It’s already been a very successful year for the Ice Age Trail and the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and we couldn’t accomplish any of it without you. I’m honored and excited to return for another term as your President, wearing whichever hat is necessary to support you, our members, volunteers, Board, staff, and Trail Communities.

The Alliance is strong and vibrant. We’re on the right path and I look forward to advancing our mission. Especially the goals set forth in our Strategic Plan for continued growth towards a fully completed Trail. Over the past six decades, we have accomplished great things. We’ve protected many parcels of land for future generations to enjoy, engaged thousands of students and adults with the outdoors and nature, all while creating a very special Trail.

Personally, I’ve been involved in the Ice Age Trail for over ten years and it has brought so much to my life. One of my favorite aspects of working on the Trail and with the Alliance is the wonderful community I have found. From our staff to our volunteers and everyone in between, I have been fortunate to meet so many unique and talented individuals that have enriched my life. The ability to connect with you all is what makes working with the Alliance so enjoyable. I have always taken great pride in introducing our Trail to members of my family and friends. Every time, their awe of what we have done rejuvenates my enthusiasm for our work.

We’ve already completed successful Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) projects this year and are pleased to be piloting a new Seasonal Maintenance Trail Crew this summer to provide assistance with keeping our Trail in top condition throughout the state. I’m looking forward to a full season of continued work with the MSC crews and hope to continue to use these projects as an opportunity to both better the Trail and further get to know this inspiring community.

We are doing well because of your generous financial support and enthusiastic volunteerism. From this effort, you should be extremely proud of helping to create the premier footpath in Wisconsin and one of the finest in the country. We still have a lot more to accomplish and I look forward to working with you.

If you have ideas, opportunities, or stories of how the trail has brought you friendship and community I would love to hear from you!

Happy Trails!

Bob

bob.funk@iceagetrail.org
OUR mission

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

ON THE COVER: The essence of a serene late summer afternoon. This view along the Kewaunee River Segment (Kewaunee County) was captured by hiker and outdoor enthusiast and photographer William Y. Park.

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

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

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CONTENTS

2 President’s Report
4 Annual Report Highlights
5 Awards Spotlight
10 Philanthropy Highlights
11 Outreach & Education Highlights
12 Trailbuilding Highlights
15 Trail Adventures
16 Thousand-Miler Journals
18 Chapter Highlights
22 Member & Donor News
24 Trail Terminus

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Nancy Schuster, Chippewa Falls, WI
Danny Tang, Madison, WI
Matthew Underwood, Madison, WI
Please take a moment to read about the 2018 successes you helped make possible.

**Spirit Stick**

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

The recipient of this year’s Spirit Stick Award is Gerald “Buzz” Meyer.

At the Alliance’s awards ceremony, executive director Mike Wollmer summarized Buzz’s remarkable contributions with the following words:

If you don’t know Buzz, you haven’t been to Taylor County. As far as the Ice Age Trail is concerned, Buzz is Taylor County.

Since at least 2,000, Buzz has been racking up volunteer hours…well over 3,000. From being the “new kid on the block” in 2002, he has become a dedicated leader serving as chapter coordinator for the High Point chapter for 17 years now. One of his first priorities was to collaborate with fellow volunteers and the US Forest Service to mark and sign all road crossings in the Chequamegon National Forest…a first for the Ice Age Trail and still unique today.

Buzz has helped host a whopping 18 major MSC events since 2002 and earned the status of Crew Leader in 2004. Regardless of the year, Buzz is the go-to-guy for all MSC and local trail improvement events…advance work, staging, public contacts and promotion. From time to time, change and conflicting interests arise in any endeavor…the High Point Chapter was no exception. Fortunately, there was Buzz…a steadfast proponent of working together for the common good of the Trail, but also the Alliance.

He’s been generous to the financial health of the Alliance as one of our earliest members of the Yellow Blaze Club.

Here’s notable Buzz factoid…In 2016, he shuttled 53 hikers, in 2017 another 45. In each of those years, at his own expense, he logged over 3,000 miles. Taylor County is only 42 miles long!!!

Buzz is an Ice Age Trail champ, but there’s more to him. Buzz is a fixture in the Medford area. His dedication to his faith, community, youth and the outdoors is an inspiration. Medford is as lucky as we are.
Trail Steward of the Year

The Trail Steward of the Year recognizes a volunteer whose work contributes in an extraordinary manner to Trail management and development. Whether it is through strengthening landowner and/or partner relations; trail layout, design, and construction; or through significant maintenance and trail improvement efforts (mowing, chainsaw, & signage).

This year’s award recognized Rich Propp of West Bend, WI. As Tim Malzhan, Director of Trail Operations, wrote in his nomination of Mr. Propp:

Rich’s impact exceeds his extraordinary accomplishments: the hundreds of feet of boardwalk and dozens of bridges built in all terrain, in all conditions, and in all areas of the state; the thousands of duff buckets carried and blowdowns cleared; the five or more miles of rugged Kettle Moraine trail where, in a three-week gap between MSC projects, he singlehandedly removed, then carried for miles, numerous, heavy, 6x6x8 round posts to be disposed of, then turned around and single handedly carried in and set plumb, replacement trail signage posts; or, the countless hours behind a brush hog keeping trail segments in good and mowed condition, the hundreds of volunteer crews led across the state, or the countless ways in which he provides clear, insightful input whether it be local chapter, MSC, or statewide issue that needs attention.

Rich is a leader by example. He is a trail maintainer and go-to Sawyer who is active with the Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter. He is an exemplary IATA Crew Leader in Good Standing who, since 2009, has attended and contributed mightily to nearly every Mobile Skills Crew event. Rich can always be counted on to see a project through to completion and to lend a hand wherever and whenever needed.

Public Partner

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

This year the award went to Raymond Hajewski, a long-time trail supporter via his work with the Wisconsin DNR as the Trails Coordinator for the Kettle Moraine State Forest Southern Unit. Ray’s roots extend back to the mid-1970’s with trail route planning. Significant sections of Ice Age Trail were constructed during his tenure with DNR. In the early 90’s he found time to help re-activate the Walworth/Jefferson chapter.

