

Glacial Heritage Area provides excellent outdoor opportunities

By Jack McLaughlin
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For many in the South-central Wisconsin area, there's a chance you've indulged in one of the nation's premiere outdoor areas without even realizing it.

In a presentation delivered to the Masonic Lodge of Jefferson on April 16, 2018, Richard Moen, a private environmental consultant, expounded upon Wisconsin's Glacial Heritage Area (GHA), explicating the area's unique ecological features, recreational opportunities and

cultural value, in addition to its current need for careful conservation efforts.

The Glacial Heritage Area, a unique string of parks, wildlife areas and sites of interest, spans a large chunk of Jefferson County, between the cities of Madison and Jefferson, even claims some space in Dane, Dodge, and Rock counties. The zone, both a sanctuary for native species and a haven for wildlife, was formally created by name in October 2009.

"This area contains the best and most extensive glacial features anywhere



in the U.S.," Moen said. As the last recorded instance of glacier activity moving through Wisconsin happened roughly 15,000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene Era, the GHA bears many interesting traces of these movements, including drumlins (low, compacted ocular hills), eskers (an extended ridge composed of gravel or other

sediments), kettles (a shallow body of water created by a glacier's retreating movements), and moraines (ridges made up of glacially-deposited gravel and stones).

Even more, the federally-recognized zone boasts an extensive network of scenic trails and waterways that snake throughout southern Wisconsin, providing recreational possibilities alongside an abundance of natural beauty.

The GHA contains stretches of the Bark River, Crawfish River, Rock River, Scuppernon River and Rock River. With several public launch sites, the area allows outdoor enthusiasts the ability to paddle, fish, hike and even camp and hunt when and where specific sections allow.

Additionally, several multiple-use recreation trails extend throughout the park, allowing for hikers, trail-runners and even mountain bikers to

take in the area's natural beauty. These include sections of the CamRock Trail, Glacial Drumlin Trail and Glacial River Trail.

Beside the area's vast array of natural formations, Wisconsin's Glacial Heritage Area also boasts a fair share of equally-intriguing cultural artifacts.

Contained in the GHA is Wisconsin's iconic Aztalan State Park. Recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 1964, the 172-acre area is home to a handful of interesting Native American earthwork burial mounds along the Crawfish River.

Home to another fascinating Dairy State anomaly, Wisconsin's Glacial Heritage Area also contains within its boundaries the infamous Rock Lake Pyramids, a series of mysterious deep-water structures in the lake that, as they are clearly man-made, garner all sorts of speculation regarding their initial construction

and usage.

Additionally, the GHA, according to Moen, encompasses the primary site of Norwegian immigration to the Midwest in the 1800s. It also contains the site of the first ordained Norwegian Lutheran Church in the Midwest.

Even in the face of so many important cultural and geographical earmarks, the area, according to Moen, is still relatively unknown, even among hunters and fishermen in the Jefferson area.

But this may soon change. Currently, the Wisconsin DNR is taking up plans for an ambitious expansion of the GHA. Signage along many of the area's rivers is being improved in the hopes of connecting GHA zones via critical waterways.

For additional information and ways to assist the area's growth, visit www.glacialheritagearea.org.

Fort Atkinson Club

The Building

Main Floor: Walking into the main level is like stepping back in time. The wide trim, heavy beams and historic paint colors make these spaces so inviting you'll hardly need decorations. Main floor usage includes 10 round tables, 80 chairs, banquet tables, card tables, and an elegant granite-topped bar and wicker lounge furniture. A banquet kitchen and buffet area is provided where you can do your own cooking, or hire a caterer. This level also has a cozy gas fireplace, coat closets, as well as mobile AV equipment. The Lodge Room (capacity 65), Club Room (capacity 45), Solarium and Banquet Kitchen are the rooms that make up the Main Level.

River Level: With more

than 25 huge windows giving a panoramic view of the Rock River, downtown and River Walk. This floor includes 20 banquet tables, 140 chairs, two fully-restored vintage bowling lanes, a large open floor for dining or dancing, AV equipment, and our Café Kitchen, which can also be used as a wet bar. The adjacent patio can be a wonderful feature to add to your event day or night.

Theatre Level: The theater features restored theater seats and beautiful stucco walls. It includes 130 padded folding chairs, cove lighting, stage risers, a podium, piano, and AV equipment. The Studio is also on this level, which can be used for bridal parties or a "green room" for performers.

Other amenities: The

Continued from page 70

entire building is ADA accessible, with a grade level entry and elevator. Event staff will be on-site to assist with set-up and help during the event. Two vintage-style chalkboards for entrance signage can direct guests to the proper entrance. Multiple lighting options allow guests to create the ideal mood. Street parking and a city parking lot are available. A list of local vendors such as caterers, florists, DJ's and photographers can be provided.

Come connect, cooperate, learn, and celebrate at The Fort Atkinson Club community center and experience all this town has to offer. For more information call 920-568-1720 or email The Fort Atkinson Club director at director@fortatkinsonclub.org.



Some of the outdoor activities for all seasons found in the Glacial Heritage Area. (Photos from GHA pamphlet)

Welcome to Salamone's Italian Pizzeria

We are a family owned and operated restaurant and have been since 1981. We dedicate ourselves to offering the best pizza you'll ever eat at the most reasonable price you'll ever see. We use only the best and freshest ingredients. If you're not quite in the mood for pizza, we also offer a wide assortment of other food, like pasta, sandwiches and salads.

If you like our pizza, you'll also enjoy other delicious items from our menu like lasagna, cannelloni, Italian Beef or many of our made from scratch sauces!!! Salamone's Pizza in Ft Atkinson also offers a spacious restaurant, full bar and outdoor dining experience!!!

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HOURS:

Mon	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
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Wed	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Thu	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Fri	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sat	4:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sun	4:00 pm - 10:00 pm



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