



State of Wisconsin  
**GOVERNOR'S STATE TRAILS COUNCIL**

**Meeting Agenda**  
**Monday, January 8, 2017**

Teleconference

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

*Public Participation*

101 S. Webster St. Madison, WI (Room 624, GEF2 building)

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE
10:00 a.m.	Bryan Much, Chair	Welcome and introductions
10:03 a.m.	State Trails Council Members	Agenda review/repair and approval of November meeting minutes
10:06 a.m.	Bryan Much	Chair report, encouraging Council applicants
10:10 a.m.	Missy VanLanduyt, DNR	ROA, SCORP, Master Planning, Staffing, Budget Update
10:35 a.m.	Brigit Brown, DNR	Discussion of rules and potential conflicts that may arise during the snow season. Refresher on rules relating to things like fat bikes, XC ski issues, and the like.
11:05 a.m.	State Trails Council members	Highlights from STC member reports
11:30 a.m.	State Trails Council members	Other member matters/concerns
11:40 a.m.	Public	Public comment - <i>Additional time may be allotted based on need.</i>
11:50 a.m.	State Trails Council members	Nominate future agenda items
12:00 p.m.		Adjourn



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## Meeting Minutes

### January 8, 2018 - Teleconference

#### *Public Participation*

- Room 624, GEF 2 Building, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### **State Trails Council Members present**

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

Kricket Jewett, equestrian representative (member of *Wisconsin Horse Council*)

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

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*) [STC Vice Chair]

Ben Popp, cross-country skiing representative (Executive Director of American Birkebeiner)

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

John Siegert, off-road bicycling representative (member of *Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin*)

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

#### **State Trails Council Members not in attendance**

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

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

Phil Johnsrud, non-motorized water trails representative

Jim White, boards and small wheels representative

Robbie Webber, bicycling representative

#### **Invited speakers**

#### **Others present**

#### **WI DNR Staff present**

Missy VanLanduyt, DNR liaison/staff to the STC

Brigit Brown, DNR

Bobbi Winebar, DNR guest

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#### **10:01 A.M. – Welcome and introductions**

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



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### **10:03 A.M. – Agenda review/repair and approval of November meeting minutes**

- John S. – re-elected, fix officer listing, vice chair is Ken N.
- Ken N. – needs to be added as Vice Chairman instead of John S.
- Doug moved to approve the minutes. Cricket seconded. Motion passed.

### **10:03 A.M. – Chair report**

- Water trails – contacted Brian
  - No contact so far with Doug
  - Filling water trails – no information on hearing about anyone
  - John – we did recommend, 3 up, none were approved
    - Need additional applicants
- Alternatives to boards and small wheels
  - Ken, John, Randy – look at ROA results
  - Pull together for April meeting (proposal)
- Future meeting
  - August – Sturgeon Bay – facility (library)
  - April – Baraboo/Dodgeville, Dodgeville service center
  - November – TBD (Missy V. update on webpage)
- Trailgeneous.com
  - Interesting features, 360 views, video
  - Helping user groups promote events etc.
  - No expensive service
- Address member listings – detailed
  - Update contact information
  - Reduce detail, what format
  - Luana – update next
- User group reports
  - 3 day prior to meeting

### **10:13 A.M. – DNR Update, Missy**



### **10:25 A.M. – Council Members**

- Hiking (Ken)
  - Melting of snow, IAT planning for summer
- Snowmobile (Doug)
  - 3 years into trail partnership program, working well
  - Increase membership in clubs
    - Increased by 7-8K in last year
  - Polk City – fat tire bike race, St. Croix Falls, Grandy
    - Race representative to future meeting
    - Shared use trail
    - No issues with event
  - AWCS – hired part-time undeveloped



