



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 22 Issue 2

Fox Valley Sierra Group Meetings

September 8, 2022 - 7:00pm

**Warming and melting,
sagging and flooding:
Climate Change in Alaska**
*Presented by Will Stahl
FVSG board member*

1000 Islands Environmental Center
(1000 Beaulieu Ct. Kaukauna)

October 13, 2022 - 7:00pm

**Using local, state and federal
laws to protect the waters of
North East Wisconsin**
*Presented by Dean Hoeggert from the
Clean Water Action Council*

1000 Islands Environmental Center
(1000 Beaulieu Ct. Kaukauna)

November 10, 2022 - 7:00pm

TBA

Currently we do not have a speaker lined up.
Check for an email, our website
or our facebook page.

December 8, 2022 - 6:00pm

**40th Anniversary
& Holiday Party**

Come celebrate with us. 40 years of Exploring,
Enjoying and Preserving the Planet.

Details to come

www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley

www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra

From the Chair

August 2022 - Penny Paiser-Wilson

Hello everyone. I hope this summer has been treating you and your loved ones well. As we close in on autumn and busy fall schedules, I've got a couple quick reminders for you.

Emails. Some of you may have noticed that emails coming from the Fox Valley group now have a different sender listed. Back in February, the Sierra Club changed email systems so instead of receiving an email directly from me, my emails go to chapter who then sends them to you. This means that you may have to look extra carefully at the sender line before hitting delete to make sure you're not getting rid of important notifications from our local group. Also be sure to check your spam folder in case this system change is causing them to land there instead of your primary folder. Case in point, I sent out two emails leading up to our August picnic. I received an email from one member upset about the late notice because she apparently didn't see the first email and I received another email from someone upset because they received no emails. If you are, in fact not receiving emails from us, please reach out to one of our board members. I do not create the recipient list so this would be an issue I need to take up with the state chapter

Location. Now that the CDC is reducing Covid restrictions, the Fox Valley Sierra group is moving towards more in person activities and meetings. However, as with most things post pandemic, there have been many changes the board is trying to navigate. Some of the venues we have used in the past have not yet opened up to outside groups. Some places are no longer in business and many places have raised their prices or have not yet decided what their pricing is going to be for fall. Please know that the board is working hard to find facilities that are centrally located, offer the accommodations that we need for any given event and are available and within our budget on the dates we need them. Thank you for your understanding.

Voting. If you're anything like me, the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, with its historic investment to address climate change, was a much needed boost to the morale after a number of setbacks we have seen recently. It also highlights the important work we have to do this November. Exercising our right to vote has never been more critical. Please take time to learn about the candidates' positions on environmental and social justice issues. Volunteer for candidates who share your values. Make sure friends and family have a ride to the polls on Election Day and, above all, VOTE.

Have a great rest of your summer and see you soon.

Good food and conversation at the Fox Valley Sierra Group picnic at High Cliff State Park August 8th.



It will make a difference!

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

Explore, Enjoy and Protect

OUTINGS

September 10, Saturday Ice Age Trail Work Trip – Hartman Creek State Park

Help clean and spruce up the trails in the park. Contact Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text/call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com. Late morning to early afternoon.

October 1, Saturday Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon

Every year for many years the Portage Waupaca County Ice Age Trail has been holding a hike-a-thon to raise money to support the efforts to build and maintain trails in the area. Donation required. Details have not been formalized yet but it should be in the lola Winter Sports park area. Check the website, email or facebook for details.

Come on your own or if you want to hike together, contact Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text/call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com. I plan to start hiking at 9:30.

October 15, Saturday Cave Point County Park/Whitefish Dunes State Park, Door County

Let's explore the area and enjoy the fall colors, if we hit it right. It's an excellent vantage point for landscape photography, so bring your camera! Dress for the weather. It can be cold. Will meet at 10:00. Bring lunch. Easy hiking, will hike as much as the group wants. The park is dog friendly.

Sign up by October 12th. Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text/call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

October 20-22, Thurs-Sat Ice Age Trail Work Trip – lola Winter Sports Club

(This is not an official Sierra Club event, it is an Ice Age Trail Alliance event.) Come for the day or entire period. Help create new trail using hand tools. Questions contact Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text/call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com.

