



MAMMOTH tales



SPRING 2024



ICE AGE TRAIL
ALLIANCE



LUKE KLOBERDANZ
Executive Director/CEO

A Decades-Long Quest Achieved!

It's always interesting to receive a forwarded email that begins with an expression not appropriate for print in Mammoth Tales. With this type of message, you know what you're about to read is either going to be VERY good or VERY bad.

In the case of a particular email I received on a Monday in early December, it was VERY good: the Ice Age National Scenic Trail would become an official unit of the National Park Service.

Achieving Unit Status was a decades-long quest for the Alliance. It involved many, many advocates and supporters, including dedicated volunteers, Alliance staff, and Trail supporters from across the United States. Elected officials from Wisconsin have stood behind this designation for decades, but none more staunchly than Senator Tammy Baldwin. Indeed, it was the Senator and her staff that diligently met with National Park Service leadership to finally designate the Ice Age Trail, North Country Trail, and New England Trails as official Units. All of the advocates throughout the years have had a common belief: the Ice Age Trail should be on equal footing with other National Parks (and Scenic Trails) within the National Park Service. And, finally, it is.

Unit Status will not change your ability to hike on the Trail. But, it should open up new funding opportunities for the Trail, and improve the experience in years to come. Most importantly, Unit Status validates the work of Alliance volunteers. You haven't been creating and maintaining the just the Ice Age Trail, you've been working on a National Park!

To learn more, read our
blog article at
IceAgeTrail.org/iat-nps-unit-status
Or use this code



SCAN ME

OUR PARTNERS



You know, Unit Status was the cherry on top of a really great year for the Alliance, which: had record-breaking number of volunteer hours devoted to the Trail (100,666); got 10,000 fourth-graders registered for Think Outside, and added 15 blazed miles to the Trail. This was only accomplished because of the steadfast support of Alliance members and volunteers.

We're already in the thick of things for 2024—having hosted three Habitat Improvement events this winter. And, we're looking forward to a busy Trailbuilding season with seven Ice Age Trail Crew projects planned. But before Trailbuilding kicks off, we're hosting the 17th Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference—this year in Baraboo. Great things are planned, including lots of hikes and a night on the town. See pages 4 and 5 for more information.

Hope to see you at the Conference where we will celebrate Unit Status and the opportunities ahead.

Congratulations!

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:

Ice Age Trail Alliance staff and volunteers carefully start and monitor a prescribed burn on an Alliance-owned preserve. Photo by Steve Pence.

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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You won't
want to
miss it!

2024 Ice Age Trail Annual Conference and Membership Meeting

April 18-21 • Ho-Chunk Hotel and Conference Center • Baraboo, Wis.

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



Register now: IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference

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

Many, great shuttled hikes

Most Choose Your Adventure outings will be offered in the morning and again in the afternoon, for greatest flexibility. Hike the entire length of five segments—Devil's Lake, Portage Canal, Baraboo, Sauk Point, and Lodi—and check them off your list. Or choose adventures where you can learn something new about prairie restoration, Trailbuilding, Aldo Leopold, or the Western Bifurcation.

A variety of informative sessions and engaging speakers

- Learn about Ice Age Trail history and geology.
- Experience Ho-Chunk Nation culture through music, dance, and presentation.
- Discover how the Trail inspires.
- Learn what to expect at a Trailbuilding project. And, how to correctly blaze the Trail!
- Practice the ins and outs of the FarOut app with staff guidance.
- And so much more!!

NEW in 2024!

Explore and support Baraboo, an Ice Age Trail Community, on Thursday evening. Take a shuttle from the hotel and head to area restaurants for dinner! Arrange dinner companions ahead of time, or hop a bus and meet new friends!

**Come for It All or Just a Day.
It'll be great to see you!**

REGISTRATION ENDS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3.

Don't forget your hotel room: special rates at the Ho-Chunk hotel for conference attendees. Call at 800.746.2486 and ask for the **Ice Age Trail Alliance** room block, or provide group room block ID #13150.



FREE Certified First Aid and CPR Training!

Attention all current (and future) Sawyers and Swampers! Get the training and certification required these roles at Alliance projects. Two training sessions will be offered.

Pre-registration and pre-workshop homework are required to attend the training. Questions? Contact Lisa Szela, Volunteer Support Coordinator, at lisa@iceagetrail.org.

For a detailed schedule of events and to register, visit: IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference

Or use this code:



SCAN ME

OFFICIAL MEETING notice

2024 Annual Membership Meeting

This provides Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc. members with official notice of the **Ice Age Trail Alliance's Annual Membership Meeting, Thursday, April 18, 2024, 2:00 p.m., Ho-Chunk Hotel and Conference Center in Baraboo.**

The meeting takes place during the Alliance's Annual Conference. More information about the conference is available at IceAgeTrail.org/annual-conference.

You may attend the Annual Membership Meeting without attending other parts of the conference.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

In January, all Alliance members were sent a list of Board of Directors candidates recommended by the Alliance's Leadership Development and Executive committees. Members did not submit any additional nominees by petition. Therefore, the final list of candidates is:

NEW DIRECTOR-NOMINEES:

- Lindsay Bernhagen (Milwaukee, WI; Region 1)
- Willie Boucher (Madison, WI; Region 2)
- Martin Kanter-Cronin (Janesville, WI; Region 2)

CURRENT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDED FOR RE-ELECTION:

- Sue Greenway (Cumberland, WI; Region 3)
- Benjamin Swanson (Cross Plains, WI; Region 2)

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE, INC. PROXY

A proxy is for use by those who are not planning to attend the meeting in person.

*I hereby appoint Sue Greenway, Secretary, or John Kolbe, President, as my proxy (with full power of substitution) to attend the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Annual Membership Meeting to be held **Thursday, April 18, 2024** and any adjournment thereof and to vote on my behalf on all matters that may properly come up for membership approval during the meeting.*

Dated: _____, 2024

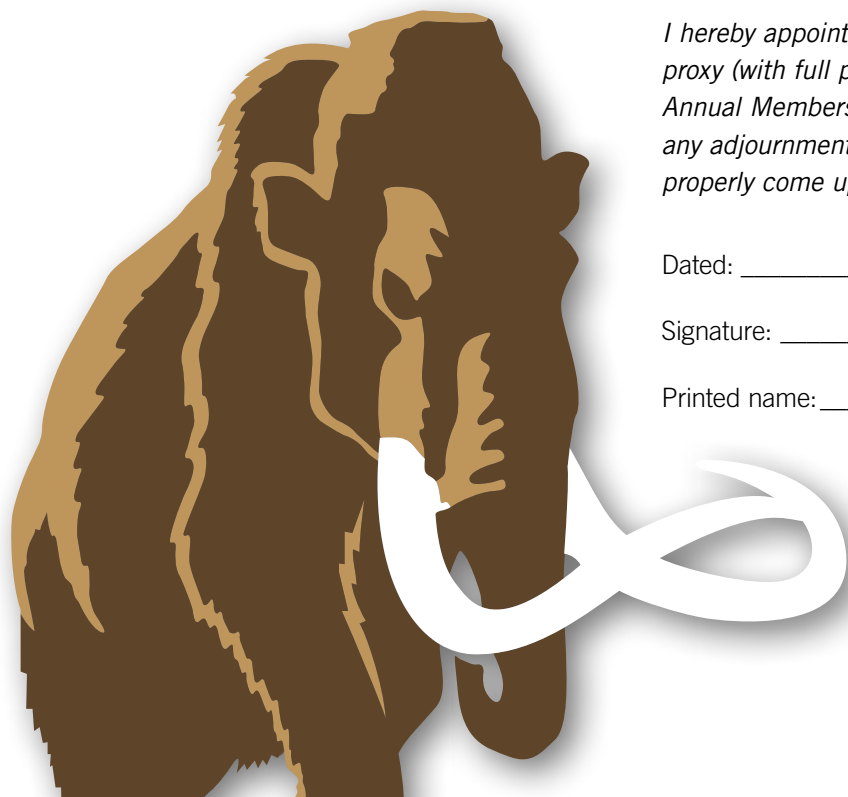
Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Please return to:

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.
PO Box 128
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Proxy must be received by Monday, April 8, 2024



A Fine Year-End Finale: Otter Lake Preserve Acquisition

LYSIANNE UNRUH, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's 2023 land conservation efforts ended on a high note. Just days after closing on the Karner Meadow Preserve (See story on page 7), a 76.08-acre property in Chippewa County, east of Otter Lake, closed on December 29.

This acquisition – Otter Lake Preserve – contains a creek and high-relief hummocky glacial topography, including several small ice-walled lake plains along the Perkinstown Moraine. Beyond its natural beauty, the Preserve anchors the Ice Age Trail route through southeast Chippewa County. The purchase permanently protects more than a half-mile of future Ice Age Trail, providing respite along a nearly 40-mile road walk between the Cornell and Lake Eleven Segments. There is also potential for a parking area and camping site.

“Sometimes properties take years to acquire,” said Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation, “but this one only took nine weeks, from when it was brought to my attention by Jared Wildenradt. This shows just how quickly the Alliance can move when things line up just right.”

Wildenradt, an Alliance member, volunteer, and seventh-time Thousand-Miler (200 miles from his eighth) keeps an eye on real estate along the Trail corridor and routinely notifies Thusius of potential properties, this one fitting Alliance criteria. Thusius asked Vicki Christianson, Chapter Coordinator of the Chippewa Moraine

Chapter, and Wildenradt to walk the property as part of the due diligence process of Alliance land purchases. They did, sending back a two-thumbs-up report and plenty of photos.

“The property is just a home run! It’s got woods, hills, and great views,” said Wildenradt. “It’s a game-changing route for the hiker experience, adding two more days to section hikers’ plans, which means two more days of people spending money in area communities.”

The Preserve is near a 13.2-acre property the Alliance purchased in 2016 and transferred to the Chippewa County Land Conservancy (CCLC) to manage: the Otter Lake Esker Preserve. This transaction protected a dramatic esker and may host future Ice Age Trail. Plus, both preserves add to the area’s public recreational land.

The generosity of the *Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust* continues to support Alliance land acquisitions, making the final transaction of 2023 possible. The Alliance plans to recoup part of the property’s purchase price by submitting applications for partial reimbursement available through the Chippewa County Conservation fund and the State’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund. This way, funds expended from the Alliance’s Prairie Springs Land Fund will be repaid to the fund for future land protection efforts.