As Jerome Converse of the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter wrote in his nomination statement for Mr. Hajewski:

Ray was instrumental in the collaborative process of planning for and the physical work of routing, clearing, and constructing the Ice Age Trail through the Kettle Moraine State Forest in the mid 1970’s. Over the course of several decades, he and his crews completed the 30-mile distance of the Ice Age Trail from what is now known as the Whitewater Lake Segment through to what became the Scuppernong Segment. In addition to clearing trail with rotary cutters, chainsaws, and a bulldozer, Ray was a master with a double bitted axe. His encounters with wasps, yellow jackets, and mosquitoes in hot, humid weather as crews advanced the trail are hardships familiar to today’s trailbuilders.

Ray, an inspiring, affable, knowledgeable guy, was a hit with all the trail groups the park was involved with. In fact, his expertise in trail construction and maintenance was so well regarded, he was asked to educate other trail user groups in other parts of the country. His helpfulness extended to the Chapter he helped reactivate. Need railroad ties for steps? Yep. Provide input to reroute trail off of horse, bike, and snowmobile trails? Yep. Need access to a shop and sign router? Yep. He offered plenty of assistance: creating maps, marking trail, and flagging reroutes. His recommendations led to trail remediation and erosion control. One of his final efforts included getting the trail GPS’ed so the Kettle Moraine State Forest had accurate maps.
**Thousand-Miler Award**

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

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

George & Violet Bane, Belvidere, IL  
Amy Bayer, Madison  
Nancy Daly, Madison  
Jeff Dohlby, Pewaukee  
James Durnil, Waukesha  
Mark Fox, Eagan, MN  
JeanMarie Gossard, Andover, MA  
Steven Gunderson, Oregon  
Judy Hanlon, Milton  
Cynthia Hertzberg, Racine  
Ryan Jansen, Middleton  
Todd McMahon, Madison  
Patrice Nicolet, Mazomanie  
Lou Ann Novak, Sun Prairie  
Wayne Prior, Madison  
John Prokop, Oconomowoc  
Jason Pursell, Mill Creek, WA  
Linda Schultz, Delevan  
Pam Smith, Mosinee  
Mary Stauffacher, Janesville  
Brian Tanzman, The Villages, FL  
Sandra Thorpe, Beloit  
Kris Van Handel, Madison  
Gary & Sharon Vaughan, Kimberly  
William Vogel, Fort White, FL  
Annie Weiss, Milwaukee  
Jared Wildenradt, Madison  
Lynn Williamson, Madison  
Janet Wood, Madison

**Crew Leader**

This award recognizes any person who meets “Crew Leader in Good Standing” requirements. This is based on participation, training, and certification requirements leading to the attainment of “Crew Leader in Good Standing” status.

To meet and maintain “in Good Standing” requirements, individuals must demonstrate advanced leadership qualities, safe working practices, effectively lead volunteer crews on- and off-trail, maintain skill-based certifications, and serve in a Project Team role at one or more Mobile Skills Crew events within a 15-month timeframe.

Flanked by Mike Wollmer, IATA Executive Director and Tim Malzhan, IATA Director of Trail Operations is a new class of Crew Leaders, ready and eager for their next assignment. Pictured (Lt to Rt): Rick Bie, Charles Schwartz; Anne Heilsly-Marchbanks, Alaina Dedo, Dustin Pares; Diane Harp.
“In the Mud” Award

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

Bob LeFevre, Blue Hills Chapter
Robert Bie, Central Moraines Chapter
Karla Larson, Central Moraines Chapter
John & Libby Stupak, Chippewa Moraine Chapter
Gregg & Marie-Anne Westigard, Indianhead Chapter
Kathy Claude, Lakeshore Chapter
Myron Hafele, Lakeshore Chapter
Dean & Polly Blazek, Langlade County Chapter
Mandy Crary, Lodi Valley Chapter
Jay Gasser, Rock County Chapter

Dan Brereton, Superior Lobe Chapter
Jim Lake, Superior Lobe Chapter
David Carew, Trailwide
Christi Ehler, Trailwide
Beth Shimmyo, Trailwide
Gerhard & Theresa Stegemann, Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter
Rebecca Burton, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
John R. Kolbe, Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter
Amy Holzwart, Waushara County Chapter
Randy Lennartz, Waushara County Chapter

Beaming “In the Mud” recipients were honored by their peers in recognition for their commitment to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Pictured front row (L to R): Theresa Stegemann, Kathy Claude, Beth Shimmyo, Rebecca Burton, John Kolbe. Pictured back row (L to R): Gerhard Stegemann, Roberta Bie, Karen Larson, Christi Ehler, and Dave Carew.

Make Your 2019 Awards Nominations!

If you know an outstanding Ice Age Trail volunteer, partner or friend, shine a light on his or her work by making a 2019 award nomination. Visit https://www.iceagetrail.org/awards-iata/ to get started. Thank you for recognizing your fellow volunteers!
Volunteers in Parks (VIP)

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

At this year’s NPS VIP awards ceremony, more than 156 volunteers were recognized for passing various volunteer-hours mileposts since the inception of the program in 2007.

Don Erickson, flanked by Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator, IATR (L) and Eric Gabriel, Superintendent (R), was recognized with a handsome plaque for setting a brand-new precedent – 10,000 volunteer hours in service of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

Bob Funk (L) and Jerome Converse (R) were recognized for their 4,000 volunteer hours with a framed Presidential Award Certificate. Also recognized but not pictured were Ellen Davis and Randy Lennartz.

Rich Propp, Dolly McNulty, and Tom Wise are flanked by Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator, IATR (L) and Eric Gabriel, Superintendent (R). They were recognized for their 6,000 volunteer hours with a “Master Ranger Corps” vest embroidered with their name and VIP patch. Photo by Cameron Gillie.

