



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 18 Issue 3

Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs

December 13, 2018 - 6:30

Girl Scout Building

Annual Holiday party

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.) About our white elephant gift exchange in December. 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. Enjoy the reactions as people select unopened gifts, or take prizes that are already opened.

January 10, 2019 - 7:00

Bubolz Nature Center

Citizens' Climate Lobby plan to reduce carbon emissions

Learn about the bipartisan approach CCL takes in promoting its Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal to Congress. What is Carbon Fee and Dividend? CCL believes that a plan that appeals to both sides of the aisle in Congress has a good chance of being enacted as legislation. (Check article on page 3 for more information)



Citizens' Climate Lobby

February 14, 2019 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and Partners are working to Protect, Restore, and sustain the water resources of Wisconsin's Fox-Wolf River Basin. Please join us in welcoming Director Jessica Schultz as she provides an update of the ongoing, and new programs to protect the water and aquatic habitat in the Fox-Wolf River Basin.



March 14, 2019 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Team River Runner Exploring the Grand Canyon with Wounded Warriors

Team River Runner is a non-profit established in 2005 at Walter Reid Hospital. Team River Runner uses kayaking to help veterans recover from debilitating injuries suffered in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In Sep. 2018 Team River Runner undertook its most ambitious adventure yet. When five military veterans who lost their vision in combat and their guides in solo kayaks paddled 226 miles on the Colorado River thru all the rapids in the Grand Canyon. Join Team River Runner safety kayaker Ken Braband as he shares stories and images of determination, apprehension, distress, Joy, camaraderie, and triumph as the team succeeds in their quest.



April 11, 2019 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Wisconsin Wetlands Association

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems. The association use science-based programs, education, and advocacy to fulfill its mission. 2019 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Wisconsin's Wetlands Alliance. Director Tracy Hames will give a presentation on Fifty Years of Wetland Preservation in Wisconsin.

Meetings are held at the Girl Scout Service Building, 4815 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI
or Bubolz Nature Preserve 4693 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI.
They share the same driveway.

From the Chair

November 2018, By Alan Lawrence

Writing this column, a week after the election, I realized that my August column mentioned the summer that was ending. Living in the household of a candidate robs one of the enjoyments of time and the great outdoors. Trying to win an election takes all your spare time and energy. My wife, a Sierra Club endorsed candidate, lost her election. We cannot make up lost time, but I hope to enjoy the coming seasons more.

This segues nicely into the annual election of our local board of directors, or executive committee (ExCom). This committee consists of a small group of members, elected for three-year terms who are willing to meet about ten times each year to discuss and plan for our group. It is vital to have this committee. Please review these candidates and approve them on your ballot found in this newsletter. Prospective board members may also join during the year at the approval of the existing board.

Despite being busy, my wife and I managed to spend two weeks in September vacationing with my parents in Minocqua, the Porcupines, and the Apostle Islands. Somehow, I had never visited any of those places before, and I'm happy to have finally had the opportunity. Even the hours of driving in our beautiful state is very nice. It is a reminder to me that these places must be protected and preserved and that these opportunities must exist for future generations.

Our November 8 monthly meeting was presented by Phil Snyder, a member of our group who leads national Sierra Club outings as his mission of service. He says he has led 46 of these week-long outings in the decade since he retired. I actually ran into him in Michigan as he and local member Margaret Klose were preparing to lead an outing in the Porcupines. After sharing some stories and photographs, Phil dived into the subject matter of his presentation: Water. The Grand Canyon supplies water to much of the west, but this is increasingly insufficient. Focusing on our Great Lakes water he talked about how practical (or not) it would be to take our water. Ultimately, it's his conclusion that perhaps, not far into the future, people will migrate from the sunshine states to the water-belt states. The sun-belt is becoming the drought-belt, and the rust-belt is becoming the water-belt. Water is precious.

So, if water is so precious, why do we allow industrial and commercial practices that put our water at risk? Ground water is at great risk in parts of our state with karst topography that allows surface contamination to quickly leak down. Mega farms, in particular, need to take good care of animal waste to prevent irreparable damage to the water used by their neighbors.

Why do we consider allowing sulfide mines to be developed along the Menominee River? Without exception, the world has never known a safe sulfide mine. Why do we consider it okay for frack

sand mines to harvest the hills of our Ice Age, draining ground water and polluting surface waters? Why do we think it is okay for a neighbor to pump excessive amounts of ground water, at the expense of the other neighbors' wells and of the streams and lakes? Why is it considered okay to build buried oil pipelines across our land when all pipelines eventually leak? All pipelines are eventually retired, and usually abandoned leaving cleanup costs to the public. During this election, both my incumbent State Senator and my incumbent State Representative publicly proclaimed at candidate forums that they did not believe climate change was real, and certainly not worth worrying about. I'm convinced that it is worth worrying about. I believe that the evidence is that we have been watching it grow in recent years.

