



State of Wisconsin
GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2017

UW-Extension – Sheboygan County
5 University Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

State Trails Council Members present

Dave Cieslewicz [for Robbie Webber], road bicycling representative (Executive Director of the *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin (BFW)*)

Randy Harden, ATV/UTV representative (member of *Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association (WATVA)*)

Leif Hubbard, *Wisconsin Department of Transportation* [non-voting]

Kricket Jewett [for Ken Carpenter], equestrian representative (member of *Wisconsin Horse Council*)

Doug Johnson, snowmobiling representative (member of *Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC)*) [STC Secretary]

Mike McFadzen, cross-country skiing representative (member of *WI Nordic Network, Northern Kettle Moraine Nordic Ski Club*)

Bryan Much, off-highway motorcycle representative (member of *Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association (WOHMA)*) [STC Chair]

Ken Neitzke, hiking representative (member of the *Ice Age Trail Alliance*)

John Siegert, off-road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*) [STC Vice Chair]

Jerry Stephens [for Luana Schneider], 4-wheel drive vehicles representative

Jim White, boards and small wheels representative

State Trails Council Members not in attendance

Ken Carpenter, equestrian representative (member of *Wisconsin Horse Council*)

Phil Johnsrud, non-motorized water trails representative

Skip Maletzke, tourism/business representative [non-voting]

Luana Schneider, 4-wheel drive vehicles representative (member of *Wisconsin 4-Wheel Drive Association*)

Robbie Webber, bicycling representative

Invited speakers

Aaron Brault, Director of Sheboygan County Department of Planning and Conservation

Others present

Alex Bub, *Wisconsin Off Road Adventures*

Charlie Ritter, *Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee*

Hank Wozniel, *Wisconsin ATV-UTV Association (WATVA)*

WI DNR Staff present

Daniel Buckler

Diane Brusoe (*by phone, for part of the meeting*)

Brigit Brown (*by phone, for part of the meeting*)



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10:03 A.M. – Welcome and introductions

- Much called the meeting to order. Council members and guests introduced themselves.

10:05 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of January meeting minutes

- McFadzen moved to approve the minutes. Harden seconded. Motion passed.

10:07 A.M. – Chair report

- Much called for ideas for meeting locations in northern Wisconsin for the August meeting. He also reminded Council members to submit travel claims at meetings.
- On behalf of the council, Much presented a certificate of appreciation recognizing Buckler for excellent support and helpful initiatives in support of the council. Buckler is leaving the Bureau of Parks and Recreation Management.

10:11 A.M. – Biennial review of Council structure

- McFadzen presented the ad-hoc committee's recommendation to keep the structure of the Council *as is* and keep the represented uses. He said that future SCORP data could have an effect on their recommendations, but no information they currently have convinced them to change the Council structure.
- Harden moved to accept the recommendation of the ad-hoc committee. Johnson seconded. All approved.
- Much said that they will review the structure again in two years.

10:17 A.M. – Local trails and initiatives (Aaron Brault, Sheboygan County)

- Brault reviewed information about Sheboygan County's industry and demographics. He also outlined some of the recreational events held there.
- Brault gave an overview of the [NoMo program in Sheboygan County](#). "In July 2005, the US Congress adopted a new transportation budget (SAFETEA-LU) which included special provisions to create a Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program; Sheboygan County was one of four communities in the country selected to participate in this pilot program." The idea behind NoMo is that there would be a targeted investment in the county to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The county's process for the project was to create a Citizens Advisory Committee, create a plan, and then host an open call for projects. Afterwards, county staff and the advisory committee made recommendations, and the County Board made decisions for projects to move forward. The County ultimately received \$22.5 million and initially allocated \$20 million for the projects.
- Brault outlined the recreational and transportation infrastructure before the projects and then the network to be developed using the new funding. He then discussed key projects of the network including the Shoreland 400 Rail Trail. He also sketched out his hope for regional trail networks, including connecting to the Interurban Trail and extending Old Plank Trail west to Fond du Lac County.
- Brault then discussed the county's successes, such as increased safety (reduced bike/ped crash rate) and increased use. Brault spoke about future projects in the County, including the creation of a non-profit to continue NoMo's momentum.
- Much asked if any of these trails uses a trail pass. Brault said no - each municipality and county had to make a resolution saying they would be responsible for maintenance.