A peek at Otter Lake through a stand of trees. Photo by Jared Wildenradt.

The Alliance has yet to open this property to the public. It awaits boundary markings, and the Ice Age Trail route must be created and blazed. New Trail will be announced in the future.



Reflections of a (Former) Landowner

SHELLY HAMEL

Summer 2023 brought the Ice Age Trail Alliance an incredible opportunity: protection of a gorgeous 106-acre property in Marquette County for future Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Site visits revealed hummocky terrain, majestic oaks, a large pond, and a robust population of federally endangered Karner blue butterflies. All elements provide an ideal backdrop for the Ice Age Trail.

Trail enthusiasts eagerly supported the fundraising appeal during a two-month match campaign (up to \$175,000) led by *Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust*. This generosity enabled the Alliance to close on the land during the first week of December.

For the Alliance, this auspicious event began in 2022 with a phone call from David and Shelly Hamel. However, it has the long roots of a native prairie plant, stretching back in time. Shelly Hamel, former property owner, offers these reminiscences:

In 1988, while walking along a country road in northwest Marquette County, my husband David and I saw a 'For Sale' sign next to a tamarack bog and uplands. All acres had been platted; all were slated for eventual development; part of the bog was dredged. We bought the bog the following year, and by 1992, we owned 120 acres plus a cabin. In 1997, we moved from Madison to become full-time land stewards and cabin fixer-uppers.

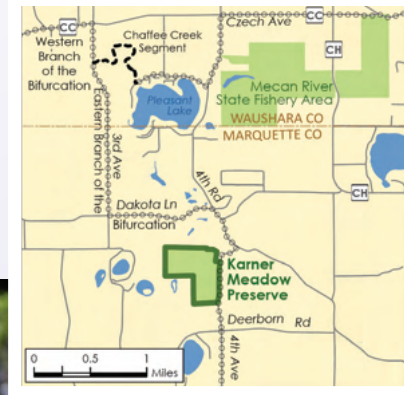
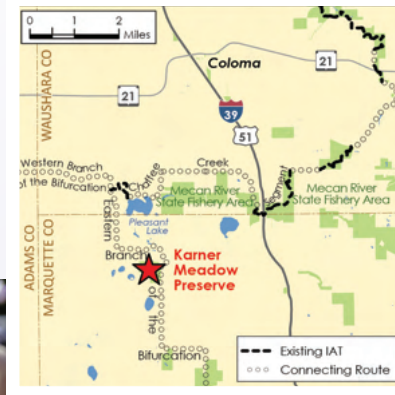
Once Menomonee lands, settlers plowed or grazed the rubble-rimmed sandy fields deposited by glacial meltwaters, and the neighbor's empty corn cobs dotted his abandoned, leased fields. There was an exception: no one had plowed along an old, property-line milk route from the late 1800s. Remnant plants in that old roadbed sparked our curiosity about what else there might be.

First, we found a small patch of lupine. Then, we discovered about 25 Karner blue butterflies, which have been federally endangered since 1992. Other scattered prairie plants popped up, and with a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we began educating ourselves about managing sand and oak barrens for a federally endangered species.

We became part of the newly-created Morainal Sands Recovery Unit, now part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as one of a small handful of private property participants who, alongside major corporate players, manage large tracts of land. Our prairie became our schoolroom and our lives.

So, our first lesson was to increase nectaring plants for the Karner blues by hand-casting prairie seeds gathered from our new friend, the old milk route roadbed. Throughout the intervening years, we performed extensive land management practices, including invasive species treatment, tree and brush removal, and prescribed burning. We continued to seed or plant native species, supporting numerous rare plants, insects, and birds.

Entrusting future habitat management to other parties would be an eventuality, but getting there was a challenge. We considered our long association with the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Madison Audubon. At one point, the DNR approached us about State Natural



Acres of wild lupine greet hikers and offer sustenance to federally endangered Karner blue butterflies. Photo by Joanne Ellarson.

Area consideration. We even advertised for a 'conservation buyer,' approaching land trusts to find a buyer willing to purchase conservation land.

But, when Karen Wollenburg, a long-time Alliance member, mentioned the Ice Age Trail's proposed route marched right past our front door, we called Kevin Thusius, Senior Director of Land Conservation—and the rest is history. What spoke to us during our conversations with Kevin was an organizational commitment to stewardship with a staff and roster of eager Alliance volunteers. Dreams of more than just the two of us tackling stewardship on the acres we deeply loved are good dreams, indeed.

We hope visitors consider this place more than a hiking trail. It's a laboratory in an outdoor schoolroom. The Trail offers close-ups of insects, prairie and wetland plants, birds (sandhill cranes nest in the bog), animals and their tracks (badgers have denned here), geological remnants (including a pothole and tamarack bog), and discoveries yet to come. In a word, it's a treasure.

The Alliance has yet to open this property to the public. It awaits boundary markings, and the Ice Age Trail route must be created and blazed. New Trail will be announced in the future.

Mueller Lake Preserve Protects Unique Glacial Features

ERIC GABRIEL, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, SUPERINTENDENT – ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

In early 2024, the National Park Service (NPS) plans to acquire 72.67 undeveloped acres in Langlade County: Mueller Lake Preserve, an Ice Age Trail Alliance-owned property.

Though the Ice Age Trail became a National Scenic Trail in 1980, it took 29 years before the NPS received the permission or authority to acquire land for the Trail from willing sellers. The acquisition of Mueller Lake Preserve is only the second time the NPS has engaged in this process. It is the first land transaction between the NPS and the Alliance, who work together in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR to conserve, create, and maintain the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

The Alliance's active role— in protecting unique glacial features and land to host the Trail— allows the organization to move nimbly when a viable property, like the Preserve, comes on the market. By selling to the NPS, the ability of both organizations to protect world-renowned glacial features and secure land for the Trail is enhanced. In this way, the two organizations to work together to interpret superlative continental glacial features through the Trail's route, which follows the glaciers' edge.



(Above) A ridge along the Mueller Lake Property formed as melting glaciers dropped debris. Photo by Kevin Thusius. (Below) A Lidar image of the patterns formed as filled crevasses melted away, leaving ridges on the landscape. Mueller Lake Preserve is east of the lake in the area resembling a paw print.



Why Acquire Mueller Lake Preserve?

The last cycle of Continental Glaciation, the Wisconsin Glaciation, factors prominently into the landscape story at the Mueller Lake Preserve. Great lobes of glacier ice marched from the north into what we now call Wisconsin around 31,000 years ago. The lobes, advancing to their maximum extent, formed the terminal moraine before melting around 11,000 years ago. One of these ice sheets, the Green Bay Glacial Lobe, deposited terminal moraine features across the Preserve, leaving a visible imprint.

Imagine looking down on an active glacier edge. You would see a pattern of cracks, called crevasses, fracturing the surface of ice. These crevasses collect rocks and debris. When the ice melts, the ridges of rocks and debris remain on the land, mirroring the pattern of cracks. According to UW-Madison professor emeritus geologist David Mickelson, this is how the glacier created the dendritic pattern of ridges—resembling branching tree roots—that overlay the Mueller Lake Property. (See the Lidar image.)

Ultimately, this outstanding acquisition highlights the power of partnerships to protect these unique glacial features, in perpetuity, for all to enjoy.



The Alliance has yet to open this property to the public. It awaits boundary markings, and the Ice Age Trail route must be created and blazed. New Trail will be announced in the future.



Prescribed Fire: The Linchpin to Successful Habitat Restoration

STEVE PENCE, LAND RESTORATION SPECIALIST

I explored many Alliance properties during my first year as a Land Restoration Specialist for the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Learning about the Ice Age National Scenic Trail's surrounding ecosystems, I documented the properties' native and invasive species. My purpose: to develop – or, in many cases – continue existing restoration plans. However, my most significant Habitat Improvement Program task focused on formalizing and expanding the Alliance's prescribed burning program, started and led by volunteers with staff support, some 20 years ago.

A prescribed burn is a planned fire used to meet land management goals. The prescription, prepared in advance, describes its objectives. For example, land managers might design a fire to support specific plant and animal habitats, help endangered species recover, or reduce fuels to prevent a destructive fire. The Alliance's prescribed burning program consistently completed between 10 and 20 burns each year, improving more than 200 acres of critical habitat along the Trail. These burns, conducted on properties hosting the Trail, strengthened Alliance relationships with partner organizations like the Dane County Parks, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Village of Cross Plains.

Prescribed Burns: An Effective Invasive Species Management Tool

Alliance staff and volunteers use prescribed burns to achieve similar effects natural wildfires had on our native ecosystems. What we call wildfire is a natural process once so common entire ecosystems adapted to deal with fire and came to rely on it to thrive. Research shows that historically, wildfire intervals in southern Wisconsin were between three and five years. In northern Wisconsin, wildfires were less frequent, developing during 25-and 100-year intervals.

In addition to promoting native plant species in oak woodlands, prairies, and even wetlands, prescribed fire is a valuable tool for controlling some invasive species. It's a particularly effective tool in an arsenal of laborious strategies like hand pulling, mowing, and herbicide application.

Plants like garlic mustard and Japanese hedge parsley are biennial species. In the first year, they produce leaves and develop a root system; in the second year, they create seeds. Conducting a prescribed burn in areas with these species can kill the first-year leaves and much of the root



A buckthorn thicket burns in the understory, reducing the amount of time and energy volunteer crews will need to spend fighting this invasive shrub. Photo by Dave Lonsdorf.

system, preventing the plants from producing seeds the following year. While fire is not a 100% effective solution, it severely reduces the time and herbicide needed to control future growth.

Prescribed burns are most effective in the fight against buckthorn and honeysuckle. Fire can stop berry production for two to three years, provided the thickets aren't so dense they fail to carry fire. In those situations, brush must be first managed with mechanical removal, mowing, and herbicide use. However, clearing invasive brush by hand takes enormous time, especially on properties with hilly topography or significant marshland. This is why using fire every three-to-five years is crucial to long-term restoration success.

This past fall, a 40-acre prescribed burn at the Alliance-owned Steenbock Preserve demonstrated fire's efficiency. With some planning and a small amount of effort leading up to the burn, 13 staff and volunteers did, in 1 day, the equivalent of 1,000 hours of invasive species control while promoting the property's native species found in the remnant bluff prairie and oak woodlands. This habitat will improve and thrive with continued efforts like Habitat Improvement Program events, chapter volunteer work days, and additional prescribed burns to keep these invasive species at bay.