Sharon Dziengel, Andy Whitney, Ruby Jaecks, Wanda Brown, Ruth Sommers, Buzz Meyer, and Mark Struve were flanked by Dan Watson, Volunteer Coordinator, IATR (L) and Eric Gabriel, Superintendent (R). These folks were recognized for their 3,000 volunteer hours with a stylish jacket embroidered with their name and VIP patch. Rod Bartlow and Joe Jopek were also honored with this award but are not pictured. Photo by Cameron Gillie.
Bob and Victoria Connors Push Ice Age Trail Enhancements

SEVIE KENYON

At a quick glance, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail may seem a humble trail. But when someone who has circled the globe multiple times, traversed trails wide and far, and been in and out of the Grand Canyon on foot twice, uses the word “spectacular” about the Ice Age Trail, well...

“I’ve been hiking for more than 40 years,” Bob Connors says. “My introduction to the Ice Age Trail was in the Whitewater Lake area.”

Bob and his spouse, Vicky, got to the trailhead that day with friends from the Forest Trails Hiking Club; a club based near Chicago where they live. The club routinely visits Wisconsin to bike and hike and that day was the beginning of a passion for the Ice Age Trail (IAT). On the day of this interview, Vicky was on the IAT for a 26-mile hike with the club.

“I feel like I’m an ambassador for the Trail,” he says. “I’ve led many hikes and I even get a little possessive about it.”

Given his passion for the IAT, it’s no wonder Bob serves on the board of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the overseeing body for the Trail. Serving on the Alliance board afforded Bob the opportunity to specifically direct his passions toward programming to expand Trail resources. Bob provided the seed money needed for the recent Muir Properties Land Acquisition Campaign whereby two important pieces of land were forever protected for the Trail. He also established the Robert and Victoria Connors Land Resource Fund.

“I was happy to serve on the board and I wanted to use my directorship to encourage the Alliance to become more aggressive about completing the Trail,” Bob says. “The Land Resource Fund is intended to be a revolving fund; a pool of money ready to use for taking care of costs like down payments, lawyers, surveys, and title searches while fund raising is going on to acquire the land.”

When Bob talks about “more aggressive” it also means he is a proponent of using eminent domain to get the land needed to finish the IAT. Eminent domain isn’t popular with people including many associated with the Trail.

“The Appalachian Trail is the only completed National Scenic Trail and the reason it’s completed is because they used eminent domain. Many national parks have used it,” Bob says. “And the more time that goes by, the harder and harder it’s going to be to complete the Trail. The nature of a trail, like a highway is that you need a chain of properties. The refusal of a single property owner can make this impossible.”

Only government agencies can employ eminent domain. As a non-profit, the Alliance cannot use this method. Instead, the Alliance has a long-held practice of working with willing landowners who support the vision of the Ice Age Trail or simply view the Alliance as a potential buyer for their property.

Talking points for approaching landowners, farmers in particular, include pointing out that the land the Alliance is interested in usually isn’t very productive. Hikers are looking for steep hillsides, marshes, hedgerows, and other out-of-the-way places to walk. Such land is hard to farm or develop, Bob notes, and is therefore something farmers and landowners may be willing to make available for the Trail.

Meanwhile, having the Robert and Victoria Connors Land Resource Fund positions the Alliance to move fast to start the land buying process when opportunities come along. The idea is to use money from the Land Resource Fund to get started and then restore the fund to keep it ready for future opportunities.

Bob has had a life of travel going back to his youth when he was allowed to go on a bus to Gettysburg for the 100th anniversary of the Civil War battle there. More time was spent hitchhiking through Europe. Before law school Bob bought a VW bus and set out with a friend to explore the western United States. He mentioned going around the world on a cruise with his mother as one of the best trips ever.

Hiking remains a central part of the life he shares with Vicky. They are on the Ice Age Trail as much as they can. Bob isn’t doing rigorous hikes anymore as he is fending off the effects of cancer and putting his life in order. There’s nothing like a new chapter in life to cause a person to reflect on what’s important. And the Ice Age Trail is important.

“The Ice Age Trail isn’t humble. It’s beautiful, it’s accessible, it’s nearby,” he says. Words from someone who once climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and has walked the trails of Europe.

Contact Luke Kloberdanz, luke@iceagetrail.org 608.798.4453 ext. 226, for information on how you can help the Alliance protect valuable land and build the Robert and Victoria Land Resource Fund.

Sevie Kenyon is a retired agricultural photographer and writer currently living in Oregon, Wisconsin. He is a member of the Rock County IAT Chapter. When asked about his favorite place on the trail, Sevie will tell you, “every step of it.” If you’re interested, many of his pictures are found here: www.flickr.com/photos/netagra And other stories and examples found here: www.netagra.com
Great Summer Destinations: Ice Age Trail Communities!

AMY LORD, OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MANAGER


My husband Eric and I like to explore our great state on weekend road trips. Our journeys usually involve a few things: hiking, fishing, good food, good drink, and if we’re lucky, an estate sale or flea market.

Where are we going? Sometimes we don’t know until we get in the car, but I believe an Ice Age Trail Community can be the perfect destination.

There are now eleven such communities, throughout Wisconsin, with the designation of Ice Age Trail Community, as well as one Trail Campus: UW-Whitewater. What does this mean? It means these communities entered into a collaborative relationship with the Ice Age Trail Alliance in an effort to both support the Ice Age Trail and to raise awareness about the village, town, or city the Trail travels through. The Ice Age Trail Alliance’s Trail Community program is designed to be a big win for both residents and hikers.

It also means it’s time for a road trip! It’s time to find out what all these communities have to offer – one-of-a-kind specialty shops, locally owned markets and bakeries, small batch breweries, and home-grown, family-friendly events. Each place is unique with its own special characteristics, charm, and easily accessible segments of Ice Age Trail.

It’s about the journey and the adventure. It’s about what will you find, who you may meet, and the stories you’ll have to share. By the time you read this article, there will be a total of twelve to explore! St. Croix Falls (western terminus) will celebrate their official designation on June 8th. Rumor suggests Sturgeon Bay (eastern terminus) could join the list very soon, too.

Go get your calendar. Look for a blank space waiting to be filled with an adventure. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Make plans to attend a Thursday Night Outdoor Concert in Nixon Park, Hartland this summer.
- Take a tour of the historic Milton House Museum, Wisconsin’s last accredited Underground Railroad station.
- Stroll through one of the best farmer’s markets in Wisconsin, at downtown West Bend on Saturday morning, now through the end of October.
- Stop by the Historic Washington House in Two Rivers and experience the city’s claims to fame – home of the original ice cream sundae and maritime history at the Historic Rogers Street Fishing Village.

