



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Group of the Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter Vol. 23 Issue 2

Fox Valley Group Meetings

September 14, 2023 - 7:00pm

Understanding the Wisconsin DNR Environmental Enforcement Process

Girl Scout Building (next to Bubolz Nature Preserve)
4693 N. Lynndale Drive, Appleton

Come learn with us and share your thoughts regarding the enjoyment and protection of Wisconsin's priceless natural resources DNR Conservation Warden Major Shaun Deeney. See page 2 for more information.

October 12, 2023 - 7:00pm

Oneida Wetland Restoration

Girl Scout Building (next to Bubolz Nature Preserve)
4693 N. Lynndale Drive, Appleton

James Snitgen, Environmental Quality Manager for the Oneida Nation will be the program presenter discussing the wetland restoration projects that have been completed on the Oneida Reservation. This presentation will be followed on Saturday, October 14th by a tour of the restored areas.

November 9, 2023 - 7:00pm

To Be Announced

December 14, 2023 - 6:30pm

Holiday Party

Girl Scout Building (next to Bubolz Nature Preserve)
4693 N. Lynndale Drive, Appleton

Please bring a dish to pass for a pot-luck, your place setting, drinks, any alcohol beverage, and a white elephant gift for the exchange. The party starts at 6:30 PM!! Please join us for good food, good conversation and a "mean" game of exchange. All in good fun. Enjoy the reactions as people select unopened gifts, or take prizes that are already opened. (About our white elephant gift exchange. Wrap up something you already own, but don't really care to keep for the "White Elephant Gift Exchange". It should be somewhat gift worthy, and can be funny or unusual.)

Details and subject can change
Follow us at www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley
www.facebook.com/foxvalleyesierra

From the Chair

August 2023

Hello Fox Valley Sierrans.

As fall approaches, your executive committee is busy planning outings and educational activities for our group. We would like to get your input as to the direction we head this year. We always welcome emails and informal feedback at meetings, but this year, we're asking you to take a few minutes of your time to fill in a survey for us. We have questions about outings, fundraisers, Earth Day events, educational opportunities, etc. The link will be offered in our newsletter but you can also call or email us to request a printed version. Additionally, we will have printed versions available at our monthly meetings. Please take a moment during your busy schedule to fill out this very important survey, and of course, I look forward to seeing you at our fall meetings.

Penny PaiserWilson
Fox Valley Sierra group chairperson

FVSG Survey	
https://forms.gle/xY4Ca92PZXrHtNKn8	

Fox Valley Sierra Group Board Elections

We have annual elections at the end of the year to keep our group going. You can help lead us into the future. Does not have to be a big commitment, do what you can handle. The board meets around 10 times a year, with lately being zoom meetings.

We really need your help. Can you help? Contact an current board member or email us at fvsierragroup@gmail.com.

Appleton Adding an 32-Acre Woodland and Wetland Conservancy on the Southeast Side of the City

by Karen Van Offeren

On July 19th, Appleton officials announced the addition of a 32.5-acre woodland and wetland conservancy to the Appleton park system.

Mayor Jake Woodford noted that part of what makes this addition special is that "in Appleton's 600 acres of parkland, we do not yet have a preservation area of woodlands and wetlands."

Dean Gazza, director of parks, recreation and facilities management reported that the site contains a mix of hardwoods including shagbark hickory, bitternut hickory, white oak, swamp white oak, basswood, red maple, sugar maple, and American beech. He also noted that the property is "a haven for native plant and animal species."

The new conservancy is located at the northeast corner of Midway Road and Eisenhower Drive in the Southpoint Commerce Park. Originally purchased by the city for business development, much of the land has since been identified as wetlands, therefore unusable for its original intent.

Development planning for the conservancy will take place over the next two years. Funding will come from a variety of sources including grants. Preliminary plans include development of unpaved, unlit trails that can be used by walkers, cyclists and skiers.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.insightonbusiness.com/latestnews/appleton-to-create-32-acre-nature-conservancy-on-south-side-of-city/article_ef3d10da-264a-11ee-a629-abfe9e24dc6b.html

<https://www.postcrescent.com> > news > local >

[2023/07/19](#)

Understanding the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Enforcement Process

by Karen Van Offeren

Did you know that Wisconsin is experiencing rapid growth in both our residential population and the number of people visiting our state? Increasing numbers of people are enjoying our rivers, lakes, and streams, as well as walking the trails of our state parks and forests.

