



Anderson
Bluffs &
River Trails

FOUNDATION

5TH ISSUE - MAR 2023



Honor Your Trail

Foundation Legacy Project

As life goes on, we discover that experiences can be far more valuable than ‘things’. Many of you have tucked away great memories on the ski trails over the years or will soon. Eric and Angela have a favorite trail where Eric made a marriage proposal to Angela. Will Andresen has an unforgettable memory on the same day he had his last ski with his dad, Karl Andresen, and his first ski with his granddaughter, Annika. You may have a story about the first trail you skied with your fiancé. Whatever the story, it is yours forever. These experiences are precious, and we know you hold them in a special place in your hearts.

We want to give you an opportunity to ‘Honor a Trail’ by donating to the Anderson Bluffs & River Trails Foundation. Help sustain the ABR legacy for generations to come by donating to the Anderson Bluffs & River Trails Foundation. Donations would cover the Foundation’s cost for winter grooming, summer maintenance and fall preseason preparation. This program is meant to mirror an ‘adopt a highway’ program but goes one step further to honor what the trail provides, natural beauty, healthy activity, animal habitat and family memories of the trail. Honor a loved one while ensuring the future of ‘your’ trail.

Here are a few examples...

- Honor the Sunset Trail in loving memory of our dad, Dave Anderson (co-founder of ABR as his sun has set)
- Honor the Cherry Dairy Trail to honor the natural beauty of the Upper Peninsula by the Andresen family (my last ski with Grandpa Andresen and first ski with my granddaughter)
- Honor the Blueberry Bluff Trail to honor the Highhill family of Erwin (my grandma’s family picked blueberries here)



Will Andresen

Dec 26, 2010 · 🌐

Skating with my 86-year old dad.



The difference between this program and adopt a highway, is the Foundation will do the work. The Foundation pays staff to perform winter grooming. The Foundation organizes volunteers to perform preseason trail preparation. The Foundation pays staff to mow the trails in the summer. The donation defrays these expenses.

A donation would be a minimum of annual, with discounts for five years and a maximum of 10 years.

Donation schedule—recommendations for donations:

Annual donation \$1,000/km of trail - Sunset Trail 3.3 km = \$3,300

5-year donation \$4,000/km of trail – Sunset Trail 3.3 km = \$13,200 paid over 5 years

10-year donation \$6,000/km of trail – Sunset Trail 3.3 km = \$19,800 paid over 10 years

*Corporate rates are also available for businesses.

All donations will be held in a Legacy account until the Anderson Bluffs & River Trails Foundation takes over operations April 1, 2025. Your trail donation is tax-deductible as the Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. Email us at AndersonFoundation13@gmail.com to pick a trail location and discuss preserving your legacy on your favorite trail.



“Sustain ABR Legacy as the Midwest’s Premier Nordic Ski destination for generations to come and connect ABR Trails to the larger community.”

OUR VISION

From Today into the Future - What will Change?

A Short Answer prepared by Julie Peck

Do you have questions regarding the difference between the **ski area we call ABR**, and **Anderson Bluffs and River Trails Foundation**? A brief explanation follows but the most important point: **THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE UNIQUE SKI EXPERIENCE THAT IS ABR.** These 2 organizations are orchestrating a transition that will perpetuate the best skiing in the Midwest for years to come.

The **ski area we call “ABR”** is a for-profit business founded in 1995, continuously owned, operated, and enhanced by Eric Anderson and Angela Santini. Depending on the time and context, the ski area has been known as Active Backwoods Retreat, ABR Trails, ABR Ski Area, and perhaps some other names lost to time! Regardless of what we call it, “ABR “is the friendly Nordic area where skiers of all abilities and aspirations have come to revel in the ever-increasing variety of perfectly-groomed scenic trails! <https://www.abrski.com/>

Eric and Angela are generously donating the ski area business, as well as most of the land, buildings and equipment to the Anderson Bluff and River Trails Foundation. This unbelievable gift will preserve this special experience for all of us. Eric will continue as Chief Groomer after he and Angela retire, but the Anderson Bluff and River Trails Foundation will assume ownership and operational responsibility effective April 2025.