Wherever your travel plans take you this summer, I hope it includes a stop at an Ice Age Trail Community. Let the business owners know the Trail brought you into town and their charm is encouraging you to stay. Let’s demonstrate our support for these communities as they show their support for the Ice Age Trail.

Ice Age Trail Communities from West to East:
- St. Croix Falls
- Lodi
- Cross Plains
- Verona
- Janesville
- Milton
- Whitewater
- Delafield
- Hartland
- Slinger
- West Bend
- Manitowoc-Two Rivers

Delafield - Visitors can explore Veterans Memorial Riverwalk and the elevated boardwalks through cattails and marshland before ending at Cushing Memorial Park in Delafield where an elaborate wooden playground and restrooms can be found. Photo courtesy of the Delafield Tourism Office and Visitors Center.

Whitewater – Enjoy the annual Fourth of July Festival in Whitewater featuring a car show, live music, a ski show, beer garden and great food at Cravath Lakefront Park. Photo courtesy of the Whitewater Tourism Council.
The Ice Age Interpretive Site

ALAINA DEDO
Field Operations Coordinator

Ice Age Interpretive Site
Dane County
March 15 - 16
Participants: 72
Volunteer Hours: 836

PROJECT PARTNERS:
Dane County Parks
Jones Dairy Farm
Crossroads Coffeehouse

Depending on who you talk with, there are various names used to describe this very special place: The Ice Age Interpretive Site, Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains, Cross Plains Interpretive Site, and the Cross Plains Reserve. One thing for certain, though, is that a new section of the Ice Age Trail is coming to fruition on lands that will be the closest thing akin to a National Park in the Badger state.

The stories about this site run deep. In 1961, National Park Service geologist Robert Rose described the region as “an unglaciated area of considerable size where…the relationships between moraine and bedrock of sedimentary origin are most strikingly exhibited in an area of about 9,000 acres south and east of Cross Plains…a self-contained unit scenically and scientifically.”

Here, when the Wisconsin glacier was at its maximum extent, an end moraine formed, blocking the flow of meltwater. Proglacial lakes formed in front of the ice, and when released, meltwater created a deep gorge cut through the moraine and into bedrock. Now, 20,000 years later, volunteers cleared the views to enable this and other landscape stories to be seen and felt by future trail users.

The work began on a pair of overcast, snow covered March mornings as volunteers arrived early, eager to start their saws and pitch in. By midday the sights, sounds, and smells were comprised of everything sweet. The sun made a welcome appearance and at any given point folks would stop, smile, and smell the trail roses – burning brush, chainsaw fuel, and a cup of hot coffee. Volunteers cut, hauled, stacked, and burned invasive brush and trees. They hauled delicious chili lunches overland on snow sleds, and learned how to properly stack and light a brush pile, an art form in and of itself.

(Above) Volunteer Marilyn Chohaney and IATA staff member, Brad Crary, bring piping hot coffee and warm, homemade chili to the work site for lunch. Photo by Rachel Roberts. (Right) A volunteer stays toasty warm while attending to a brush pile created when volunteers cleared the area of invasive species. Photo by Rachel Roberts.

By 4 p.m. Saturday, all could look back and almost taste it: a national scenic trail, wending up and down past breath-taking rock outcrops and an emerging oak savanna.

Modern-day research goes hand-in-hand with the unveiling of this special property. After the Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) event, David Mickelson, Professor Emeritus Geoscience Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dr. Eric Carson, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, operated a track-mounted Geoprobe to bore holes and investigate the presence or absence of proglacial lake deposits which would have formed in front of the ice sheet.

Curious about what they found out? Join us June 19 – 23 for another trailbuilding event focused on bringing to life the next chapter of this glacial tale.

Note: This early spring project was made possible thanks to a Dane County Capital Infrastructure grant agreement.
Counting and Measuring Progress

CHRISTI EHLER
Trailbuilding Volunteer
Oconomowoc, WI

Ringle Segment
Marathon County
April 25 – 27 & May 15 – 19
Participants: 106 & 172
Volunteer Hours: 2,038 & 3,124

PROJECT PARTNERS:
REI
National Park Foundation
Sitka Salmon Shares
Granite Gear
B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation
Judd S. Alexander Foundation
John and Melissa Besse Foundation
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Delta Dental
Crossroads Coffee
Marathon County Solid Waste Management
Greenheck Fieldhouse
Nueske’s Applewood Smoked Meats
Jennie-O Turkey
Pine River Cheese
Sitka Salmon Shares
Zastrow the Beer Man
Jones Dairy Farm

Students from the D.C. Everest Idea Charter School helped create a multigenerational project team as they aided a brigade in moving deck boards to the work site. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

Some things are easily counted and measured. One location, two Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) events, three miles of trail to reroute. Eight new boardwalks and two bridges built, totaling 514 feet. Seven-thousand pounds of granite boulders moved and artfully placed to create one stream crossing. Dozens of new blazes drafted along two miles of newly-opened trail.

Over nine project days in April and May, favored by mild weather some of the time, multiple crews tackled multiple tasks, completing tread and wetland crossings, installing signposts and signs, painting blazes, and readying additional sections for future work. This coming August, after the third installment of this trail-building trilogy, the entire three-mile Ringle Segment reroute is anticipated to be open and ready to hike.

As the May project wrapped up on Saturday afternoon, cold rain blew in and turned the calendar back to March. A supper of steaming hot pea soup helped counteract the penetrating chill. It rained throughout the night. Sunday morning, even the kitchen crew was wearing gaiters. Gusts billowed the dining tent’s curtains, flinging raindrops every which way as folks helped clear away breakfast, break camp, and pack up the trailers.

continued on page 14
Since the early 1970s, the Ringle Segment has consisted mostly of old logging lanes traversing industrial forest land owned by a paper company. A small but significant piece of the segment traversed a private driveway, providing a necessary trail-to-road connection. About 10 years ago, the DNR acquired the paper company’s holdings as a first step toward permanent protection of the segment. Now, thanks to a land exchange agreement with the Patterson family, who’ve been graciously hosting that driveway piece of the Ice Age Trail for 40 years, the final step has been accomplished, permanent protection ensured.