LEARN MORE

To volunteer at a prescribed burn, contact Steve Pence, the Alliance's Land Restoration Specialist at: Steve@iceagetrail.org.

An invasive honeysuckle patch decimated in a prescribed burn along the Alliance-owned Steenbock Preserve. Photo by Steve Pence.



LEARN MORE

Read about the effects of prescribed burning on native ecosystems and the planning that goes into setting up a burn at: IceAgeTrail.org/prescribed-burns

Or use this code



SCAN ME

To watch a snippet of a prescribed burn in progress, visit: https://youtu.be/iE01Ekv_XOU

Or use this code



SCAN ME

TRAILBUILDING highlights



Hemlock Creek Segment
May 15-19

Northern Blue Hills Segment
October 2-6

Plover River Segment
August 14-18

Greenbush Segment
September 11-15

Muir Preserve
July 17-21

IAT-U
June 6-8

Crew Leader Training
June 20-23

Season-at-a-Glance

Ice Age Trail Crew:

2024 Trailbuilding and Maintenance Events

► **May 2 – 4: Training – Crew Leader Retreat, Chippewa County**

Crew Leaders, come together to talk about ways to improve projects and enhance the crew leader experience during the 2024 Trailbuilding Season.

► **May 7 – 10: Maintenance Sweep, Location TBD**

Save the date! Winter takes its toll along the Ice Age Trail. Be a part of a small crew dedicated to making the Trail ready for spring hiking—most likely will involve removing fallen trees or broken branches. So, sawyers and swampers are especially needed!

► **May 15 – 19: Hemlock Creek Segment, Barron and Rusk Counties**

Help upgrade the Trail near the popular Murphy Flowage Recreation Area. Replace deteriorating bridges and boardwalks, refresh signage, and maintain tread.

► **June 6 – 8: Training – IAT-U, Dane County**

Learn new skills from experienced staff and expert volunteers. Ice Age Trail University (IAT-U) classes will be announced at a later date – stay tuned!

► **June 20 – 23: Training – Crew Leader Skills, Dane County**

Learn the skills you need to lead the next Trailbuilding generation. If you participated in past years' Trailbuilding events and are ready to take the next step, please submit a short application. Contact Chad DuChateau, Director of Trail Operations for details. Email: chad@iceagetrail.org.

► **June 25 – 28: Maintenance Sweep, Location TBD**

Save the date! Summer's challenge: unchecked brush and fast-growing grass. Join a small crew ready to tackle the undergrowth along the Trail corridor and mow tread.

► **July 17 – 21: John Muir Park Segment, Marquette County**

Elevate hikers' enjoyment of the Alliance-owned Muir Preserve by building a boardwalk and loop trail, setting up the Trail for future growth. In addition, crews will help scout more Trail options in Marquette County.

► **July 30 – Aug 2: Maintenance Sweep, Location TBD**

Save the date! Summer's ongoing challenge: summer storm damage and overgrown Trail as brush crowds the tread. Join a small crew eager to wield clippers, mow, and bring order to the mayhem.

► **August 14 – 18: Plover River Segment, Marathon County**

South of Highway 52, this much-loved and well-traveled segment is ready for a few upgrades. Help build puncheon, solidify tread with granite boulders, and maintain the existing tread to withstand many future boots.

► **September 11 – 15: Greenbush Segment, Sheboygan County**

Enjoy early autumn color in the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Northern Unit as you craft brand-new tread. Help create a new route for the Ice Age Trail south of Hwy 23, moving it from a paved multi-use trail onto a beautiful landscape of deep kettles and big trees.

► **October 2 – 6: Northern Blue Hills Segment, Rusk County**

At last, it's time the Dreamer Route became reality. Join tread and corridor clearing crews for the first of many events working in this geologically significant area. We'll also finish up bridge and boardwalk work on the Hemlock Creek Segment.

► **October 24 – 27: Wildcard!, Location TBD**

Save the date! Join us for the final project of the year. The location and project are determined as the season draws to a close. We may revisit a segment to finish remaining to-do list items or tackle an emerging need somewhere else on the Trail.

Calling Maintenance Sweep Crew Members!

Do you like wielding a chainsaw? Hauling brush? Are you a certified sawyer or swamper? If you answered 'Yes!' to any of the above, then sign up to help at one or more Maintenance Sweep events. Be part of a small volunteer crew dedicated to getting the Trail in shape at the beginning of the hiking season and keeping it open all season-long. To be added to the list of ready-to-go Trail maintainers, email Lisa Szela, Volunteer Support Coordinator, at lisa@iceagetrail.org.

Join Us!

To access event details and registration information, visit: IceAgeTrail.org/TrailCrew2024

Or use this code



SCAN ME

Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things

EMILY FONS, GUEST WRITER

The welcoming environment is what Ornerly Mule Racing founder Michele Hartwig noticed when she began participating in ultra-running events 19 years ago. “The trail-running community truly cares about one another. Everybody wants everyone to do well when you come to an ultra-race,” she says.

That spirit of camaraderie and mutual support is at the heart of Ornerly Mule’s story, mission, and motto: “Kindness, Community, and Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things.” When Hartwig started organizing races, she says people called them “Michele’s races.” Knowing how many people collaborated to make these races possible, it didn’t feel suitable for her name to be alone, front and center. Instead, the perfect name surfaced organically. “Because trail runners like to laugh, they are tough, and they are ornerly if they’re not fed,” she says. Hartwig remembers everyone having a good laugh when the name first came up, and it stuck.

Ornerly Mule Racing events bring together people who “love being outside, hanging out in a gorgeous forest, and are happy to be there having a great time,” says Hartwig. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail serves as the setting for Ornerly Mule’s Midwest States 100 and Kettle Moraine 100 endurance races. Hartwig’s enthusiasm for being out on the Ice Age Trail is contagious. She says, “It’s new every day; you see the change of seasons, you never know what wildlife you’ll see, and it’s like dancing through the woods as you watch for roots and rocks.”

About Emily Fons

Emily is a freelance performer, author, and grant writer who lives in Cudahy, Wis. An Ice Age Trail enthusiast, Emily has run many miles on the Trail with her dog Lu. When she isn’t singing in concert halls around the country, Emily supports nonprofit organizations through grant writing and creative writing.



Michele Hartwig (middle) stands with Kris and Kevin Setness who founded the Kettle Moraine 100 in 1996, an event still going strong! Photo courtesy of Michele Hartwig.

What impresses Hartwig is the generosity of race participants who eagerly give back to the Trail that has given them so many miles. To that end, Ornerly Mule offers runners who register for the Kettle Moraine 100 the option to donate to the Ice Age Trail Alliance, and then Ornerly Mule matches it. “The ultra-running community cares about the Ice Age Trail,” says Hartwig. “It’s not lost on them how special it is to have such a long, continuous Trail available.”

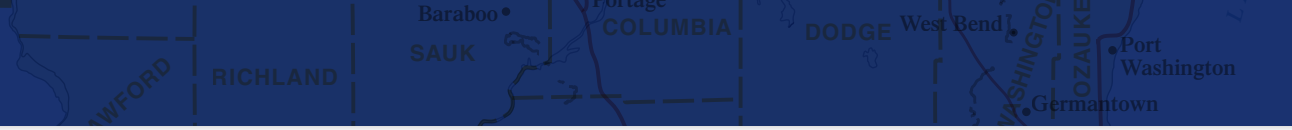
If you feel inspired to try trail running or are a seasoned runner looking to tweak your training, Ornerly Mule has you covered. They offer individual online coaching with running coaches from around the country. Also, Ornerly Mule Racing offers events ranging from 5 to 100 miles. Hartwig suggests their Earth Day race in Crystal Lake, Ill., as an excellent option for first-timers. If you’re up for the ultimate challenge, head out for 50K or 100 miles of yellow-blazed adventure at the Midwest States and the Kettle Moraine 100.

To learn more, visit:
ornerymuleracing.com

Or use this code



SCAN ME



Kindness Ignites a Friendship and a Crusade

LYSIANNE UNRUH, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Sarah Krebs and Rachel Monaco met in 2014 while running the Door County Half Marathon. Running similar paces had them passing one another at different points along the route. Yet, near the end, Sarah noticed the woman she'd been running with bent over, hands on her knees. Sarah veered from her goal to find out what was wrong. "There's only one more mile to go," she told the woman, patting her shoulder. "You've got this."

Sarah's kindness spurred Rachel to the finish line. "She actually finished ahead of me and then waited for me so she could thank me for being her 'race angel,'" said Sarah with a laugh.

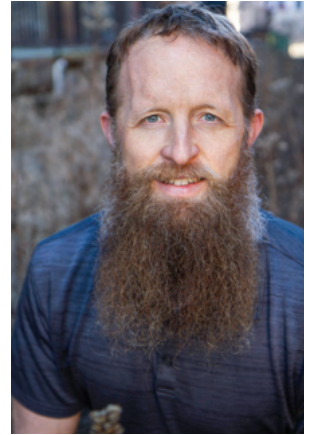
As luck would have it, the two women lived a mile apart, with Rachel's house at the one-mile mark along Sarah's running route. Rachel's husband, Corey Wilcox, was the morning runner, so he joined Sarah on her 5:00 a.m. runs. Such is friendship's magic: serendipity, kindness, proximity, and mutual interests.

Rachel, Corey, and Sarah participated in many of the same races held along the Ice Age Trail in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. Corey hunted with both Sarah and her husband, Ben. And Rachel and Corey became like an aunt and uncle to Abel and Johanna Krebs. "Corey was always the first guy to help if you ever needed anything," said Sarah. So, when Corey was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on April 16, 2022, and passed away four months later on August 16, Sarah wanted to do something to honor him.

"As an ultra-runner, Corey Woltering's Ice Age Trail thru-run during 2020, inspired me, but I didn't have a big enough 'Why' to undertake a similar journey. But, after Corey was diagnosed, I turned to my husband and said, 'I think I found it.'" Ben agreed. Sarah's Crusade for Corey kicked off at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2023, from the western terminus in Interstate State Park.

