the properties he manages, and has been a strong supporter of Trailtessa events at Hartman Creek State Park.



Jarrold Kehring, honored with the Alliance's Public Partner award, stands by his work – a freshly created path – in the Hartman Creek State Park. Photo courtesy of Jarrold Kehring.

Friend of the Trail Award

This award recognizes individuals, foundations, businesses, and other organizations for their strong support of the Ice Age Trail. Recipients of the award have given a single sizable monetary contribution or significant monetary contributions over many years, enabling new capacity within the Alliance. Or, they have partnered with the Alliance in a unique or significant way, building coalitions, partnerships, or other forms of local support that have contributed significantly to the ongoing success and promotion of the Ice Age Trail.

The law firm of **Godfrey & Kahn** easily met the criteria for this year's award recognition. Godfrey & Kahn, an innovative law firm, offers strategic advice that creates smart, practical solutions to real-world problems. And, for many years, the Alliance's Board of Directors has benefited from an extraordinary breadth and depth of the firm's talent, including pro-bono services.

Over the years, members of the firm have generously served as Directors on the Board, collectively offering 24 years of service. These individuals and other professionals within Godfrey & Kahn have provided guidance and expertise related to land acquisitions, including writing offers, drafting easements, clearing titles, and reviewing closing documents. In addition, as the Alliance has developed and grown as an organization, Godfrey & Kahn offered Leadership Development succession for Directors, bylaw and policy legal review, personnel-related legal advice, and assisted the Executive Transition Committee in hiring a new Executive Director and CEO.

And, finally, Godfrey & Kahn was a major contributor to the 2023 Annual Conference and has supported the event for many years.



Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation, looks on as Rebecca Hamrin (L) and Ellen Drought (R) accept the Friend of the Ice Age Trail Award on behalf of Godfrey & Kahn from Luke Klobardanz, Executive Director and CEO. Both Hamrin and Drought have served terms on the Alliance's Board of Directors. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

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Trail Steward of the Year Award

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

John Kolbe, a resident of Delafield, and a member of the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter, was named Trail Steward of the Year.

In 2010, John Kolbe discovered the Ice Age National Scenic Trail while training for an upcoming backpacking trip in the Sierra mountains. Encounters with Trail maintenance volunteers along Monches and Lapham Peak, the segments he was hiking, led him to help out. Soon, he took over the role as Trail maintainer for the Monches Segment (a service he performs to this day). He also became an active member of Monday Mudders, a Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter group focused on maintaining and improving their 40 miles of Trail. His efforts led to Chapter recognition, an "In the Mud" award in 2019. And, then, a few years later, he took the helm as Chapter Coordinator.

Not content to only help locally, Kolbe is a regular participant at MSC events across the state. He shines as a sawyer. He brings years of experience to his chainsaw endeavors, which makes him the "go to" person for difficult tree removal along the Trail. In addition, he willingly offers his expertise, mentoring new sawyers in the National Park Service chainsaw training program.

Kolbe's hands-on Trail experience within his chapter and MSC events, made him a logical choice when the Alliance's Board of Directors invited him to consider a term on the board. Not surprisingly, he is serving a second term, and in April 2023, Kolbe became the President of the Board of Directors.

Learn more about John Kolbe in the **Volunteer Spotlight** on page 15.



John Kolbe is congratulated by Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager (L) and Chad DuChateau, Director of Trail Operations (R). Photo by Cameron Gillie.

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

Jenna Benjamin, Lakeshore Chapter
 Peter Dargatz, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Steve Kaiser, Waushara County Chapter
 Chris Matthews, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Diana Matthews, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 David Mentjes, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Barry Owens, Dane County Chapter
 James M. Parry, Dane County Chapter
 David Rusch, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Elisabeth Schraith, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Jill Schultz, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

20 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Daniel Bartell, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter
 Patti Herman, Lodi Valley Chapter
 Bruce Jaecks, Northwoods Chapter
 Ruby Jaecks, Northwoods Chapter
 Thelma Johnson, Superior Lobe Chapter
 Barbara Leetzow, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
 JoAnn Parks, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
 Nancy Schulz, Central Moraines Chapter*
 Ruth Sommers, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter
 Bill Welch, Lodi Valley Chapter

* We apologize to Nancy for missing her recognition during the Awards Ceremony.

30 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Carolyn Brandeen, Rock County Chapter
 Cherie Heinz, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Jim Heinz, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
 Nancy Lazzaroni, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter
 Vince Lazzaroni, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter
 Melanie Lord, Dane County Chapter
 Corrine Lundberg, Indianhead Chapter
 Herb Lundberg, Indianhead Chapter
 Dean Paynter, Rock County Chapter
 Jayne Paynter, Rock County Chapter
 Chris Schotz, Northwoods Chapter
 Dave Tlusty, Langlade County Chapter

40 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

Bob Rusch, High Point Chapter
 Gary Werner, Dane County Chapter

50 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD

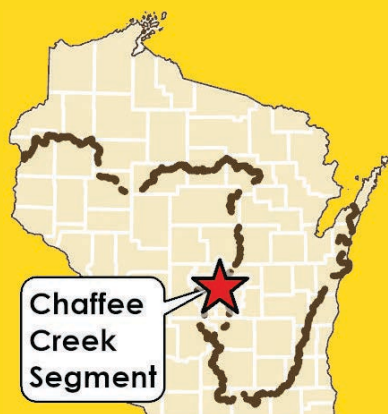
Dede Cromer, Langlade County Chapter
 Joe Jopek, Langlade County Chapter
 Peg Jopek, Langlade County Chapter

LAND CONSERVATION highlights

Expanding the Trail with a Genuine Team Effort

Delivering Wins for Many Participants

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



Funding Partners Made this Effort Possible

This project came together by leveraging strategic partners who contributed ideas, effort and importantly, funding. Those partners included:

The State's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Waushara County Land Conservation Department

Anonymous volunteer donation (to fund the segment's parking lot)

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Ducks Unlimited - North American Wetland Conservation Act

Golden Sands RC&D

Ice Age Trail Alliance donors who supported the Pleasant Lake fundraising efforts.



The sun sets over the brand-new, one-mile section along the Chaffee Creek Segment. Photo by Riley Dupee.

Thanks to a genuine team effort, the Chaffee Creek Segment in Waushara County just got one mile longer. So, hike this new section of Ice Age National Scenic Trail using summer's extra daylight hours. While you're sauntering, ponder the collaboration that delivered key wins for so many people – including you!

Challenges

The story begins in 2015 with a beautiful lake, appropriately named Pleasant Lake. The lake, situated at the border of Waushara and Marquette counties, abutted a large 105-acre farm, which had been sold to a corporation. The farm's new owners planned to clear-cut the land, add a high-capacity well, and an irrigation system to ensure abundant production in the sandy soil. This news dismayed the Pleasant Lake Management District, a group of homeowners dedicated to the preservation of Pleasant Lake's natural assets. The District had previously struggled with maintaining lake water levels due to the existence of another local high-capacity well. They knew they needed to act aggressively to save the lake and the surrounding watershed.

Francie Rowe, president of the Pleasant Lake Management District, reached out to local



land trusts hoping one of them would be able to acquire the land to prevent the well. This contact led Jim Welsh of the Groundswell Conservancy to bring Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation for the Ice Age Trail Alliance, into the conversation. At the same time, National Park Service staff were working on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Corridor Plan in nearby Marquette County. Trail easements in this corner of Waushara County would

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help connect Trail corridor between the two counties. With all these interests aligning, Rowe and Thusius developed a multi-pronged land protection strategy.

Strategy

- Have the District purchase the 105-acres from the corporation, thereby stopping the construction of the high-capacity well.
- Have the Alliance purchase a 48-acre easement across the newly acquired District land for future Trail.
- Work with adjacent landowners to secure a second easement allowing for a road-to-road Trail access.
- Leverage partnerships with a keen interest in improving land and water to restore the 105 acres from fields to native prairie habitat.
- Leverage multiple funding sources within conservation-minded organizations to accomplish land protection goals.

Many Participants / Many Winners

Eight years in the making, this successful land protection strategy had lots of participants and winners. In 2021, the Alliance closed on the 48-acre easement, but not before bringing on its partners at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agency funds habitat restoration projects benefitting many species, including the endangered (since 1992) Karner blue butterfly. Waushara County's sandy soil is perfect for growing wild lupine, the Karner blue host plant.

As a result, 105-acres of former soybean fields are transforming into native prairie including oak savanna. This change supports the Karner blue butterfly and other pollinators. Grassland birds including mallards, blue wing teal, grasshopper and vesper

sparrows are finding a home and thriving on this restored land. Not only that, but homeowners along Pleasant Lake have begun to enjoy a cleaner lake.

"The Ice Age Trail Alliance is not just a trail organization – they are much more than that," said Brendan Woodall, a Wisconsin Private Lands Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "They bring everyone together to make magic happen that wildlife and residents will enjoy into the future!"

Rowe and Thusius devised a powerful strategy that brought together many players who rallied around a shared vision. This included the Sitkiewicz family who readily embraced the project goals. As a result, they donated a Trail easement in honor of their parents, Donald and Marion. This strip of land allowed an important road-to-road connection for the Trail.

Finally, at the end of May, a brand-new one-mile portion of the of Ice Age Trail was blazed on the ground; winding its way from Czech Drive to 3rd Avenue in Waushara County. A new parking lot on 3rd Avenue also marks the now-relocated northern bifurcation point of the Trail.

Tricia Baker hails from Summit, Wis. 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 is hiking all segments of the Ice Age Trail, along with her husband Brian.

Photo by Joel Mompontet.



A Cigar, er Drumlin, to Celebrate

ANDREW HANSON, PARTNERSHIPS
LIAISON, BUREAU OF PARKS
AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT,
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



*A fine summer day along the newly acquired 30-acre State Ice Age Trail Area in Waukesha County.
Photo by Andrew Hanson.*



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently purchased an approximately 30-acre property in Waukesha County. While the property, which is a State Ice Age Trail Area (SIATA), will allow an MSC project to relocate a future Ice Age National Scenic Trail

segment off a busy road, also exciting is its geology. The property contains a small but coveted glacial drumlin.