The Alliance work trips are rewarding and enjoyable. Camping and some meals are provided. Information and sign up at <https://www.iceagetrail.org/2022-season-at-a-glance/>

Garlic Mustard at High Cliff

There is still Garlic Mustard in the woods at High Cliff. About a dozen of us pulled out some of it on May 7th. We started at the Indian Mound Trail and there wasn't much. Our efforts over the years are paying off. We then found a section in the Forest Management Trail area which had plenty. We made a dent but it will be many years to get a hold on that area.



Garlic Mustards Ecological threat:

- It Invades high-quality upland and floodplain forests and savannas, as well as disturbed areas, such as yards and roadsides. It is sometimes found in full sun, though most often grows in areas with some shade, and does not do well in acidic soils.
- Native herbaceous cover has been shown to decline at sites invaded by garlic mustard.
- Garlic mustard exudes anti-fungal chemicals into the soil that disrupt associations between mycorrhizal fungi and native plants, suppressing native plant growth.

More info at:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/GarlicMustard.html>

Karner Blue Butterfly Hike

On July 17th Rory, Diane, Jo and Monny ventured out to the White River Prairie/Tamaracks State Natural Area west of Green Lake. A nice little hike to explore the prairie flowers, grasses and butterflies. Hopefully to see the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. Rory and Diane went out a few days before and just saw one. On our trip we were lucky and saw at least 40. Rory has lifelong experience with birds, butterflies, animals, plants and nature. He was very informative. As a bonus he saw a Striped Hairstreak Butterfly which was a county record.



In Wisconsin, the Karner blue butterfly usually occupies open barrens, savannas and prairies that contain wild lupine. This plant is widespread in Wisconsin's central and northwest sands, and the pale green caterpillar of the Karner blue feeds exclusively on the leaves of wild lupine.

More info at:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/karner/identification.html>

Fox Valley CAFO's

by Laura Menefee, Fox Valley Group.

CAFOs, or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, continue to proliferate in Wisconsin, which holds 327 factory farms containing 1,000 or more animals, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. After the highest concentration in Manitowoc County with 25 CAFOs, Brown and Kewaunee Counties hold the second and third highest concentrations, respectively, with 23 CAFOs in Brown, 17 in Kewaunee.

One Kewaunee County farm with over 8,000 milking cows is appealing a 2021 Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that would require high-capacity well monitoring and cap animal unit numbers at 11,369. Kinnard Farms states that ruling unfairly hinders its expansion.

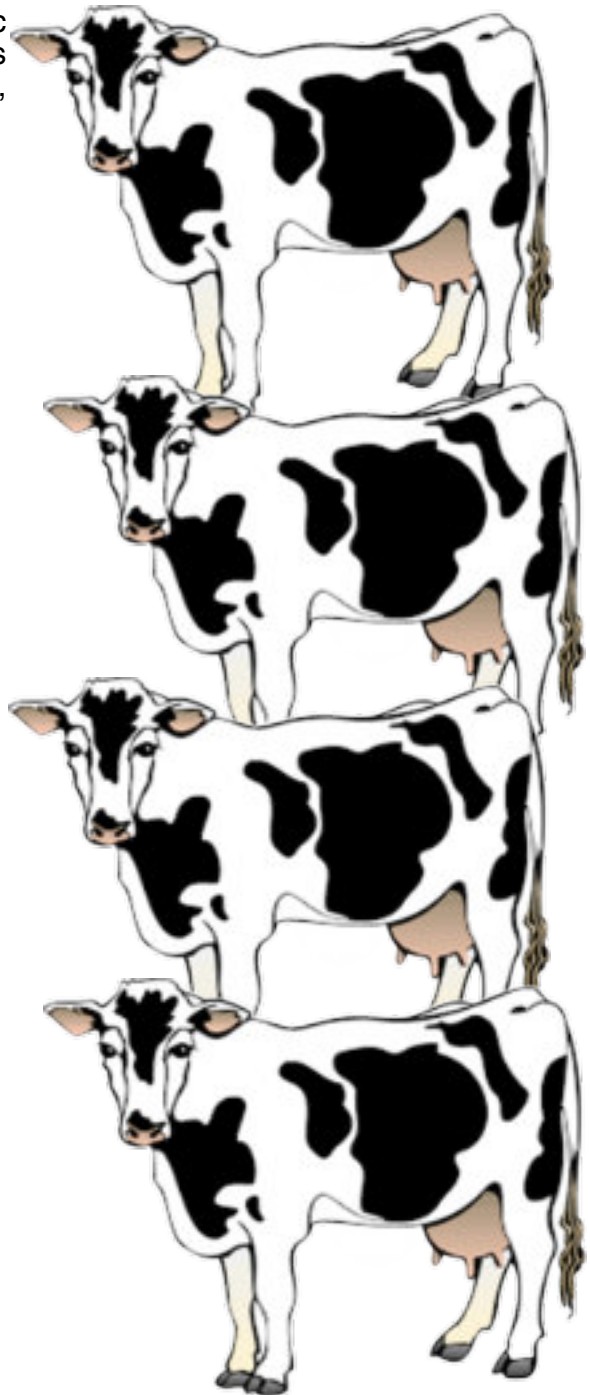
Under current regulations, WDNR neither monitors, nor enforces an animal unit cap, according to Kewaunee Cares, a citizen based group concerned with water quality issues in Kewaunee, as current regulations allow a 10-20% periodic fluctuation in those numbers while calves and "replacement cows" are housed to supplant "downed and dying" animals. Kinnard seeks expansion to 21,450 animal units, or 15,000 cows.