11:02 A.M. – Brainstorming content ideas for applications related to parks and trails

- Much introduced the topic as a free-ranging discussion on mobile and desktop application components which could be useful for trail users. He sought to compile ideas and use those ideas to help the DNR and user groups develop new products and seek out new avenues for collaboration. Specific



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application components are documented below. Current recommended websites and applications were also brought-up and are noted below.

- Destination
 - 360-degree images of trail/park/vista to view in anticipation of a visit
 - Photos of destinations (e.g. photo of waterfall embedded in app so you could see what you're walking three miles for), or places you might want to reserve (like a campsite)
 - Points of interest (photos and information)
 - Camping opportunities
- Conditions
 - A mechanism for showing up-to-date trail conditions was perhaps the most sought after component across the user groups
 - Trails open/closed
 - Hunting advisories
 - Alert boxed if some place is closed off (e.g. flash flood, fire, storm damage has recently closed off part of trail)
 - Show or link current and recent weather
 - Bug conditions – how bad are mosquitoes, black flies, etc.
 - Traffic (auto/user)
- Trail features
 - Elevation/terrain (maybe accomplished by being able to switch basemaps across aerial and topographic maps)
 - Geo-locator
- Parking (strongly desired by all user groups)
 - Location
 - Stall size
 - Number of stalls
 - Legality
- Amenities – Where can I find...
 - Gas
 - Groceries
 - Parts for repair
 - Hardware store
- Roads
 - What are the best routes to get to trailhead? In some areas, particularly in northern Wisconsin, sometimes it's very difficult to find the right roads.
- Misc
 - Quick reference on regulations
 - Tracking groomers
 - Hospital location
- Recommended sites / applications
 - [Mammoth Tracks](#) (Ice Age Trail)
 - [Sheboygan Park Finder](#)
 - [Skinnyski.com](#)
 - [Birkie Trails](#)
 - [Ride On Wisconsin](#)
 - [MTB Project](#)

12:00 P.M. – Lunch

12:30 P.M. – Highlights from Council member reports (linked at end of minutes as an appendix)



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- *ATV / UTV* – No highlights beyond written submission
- *Cross-Country Skiing* - In addition to his written submissions, McFadzen further highlighted Lapham Peak's snowmaking capabilities. He also discussed the proposed Kohler golf course and the proposal to use state lands for an entrance road.
- *Hiking* - Neitzke highlighted the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Annual Conference and the IATA Mobile Skills Crew. He noted that there has been a big increase in organized hikes.
- *DOT* – Hubbard had no report.
- *Small Wheels* - White said that the United States Olympic Committee is trying to expand interest in skating. They are trying to help any grade school nationwide that is interested in skating to acquire skates. White also commented that there's a new Department of Tourism bike guide.
- *Off-Road Bicycles* – Siegert particularly highlighted the speedy development of single-track in a Wausau park that was discussed at the August 2016 STC meeting.
- *Off-Highway Motorcycles* - Much noted that events are very popular and fill-up quickly.
- *Snowmobiles* - In addition to his submitted reports, Johnson noted that the holiday deer hunt affects winter sports and many counties have opted into these hunts.
- *Four-Wheel Drive* - In addition to written submissions, the Wisconsin Off-Road Vehicle Park, Inc. (WORPVI) is still looking at the possibility of an off-road park up north. John Schnorr is stepping down from WORPVI.
- *Road bicycles* – Cieslewicz elaborated upon topics within his user report.