Fortunately, Wisconsin has elected a Governor who cares about the environment. I'm hopeful that he can protect our resources and also grow our opportunities.

A few days from now, as I write, our Fox Valley Group will be honored by our state chapter (the John Muir Chapter) in the annual awards program held in Madison. We will receive the LD Rockwell Award because of our strategic engagement on political issues in the Fox Valley Region. The LD Rockwell Award is presented to an individual or organization who has provided exceptional service to the John Muir Chapter political/electoral program.



This award was established to honor LaVern D. "Red" Rockwell who passed away in 2015. In addition to active Sierra Club membership, LD was also on the Board of Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge and ran for State Senate in 2006 and 2010.

As citizens in today's world we can, and we must, protect our planet.

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

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

Abridged version of Executive Director Michael Brune's column shortly before the election.

The Power of People Together

By Michael Brune October 19, 2018

I couldn't be prouder of everything the Sierra Club has done to resist the Trump administration, but our mission is bigger than simply opposing the endless parade of terrible ideas from Washington, D.C. Our grassroots identity is based on something more enduring than policy positions.

It's right there in our name: First and foremost, the Sierra Club has always been about bringing people together. Sometimes they come together to protect a wild place or stop a bad law. Sometimes they come together to defend their communities from pollution. Sometimes they come together to take a walk in the woods. The common thread has always been bringing people together, and that will never change.

Here's what has changed: Over the course of more than 125 years, we've grown from several hundred people to more than 3.5 million. In 1892, practically the entire Sierra Club could convene in a San Francisco auditorium to hear John Wesley Powell deliver a lecture "of thrilling interest" on his exploration of the Grand Canyon, followed by discussion of legislation that threatened to eliminate the new Yosemite National Park. Those days are long gone.

But though it's no longer possible for all of us to physically come together, we still have a space where we can gather. That space is bounded not by walls but by values. We believe in protecting the natural world. We think everyone has the right to a safe and healthy environment. We value fairness and justice. We seek the truth and respect honesty. We refuse to sacrifice the future because we know we're borrowing it from our descendants. We care about others and have a vision of a world where everyone else does, too.

These are the kinds of values that unite us. And at its best, the Sierra Club is a way for people to translate those values into meaningful change. Sometimes that change happens through elections, mass demonstrations, or local community campaigns. And sometimes it happens through taking some teenagers on their first-ever camping trip. Regardless of how it happens, person by person, community by community, we're creating a ripple effect of change that will shape a world where future generations can thrive.

We can't create lasting change, though, if we don't keep evolving ourselves and reflecting the people and places we work to protect. Because to change everything, it takes everyone. The Sierra Club of 2018 looks very different than that of 1892, or 1970, or even 2008. But one thing has remained a constant: Our work has always been about people-powered action. If you visit our updated website, you'll see that reflected in its new look. The goal was to make the site less about the structure of organization and more about providing that space where 3.5 million people (and counting) can connect their passion and values to action and results. Look for more along those lines, soon, because we're serious about making that space ever bigger and more powerful.

The past two years have been tough, but they've also brought people together in a way that might otherwise not have happened. If we can continue to connect thousands of volunteers and millions of supporters together to create an even bigger groundswell, our collective force for good will be even stronger than the roadblocks ahead.

Michael Brune is the executive director of the Sierra Club, the nation's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.

Citizens' Climate Lobby plan to Reduce Carbon Emissions

Come to the January meeting and learn about the bipartisan approach CCL takes in promoting its Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal to Congress.

What is Carbon Fee and Dividend? The CCL plan is to persuade Congress to enact a steadily rising fee at the mine, well, or port of entry for the burning of fossil fuels. Our volunteer members want to halt the addition of more carbon to the atmosphere and eventually reverse the global warming caused by the 'greenhouse effect.' We propose to return 100% of the net fees to American households as a monthly dividend. This check would serve to offset the rising prices of fuels and of manufactured goods made using fossil fuels as the energy source. As the fees rise each year, the size of the dividend rises, too. This feature is designed to protect individual citizens, and especially the most vulnerable people in our society, from rising prices. The CCL plan would also include border adjustments in the form of import fees or rebates in order to discourage businesses from relocating. This Carbon Fee and Dividend plan does not increase the size of government. It is not a tax. It does create a market incentive for companies and all Americans to switch to clean energy sooner rather than later. To learn more about CF&D, visit the Citizens' Climate Lobby website which contains a wealth of information about the proposal, about climate science, and about lobbying.

