

## Upcoming Programs...

### February 11, 2010 • 7:00 PM • Bat Rehabilitation

Deb Marty from Green Bay rehabilitates bats in the basement of her home. She is affiliated with Bat World Sanctuary, a non-profit organization that provides rescue, rehabilitation, release and sanctuary to injured and orphaned bats. Learn what bats are native to Wisconsin, how Deb cares for them, and why they are so vital to our ecosystem.

### March 11, 2010 • 7:00 PM • Yellowstone Photography

Don Lorenz will take us on a photographic journey through Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Explore the wonders of America's first national park.

### April 8, 2010 • 7:00 PM • Beekeeping

Jay Breyer is a neighbor to Bubolz who probably keeps all of the wildflowers blooming with his bees! A professional beekeeper, the lives and lusts of these busy little creatures are very well known to Jay; and the honey is delicious!

### May 13, 2010 • 7:00 PM • Annual Auction Fundraiser

See page 4 for more details about this fun event.

Programs are held at the wheelchair accessible Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Drive (County A) in Appleton, Wisconsin and are open to the public. Please join us!

<http://www.bubolzpreserve.org/>

## Sierra Club Coffee & Tea

Warm up this winter with Sierra Club fair trade, organic, shade grown coffee and tea. Choose from Custom Blend and French Roast coffee in drip grind and whole bean and four varieties of premium loose tea: Earl Grey, Green, Darjeeling, and Backcountry Berry (Herbal). For sale at our general meetings at Bubolz for only \$8.00!



## Deadline...

for submitting materials for the  
May-July 2010 newsletter is April 10th!

Anyone can submit articles, photos, poems, trip reports, etc.  
Email Kelly at [kellykrupka@yahoo.com](mailto:kellykrupka@yahoo.com)

## Copenhagen, Climate Change and Common Sense Conservation in Wisconsin

by Eric Hansen

The eyes of the world are on the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen – and rightly so. It is a critical moment.

Scientific evidence of catastrophic climate change is steadily accumulating and it is timely to remind ourselves of two fundamental facts. First, all conservation, whether the complex notions of catastrophic global climate change or the familiar concepts of contour plowing, boils down to the common sense goodness of one theme: What we have today we also want to be there for tomorrow. Second, conservation work, forging wide agreements on vital landscape issues, is work Wisconsinites know well – and excel at.

So let's not let complexity become an excuse for complacency here, because the essence of our task is not the technical aspects of climate change but the spiritual aspects of the issue. Our real challenge is developing and sustaining the willpower to meet the immense challenge of climate change, and articulating a credible belief that humans are up to the task.

If we review the notable record of Wisconsin's robust citizen conservation campaigns, we will find considerable evidence that Wisconsinites have found bedrock strength amid conservation crises – and our accomplishments here have direct relevance to the planet-wide issues we face today.

We've done it before and we can do it again.

For example, 40 years ago, in a scene eerily reminiscent of today's climate change controversy, scientists were becoming increasingly concerned about the pesticide DDT. Among other concerns, evidence was mounting that DDT weakens the shells of bird eggs. Hearings were held in Madison, and DDT proponents mounted a brutal counterattack on critics. Citizen pressure grew, logic prevailed and Wisconsin led the nation in effectively banning DDT in 1969 – action followed by a national ban in 1972.

Today, over 2,000 bald eagles opt to raise their families here in Wisconsin – 10 times as many bald eagles as 40 years ago.

Another notable citizen (Continued on page 5)

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## Carpe Diem: Seize the Day

Do you have a passion for energy issues, sustainability, green building, green living, outdoor activities or state and local environmental issues? Then become involved in the Fox Valley Sierra Group as a Board Member or an issue person. Your help is needed! If interested, contact Alan Lawrence at 920-730-9515.

## Paper Discovery Center Learning Events

The Paper Discover Center, 425 West Water Street, Appleton is hosting a series of free learning events the 2nd Monday of the month from 7:00-8:30 PM.

**February 8 – Fox River Water Quality.** Improving Fox River water quality will require work to reduce nutrients and sediment. A soon to issue report will set water quality goals and establish limits from various sources. Erin Hanson from Wisconsin DNR in Green Bay will discuss what tracking has been taking place, why it's important, and what it means for the future.

**March 8 – Sustainability.** Wisely using materials and processes to ensure sustainability of resources, as well as managing organizations in a landscape of inter-dependent systems and cycles, grows in importance, as does the world's population. Paul Linzmeyer, Innovative Sustainability for Organizations, will discuss the challenges, possibilities, and trends.