Drumlins are streamlined hills sculpted by continental glaciers. Some are shaped like teardrops or cigars and can be up to 1 mile long and 100 feet tall.

Wisconsin is home to one of the largest concentrations of glacial drumlins in the world. There are more than 5,000 drumlins in southern Wisconsin alone. But, because drumlins form up-ice from a glacier's end moraine, drumlins are rare along the Ice Age Trail.

A drumlin's superpower is that it shows the direction the glacier was flowing. So, while the drumlin recently protected by DNR is small, it brings to the Ice Age Trail a rare indication of the glacier's flow direction in this location. At this location, the Green Bay Lobe of the Laurentide ice sheet was unquestionably flowing toward the southeast.

Most of the new SIATA has been used for agriculture for more than a century. That use will continue on portions of the property for at least this year. Trail layout and design work is underway—first, a temporary Ice Age Trail route will mostly follow field edges. Later, a more permanent route for the Trail will be established, better highlighting the drumlin.

The new property connects with an Alliance-owned property and easement to the north. Combined, the new SIATA unlocks the key to a future mile of Ice Age Trail, short interpretive loop trail, and much-needed parking area.

This property was acquired by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources using Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds and a donation from the Ice Age Trail Alliance.

Three Acquisitions Create Green Space and Host Future Trail

ICE AGE TRAIL
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



A beautiful view will greet hikers along the newly acquired easement in the Town of Verona. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



Partnerships are the secret sauce to successful gap-closing land acquisitions along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. In Dane County, city, township, and county governments recently worked together to preserve a nearly 40-acre green space in the face of rapid growth and development. And, in two instances, landowners donated easements along property boundaries.

"These three land protection projects required good relationships with our local units of government," said Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation for

the Alliance. "These positive relationships were developed over decades. Each entity embraces the Ice Age Trail and what it brings to their residents."

Moraine Woods Conservation Park addition: Dane County's purchase of nearly 40-acres off of Woods Road in Madison required an important collaboration between the County and City of Madison, and consultation with the City of Verona and Town of Verona. The unimproved parcel, with mature woodlands and rolling topography, will provide options for Trail access, parking, and most importantly, preservation of land within the Ice Age Trail corridor. "We are excited to form this partnership on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to increase outdoor recreation opportunities and continue our efforts to preserve Dane County's natural resources," said Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. "This effort will help even more Dane County residents connect with the outdoors and immerse themselves in our expansive system of trails."

Larson/Andersen acquisition: This ~1/2-mile easement will add another section of Trail to the Valley View Segment. It will help close the gap in the southwest corner

of the Town of Middleton, east of Mound View Road. The landowners and developer worked with the Town of Middleton and the Alliance to create a green space for the neighborhood, a path for the Ice Age Trail, and a separate bike trail through a rapidly expanding urban area.

Stilwell acquisition: This 1/3-mile easement will offer two options for off-road hiking at the south end of the Verona Segment. The landowner of this plat (containing several homesites) worked closely with the Alliance and the Town of Verona to bring this project to fruition. Hikers will enjoy a saunter along mowed paths on their way to the Montrose Segment. Area homeowners will enjoy an easy-to-access walking route, perfect for stretching legs and walking dogs.

Ultimately, these parcels will provide Dane County residents with backyard access to a National Scenic Trail. Plus, hiking enthusiasts have three more spots in Dane County to explore – a win for everyone!

The Ice Age Trail route across these properties is not yet created or blazed. New Trail will be announced in the future.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM highlights

Restoring a Fine, Wild Region

STEVE PENCE, LAND RESTORATION SPECIALIST

John Muir, an influential naturalist known as the father of America's National Parks, once called Wisconsin home. He grew up in Marquette County on a farm near Ennis Lake. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail runs through his boyhood playground, a landscape foundational to Muir's love of the natural world. It's still an inspiring spot. The Fox River flows nearby and a small glacial lake (Ennis Lake) creates beautiful wetlands, and rolling hills of prairie and oak woodlands teem with wildlife.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance owns two properties in the area. One property is about a half-mile south of the lake. The other, to the north, includes 40 acres of the original Dan Muir farm (John's father). These two Alliance-owned parcels comprise the Muir Preserve. Our goal is to restore these former agricultural fields into habitat Muir described as "A fine wild region beside a small glacier lake bordered with white pond-lilies".

A six-year-old prairie now blooms on the Eggleston (north) tract. The land was restored with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, among others, to create habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. Accepting this property donation from Groundswell Conservancy in 2015 enabled the Alliance to extend the John Muir Park Segment by 0.1 miles, shortening the road walk along County Road F.

The Henderson (south) tract, acquired by the Alliance in 2017, will eventually have Ice Age Trail established on it. This 50-acre property offers a fine example of the "fine wild region" Muir talked about growing up in. It contains open grassland transitioning down to a sedge meadow dotted with mature Tamarack. There's also a narrow stretch of oak woodlands. Although the property has some relatively intact habitats, there is still much work to be done. Happily, restoration

work is underway with funding from the National Park Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Starting the restoration process requires controlling encroaching invasive species, like garlic mustard, reed canary grass, and invasive brush. Native species like oak trees and woodland forbs need the sunlight and space taken up by invasive brush in order to grow in the understory.

Unfortunately, on the property's wetlands, aggressive reed canary grass is pretty well established. Despite this, native sedges are still holding on. Controlling the reed canary grasses will help the sedges expand again.

Although the open grassland is a fallow agriculture field, remnant prairie species like whorled milkweed and wild bergamot are found in it. The Alliance will conduct prescribed burns to promote the native species still present and help control the few invasive species that are starting to move in. Prescribed burns will be followed by planting a diverse mix of native prairie species, benefiting pollinator species.

In June, the Alliance will host two Seed & Sip Habitat Improvement Projects. Volunteers will collect native prairie seed such as wild lupine and common spiderwort, among others species, from the restored Eggleston tract. These seeds will be planted into the Henderson tract's grassland to increase the diversity of forbs benefiting pollinator species such as monarch butterflies.

Since we're at the beginning stages of habitat improvement on the Alliance-owned Muir Preserve, there's plenty of upcoming stewardship opportunities. ***If you're interested in helping with the on-going restoration efforts, please contact Steve Pence, Land Restoration Specialist at: steve@IceAgeTrail.org.***

BEFORE: The Eggleston tract in the first year of prairie restoration efforts. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



AFTER: The dramatic difference after three years of Habitat Improvement Projects on the Eggleston tract. Photo by Kevin Thusius.



Roving Crew Responds to Winter Wreckage

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The long, hard winter left many of the northern segments of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in tatters. Ice storms followed by heavy snow resulted in blowdowns and bent-over trees, making the Trail impassable in some areas.

“A lot of trees down from the storm,” said Stephanie Rae Johnson, in a Facebook post at the beginning of April. She was attempting a winter thru-hike but had to pause her quest because of the deep snow and “a lot of stepping over, going around, or ducking under branches,” she said.

Once reports of the dire conditions started coming in, the Ice Age Trail Alliance staff sprang into action, assembling a roving crew of volunteers to help clear some of the worst affected areas once spring arrived.

Previously, the Alliance has had a “strike force” of sawyers and swampers to tackle a specific, one-time situation (like a tornado), says Dave Caliebe, Trail Program Manager. However, this roving crew, piloted throughout the rest of 2023, is different. It’s a more defined group of volunteers who can be called on and respond quickly and consistently to events.

“The roving crew is like a tool in our toolbox, which we will carry with us all the time,” says Caliebe, “versus a tool you must retrieve from the shed.”

For its first project, the roving crew of 46 volunteers, plus a few Alliance staff members, tackled the Northern and Southern Blue Hills, Hemlock Creek, Grassy Lake, and Bear Lake segments in early May.

Progress Measured in Feet, not Miles

To say Trail clearing was slow-going is an understatement. Hundreds and hundreds of birch and aspen hung over it, creating an impenetrable tangle.

“I knew they had significant damage but nothing prepared me for what I saw,” says roving crew member, Mark Orsmy. “The trees were so gnarled together and interlaced that it took us most of the morning just to make a yellow-blazed signage post visible - and that was only the first 100 feet.”

Nevertheless, seven sawyers and their swampers worked diligently for three-and-half days, downing trees and clearing brush along the Blue Hills’ segments.

Another three crews (of local volunteers plus roving crew members) spent two days lopping branches and removing trees to make Grassy Lake and Bear Lake segments suitable for hiking. (They also fixed some tread damaged by logging.) Once the path was clear, blazing crews got out and freshened up some of the markers on the Bear Lake Segment.



Bent birch and aspen hung over the Trail creating a dangerous mess that required deliberate cuts to remove them. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



Joe Welter, a roving crew member and sawyer, works to remove a downed tree along the Bear Lake Segment. Photo by Lisa Szela.

What’s a Sawyer? What’s a Swamper?

A sawyer is a person who operates a chainsaw and cuts down trees. A swamper assists a sawyer, removing cut trees, lopping branches, etc. Certification is required to act as a sawyer or swamper on Ice Age Trail-related projects.

Good news: Certification is free and available from the National Park Service/Ice Age Trail Alliance. For details, visit IceAgeTrail.org and look for Safety and Training under the Volunteer subhead, or scan this QR code:



SCAN ME

Join the Roving Crew

The roving crew will be back in action July 17-22 in Taylor County. To be added to the list of volunteers interested in being part of the rovers, email Lisa Szela at lisa@iceagetrail.org

OUTREACH & EDUCATION highlights

Welcome — NEW Ice Age Trail Communities!

Village of West Baraboo and the City of Baraboo

The Village of West Baraboo and the City of Baraboo have joined the prestigious Ice Age Trail Community Club, with their designation this spring as the 18th Trail Community! The community's "Circus City" moniker relates to the famed Ringling Bros. Circus, founded in Baraboo in 1884 and made its home there until 1918. The community still prides itself on this esteemed history through various businesses and organizations.