Anderson Bluffs and River Trails Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2019 as a lasting legacy to silent sports. The Foundation vision statement is “Sustain the ABR Legacy as the Midwest’s Premier Nordic Ski destination for generations to come and connect ABR Trails to the larger community.” The Foundation has already established important civic and trail connections with the greater Gogebic community. But , perhaps even more relevant to our skiers, this 6-year transition also gives us plenty of time to focus on and sustain the one-of-a-kind ski experience you have come to expect at ABR. <https://andersonbluffsrivertrailsfoundation.org/>

The volunteer members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation are deeply engaged in building a strong financial and operational base for the ski trails. Eric and Angela will help train and staff for the next generation. We are well into plans for capital investments, marketing, philanthropy, staffing, and trail improvements, to name a few. We want to hear from you; if you haven’t already completed our skier survey, please go to <https://forms.gle/HJcivdGoRyhhVzFu7> We hope you have already signed up for our newsletter, as the best way to stay informed of our progress.

Please take note: Since the Foundation is a 501(c)(3), your donations are tax-deductible. We ask for your support: your time, your skills and your financial contributions. In return, you and the grandkids of your grandkids will be able to come to the “Happy Trails” of ABR for the pure joy of it! <https://andersonbluffsrivertrailsfoundation.org/donate-new/>



Upcoming Events

**Check out websites and Facebook for details and updates*

March 1 start - Inky Lunta 76 Challenge continues until May 15

March 18 - Taste of the Trails at ABR

March 19 - ABR Season Closer - Remember that other local trails continue to provide Nordic Ski experience as long as conditions allow

March 21 - Tuesday night Skinny Ski - Meet at 6 pm at Winman

March 28 - Tuesday night Skinny Ski - Meet at 6 pm.

Location is condition dependent

May 27 - John Jarvi memorial 5k and 10k runs

June 4 - GRRR - Gogebic Range Ride and Run

July 1 - Bessemer hometown 2 mile and 10k runs

July 4 - Wakefield Sunday Lake run 2.8 miles

July 15 - Ironwood Festival 2 mile and 5 mile runs

August 12 - Paavo Nurmi relays, half marathon and marathon, Hurley, WI

September 9 - Copper Peak trail festival, mountain bike and trail run

September 17 - Work Bee on Anderson Bluffs and River Trails land

September 23 - Bridges and Bluffs 2 mile and half-marathon,

Project Connect Nordic Day

Third Time - Charming

The Third Project Connect Nordic Day was held Saturday, February 11. Before the event, 100 people indicated that they would participate and many more joined the fun on Saturday. It was a unique opportunity to ski Ironwood's 4 trail systems, via connectors, from ABR to Miners to the Iron Belle to Wolverine. What an amazing challenge. Skiers were graced with clear skies and great snow.

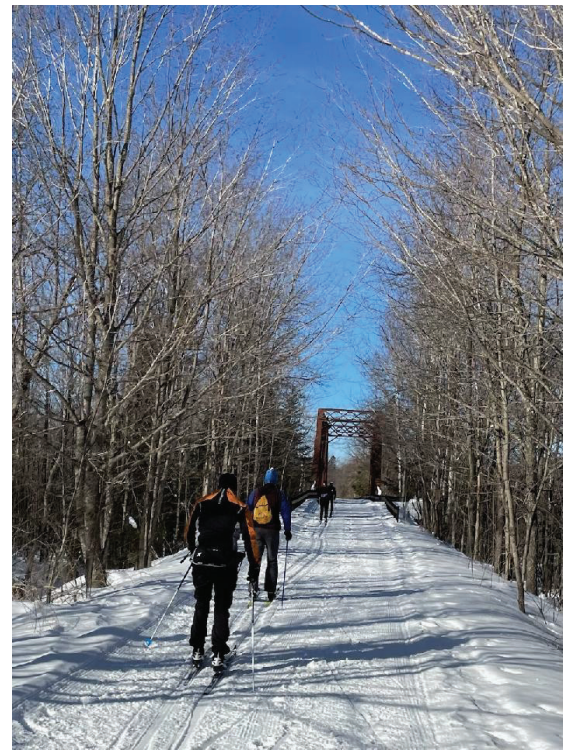
New this year was SkiUber. Coordinated by the Wolverine Ski Club, SkiUber allowed skiers to catch a ride between the Iron Belle and a Wolverine connector trail. Volunteer drivers shuttled skiers back and forth for a safe US 2 crossing.

Post event activities happened at Cold Iron Brewing - fellowship between skiers and door prizes. Area businesses that sponsored this event with door prizes were:

- **ABR** • **Abelman's Clothing** • **Cold Iron** • **Contrast Coffee**
- **Dunham's Sports** • **European Treats** • **Hitts Fine Furniture**
- **Hobby Wheel** • **Rigoni' Bakery** • **Suffolk Street Eatery**
- **White Rabbit** • **Wolverine Trails**

What a great way to end the day.

Looking ahead to Year 4 - a Project Lead is needed for this event. Estimated time required is 40 hours/year. The event is established with support volunteers to assist. If interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity please contact AndersonFoundationMK@gmail.com.