**April 12 – Pop-Up Book Engineering.** Books are undoubtedly one of the most important uses of paper. To join in the celebration of the Fox Cities 3rd Annual Book Festival, Shawn Sheehy, a paper engineer and teacher in the world of limited-edition trade pop-up books will discuss and demonstrate his passion and skill. Shawn will provide hands-on workshops Su–Tu, 4/11-13, go to: [www.PaperDiscoveryCenter.org](http://www.PaperDiscoveryCenter.org) for details.

## Listen to Nature

*by Perrigoue Ally, Green Bay*

The moon dreams of a place where love conquers every heart.  
The stars dance around the idea of a perfect world, a brand new start.  
Where have they been and where are they going?

The night teaches the lesson of patience, be brave, we can wait.  
When the dawn reminds us of another chance to find our soul mate.  
There's always another way.

The blue sky looks into a future just out of reach,  
While the clouds hover over the white sand beach.  
Where else could you find this kind of peace?

The ocean waves whisper secrets upon the shore.  
The greedy seagulls cry, "I want something more."  
But the only way they get what they want is by opening the closed door.

The fish kisses the coral because it knows everything will be okay.  
The sun chases away the rain creating another beautiful day.  
And the world continues to spin 'round.

## FROM THE CHAIR

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A recent issue of Sierra Club's online newsletter "The Insider" had an article that caught my attention. The January 5 email subject "Is Your Fireplace Trying to Kill You?" stood out because my fireplace *is* killing me. Okay, I correctly assumed the story would probably be about air quality or global warming whereas my personal story was about replacing a broken fireplace.

First, my problem was that our wood burning fireplace had reached the end of its life, a fact made apparent by water dripping into the fireplace. Contractors dashed our hopes that we merely had a rusted chase cover; we needed to replace the unit. Initially we wanted to replace with a similar fireplace; one that was nice to look at and even sometimes use on cooler summer nights, but not especially efficient at heating the house.

Installation of the new fireplace is when things became difficult for us. It became necessary to replace the entire chimney too, thus raising costs and adding delay. The project still isn't finished and we have an ugly and cold hole in the living room wall with a temporary plastic sheet to separate us from the elements.

As the expenses mounted we reconsidered the replacement fireplace. Most of the units on the market appear to be "efficient" models. Tightly sealing doors and an outside air intake vent prevent warm home air from going up the chimney. The doors also keep out the cold drafts when the fireplace is not being used. Wood is efficiently consumed, so less wood is needed for fuel. The consequence is that fireplaces are smaller, have a smaller window, and are probably less interesting to watch.

We learned about EPA approved standards for new fireplaces, and the choice became obvious that we needed one of these instead of what we had. As "The Insider" story puts it: "Old fireplaces and stoves can emit eight times as much dangerous microparticulate matter (i.e. smoke) per hour as new ones that meet the EPA's standards. Old fireplaces and old stoves can emit 60 times as much pollution as super-clean models that exceed EPA standards."

Carbon dioxide is another matter. Wood burning fireplaces do not add new CO<sub>2</sub> to the environment. Gas fireplaces are cleaner burning, but they release CO<sub>2</sub> that has been locked up for millions of years. Global warming is a problem because of the release of ancient CO<sub>2</sub> through the burning of fossil fuels.

Citizens of the world rallied in advance of the United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December with at least two notable events.

On September 21, 2009 there was a special "live" screening to 440 cinemas throughout the United States of a movie called "The Age of Stupid". Appleton was fortunate to be selected. The following day the screening was repeated to another 700 cinemas in 50 countries. The movie featured a man living alone in the devastated world of 2055, looking back at 'archive' footage from 2007 and asking: why didn't we stop climate change when we had the chance? This, on the eve of the UN General Assembly's climate session in New York.

350.org is an organization founded by Bill McKibben, a popular environmental author. His book, *The End of Nature*, published in 1989, is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change. The organization focuses on the number 350, as in parts per million. They say this is the level scientists have identified as the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. For all of human history until about 200 years ago, our atmosphere contained 275 parts per million of CO<sub>2</sub>. It is currently about 390 ppm and rising. This number is higher than any time seen in the recorded history of our planet. 350.org inspired 5281 different rallies around the world on October 24, 2009.

The Copenhagen climate conference recently concluded and many are disappointed that the nations did not unite in efforts to try to avoid global warming's abrupt climate change. "Failure to reach broad agreement in Copenhagen would be morally inexcusable, economically short-sighted and politically unwise," the U.N. Secretary-General said. Our governments still do not believe that this is a serious problem.

Climate change is already happening and is affecting species that are slow to adapt. I recently watched part of a History Channel story about the extinction of dinosaurs. Several theories were discussed, in addition to the asteroid collision theory that many believe. One idea is that the dinosaurs may have already been extinct by the time of the collision. Dinosaurs had been growing larger and more specialized. Diversity was lost. Tree leaf eaters would not be able to successfully forage on roots and small plants when climate changed. The program said that our world is currently facing similar problems. Hundreds of amphibian species, which have survived largely unchanged since before the dinosaur age have gone extinct within the last 25 years.