Baraboo's vibrant and picturesque downtown is a national historic landmark. It features five buildings that are on the National Register of Historic Places. There's always something to do in downtown Baraboo, renowned for its weekend events, including large crafts fairs, concerts, fantastic parades, and much more. And it's easy for hikers to explore downtown Baraboo; it is just a couple of blocks off the Ice Age Trail's route through the community.

The Baraboo Segment (currently standing at approximately 8.1 miles) runs through the UW-Platteville/Baraboo-Sauk County campus, the Village of West Baraboo, along the Baraboo River, and parts of the city. Keep heading south on the Trail, and you will find yourself at Devil's Lake State Park, the most-visited state park in Wisconsin.

"Earning Trail Community designation resulted from some great teamwork by multiple organizations," said George Althoff, Executive Director of the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce, which co-sponsored the application process. "Downtown Baraboo Inc. helped spearhead this effort, and we had outstanding assistance and support from the Village of West Baraboo and its Tourism Commission, the City of Baraboo and its Parks Department, UW-Platteville/Baraboo-



Welcome to Downtown Baraboo! Photo courtesy of Downtown Baraboo, Inc.

Sauk County, the Baraboo Business Improvement District, and the local Ice Age Trail Alliance - Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter."

There are lots of things to do in the Baraboo area. There are two great websites dedicated to making sure you make the most of your time in Baraboo!

Get a full schedule and list activities by scanning the QR codes:



Discover Real Baraboo sponsored by the Baraboo Chamber of Commerce.



Discover Downtown Baraboo sponsored by Downtown Baraboo, Inc.

City of Portage

Portage swelled the ranks of the prestigious Ice Age Trail Community Club by becoming the 19th Trail Community!

A town of just over 10,000 residents, Portage is dedicated to building on the past and providing its citizens with a good quality of life in a safe and caring community. Also, on the continental divide, Portage rests between the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers, two waterways connected by the Portage Canal built in 1876.

Marianne Hanson, Portage Area Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, says the designation as an Ice Trail Community is significant. "We welcome Ice Age Trail users to our community," Hanson said. "Portage is a growing community with much to offer, including the great outdoor recreational opportunities along the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers."

The recently improved, three-mile Portage Canal Segment of the Ice Age Trail runs through the city. Following it, hikers can walk in the footsteps of explorers.

"We are excited to showcase this area to Trail users," Hanson says. "With this portion of the Trail right in our downtown area, visitors are within just a block of downtown. Hikers may see a live performance at our Portage Center for the Arts, enjoy a cold beverage at Neil's Wine House patio, visit our history museums,



Vintage cars line downtown Portage during the Taste of Portage festival. Photo courtesy of Portage Chamber of Commerce.

enjoy fun times at a community event, and share in a meal at one of our locally owned restaurants."

Plan your visit to the Portage area. Visit the Portage Area Chamber of Commerce to get a complete list of places to visit and upcoming activities. Scan to QR code for details:



Committed to Providing a Pathway

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

Featuring: Bob Funk, Spirit Stick Caretaker for 2023

Driving home from chainsaw training was the best time to catch Bob Funk for an interview after being honored with the Ice Age Trail Alliance's 2023 Spirit Stick Award. He had been on the road for nearly a week for an MSC Trailbuilding event in Rib Lake, followed by sawyer (chainsaw) recertification. One week into being the Spirit Stick's caretaker (the name for the honorees), Funk and the Spirit Stick had already attended three Alliance events.

"It is quite an honor and certainly a big surprise," Funk said of receiving the Spirit Stick award. The Spirit Stick, engraved with names of past caretakers, is essentially a Hall of Fame for Ice Age Trail advocates and volunteers. "Many people at the MSC project wanted to hold it and read the names. That's what it's all about," said Funk. "It's supposed to go out and make the rounds."

The Spirit Stick Award symbolizes long-term dedication and service to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Recipients of the award exhibit a passion for the Trail that has become a way of life. Leading by example, they inspire those around them and carry out their service with optimism, cooperation, and enthusiasm.

Funk fully embodies these attributes. For starters, as a Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter member, he actively participates in their Monday Mudders trail work group. While physical abilities and work ethic are essential to finishing projects, Pat Witkowski, past Spirit Stick caretaker and Trail Coordinator for the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter said having Funk on a project lifts all involved.

"His quiet and subtle expertise is unmatched. He has the unique ability to bring others up to his level – in work ethic, skill level, wisdom, and integrity," she said. "Bob's soft-spoken demeanor makes all of us (Monday) Mudders feel appreciated. We all know how important the Trail is to him, through his service on the Board and at MSC events, but it has been such a pleasure to get to work with him at the local level."

Since becoming an Alliance member in 2008, he's rarely missed an MSC event, no matter their location in the state. As a result, long-time volunteer Sharon Dziengel, who spearheaded Funk's nomination, pointed out, "His skills have evolved to being proficient in most every technical aspect of Trailbuilding... whether it is crafting dirt for trail tread, precisely placing rocks for a rock wall or steps, or the woodcraft of building boardwalk and bridges."

Funk acknowledges: "It's an opportunity to provide a pathway for people to be out and enjoy nature. I love the outdoors. I want to make that opportunity available to as many people as possible," he said. It's the mission of Alliance to provide that footpath. It excites me and others, and I want to be part of it."

Funk, a retired small-business owner, estimates he spends about 500 hours a year working on Ice Age Trail work and administrative



Bob Funk (R) introduces his daughter Tara (L) to the intricacies of rock work along the Rib Lake Segment. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

projects related to being an Alliance board member. In addition to Funk's impressive trail work resume, he is active on the Alliance's Board of Directors and served two terms as president.

He loves hiking and traveling but being among the volunteers who maintain and build 1 of the nation's 11 National Scenic Trails has become a passion. "I like the friendships I've made and always like to acknowledge all the people I've worked with," he said. "There's nothing on the Ice Age Trail that's done by one person. It's always a team – whether staff, chapter members, MSC – it's a team effort, and I want to acknowledge them all."

The Alliance staff selects the Spirit Stick Award recipient at their annual staff retreat. However, they keep the honoree a secret until the Annual Conference Awards Ceremony, when they announce the next caretaker. As a result, Funk was unaware he would be honored and didn't know his wife, Jane, was in the crowd.

"Jane's a big supporter of the Ice Age Trail, but she doesn't attend many events," he continued. "When they announced my name, she started walking up, too. She was just as excited as I was. She made sure the entire family knew (about the award) before I had a chance to talk to them."

"It's a high honor," Funk said. "I will do my best to continue that honor and pass it on to the new person next year."

Dana Bolwerk is an aspiring Thousand-Miler (with lots 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.

Have Saw, Will Travel

CHRISTI LEE, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Featuring: John Kolbe, 2023 Trail Steward of the Year

When fellow volunteers joke John Kolbe was born with a chainsaw in his hand, they're closer to the truth than they might suspect. "I probably started sawing around age 9 or 10," he said.

Kolbe grew up in the small Northwoods town of Laona, Wis. Chainsaw accidents were common among the lumber-industry workers who reported to his father, a professional forester. "It was bloody," Kolbe remembers. There was no formal safety training and little protective gear beyond hard hats and earplugs. Sawyer chaps and chain brakes had yet to be invented. Young John observed a know-it-all attitude further amplified dangers already inherent in the work.

Nevertheless, the high-risk aspects of chain-sawing are a major part of what he finds interesting and challenging. "Even cutting up a downed tree involves a lot of assessment and strategizing. I enjoy that," he said.

Kolbe first set foot on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail around 2010, when friends invited him to go hiking on the Monches Segment. On subsequent hikes, he couldn't help noticing places along the Ice Age Trail where a chainsaw could be useful. How to help? He completed the Ice Age Trail Alliance's chainsaw certification requirements, joined the Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter's Trail maintenance crew, and became Segment Steward for Monches—as he remains to this day.

Heeding a call for sawyers to address storm damage in the Blue Hills, John attended his first MSC project, where he happily sawed all day, every day. Soon he became known as "an available saw," willing to go wherever needs arose.

Before long, fellow volunteers also noticed John's natural leadership abilities. Following retirement in 2019, he stepped into elected roles within the Alliance, becoming the Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter Coordinator and joining the Alliance Board of Directors. On the Board, he served as VP of Personnel and Chair of the Leadership Transition Team for the Alliance's new Executive Director/CEO. When asked if he would consider becoming the next Board President, he replied with a cheerful "Why not?"

Never one to accept "because we've always done it that way" as a reason to eschew change, Kolbe seeks out new and creative ways to address needs and challenges facing the Alliance, on every level. Applying skills honed over

many years running his own consulting business, he brings the same assessment and strategizing to his leadership roles as he does to his work as a sawyer.

Kolbe was among the first group of volunteers to complete the National Park Service's newly-mandated chainsaw certification in 2021, after which NPS staff invited him to become a program mentor. Now he travels all over Wisconsin, helping aspiring sawyers practice skills they need to master for certification. "I really enjoy teaching safety and techniques to others," he says.

On Trail and off, John is known for his easy-going manner, patience, and good humor. He readily pokes fun at his own enthusiasm for wielding a chainsaw—but in case there's any doubt: "I do love trees and I don't want to take down every tree in the forest."

Christi Lee enjoys hiking, birding, building tread, and writing about Trail work and the outdoors. She began volunteering at MSC events in 2015 and joined the Waukesha/Milwaukee Chapter's "Monday Mudders" crew in 2021. She also serves as the Chapter's New Member Support Coordinator.



John Kolbe in his happy place: cutting up a tree downed by a tornado damage along the Hartman Creek Segment in 2019. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

Yellow Blaze Club Members Have Passion to Give Back

SARAH DRISCOLL, PHILANTHROPY MANAGER

It's been said, without volunteers the Trail would be but a line on the map. What's also true is that without members, the Ice Age Trail Alliance would not exist. Member support enables the Alliance to conserve, create, maintain, and promote the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Within the membership are people who are able and willing to take their support to the Yellow Blaze Club level – donating \$1,000 or more each year. These donations are unrestricted, which means the money is allocated where ever it is most needed.



Yellow Blaze Club members are as varied as segments of Trail

Some are ardent volunteers, while others are segment hikers. Some are Thousand-Milers, while others are most concerned with land conservation. There are long-time Yellow Blaze Club members and brand-new ones. The one thing they all have in common is a passion to give back.