Barely a year ago, MSC volunteers finished the first 1.7 miles of the Ringle reroute. Already, the intervening seasons have softened that section’s raw edges. Already, it’s hard to be certain which of the smaller boulders were strewn by glaciers and which were relocated by human hands to form retaining walls, steps, and water crossings. The overall sensation is one of intimacy with the forest landscape—something the old route lacked, situated as it was along pathways fashioned to accommodate lumber trucks. By next spring, marsh marigolds will bloom beside this year’s new boardwalks where even now, the last muck boot-print is dissolving back into the mud.

Certain things have yet to yield to any measurement scale humans can devise. These are among the rewards of any MSC project. Learning new skills—woodworking, stone craft, leadership. Practicing those skills and gaining confidence. Witnessing that process in others. Making new friends. Developing “trail eyes”. Helping create something of beauty for future generations to enjoy. Hearing hermit thrushes calling and wood frogs chuckling during intervals when drills and sledge hammers fell silent. And just hanging out around the campfire listening to a guy with a guitar singing “Wish You Were Here”.

A volunteer team sets stringers for a bridge across a perennially wet stream. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

A lovely length of newly completed tread easily wends its way forward, blending into the forest landscape. Photo by Gail Piotrowski.
LAEGOs — A Special Group of Ladies

DIANE GENZ

She lifted her left hand and grabbed the rock on the side of the narrow passage. With the other hand she reached up to her friend. A firm grip and a giant step up, together they continued upward to enjoy the taste of wild blueberries and a breathtaking vista 200 feet above the surrounding terrain. This woman, and the one who gave her a hand up, were out on a hike with ten other women, all members of a group called LAEGO (Ladies Actively Exploring the Great Outdoors).

My friend, Ruth Sommers and I had completed the entire 1,000 miles of the Ice Age Trail (IAT) within months of each other. We had noticed and remarked to each other, “Every time I hike, the terrain and surrounding environment becomes more beautiful and addicting.” We wanted to share our joy of hiking and the lasting appeal of the IAT with other women. Thus, in 2013, LAEGO began with a mission statement that reads: “We are active, supportive women with open minds, a positive attitude, and a sense of adventure.”

The success of this group is a result of teamwork, advance planning, and shared leadership. Twice a year LAEGO, now numbering over fifty members, meets for a potluck meal and the scheduling of forthcoming events. Potlucks also serve to introduce new and prospective members to what LAEGO offers. By the end of the meal, the group has six months of events scheduled.

Rotation of leaders is a paramount ingredient to keeping the tone and purpose of LAEGO fresh. Every outing includes two leaders who pre-hike and/or visit the area under consideration. The leaders submit a written description of the hike and members sign up via the group’s website. The pre-hike description includes the level of difficulty, length, and description of the trail. This gives members an idea of what to expect.

Adventures beyond hiking are often suggested and included, for example, a staff-led exploration of Blackhawk Island at the UW-Extension’s Upham Woods Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells and a tour of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo. Biking, kayaking, and overnight stays are popular, too. A two-night stay in Door County included hours of hiking on the IAT in Peninsula State Park and plenty of shopping in the area. Yet, not all the trails the group explores are exclusively IAT segments. Many State parks or State Natural Land Areas have also made the list. Boulder Junction was the setting for three days of kayaking on the Manitowish River along with hiking and biking.

Members range in age between 56 and 78 with an average age of 67 on a recent outing. Events are scheduled for Tuesdays and Fridays during spring and summer; twice a month on Fridays during the fall and winter. Midweek scheduling provides more solitude for the group. Although, when fifteen women are hiking together and chattering, the wildlife may question the forest’s state of quietness.

IAT segments in central Wisconsin, where most of LAEGO members reside, are popular and each season provides fresh opportunities. In spring, anemone, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and marsh marigolds awaken the spirit; summer offers bag lunches and sitting alongside a kettle lake; fall temperatures encourage exclaiming over bright leaf colors, and in winter, snowshoes leave footprints alongside identifiable animal tracks. An outgrowth of LAEGO is a nucleus of members who are members of the IAT “Wannabes,” individuals desiring to hike the IAT in its totality. Two of LAEGO’s Wannabes are near completion of this goal.

In the words of one member “It’s a gift to find a diverse group of ladies with an interest in physical activities.”

To learn more about LAEGO and their upcoming events, or to get ideas about how to start your own LAEGO inspired group, contact dianelaego@gmail.com.
My Ice Age National Scenic Trail experience began in April 2016. I knew nothing about the Ice Age Trail then. I had seen the yellow blazes, but didn’t know what they meant. One day out of curiosity, I searched for ‘Ice Age Trail’ on the Internet.

From the first, I was amazed at how each step seemed to leave the urban world behind. I thought how pleasant it would be to explore a few segments, but I really wasn’t hooked (yet). I bought the IAT Guidebook and Atlas. I enjoyed the mental exercise of planning my hikes. I would review the Guidebook and then map out my route. Since I was a solo hiker, I parked the car, biked one way on public roads and then walked the Trail back to my car.

That spring, my travel buddy of many years was seriously ill and wasn’t able to enjoy the outdoors with me. More and more I found myself thinking, “It’s a nice day. I should get some fresh air. What part of that Trail haven’t I seen?” Then I would be off. As a person dealing with another’s illness, I found the Trail a great place to recharge my batteries. It was a world perfect and apart from the issues that were weighing on my heart but over which I had no control. That June, my friend died. I kept walking. I walked to escape. I walked to fight depression. I walked to grieve.

I don’t know when it happened, but soon hiking the Trail became spiritual for me. I began to learn the history of the Ice Age Trail and to understand the majestic forces that carved the landscape. Here in this erratic or on that esker, I saw eternity compressed into a single moment. I would look at my footprints and wonder who had walked this Trail before me? Who would walk this Trail after me? How did my passage leave an impression of me, even in the smallest way?