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- Developed snowmobile friendly communities program
- Mountain bikes (John) – ongoing changes at IMBA chapter program
  - Lost funding into chapter programs
  - Trail building team is strong (Subaru pulled out)
- 4-wheel drive (Luana)
  - Planning for 2018
  - Possible private properties may become available
  - ROA – created awareness for 4-wheel drive community
- Equestrian (Krocket)
  - Midwest horse fair for 2018
  - 13<sup>th</sup> trails master class/training ask Brigit Brown
    - May 16-19 Magnolia Bluff City Park
    - Spots available for DNR
    - Link in report
  - Brandy & Adam – promotion of sharing trails safely
    - July 23-26 La Crosse Out Rec. Alliance go to webpage
  - Grant program – \$15K to groups for trail improvements

### **10:35 A.M. – Conflicts, Brigit Brown**

- Sharing trails in winter
- Bikes – summer & winter
  - Not on cross-country ski trails
  - Not on groomed cross-country ski trails
  - No dogs on groomed cross-country ski trails
- Fat bikes
- DNR webpage – biking, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph
- Bikes & snowmobiles on same trail
  - Bikes no lights
  - Last leg. Session
    - Bill hearing wed. in tourism committee
    - May pass this session
  - On certain DNR linear trails
    - Trails with shared use
    - Not on loop trails
      - No other users
- Questions from snowmobiling?
  - AWSC discussed it, no questions (Doug)
  - Good smart step in right direction (Ben)
- Some occurrence of snowmobile on IAT in north, not an issue

### **10:44 A.M. – Committee updates**

- ATV (Randy) – on similar committee for federal lands
  - Approves fee increases on federal lands
  - Chequamegon/Nicolet – inability to increase



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- May close down campgrounds, rec. amenities
  - Can't increase without RAC endorsement
- Cross-country ski (Ben)
  - Nordic – Birkie bridge centerpiece as part of superbowl like, cross-country/Nordic skiing in upper Midwest
  - Excited about SCORP data
  - 75% increase in Nordic Rocks – youth program
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> graders exposed to cross-country/Nordic skiing
- Road biking – none
- Off hwy motorcycles
  - Event this weekend
  - Persists through winter months with ice riding.
- Tourism – none
- DOT (Lief) - none

### 10:50 A.M. – Member concerns/matters

- Doug: lack of snow
- General budget issues on snowmobile trails across state
- Bobbie
  - 5/1 – new applications due, big year, 200K cap, 40K cap
  - Listing of 2017 grants not posed yet
  - Bobbie to notify Missy when posted

### 10:56 A.M. – Public comment

- Ryan Harden
  - Define what is a 4WD vehicle
  - Need standards
  - Road legal – RL4WD
    - Standards, wide, long, weights
    - In draft & standards
    - Define range of 4WD vehicle
    - Trying to have standards to build sustainable trails
      - Can't build all different kinds
    - For extreme vehicle – private areas trail opportunities
    - Specifically excluded not road legal vehicle
    - Who's regulating authority (Brian M.)
      - Wranglerriders.com
    - Looking for comment on draft

### 11:05 A.M. – Future agenda items

- NCT (April)
- April – Baraboo (chamber of commerce), Grate Sauk Trail?, look for agenda items
- August – Sturgeon bay (library), trails
- November – keep open



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**11:09 A.M. – Doug – Telemark status, Birkie status? None**

**11:10 A.M. – Adjourn**

- Motion to adjourn by Ken. Seconded by John. All approved. Meeting adjourned.

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

**STC User Group Reports –**

**Four-Wheel Drive**

In the Four-Wheel Drive Community(FWDC) there are different groups continuing to work on various private properties for trails.

In regards to the Recreation Opportunity Analysis the FWDC has continued to be actively involved in responding with letters or e-mails and going to meetings. I am sure for those involved in working on this analysis much of what DNR representatives were hearing has become quite redundant with one clear statement that the FWDC wants trails of all various levels of challenge with the passion that comes along with enjoying their mode of recreation!!