“Dawn and I donate to the Yellow Blaze Club level as a way of expressing our gratitude to those who manage, maintain, and coordinate trail activities for the public. We recognize these efforts are no small task and yet the work done behind the scenes makes the hiking of the Trail the only challenge of hiking the Trail.

It is our hope that our contributions, along with those of others, afford the efforts not only to be maintained at their current levels, but expanded. We're also fortunate to have access to corporate matching gifts making our donations go a bit further. **We want to play a role in making the Ice Age Trail only the second fully completed National Scenic Trail and know our contributions will help make this happen.”**

– Dawn and Michael Hourigan, Racine



“We just love that we have this great, long-distance National hiking trail all within Wisconsin. We enjoy helping out with outreach and informing others about the Trail (which we hope leads to others becoming interested in the Trail and maybe becoming members and donating themselves). This includes leading hikes – we try to lead about a dozen hikes (or snowshoe events) throughout the year.

We were interested in donating at a higher level to help the Alliance with its land acquisition needs since that's the key to eliminating miles of road walk and eventually completing the Trail. The annual Zillmer-Reuss Celebration was also a factor in us joining at the Yellow Blaze Club level.”

– Gary Wensing and Kristi Kenyon, Cross Plains





"We are segment hikers and started hiking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail during COVID. We never hiked during the winter months, but that changed when we saw how beautiful the Trail is during a sunny but cold winter day. We have found a tremendous amount of joy and peacefulness while on the Trail.

This year, we decided to join the Yellow Blaze Club because we'd love to see the Alliance continue to grow the number of Trail segments. **We both also believe that when you use something, you should support it financially. We are Badger football season ticket holders. On Badger game days, we spend four hours watching the game, so why can't we spend that same amount when we spend four hours hiking the Trail?"**

– Cheryl McCollum and Steven Ottelien, Madison



"Completing the Ice Age Trail has molded our journeys to becoming young professionals. We were able to become better people after reaching the other terminus. **Reflecting on how much we grew and how important the Trail was to us, we wanted to give back as much as we could. However, in the beginning phases of our careers, we quickly realized we did not have much free time to develop and maintain the Trail. Instead of volunteering, we made the decision to support the Trail by joining as Yellow Blaze Club members. Becoming a member of the Yellow Blaze Club is a great way to ensure that the Trail is taken care of.** There is pride in getting recognition in *Mammoth Tales* as well as at the Annual Conference. In addition, we are invited to the Zillmer-Reuss Celebration. This dinner is a time to share stories, listen to presentations, and reflect on the accomplishments of the Alliance's projects.

Ultimately, the impact the Trail had on our lives is priceless. Our contribution level directly ensures the next group of hikers can be impacted like we were. In the far future, we know we will hike the Trail again. We want to look back at our first hike and compare how much new Trail has been added and the current Trail was improved. We will hike proudly knowing these improvements were a result of our contribution."

– Erik Melberg and Jazmin Martens, Milwaukee



You're Invited to Become a Member of the Yellow Blaze Club

Consider supporting the Ice Age Trail Alliance at a higher level and join the Yellow Blaze Club. Simply make a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 or more at IceAgeTrail.org/yellow-blaze-club/.

When you do, you'll receive special recognition (including being listed in *Mammoth Tales*—see page 30) and an invitation (for you and guest) to the annual Ray Zillmer-Henry Reuss Memorial Dinner and hike.

Questions about the Yellow Blaze Club or other support opportunities? Contact Sarah Driscoll, the Alliance's Philanthropy Manager at sarahd@iceagetrail.org or call 608-798-4453 ext. 227.

Save the Date: The Annual Ray Zillmer-Henry Reuss Memorial Dinner

To celebrate Yellow Blaze Club and Burr Oak Society Members

October 6 at the Museum of Wisconsin Art, West Bend

Details will be sent to invitees soon.

Future in the Outdoors: A Millennial Attends the Annual Conference

ALLISON LESSARD, DANE COUNTY CHAPTER MEMBER

Besides the rumors about Wisconsin being flat, I only knew a little about it before moving here two years ago from Massachusetts. So, after setting into my new job, I looked up “places to hike” and “backpacking in Wisconsin.” This desire to explore is how I stumbled upon the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Since finding the Ice Age Trail, I have become a Thousand Miler Wannabe, section hiking more than 250 miles of it. In 2022, I completed the Mammoth Hike Challenge and became an Alliance member. Then, in 2023, I attended the Annual Conference.

I participated in the Future in the Outdoors Summit, meeting people ages 18-30 who shared a similar interest in the Trail or were hearing about it for the first time. We spent the day hiking together, sharing stories about our hiking experiences and knowledge of the Trail. The Alliance staff who hiked with us also shared about getting involved in Trailbuilding and maintenance, which excited me about volunteering.

After our hike, TikTok stars and thru-hikers Renee and Tim, talked about their experiences hiking many different trails. My biggest takeaway from their presentation was to prepare quality food to avoid carrying extra weight and inadequate calories. In addition,



Allison Lessard (orange jacket and yellow cap) enjoys a Future in the Outdoors Summit presentation along with other attendees. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

we learned about the pros and cons of using specific equipment. They also taught us about filtering water and the importance of water safety for a healthy hiking experience.

After the presentation, we participated in a BINGO game that required us to interact with other conference attendees to fill in the squares on our game sheet. As a result, I met the 2022 Spirit Stick caretaker, chapter leaders, and Trailbuilding volunteers, including those who had broken equipment while building the Trail. Meeting people involved with the Trail for more than 30 years was fun and inspiring!

I went on a shuttled group hike to the Dunes Segment on Saturday. And at the end of the day, I attended the Awards Banquet and Celebration. I felt awed by how much time people have donated to the Trail; one honoree reached the 6,000-hour milestone. The event was inspiring to witness and influenced my decision to get more involved.

Since the conference, I have considered leading hikes for the Dane County Chapter, going so far as to meet with hike leaders to learn from them. In addition, I spent an afternoon putting together boxes for the “Think Outside” program that gets fourth graders out onto the Trail. I have also participated in a Trailtessa event, where I met many amazing women who have become my new hiking buddies.

The Ice Age Trail has been such a blessing to discover. And I am so happy to have attended this year’s annual conference, which influenced me to get even more involved with the Ice Age Trail Alliance community.



Alliance staff and Future in the Outdoors Summit participants gather for a post-hike photo. Photo by Maura Hanley.

Allison Lessard, originally from Massachusetts, moved to Madison for a job with the UW Hospital as a Neuro Nurse. In her spare time, she volunteers at the Alliance headquarters, daydreams about hikes she might want to lead, and heads out across the state, hiking. She’s on a quest to become an official Thousand-Miler.

Resolution of Appreciation for Michael G. Wollmer



Former Board President, Patty Dreier (R), and newly elected Board President, John Kolbe (L), congratulate Mike Wollmer, retired Executive Director and CEO of the Alliance, for his years of service to the organization. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

Recently retired Mike Wollmer was recognized for his 16 years of leadership as the Executive Director and CEO of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. In his honor, the Board of Directors drafted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Directors of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. ("IATA") wish to acknowledge and honor the many years of service of Mike Wollmer as Executive Director/CEO of IATA and before that, as Executive Director of the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Directors wish to express their gratitude for Mike Wollmer's service to the IATA and their sincere thanks for the many contributions Mike made to the IATA through his support of its Employees, Directors, Chapters, Partners, Members, Volunteers, and other Stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Directors recognize Mike Wollmer for his tireless work on behalf of the Alliance and the new appreciation and expanded usage of the Ice Age Trail that developed during his tenure; and

RESOLVED, that the Directors extend their sincere thanks to Mike Wollmer for the many contributions he made to the IATA which included adding nearly 100 miles of blazed trail to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail under his leadership; and

RESOLVED, that the Directors recognize Mike Wollmer for his passion for the mission and acknowledge that IATA's future is brighter as a result of Mike's dedicated service to the Alliance.

Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Awards

The following Volunteer Hours awards recognize the extraordinary level of service individuals donate to building and maintaining the Ice Age Trail.

In 2022, **1,839** volunteers provided **89,349** hours of service, totaling **\$2,526,247.46** in private sector value. And, at this year's National Park Service VIP awards ceremony, **147 volunteers** were recognized for passing various volunteer-hours mileposts.



1,000 Volunteer Hours:

Lee Auner, Langlade County Chapter
Roberta Bie, Central Moraines Chapter
Vicki Christianson, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
Kathy Claude, Lakeshore Chapter
Bruce France, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
David King, Indianhead Chapter
Mike Livesey, Dane County Chapter
Mary Lutz, Dane County Chapter
Diana Matthews, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Jim Onofrey, Lodi Valley Chapter
Beth Shimmyo, Dane County Chapter
Becky White, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

3,000 Volunteer Hours:

Cheryl Gorsuch, Lakeshore Chapter
Jerry Pfeifer, Dane County Chapter

4,000 Volunteer Hours:

Jon Bishop, Dane County Chapter
Bruce Jaecks, Northwoods Chapter
Joe Jopek, Langlade County Chapter
Melanie Lord, Dane County Chapter
Mark Struve, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter

6,000 Volunteer Hours:

Anne Helsley-Marchbanks, Dane County Chapter



Alliance staff beam delightedly as Anne Helsley-Marchbanks receives a warm recognition from Luke Klobardanz, Executive Director of the Alliance, for her 6,000 hours of service on behalf of the Ice Age Trail. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



Thousand-Miler Recognition

The Alliance 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 recently completed their hikes and were recognized at the Annual Conference for officially joining the ranks of Ice Age Trail Thousand-Milers:

