

It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 15 Issue 2

Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

April 9, 2015 - 7:00

Fox River Evnvironmental Education Allaince

Bats of Wisconsin

Heather Kaarakka(bat biologist) from the DNR will speaking to us about the species of Wisconsin bats, their habitats, how to attract bats in your yard, update us on the White Nose Syndrome and how we can help preserve them.

May 14, 2015 - 7:00
Fox River Evnvironmental Education Allaince

"The Great Sand Fracas of Ames County: A Novel"

Author Jerry Apps of Madison will talk to us about his book and what he learned in his research about fracking and sand mining. See article on right.

June 11, 2015 - 7:00 Fox River Evnvironmental Education Allaince

Cliff Tops & Canyons of Southwest Utah

Rappel down cliffs, squeeze through slot canyons, and climb to knee-shaking heights. Kelly Ramstack will share slides of her adventures in Vermillion Cliffs, Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monuments and Zion National Park.

> August 13, 2015 - 7:00 To be determined

Picnic

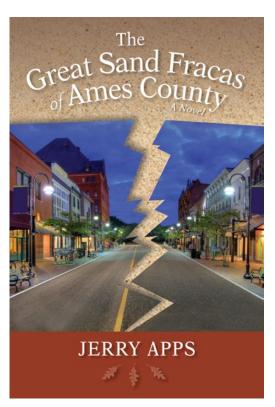
Check our website for details. sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley

Most meetings are held at the Fox River **Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA)** 1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton (Directions are available on their website, foxrivereea.org or FREEA.org)

SPECIAL MEETING EVENT May 14th

Featuring author Jerry Apps from Madison, WI.

Jerry is an author, storyteller, historian and writes a bi-monthly column for The Country Today. Jerry has written 30 books including his latest (released in Sept 2014), "The Great Sand Fracas of Ames County: A Novel". He



has learned much about sand mining and fracturing, tapping into a highly controversial issue to explore contemporary Midwest values - historical preservation VS forces of changes, environmental protection VS economic opportunity. Join us, as he will talk about his book and what he learned in his research.

\$5.00/adult \$12.00/family Snacks & Refreshements

7:00 PM Fox River Environmental **Education Alliance (FREEA)** 1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton

"Once again, Jerry Apps has tapped into a highly controversial issue to explore contemporary Midwestern values — historical preservation versus forces of change, environmental protection versus economic opportunity. And once again, Apps succeeds brilliantly. He is an articulate and forceful voice for the Wisconsin ethos."—Jerry Minnich, author of The Wisconsin Almanac

"Jerry Apps has given us another gift with his latest installment in the fictional Ames County saga. The Great Sand Fracas of Ames County will transport you to Ames County's community of Link Lake and make you one of the regulars at its cafes and supper clubs. Those familiar with the rural Upper Midwest will feel right at home and newcomers will get a crash course in the rhythms and controversies along the fault lines between economic development, conservation, historic preservation."—Dennis Boyer, author of Listen to the Land.

FROM THE CHAIR

March 2015, By Alan Lawrence

Several months ago our board of directors began thinking about what we could do to celebrate Earth Day this year. We wanted to do something that would be easy for members of our community to participate in. We know that people look for Earth Day opportunities to participate in.

We thought it would be nice to have a hike for the community. With quite a bit of work, frankly, we have an event planned that we hope will be successful and fun. Events begin and end at Fox River Environmental Educational Alliance (FREEA) helping to show off our meeting facility. There will be a nice scenic hike along the Fox River, using trails that most people will be unaware of. I hope it opens eyes to the natural settings that exist along our river in Appleton.

We have recruited help from several co-sponsors and organizations, so we anticipate that this can be a big event. I hope you will join us. It takes place on April 18, kicking off Earth Day week. Start any time between 9:00 and 10:30. Food and restrooms are available along the 5.15 mile adventure, so you can take your time and relax.

We still need helpers along the trail or at the registration site. And we need volunteers to bake cookies or cupcakes to be handed out free at Peabody Park. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

Our website is changing. Last October I heard that there would be changes, but unfortunately I didn't really get the news until this month. Although I have been our webmaster since 1999, the new tools are entirely new to me. I've had help getting the initial pages published and I'm expecting that I can make our new site useful and attractive.

