



Portage County IATA Chapter

Julie Schneider, Coordinator, 715- 570-6370, jschneideriat@gmail.com

Marty Wacker, Treasurer and Trail Maintenance Coordinator,
715-341-7164 mvbae@charter.net

Ron Harris, Webmaster, 714-421-4113, harrisiat@hotmail.com

Jean Klein, Volunteer Hours Coordinator, 715-341-5389, jeanmklein@icloud.com

Ruth Sommers, Events Coordinator, 715-344-5691

Dave Farber, Nominations Committee, jjjn@wctc.net

Alan Haney, Landowner Relations, ahaney@uwsp.edu

Robert Freckmann, Landowner Relations, rfreckma@uwsp.edu

REMINDERS:

- Renew your membership, if expired at <https://www.iceagetrail.org/donate/membership/>
- Next VIP Hours due July 1 to Jean Klein
- Report trail conditions ASAP to Ron Harris for entry on our website

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

TRAIL CLEANUP AT HARTMAN CREEK STATE PARK

Help is needed to pull GARLIC MUSTARD along the new Ice Age Trail segment north and south of Windfeldt Lane in Hartman Creek State Park. We are planning a work day Saturday, May 6, 9 am to noon. Meet at the park office at 8:45 am. Bring work gloves and water bottle. Water to fill water bottles will be provided along with snacks. Questions? Please contact Debbie at wdkrogwold@wi-net.com or 715-677-4974.

SPRING FLOWER HIKE ON THE EMMONS CREEK BARRENS/HARTMAN CREEK SEGMENT

Saturday, June 3 starting at 10 am

Leader: Bob Freckmann

Hike start: Stratton Lake Rd. trailhead and parking lot

Directions: Hwy 54 east from Plover approximately 20 miles. South (right) on Hwy D approximately 2 miles (when D turns west). Continue south and east on Stratton Lake Rd. to parking lot on right.

Contacts: Bob at 715 344-0686 or Ruth Sommers at 715 344-5691



Join the Ice Age Trail Alliance!

Portage County Chapter Ice Age Trail Alliance

www.portagecoiat.org

Join IATA at www.iceagetrail.org or call 800-227-0046

Please designate Portage County as your chapter

Ice Age Trail Alliance

IATA headquarters: 2100 Main St., Cross Plains WI 53528

800-227-0046 ♦ www.iceagetrail.org

FALL AND WINTER EVENTS HELD

EROSION REPAIR PROJECT

A team of 6 volunteers from the Portage and Waupaca county chapters completed an erosion repair project between the Emmons Creek Barrens and the Hartman Creek Park boundary in preparation for the 30th Annual Hike-a-thon on an unusually muggy September 24. Thanks to (from left to right in photo) Darryl Reuchel, Mark Balhorn, Jeff Pepp, Rex Runke, and Marty Wacker; photo taken by Julie Schneider.



IATA REGIONAL RALLY

Each fall, the Ice Age Trail Alliance hosts a number of Regional Rallies to bring together volunteers from across the land for planning, training, and comradery. These events are excellent opportunities to learn what it takes to create a world-class hiking trail and get involved locally. Ruth Sommers represented the Portage County chapter at Rally #2 held in Antigo on October 29.

2016's theme was "Getting Heard in the Digital Age." Discussion centered around various social media platforms and effective strategies for using them to get the message of the IATA and chapter activities out to a broader audience.

HIKING WITH WELL-KNOWN THROUGH HIKER, "BILLY GOAT"

This past fall, Ruth Sommers, Gail Colrud, Jean Klein, Portage County chapter volunteers; and Ruby Jaecks of the Northwoods chapter had the opportunity to hike with the famous "Billy Goat," one of the world's most prolific hikers. He was featured in the article "Can't Stop Now" in the January 2017 *Backpacker* magazine. The article is also online at <http://www.backpacker.com/news-and-events/heroes/billy-goats-never-ending-hike/>

ANNUAL HIKE-A-THON/FUN RUN

On Oct. 1, the Portage and Waupaca County chapters co-hosted the 30th annual Hike-a-thon. This year's hike featured the section completed by the Mobile Skills crew last October in Hartman Creek State Park. 75 hikers participated, including oldest hikers Dallas Pankowski from Plover, Wisconsin and Jean Allport from Janesville, Wisconsin, both 78, and youngest hiker, Arthur Marx, age 5, from Stevens Point. Boy Scout Troop 631 from Iola, Wisconsin took part and we also had 2 hikers, Jennifer Glejf and Steve Cotter who came all the way from Boston, Massachusetts.

Thanks to all the volunteers that make this event possible: Ruth Sommers, Debbie Krogwold, Marge Krogwold, Carol Kropidlowski, Sue Eiler, Julie Schneider, Butch Seigel, Vicky Billings, Randy Kalal, Gail Colrud, Joseph and Lillian Paul, Dave and Carol Farber, Lara and Kristen Pagel, Ron Harris, and Darryl Reuchel.