Kewaunee Cares cites "32% of wells tested" in Kewaunee contain unsafe levels of nitrates and other contaminants sourced to manure runoff. The Kinnard operation, alone, generates 103 million gallons of manure and process wastewater and 2,045 tons of solid manure, per its own estimation. That amount would be doubled under the factory farm's proposed expansion.

All of the Kinnard Farms fields in the town of Lincoln are located over Silurian bedrock, lacking the topsoil depth to adequately filter liquid manure contaminants before reaching aquifers.

The 2021 Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling determined regulators can require operating conditions on so-called factory farms, including the monitoring of water quality. Kinnard objects to the ruling on the basis of "higher costs." A WDNR fact sheet states groundwater monitoring data at Kinnard Farms and other CAFOs around the state has found "persistent exceedances of groundwater quality standards for nitrate and bacteria."

Kewaunee residents have been battling water quality issues related to agricultural practices for over a decade. While the case remains in Appeal, the 2021 Wisconsin Supreme Court decision which upholds a previous, 2014 ruling, cannot be implemented.



Archival Collection Digitizer

Do you enjoy organizing and are a history buff? Want to help in some capacity but don't like reaching out to others, or you have an unusual schedule? We have a possible opportunity for you! The Fox Valley Group is 40 years old this year, with a rich history. Along with this history comes four decades of documentation which needs to be digitalized, to better secure the information over time, plus make it available to others in the group. We are looking for volunteers who would like to assist in moving these documents into digital form on our group Google drive.

Interested? You would need access to a scanner and device to place the digital copy into

pre-defined Google drive folders. Examples will be in place for you to follow, and support will be available via text, phone or email if you have questions. We would like people who can dedicate an hour per week to scanning, but you can volunteer based on your schedule. If you are interested, please send us an email at fvsierragroup@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!



Fundraiser Coordinator

The Fox Valley group is looking for someone who is interested in assisting with fundraising activities. The person filling this position will enable the group to continue its educational programs, support local environmental efforts and produce a newsletter which is full of entertaining and educational articles, as well as lists of our upcoming activities. This person will have a wide latitude in researching and initiating fundraising opportunities for the group. Projects we've had in the past include selling items, gift wrapping, rummage sales, chili cook-offs, and use of Chapter grant opportunities to support an environmental issue.

With the support of the group Ex-Com, the coordinator would help put together fundraisers, coordinate volunteers and assist with advertising. Interested? Please send us at email at fvsierragroup@gmail.com.



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. We meet around 10 times a year, with lately being zoom meetings.

We really need your help. Could be program coordinators, outing leaders, newsletter writers, facebook or newsletter editor, fundraising, tracking conservation issues, tabling events, rallying for an issue, host for public meetings, group contact person or your idea.

Contact one of the board members on back page if interested before November 10th. Or email us at fvsierragroup@gmail.com. Elections will be in December.

Fox Valley Sierra Group's anniversaries over the years



The Fox Valley Sierra Group will be celebrating 40 years on December 8th.

If you want to help plan the celebration contact Monny Hjerstedt, Diane Perschbacher
or any other board member.



Fox Valley Sierra Group
Of The Wisconsin Chapter Of The Sierra Club

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Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs
and events by checking out our website at
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or find us on **[facebook.com/foxvalleysierra](https://www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra)**

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