As you can imagine, this increased traffic is creating some unique challenges and opportunities for the DNR's Division of Public Safety and Resource Protection (PSRP) as they work to protect Wisconsin's precious natural resources.

Key players in the DNR's environmental enforcement efforts include the investigative wardens and the environmental enforcement specialists. One of their duties is to educate the public on the DNR's enforcement philosophy and share how enforcement plays a role in resource protection.

The Fox Valley Sierra Group's September meeting will provide one of these educational opportunities. Please join us as DNR Conservation Warden Major Shaun Deeney shares details on such topics as:

- Overviews of DNR agency divisions and the PSRP,
- PSRP's enforcement priorities and investigations/violations,
- Stepped enforcement philosophy and process,
- Environmental enforcement and justice,
- Ongoing environmental pollution challenges, and
- How to report violations/spills.

Come learn with us and share your thoughts regarding the enjoyment and protection of Wisconsin's priceless natural resources.

Support your Fox Valley Sierra Group

Help us Explore, Enjoy and Protect through monthly meetings, outings, service projects, education, social media and published newsletters.

Consider a donation <http://teamsierrawi.rallybound.org/FoxValleyGroup>

Or mail to
Fox valley Group of the Sierra club, 567 Oak St., Neenah, WI 54956

New Name for a Longstanding Pest

by Karen Van Offeren

Introducing the spongy moth.

Okay, it's not really new. You probably remember it by its old name, the gypsy moth. In December 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service changed this pest's name, aligning it with the Entomological Society of America. The name change was due to it being widely acknowledged as an ethnic slur. The new name comes from the moth's distinctive spongy-textured egg masses.



Adult female spongy moth with egg mass.
Photo credit: Ryan Hodnett via Wikipedia CC

Status Update: Spongy Moth Infestation

This nonnative, destructive species has been in Wisconsin since the late 1960's. Migration has continued westward throughout the state. As of April 2023, 53 of Wisconsin's 72 counties are under quarantine due to spongy moth infestation.

Quarantine requires any wood products or items kept outdoors that could house spongy moth eggs, caterpillars or adults be inspected or certified before moving them to non-quarantined areas.

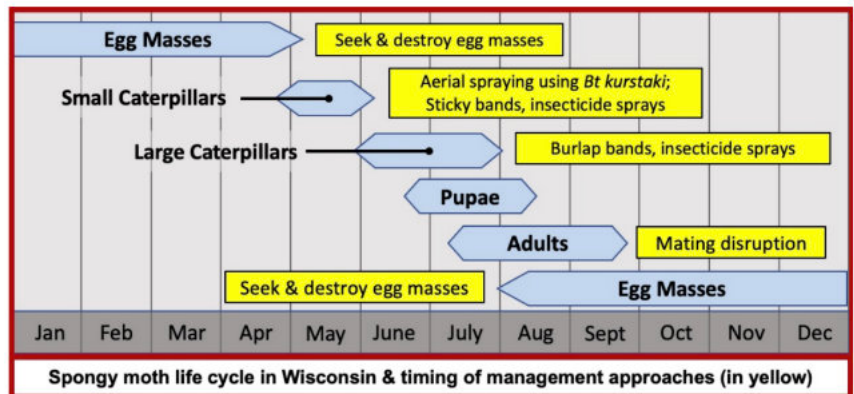
As of May 2023, the Appleton Post Crescent reported that spongy moth populations in the

Fox Cities area are considered under control. Efforts to control the emerald ash borer have taken priority because it has a greater impact on tree mortality.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will conduct aerial spraying in the 10 western counties where spongy moth populations are growing.

What To Do If You See Signs of Spongy Moths

The following chart depicts the life cycle of the spongy moth and what to do if you see signs of infestation.