"We're not social media people, but we raised awareness for the Crusade on Facebook," said Sarah. "And my husband, the extravert, would talk about what I was up to with anyone he came in contact with while crewing me. It's one of the reasons we kept adding so many names of people lost to cancer on our support trailer."

Sarah completed her thousand-mile journey at noon on Sunday, July 16, 2023. She touched the eastern terminus stone in Potawatomi State Park, having raised awareness and donations for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Another act of kindness had fueled a crusade and honored the life of a dear friend.



The death of dear friend, Corey Wilcox, fueled Sarah's "Why". Photo courtesy of Rachel Monaco.

Ben and Sarah Krebs, with their children Abel and Johanna, pose in front of their support trailer filled with names of those who lost the battle with pancreatic cancer. Photo courtesy of Sarah Krebs.



Trailtessa* 2024 RETREATS

Super fun retreats designed by women for women.

Be YOU. Do YOU: Bold. Audacious. Curious. Strong. Adventurous.

Back for its eighth year, Trailtessa Retreats are designed to get more women (and girls) onto the Ice Age Trail. To-date, nearly 2,000 women (and girls), have participated in the retreats, seeking to expand their outdoor skills, including the participants of Be Fierce backpacking weekends. (See story on pages 16 and 17.)

*Trailtessa [treyl-tes-sah], noun: a woman or girl who gets out on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to experience adventure, freedom and a new way to be.

Be a Twilight Explorer

Friday, April 26

Experiential Twilight Hike

Trail Community: Two Rivers, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Manitowoc County

Experience twilight's magic while listening to spring sounds of frogs and other critters. Be on the lookout for timberdoodles performing their courtship display. Explore the Dunes Segment on a short, ½-mile, guided hike along mostly even terrain. If the sky is clear, an astronomer will be on hand with a telescope; view the Big Dipper, and more!

Be FREE

Sunday, May 19

Introduction to Trail Running

Trail Community: Verona, Badger Prairie County Park, Dane County


Fly over rocks and roots through a blur of trees and yellow blazes, discovering beauty and an endorphin-fueled rush. Learn the finer points of trail running. It's your chance to stride out the door and put yourself first. And that's a good thing.

Trail running experts will welcome beginners and seasoned runners to a workshop focused on training, gear, and nutrition tips. Guided runs along the Verona Segment will follow, with distances of three- or six-miles and options for different paces.



LEARN MORE

To learn more about Trailtessa events and to register, visit:
IceAgeTrail.org/trailtessa-retreats

Or use this code 



SCAN ME

THANK YOU

Thanks to We Energies Foundation for supporting Trailtessa in 2024.





Be MINDFUL

Friday, June 21

An All-Senses, Summer Solstice Hike

Trail Community: Hartland, Hartland Marsh, Hartland Segment, Waukesha County

Focus on the present moment, letting the light in. Breathe. Expand. Relax. Take advantage of the extended daylight and experience a slow, relaxing saunter.

Enjoy a guided hike through the Hartland Marsh, an Alliance-owned preserve, tuning into all five senses as you explore this diverse habitat. See vivid colors. Listen for bird calls. Savor woodland scents. Feel plant textures (safely!). Taste summer.

Be WILD

Saturday, July 13

Bird Hike and Paddle

Trail Community: St. Croix Falls, Lions Park, Polk County

Calling adventurous spirits eager to experience the land and water habitats of our feathered friends. Kayak along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in the morning. Hike along a section of the St. Croix Segment, in the afternoon. Learn about native birds in northwest Wisconsin and see lots of them (hopefully!) from the water and from the Trail.

This casual birding experience, offered in partnership with the Wild Rivers Conservancy, includes guided kayaking and hiking, and equipment: kayaks, paddles, safety vests, and binoculars.

Be CREATIVE

Tuesday, August 20

Bee a Pollinator Helper Workshop

Trail Community: Milton, Milton Public Library's Story Walk Garden, Rock County

Ignite your artistic abilities and support pollinators. Create little clay cups for thirsty bees! Paint a large-scale mural celebrating bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and fireflies – delightful and crucial pollinators.

Local artists will lead this hands-on workshop for tween and teen girls. The mural will be on display at the library's Monarch Festival in September, and the decorated clay cups will be sold as a library fundraiser during the festival.

Be FIERCE

TBD: Late Summer/Early Fall

A Backpacking Skills Adventure

Location TBD

Registration opens July 1, 2024.

Backpacking 101 assets: Strength and self-sufficiency. Carry a gear-filled pack on this multi-day trip, immersing yourself in rugged beauty. Hike along glittering kettle lakes, through mesic forests, and across winding boardwalks. No previous backpacking experience necessary, but expect to hike a total of 25 miles (approximately) during the trip. Open to women who have NOT participated previous Trailtessa backpacking trips.

TRAILTESSA TESTIMONIAL:

The women-only nature of Trailtessa Retreats appealed to me, offering a safe space to hike, work, or just be outdoors. The events' short time commitments allowed me and some of the women in my life to do interesting activities outside together for a few hours.

Be Mindful: *Walking with my nearly-adult daughter through the spring woods on a guided hike that engaged all our senses was an absolute joy. As we visited with other attendees, I appreciated seeing my daughter's confidence as she interacted as a peer.*

Be Empowered: *My mother-in-law and I enjoyed the adventure of working side-by-side, removing buckthorn. We saw firsthand the impact of hard work and many hands in the recovery of native woodland plants.*

Be Curious: *I had great fun introducing my sister-in-law to a beautiful part of the Trail she hadn't seen before. At the same time, we were able to make a difference, helping with prairie restoration efforts.*

~Andrea Cox





Be Fierce: Exceeding Comfort Zones One Backpacking Trip at a Time

HEIDI FRIEDRICH, GUEST WRITER

Is this the year to get out of your comfort zone? To push yourself further and farther? To check off a “to-do” on your bucket list?

If so, a Trailtessa – Be Fierce backpacking trip might be just the thing!

Since 2017, 96 women have embarked on Be Fierce, an introduction-to-backpacking experience hosted by the Ice Age Trail Alliance and led by several intrepid female volunteers. This multi-day adventure is one event within the popular Trailtessa Retreat series that encourages women to step out of their comfort zones and into new experiences along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. (See pages 14 and 15 for the 2024 retreat listings.)

Sharon Dziengel, a long-time Alliance volunteer, among the early Thousand-Milers (2002), and member of the Lodi Valley Chapter, was tapped to lead the first women-only backpacking trip. She, in turn, reached out to Natalie Dorrlor-Hyde, a 2014 Thousand-Miler, to co-lead the inaugural outing. The trip introduced a dozen women to Ice Age Trail segments in the Kettle Moraine State Forest – Southern Unit.

“Women want to try backpacking and meet women with similar interests,” said Dziengel. “Also, Be Fierce itineraries are local, keeping the trips within the budgets of beginning backpackers.”

And the trips offer a safe and structured environment to do so.

“We have always had a good variety of ages participate,” Dorrlor-Hyde stated. “Almost every generation is represented on each trip, from women in their 20s to their 70s.”

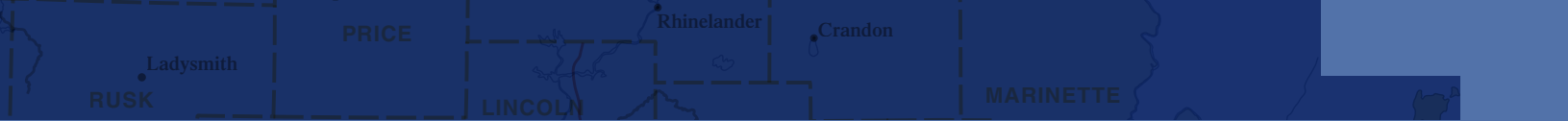
These once-a-year, weekend trips, known to build camaraderie and connection, grew in popularity, clearly meeting a need. As a result, two more volunteers – Kris Van Handel and Jennifer Stehley – were recruited in 2022 to lead a second group. Now, a Be Fierce adventure can accommodate 24 women. Following weeks of virtual presentations and in-person preparation, participants are split into two groups to hike the Kettle Moraine State Forest: one goes north and the other to the south.

“We give women an opportunity to try backpacking and not make a huge investment, even though collecting gear is expensive,” said Dziengel. “As hike leaders, we help participants become independent. We want them to plan and cook their meals, set up tents, and so on.”

Yet, a trip is not without its challenges, and the leaders always stress the importance of using quality gear and preparing mentally and physically beforehand. “The biggest problems are blisters and dehydration,” Dorrlor-Hyde noted. “If your feet are unhappy, hiking’s challenging.”

Be Fierce backpacking guides (from left to right): Jennifer Stehley, Natalie Dorrlor-Hyde, Sharon Dziengel, and Kris Van Handel. Photo by Susan Walker.





What helps the women through difficult moments is the supportive, empowering atmosphere generated by leaders and participants. Dziengel described what transpires: “I’m always amazed by how caring the women are of each other, reaching out and cheering on anyone struggling. We create a community in a short period.”

Participants aren’t the only ones who learn step-by-step. Leaders also benefit. “These trips taught me leadership skills,” Dziengel said. “Additionally, the opportunity to hike with women has brought a whole new dimension to my backpacking.”

Van Handel, an Alliance volunteer, a Thousand-Miler multiple times (working on her fifth section hike), and Langlade County Chapter member, also spoke to the confidence boost leading trips gave her. “I used to be very shy when I was younger. Becoming a Be Fierce guide helped me exceed my comfort zone, too,” she said. “I’ve learned I can lead these trips. I have significant hiking experience to share and can help participants on their journey.”

“I joke that the best part of these trips is looking at everyone else’s gear, but it is learning about what motivates these women to join us on a Be Fierce weekend,” said Dorrlor-Hyde. “For some, it is a leap of faith, an experience that will take them out of their comfort zone, and it’s inspirational.”

Dorrlor-Hyde added, “But hearing from past participants encourages us as hike leaders. The stories they tell about the adventures they felt brave enough to do on their own afterward are our motivation.”

Van Handel sums up the essence of the Be Fierce weekends: “It’s a place to ask questions and feel safe; there are no dumb questions. Women are so busy. These outings offer time to get away from commitment-packed schedules. I hope they learn something from hiking the Trail and feel empowered.”