The new website address is: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley

I want to remind you to use your voices as citizens to influence public policy and government programs. The proposed State Budget includes cuts that many believe are devastating to the outdoors that makes Wisconsin special. State Parks will be expected to support themselves without public funding. The Stewardship Program is in great jeopardy. Please speak up.

Thanks for reading my comments. As leader of our group I welcome your feedback.

Alan Lawrence, 920-730-9515 or alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP FUND MAY BE CUT

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been providing money to the state, local governments, land trusts and other non-profits to purchase and protect land since 1989. It has helped protect more than 500,000 acres. These lands benefit all of us in Wisconsin by providing jobs, benefiting local economies, protecting our water resources & air quality, promoting tourism & healthy lifestyles, guaranteeing places to hunt, hike, fish and explore close to home.

The general land acquisition component of the Stewardship Program is the backbone of Wisconsin's public lands program. It provides the funds for all Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources land acquisition not funded specifically by other Stewardship Program components. This mandate is extensive and includes acquisition in 547 existing state parks and trails, flowages, fishery, wildlife, state forest, and rivers projects.

The proposed State Budget intends to severely cut this program. Your legislative representatives need to know how you feel about this

WRITE, CALL OR EMAIL THEM!

ELROY SPARTA TRAIL IN JEOPARDY

Have you ever ridden your bicycle on the Elroy-Sparta Trail? This is a 32 mile long trail, converted from an abandoned railroad bed. Its elevation changes are very gentle. The scenery is fantastic. You even go through three train tunnels, two are 1/4 mile long and the 3/4 mile tunnel is extra fantastic. You ride past several small towns; towns that demonstrate obviously and proudly that the trail and the bicyclists are an important part of their economies. And the trail connects with other area trails.

This is all in jeopardy. A gravel pit threatening the trail and the communities was approved March 16 despite overwhelming opposition to it and despite the facts of the project. In fact, only 4 people spoke in favor of the project at the public hearing while five times that many (20) spoke in opposition. A lawsuit to stop the mine has been filed.

Vol. 15 Issue 2 April 2015 - August 2015.

**It's Our Nature* is published four times a year by the Fox Valley Sierra Group,

P.O. Box 264, Appleton, WI 54912-0264.

Subscription included with Sierra Club membership dues.

Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials - July 15th for August thru November Issue.



The hike is planned along the Fox River right from FREEA and going to Peabody Park. We will have refreshments and activities there. You can turn back and enjoy a short hike, or you can continue on for the full 5.15 mile adventure. We will continue to College Avenue, cross the bridge and hike along the southern shore on the Newberry Trail to Olde Oneida Street. Then cross back to the northern shore utilizing trails on the Eagle Flats. Hike through Lawrence University and back to FREEA.

Restrooms and food can be found at Peabody Park, Stone Cellar Brewpub, Pullmans at Trolley Square, Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University, or at locations not far off the walk.

Hikers can begin walking anytime between 9:00am and 10:30am and should plan to be back by 1:30pm. This is plenty of time to enjoy the route and discover what's on the way, or even have an early lunch.

Put this on your calendar and plan to be there either as a helper or as a participant. We believe this will be big. We believe you will enjoy the experience.

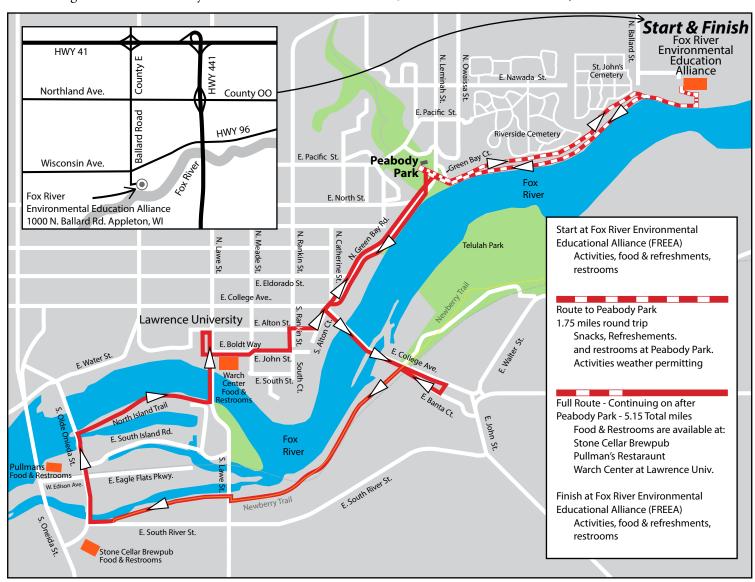
This event gives people the opportunity to participate in a fun organized Earth Day event where they can experience nature and our Fox River in a unique hike kicking off spring and the Earth Day week.