I with the help of some of my past committee are in the process of reincarnating our old March of Dimes routes (GPS and on paper) that we used in the NHAL Forest to help in the Preferred Routes for 4WD enthusiasts in the NHAL Forest

There is a group working on getting legislation for 4WD up and running again, but have pretty much stopped due to the holidays but intend to continue now in January.

No further update on a 4WD Park.

In the winter months, there are various groups having ice races, sno-bashing runs and it is the time for planning for the upcoming wheelin' year.

Wisconsin Four Wheel Drive Association will have their next meeting on January 13 in Waupaca with the annual main joint meeting with Wisconsin Off Highway Vehicle Association on April 14 in Green Bay. Submitted by Luana Schneider

**Off-Highway Motorcycles**

Off-Highway Motorcycles: The ice riding season is underway now that many lakes are sufficiently frozen. Riders enjoy recreational and competitive OHM riding on frozen lakes using motorcycles that have special tires and other modifications. Ice riding is popular during the winter months. A series of formal events are scheduled including a fundraiser that involves teams that ride on a designated track on a frozen lake for a three-hour period. Development of the administrative code required to support the OHM program is now underway in the DNR. The American Motorcyclist Association has been taking steps to provide formal training to advocates and is undergoing a change as to how they handle issues and information in the states. The person that also serves as the STC OHM representative (me) was introduced in an article in American Motorcyclist magazine this month as being part of this program and as being the first State Chapter Coordinator, a volunteer position,



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selected for this new national program. The article also talks about the EAGLES training program which provides valuable instruction about advocating for motorcyclists. This is a significant reorganization for the AMA and will require some significant time and effort. Formal training for advocates would probably be of value for all trail user groups. Submitted by Bryan Much

### **Snowmobiles**

As usual, the past few months have been busy ones for the volunteers from over 600 snowmobile clubs in Wisconsin preparing over 22,000 miles of interconnected trail for use this winter. Clubs and County Alliances have been meeting to gear up for the coming season.

17 counties in the northern tier have open or partially open trails. While it is still early in the season snowmobilers continue to be hopeful for good snow coverage across the State.

The usual winter events are on schedule and I'm sure they will be well attended.

Jan 18-21 Eagle River- The World Championship Snowmobile Derby with over 1400 competitors and 30,000 spectators is one of the largest gatherings of snowmobilers in the world. This year celebrating its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Jan 12-14 Eagle River- World Championship Vintage Snowmobile Derby

Jan 15 Eagle River- Annual Military Appreciation Ride

Jan 25-27 Wabeno, WI- MS Snowmobile Tour 2018

Jan 14-20 International Snowmobile Safety Week. As a reminder, if you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1985, and are at least age 12, you must complete a snowmobile safety certification course to operate a snowmobile on Wisconsin public snowmobile trails and areas.

Feb- Eagle River is set to host the annual Celebrate Wisconsin Snowmobiling VIP Ride (Invitations will be coming soon)

Across the State snowmobile clubs are having fundraisers and participating in many local winter carnival activities along with having club rides. Submitted by Doug Johnson

**THINK SNOW!**

### **Equestrians**

BBrrr! Water tanks and outdoor hydrants are freezing!

Plans are progressing for the Midwest Horse Fair which will be held on April 20 -22. Evening Rodeo tickets went on sale this week, always a fun way to spend an evening! Details can be found at

<https://midwesthorsefair.com/>

Wisconsin Horse Council will be hosting its 13<sup>th</sup> Trail Master Certification Course on May 16 – 19 at Magnolia Bluff County Park near Evansville Wi. The course will be lead once again by Mike Riter of Trail Design Specialist. Fees are sponsored by the WDNR and WHC to cover the cost of 13 people attending. Registration form is available at

<https://www.wisconsinhorsecouncil.org/trails/designSchool.php>

WHC Trails Committee will be meeting with WATVA at an upcoming meeting to discuss multi use trails, and education opportunities. We would invite any other shared trail groups to join in the conversation as well, if you would like to join the online meeting please contact Cricket Jewett for details.