1:10 P.M. – Open meetings and open records training

- All present Council members watched a State of Wisconsin training slideshow on open records requirements. They then passed a short quiz following the slideshow. A compliance guide is located [here](#). *Note: Luana Schneider watched the training and passed the quiz on 6/15/17.*

1:25 P.M. – DNR Report / Recreation Opportunities Analysis update

- Brown reported on the [ROA open house meetings](#) which are currently being hosted in the Northwoods Region. She noted that motorcycles, mountain biking and fat bikes are some of the main uses being discussed by attendees.
- Simultaneous with the ROA process, and linked to it, there is also feedback being sought to [amend the recreation portion of the existing management plan for the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest](#). The amendment will go to the Natural Resources Board later this year.
- Much asked if a variance could work across multiple properties (e.g. allow mountain biking on multiple properties). Brown said that if it didn't conflict with an individual property's master planning, then it *might* work across multiple properties. Otherwise, a property would need a master plan amendment.
- Much described the structure of the ROA open house meetings and Brown discussed the timeline and structure of the ROA process going forward into other regions.
- Brown reported that district supervisors were recently hired so now those positions are all staffed for the first time in several years. Brown also reviewed new trail etiquette signage that is being installed



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on many properties across the state. One of the signs, for bikes, pedestrians, and horses to share the trail, is being paid for in part by the Wisconsin Horse Council.

- Much asked about the role of different divisions and bureaus on specific properties due to the DNR's alignment effort. Brown said that other parts of the DNR might be responsible for activities on properties that might otherwise have been all done by a specific bureau. For example, Parks won't be responsible for controlled burning of their properties anymore (prescribed fire will be the responsibility of the Division of Forestry).

1:53 P.M. – Update on road inventory process

- Diane Brusoe, Section Chief of master planning within the DNR, said that the inventory and mapping of department managed roads will be done this fiscal year.
- Much asked Brusoe to discuss how the inventory will be distributed to the public. Brusoe said that the ROA is a bit too wide-scaled for this. Specific road changes, however, would have to go through the master planning process. The master planning process would include detailed information on what's opened/closed.
- McFadzen asked what the timeframe will be. Brown said ROA meetings for the rest of the state and the draft master plan amendment for Northern Highland American Legion are expected before the end of this year.
- Wozniel discussed the U.S. Forest Service inventory of their roads. Now the USFS has an annual review of the roads. Is there anything like that planned for state lands? Brusoe said that there isn't.

2:05 P.M. – Public comment

- Charlie Ritter, who represents the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee, said that his group needs help finding funding for snowmaking equipment. They currently go to Aurora and other health-related companies to get funding for snowmaking equipment, but they cannot keep going to the same funding sources. They've spent \$500,000 over the last few years alone and are wondering if they could present information to the Council to solicit its feedback on solutions. Much said that the Council structure isn't necessarily the best place for specific fundraising ideas, but could certainly help him get in touch with user groups. Much said, however, that he and the Council would welcome a presentation on their work in November.
- Alex Bub, previous member of the Off-Road Vehicle Council and a past president of the Off-Highway Motorcycle Association, spoke. He said that, as the owner of Off Road Adventures (Random Lake), he noticed that over the last five years he has taught hundreds of students and half of them have been female. He wanted the Council to be aware of the significant demographic change.

2:12 P.M. – Identify future agenda items

- August
 - IATA (Ice Age Trail Alliance) and NCTA (North Country Trail Association) will be presenting at the meeting. Brown noted that there is a new NCTA Executive Director starting in August.
- November
 - Presentation to inform STC on snowmaking equipment, how they're funded currently, what they are looking for in the future. Neitzke is going to try to reserve Hausmann Nature Center at Lapham Peak.
 - Overall trail maintenance funding ([link to 2009 trail funding document](#))

2:25 P.M. – Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn by McFadzen. Seconded by Johnson. All approved. Meeting adjourned.