The event is free, no charge, without cost.

Please check our web page for updates

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley

Questions to alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com.



Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

April or May Garlic Mustard Pulling

Pull garlic mustard at High Cliff State Park and at Memorial Park in Combined Locks, Wisconsin. All depends on the weather and how fast the garlic mustard grows. Call early to be put on the garlic mustard pullers list and to be contacted about specific dates and times. • Contact Dale Schaber, 920-739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net

April 11, Saturday Bike the Mascoutin Valley Trail to a Winery

The western segment of the Mascoutin Valley State Trail connects the small towns of Berlin and Ripon. The rail-trail goes past farms, prairies and wetlands. We'll start our afternoon in Berlin and bike about 9 miles to Vines & Rushes Winery where we'll enjoy a free tasting of their wines. The winery also has soda, cheese, crackers and other locally made items available for purchase. We'll enjoy a snack before biking back to Berlin. *NOTE: Must be 21 to come on this outing! For details contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

April 18, Saturday Earth Day River Hike

Kick off Earth Day week with a hike along the Fox River in Appleton. See details on page 3.

MAY 9 – Saturday Ice Age Trail Work in Waushara County

The Fox Valley Sierra Group will be assisting the Waushara County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance within the Chaffee Creek State Fishery area. Approximately one mile of the Ice Age Trail had a timber sale this winter, so the main focus will be to replace or upgrade signage through that area. New sign posts will be installed and there will be some painting and installing of signs on the posts. This area is not overly accessible, so supplies will need to be carried in a fair distance. To my knowledge, this will be the first time that our Sierra Club chapter has ever worked on any of the Waushara County's Ice Age trails. Tools will be provided. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, sturdy work shoes, and mosquito and tick repellent. We will work in the morning until early to mid afternoon and will then stop for ice cream. For headcount purposes, location and time to meet, ride consolidation, and information. • Contact Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7Dairl@yahoo.com.

May 16, Saturday Canoe the Little Wolf River near Manawa

Paddle a slow and scenic section of the Little Wolf River that is abundant in waterfowl. After a short shuttle, we'll put-in near Symco and paddle to the Little Wolf Boat Launch on the Manawa Mill Pond. Optional cookout at the Ramstack Farm afterwards. • Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

May 30, Saturday Ice Age Trail Hike - N. Kettle Moriane

A rolling, easy, spring hike in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest will follow ridges past kettles and kames to Butler Lake and back. Bring your own lunch. Total hiking distance: eight miles. Total hiking time, including lunch and breaks: six hours. Total ascent: 1,148 feet. Total Descent: 1,020 feet. Trailhead is about an hour from Appleton. Hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather so everyone must be registered with either leader, who will provide details for trailhead and starting time. • Phil Snyder, jsnyder2@new.rr.com or Margaret Klose, margaretklose@gmail.com

June 27, Saturday Ice Age Trail Hike - Waupaca Area

Hike a premier section of the Ice Age Trail, starting at Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca and looping south through the Emmons Creek State Fishery and Wildlife Area. Bring your own lunch. Total hiking distance: about nine miles. Hike stats, including distance, time, ascent and descent will be shared with registered hikers. Hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather so everyone must be registered with either leader, who will provide details for trailhead and starting time. • Phil Snyder, jsnyder2@new.rr.com or Margaret Klose, margaretklose@gmail.com

July 11, Saturday Ice Age Trail Work in Waupaca County

The Fox Valley Sierra Group will be assisting the Waupaca County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance within Hartman Creek State Park west of Waupaca. This October the Ice Age Trail Mobile Skills Crew will spearhead a multi-day project to relocate the Ice Age Trail within the park so it will no longer be on the cross country ski trail. Lots of preparatory trail work will need to be done before this fall, so these two dates will give us an opportunity to assist with preliminary work on the new trail. Tools will be provided. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, sturdy work shoes, and mosquito and tick repellent. We will work those mornings until early to mid afternoon each day and will then stop for ice cream. For head-count purposes, location and time to meet, ride consolidation, and information. • Contact Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7Dairl@yahoo.com.