Kelly Anton, Sussex
Sharon Anton, Sussex
Matt Aschenbrener, Waukesha
Teresa Aspeslet, Marshfield
Mark Asplund, Birnamwood
Janice Barnard, East Troy
Jerry Bartelt, Black Earth
Jake Braun, Madison (Thru-hiker)
Kathryn Briggs, Madison
Collin Britton, Richmond, VA (Thru-hiker)
Maggie Carrao, Madison
Paul Carrao, Madison
Julie Coffman, Tomah (Thru-hiker)
JoAnn Cruse, New Glarus
Susanne Dane, Madison
Jenifer Davis, Madison
James Dillon, Eau Claire
Dorene Disch, New Glarus
Sarah Driscoll, Madison
Dea Fowler, East Troy
Patrick French, Canterbury, NH (Thru-hiker)
Jenny Fuerstenau, Greenville
Kate Gabriel, Madison
David Gerst, Hustisford
Jared Gonzales, Madison (Thru-hiker)
Ken Haling, Elkhorn

Stuart Hansen, Mount Pleasant
Jane Hendricks, Rhinelander
Michael Hourigan, Union Grove
Alan Jaeckel, Ixonia
Joan Jaeckel, Ixonia
Brock Jansen, Wausau
Theresa Jansen, Wausau
Mary Johnson, Chetek
Nancy Krueger, Waukesha
Arlette Laan, Lowell, MA (Thru-hiker)
Barbara Leetzow, Eau Claire
Nancy Lehman, Oconomowoc
Ric Leitheiser, Kewaskum
Liz Lusk, Madison
Dave Macco, Sheboygan
Annette Martiny, Reedsburg
Priscilla Matthews, Monticello
Sean McConaghy, Land O' Lakes
Linda McReynolds, Rhinelander
Fiona McTavish, Madison
Dale Morehouse, Weston (Thru-hiker)
Donna Pederson, DeForest
David Perez, Glendale
Nicole Peters, Aztec, AZ (Thru-hiker)
Richard Peterson, Elk Mound
Holly Pfaff, East Peoria, IL (Thru-hiker)

Dale Prey, Oshkosh
Kathy Purpus, Kendall
Anne Rogalski, Rosholt
Tami Rohm, Oshkosh
Terrie Sanders, West Bend
Judy Sauer, McFarland
Sanjay Shoney, Brookfield
Pam Smith Jilk, Marathon
Sue Steinmann, Arena
Auri Stephenson, Abingdon, VA
Paul Sworske, Allenton
Cary Tempas, Valders
Amos Thies, Fitchburg (Thru-hiker)
Ed Twist, Appleton
Kris Van Handel, Madison
Nianqing Wang, Madison
Xiping Wang, Verona
Marta Weldon, Madison
Mike Weldon, Madison
Jonathan Werning, Mukwonago
Jared Wildenradt, Madison
Dory Witzeling, Appleton
Glenn Wobick, Wauwatosa
Grace Zhang, Madison

A robust class of Thousand-Milers circles up for a photo. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



"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.

Robert Fisk, Baraboo Hills/Heritage Chapter
Theron Nash, Blue Hills Chapter
Mary Retzke, Central Moraines Chapter
Bruce France, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
Dave Hladilek, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
David Earles, Dane County Chapter
Kevin Welton, Dane County Chapter
Craig Knowlan, Indianhead Chapter
Greg (Spike) Keiler, Lakeshore Chapter
Scott Peschke, Lakeshore Chapter
Curt Denevan, Langlade County Chapter
William Morley, Langlade County Chapter
James Schleif, Langlade County Chapter
Joanna Fanney, Lodi Valley Chapter
Gary Ertl, Marquette County Chapter
Donald Evans, Northwoods Chapter
Michael Pelech, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter
Ruth Sommers, Portage/Waupaca County Chapter
Kenneth Manthei, Rock County Chapter
Don Saunders, Rock County Chapter
Mark Gleissner, Trailwide

Doris Manthey, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter
James Jacobson, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter
Thomas Route, Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter
Christi Lee, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Mark Ormsby, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Lyle Buettner, Waushara County Chapter
Wayne Tess, Waushara County Chapter

Make Your 2024 Award Nominations!

Shine a light on an outstanding Ice Age Trail volunteer, partner or friend! Nominate them for a 2024 award. To get started, visit IceAgeTrail.org/Awards

A stellar group of "In the Mud" award winners were recognized for their extraordinary contributions to chapter efforts in building and maintaining the Ice Age Trail. L to R: Ruth Sommers, Ken Manthei, Lyle Buettner, Mark Gleissner, Doris Manthey, Rob Fisk, Mark Ormsby, Christi Lee, Mary Retzke, and Theron Nash. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



Accumulating Every Single Step: Completing the Thousand-Mile Journey OR Beyond Hiking: Better Relationships, Stronger Friendships, and Deeper Fellowship

GRACE ZHANG

I have lived in Madison for the past 20 years. Yet, despite my home being less than two miles away from the closest Ice Age National Scenic Trail segment, I had rarely even stepped foot on the Ice Age Trail – much less considered hiking it – until Christmas Eve of 2019.

On that day, my friend Xiping Wang organized a group hike along the beautiful Cross Plains Segment, the section traveling through the Andersen Preserve (near Hickory Hill Street). The temperature was warm for December. The Trail was quiet and peaceful; only our chatting and laughter sometimes broke through the quietness. The entire hike was about three miles, and we enjoyed it very much; we felt we had exercised enough, earning the right to feast on a big Christmas meal!

Since we had liked our hike so much, when the new year arrived, our group went on a few other outings: the Brooklyn Wildlife Segment, part of the Verona Segment, the Indian Lake Segment, and the Eastern Lodi Marsh Segment. These hikes were close to home and offered three-mile distances. Then spring of 2020 came, and the pandemic hit us. The world went into lockdown, and our group ceased hiking together.

Like many others, I didn't particularly appreciate being housebound; fearing COVID, the outdoors became the only place where I could enjoy nature and find peace. So, I started hiking by myself or with my family—first, just three miles, then five miles, seven miles, and then nine miles. The Ice Age Trail gave us back freedom. Before the summer began, I had finished hiking all of the Dane County Segments and earned my first badge! Encouraged and enjoying the Trail, I considered completing the entire Ice Age Trail.

However, as I hiked segments further away from Madison, I felt the challenge of shuttling and driving to each segment. My husband sometimes joined me hiking or shuttled me; we camped in the state parks, but it was exhausting to bike back to our car or walk out and back. I questioned how I could finish the entire Trail.

Later, as the fall approached, I began hiking with my friends again in a safe, socially-distanced manner. First, my friend Ping Yi joined me, and then another friend, Elaine Fang. Occasionally, a few more friends joined us. We shuttled and

hiked as a group; traveling further and hiking longer distances became easier.

Then, we ran into our original hiking organizer Xiping Wang, at the Holly Hill Segment. He had already set his mind on finishing the Trail and had recruited a mutual friend, Nianqing Wang, to do it with him. That winter, we began hiking with them. Then, in the spring of 2021, we camped and hiked together, carefully planning how to complete all thousand miles. During this time, our hiking group grew bigger – we often had more than a dozen people camping and hiking together. The Beyond Hiking team was born.

We hiked in the rain, under the scorching summer sun, in knee-deep fresh snow, and through rushing creeks. We were chased by an infantry of mosquitos and attacked by ticks. But we also enjoyed the sunrise at Point Beach, the moonrise at Rib Lake, wildflowers, and fall colors in the woods and prairies. I loved stepping on the thick beds of pine needles covering the ground and appreciated perfect reflections on the lakes.

One of the most valuable things I gained from hiking the Ice Age Trail was a better relationship with my family. Another was stronger friendships and deeper fellowship between our Beyond

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Along the Kewaunee River Segment, members of the Beyond Hiking group proudly show completed mileage at that point in time. From the left: Elaine (300 miles), Nianqing (600 miles), Xiping (600 miles), Grace (500 miles), and Ping (400 miles).

Hiking team members. My son, an Eagle Scout who loves the outdoors, joined me on many segments. Once I began sharing his interest in outdoor activities, we began speaking the same language and were able to connect more deeply. We talked about college, friends, the future, and his and his sister's childhood memories. My husband has always loved fishing, which I could never understand. Being outdoors and learning to enjoy nature in different ways, including eating his catches by the campfire, helped us understand each other's hobbies better. Within our hiking group, we shared our challenges and joys around the campfire. We celebrated each other's milestones. We enjoyed hotpot with the contributions from my husband's fishing trips. We rang in Chinese New Year with a feast on a hiking trip. Many of our team members are Christians, and we shared our lives and encouraged each other in our walk following our Lord. I got to know many friends beyond just friendly chats, and we built a much stronger bond and trust with each other.

When many people felt isolated and lost connection with others during the pandemic, hiking the Trail gave me freedom in nature. It connected me with the beautiful creation and my friends and family. I am so glad that Xiping, Nianqing, and I had the same goal of finishing the Ice Age Trail. And that we coordinated each trip together and had many team members join us and support each other. As a result, Xiping, Nianqing, and I were able to finish the Trail on the same weekend! Our friends and team members Yiping and Elaine also celebrated completing 800 miles and 600 miles of the Ice Age Trail, respectively, that same weekend with us!

Doing what I love with a great group of friends was a joy. Without my family and my team members, I wouldn't have been able to complete the entire distance so soon.

The Ice Age Trail also showed me the beauty of community amongst strangers. During the pandemic, many Asian hate crimes were occurring across the country. As a predominantly Chinese hiking group, we were extra cautious when traveling and hiking. While we did experience a few unfriendly encounters, overall, the other people we met on the Trail were friendly. There were the people who helped us pull our car out of a snow-covered ditch; the couple who saw us hiking a connector route in 90-degree weather and went home to grab some ice-cold water and cookies to give to us; and the kind people who gave us a ride to our car after we mistakenly parked a few miles away from our endpoint.

The pandemic and the beauty of nature led me to the Ice Age Trail, spurring me to start hiking my first few miles. I am glad I believe in philosopher Xun-Zi's statement: "Without accumulating every single step, one cannot complete the thousand-mile journey." (a translation of the Chinese characters below). Changes start small, but persistence brings the reward. The first few times I set foot on the Trail, I was inexperienced and weak, both physically and spiritually; I could not hike for more than five miles without pain. However, after completing the Trail, I know I am stronger, bolder, and love nature and others more. I am better than my previous self; that is the greatest gift Ice Age Trail gave me. I love it!!