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Appendix – User Group Reports (submitted before meeting by Council Members)

Off-Road Bicycles/Mountain Bikes

- Chequamegon Area (<http://www.cambatrails.org>)
 - Hosted chainsaw training last week S 4-22
 - Spring work day this coming S 4-29 at various locations around Hayward
 - Hosting a Women's Mountain Bike Weekend June 9-11 – sold out, taking names for a waiting list
 - Has withdrawn from IMBA's Chapter program and will return to being an independent organization in early May
- Eau Claire (<http://chippewaoffroad.org>)
 - Lowes Creek County Park Trails have been open, as the Spring weather dictates, since S 4-8
- Madison area (<http://www.madcitydirt.com>)
 - Spring work days scheduled throughout Dane County
- Milwaukee-area (<https://www.metromountainbikers.com/home>)
 - Trails have been open, on-and-off, as the Spring weather dictates
 - Milwaukee County Parks will be collecting user data in Wauwatosa (Hoyt Park)
 - Milwaukee County Trails Council hosting a public input session on Th 5-25 at the Mitchell Park Domes
- Northeast Wisconsin (<http://www.newtrailswi.org>)
 - Trails have been open, on-and-off, as the Spring weather dictates
- River Falls (<http://www.kinnioffroad.com>)
 - Trails have been open, on-and-off, as the Spring weather dictates
- Trail crews have begun working at the John Muir trails in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (<http://southernkettles.org>)
- Upper St. Croix Valley (<http://www.woollybikeclub.com>)
 - Trails have been open, on-and-off, as the Spring weather dictates
- Wausau (<http://cwocc.org>)
 - Anticipating trail openings this weekend, weather permitting
 - Building 2 new trail systems this year:
 - Sylvan Hill on the north side of Wausau will be a neighborhood bike park with 4 flow trails, pump track and skills course. Construction should be complete by August 1
 - Ringle Trails east of town have 10 miles of singletrack. Approximately 5 miles will be club-built this year, the remainder will be contractor-built in 2018
- Wisconsin High School Cycling League (<http://www.wisconsinmtb.org>)
 - Leaders Summit taking place this weekend at Trek Bicycle Corporation in Waterloo

Road Bicycles / Bike Fed

In April [Bike Fed] hosted a conference in Madison on self-driving cars and conducted our biennial Lobby Day. Our top two legislative priorities are more funding for local roads and passage of a bill (AB-201) to increase penalties for moving violations that result in death or serious injury for cyclists or pedestrians among others. We are also monitoring a bill (SB-148) that would permit robotic delivery devices on sidewalks. Over



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the next six weeks we'll host our annual Bike Summit in Milwaukee, open the new Wisconsin Cycling Hall of Fame with a gala dinner and conduct dozens of events for Bike Week (June 1 - 10).

Four-Wheel Drive

Early this month the Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association and the Wisconsin Four Wheel Drive Association had a combined convention in Tomah. The convention started up on Friday with an all day Tread Lightly trainer program and on Saturday business meetings for the two associations. Also on Saturday Cameron Bump of the DNR did a presentation/discussion on ROA and the Tread Lightly representative did a presentation/discussion on Social Media and image issues and a fellow member (geek) did a presentation on GPS usage with trails and recording those trails and how to share those GPS'd trails with others.

The Four Wheel Drive community is busy heading into a summer of activities. There are many groups heading for parks and trails in other states and running on some trails they may have on private property and forest roads on public property in the State. Some of the bigger upcoming events in the state are the Apple Valley events of which one will be hosted by Wis. Off Highway Vehicle Association, the Jeepers Jamboree in Mole Lake by the Title Town Offroaders and the MazoTough Truck 2017 by Roadside 4 Wheelers. There are two 4WD Driver clinics being held and several meet and greets occurring throughout the state. We have a new individual now heading up the legislation for a decal program for 4WD and will be doing a significant rewrite on parts of what was previously written. Also there is a possible opportunity in one of the northern counties for an ORV park that is currently being explored.

Off-Highway Motorcycles

Ice riding tires have been swapped out or dual sport tires and knobbies as off-highway motorcycling transitions from the ice to the trails and forest roads.

With the passage of the OHM law, we already have a single track motorcycle trail project underway in northern Wisconsin. In support of that project, the Wisconsin Off-Highway Motorcycle Association hosted a trail building school which is scheduled for May 18-21. A variety of people involved with trails have enrolled in the class.