August 1, Saturday Ice Age Trail Work in Waupaca County

See July 11th for description



Enjoying a hike at Skunk and Foster Lakes Natural State Area on March 21st.

Welcome New Members

welcome New Members				
Appleton	Mr Robert Mcgee	Oshkosh		
Cary Anderson	David Mcmahon	Dr Rosalie J Easton		
Gwendolyn Bomann	Michael J Novak	Ruth Greisinger		
Tom Branagan	Marlene Olejniczak	Joanne Gehrt		
Norman Christnacht	William Sampson	Carla Hansen		
Carolyn Corrigall	Cathy Segall Bill Seims	J Butterbrodt & D Knickelbein		
Ms Lily Gierke	Jim Soletski	Thomas Mayerl		
Barbara Hirn	Ronald Springer	Rebecca Meckelberg		
Karen Jensen	Janna Turner	Dion Otten		
Wayne Johnson	Leon Vanderheyden	Wendy Simmons		
Ms Roxann Miller	Green Lake	Peshtigo		
Pat Moriarty	Kurt Wilkens	Ms Joan Pietsch		
Gregory Peter	Greenville	Derek Strening		
Kathryn Prestidge	Ken Mcintosh	Pickett		
Mr Tony Pullara	Hortonville	Mary Butcher		
Gail Rammer	Scott Kolbeck	Plainfield		
Neil Schroeder	Kaukauna	Victoria Allison-Gengler		
Laura Smythe	Dale Gauthier	Pound		
M Richard and S Spring	Seong K Graham	Mary Holzbauer		
Audrey Wirkes Ms Janet Wullner-faiss	Beth Nytes	Ripon		
Berlin	Daryl and Mary Warnke Kimberly	Margaret Draeger		
Bob Fox	Brian Pirner	Lisa Jorgenson		
Clintonville	B Lauterbach and C Wilde	Lee A Prellwitz		
Jill and David Danke	Little Chute	Scandinavia		
Dennis Etheridge	Muriel Manthey	Gerald Olsen		
Mr Jim Putnam	Christina Montalto	Seymour		
Crivitz	Marinette	Dora Budet		
Ms Jeanne Durocher	Greg Dougovito	Loretta Dvorak		
Dale	Josh Lemay	Shawano		
Ray Malliet	Beth Moriva	Vickie Wagner		
Denmark	Ted Rauch	Sister Bay		
Patrick Johnson Mr Rodney E Johnson	Markesan	Mike Brodd		
DePere	Cindi Umstadt	Todd Frisoni		
John R Boardman	Menasha	William L Surbaugh		
Nancy Clabots	Lynn Dahl	Sturgeon Bay		
Myron Cornelius	Lyle Freund	Mack Djuplin		
Joseph Dorschel	Mary Jensen	Rick Hanney		
Mrs. Ardovino Mariucci	Joseph Weidert	Dirk Jacobson		
Steven Taylor Ellison Bay	Mountain	Mr Michael Morrison		
Jami Hanreddy	Barbara Hamel	Clara Wendland		
Ephraim	Neenah	Suamico		
Ms Alison Beadell	Joan Armstrong	Rebecca Kitchen		
Fish Creek	Vern A Brusewitz	Waupaca		
Corinne Lea	David Huebner	Gerald A. Brown		
Kathy Tryner & Jim O'Reilly Florence	Joseph Mccann	Richard Jensen		
Audrey Jansky	William Moskal	Annette R Nolan		
Green Bay	Shari Weyenberg	Waupun		
Thomas Bennett	David and Lynn White	Deanne Goodlaxon		
Dr Karen Camilli	Neshkoro	Wautoma		
Lisa Cassidy	Walter Brudnowski	Nancy Lueddecke		
Gary Cothern	New Frankin	Westfield		
Mr Alexander Debbout Nicole Fenlon	Noel Safford	Richard G Rollinson		
Barbara Fondrliak	New London	Wild Rose		
Kevin Garceau	Mr John Weber	Kathy Thrasher		
Frank & Lynette Green	Oconto	Winnneconne		
Torstein Hansen	Charles Kerr	Jerry Hesselink		
James Hermans	Thomas Tubeszewski	Kristina M Mosley		
Ms Susan Jackson	Oneida	Judith Strehlow		