不积跬步,无以至千里

The Beyond Hiking group poses in front of the Stone Elephant found along the Blue Spring Lake Segment: From left to right: Fengxia, Xiping, Caitlin, Xiaodong, Grace, Elaine, Kevin, Jundong, Yan, Melody, Qiqi, and Mike. Photo courtesy of Xiping Wang.



CHAPTER highlights



INDIANHEAD CHAPTER

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

We had our first in-person annual meeting in January – with 45 people in attendance – at the Ice Age Interpretive Center in Interstate Park. At the meeting, Cheryl Whitman stepped away from her job as Treasurer and into the co-coordinator role with Barb Ceder. In addition, Randy Surbaugh stepped up to become the Treasurer.

Twelve folks enjoyed a Full Moon Snowshoe hike in St. Croix Falls in February. And some of us joined the Superior Lobe Chapter for a Full Moon Snowshoe hike on the Timberland Hills Segment, which was fun. Unfortunately, we canceled our Family Hike in April due to awful weather.

In April, the Chapter staffed a booth at the Midwest Mountaineering Outdoor Adventure Expo in Minneapolis. We had a fun time passing out Ice Age Trail information. Barb, Cheryl, and Alliance staff presented at the Expo, along with representatives of the Superior Hiking Trail, the North Country Trail, and others about our respective Trails.

We hosted a Flora/Fauna Hike in May, and we helped with the City of Trails Race in June. We will also set up a table at the Traprock Hops Wellness Fair. Join us for these events:

- July 19, 9:00 a.m. for a 3.2-mile hike along the McKenzie Creek Segment.
- August 16, 9:00 a.m. for a 2.4-mile hike along the Indian Creek Segment.

Shuttles are available for all hikes. See the Alliance's Event calendar for details.

– Barbara Ceder



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

Coordinator: Sue Greenway (612-723-0354,
smgreenway1@gmail.com,
SuperiorLobeChapter@iceagetrail.org)

This winter, the Superior Lobe Chapter was blessed and cursed with abundant snow and relatively warm temperatures, resulting in perfect snowshoe conditions and a perfectly fine mess of downed trees on our Trails!

Gratitude to our Trail Crew: Chris Bixler, Dale Cardwell, Tyler Gruetzmacher, Bob Held, and Warren Stouffer. This group was relentless. Their efforts ensured our Trails segments remained open throughout the winter season. THANK YOU!!

Their dedication allowed us to hold our two annual winter events:

The 23rd Annual Hemlock Creek Snowshoe hike occurred on a sunny and warm February day. About 25 people joined us, some coming from as far as Madison!

The Timberland Hills Full Moon Hike and Chili Supper followed a few weeks later. Again, the temperatures cooperated: the skies cleared later in the day, allowing for a gloriously colorful sunset and a beautiful moon.

Finally – a huge thanks to Bob Held, who completed his 10th year as Chapter Coordinator, passing the gavel to Sue Greenway at this year's Annual Meeting. Bob will remain active in our Chapter as he continues coordinating Trail Maintenance Activities and shuttles. Thank you, Bob!

– Sue Greenway



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

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

In May 2023, volunteer crews assisted the Blue Hills Chapter with Trail clean-up – damage from December's major winter storm. Volunteers removed downed trees (lots of chainsaw work!), hauled brush, improved signage, and more. Their efforts allowed the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in the Blue Hills to be usable once again.

Simultaneously, another Trail Layout and Design (TL&D) event for the Blue Hills reroute took place. In general, moderate

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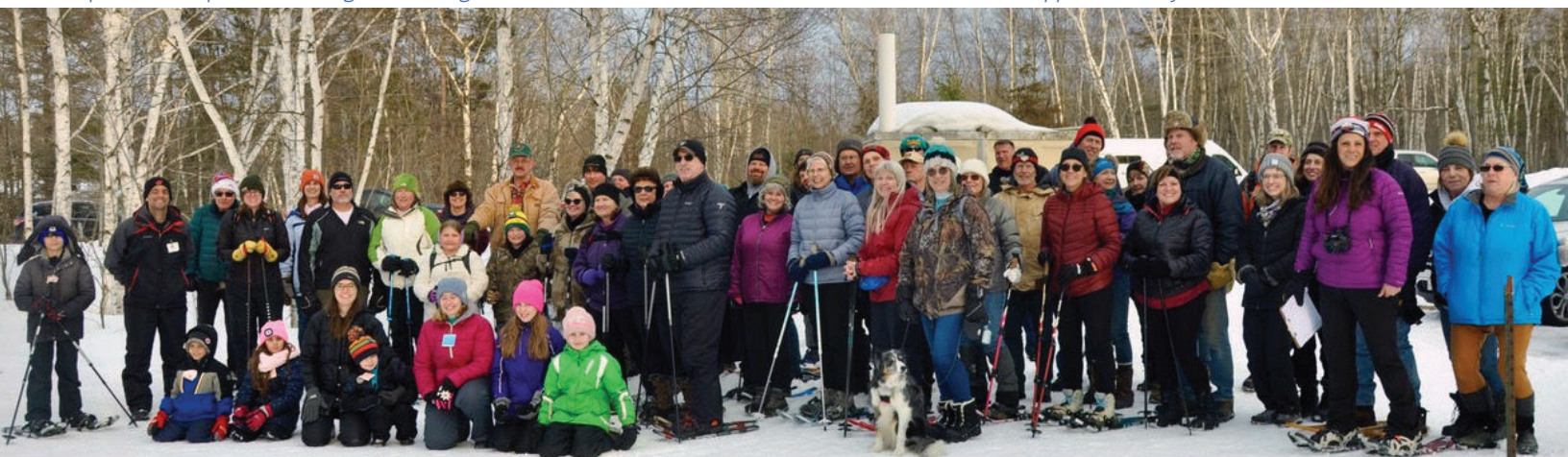


Before. Mark Ormsby (L) and John Kolbe (R) use chainsaws to cut trees in the storm-damaged Southern Blue Hills Segment. Photo by Dave Caliebe.



After. The area after Mark Ormsby (L) and John Kolbe (R) cut and cleared the area. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

Cooperative temperatures brought out a large crowd to the Timberland Hills Full Moon Hike and Chili Supper. Photo by Don Erickson.



weather prevailed, much appreciated by everyone involved. Volunteers and staff received permission to camp at Murphy's Flowage, and were supplied with light breakfasts and dinners.

– Marilyn Nash



CHIPPEWA MORaine CHAPTER

Coordinator: Vicki Christianson (715-827-0379 text only, ChippewaMoraineChapter@iceagetrail.org)

Cornell, an Ice Age Trail Community, offers an official Ice Age Trail segment. It begins on Bridge Street (Hwy. 64) near Mill Yard Park. Make sure to stop in at the Visitor's Center, where nearby, you can see the sluices that allowed lumber to float under the road from the Mill Yard to the mill. If you enjoy reading historical markers, there's one about the Stacker (a local landmark!) and community founders, Jean Brunet and Ezra Cornell.

Following the yellow blazes will lead you right down Main Street. Travel past the Main Scoop (ice cream!), Big T's Bar and Grill (burgers and fries!), and Dylan's Dairy (more ice cream!), on your way to 5th Street. There you will find Jean Brunet Park (and bathrooms). Turn right onto 5th Street and travel two blocks to Bridge Street. There are more eateries, including the Moonridge Brew Pub, a grocery store, and a laundromat.

Continue following blazes to Bridge Street and then Eighth Street. Along the way, you'll pass the Rise and Shine Coffee Shop. At Eighth Street, turn right and travel a half mile to Trail access and parking at the Wisconsin Veteran Farm and Winery.

– 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)



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

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

After two weeks of brutally cold weather, we welcomed a tremendous turnout at our annual Snowshoe hike –

111 people enjoyed February's first warm day. We offered four guided hikes, from one to four hours in length. Afterward, folks enjoyed a blazing fire, cookies, hot apple cider, and hot chocolate.

We have several Trail improvement days planned. First, the Averill-Kelly Creek Wilderness Segment will get a new bridge

A snowshoe adventure along the Underdown Segment offers hikers the opportunity to see and walk on bogs and lakes you cannot traverse other times of the year. Photo by Ruby Jaecks.



over Kelly Creek, thanks to the landowner. Also, we will re-open the original route along the New Wood Segment, which was initially closed due to storm damage. And finally, property line changes along the Harrison Hills Segment will require a short re-route.

We're happy to welcome the new volunteers who have joined us this year. Thank you! Also, we appreciate our current volunteers; they do a great job of keeping our segments in good hiking condition.

– Ruby Jaecks



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Bill Morley (414-745-7947, langladecochapter@iceagetrail.org)

Ten hardy souls braved freezing rain and plummeting temperatures to hike a section of the Kettlebowl Segment, from the Sherry Road Trail access and parking to the Frost

Pocket and back. Since it was April, we saw plenty of spring ephemerals, including ramps. Nearing the Frost Pocket, we were surprised by the amount of snow remaining on the Trail. Lisa Szela, Volunteer Coordinator for the Alliance, joined us on her quest to become a Thousand-Miler.

Save the date for a hike on September 16th – we promise it will be warmer!

2023 marks a milestone in our chapter's history: 50 years of Ice Age Trail activity in Langlade County! To celebrate, we're planning a celebration and awards dinner on 10/6 and Chapter-led hikes on 10/7.

Become a Hummock Hiker 50! Hike 50 Ice Age Trail miles (or another unit of measurement) in Langlade County, and earn a special patch commemorating 50 years of Ice Age Trail activity in Langlade County. Visit IceAgeTrail.org/Langlade-county-chapter to learn more.

Joe and Peg Jopek, Dave Tlusty, Lee Auner, Bill Morley, Jim Schleif, and Curt Denevan received service awards at the Alliance's Annual Conference and Membership Meeting in April 2023.

– Bill Morley



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

Coordinator: Chuck Schwartz (715-851-8720, CentralMorainesChapter@iceagetrail.org)

The Central Moraines Chapter elected Chuck Schwartz as our new chapter coordinator at its annual membership meeting in January. Congratulations, Chuck! We also

congratulate chapter member Ron Retzke on his election to the Alliance Board of Directors.