Earlier in the morning, a couple hours before the hike had even begun, 22 runners participated in a Fun Run. They

ran a 19-mile+ course from the IAT 2nd Ave. parking area and finished up at Central Waters Brewing Co. in Amherst, Wisconsin. Thanks to Tammy Hunter and Ben Schultz for all their hard work on this new event! All involved thought it was a great success. We hope to make this an annual event in conjunction with the Hike-a-thon.

Save the date for the 2017 31st Annual Hike-a-thon/Fun Run on the first Saturday in October!



SNOWSHOE HIKE

On January 21, eleven snowshoers braved the fog and threatening rain on the New Hope Pines segment from Hwy Z to Cty T. Bob Freckmann led the hike. Due to the uncertainty of the weather, it was decided to offer shorter and longer hike options. Thanks to Joseph and Lillian Paul for the transport for those who chose the shorter option. Two enthusiastic hikers went the complete route out and back. They were ready for and deserving of the hot chocolate and treats at the end.

NATIVE AMERICAN-STYLE FLUTE DONATION

Many thanks to Thomas Kolbeck, Sr. from Amherst for his donation to the IATA of a hand carved Native American-style flute. Tom crafts his flutes out of local wood found along the Tomorrow River. Native American flutes have been and are still used in ceremonies and as entertainment. Locally, Tom has played his flutes with the "Circle of Friends" group on Lake Emily in the shadow of the Ice Age Trail. Ruth Sommers sent the flute to the IATA Headquarters in Cross Plains where the staff plans to put it on display. Many thanks to Thomas Kolbeck for this gracious donation.



ANNUAL MEETING AND GUEST PRESENTATION

On February 27, about 15 people attended the annual chapter meeting at the Portage County Public Library. In addition to local chapter updates and a statewide update from IATA representative Brad Crary, Dan Dietrich, from the Citizens' Climate Lobby Stevens Point chapter gave an interesting presentation on "Carbon Fee and Dividend," the climate change solution economists and climate scientists alike say is the "best first step" to preventing the worst impacts of a warming world. The Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization empowering people to experience breakthroughs exercising their personal and political power.

2017 INFORMATION TABLES/DISPLAYS

In March and April, the PCIAT had displays at the McMillan Library and the Greenway RV Spring Show in Wisconsin Rapids. Thanks to Ruth Sommers and Dave Farber for coordinating those events. The remaining ones are: May 6: Portage County Cultural Festival at SPASH, June 3: National Trails Day at the Portage County Public Library, June 16-18: MREA Energy Fair in Custer, and June 17: Portage County Dairy Days at the Zoromski Farm in Custer. Please let Ruth Sommers know if you're interested in helping out with any of these displays.

2017 HIKE-A-THON





2017 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Portage County Chapter
Ice Age Trail Alliance



Check the volunteer opportunities below you are willing to help with. Remember to record VIP (Volunteer in Park) hours for quarterly reports--includes travel time to and back, plus the time at the event.

INFORMATION TABLES

- _____ March – McMillan Library display - Wisconsin Rapids
- _____ April - Greenway RV Spring Show - Wisconsin Rapids
- _____ May 6 - Portage County Cultural Festival - SPASH
- _____ June 3 - National Trails Day – Portage County Library Display
- _____ June 16 – 18 - MREA Energy Fair in Custer
- _____ June 17 - Dairy Days – Zoromski Farm - Custer

HIKES

- _____ January - Snowshoe Hike
- _____ June 3 - Spring Flower Hike
- _____ October 7 - Annual Hike-a-Thon – Iola Winter Sports Club
- _____ Lead school groups requesting a tour along the Ice Age Trail
- _____ Lead a hike or field trip (type/location)_____

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- _____ Maintain a ½, 1, 1 ½ or 2 mile section of the trail
- _____ Work on kiosks or signs
- _____ Work on an IATA Mobile Skills project (for 2017 projects, see IATA website)

EXECUTIVE BOARD/SUPPORT

- _____ Become an officer in the Portage County IATA Chapter
- _____ Serve on an Ice Age Trail Alliance State Committee
- _____ Help with Chapter newsletter
- _____ Become backup webmaster for our website
- _____ Chair a Chapter activity or event

OTHER

- _____ Promote groups to attend the annual Hike-a-thon
- _____ Complete an Eagle Scout project for Portage County portion of the Ice Age Trail
- _____ Write articles for local or state newsletters
- _____ Be part of the Chapter’s Speakers’ Bureau--give presentations to community groups, scouts, etc.
- _____ Produce a video of our activities to help promote the IATA

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Fill out this form and bring it to a meeting or email/mail to one of the addresses below:

- Julie Schneider - Chapter Coordinator jschneideriat@gmail.com 715-570-6370 2700 Peck St, Stevens Point WI 54481
- Marty Wacker – Treasurer/Trail Maintenance mvaeb@charter.net 715-341-7164
- Ruth Sommers – Events Coordinator - 715-344-5691 - 2917 Bush St, Stevens Point WI 54481
- Jean Klein – VIP Report Coordinator - (VIP hours) jeanmklein@icloud.com 715-341-8389
- Dave Farber – Nominations Chair (for Executive Board elections) jjjn@wctc.net

Join the Ice Age Trail Alliance: www.iceagetrail.org Portage County IAT Website: www.portagecoiat.org