Extension: University of Wisconsin-Madison (4-1-22)

You can find more information about the spongy moth at:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/spongymothinwisconsin/>

OR

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/spongymoth>

Sources

¹ Duke Behnke. "Spongy Moth Caterpillars Continue to Chomp Away, But Local Populations Seem Under Control." Appleton Post Crescent. 5 May 2023. Retrieved 9 May 2023 from <https://www.postcrescent.com/story/news/local/2023/05/05/spongy-moth-still-a-formidable-pest-but-ranks-behind-emerald-ash-borer/70179821007/>

Outings

* September 6–10, Wed–Sun Ice Age Trail Work Trip – Sturgeon Bay Segment

Check out the Ice Age Trail Foundation website for more information on this work trip to build new trail thru Potawatomi State Park. Campsite, dinner and breakfast supplied. They are enjoyable, fun and rewarding. Join them for any number of days. <https://www.iceagetrail.org/our-work/trail-building-maintenance/2023-season-at-a-glance/> or for more information contact Monny Hjerstedt

September 16, Sat 4:00–5:00 Appleton Memorial Park Family Hike

We will meet in the parking lot off of Capitol Dr. near the SCHEIG Center and end at the universal playground. This is a family-friendly, child-centered hike. (Adults are welcomed too) We will be walking on a mowed path around the pond at Memorial Park. We will be looking for the animals and plants that live here and for all the things that do not belong here. Tennis shoes or boots recommended. NO FLIP FLOPS. Stay and play at the playground for awhile afterwards! To sign up and for more information contact Marjie Fendt at marjiefendt@gmail.com or to signup and register use our website.

September 22–24, Fri–Sun Rock Island State Park Camping

This unique park features the Pottawatomie Lighthouse as well as stone buildings built by a wealthy inventor who owned the island between 1910 and 1964. Rock Island offers rustic, walk-in campsites, hiking trails, a swimming beach and miles of shoreline to explore.

A group site is reserved for us on the Island at the tip of Door County for Friday and Saturday night. We will take a ferry to Washington island, ferry to Rock Island, then walk to our primitive campsite. Food and equipment is on your own. Costs will be the campsite and the ferry rides. Limit of 15 people.

Contact Peter Jobe to signup and more information. (920 460-5915 pjobe1@gmail.com)
Or signup and register on our website

* September 23, Sat 10:00 Know your Wisconsin Trees High Cliff State Park

Celebrate National Public Lands Day by joining Tim James, Wisconsin DNR Forester, to learn about Wisconsin trees – their forms, bark, leaves and fruit – along with basic forestry practice. All ages are welcome. Dress for the weather. Meet at the observation Tower at 10:00 am..

* October 7, Sat Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon – 36th Annual Iola Winter Sports Club

- E398 County Hwy MM, Iola WI
- Registration: 8:30 – 11 am; \$5 per person/\$15 family of 4 or more
- Hiking Lengths: 3 to 12 mile out and back or anything in between
- Water stations along the trail
- Refreshments/snacks
- Highlights: Stone staircase, bridge, boardwalks, outstanding view sheds of surrounding glacial topography, A new trail will make its debut
- Questions?: portagewaupacacochapter@iceagetrail.com
- All donations are used locally for trail development, maintenance and outreach.
- Come on your own or if you want to hike together contact Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text or call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com. I plan to start hiking at 9:00.

October 14 Oneida Wetlands Tour

Tour of restored wetlands on the Oneida Reservation will start at 10:00. We will leave from Appleton at 9:00, meeting at the park and ride lot on North Ballard St and Highway 41. The tour will last approximately 2 hours with a combination of driving and short walks on Oneida Reservation Lands. Our guide will be Tony Kuchma. Wetland Project Manager for the Oneida Nation. Limited to 20 people, please call the leader for details and to sign up for the tour.

Penny Bernard Schaber, 920-739-6041
pennybernardschaber@athenet.net
Or signup and register on our website.

October 28, Sat 9:00 Terrell's Island Hike – Omro

Created by the Butte des Morts Conservation Club to conserve, preserve and restore precious and endangered wildlife habitat within Lake Butte des Morts. More information on the area can be found at <http://www.bdmcc.org/index.cfm>. The hike will be about 3.8 miles on a gravel path. Generally there are many birds to see and hear. Dress for the weather and bring your binoculars! Meet at the parking area on Schubert Road, Omro, WI
Possible stop at Dauntless Soul Brew, afterward if anyone is interested.