The Chapter hosted two winter snowshoe hikes. January's event featuring the Thornapple Creek Segment attracted 40 participants. February's hike (in conjunction with the Northcentral Conservancy Trust) highlighted the White Cedar Segment. It drew about 20 people despite crusty snow and icy trail conditions.

The Chapter has also benefitted from the skills shared by a talented woodworker. His routed Trail access reminders, like "private drive" and "no dogs", have enhanced landowner relations.

New routed signs at Trail access and parking locations provide guidance to hikers and help maintain good landowner relationships. Photo by Gail Piotrowski.



Spring maintenance has been underway as we prepare to lead hikes for Think Outside, the Woodson YMCA's "The Landing", a Natural Resource Foundation of Wisconsin field trip, and our annual Wildflower Hike in May. In June, we are hosting our annual Central Moraines Chapter Hike-A-Thon.

– Gail Piotrowski and Marit Haug



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

Coordinator: Randy Lennartz (920-787-2333, randylennartz@outlook.com)

After eight years, Jenny Addis decided to redirect her energy and handed off the Chapter Coordinator baton to Randy Lennartz. Jenny's determination, hard work, and dedication have inspired anyone who knows her. She is an outstanding ambassador for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Thank you, Jenny; we wish you all the best!

The weather gods shined on us for our First Day Hike hosted at the Metoyer-Brown Farm on the Chaffee Segment. But, they did not shine on us in February for our annual Candlelight Sweetheart Hike and Snowshoe event. Usually, we fret about extreme cold, snow, and ice. However, this year brought warmth, water, and mud. Lots of mud. Although we canceled the hike, 150 participants gathered, and we enjoyed a successful fundraiser.

The last quarter of 2022 saw the completion of several long-awaited projects. The Ice Age Trail Alliance secured funding through multiple partner organizations and private donations to convert nearly 100 acres of cropland into native prairie along the Pleasant Lake section of the Chaffee Creek Segment. In addition, a new parking lot was installed on the Chaffee Creek Segment, and several others are nearing completion.

Alliance staff organized a workday with chapter volunteers from Waushara and Marquette counties. We cleared the Trail corridor and blazed along the Alliance's Pleasant Lake easement. As a result, a new section of Trail along the Chaffee Creek Segment will be complete by the time you read this. Come check it out. (See page 7 for more!)

– Randy Lennartz



Randy Lennartz and Wayne Tess invite you to sit a spell on the big chair they constructed along the Bohn Lake Segment boardwalk. Photo by Mike Smaby.



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

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



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

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

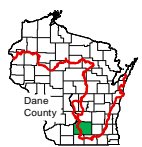
The Lodi Valley Chapter started the year with an online survey about volunteer interest in event planning, communications, Trail maintenance, hike guiding, etc. From that outreach, we connected with about 20 new volunteers.

The addition of candles along the Trail enhanced our February Full Moon hike, much to the delight of night hikers. April Tyke hikers enjoyed the calling of cranes and the opportunity to see a small snake up close, along with other sounds and sights of spring. We continue offering monthly Full Moon and Tyke hikes and occasional specialty hikes.

Volunteers from around the state came together in February to cut and burn cedar and other invasives on the Gibraltar Rock Segment's Steenbock Preserve. This multi-year effort is restoring a beautiful remnant prairie.

Chapter members met in March for the Chapter's Annual Meeting. Ross Mori, a chapter member, shared photos of his and his wife's experience visiting every Wisconsin State Park in 2022. We also recognized Joanna Fannery as our nominee for this year's In the Mud Award.

– Patti Herman



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

In December 2022, the Dane County Chapter began a multi-year effort to improve the Ice Age Trail corridor on a 1.9-mile section traversing the University Ridge golf course. Led by volunteer Ed Spoon, 43 individuals gave 576 hours over 7 workdays to clear huge amounts of honeysuckle and buckthorn brush. Then, working closely with the University of Wisconsin's O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Facility and the University Ridge Golf Course, the Alliance obtained a City of Madison burn permit. In February, chapter volunteers burned 14 brush piles, including a tractor-built pile measuring 35 feet X 35 feet X 8 feet high. The Alliance's Land Restoration Specialist, Steve Pence, was instrumental in overseeing the effort.

The Alliance hosted two Habitat Improvement Projects at the Table Bluff and Cross Plains Segments in January and February. More than 250 volunteers braved cold temperatures to clear woody invasives.

In April, volunteers Bob Kaspar and Ed Spoon worked hard to install a new sign on the Montrose Segment, replacing a damaged one.

Volunteers have been working hard clearing fire breaks for the Spring burn season. Before long, it will be time to remove invasives.

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CHAPTER highlights *continued*

Ed Spoon and others have also repaired damaged boardwalks along the Brooklyn Wildlife, Valley View, and Madison segments. Their hard work helps ensure dry feet while hiking!

– E.J. Temme



Before and after clearing brush along the 1.9-mile University Ridge golf course section along the Madison Segment.



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

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



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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

2022 ended with Walworth-Jefferson County Chapter members participating in one of several local lighted Christmas parades, followed by a holiday potluck at the December meeting. Then, the Chapter welcomed 2023 with a hike at the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, followed by a well-attended potluck.

Our annual indoor workday focused on sharpening tools, finishing ornaments, and locating/reviewing historical records for our commemoration – 30 years as a Chapter! This event will take place in mid-2023; more details are coming.

February proved to be quite busy. We hosted a Moonlight hike in the Milton area and staffed a booth at the PBS Garden Expo in Madison. We also set up an informational and hands-on display at a Mini-Maker Fair at the Elkhorn Area High School, where attendees could strip bark and decorate hiking sticks, a popular activity!

A Moonlight hike in March had intrepid hikers dodging downed trees and branches from a weeks-earlier ice storm. Then in April, we collaborated with representatives of UW-Whitewater (an Ice Age Trail Campus) to host hikes along the Blackhawk Segment, near Lake La Grange (a few miles outside of Whitewater), and on the campus grounds to encourage students to get more engaged in outdoor activities.

– Vince Lazzaroni



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

(414 964-7635, barbjoh@hotmail.com)

Chapter hike leaders rang in the New Year with a First Day hike along the Lapham Peak Segment. More than 175 folks came out for that event, and a similar-sized group attended a February Full Moon hike in Hartland, an Ice Age Trail Community.

Burning our accumulation of brush piles proved challenging due to winter snowfall that lingered only a few days before quickly melting again. Nonetheless, we eventually accomplished the task during five or six burn events. In addition, burn-day volunteers enjoyed hot lunches cooked over the coals, courtesy of our Social Events Coordinator.

In early spring, members spent an afternoon cleaning and sharpening all our Chapter-owned tools in preparation for the coming season. Thanks to a generous donation, our tool collection grew by 20 shiny new loppers this year.

Our Monday Mudders crew installed long-awaited new signage for the Delafield Segment in early spring. This sign, painted more than 15 years ago, was stored in members' garages, awaiting permission from various entities. Now, a QR code on it provides long-distance hikers with camping information for nearby Nagawaukee Park.



A member of the Monday Mudders, Bob Funk, puts the finishing touches on a signage post along the Waterville Segment. Photo by Christi Lee.



The Mudders also relocated segment signs for Lapham Peak and Waterville, anticipating a new parking lot near the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Chapter volunteers dedicated warm April mornings to clearing brush in anticipation of future Trail along the Waterville Segment.

– Christi Lee



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

Our March “Welcome Spring” hike along the West Bend Segment became a winter wonderland experience for hardy hikers as wet, heavy snow fell. Our May “Flower Moon” hike coincided with the full moon.

Chapter volunteers planted 300 trees in the Alliance-owned Otten Preserve along the Kewaskum Segment in April, then planted 300 trees on the Holy Hill Segment in the same month. Eleven employees of Kerry Ingredients & Flavours Inc. (Jackson, Wis.) kindly assisted Chapter members with the second event. The “Do Good Bus,” arranged through the Volunteer Center of Washington County in West Bend, shuttled these volunteers to the site.

We have Trail improvement days planned for pulling garlic mustard and buckthorn, plus solving an erosion problem on the Loew Lake Segment.

– Paula Klima



LAKE SHORE CHAPTER

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

The Lakeshore Chapter is offering two new hiking awards with patches. The Ahnapee Tracker follows the rail-to-trail sections in Door and Kewaunee Counties. The entire distance is approximately 28.4 miles. The Lakeshore Wanderer “wanders” through parts of Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Counties for 29.7 miles. You may find details about fees, hiking logs, and program completion by visiting IceAgeTrail.org/Lakeshore-chapter for more information.

Lakeshore Chapter volunteers built a 63-foot boardwalk over a water-filled swale along the Point Beach Segment in May. Our DNR partners at the Point Beach State Forest helped, delivering all the wood close to the work site. We also built a 231-foot boardwalk along the Walla Hi Segment. Manitowoc County Parks employees helped build the frames and delivered materials to the work site. Again, the Lakeshore Chapter volunteers worked closely with DNR, state, and county partners; collaboration maintains the Ice Age Trail!

– Cheryl Gorsuch



The “Do Good Bus” shuttles volunteers from Kerry Ingredients & Flavours to the work site along the Holy Hill Segment. Photo by Lance Henrickson.

