



# The Langlade Erratic

A Newsletter On  
The Ice Age National Scenic Trail  
In Langlade County, Wisconsin  
September, 2008



**HOWDY,  
COME JOIN ME AND MY TRAIL BUDDIES  
AT A MEETING OF  
THE LANGLADE COUNTY  
ICE AGE TRAIL CHAPTER.  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 7 PM  
LANGLADE ROOM  
LANGLADE COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER.  
SEE YOU THERE AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!**

## Future Steps

It has been a busy summer in this 50th year of the organization committed to realizing a 1000+ mile trail following a trace of the last Ice Age. In Langlade County, the pace has not slackened since the chapter was formed nearly 35 years ago. There have been hikers passing through while maintenance crews have been busy sprucing things up. Then there was the successful Mammoth Walk and the youthful re-routing (see details elsewhere in this newsletter). However, glory is fleeting and there are miles to go. The following events, including the special one above from our friendly woolly critter, are offered for your future consideration. Promote the events and hope to see you about.

*Saturday, September 6, 9 am, Chapter Early Fall Hike. Meet in front of Forestry Office on Fairgrounds, Antigo.*

*Saturday, October 4, 9 am, Langlade County Chapter's National Trails Day Hike honoring the 40th Anniversary of the federal act creating the National Trails System. Meet in front of Forestry Office on Langlade County Fairgrounds, Antigo.*

*Friday, September 19, 12:30 pm, Langlade County Corridor Planning Committee Meeting, DNR Service Center, Antigo.*

*Saturday and Sunday, October 4 and 5th, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation "Fall into the Future--A Gathering to Share Our Visions for the Ice Age Trail", Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall Creek, Wisconsin. Details will be available at the chapter meeting or from the coordinator.*



## Re-route Steps

John and Lis Thompson joined the February chapter meeting after completing their 200 mile wintry trek on the trail. They shared a bit of their experience and offered to return later to do some trail projects. On July 3, Lis returned with a crew of gals from Clearwater Camp at Minocqua to handily take care of some needed maintenance work on the trail northwest of Camp Susan. A few weeks later Lis brought another crew and spent a few days constructing a scenic re-route of the trail north of Jack Lake. Tom Lazars, caretaker at Veterans Memorial Park, taped the future path and provided logistic support for the committed work crew. Chapter members Baker Branson, Stanley Koss, Rita Fox and Joe Jopek joined Lis and her spirited crew determined to complete a quality re-route. Even when the stretch was reasonably clear and marked, the crew continued to work at pine stumps and knobs for a finer foot path. It was a pleasure to witness the enthusiastic spirit of the crew during those hot July days. Thanks and praise to all.

## Mammoth Steps

Saturday, June 7, 2008 was a special day. All chapters were asked to hold an hike on existing segments in one day as part of the 50th anniversary observance of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. Thus the event "Mammoth Walk" evolved. The following is an edited version of the "Faces of the Ice Age Trail" report submitted by the editor to the foundation office for inclusion in a documented record of the historic day. Again thanks and praise to all who made the day a special and memorable one.

### *Faces of the Ice Age Trail*

54 hikers turned out for the special day to observe the IAPTF's 50th Anniversary. Several new faces and long time chapter members turned out for the special hike. I was proud and impressed with their willingness to take part, especially after the chapter had voted in 2006 to not have an outing in June due to a prevailing and pesty tick population. My Mammoth Walk day started shuttling through hikers Jane Stoltz and Nick Huige from Polar to a road intersection in the Town of Antigo.

Most of the hikers made arrangements to shuttle vehicles but Rita Fox with her two youthful companions, Brennon Brown and Caleb Sheperd, required special attention in locating her car near "Burma Road". Rita had arranged to meet two northbound hikers, Don and Mary Mollett, covering a stretch of the Kettlebowl segment from Sherry Road to "Burma Road". I took Rita with her "trail buddies" to the north end of the segment at Kettlebowl Ski Hill. By then, the beautiful clear day had turned gray with definite signs of rain. With the long shuttling time involved, she did not get started until a good hour after the Molletts started their trek. Yet the Kettlebowl hikers arrived at the rendezvous within 5 minutes of each other. Ticks appeared to bother the hikers more than the light rain that fell for thirty to forty minutes. After leaving Rita's group, I then drove to the north Pence Lake Road crossing to meet Georgine Auner who was hiking the Old Railroad segment from the cross country parking lot on County J to our rendezvous point. Georgine had some reservations about hiking but once she got going there was no stopping her.