A study done in 2013 by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), looked at the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal and found that, after 20 years, the policy would reduce carbon dioxide emissions 50 percent below 1990 levels. The REMI study also found that 2.8 million jobs would be added during that time. Wisconsin is one of the states that would benefit the most because fossil fuels are a small part of our economy. Wisconsin imports all of our coal, oil and natural gas. We have the least to lose and the most to gain from a switch to homegrown, renewable energy.

Why bipartisanship? CCL believes that lasting energy policy change will be attained when members of both major political parties support the legislation. Without support from Democrats and Republicans, we expect that any legislation passed when one party holds sway in Congress is vulnerable to being undone as soon as the other party gains the voting majority. In addition, we know that a majority of both Republicans and Democrats are concerned about climate change and prefer a transition to clean energy sources. We believe that a plan that appeals to both sides of the aisle in Congress has a good chance of being enacted as legislation. We have reason to be optimistic with Canada's recent passage of CF&D legislation. Also, the US House of Representatives Climate Solutions Caucus has quickly grown to 90 members, 45 Dems and 45 Republicans, including Wisconsin's own Mike Gallagher (R) and Ron Kind (D). We think climate solutions bridge the partisan divide.

Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS



January 19, Saturday

Cross-country ski at Reforestation Camp

We will be skiing at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay and discussing the history of this area. Hot apple cider will be served afterward!! Contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com

February 9, Saturday

Snowshoe or Hike Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest - Greenbush Area

Explore the glacial landscape by snowshoe. BYO snowshoes. Distance 3-6 miles. A warming shelter is available. Bring a lunch to enjoy. Mid morning starting time. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt: 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

March 2, Saturday

Snowshoe at Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca

We will be snowshoeing by Hartman Lake and the gentle fields and rolling hills north of the lake. If there's not enough snow, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. Distance: 2-3 miles depending on group's wishes. Mid afternoon starting time. Optional stop at the Wheelhouse for pizza. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt: 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

Check out our webpage or facebook frequently for updates or additional outings.

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.*





Loop the Lake Trail
Neenah-Menasha-Fox Crossing



Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon
Hartman Creek State Park



Horicon Marsh

Explore

Enjoy



Protect

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Subscription included with
Sierra Club membership dues.

Next Newsletter Deadline
for submitting materials
March 8th
for April thru July Issue.

Introducing the film:

REINVENTING POWER

AMERICA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY BOOM

Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom takes us across the country to hear directly from the people making our clean energy future achievable. These individuals are working to rebuild what's broken, rethink what's possible, and revitalize communities. Their stories are proof that America does not need to choose between keeping our lights on and protecting our communities.

Stay tuned early next year via Facebook, announcements, our website or Diane @ 920-216-2159 for showing dates and locations! Further film information can be found at <https://www.sierraclub.org/reinventing-power>.



Welcome New Members

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| Appleton Shannon Bryan Frederick Gaines Reuben Hoffman Andrea Huntoon Kathleen Lhost Gregory Linn Ruth A & William R Mahnke Sr James and Gina Malueg Patricia A McConnell Betty Moore E Whitman and H Niblock Mr Fred W Reseburg Mr Thomas H Rick Leon C & Bonnie L Seifert Jeffrey & Paula Ulmen Dennis G Vandenberg Raven Wilson | Lee Janssen Mr Mark Lavrenz Thomas Reinke Ilse and Christopher Tennis Marie L Trebec Tristin Wals Christine Wolff Freedom Holly Tews-Bodway Debra Calabria Cooper LaFond Green Bay Susan J Andersen Suzanne J Arendt Jeffrey Arndt Bradley Block Marjorie Crowl Patricia Van Donsel Kathryn Hasselblad Stephanie Kaponya Kathy Keeney Steve Krumpos Diane Mayland-MD James Mau Maureen Roup Mary and David J Neckuty Steve Novak Harold Peeters N E Vojtech and R Reuter Feldhaus Ruth Kenneth L & Pearl C Schlies Nancy Schmeling Ms Kathryn Schmitz Dennis Spevacek Ms Nancy Terry Patricia A Van Essen Laura Weller Greenview Barbara Cattani Ken Mcintosh Steven Pawlowski Ben Welko Hilbert Ronald Zahringer | Hortonville Helmut Tausel Iola Wally Gibbs William Westphal Kaukauna Chris Brittnacher Brooks Karen Bruhn Conger Rachel Hitt Melinda Kuchelmeister Mr Michael J Urban Marcia Weber Kimberly Liz Johnson Little Chute Elizabeth Hurst Lomira Brittany Streck Markesan Mark Gelhar Menasha Penny Cox Lesley Grewe Sue Haldemann William and Jeanne Hoest Thomas Lange R Luedke John Michalkiewicz Tim and Kathy Murphy John Straw Mount Calvary Ms Barbara Winkler Neenah Jim Brygger Laurie Hellersokolowski Nicholas J & Courtney C Kurtz Mr Norman Mathewson Karen Winters New Holstein Barbara Weber New London Ruth Carpenter Larry Kietzmann | North Fond du Lac Joan Blatz Ogdensburg Allen Morey Omro Suzette Davis-Rice Onieda Laura Lear Ms Dianna Polzak Mr Michael E Silver Oshkosh Julie Brucki Carol Crahen Kelly Dionysus Julia Flanagan Douglas Kilday Brian and Sharen Lewellyn Mary Petzold Ms Rachel Spierings Mark Sturm William Thimke Jan Zizzo Princeton Mary Belfeuil Rosendale Karen Teetz Scandinavia Linda Alfuth Megan Wolberg Suamico Susan Erickson Waupaca Carl Hayek Terry Major-Holliday Lois Manasterski Sandy Mosher Maurice and Suzanne Wozniak Weyauwega Peter Peters Winneconne Lana Biely |
|---|--|--|---|