► **About Heidi Friedrichs**
Heidi, a Wisconsin native, is an avid hiker of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

THANK YOU

Thank you to
We Energies Foundation
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TRAILTESSA TESTIMONIAL:

Trailtessa Retreats encouraged my outdoor journey, especially as hiking increasingly became a hobby. Attending the retreats introduced me to area women who shared my newfound interest. As a result, I've hiked over 600 miles of the Ice Age Trail with these friends and my dog, Ivan.

Be Fierce backpacking trips boosted my confidence enough to organize outings of my own. Now, my friend and sister-in-law and I backpack together, arranging short overnight trips, staying in one of the shelters in the Kettle Moraine State Forest or along a favorite segment's Dispersed Camping Area. I used my Be Fierce experience as a springboard for an even bigger adventures: backpacking over 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail and an 8-day hiking adventure in Switzerland.

I enjoy sharing what I've learned with other women. It's how I learned – during non-judgmental, empowering women-led events for women. I found it refreshing not to feel ashamed for not knowing something. I like being able to relate to the person I'm learning from. Case in point: I prefer learning about how to poop in the woods from a woman rather than from a man.

~Lisa Finke



A triumphant Lisa Finke on a summit in Switzerland. Photo courtesy of Lisa Finke.



Mary and STICK pose in a shelter made of sticks! Photo courtesy of Mary Cieslewicz.

Stick with Me

MARY CIESLEWICZ, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Who helps you catch your balance while hiking an icy patch along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail? Who gives you a little push up a steep moraine? Who tests the water depth in a murky puddle? Who steadies your walk across a log? Who patiently leans against a tree, while you stop for a snack? Who is with you at the beginning and the end? Your hiking stick, of course!

You probably don't give much thought to your stick, but it may have been on more hikes with you than any single person.

It is easy to find a walking stick. Countless suitable ones lie on the ground under their parent trees. Often, hikers abandon perfect sticks next to kiosks after finishing a hike. I hiked with one of these foundlings on my first few outings and then left it, too. Occasionally, if a stick had long-term potential, I took it home and brought it to the next hike. I soon had a few sticks in rotation, but over time, there was one to which my hand gravitated. It was the Goldilocks stick, not too heavy but not so light as to seem fragile. It was the right height with a curve just below where my hand naturally grasped. That particular curve magically added extra support and balance.

The stick had come to me courtesy of the emerald ash borer, an invasive species whose larvae kill ash trees. Evident along my stick's entire length were the paths made by the larvae who hatched and ate their way through the cambium, the vital layer of tissue just below the bark. While I am sad to witness this damage, the intricate mazes left behind are wondrous works of art.

I subconsciously committed to this stick one Tuesday evening as I prepared for a Wednesday morning hike with the Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. I wanted to scrape off the bits of remaining bark and remembered I had a small pocket knife with a purple mother-of-pearl handle in my jewelry box. I had inherited the knife as a child from a much-loved uncle and liked the feel of it turning over in my hand, but I had never used it. I carried the knife and stick to the back porch and began removing the loose bark, careful not to cut too deep or alter the ash borer's tracks. Afterward, I lightly sanded the stick and held it in my hand. STICK felt right.

The next day, I noticed that one of the hikers was also using a rustic stick. Mark's stick had a rope wrapped near the top, where



STICK offers a steadying presence during a water crossing. (Inset) STICK gives a woolly caterpillar a ride to the other side of the road. Photos courtesy of Mary Cieslewicz.

his hand gripped it. I admired the wrap, and Mark said it would be easy to put one on my stick; drive a few miles to his house after the hike, and he would take care of it. I did just that and STICK left sporting a beautiful six-inch black rope handle wrap.

It took me more than five years to “segment hike” the entire Ice Age Trail. STICK stuck with me and taught me a lot as we hiked each yellow-blazed segment and the roads connecting them. Often, when something went wrong, I would hear STICK say, “Next time, let me help you.” For example, walking in a marshy area with water coming up only an inch on my boots, I took another step and was up to my ankles in the muck. “Next time, let me go first,” whispered STICK. Another time, I walked across a log above a swollen creek, holding STICK parallel to the ground like a tightrope walker. After I fell off the log, just shy of the shore, STICK, who is quite tall, suggested that next time, I lower her down into the sandy creek bed and use her like a cane.

I often left STICK in the car when I walked the county roads—connecting routes—between blazed segments. One day, my hiking group encountered an unfriendly and somewhat aggressive dog. A fellow hiker pointed her stick directly toward the dog, almost touching its nose, and the dog backed away. When I reached the car, I promised STICK she could accompany me on all future road walks. And so, she did!

Walking connecting routes, I often filled a bag with discarded cans lying in the ditch, and STICK carried the bundle over my shoulder back to the car. Other times, STICK might gently encourage a toad to hop across the road to safety or let a woolly caterpillar ride piggyback to the other side. Back in the woods, going up a steep incline, STICK would step back just a bit and push me up the hill. Going down, STICK would step ahead and push back just enough to keep my footing secure. When the going was easy, I carried STICK—appreciating this companion who had my back, knew when to hold steady, and was happy to be by my side.

The more I hiked with STICK, the more I admired her. I began to resent idioms like “stick in the mud” and “short end of the stick.” Still, I appreciated the admonition to “get on the stick,” meaning getting organized and going. I liked the idea of using the phrase “get on the stick” to mean get ready for a hike.

According to some linguists, this idiom dates back to the early 1800s and is derived from the saying to “cut one’s stick,” a phrase meaning “to leave.” Walking sticks have always been helpful on long foot journeys, and cutting a right-sized stick might imply one was about to hike.

I felt happy to have a natural walking stick rather than metal poles. STICK had character. Calm, sturdy, and steadfast, she aged gracefully at my side, becoming a little blunter at the tip from wear and acquiring tiny cracks, not unlike the small lines appearing around my eyes. But what was her lineage, her ancestry? I knew so little about STICK, not even which species of ash tree she had been. Did I need Ancestry.com for sticks?

While I was loyal and devoted to the stick in my hand, I failed to appreciate the sticks, stumps, branches, saplings, and full-grown trees along the Trail. STICK whispered, “What about them?” At that moment, I realized STICK’S ancestry was everywhere around me, in the leafless, wintry landscape. I could see yellow blazes ahead and behind, and I became acutely aware of the importance of each tree supporting this guidance. Each blaze pointed the way but depended upon the strength of a tree to do its job.

My stick-at-hand made me conscious and appreciative of the beauty and utility of the “sticks” in all sizes and at every life cycle stage. I considered all STICK’S tree friends: their contributions to the plants, animals, and insects surrounding us, and even the air I breathed. Simultaneously, I felt awe for the human effort required to build and maintain this yellow-blazed, 1,000-mile corridor amid billions of trees!

I made two promises to STICK. On every hike, I would look past the blazes and seek the insights and adventures the trees might offer. I would volunteer to help maintain this sinuous spine—the yellow-blazed corridor of the Ice Age Trail. Of course, I added, she and I would do this together.

▶ About Mary Cieslewicz

Mary grew up hiking the Devil’s Lake Segment, became a Thousand-Miler, and continues to explore the ever-changing Ice Age Trail. A career-long educator, Mary enjoyed earning a Wisconsin Master Naturalist certificate in 2023. She and her husband, Michael, live in Menomonee Falls, where they introduce their five grandchildren to backyard plants, animals, and beyond. Mary volunteers with the Waukesha/Milwaukee County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance as a member of the “Blazing Babes.”



One Foot in Front of the Other

Cerebral palsy hasn't stopped April Scheel from her 1,000-mile journey

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

A car pulls into a parking lot, access to an Ice Age National Scenic Trail segment. Just before the engine's turned off, the driver opens her door, and music drifts out. You can hear the lyrics,

*I'm so confident, yeah,
I'm unstoppable today*

*Unstoppable today,
unstoppable today*

*Unstoppable today,
I'm unstoppable today*

As she exits the car and grabs her trekking poles and pack, you notice her signature Ice Age Trail baseball hat and bright smile. She'll probably say hi to you. As she walks toward the Trail, her gait seems different. It might make you wonder if she needs any help. Will she be OK? But the lyrics you heard still hang in the air, and you know: She's unstoppable.

This is April Scheel of Madison. She has lived her life with cerebral palsy, and in June 2023, she began her trek to become a Thousand-Miler. Will it be hard? Absolutely. It is hard for everyone. Does she have a plan? One foot in front of the other.

She hasn't always been an avid hiker. The isolation during COVID-19 hit Scheel especially hard. She still went on walks but, eventually, became sick of the sidewalk.

"I thought, 'There has to be something better,' so I got in my car, started driving, and discovered the Dane County Park system," said Scheel, a two-time thyroid cancer survivor. "I was initially intimidated by the Ice Age Trail, but then I saw articles about Emily Ford. I was inspired and thought, 'Could I physically do this?'"

Ford would become the first black person, the first woman, and only the second person known to thru-hike the Ice Age Trail solo in the winter, when she and Scheel connected through social media. Scheel said it has been incredible to have Ford "in my corner." To Ford, this is an opportunity to return kindness. Scheel sent encouraging messages throughout Ford's journey. On a particularly challenging day, Scheel's messages were what she needed to see.



April Scheel with her signature cap and smile celebrates at the end of a hike. Photo courtesy of April Scheel.

"April was in my corner first! I remember having a pretty tough day on the Trail. The snow was so deep, and we were moving so slowly. I decided to pause, have a snack, and chat with her for a bit through Messenger. I remember so clearly that her words of affirmation turned my whole day around," Ford said via email just days after finishing the Copper Basin 300 sled dog race in Glennallen, Alaska. "Now, I get the honor of being in her corner. She knows that every little footstep makes up the whole adventure, regardless of the pace. This is her hike; this is her adventure. It's up to us as her community to uplift and support that."

Scheel said her hikes are limited to around five miles each. She has attracted a community of supporters: long-time friends,

“ Every moment is different. It's hard, but things happen for a reason. Everybody hikes their own hike, and I'm just me. ”



strangers who saw news coverage about her goal, or by meeting people on the Trail. Her friend, Will Meissner, helped kick off her Thousand-Miler dream by promising to hike all of the Sauk County segments with Scheel. She continues to be humbled and inspired by all the support.

“People have said I’m inspiring others, but it’s coming back to me, too,” she said. “The world is full of scary, negative, hurtful things. Maybe I can inspire others to do something they didn’t think they could do—pick up a phone and call someone, pick up a paintbrush—something to feel good about themselves or help someone else. I want others to know there is still kindness in the world.”