On the way into Pence Lake Road, I met two long time chapter hikers, Lee Dinsmore and Lynn Schimmels, trekking along County Highway J which parallels their designated portion of the Old Railroad segment from the cross country ski parking lot to US 45.

Although somewhat embarrassed over getting caught "fudging" their designated route, the two represented the spirit which has kept our chapter active. Neither had to apologize as they were the oldest participants hiking that day with Lynn in his early 80's and Lee, 92 years old.

Baker and Fran Branson, chapter members from Elcho, with their canine companion hiked the Highland Lakes segment from US 45 to the intersection of Forest and Bass Lake Roads. Baker reported the cross country stretch from the intersection northwest of 4-H Camp Susan as "rough" and in need of work.

Rick Clay, a good neighbor, jumped in and hiked the round trip from County T to the West Branch of the Eau Claire River on the west end of the Highland Lakes segment. He was also involved in getting Boy Scout Troop 644 members involved.

That scout group hiked the nearly 7 miles of the Lumbercamp segment from Wisconsin 52 to County S. Besides hiking over 5 miles to fulfill a rank requirement, the scouts also identified 10 animals and 10 plants. The first animals spotted were the mosquito and tick. They were able to get some shelter from the rain at the "Hillbilly Hilton", a stone cellar located at the site of the former Norem Lumbercamp. Joining the scouts on that stretch were Lisa Sharon with 4 friends, Sherrelle Schmidt, Rory Hix, Olyvia Hix and Allysa Bichler. The scouts and their adult leaders were Bruce Thomae, Kathy Thomae, Trini Cuellar, Gary Groot, Jenny Groot, Rod Cross, Sharon Meyer, Alex Thomae, Issac Cuellar, Hayden Groot, Hunter Groot, Dillon Lukas, Jakob Wagner, Clint Cross and Wesley Meyer. Chapter member, Joe Hermolin, led three new hikers, Mary Hayes, her son Nate and Carley Fronek, on the infamous stretch that acquired its reputation in June, 2006 as the setting for the "Thousand Tick Hike". The stretch did not fail to fulfill its reputation for prime tick picking territory.

Two new hikers, Kay Sollitto and Jan Mitchell, took on the stretch of Old Railroad from County A to the south crossing of Pence Lake Road. They reported voracious mosquitoes and thought they reached Pence Lake Road and returned to CTH A.

Completing the Old Railroad segment from the north and south crossings of Pence Lake Road were two longtime chapter members, Polly Blazek and Betty Koss. They were joined by several adults and girl scouts from local units. The scouts and adults were Holly Webb, April Groff, Brittnay Webb, Theresa Webb, Mike Brown, Leigh Brown, Ashley Brown, and Barb Borkovec. The exact route of this group is subject to speculation as it was acknowledged a few turning errors occurred. However, they did start at the north crossing of Pence Lake Road and arrived at the Arboretum Parking Lot at Veterans Memorial Park where their shuttle awaited them. Also this group experienced the only casualty of the day, a lost pair of eye glasses.

Singly taking on the stretch of the Parrish Hills segment from County T to the Parrish Game Trail Firelane, Lee Auner, demonstrated his fervor for the trail here. Besides walking the entire stretch, he also performed maintenance where needed. Then Lee pedaled a bicycle back to his vehicle. Lee also reported that bears were contributing to the vandalism, especially signage, observed on this segment over the years.

Also covering the Parrish Hills segment from Nelson Firelane to County H were Kurt and Annette Nierode, new chapter volunteers living in the Parrish area. They had a mid morning commitment elsewhere but planned to get an early morning start to complete their trek.

Bob and Allie Brehm completed the Parrish Hills segment with a short trek from County H to the Lincoln County Harrison Hills Trailhead on First Lake Road. A day or so before the Mammoth Walk, Bob offered to do it and then have breakfast at the Parrish Cafe, plus check his cabin in the area. However, the rain that fell that day messed up Bob's plans to mow the lawn at the cabin.

Surprisingly the rain experienced by all hikers did not generate as much comments as the "bugs." Joining me in providing support for the hikers that day were Carol Gottard at the registration station along with my wife, Peg. Providing shuttling services were Renate Bromberg, Stanley Koss and Dean Blazek. Peg, Betty Koss and Perk Dinsmore provided an abundance of treats and a cool sweet beverage for the hikers. The Antigo Daily Journal provided superb coverage of the event which helped make it the largest turnout of participants for an outing held by the chapter since 1975. Another helpful factor was the early morning appearance of clear skies. If gray skies had prevailed in those early hours, the turnout would have been less.