To sign up and for more information contact Marjie Fendt at marjiefendt@gmail.com or to signup and register use our website.

* Non Sierra Club outings

Contact those organizations for information and to register. Check out other nature centers and parks also. Enjoy the nature and the outdoors.



High Cliff - Garlic Mustard Removal



Hartman Creek - Moonlight Hike

WIOWASH Trail - Prairie Hike



Woodland Dunes - Nature Hike



For more information or additional outings check out our facebook page or our website.

There were two big Wisconsin Conservation Congress Advisory Committee meetings in August. They were meetings where WCC delegates discussed and voted on successful resolutions from the "Spring Hearing" and then also getting relevant updates from the WDNR.



- At the Fur Harvest Meeting
We were OPPOSING
- [Nesting Bird Conservation Reward Program](#) (Reward for Trappers)
We were SUPPORTING
- [Giving Coyotes Protections from Year-Round Open Season Hunting](#)
- At the Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee Meeting
We were SUPPORTING
- [End all Killing Contests](#)

Please also keep an eye out for the Legislative Committee meeting on September 6 which will cover two Sierra Club supported resolutions:

[Wisconsin DNR Support of Farmers with Non-lethal Predator Prevention Programs](#)

- [Removal of administrative barriers to Stewardship Program projects](#)

If you are interested in the suggested talking points and details supporting why it was recommended to support or oppose, please email Amy Mueller at amymueller10@gmail.com.

Citizen Resolution # 680823

Wisconsin DNR Support of Farmers with Non-lethal Predator Prevention Programs (Legislation Required)

Currently, the WDNR doesn't have access to state funding to provide non-lethal predator prevention education and assistance to Wisconsin farmers. However, one of the main objectives of the new WDNR Wolf Management plan is to mitigate conflicts and leverage non-lethal predator prevention.

Non-lethal interventions are more likely to reduce conflict, whereas translocations and lethal interventions are mostly ineffective and/or harmful to carnivore populations, without fostering successful long-term coexistence. (Lorand, 2022)

Per USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, non-lethal options such as livestock guardian animals and hazing measures with audio/visual deterrents such as scare radios are rated the most effective among livestock producers to help reduce conflicts. (APHIS, 2022) Additionally, farming practices with proper animal husbandry and carcass disposal bins will help reduce predator interest. Non-lethal programs are also constantly advancing. Scientists have

gathered much evidence showing that random blasts of colorful light, noise or motion can protect livestock. Even motion-triggered LED light-up ear tags on cows and sheep are proving effective deterrents for native predators. (Koshmrl, 2022)

For a program like this to succeed, financial assistance will need to be flexible. Ideally a grant program would be available. Minnesota has a program in place with grant money to purchase guard animals, pens, fladry, fencing, lights, alarms, calving or lambing shelters on an 80:20 matching cost share. The WDNR's Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Program (UWDAC) could be used as a template.

To get the abatement where it's really needed, the WDNR should be empowered with a budget to identify locations where the funding is best spent to prevent conflicts. This should include funding for purchases of non-lethal abatement supplies/materials to use and re-use at properties as needed as well as educational materials.

Do you support helping Wisconsin's farmers mitigate livestock conflicts with non-lethal predator preventative solutions using education and state funded financial assistance?

Citizen Resolution # 131123

Removal of administrative barriers to Stewardship Program projects (Legislation Required)

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was created in 1989. Nine out of 10 Wisconsinites support the program, and it has bipartisan support. The program has enabled the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), local communities and conservation nonprofits to conserve land, create parks and fisheries, protect habitat, and expand recreational opportunities. This program has benefitted every county in the state.

A step in the administrative review process has delayed and attempted to halt a number of Stewardship Program projects, including the Cedar Gorge Clay Bluffs and the Pelican River Forest projects. A single legislator on the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has the ability to stop Stewardship projects with an anonymous vote. This raises a number of concerns including: budget -approved funding not being spent as intended; JFC intervention in a program that the legislature has already voted on; inefficiencies in land stewardship and conservation; and a lack of transparency and accountability for decisions made by elected officials.

Since funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is approved by the JFC and the legislature through the state budget process, further review of individual grants may not be necessary as it duplicates work the legislature and JFC have already done. The Stewardship Program, like other state-funded programs, should be administered by the DNR without additional involvement by the JFC.