MEMBER & DONOR news

January 1 — May 29

YELLOW BLAZE CLUB

Members who support the Alliance with unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 (or more) annually are invited to join the Yellow Blaze Club. Thank you to our current Yellow Blaze Club members (* indicate our newest members):



David & Kathy Adam
Francisco Aguilar & Elizabeth Ross
Bernard Alberg
Ross Ament & Connie Ellis Ament
Eloise Anderson
Jeff & Judy Archibald
Jim & Linda Arshem
Carrie & Mark Asplund
Rodney Bartlow
Greg "Ole" & Mary Bauer
Natalie Beckwith
Craig & Karen Benson
Woody & Tena Benson
Laura & William Bird
Wayne Block
Alastair Boake & Nancy Vrabec
Gary & Jean Britton
Sue Bronson
Nancy & Lou Bruch
Maggie Carrao
Michael Cavey
Debbie Cervenka
Dana & Patricia Chabot
Mary Cieslewicz
Kathy Claude
Virginia Coburn
Ellen & Michael Comiskey
Victoria Connors
Barbara & Jerome Converse
Susan Cook & Karyn Graham
JD & Shelly Culea
Aga & Mark Dahms
William Davies & Mary Ross
William Dickmeyer
Karl Dickson
Dr. Charles Dorgan
Patty & Tom Dreier
Debra & Edmond Drewsen
Ellen Drought
Dean Dversdall
Dale & Melinda Egeberg
David Eisch
Gerald & Signe Emmerich
Dale & Joanna Fanney
Gordon & Judith Faulkner
Thomas Ferrella
Michael & Yvonne Fort
Catherine Frandsen
Randy & Carol Franke
Charles & Anne Frihart
Bob Funk
Pamela & Gary Gates
Dan & Virginia Geraghty
Dorothy Gertsch & Dale Beske
Greenbush Trail Runners*
Mark & Linda Glasser
Patrick Gray
Sue Greenway

Mark & Molly Griffin
Robert Hance
Stuart Hansen & Erica Eddy
Jack Hansen & Joan V.
LeGare-Hansen
Gail Hanson
Paul & Philia Hayes
Joe Hebda
Peggy Hedberg
Deb & Tom Heier
Karen Ann Helwig
Patti Herman & Bill Welch
Mary Hertel
Chad & Kristin Hietpas
Kristin Hill
Stephanie Hoff*
Ellen Hohenfeldt
Michael & Dawn Hourigan
Kathy Hoven
Stephen Huffman & Ellen Meyer
Karen Huser
John & Judith Hutchinson
Dawn & Jay Jaehnke
Dennis James
Dr. Daniel & Paula Jarzemy
Kris Jensen & John Mesching
Nancy Jesse & W. Paul Menzel
Mary Jones
Marcy & Nathan Kempf
Kristi Kenyon & Gary Wensing
Tess Kieselhorst
Mark & Lisa Killingsworth
Darcy Kind & Marc Vitale
David & Karen Kinnamon
Pat Klatt
Brian Klawikowski
Ed & Star Ann Klobberdanz
Luke Klobberdanz & Letha Kelsey
Susan Knopf
John R. Kolbe
Jerry Krause
Paul Kraynek
Sarah Krebs
Cynthia & Scott Kuenzi
Jeffrey Kuesel
James La Charite
Leah Lalor
Bob Lange
Meg & Peter Layton
Leon & Liz LeVan
Sally Lewis
E. David Locke
Larry Loizzo
David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney
David & Lois Lovejoy
Alfred Lustig & Janice Watson
Mary Lutz
Shannon Lutze

Edward & Sue Ellen Madere
Rob Malewicki
Doug & Tracy Marconnet
Susan J. Marguet & Ron Nash
Cheryl McCollum & Steven Ottelien*
Dolly McNulty
John & Bonnie Meerschaert
Rose Meinholz & Larry Hochman
Erik Melberg & Jazmin Martens
Robert T. Melzer
Linda Mertz & Alan Scrivner
Don Meyer
David & Vin Mickelson
James Mooney
William Morley & James Schleif
Charles Mowbray
Tess Mulrooney
Fred Nash
Marilynn Nash
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Nelsen
Patrick & Betsie O'Brien
Randy & Joanna Parlee
Dean & Jayne Paynter
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Jonathan Schneider
Laura & Robert Schneider
Tommye Schneider
Elisabeth Schraith
Richard Schreiner
Ruth J. Schuette
Spencer & Sarah Schumacher
Nancy Schuster
Tony Schuster
Jen & John Shank
Mark, Heather, Lottie, Lilian, Eloise
& Milton Sharafinski
Terry Sherven

John Shillinglaw
Karen & John Silseth
Maureen Skelton
Don Smalley
Ronald R. Smith & Paulette
Walker Smith
Ed & Paulette Spoon
Fred Stadler
Margaret Stafford
Phil Stefoni*
Kimberly Stepien & Andy Maulbetsch
Sally Stix
Jane Stoltz
Troy Stoneberg*
Betty A. Storey
David & Sandy Street
Antony Stretton
Benjamin & Briana Swanson
Dr. John D. & Deanna Swanson
Lee & Jacqui Swanson
Brian Theyel & Elizabeth Sullivan
Marcia Thomas
Jerry & Lori Traugher
Jim Trumpy
Elizabeth A. Uihlein
Tom & Bonnie Umhoefer
Tom & Melissa Underwood
Lysianne Unruh & Jason Dorgan
William Ralph Van Haren
Maureen & Ben Vander Sanden
Barbara Voigt
Sherri Voigt
Lila Waldman
Nianqing Wang & Leilei Song
Dr. Karen Wedde
Jennifer Werner
Gregory & Diane Whiffen
Andrew Whitney
Donna, Jeff, and Kelly Whittle
David Wilber
Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink
Tom Wise
Pat & Gary Witkowski
Pauline Witte
Mitchell & Suzanne Wolf
Matthew Wolff
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Janet & Levi Wood
Tim Yanacheck & Ann Heaslett
Ledell Zellers
Janet Zimmerman
William Arthur Zorr
Anonymous (11)

To support the Alliance at a higher level and join the Yellow Blaze Club, visit: IceAgeTrail.org/yellow-blaze-club/



BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

The Burr Oak Legacy Society recognizes members who have made the commitment to support the Ice Age Trail Alliance through legacy gifts. The following members are celebrated today for their future gifts, which will help continue 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
Denny Caneff
Robert & Victoria Connors
Jerome & Barbara Converse
Cathy DeLain
Julia and Chad Dibler
Jason Dorgan
Patty & Tom Dreier
Dean Dverdall
Joanna Kramer Fanney
David & Carol Farber
James & Susan Fiore
Andrew Fulrath
Bob Funk
Tom & Jan Gilbert
Jerry Goth
Sue & Steve Greenway
Roy & Sue Gromme

Tom Gross & Linda Hein
Dr. Kurt Hansen
Deb & Tom Heier
Russell & Karen Helwig
Mary Hilfiker
Alain & Patricia Hung
Madeline Kanner
Marcy & Nathan Kempf
Dean & Mary Klinger
Ed & Star Ann Klobberdanz
Bob Lange
Lorraine Lange
Linda Levengood
Lyle & Susan Lidholm
Kate Lindsay
Susan Lindsay
David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney
David & Lois Lovejoy
The Lundberg Family: Herb, Corrine,
Kimberly (Lundberg Taylor), Barton,
and Rodrick
Rob Malewicki
Neal & Donna Meier
Buzz Meyer
Susan Mischler

Tess Mulrooney
Melinda & Brian Nelson*
Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee
Nancy Jo Patterson
David W. Phillips
Gail Piotrowski
Carol Prchal
Daniel Rambo
Kay Rashka
Steve Richter & Laura Cominetti
Darrel Ruechel
Ann & Bob Rusch
Ellyn Satter
Elisabeth Schraith
Gerald & Mary Schwoch
Ralph Stamerjohn
Julie Starks
Jane Stoltz
Betty A. Storey
Tony Stretton & Philippa Claude
Libby & John Stupak
Lee & Jacqui Swanson
Sarah Sykes
David Tenenbaum
Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor

Brook Waalen & Stephanie Lundeen
Wendy Watson
Becky White*
Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink
Tom & Bonnie Wise
Pauline Witte
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Jessica & Doug Woodward
Anonymous (17)

If your legacy plans (including retirement, bequest, estate plans, etc.), include the Ice Age Trail Alliance, please let us know. Contact Sarah Driscoll, Philanthropy Manager, at sarahd@iceagetrail.org or call 608-798-4453 ext. 227.

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

Matt Aschenbrener & Debbie Chambers

by Bruce & Jenifer Davis

The IATA's Board of Directors

by Patty & Tom Dreier

Dave Caliebe

by Mark & Jeanne Ormsby

Ari Clouse

by P.E.O. Chapter AJ

Susan Fiore

by Nancy Lightfoot

Sevie Kenyon

by Tara & James Garhart

Melissa & Karl Luhrs

by The Kruse Company Realtors

Stephanie McGuire

by Julie Balson

North Kettle Crew - Jess, Kim, Nat, Geni

by Jacob Gunville

C. Pedersen Family

by Katherine & James Dix

Kirsten Peterson

by Heidi Larson

John Wildrick & Abby Work

by Nancy & Will Samson

Mike Wollmer's service to the Alliance and the Ice Age Trail

by Bob Funk

Otto Yurk

by Shelby LaTona

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

Nancy Adams

by Don & Mary Kreuser

Janet Ann Bond Sutter

by Dale Schaber

Daniel "DJ" Clark, Jr.

by Karen Abel

Cocoa

by Gigi Holland

Chuck Ehemann

by Dorothy Gertsch & Dale Beske

Mary Pat & Dennis Olson

Ann Rice

Dan Frankel

by Susan Frankel

Kathleen Marquardt

CDR Edward J. Gleason, USCG ret.

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Kelly Hatch

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Kim Hatch Ault

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The Walzer Family

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Mohammad "Saeed" "Mike" Kiarang

by Ken Detmer

Martha Donnan

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Lynn Stoeveken

Janice Verona

Various Friends and Family

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by Dale Schaber

Ruth Manthey

by Nancy Morgan

Andy Whitney

Barbara McKinley

by Diane Harp

Judy Mirr

Karen Possley

Michael Salm & Claudia

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Jerry & Laurel Sazama

Janine Wildenburg

Tom & Pat Pintar

by Sue Ehrick

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Dr. Tom & Lori Pintar

Christopher Rohr

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Michael F. Vogl

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Anne DiBella

Vince & Ruth DiBella

Michael & Karen Goldammer

Vesta & Patrick Goldammer

Cheryl Gorsuch

UW-Stout Library Staff

Thomas Vogl



PO Box 128
Cross Plains, WI 53528

TRAIL terminus

A Trail Community Perk: Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpacks!

Ice Age Trail enthusiasts can stop in at the Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library in Baraboo and the Portage Public Library to check out Ice Age Trail Explorer Backpacks. (Please call ahead to verify availability.)

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!

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



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.