Outings: Get outside and join us on one of our outings! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings or contact the outings leader directly. Time and meeting locations of outings can change. Some trips are weather dependent. Times are not listed in these descriptions to ensure participants will check with trip leaders before proceeding.

Christine Doxtator

Mike Wicinsky

Michael Jarvela

Caryn Kuehl Mrs Krista Lutzke Not Sierra Club events but some interesting and worthwhile outdoor activities in nearby scenic areas.

Steven's Point WALK WISCONSIN - June 6

Held annually the first Saturday in June each year, Walk Wisconsin is the premier walking event in the Midwest. This is a non-competitive event, encouraging walkers of all ages and ability levels. The full (26.2 miles), 3/4 (19.6 miles), 1/2 (13.1 miles) and 1/4 (6.5 miles) events utilize the Green Circle Trail which passes the Wisconsin River, Plover River, several lakes, and unique ecosystems. The trail base for all routes include a combination of wood chips, crushed granite, road surface and wood boardwalk.

Please be at the Pfiffner Park bandshell 1/2 hour before transportation starts for your event. No strollers or pets for any marathon event.

Event check-in will take place at the Pfiffner Park building, 501 Franklin Street, along Stevens Point's downtown riverfront. Finish line picnic/entertainment at Pfiffner Park Bandshell: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Event Cost: \$25.00 (through May 1, 2015, \$35 thereafter). The registration fee helps cover the cost of the sports sack, t-shirt, refreshments and food stops along the route, the finish celebration, medallion and more. A portion of the proceeds for Walk Wisconsin will go to the Wellness Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. The remaining funds are used to fuel new and ongoing wellness orientated activities and events to promote healthy people and lifestyles such as Kids Walk Wisconsin, Real Wisconsin-Bike Tour and Moon Walk Wisconsin.

Wolf River Paddle and Peddle - June 27

Drop off your bicycle at CCC boat landing, drop off canoe or kayak at MM/Lieg St. boat landing. (If renting equipment from Mt. Bay Outfitters, it will be dropped off for you.) Park and register at Mt Bay Outfitters by 9:00am. Take shuttle to MM boat landing. Paddle down Wolf River, all flat water, through natural areas, to CCC - about 3 hours. Ride your bike back 8-12 miles to Mt. Bay. Your boat will be there waiting for you. Brat fry available.

Event cost \$10. (Rental additional.) The registration fee covers the cost of shuttling boats back to Shawano, water, snacks and porta potty. Any remaining to support new and improved biking and walking trails. Register by calling Tim Conrad at (715) 526-8823. Mt. Bay is located in an historic train depot at 620 S. Main St Shawano, WI 54166. FVSG member Nancy Brown-Koeller (715) 853-6625 will be volunteering at this event.

THE AQUATIC WEED EATER ASIAN CARP

Introduced in the southeast to help control weeds and parasites in cat fish aquaculture operations, these fish soon spread up the Mississippi River system where they have been crowding out native fish populations not used to competing with such aggressive invaders. The carps' presence in such numbers is also compromising water quality and killing off sensitive species such as freshwater mussels.

Asian carp are hardy, lay hundreds of thousands of eggs at a time and spread into new habitat quickly and easily.

In 2014 the various types of Asian carp barriers were evaluated in a Great Lakes Study by the University of Notre Dame and US Forrest Service. Previous studies compared the pros and cons of different Asian carp control strategies the latest study went into greater depth assessing the likely hood of success using the various control methods. The Illinois River has a series of three electric barriers in place to prevent the spread of Asian carp to the great lakes. (see graphic on next page) The study found that a single electrical barrier has a 85-95% success rate of halting the infestation. Three barriers in series would significantly





They can jump over barriers such as low head dams, also, flooding has helped the fish expand into previously unattainable water bodies. And fishers using young carp as live bait have also facilitated the fish's spread, as have boats going through locks up and down the Mississippi.