Knowing her pace is a little slower and falls are sometimes unavoidable, Scheel is a prepared hiker. She said Ford’s advice for “on-trail” nutrition has been extremely helpful.

“I carry more than I should. If I am stranded overnight somewhere, I want to be prepared,” she said.

Scheel utilizes hiking poles during her section hikes but still falls. One terrifying moment was toward the end of the Madison Segment—a three-mile segment that ends up being a six-mile out-and-back hike. Hiking solo, Scheel fell and had to army crawl to a tree to rest. Despite the fear and not knowing how long she might be on the ground, she focused on her goal.

“I told myself, ‘You wouldn’t be here if you were not supposed to be. Time is irrelevant. You have to put one foot in front of the other,’” she said.



Let’s Hit the Trail!

Scheel shared some favorite tunes that help her get ready for hiking:

- “Unstoppable” (Sia)
- “Try” (Pink)
- “All I Know So Far” (Pink)
- “Eye of the Tiger” (Survivor)
- “Roar” (Katy Perry)
- “Welcome to Wherever You Are” (Bon Jovi)
- “Gonna Fly Now” (“Rocky” theme song)

After a few more tries, some deep breaths, and channeling her inner Pink (“You’ve gotta get up and try, try, try” | “Gotta get up and try, try, try”), Scheel pulled herself up. Her legs were pretty shaky, but it was a victory, and she made it to her car, celebrating all she had accomplished that day.

“Every moment is different. It’s hard, but things happen for a reason. Everybody hikes their own hike, and I’m just me,” Scheel said.

“Just me” has also inspired a young girl, in northern Wisconsin, living with cerebral palsy. She and Scheel have not met in person yet, but Scheel has been in contact with the girl’s mother and is determined—“no matter what”—to arrange a future hike.

Until then, Scheel cross-trains during the winter. She relies heavily on her upper body strength to get through each hike. She enjoys swimming and won silver (400m freestyle) and bronze (200m freestyle) medals at the 2013 Wisconsin Special Olympic Games. When she swims, she’s only able to use her arms, and tries to swim one mile every other day until she can get back on the Trail.

“I don’t know how long my journey will take,” she said. “My dad always tells me, ‘You’ll figure it out your own way.’”

With one foot in front of the other, she will “get up and try, try, try.”

About Dana Bolwerk
About Dana Bolwerk: Dana 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 dogs Tailer and Coconut.

To learn more about April and follow her journey, visit: [Facebook.com/April.Scheel/](https://www.facebook.com/April.Scheel/)

Or scan this code:



SCAN ME



When terrain gets steep, Scheel hikes with friends who help ensure she has her feet securely planted while climbing a hill. Some are friends she knows, others are “friends” she meets on the Trail, eager to support her hike. Will Meissner (green top, red shorts) led the group that helped Scheel through the Devil’s Lake Segment. Photo courtesy of April Scheel.

Braided History: The Ice Age Trail and Its Cousin

DREW HANSON, GUEST WRITER AND MEMBER OF THE HIGH POINT CHAPTER

Sixty years ago, the **Ice Age National Scientific Reserve** was established. But how is it related to the Trail and why does it share such a similar name?

Established by Congress as a federal-state partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve protects, preserves, and interprets nine nationally significant areas of geologic importance. Based heavily on science, these areas showcase unique landforms resulting from continental glaciation.

Ray Zillmer founded the Ice Age Trail Alliance in the late 1950s to promote the idea of an Ice Age National Park in Wisconsin. But widespread support for the park was not secured before Zillmer died in 1960.

Then, congressman Henry Reuss got involved. Skilled in the art of sausage making, Reuss used portions of Zillmer's park proposal that scientists upheld as nationally significant and recast them into a novel cooperative project: the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve.

Reuss' approach won the support of state and federal officials. It remains the Nation's only National Scientific Reserve.

Ten years later, volunteers began creating Ice Age Trail segments in regions of the state beyond eastern Wisconsin. In 1980,

Congressman Henry Reuss (left) and National Park Service Midwest Regional Director Jim Dunning (right) at the June 1, 1981 dedication ceremony of the Ice Age Visitor Center, Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest, near Dundee. Photo courtesy of the DNR.



Congressman Reuss successfully championed the Ice Age Trail Act through Congress, which designated it a National Scenic Trail.

The Reserve Impacts

As a result of the Reserve, the DNR protected thousands of acres of land (at units of the Reserve) to protect glacial history. In fact, it is thanks to the Reserve that the Chippewa Moraine State Recreation Area and Cross Plains State Park exist.

Three of the Reserve units along the Trail are home to Ice Age Centers (Interstate Park, Chippewa Moraine, and Northern Kettle Moraine). These buildings contain exhibits that interpret glacial history. While funding shortfalls create a challenge to operation and some of the exhibits are outdated and worn, the Ice Age Centers still fill a need for school groups and the public.

National Park pass holders receive free admission to Devil's Lake, Northern Kettle Moraine and Interstate Park. What's more, National Park Service stamps are available at Reserve sites that are staffed.

National Scientific Reserve Units

Located along the Trail:

- Interstate Park
- Chippewa Moraine
- Devil's Lake
- Cross Plains
- Northern Kettle Moraine.

Located off the Trail:

- Mill Bluff State Park
- Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area
- Two Creeks Buried Forest State Natural Area
- Campbellsport Drumlins.

About Drew Hanson

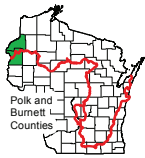
Drew is also a Partnerships Liaison for Wisconsin State Parks. He will give a talk about the National Scientific Reserve at the Alliance's Annual Conference in April.

To learn more about all nine units of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, visit: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/parks/iareserve

Or use this code 

SCAN ME

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)



SUPERIOR LOBE CHAPTER

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

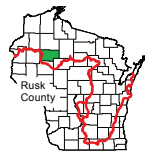
In October, the Superior Lobe and Indianhead Chapters held a Fall Colors hike on the Timberland Hills Segment. We wondered if the third weekend in October might be too late for glorious fall colors, but we were proven wrong. Everything was perfect. The skies were a gorgeous blue, the temps were crisp but not too cold, and the colors were peak. Everything was just right!

In November, the Superior Lobe Chapter honored Dale and Carole Crisler with a bench along the Hemlock Creek Segment near the Murphy's Flowage Picnic Area. Dale and Carole are among a handful of the Chapter's founding members. They have faithfully served the Ice Age Trail for over two decades. Additionally, they instilled the love of the Trail in their children, who all provide next-generation support in many ways! CONGRATULATIONS DALE AND CAROLE!

– Sue Greenway



Dale and Carole Crisler enjoy a moment on their bench surrounded by family members – avid Ice Age Trail supporters. Photo by Sue Greenway.



BLUE HILLS CHAPTER

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

So far, winter has brought milder temperatures, little snow, and a steady stream of hikers. We've also seen increased beaver damage to trees, some with blazes, blocking the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Chapter volunteers cut and removed more than 15 large trees, with more expected.

The Chapter looks forward to October's Trailbuilding event, the first of many related to the reroute in the Blue Hills. Experts completed the required archaeology assessment, an important 'to-do' on the project checklist. The next step is an environmental assessment conducted by the Ice Age Trail Alliance and National Park service staff.

– Marilyn Nash



Fred Nash, Blue Hills Chapter Coordinator, cuts a tree laying across the Trail into smaller, manageable chunks. This tree was 1 of 15 downed by industrious beavers. Photo by Marilyn Nash.



CHIPPEWA MORAINES CHAPTER

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

A few years ago, Chippewa Moraine Chapter volunteers rerouted a section of the Chippewa Moraine Segment onto an old forest road. Water levels in adjacent kettle lakes – Horseshoe and an unnamed lake – had risen considerably, covering a bridge with two feet of water.

Our Trail Maintenance crew organized numerous workdays from August to October to build a new Trail. This rerouted section now follows the shoreline of two lakes, traveling high above the water. A bench offers a chance to slow down to enjoy the scenic view.

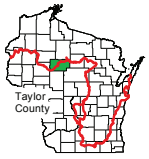
Our chapter sponsored two hikes during October's Mammoth Hike Challenge. The Parade of Colors hike, an annual event, introduced hikers to portions of the Chippewa Moraine Segment by offering distances of two or six miles. We also hosted a family-friendly Hike and Meet Monty event. Hikers enjoyed an out-and-back along the Chippewa River Segment. They met Monty the Mammoth at the Visitor's Center in Cornell, an Ice Age Trail Community. Kids got to decorate a walking stick and play Ice Age Trail Bingo. We were pleased with the turnout – the events attracted 70 participants combined.

The new paved walking path in Mill Yard Park was completed in October. This pathway is part of the new Cornell Segment and provides views of the beautiful Chippewa River.

– Vicki Christianson



A new bench and view (at Horseshoe Lake) along the Chippewa Moraine Segment. Photo by Vicki Christianson.

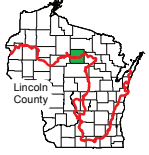


HIGH POINT CHAPTER

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

In November, 20 volunteers helped finish tread work, signage, and blazing to open the Ice Override Segment! Also, access to the Kettlebowl Segment got a whole lot better. The county moved the gate and created a brand-new, larger parking lot at the Kettlebowl Ski Area off of Highway 52.

– Melinda Nelson and Kris Van Handel



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER

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

We have been "busy as beavers"

trying to stay ahead of them, before they completely flood our Trail segments. On the Turtle Rock Segment, we marked a temporary reroute. Come Spring, it will be interesting to see how it all works out.

– Ruby Jaecks



A beaver dam on the Camp 27 Segment floods the Trail, forcing hikers wide. Photo by Ruby Jaecks.



CENTRAL MORAINES CHAPTER

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

The Central Moraines Chapter had a fun-filled summer and fall blending "old favorites" with "let's try something new" events in 2023. We're especially pleased with the active leadership roles taken by new volunteer leaders.

A National Trails Day clean sweep of the Plover River Segment prepared it for our June Hike-A-Thon – a record-setter in attendance and as a fundraiser! A huge "Thank You" to Ry, Ron, Rachel, and the Hike-A-Thon team!