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

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# Welcome New Members!

## APPLETON

Kenneth Meyers  
Carla Salmon  
Patrick Schwanke  
Kris Stehula  
Richard Goree  
Joy Hagen

## BERLIN

John Lettner  
Jayne Martin

## BRILLION

Ronald Richter

## CRIVITZ

Hugh Frost

## DEPERE

Kelly Collum  
Barbara Shadis

## ELLISON BAY

Joyce Stvan  
**EMBARRASS**  
William Buehrens

## GREEN BAY

Ramona Luedeman  
Jim Parrott

Janet Pelegrin

Feldhaus Ruth  
Adam Schmieder

Kristine Trudell

Mary Winters

Susan Avond

Kymberly Draeger

Bernice Elliot

Brenda Keyser

Sara Loken

## GREEN LAKE

Mary Voga  
**HORTONVILLE**  
George Wojcik

## KAUKAUNA

Connor Geenen

## KESHENA

Robert Rank

## KIMBERLY

Peltier

## MANITOWOC

Loralyn Randall

## MARINETTE

Florence Maurer

## MARION

Janice Hanson

## MENASHA

Charles Kemmeter

Cheryl Clough

## NEENAH

Ivy Minton

Jon Thom

## OCONTO

Linda Safian

Robert Sullivan

## OCONTO FALLS

Nancy Fritz

## OSHKOSH

Gene Drecktrah

Carolyn Hughes

Domenic Bruni

Fredi Giesler

## SHAWANO

Erwin Stenzel

Connie Van Lannen

## SHIOCTON

David Hoberg

## SISTER BAY

John McMahon

## STURGEON BAY

Robert Hohneke

## SUAMICO

Margaret Sumnicht

## SURING

Jane Schmidt

## WAUTOMA

Joel Jarvis

## WILD ROSE

Bob Petrusa

## WINNECONNE

Mary Schneider

## Earth Day ReStore Event

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day on April 24, 2010 at the ReStore, 3000 East College Avenue, Appleton. Once again, the Fox Valley Sierra Group will have a table at this event. Sierra Club greeting cards, coffee beans and tea will be for sale so be sure to stop by! This free community-wide Earth Day celebration will feature exhibitors, educational forums, kid's activities, workshops, local foods and so much more! For more information check out the FVSG's Website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>.

## Annual Auction - May 13th

It's that time again to start thinking about our one and only fundraiser of the year – the annual auction!

On May 13, 2010 enjoy an evening of delicious food, an entertaining live auction, numerous raffle items, great laughs, and so much more!



**Donations of new goods and services for the auction are needed from you to make this evening a success.** Previous "hot sellers" include: art photos, paintings, bike ride and picnic, professional massage, craft projects, yard work, sunset sailing, food specialties, antiques, horseback riding, sporting goods, dinner for two, etc.

Start thinking now about what *you* can donate to our annual auction! More info to come in our next newsletter.



Surprise someone with an  
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Because everyday is Earth Day.



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**Gift Recipient** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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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/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra 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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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(*Conservation continued from page 1*)  
campaign – a 27-year-long saga worthy of a Hollywood epic – protected the Wolf River from an ill-advised metallic sulfide mine proposal near its headwaters at Crandon. Wisconsinites never blinked, and among the mine proponents that decided the grass was greener elsewhere was Exxon, then our planet’s largest corporation.

In 1997, Wisconsin adapted a moratorium on metallic sulfide mining, a process with a notorious history of serious water pollution. With that law in place, the Wolf River continues to run clear and true.

Downstream, around the shores of Lake Winnebago, a commotion erupted in 1977 as that winter’s season for spearing sturgeon through the lake ice proved to be a poor one. The future of the sturgeon was in doubt. Local anglers created Sturgeon for Tomorrow and a pioneering program to aid sturgeon propagation came into being.

Soon the sometimes contentious relationship between local sportsmen and the state Department of Natural Resources became a formidable alliance and a significant shift in public opinion began. A generation ago, snagging sturgeon, against the rules, was considered almost a birthright by some folks. Now it is almost nonexistent, and hundreds of local volunteers guard the sturgeon during their spawning spectacle each spring along the Wolf River.

Today, the 50,000 sturgeon of Lake Winnebago are the largest self-sustaining population of these ancient fish on Earth.

So consider this: To win our campaign against catastrophic climate change we need the foresight and willingness to act on compelling scientific evidence, so evident today as we look back at the DDT story.