We have two formal riding events scheduled for the near term. One is an event along the MN border that repurposes horse trails for motorcycle riding for a weekend. http://www.goldeneaglesmc.org/trail_rides.htm

We also have a formal riding event in Wabeno that involves a combination of public and private land. <http://widualsportriders.org/>

Both of these events are very popular and demonstrate a strong demand for more off-highway riding opportunities.

Something different this year is that our OHM law requires that anyone that rides their motorcycle on trails in Wisconsin must have an OHM motorcycle sticker. The revenue from that sticker allows us to build and maintain trails. The program is structure similar to the ATV/UTV program.

Snowmobiles

The "Celebrate Wisconsin Snowmobiling" event held in February in Siren went well in spite of a lack of snow. Governor Walker joined us for Dinner Sunday night along with a record turnout for the 4th annual event.

The AWSC Spring Convention was held at the end of March in Milwaukee. Almost 700 snowmobilers attended. Membership is at an all-time high- 41,595 in 615 snowmobile clubs. 128,254 trail passes were sold last season.



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We've been busy promoting a bill known as the "Trail Maintenance Bill", AB 180 and its companion SB 188. Basically this bill will increase the per mile maintenance amount from \$250 to \$300. In addition, it will eliminate the sunset clause on the trail pass program, providing a permanent funding source for the snowmobile program.

Across the State snowmobilers have pulled trail signs, put grooming equipment away, and are completing as much spring trail maintenance as needed. Many clubs also take advantage of this time to hold Landowner Appreciation Banquets, thanking the landowners for supporting the snowmobile trail system.

There were a few bright spots for snow conditions last winter, most notably in the northeast corner of the state. As always, we are looking forward to more snow statewide for our next snowmobile season.

Equestrians

For any Midwest horse owner April is always a great month, not only is spring here, but it's Midwest Horse Fair! April 21- 23 saw about 50,000 horse enthusiasts stop at the Aliant Energy Center. From top national trainers, people with backyard pets, to families with the next horse crazy kid there is something for everyone at the fair!

The Midwest Horse Fair is the largest 3-day horse fair in America. 300 clinics, seminars, and educational events are presented by some of the top horse professionals from around the country. More than 500 commercial exhibitors offer shopping opportunities and hundreds of horses make it the equine event with something for everyone!

Friday night was the PRCA rodeo that sold out weeks before the event and Saturday the evening show titled the Epic Night of the Horse had 10 entertainers competing for \$25,000 in cash awards woven into an entertaining show.

Visit www.midwesthorsefair.com to see pictures or check it out of facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/midwesthorsefair/>

Controlling 5 loose horses in a packed cheering arena while maintaining your balance standing on 2 of them! EPIC!

Wisconsin Horse Council has been working with Brigit on multi use signs and has donated \$1500 to the project that will feature yield signs. Our hope is to promote safer multi use interactions.

Trails School has 1 space left open and will be held at Prairie du Chein on May 31- June 3 go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017TrailTrainings> to sign up

Friends of Gov. Dodge are planning a Poker Ride in their effort to raise funds to install a new equine campground at the park. Details of the efforts can be found here. <http://www.govdodgeequestrians.com/>

Initial response to attending meeting for the ROA has been good in the Northwoods, I'm hoping that those who expressed interest also comment or attend meetings.

Currently there are 3 areas in different stages of working on new trails.

ATV / UTV

2016 had been frustrating, not being able to obtain registration numbers from our DNR customer service / registration folks. This data provides the number of ATV & UTV owners per machine registrations. I've been



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told this is because of the changeover to the Go Wild system and the many related challenges associated with same. Our leadership team counts on and uses this data to identify developing trends necessary to plan our strategies as we continue to support and to discuss potential changes needed for the overall wellbeing of our registration program.