Volunteer geologist Lisa Siewert treated us to an early October hike featuring fall colors and the glacial geology of the Ringle Segment. We welcomed many new faces among the 25-30 participants.

A Trail Improvement day on the Dells of the Eau Claire Segment improved drainage and footing on the short, but challenging, section overlooking the river under the high lines. Rick and Chuck's team moved and "replanted" rocks to even out the Trail through the roughest areas. They also placed stepping stones, providing dry footing across some low spots. Another group focused on debarking the tread to improve drainage and widen the path in sections where foliage was starting to strangle it. Volunteers also removed woody trees and shrubs that were blocking the view.

December found us at Milwaukee Burger's "Community Monday" taking advantage of an opportunity to share information about the Ice Age Trail and raise funds for the Chapter. Huge thanks to Buddy for coordinating this successful event! It's become a great chance to enjoy a fun night out while we support and promote the Trail.

Forty-two hikers joined us on Jan 1 when we reopened the northern part of the Thornapple Creek Segment (closed for hunting each Sept.-Dec.) by hiking it together.

– Gail Piotrowski



LANGLADE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Melinda Nelson and Brian Nelson (LangladeCoChapter@iceagetrail.org)

In October, the Langlade County Chapter enjoyed a successful 50th Anniversary Hike, with 90 hikers completing distances ranging from 5 to 11 miles. The

Chapter also raised money with an auction. Many hikers enjoyed various Trail Magic opportunities in Antigo. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and participants for a great event! We're planning a similar event in 2024, stay tuned!



PORTAGE/WAUPACA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The best way to celebrate the completion of new Trail on the ground is with a hike! The Portage/Waupaca County Chapter's Fall Hike-a-Thon (37th year!) featured the beautiful glacial landscape along the newly opened section of the Lola Ski Hill Segment, completed in August. One hundred and fourteen hikers participated in this Chapter fundraiser!

Trail signage upgrades continued into October and November led by volunteer Teresa Aspeslet. Ten miles of Trail now sport bright yellow blazes, freshly painted and signed TSPs and kiosks, a great accomplishment in one year! Teresa, along with her newly trained blazing crew plan to complete signage upgrades along the remaining ten miles of Trail in 2024.

In October, Chapter volunteer, Amanda Fischer, organized a 2-mile hike at Hartman Creek State Park with more than 200 fourth



An enthusiastic group of hikers participated in the 50th Anniversary Hike celebrating the longevity of the Langlade County Chapter. Photo by Cameron Gillie.



graders through the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Think Outside program. Think Outside continues to grow in popularity, and along with it, additional volunteer opportunities!

Buckthorn and black locust removal topped the list for invasive control this fall. Our Chapter's dedicated Trail Stewards banded together on several workdays widening trail corridors and clearing viewsheds. A very rewarding many days' work!!

Four Chapter members became Thousand-Milers in October, one of them, Ruth Sommers, a second time! Congratulations to Ruth, Lara Pagel, Donna Piotrowski and Mary Stewart on this great accomplishment!

– Debbie Krogwold



Our newly formed Blazing Crew refreshed the yellow blazes along the Waupaca River Segment. Left to Right: Trail Steward Rich Roe, Blazing Trainees Donna Piotrowski, Mary Nanning, Lynn Larson, and Richard Blanchard, and Blazing Crew Leader Teresa Aspeslet. Photo by Debbie Krogwold.

a new boardwalk and bridge. The Chapter supported IAT-U by storing lumber and building forms in advance and bringing well-deserved treats to the volunteers for meals.

Then, in late summer, the Chapter held a prairie walk during which Steve Pence, Land Restoration Specialist for the Ice Age Trail Alliance, shared his knowledge of prairie plants and invasive species and helped plan a future seed collection event. Ice Age Trail enthusiasts happily embraced the newly offered Muirandering Marquette hiking incentive patch.

Thanks to the fantastic community of Ice Age Trail supporters, the Alliance acquired a beautiful 105-acre property in Marquette County. We look forward to future Trailbuilding events featuring this property. In the meantime, we are excited about hosting an Ice Age Trail Crew event in July to build more Trail, a boardwalk, and a dispersed camping area in the Alliance-owned Muir Preserve.

– Pam Bowe



BARABOO HILLS/HERITAGE TRAIL CHAPTER

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

The Baraboo Hills/Heritage Trail Chapter finished up a stone work project along the Devil's Lake Segment, building steps at the section of Trail crossing Roznos Meadow. Generously, several people from other chapters, and the Chicago area, helped.

In October, during the Mammoth Challenge, the Chapter led two hikes and partnered with the Chambers of Commerce in Baraboo, Portage, and Lodi for additional social media communications about the Challenge. We also participated in the holiday parades in both Baraboo and Portage. Monty joined us and our float/truck was all lit up.

– Debby Capener



WAUSHARA COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Waushara County Chapter closed out 2023 by putting the tools away and parking the mowers.

Sawyers, though, stayed busy clearing an unusually high number of toppled trees.

We hosted a third annual First Day Hike on the Chaffee Segment. So, what do you do if you invite a few friends to a party and the whole neighborhood shows up? Expecting 15-20 hikers like past years, we were surprised to have 30 vehicles parked in the farm yard and 60 or more hikers ready to hike. Plans for a group hike with shuttles were scrapped and hikers did what hikers do best, they hiked. Special thanks to chapter members Genie and Russ of Fresh for Life Organics for opening up their home for snacks and hot drinks and good cheer. It was a great start to 2024.

– Randy Lennartz



MARQUETTE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Marquette County Chapter enjoyed an exciting 2023. Besides sponsoring a lupine seed collection in late spring, the Chapter hosted Ice Age Trail-University (IAT-U) at John Muir County Park in July, where volunteers received hands-on training on topics like boardwalk building and invasive species identification.

The John Muir Park Segment benefited from these skills learned with



LODI VALLEY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Kim Cooke (608-592-7529) and Mandy Cray (608-235-7747), LodiValleyChapter@iceagetrail.org)

With the completion of a new piece of Trail, we are pleased to offer hikers on the Gibraltar Rock Segment a safer, more enjoyable hiking experience. In the past, hikers who parked at the Gibraltar Rock Road parking lot and hiked to the segment's endpoint on Hwy V walked on a busy road to return to their cars or return the same way they came. Now, hikers can stroll through the lovely woods connecting the two lots. We appreciate Alliance staff efforts and the many volunteers who made quick work of this project, including our friends from the Dane County Chapter and students from Lodi schools.

The Lodi Segment is also receiving attention. We're excited about a new section of Trail that will eliminate some of the road walk on Strangeway Avenue. We are working with the Lodi School District and the Lodi Golf Course to lay out the Trail. We anticipate construction in 2024. Stay tuned!

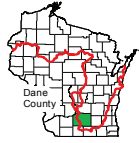
Chapter volunteers have also partnered with the Lodi Schools, helping them develop trails in the Lodi school forest. This under-used resource will be a future site of outdoor education opportunities.

When we weren't working on the Trail, we got people out on it! Our monthly Tyke Hikes continued, including a Halloween Hike with many fun costumes and a Santa Hike featuring an appearance by Santa,

continued on page 26

Mrs. Claus, and an Elf. Volunteers also led monthly Full Moon Hikes. Santa and his associates joined us to indulge in the December hike's many baked treats and hot cocoa.

– Patti Herman



DANE COUNTY CHAPTER

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



ROCK COUNTY CHAPTER

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

Rock County volunteers stepped it up in 2023. We offered many well-attended weekly Trail Stewardship events, completed two boardwalks along the Storrs Lake Segment, blazed two new segments – Gibbs Lake and Evansville, and approved the Rock County Corridor Plan.

Chapter members participated in numerous outreach opportunities: Noon Rotary in Janesville, Sustainable Living Fair, Milton Maker Market, Grove Society of Evansville, Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin Hike, ABC Supply Employee Health Expo, and capped it off with a Mural Hike in Janesville as part of the October Mammoth Challenge.



Luminaries light the path during one of the Candlelight Hikes offered by the Rock County Chapter and its partners. Photo by Dennis James.

Chapter members increased their participation in candlelight hikes in the last few years, from three in 2022 to five in 2024, along the Arbor Ridge Segment at the Robert Cook Memorial Arboretum. Event attendance continues to grow, with each hike garnering more than 500 people. The first candlelight hike of 2024 attracted 734 participants. We lit a ½ mile loop with almost 300 candles set out by Chapter members and students from Parker and Craig High Schools. Mocha Moment of Janesville donated hot chocolate, and Frito Lay in Beloit donated snack-sized chips.

The 1,800 candles made for the upcoming season required lots of helpers: Chapter members, staff from Rock County Parks and the Janesville School District Staff, and members of the Friends of Rock County Parks and Friends of Rock River Heritage Park.

– Dennis James



WALWORTH/JEFFERSON COUNTY CHAPTER

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

As in years past, late summer into early autumn brought a flurry of outreach opportunities for the Walworth-Jefferson Counties Chapter. In the fall, we hosted a well-attended hike /winery tasting event in Racine County, connected with a younger demographic at a Story Telling festival, led a Public Lands Day Hike, hosted a Volunteer Recruitment event at a local brewery in Whitewater, and shuttled hikers for a Mammoth Hike Challenge event. (Oh, and while not entirely a public event, our Chapter Coordinator and Secretary found time to get hitched somewhere amid these goings-on.)

The Chapter also participated in the City of Whitewater sponsored “Ghoul's Night Out” Halloween event and marched in UW-Whitewater's Homecoming parade. Our membership gathered for the annual Pumpkin Carving and Potluck. Besides working on our Christmas parade float, we found time to host a moonlight hike in November. Then, in December, we joined in lighted Christmas parades – one in the City of Whitewater and another in the Village of Palmyra. And with that, the eventful year wound down to a quiet close with our abbreviated holiday meeting (and potluck).

– Vince Lazzaroni



WAUKESHA/MILWAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

Co-Coordinators: Barbara Johnson (414-964-7635, barb joh@hotmail.com) and Diana Matthews (diana.matthews.iat@gmail.com)

At the close of 2023, Chapter volunteers wrapped up a whirlwind season of ambitious Trail Improvement projects: non-stop brush clearing and grubbing, several erosion-mitigating reroutes, and 1¼ miles of all-new Ice Age National Scenic Trail. An Eagle Scout project added 173 feet of puncheon in an especially soggy area on the Lapham Peak Segment.