Do you support a change to the administrative approval process of Stewardship Program projects, removing the Joint Finance Committee's review of individual projects

Senator Baldwin's Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act

By Laura Menefee

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin has introduced a bill to strip gray wolves of endangered species protections. Baldwin's "Northern Great Lakes Wolf Recovery Act" would designate the Great Lakes wolf population as "threatened," allowing wolves to be killed if they threaten humans, pets or livestock.

Baldwin states, "this legislation will allow our agriculture, Tribal, scientific, and impacted communities to come together to create a solution that works for Wisconsin."

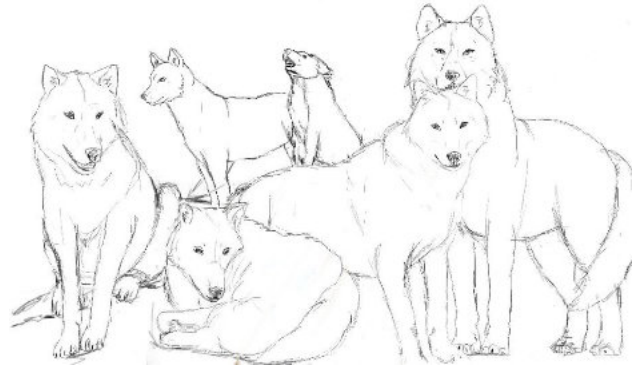
Baldwin's statement lacks statistical credibility. There are no "impacted communities" suffering adverse incidents caused by wolves in Wisconsin. Not "agriculture," which would benefit by wolves controlling more deer, the species responsible for the greatest causes of crop and property damage in Wisconsin (followed by Black Bears).

While few livestock producers graze in wolf territory in the Great Lakes, the best available science proves NON-LETHAL DETERRENTS are exponentially more effective at livestock depredation mitigation than recreational killing which includes non-selective trapping in prime wolf habitat where there are no livestock operations.

One small, extremist, disproportionately politically influential "community" is "adversely" affected by a healthy wolf population: Bear hounders.

Bear hounders, who opposed protections for wolves throughout their re-colonization, don't like wolves killing their dogs which they run, off leash, in prime wolf habitat, which they are legally able to do, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from July 1 through August 31, and then again during bear hounding season, September 13-October 3. Wisconsin bear hounders get their own, exclusive bear hunt every year from September 6-12.

Baldwin's reference to the bill addressing "tribal" concerns is also disingenuous; the majority of WI First Nations do not support recreational wolf hunting.



Within hours of removal of Endangered Species protections for Great Lakes wolves in 2011, the Wisconsin legislature passed Act 169, mandating recreational wolf hunting. Walker threatened to veto Act 169 as long as it allowed night hunting, predator calls, night vision, shining and meat bait, all of which methods were reintroduced into rules for the 2021 hunt, without public input. The 2021 kill total significantly overshot the quota within 72 hours, partly because WDNR allows 24 hour reporting on filled tags, partly because WDNR allows 24 hours to close a zone after the quota has been reached.

"We've seen that Wisconsin just cannot be trusted to manage wolves," Colette Adkins of the CBD said, "If they ever want to have protections removed, they need to show that they're capable of doing it and not condoning such a brutal slaughter of those wolves."

In February 2022, partly in response to WDNR mismanagement of the 2021 hunt held during peak breeding season, a federal judge placed gray wolves back on the endangered species list. Wildlife biologists concurred that the Great Lakes wolf population neared a natural equilibrium during the years they were protected, from 2015-2021.

Baldwin's co-sponsors include Ron Johnson, Tom Tiffany (who is endorsed by Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association who refer to bear hunting as "the ultimate family sport") and Lauren Boebert.

The Center for Biological Diversity opposes the bill.

To see how the latest draft of the WI DNR's Wolf Management Plan and how it addresses the status of wolves, please see, https://widnr.widen.net/view/pdf/vkmkk13vhg/Wolf-Management-Plan_Revised-Draft_7.31.2023.pdf?t.download=true&u=ulxjqn

For more information from the Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance see, <https://greatlakeswildlifealliance.org/>

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Of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

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