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The WHC Trails Committee is working on several projects – The Trails Grant Program will be giving out \$15,000 for improvements to public trails that allow equines. The Ride Wisconsin Program is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, where riders log hours on the trail to earn awards. We have 7 people who have earned 1500 hour awards, and are working on more. New for 2018 we will be doing a variation on “rocking” there will be 40 small tree slices with the WHC logo, hidden on trails, and when found can be turned in for prizes at Midwest Horse Fair.

In Oconto County, a new riding club has organized and is working on the Breed Area County Trails to clear and sign new trails for riders. Submitted by Cricket Jewett

### **ATV / UTV**

The Wisconsin ATV UTV Association is preparing for its annual workshops and meeting taking place at the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Rothschild starting on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, running through Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

We're pleased to report, for the first time in almost 3 years, the NOHVIS Group team will be hosting and conducting a Trail Patrol Ambassador <TPA> training session, Friday afternoon, April 6<sup>th</sup>. With a lot of hard work put in by many people and safety advocates, the legislature restored the self-funded Safety Enhancement Program, which includes the very successful Trail Ambassador program. An updated, third generation Ambassador program will eventually be rolled out in late 2017 or early 2018. Until the new rollout is completed, the current TPA program will still be utilized. Another important aspect of the safety enhancement program will be hosting statewide / regional meetings, designed to gather input from a variety of diverse trail partners, industry and resource managers as to the various challenges and opportunities that affect the ATV / UTV sport, from a large and statewide perspective. These meetings help formulate strategies needed to manage the continued growth of the ATV and UTV registration program. The number of different topics on our inventory list continues to grow as the sport and industry evolves.

Also, new in 2018, the TPA program has been accepted into the Wisconsin Emergency Management program <WEM>, specifically to provide ground support for the air resources portion of the WEM, which includes fixed wing aircraft, helicopter and unmanned aerial vehicles <drones>. It will take time to finish the Standard Operating Guidelines to provide our team of dedicated Trail Ambassador's the additional training needed to fulfil this very important search and rescue duty plus other requests as assigned.

Many clubs are involved with winter fundraisers and special events, while other clubs are a bit dormant this time of year. A third segment of our organized clubs consist of dual use clubs, meaning the club manages both dirt and snow trails and the responsibilities that go along with both types of trail upkeep and supervision. Just as individual ATV and UTV riders have different trail experience preferences, the many different clubs have similar variety and diversity in their operating and management philosophies.

Trail and economic tourism related to the positive impacts the ATV / UTV industry generates, continues to fuel trail and road route interconnections. There are now ATV / UTV trail and route





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community networks where a few years back it was thought impossible to achieve. Proper oversight and management to help the growth continue, remains a high priority for our clubs and the state organizations. Submitted by Randy Harden