Our third generation Trail Patrol Ambassador program, referred to as the Next Generation Trail Ambassador program (NextGen), continues in development and localized testing. Tentative plans are to release the roll out in late summer / early fall of 2017.

Statewide annual conference and educational workshops will be Saturday, April 29th in Rothschild <greater Wausau area>.

Regional rides & workshops follow on Saturday, July 15th <Northeast Region> and Saturday, August 12th in the Northwest Region. Still determining if there will be a Southern Regional setting.

Organization is involved on a new committee with the goal to create a unified approach and documents and/or policy guidance for Traffic Safety Commissions / Counties / Municipalities considering or currently using roads for ATV / UTV traffic. Involved and invited groups include:

- Wisconsin Traffic Safety Coordinators Association
- Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation
- Wisconsin DNR, Bureau of Law Enforcement
- Wisconsin ATV UTV Association / NOHVIS Group

Cross-Country Skiing

Central WI seemed to have the best snowfall this year. Continued overall cross-country user growth, primarily due to the youth ski program pulling in additional skiers.

A big downside this year was cancellation of the largest ski race in North American, the Birke. They still had 8000 participants show up which demonstrates it's a lifestyle/community event, not just a race. Lots of activity at the new Birkie start area. The North End Trailhead continues to be a real hotspot of skiing in NW WI. Summer 2016 storms made a mess in many NW WI trails which still requires clean up. The Birkie has begun discussing snowmaking options for race start area and other appropriate locations.

The Birke Foundation is hosting a red book certification which introduces biathlon to kids and runs them through a safety course. Biathlon is growing at multiple sites including Green Bay. The Reforestation Trail System is adjacent to the National Guard rifle range which provides a fun synergy. Biathlon is bringing skiing to a new population.

The Recreational Opportunities Assessment (ROA) has many silent sports users concerned. Many hikers, back-country skiers, and snowshoe enthusiasts use old forest roads for recreation. If these are formalized into motorized use there will be a significant loss of opportunity for silent sports users.

Iola Ski Center had one of their best years. Largest memberships, biggest trail fee income, a wonderful youth program, and more smiles than ever. There were struggles with low snow, frequent meltdowns, equipment problems, and wind damage. Iola was able to overcome most of the above problems by the use of social media to recruit new volunteers who had fun working together and showed the skiing public that our club is committed to them.



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On April 28-30 in Eau Claire, [Central Cross Country Ski Association](#) (CXC) will host educational workshops for club leaders focused on fundraising, host sport committee meetings and recognize some of the organization's top coaches, volunteers and community leaders at the Annual Awards Dinner.

Snow-making for ski trails is inevitable due to a warming climate. Green Bay and other trail systems are exploring snowmaking. Lapham Peak saved their ski year because of the snow-making capability. Snowmaking has become an economic development issue for some communities as skiers flock to these trail systems. There will likely be a push for state funding to support it.

There has been excellent public/private cooperation in the cross-country ski community. This happens when state-owned ski trails partner with ski clubs to provide grooming and other amenities. As park and trail funding diminishes, these partnerships will be even more important. State Parks Leadership is encouraging that approach.

The * Central Cross Country (CXC) Nordic Rocks for Schools Program* wrapped up its fourth season. Over 5,000 Midwest elementary aged children have recently tried skiing for the first time, as part of their physical education classes this winter. Thanks to the generous support of the National Winter Sports Education Foundation. Over 95 schools in the midwest hold this program. Plans have begun to for taking the program to the next level: order 1,400 pairs of skis for the 2017-18 season, adding adjustable poles to the program, increased educational opportunities for teachers and coaches, and club development.

As one of twelve Community Olympic Development programs in the country, CXC continues to grow to support and develop athletes of all abilities and age groups, including American veterans, junior development programs, master and elite team opportunities, adaptive sports, and improved Nordic event series. Plans are moving forward for building a training facility for cross-country skiers on the property north of the Pleasant View Golf Club at 7207 US Highway 14 in Middleton, Wisconsin. If completed, it would be one of only six facilities of its kind in the United States. The CXC Center of Excellence in Madison Wisconsin continues to attract athletes from across the Midwest for strength testing, athletic development, and sports education.