Some 40 years after the carp first appeared in the southern Mississippi River the best that experts can hope for is to slow the spread, to keep the invader from overtaking the Wabash, Illinois and other Midwest rivers, and crossing into the Great Lakes.

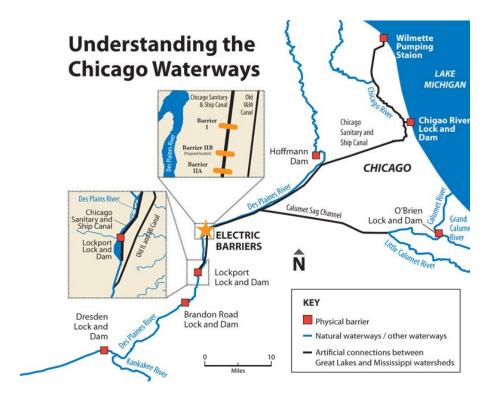
Scientists, engineers and government officials have theorized a range of potential weapons against the Asian carp. Some favor using predator fish (Long Nose Gar); others wonder if poisons or natural toxins might help. Electrical barriers are deployed in Chicago, and even sport fishermen wielding powerful crossbows are doing their part. In the Illinois river commercial fishermen are allowed to harvest as many Asian Carp as they can. So far no state or federal agency can boast of a successful pilot program to stem the relentless migration.

increase the success rate however their major weakness is if a there is a power disruption the fish can swim up river to Lake Michigan at will. So far numerous DNA samples of Asian Carp, one dead Asian Carp and no living Asian Carp have been found on the Lake Michigan side of the electric barriers. A mechanical barrier can be 100% effective in preventing the spread of Asian Carp.

On Feb. 26 2015 Michigan Lawmakers Debbie Stabenow & Candice Miller introduced legislation in congress to enable the federal agencies to fast track the implementation of barriers to help prevent the spread of Asian Carp.

Please contact our Senators Tammy Baldwin, Ron Johnson, Representatives Reid Ribble, Glenn Grothman and urge them to support the legislation proposed by the Michigan lawmakers and urge them to have the Corps of Engineers erect mechanical barriers to prevent the spread of Asian Carp.

John Engel Conservation Chairman (sources - Scientific American & US Forrest Service)



Wild Ones Fox Valley INVASIVE PLANTS AND WORMS IN THE FOX VALLEY AREA

Thursday, April 23, 6:30 pm WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd Neenah, WI 749-7807

Kelly Kearnes, Invasive Plant Coordinator with the Wisconsin DNR, will be discussion identification, control and disposal of invasives. She has worked with a team since 2004 to develop and implement the comprehensive invasive species rule, NR 40 which is currently being revised. foxvalleyarea.wildones.org

Also Wild Ones Fox Valley area will have a native plant sale for pick up May 9th. However, if people want specific plants, they have to be pre-ordered by April 22nd. The order form is available on our website at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org. They have an extensive list of plants including trilliums, royal catchfly and monarch magnets. Plants will also be available to buy on May 9 at the Wild Center.

RECYCLE GENTLY USED T-SHIRTS AND PILLOWCASES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

"The Sewing Bees" from St. Martin Church in Cecil make diapers for children in Haiti from unwanted T-Shirts. The group started in the fall of 2011 and has also made pillow case dresses (over 200!). The clothes and diapers are delivered through a group from Green Bay, Friends of Haiti. The gently used T-Shirts can be printed or plain; colored or white; cotton or cotton blend.

A friend of mine started "The Sewing Bees" and I would be happy to pick up donated T-shirts at Fox Valley Sierra Club meetings or another drop off spot. Nancy Brown-Koeller. If questions, call 715 853-6625

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 100 YEARS OLD

In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President's Every Kid in a Park initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America's unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outside.

To inspire the next generation to discover all that America's public lands and waters have to offer, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. The initiative will also:

- -Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips
- -Provide transportation support to schools with the most need
- -Provide educational materials

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/19/fact-sheet-launching-every-kid-park-initiative-and-designating-new-natio



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Senior	\$25	□ \$35
Student/Limited Income	C \$25	C 625

Contributions, girls and questo surprise. Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley or find us on Facebook