### **Cross-Country Skiing**

- **Eau Claire Area Ski Trails:**
  - A meeting was held in December to discuss the potential to add snowmaking capabilities to the Pinehurst Park recreational area in the city of Eau Claire. 17 people attended the meeting, ranging from the President of Pinehurst Outdoors, local cross country ski and fatbike enthusiasts, race event timers, to neighborhood supporters. A decision was made to contact snow making equipment manufacturers, to get proposals and do site equipment estimates and quotes. Quotes have been received, site visits made and planned, and the first phase of planning is underway. Phase I planning focus is on getting the lower cross country ski trails, and adjacent hill area, up and capable of initial snow making capabilities. Fundraising ideas and efforts are being considered. Pinehurst Park will also host “Winter After Hours” Every Thursday evening in Jan. and Feb. to showcase winter fun activities – sledding, tubing, snowboarding, skating, skiing, snow Kubb and other winter fun activities for adults and kids.
  - Lights for the cross-country ski trails at Pinehurst Park have been installed and are operational – waiting for more snow to ski the trails, but have been used by the Chippewa Valley Nordic Ski Team for dryland practices after sunset in November and December, and do an excellent job of lighting the trail system. Waiting for more natural snow at this point to be able to groom and use the system for skiing by the local ski community and HS/MS ski team.
  - The Chippewa Valley Nordic Ski Team has been racing in Cable and Spooner, skiing in Barron, and practicing recently at Tower Ridge Trails (Eau Claire County). Finely tuned trail base and exceptional grooming have allowed them to practice at Tower Ridge on very thin/low snow conditions, along with a good number of citizen ski racers and recreational skiers.
  - A HS/MS race will be hosted at the Tower Ridge Trails on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, with MN teams from Winona, Rochester, Redwing, along with WI teams from Eau Claire, Spooner, Wausau, Rice Lake, Ladysmith and Hayward all invited to attend – over 100 skiers anticipated to participate.
  - The Eau Claire Kickin’ Kids youth cross country ski program kicks off its youth instructional “learn to ski and have fun doing it” program on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, held every Monday through the end of February, at the Tower Ridge ski area. Approximately 140 youth skiers – ages 4 to 16 – participate in the program, along with 25 coaches and parent helpers.
- **Lakeland/Minocqua Area:**
  - Currently, the snow is not plentiful, but the regional groomers have done a great job with a fair amount of typical skiing pressure. In general I, would rate most conditions as good to very good with some brown spots showing at the top of hills of a stray organic matter coming up...or falling into the track. Skier volume has been VERY HIGH even with the cold temps...guess the skiers want to be out no matter the temps!



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- **American Birkebeiner**
  - American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) has worked out a deal with the NFL to have its 190ft long ski bridge erected in downtown Minneapolis as part of the week of activities leading up to the Super Bowl. The bridge will be used to highlight winter activities that take place in the upper Midwest. The Birkebeiner has also filled its registration for the year and has begun a snow making operation as well. In the spring, they will break ground on a new Outdoor Community Center at their Cty Hwy OO trailhead.
- **Rhineland Area**
  - Rhineland's Northwoods Nordic SC has been hard at work in 2017, endeavoring to bring the majority of our CAVOC ski trails up to FIS standards for competitions and safe skiing for the community. 5km were gone over, widened, graded, seeded, etc., and a one acre stadium area was developed where before, there was nothing but trees. We have made an investment in acquiring new grooming equipment. It's not quite finished, and we have high hopes of lighting a 1km loop in 2018, and raising funds for a more permanent timing building. This pursuit was driven by dozens of area skiing enthusiasts over the last 10 months.
- **Milwaukee Area**
  - Winter has gotten off to a slow start in Southeast Wisconsin, as there has not been enough natural snow to open any significant cross country skiing venues other than Cedar Lakes. However, the volunteers and dedicated staff at Lapham Peak have taken advantage of the cold weather to make snow and open 1.6 kilometers of skiing, groomed for both skate and stride. An initial round of snowmaking in mid-December allowed for the trails to open on December 16<sup>th</sup>. This was followed by a second round of snowmaking and the opening of the entire manmade snow loop for skiing on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Two new SMI snow guns purchased with donations to the Friends of Lapham Peak, coupled with three other high-efficiency guns purchased by the Friends, provided the ability to make a larger quantity of high quality snow in a shorter timeframe than ever before. Skiers raved at the quality of the manmade snow surface. A concerted effort by a core group of volunteers, organized via an online sign-up calendar, guided by detailed operating instructions for the snowmaking system, and working with Park's staff, was the key to the success of this year's snowmaking operation. This same group of core volunteers also completed significant work in the fall to prepare the trails for the manmade snow, including a marking system to show the desired trail width and snow depth for the manmade snow. The result has been a wider than ever trail system that can accommodate the large number of skiers that are taking advantage of almost the only cross-country skiing in southeast Wisconsin. Club and youth group activities are kicking into gear, led by the Peak Nordic Ski Team, who have been training for the upcoming Wisconsin High School and Middle School ski league. The Peak Nordic Kids programs is getting ready to kick off its 2018 season of weekly kids "lessons" on the manmade snow loops. The newly formed Lapham Peak Ski Club has also launched a variety of lesson, training, and social events, built around Lapham Peak. The Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee is in the midst of their winter programs, which include a winter picnic and ski lessons on the ski trails at