A major part of the past year's work was the culmination of a multi-year effort toward “Closing the Waterville Gap”. With funds made possible in part by the Ice Age Trail Alliance through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' purchase of a 38-acre property on Waterville Road finally brought all the necessary pieces together.



A beautiful new switchback on the Waterville Segment. Photo by Pat Witkowski.

The mile of new Ice Age Trail, along the Waterville Segment, opened in November, winds its way southward through wooded land along an Alliance-owned easement, traverses the Alliance-owned Ottawa Preserve, and skirts an agricultural field (i.e. future restored prairie) with spectacular views of one of the few drumlins on the Trail. The old road walk has been reduced to less than 300 yards. A particularly dangerous road walk was also eliminated where the Waterville and Scuppernong segments join, thanks to a handshake agreement with Ottawa Presbyterian Church, allowing Trail to cross their property.

Another success in 2023 was a new series of guided hikes aimed at folks who spend their weekdays in a workplace. The series began as monthly Twilight Hikes during summer and transformed to Weekender Hikes when days shortened. Hike leaders provided a theme inspired by the hike location or a seasonal phenomenon and hikers were invited to share related stories or facts. Among the topics were fireflies, Increase Lapham, and August's Super Blue Moon. January 2024 kicked off with our annual First Day Hike at Lapham Peak. Three routes of varying lengths were offered and about 300 hikers participated.

– Christi Lee



WASHINGTON/OZAUKEE COUNTY CHAPTER

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

The Washington/Ozaukee County Chapter held a Fall Colors Hike at the Otten Preserve along the Kewaskum Segment. The promise of post-hike food brought out hikers and their furry hiking companions.

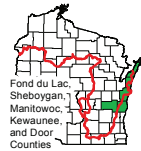
Eagle Scout, Luke Krueger, organized a Trail Improvement weekend at Glacier Blue Hills Park along the West Bend Segment in early November, removing invasive Autumn Olive along the Trail corridor. Scouts also participated in the National Park Service Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger program, thereby receiving certificates and patches from Dan Watson—Acting NPS Midwest Region Volunteer and Youth Programs Manager.

The Chapter's Meander the Mid-Moraine hiking incentive program will soon have a new patch! Stay tuned for an upcoming unveiling.

– Paula Klima



Scouts proudly display certificates received through their participation in the NPS Resource Stewardship Scout Ranger program. Photo by C. Herdeman.



LAKESHORE CHAPTER

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

Potawatomi State Park's newly rerouted section of Ice Age National Scenic Trail opened after the tower stabilization work was completed in December.

Note: A seasonal road closure is in place on North Norway Road. While the Ice Age Trail is not accessible by vehicle, at that location, the entire Sturgeon Bay Segment is open for hiking.

Lakeshore Chapter members are excited about the 11 guided hikes they have planned – all of which are listed on the Event calendar on the Ice Age Trail Alliance website. The hikes cover the entire Lakeshore Chapter from Door County to Fond du Lac County with two hikes scheduled during the Mammoth Hike Challenge in October.

The Lakeshore Chapter's northern crew was recognized for their volunteer work in the Northern Kettle Moraine at the Volunteer Appreciation event hosted by the Friends of the Kettle Moraine. In particular, Kathy Claude was recognized for the procedures she created for herbicide use on Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources property.

– Cheryl Gorsuch



Trail enthusiasts gather for a Fall Colors Hike along the Kewaskum Segment. Photo by P. Klima.

October 1 – December 31, 2023

BURR OAK LEGACY SOCIETY

The Burr Oak Legacy Society recognizes members who have made a commitment to support the Ice Age Trail Alliance through legacy gifts.

Thank you to all our Burr Oak Legacy Society members:

David & Kathy Adam	Andrew Fulrath	Dean & Mary Klinger	Melinda & Brian Nelson	Claude
Bess & Bernard Alberg	Bob Funk	Ed & Star Ann Kloberdanz	Randy S. & Joanna M. Parlee	Libby & John Stupak
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Bruce & Roberta Boczkiewicz	Roy & Sue Gromme	Linda Levengood	Carol Prchal	Ann Thering & David Eide
Pam Bowe	Tom Gross & Linda Hein	Lyle & Susan Lidholm	Daniel Rambo	Matthew Underwood & Chong Lor
Gary & Jean Britton	Dr. Kurt Hansen	Kate Lindsay	Kay Rashka	Blaise Vitale
Nancy Brownrigg	Deb & Tom Heier	Susan Lindsay	Steve Richter & Laura Cominetti	Brook Waalen & Stephanie Lundeen
Denny Caneff	Mark Helminiak & Elaine Jacobsen	David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney	Darrel Ruechel	Wendy Watson
Robert & Victoria Connors	Russell & Karen Helwig	David & Lois Lovejoy	Ann & Bob Rusch	Becky White
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Patty & Tom Dreier	Dave & Beth Keber	Tess Mulrooney	Julie Starks	Anonymous (19)
Dean Dversdall	Marcy & Nathan Kempf		Jane Stoltz	
Joanna Kramer Fanney	Karl & Tricia Kissinger		Betty A. Storey	
David & Carol Farber			Tony Stretton & Philippa	
James & Susan Fiore				

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

MILESTONES

Gifts to the IATA were made in honor of:

Gina Alfano-Orendorf

by Sophie Orendorf

Brian & Tricia Baker

by Dave Coughlin

Dean & Polly Blazek

by Betsy Oneill

Harrison Brandt

by Mercedes Martin

Ludwig Walter Bruch

by Doris & Richard Dubielzig

Dr. Kenn Buelow

by Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association

Mary Cieslewicz

by John Cieslewicz

Jim & Gail Davis

by Ed Davis

Patty & Tom Dreier

by Karen & Ray Moss

Don Erickson

by Carol Perkins

Kathleen Ernst, my partner of 30 years

by Scott Meeker

Derek Foerster

by Mark Stahlhut

Doug Galaszewski

by Collateral Team

Rod Gont

by Linda Gont

Owen Gwynne

by Robert Gwynne

Bob Housey

by Ruth Johansen

Sharon Kliegman's birthday and completion of the Ice Age Trail

by Nancy Notley

John Kolbe

by Patrick & Betsie O'Brien

Herb & Cork Lundberg

by Kimberly & Eric Taylor

Edward Madere

by Todd & Allyson Madere

Janet & Andy Martin

by Mercedes Martin

Jeff Melendy

by SECURA Insurance Companies Charitable Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

Buzz Meyer

by Michael Rhoades

Zak Michiels

by Barb & Mark Michiels

Tess Mulrooney

by Pam Kennedy

Our Clients

by The Kruse Company

Dave Ribbens

by Riverwater Partners

Mary Ellen & Tim Schmit

by Steve Bazan

Dan Seitz

by David Seitz

Carolyn Simpson - Art Exhibit

by James Anheuser & Elizabeth Hamilton-Poore
Julie & Timothy Anheuser
Marianne King
William Simpson

John & Sherry Stilin and other generous attendees

Ed Spoon

by Shane Steele

Gifts to the IATA were made in memory of:

Bob Cabelka

by Catherine Cabelka
Jo Jackson

Rick Fahrenkrug

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Jay Florian

by Gina LeMense

Thomas Gargulak

by Bryan Kramer

Kelly Hatch

by Edith Anderson

Stephanie Kaufman

by Drew Hanson

Donald Maurer

by PearMary Goetsch

Elizabeth (Lisa) McGrath

by David Blough
Misty Johnson
Mary McGrath
Richard McGrath
Ronald Russell
Mary Wachuta & Thomas Webb
Steve & Jenny Wachuta
Teri Wachuta
Katherine Wells

Miriam & Edward Miller

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Timothy Obukowicz

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James Ruethling

by the Ansay and Miller Families

Herb Schotz

by William & Kathleen Wulf

Susan Schicker

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Todd & Barbara Alles
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The Works Hair Salon
Lisa & Jeremy Wendt
David & Barbara Wentworth

Carol Werzenski

Debra Zick

Herb Schotz

by William & Kathleen Wulf

Les Scolman

by PearlMary Goetsch

Paul Siket

by Dale & Penny Schaber

James Swanson

by William & Marion Barlass
Jennifer Berman
Kathy Crandall
Jack & Karyn Dzurison
Gerald & Katherine Gibbs
Steve, Mary, Anne, Amy & Andy Jacobson
Lisa Johnson
Jerry Kramer
Joel & LouAnn Olsen
Park Church
Jerry Peterson
Kirke & Elaine Plank
Ingrid Riggs

Mary Lou Turner

by Dale & Penny Schaber

Bruce Vosseller

by Colomba Vosseller
Shan & Shoko Vosseller
Troy Vosseller

Corey Wilcox

by Christopher Toner
Michelle Hackett

Jane Ziegler

by Susan Ruhland

Steve Zilmer

by Carol Perkins

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January 1 — December 31, 2023

\$150,000+

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National Park Foundation
Prairie Springs: The Paul Fleckenstein Trust

\$80,000-\$149,999

Derse Foundation Inc.
Ron & Sheila Endres
Sally Wilmeth & Terry Geurkink Family Fund of the Madison Community Foundation

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David Lonsdorf & Marilyn Chohaney
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TRAIL terminus

Celebrate
National
Trails Day[®]
in a BIG Way!

On the Ice Age National Scenic Trail - June 1, 2024

Join the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the National Park Service at the National Park Service Office in Cross Plains to celebrate:

- The Ice Age Trail's Unit Status designation
- The partnerships that make the Trail a reality
- Nearly three, new, yellow-blazed miles along the Cross Plains Segment

Be there as the ribbon is cut and the new portion of the Cross Plains Segment is officially opened. Then, hike it!

Meet the Trailbuilders who crafted the tread, built the boardwalk, and moved boulders on this portion of Trail as you hike! Hear their stories, get inside information.

Enjoy light, post-hike refreshments at the National Park Service office, and get your National Park Service stamp from the park office.

SAVE *the* DATE

Saturday, June 1

TIME: Details coming soon!

WHERE: National Park Service
Cross Plains Interpretive Site
8075 Old Sauk Pass Rd
Cross Plains, Wis.

ABOUT NATIONAL TRAILS DAY[®]

Each year, people all across the country unite on the first Saturday of June to recognize the importance of America's trails and the value they add to our lives.