Cruising along the Iron Belle

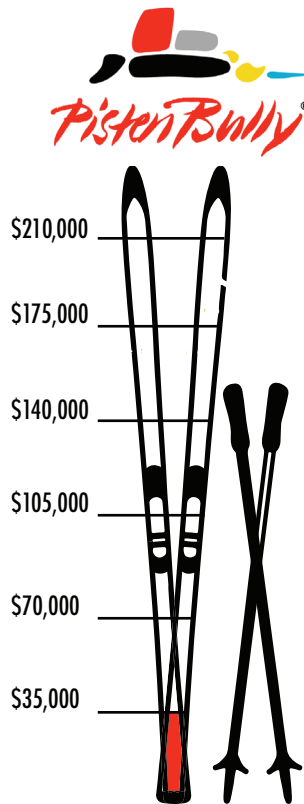


It's so much fun with friends!

PistenBully Capital Project Progress

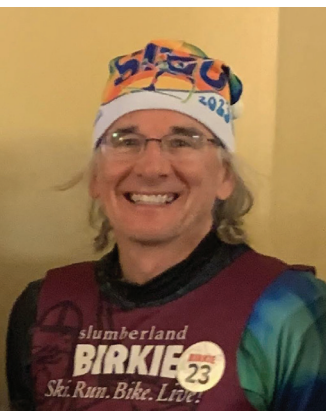
Anonymous Family establishes Matching Program

Donations have started for the PistenBully (PB) fundraising. We received a generous donation from a family committed to the Foundation's vision. They have established a matching PB account to match your PB donation dollar for dollar. All PB funds will be held in a restricted account to only be utilized to purchase the new PB in future years when the Foundation is operating the cross country ski trails.



Want to help with a special skill or in-kind donation?

- Project Leaders
- Graphics arts or website work
- Grant writer
- Social media updates
- Accounting work



Living the Nordic Life

Foundation VP Will Andresen and family completed their 101st full Birkie this year, with Will garnering third in his age group on his 23rd tour. Three generations of Andresens have completed the Birkie over a 49 year span!



The non-profit Anderson Bluffs & River Trails Foundation was created by ABR Ski Inc. with a vision to sustain ABR's legacy as the Midwest's premier Nordic Ski destination for generations to come, and connect the ABR trails to the larger community.

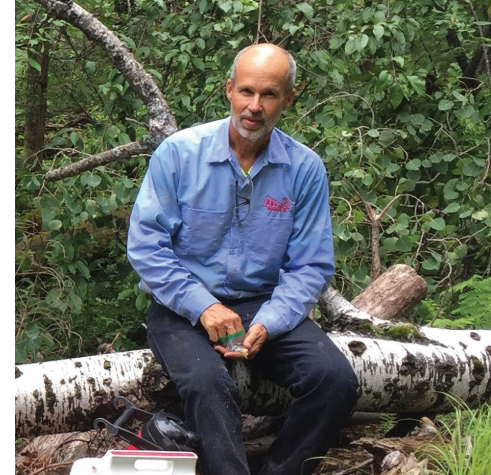
Highlight Director Scott Anderson

Did You Know ...

...Scott and Eric both attended MTU in Houghton for engineering?

As many siblings drift apart with age, these two have gotten much closer. They talk on a daily basis about new ideas, brainstorming solutions and playing practical jokes on each other. The two of them are always busy working on the Foundation organization.

Scott and his wife, Marlene, enjoy the outdoors and their 3 grandchildren. Scott spends his spare time hiking, woodworking and golfing.



PEEK IN A RUSTIC CABIN

While skiing at ABR you may have noticed a cabin or two alongside the trail. You may have thought, “How ideal - who gets to stay there and ski right out their front door?”. The cabins at ABR are for rent to any skier - they are labeled rustic as they do not have electricity or running water. They do have a wood stove for heat, beds for comfort, a table for gathering and an outhouse. Each one is unique. Here is a “peek” inside one - stay tuned to future newsletters for more.

CHERRY MEADOW CABIN - the closest cabin to the trailhead, located at the intersection of Cherry Dairy and Meadow Ridge. So easy to get to, so quaint and so cozy.

Thanks for another great ski season!

-Happy Trails



GIVE to GET:

Invest your families skiing future with a PB donation. Each large donation earns you a ride in the PB to experience the morning beauty and magic of creating the perfect corduroy.

“Create & sustain the organizational foundation to ensure a lasting legacy for Nordic skiing in the Ironwood area”

OUR MISSION

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SCAN HERE