Gifts Wrappers Needed!!

Calling all volunteers for the 3rd annual gift wrapping extravaganza! We'll continue the tradition on Dec 15 at Appleton's Barnes and Noble store. While we wrap presents for the store's customers, we'll also share a little bit about the Club. Come out and join us if you can.

No experience or expertise needed. If you can tear off a piece of tape, we can use your help. Shifts are three hours in length from 9 am – 10 pm, but we can work with anyone's schedule. Wrapping paper, scissors and tape will be provided. We just need YOU to help! If interested, please contact Diane at dperschbacher1@new.rr.com or 920-216-2159.



Fox Valley Sierra Group 2019 Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for up to four positions. Multiple boxes for joint members.

Mail to - Fox Valley Sierra Group, P.O. Box 124, Neenah, WI 54957
or Bring to the December Meeting

Jo Hjerstedt

I've been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years. In that time I've enjoyed many outings, social events and meetings the club has offered. For the past 6 years I have been able to serve on the Executive Committee. As a board member I have been able to guide the club in our involvement in local and national issues. There is much work still to be done and I would like your support to continue. I believe now is the time to explore, enjoy and protect the environment.

Alan Lawrence

I joined Sierra Club in 1999, with an interest in outings, the meeting topics, and environmental protection. I have served on their board of directors since 2000, and also maintain our website. Since 2003 I have served as the chairperson for the Fox Valley Sierra Group, the regional group of 1600 Sierra Club members in northeastern Wisconsin.

I have always liked the nature, initially enjoying and exploring it, coincidentally two of the words in our club motto, though I didn't know that most of my life. I've never ceased my awe of nature, but these days I find that protecting nature has become the third leg of my involvement. While I have the ability to do something I believe I have the responsibility to try. This is why I am proud to serve on our board and why I am running for another term.

In recent years I've led our organization to stage demonstrations of activism, following leadership encouraged by our national Executive Director. Sometimes protecting nature requires us to be vocal and visible.

Diana Lawrence

I enjoy the outdoors as much as I imagine most Sierran's do. I also very much enjoy indoor activities such as reading by the fire and cross stitching. Education is a central theme in my life and I have been a life-long, curious learner. The chance to learn something new comes everyday if one is open to it. As I have all of my life, if I have a question I try and find some books on the subject and read about it. Today the books are often internet resources as well. In my time for this next executive committee service I would like to bring environmental education and what it takes to protect the environment to a wider audience than we have been able to reach in the last several years.

Will Stahl

Though I joined Sierra Club in 1986, in Illinois, I have only been active since the early 2000's here in Wisconsin. For a number of years, almost since joining the Ex-com, I have served as FVSG delegate to the JMC Executive Committee. I currently serve as the JMC Ex-Com-appointed chapter conservation chair. I hope to continue in those roles. Growing up in rural Illinois, I spent my time walking in the woods, playing in the creek and riding my bike. My idea of a good time hasn't changed much.

Write In _____



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels.

We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Giving's a Breeze. JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Signature _____

| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Special Offer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15 | N/A |
| Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49 |
| Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 |
| Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175 |
| Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35 |
| Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35 |
| Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35 |

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:

Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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Of The John Muir Chapter Of The Sierra Club

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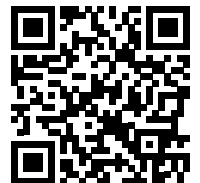
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Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley or find us on Facebook



FVSG web site