It is a transcending experience to stand apart from yourself and watch as you become
part of a greater whole. I’m struggling with the right words here, but somehow, on the Trail, I was walking to a place of continuity and connection. I started talking to the chipmunks, squirrels and deer. When I admitted this online, a fellow hiker responded, “It’s only polite to say hello when you are walking through someone’s home.”

The only real problem I encountered in 2016 was a bad arthritis flare in my knees that occurred after hiking at Devil’s Lake in August. My doctor had me stay away from hiking for several weeks until the inflammation went down. Then I was back on the Trail. That first year I hiked from April until the gun deer hunting season in November. I hiked 456 miles, mostly in southern Wisconsin.

After taking the winter off, I was back on the Trail in May 2017. The second year I started doing hikes in northern Wisconsin, which required some new preparations. After missing a few critical turns, I invested in the Guthook Guides IAT app. I learned to treat my clothes with Permethrin. I also bought a head net, trekking poles, and better hiking shoes that wouldn’t stay wet all day.

Although I preferred solo hiking for its meditative qualities, I decided for safety I would hike remote segments with others. Also, the further north I went the more difficult it was to use a bike to shuttle. I found hiking partners on the Thousand Miler WannaBies group on Facebook and through an email list of hikers who preferred a slower pace with shorter hiking distances. It was a pleasure to meet and swap Trail stories with fellow hikers who became new friends.

Most of the hiking in the second year was farther from home and involved camping overnight. I tent camped at public campgrounds for two or three nights at a time. I found that my best hiking was about 8 miles a day at a 2-mph pace, which allowed plenty of time for pictures and enjoying my surroundings.

In this second year, I started using Trail Angels for shuttles. At first I didn’t want to “bother” anyone but soon realized I couldn’t complete this Trail alone. Everyone was gracious and wonderfully supportive. I would say that the defining aspect of my second year hiking was learning it was okay to ask for help. I tried until the end of October and added 483 miles. I was a much more confident hiker. I understood my limitations and had learned to stay strong and resourceful.

My third year on the Trail started in May 2018. It was an unusually late and wet spring, so for the first month I focused on Connecting Routes. By the time June rolled around, I was in Barron County hiking my way to a Western Terminus completion.

I stayed at hotels in the northwestern part of the Trail to have some Trail luxury and avoid dealing with food in bear country. I did enjoy seeing two more black bear (total of three on my hike) before the journey’s end. I completed my last segment, Indian Lake, as a solo hiker on August 3, 2018. It was great to have the sounds and sights of the woods as my companions as I completed this final Thousand-Miler hike.

My hike was 1,137 miles. I hiked 80% of the Trail solo. My biggest expense was gasoline since I only hiked about 8 miles a day – shorter daily distances mean more trips and more days hiking.

I started hiking the IAT at age 60, having never before hiked in my life. It took some courage to start my journey, and I couldn’t have completed it without help from many others. My IAT completion belongs to those people… the generous landowners, the Trail volunteers, the Trail Angels, IATA staff, and my new family on the Facebook Thousand Miler WannaBies site. It fills my heart with joy to be in such great company.

From the first, I was awed by the history of the glacial landscape and the natural forces that created such beauty. I feel privileged to be a small part of that history. Now I begin to understand that the most important history is the history we are making today. As stewards of this great resource, we choose to support the IAT experience and preserve this beauty for future generations.
Superior Lobe Chapter volunteer, Tim McRaith, leads the long-distance group during the joint annual snowshoe hike with the Blue Hills Chapter. Photo by Marilynn Nash.

Blue Hills Chapter activities during the winter included the annual snowshoe hike in conjunction with the Superior Lobe Chapter. Participation was good for a very cold day. More than 40 snowshoers attended. Hikers enjoyed a fire ring, hot chocolate, and other refreshments before the hike. They met at a restaurant after the outing.

The annual chapter meeting, hosted by Cindy Sesolak of Chetek, included a presentation by IATA Philanthropic Advisor Bob Lange.

During early spring, an increased number of volunteers worked to ready the Trail for the season, assessing its accessibility and removing downed trees. They also enjoyed the signs of spring: plants, flowers, and bear tracks. Yet again, beaver activity caused flooded trail and tree blockage. Assistance from the new seasonal trail crew is anticipated during summer trail improvement days.

- Marilynn Nash

Blue Hills bear tracks in the mud juxtapose with Fred Nash’s boot during the spring of 2019. Photo by Marilynn Nash.

A sizable spring and summer project includes building a 3.6-mile loop trail in the Wood Lake Segment.

Currently, the Ice Age Trail goes around the lake on the south side. The new loop trail will connect back to the camp ground on the north side. Wood Lake Park has rustic camping, a hand pump well, and vault toilets. The lake is designated non-motorized use only and has no dwellings. It is surrounded by public land. A swimming beach and picnic area are located a short walk from the campground.

Adding to the hiker experience of this segment will be the installation of informational signs along the Trail. Currently, the High Point Chapter, Alliance staff, and the Taylor County Department of Forestry and Recreation are working together to formulate a plan for these signs which will mark historical logging sites, glacial geography, current logging practices. They will include turn-of-the-century photos of an area logging camp and depict the practice of floating logs by river to distant mills.

After February’s historic snowfall, we can finally explore the trail for spring clean-up. On Earth Day, April 22, I found 25% of the trail still under significant amounts of snow but was able to accomplish some clearing and remarking. We are all looking forward to spring and summer tasks.

- Lee “Butch” Cledenning

Beaver activity affected the trail temporarily in the Blue Hills during the spring of 2019. Photo by Marilynn Nash.
members of the central moraines chapter set aside quality time to build 50 frames needed for construction of the 450-foot boardwalk slated for building during the april 2019 ringle segment mobile skills crew event. photo by gail piotrowski.

Teamwork is the name of the game as members of the central moraines chapter work in harmony to assemble the components needed to construct a boardwalk. behind-the-scenes efforts like this, prior to a mobile skills crew event, makes the entire on-site project run more efficiently and achieve the desired outcomes. photo by gail piotrowski.