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Lapham Peak. The Friends of Lapham Peak have their Candlelight Ski scheduled of January 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Lapham Loppet Ski festival scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>. The regular FLP Wednesday Night Race Series -- weekly 5 km races held on the lighted loop, kicks off on January 3<sup>rd</sup> -- on the manmade snow loops. Local vendor support for Lapham Peak and the manmade snow system has been outstanding. Lapham Peak is a very busy place during the winter. We'd really, really like to be enjoying the trails on some groomed, natural snow, but until then, we have the best skiing game in town. -- Friends of Lapham Peak

- **Madison**

- Elver Park snowmaking will be extended to 2.0km loop this coming winter- and currently is the only skiing in the area. Madison Nordic Ski Club is working with Madison Parks to assist city with grooming at Yahara Golf Course when we get snow. New 5km trail system in Middleton have been clear cut and will be connected to Pleasant View Golf Course and Blackhawk Ski Club

- **Central Cross-Country Skiing (Regional Governing Body under US Ski & Snowboard)**

- Three highly successful Igor Legacy Camps completed this summer: June camp at Standing Rocks County Park in Stevens Point, Wisconsin; July camp at the Mora Vasaloppet Nordic Center in Mora, Minnesota; August camp at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, Michigan -- 150 athletes and 30 coaches.
- Over 2,000 new pairs of skis will be distributed in the Midwest; currently 130 Midwest schools are involved in the Nordic Rocks for Schools Program.
- CXC attended the St. Cloud Veteran's Centers with an Adaptive Sports Expo in August; connections made to 125 veterans.
- Recently completed: Two On-snow Junior Development Program Camps: November in Ironwood, Michigan and December in Cable, Wisconsin
- The schedule is confirmed for the race support at the six CXC Marathon Cup events, along with the World Masters Championship in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- The schedule is confirmed for three CXC Junior Cup events.
- The CXC Youth Cup schedule is finalized for 12 CXC Youth Cup events, as well as a MN, WI, and MI SkiWerks Race Series

Submitted by: Ben Popp

### **Hiking**

The winter hiking / snowing season has begun. Winter Hiking conditions in the southern half of the state have been excellent due to little or no snow cover. Whereas in the northern half of the state there is ample snow for snowshoeing.

First Day Hikes were held on Jan 01, 2018 at 17 State Properties. Three of the First Day Hikes were held on the Ice Age Trail. One was at the Lapham Peak Unit of the SKMSF and was organized by the Waukesha / Milwaukee County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance and another was held at Straight Lake State Park and was organized by the Indianhead Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The third one was held at Gibraltar Rock in Columbia County and organized by the Lodi Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The North Country Trail Association hosted their First Day Hike (Snowshoe) at Copper Falls State Park. Despite the frigid temperatures, the hikers were out enjoying



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a beautiful clear day of hiking or snowshoeing. First Day Hikes is an initiative begun by America's State Parks as an effort to get more people outdoors and enjoying their state land for exercise and recreation. <https://www.stateparks.org/initiatives-special-programs/first-day-hikes/>

Both the Ice Age Trail Alliance and the North Country Trail Association are busy planning their trail projects for the upcoming 2018 hiking season.

2018 brings two major anniversaries to the hiking community. The Ice Age Trail Alliance will be celebrating 60 years of its commitment to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, creating, supporting and protecting a thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin.

The National Trails System will be celebrating 50 years. The National Trails System is the network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails created by the National Trails System Act of 1968. These trails provide for outdoor recreation needs, promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and citizen involvement.

<https://www.nps.gov/nts/> Submitted by Ken Neitzke