Hiking

This has been an exceptional late winter for hiking in the southern half of the state. Hiking trails in general have seen heavy use the last few months especially in areas of little or no snow. The early warm-up this spring has created very muddy trail conditions.

In early March the US Forest Service has awarded the Ice Age Trail Alliance the Prestigious United States Forest Service Eastern Region Honor Award for Volunteerism and Service. Recognizing the Ice Age Trail Alliance's commitment to creating and delivering an outstanding volunteer experience as part of its Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) program: <http://www.iceagetrail.org/prestigious-award-volunteerism-service>

The Ice Age Trail Alliance forges strong relationships with a wide-range of partners as a means to engaging a diverse population with the vision of creating, maintaining and protecting a thousand-mile footpath through Wisconsin. A popular mantra of the Alliance, "Trail building is people building", ensures quality skill-building and service-learning components go hand-in-hand with the trail work that must be accomplished during an MSC event.

The Ice Age Trail MSC season is in full swing with (3) trail projects starting on April 7th. There will be (9) major MSC trail across the state this season including the replacement of 700 feet of trail boardwalk in the South Kettle Moraine on the Waukesha County portion of the Ice Age Trail.

<http://www.iceagetrail.org/volunteer/mobile-skills-crew-program/>



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The Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference will be taking place April 27 – 29 in Chippewa Falls. A few hundred IATA members will be gathering for hikes on the Ice Age Trail, Strategic Planning Sessions, Keynote Speakers, Leadership training as well as camaraderie. The annual awards banquet and celebration will take place on Saturday night 4/29 with awards being given out by the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the National Park Service.

The North Country Trail Association http://northcountrytrail.org/che/?page_id=43 has been equally busy this spring with trail clean-up in preparation for the summer hiking season as well as offering guided hikes. Although this past winter produced lots of snow for the typical hiker, it was ideal for snow shoe travel on the North Country Trail.

June 3rd is National Trails Day. National Trails Day is the only nationally coordinated event designed to unite all muscle-powered trail activities with the goal of connecting more people to trails. Every trail beckons adventure and has a story to share with any person willing to discover it, and American Hiking Society believes these trail experiences can improve the lives of every American.

Each year, on the first Saturday of June, American Hiking Society and the trails community invite Americans of all ages and abilities to find their own adventure and discover their unique story at one of the thousands of events hosted throughout the country.

By coordinating a wide array of trail activities on a single day, National Trails Day attracts new trail users and helps connect existing trail enthusiasts with local clubs and organizations with the hopes of creating trail advocates and stewards. The task to protect and maintain more than 200,000 miles of trails in the U.S. requires a collaborative effort among trail clubs, organizations, government agencies, and most importantly passionate trail advocates and stewards. <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/> There will be (15) official National Trails Day events in Wisconsin on June 3rd ranging from hiking, biking, water trails, including the Grand Opening of the Rock River Trail – National Water Trail.

Also on June 3rd is the Kettle 100, a 100 mile Ultra Marathon run on the trails in the South Kettle Moraine including portions of the Ice Age Trail.

On April 1st the 25th annual Trailbreaker Full Marathon was held starting in Waukesha on the Fox River Trail, the Glacial Drumlin Trail and the Ice Age Trail segment at Lapham Peak with runners being required to climb the Lapham Peak Tower before turning around to run back to Waukesha.

On April 22nd the Dane County Drifters will be hosting a 67 mile run on the Ice Age Trail in Dane County. It is being promoted as a training opportunity for the Ice Age 50 and the Kettle 100 runs.

Coming up on May 13th is the Ice Age 50, a 50 mile run on the trails in the South Kettle Moraine including portions of the Ice Age Trail.

There has been a growing trend in regular group hikes on trails throughout the state. Most of the Ice Age Trail Alliance volunteer chapters host weekly and monthly guided hikes as well as many local and regional outdoor recreation retail stores.