Spring cleaning along the Ice Age Trail in Marathon County is well underway. By the time you read this, two of three Mobile Skills Crew events will have been completed (we suspect you’ve heard more about them in the preceding pages). Besides building 50 frames in anticipation of the first MSC event (April 25-27 Ringle Segment), the Chapter will have hosted its annual Wildflower hike and the inaugural Central Moraines Chapter Hike-A-Thon! We’ll report more on this (June 8th) event later. It’s all geared toward introducing more people to the trail and raising funds for much needed maintenance / trail improvement projects.

Thank you to all who have supported us to get this event off on the right foot, as well as your efforts at the MSC events.

- Gail Piotrowski
of Service. Congratulations to “In the Mud” award recipients, Randy Lennartz and Amy Holzwart.

We have a packed schedule, find us on Facebook or contact Jenny at addisjenny@yahoo.com to join our mailing list. We look forward to seeing you on the trail!

- Jenny Addis

MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER
Coordinator: Gary Ertl
(608-369-3543, garebear510@hotmail.com)

BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER
Coordinator: Scot Harvey (608-335-2286, BarabooHillsHeritageChapter@iceagetrail.org)

Due to generous fundraising efforts locally and assistance from Alliance staff, we were able to purchase a new mower! Our old one was in the shop three times last summer. A big thank you to everyone who contributed towards the purchase of this much-needed piece of equipment! We were honored to be asked to be part of the “One Sauk, Naturally,” an initiative of which seeks to care for the natural beauty of the area while serving as a major tourist destination.

Trail improvement days begin in April, with members meeting the last Saturday morning of each month through October. The chapter has also met with the Riverland Conservancy, which hosts the Merrimac Segment of the Ice Age Trail, to coordinate care of the Trail and area along it. We also have permission to improve our tool storage area that is also located on Conservancy land.

The chapter has also updated our Facebook page to reflect our new status. Check it out! https://www.facebook.com/IceAgeTrailBarabooHills/

- Debby Capener

LODI VALLEY CHAPTER
Coordinator: Joanna Fanney
(608-577-9984, Lod Valley Chapter@iceagetrail.org)

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The chapter has also updated our Facebook page to reflect our new status. Check it out! https://www.facebook.com/IceAgeTrailBarabooHills/

- Debby Capener

Winter refused to let go of its grasp on Wisconsin. Intrepid hikers, in the middle of April, enjoyed a snowy climb and a wintry view of the valley below Gibraltar Rock. Photo by Dave Caliebe.

A number of chapter members attended the IATA Annual Conference in March, with some chapter members recognized for their volunteer efforts. Chapter members led intrepid hikers through the rain, sleet, snow and wind to hike on the Gibraltar Rock Segment as part of the conference offerings; a beautiful hike in any weather. In addition, members volunteered at the conference by co-leading sessions and assisting with registration.

- Patti Herman

DANE COUNTY CHAPTER
Co-Coordinators: Anne Helsley-Marchbanks
(608-231-3479) and James Luebke (970-723-9591)
DaneCoChapter@iceagetrail.org

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

On a Friday in late April, 21 UW Whitewater students and faculty, 15 Janesville City Staff, Friends of Rock County Parks, and Rock County Chapter Members cleared brush north of the Ice Age Trail along the Spring Brook Creek. We recorded 125 hours AND debuted our new tool trailer. This year at the Annual Conference the following members of the Rock County Chapter were recognized: National Park Service recognition, 100 hours - Tom Presny; 100 hours - Amy Jenson; 250 hours - Sue Madere; 1,000 hours - Ed Madere.

IATA Mammoth Achievement awards: Ryan Gasser received the $500 Douglas “Stickman” Sherman Scholarship Award; “In the Mud” - Jay Gasser; New Crew Leader - Amy Jenson; and our newest Thousand-Milers: Judy Hanlon, Sandy Kallas, and Sandra Thorpe. The Rock County Chapter continues to have success with encouraging local groups to help out on the Trail: Mercy Hospital, Young Professionals of Janesville, and Recappers to name just a few.

- Dennis James
of Trail stewards. Spring was officially welcomed with a Wildflower Hike, including a trek through the Pasque Flower Preserve and Brady’s Rocks (in neighboring Waukesha County).

- Vince Lazzarini

WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Interim Coordinator: Brad Crary, IATA staff (608-798-4453 ext. 225, Brad@iceagetrail.org)

LAKE SHORE CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Dan Mitchell (920-497-8444) and Cheryl Gorsuch (920-860-1061) LakeshoreChapter@iceagetrail.org

Winter and spring are times of rest, planning, and some action. A number of our chapter members finally got around to attaining Lakeshore Chapter’s “Hall of Kamers” award by hiking eight segments in the Northern Kettle Moraine for a total of 27 miles.

Despite lake-effect snow reaching inland to our chapter’s Annual Meeting at Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Two Rivers, adventurous members reviewed our last year’s work and planned for 2019. Of note, with our multiple interests, the chapter voted to have Co-Coordinators, Cheryl Gorsuch and Dan Mitchell. This year we are working on finishing work at Walla Hi County Park area, landscaping the “slab hill” on the easement west of the park. And nature continues to call us to modify/ correct various segments within our 184 miles of the Ice Age Trail (and, well, roads).

In the aftermath of the tornados that blasted the Northern Kettle Moraine last fall, we returned to modify one of the segments under our care. No Problem. Two hours. Four guys. And some tools (chain saw, pruning saw, McLeod, Pulaski, pick-mattock, round-point shovel, square-point shovel). That’s all it took to remove a stump to edge the trail over from where a massive oak rootball had opened a hillside chasm.

Promoting the IATA and the Lakeshore Chapter at a number of events supporting our Manitowoc/Two Rivers Trail Community is always a fun way to meet area folks (and we’re getting interest from other cities, as well).

- Dan Mitchell

Summer 2019 | MAMMOTH tales 21
MEMBER & DONOR news

January 1 — May 13, 2019

THE IATA WELCOMES...

NEW MEMBERS
Thank you to the 212 new members of the Ice Age Trail Alliance!

NEW YELLOW BLAZE CLUB MEMBERS
The Yellow Blaze Club consists of members giving annual gifts of $1,000 or more. Thank you to the following new members:

John R. Kolbe
Patricia McKearn & Richard Smith
Fred Stadler

MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts were received from:

Alliant Credit Union Foundation
thanks to Catherine Duresa
American Family Insurance
thanks to Ed McManus
Craig Moinihan
Emily Potter
Ameriprise
thanks to Daniel Marbes
Bank of America/Merrill Lynch
thanks to Amanda Handeland
Boston Scientific
thanks to Bradley Belter
Caterpillar
thanks to Charles Poat
Eaton
thanks to Jena Lynch
Edwards Lifesciences Foundation
thanks to Kimberly Taylor

BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

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

David & Kathy Adam
Bess & Bernard Alberg
Mike & Sally Armbrust
John & Sharon Bloodgood
Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz
Nancy Brownrigg
Robert & Victoria Connors
Jerome & Barbara Converse
Jason Dorgan
Joanna Kramer Fanney
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Bob Funk
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Dr. Kurt Hansen
Deb & Tom Heier
Russell & Karen Helwig
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Madeline Kanner
Marcy & Nathan Kempf
Dean & Mary Klinger
Bob Lange
Lorraine Lange
Linda Levegnow
Lyle & Susan Lindholm
Kate Lindsay
Susan Lindsay

David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney
David & Lois Lovejoy
The Lundberg Family — Herb,
Corrine, Kimberly (Lundberg Taylor), Barton, and Rodrick
Neal & Donna Meier
Buzz Meyer
Susan Mischler
Tess Mulrooney
Randi S. & Joanna M. Parlee
Nancy Jo Patterson
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Carol Prchal
Daniel Rambo
Ann & Bob Rusch

Elisabeth Schraith
Gerald & Mary Schwoch
Tony Stretton & Philippa Claude
Libby & John Stupak
Lee & Jacqui Swanson
Sarah Sykes
Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor
Brook Waalen & Stephanie Lundeen
Wendy Watson
Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink
Tom & Bonnie Wise
Pauline Witte
Mike & Barbara Wollmer
Anonymous (13)

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

James D. Courtney
by Penny Bernard Schaber & Dale Schaber
Lynn Fry
by Jason Fry
Ted Goeres
by Dale & Joanna Kramer Fanney
Cindy Hertzberg, Mary Stauffacher, and Peg & Joseph Jopek
by Mark Hertzberg
Wendell Holl
by your friends at Merrill Lynch
Anne Korman
by Brad Gorski
Corrine & Herb Lundberg
by Kimberly & Eric Taylor
Gerry & Mary Skalecki
Kris Dimock & Pat Schroeder
Bill Traeger
by Trish & Michael Mochower

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

Irene Cline
by Sharon Bloodgood
Sarah Ebert Sykes
by Jason Sykes
Mary Jean Goeres
by Dale & Joanna Kramer Fanney
Evelyn Gundersen
by Sarah & Rich Kirby
Carla Hamre Thoftne
by Sue & Russ Malisch
THANK YOU to Our Generous Donors

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Fred & Marilyn Nash
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Elizabeth A. Uihlein
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$250 – $500
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Shelley Botchek
Rebecca Burton
Milton Cargill
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Laura Cominetti & Steve Richter
Robert & Victoria Connors
Chuck & Gloria Crary
Tom Crozier
Nancy Daly
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Dale Eckstrom
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Nancy Jo Patterson
David Phillips
Martha Pieper
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Elaine Plank
Tim Putra & Debra Scharff
Daniel Rambo
James Stalnaker
Lysanne Unruh & Jason Dorgan
John & Lila Waldman
Wal-Mart
Cheryl Wessel
Timothy & Cynthia Wick
Anonymous (2)

MILESTONES continued

Gary Hart
by Joe & Peg Jopek
Rev. Donald F. Hetzler
by Dale & Penny Schaber
David J. Hvizdak
by Carol & Scott Bayliss
Suzanne & Bobby Fink
Mary Ann King
George & Lisa Trexler
Tink Trexler

Gary Klatt
by Sharon Bloodgood
Don Erickson
The Klatt Family
Frank Luther
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Bob Mickelsen
by Dale & Penny Schaber
Bryon Ramsak, Jr.
by Dale & Penny Schaber
Sylvester Socha
by Nancy & Vince Lazzaroni
Jeannie Timmers
by Dorothy Jeffries & Laurence Bilek
Chris Ulfig
by Donna Schmid
Mark Walmann
by Dale & Penny Schaber
Harold & Dora Wedde
by Dr. Karen Wedde
At Sitka Salmon Shares we strive to be good stewards of the ocean and to improve livelihoods in the communities where we work. We do this by connecting our fleet of small-boat Alaskan fishing families’ sustainable catch with consumers who want to get closer to the source of their seafood. We call this direct-support model a Community Supported Fishery (CSF).

We believe resilient (some might say stubborn) communities are the bedrock of a healthy, sustainable food system. This understanding goes back more than a century to when farmers, on the Great Plains, organized as the Grangers to advocate for better prices for their crops. Today, this type of thinking is directly tied to the Community Supported Agriculture and Fishery movements.

We are deliberate about building communities of neighbors, colleagues, family, and friends who convene in support of and celebrate in our shared natural resources. This includes supporting organizations who share in the stewardship of our natural heritage for the long-term. This is why Sitka Salmon Shares proudly supports the Ice Age Trail Alliance’s efforts of creating, supporting, and protecting a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

We hope our smoked wild salmon made for great fuel for trailbuilding crews during the 2018 Trailbuilding Season and continues to sustain these fine volunteers in 2019, too. We celebrate these efforts with you by offering a $25 discount on a CSF share of our fishermen’s sustainable catch when you use code IceAge19. For each CSF enrollment supporting our stewards in Alaska, we will donate $25 to Ice Age Trail Alliance stewards here in Wisconsin. Go to https://sitkasalmonshares.com/ and sign up for a salmon or seafood share.

Stay Wild!

John Clarke, on behalf of the Sitka Salmon Shares Madison-based Farmer’s Market and Outreach Crew