We also need the ferocious persistence Wisconsinites exhibited so well during the 27-year-long campaign against metallic sulfide mining.

In addition, the Lake Winnebago sturgeon campaign shows us the community-wide dialogue, and willingness to modify our behavior, that our challenges today call for.

Our Wisconsin history offers one more critical insight: When citizens organize and demand meaningful conservation action, governments move into motion. Copenhagen is important. Even more important though is that citizens here, and around the world, keep up the pressure for solutions.

Finally, let’s check the numbers. I believe author Bill McKibben is spot on when he says 350 is the most important number in the world. It is the carbon dioxide parts per million in the atmosphere that we have to get back to – to have any chance of maintaining the good life on Earth. We are at 390 now.

Isn’t the concept of 350 the same thing as when we list five bass as the daily bag limit? Didn’t we adopt fish and game regulations because they were necessary to protect a threatened resource?

Now we are seeing the urgent wisdom of a similar planet-wide agreement. The 350 level is what we need, the level for sustainability, what

we must push for.

This is work we know how to do. If we act wisely now, what we have today will still be there tomorrow, both for ourselves and for generations to come.

*Eric Hansen of Milwaukee is an award-winning writer and the author of “Hiking Wisconsin” and “Hiking Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.”*

Eric Hansen will be a  
pulpit guest for the  
Green Bay Area  
Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship on  
March 14th at 10 AM.

His theme will be  
“Responding to the  
Crisis of Catastrophic  
Climate Change”.

1641 Commanche Ave.  
Green Bay, WI 54313  
[www.greenbayuu.org](http://www.greenbayuu.org)

## Ice Age Trail Alliance Membership Drive

*by Darrel Ruechel – FVSG Ice Age Trail Coordinator*

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA), the state organization overseeing the entire Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin, has kicked off a big membership drive in 2010. In recent years the IATA has had about 3,000 members. IATA feels 3,000 members is a respectable number for a statewide membership organization; however, they’ve set a goal to grow the organization. Their goal is 5,000 members by the end of 2010. Whether members are hikers, volunteers, landowners, or supporting members, all have a common bond – a passion for the trail and realizing its community and geologic importance in Wisconsin.

The IATA partners with the National Park Service, the Wisconsin DNR, local units of government, and busi-

nesses and volunteers from around the state to expand and maintain the Ice Age Trail. This trail works to preserve Wisconsin’s glacial heritage through the development of the Ice Age National and State Scenic Trail. The Fox Valley Sierra Group has a long history of assisting with the maintenance of the trail.

To become an Ice Age Trail member, the annual membership is \$25 for students and senior citizens with various other membership categories beginning at \$35. There are numerous Ice Age Trail chapters throughout the state, and members generally affiliate themselves with chapters such as the Lakeshore Chapter in north-east Wisconsin or the Portage County, Waupaca County, or Waushara County Chapters. If you wish to become a member, checks can be made payable to the Ice Age Trail Alliance and mailed to IATA, 2110 Main St., Cross Plains, WI 53528. For more information, visit the Ice Age Trail Alliance website at [www.iceagetrail.org](http://www.iceagetrail.org).

# NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

## Brillion Brillion

### February 4 & 6 - Thursday & Saturday

**Smalls and Talls\*: Hibernators, Awake!** 10:30-11:30 AM. Learn what hibernation entails and the risks involved then go on a short snowshoe hike. Cost: \$3/child-members, \$5/child-non-members.

### March 27 - Saturday

**Maple Syrup Camp.** 10-3. Observe maple tree tapping, collect sap, learn some methods of boiling sap to make maple syrup, and sample the finished product over ice cream. Program is weather dependent. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Donations appreciated.

### April 8 & 10 - Thursday & Saturday

**Smalls & Talls\*: Water, Water Everywhere.** 10:30-11:30 AM. Experiment with water in its 3 different states: solid, liquid and gas. Learn about the water cycle and why it's important to keep natural bodies of water clean. Cost: \$3/child-members, \$5/child-non-members.

### April 10 - Saturday

**Annual Spring Banquet.** 5:00-cocktails, 6:30-dinner. Admission includes BNC membership, dinner, door prize, live & silent auctions. Learn more about the mission and programs of BNC. Help support environmental education and conservation at this fun-filled event at Cobblestone Creek on Hwy 10 in Brillion. Call 756-3591 for tickets.

### April 24 - Saturday

**Froggie Went A-Courtin'.** 9:30-11 AM. Learn to identify native frogs by sight and sound. Then take a hike out to the pond to look and listen for amphibians. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Members/Free, Non-members/\$1-individual or \$3-household.

*\*Small & Talls programs are designed for Adults & Pre-school age children to participate together.*

## Bubolz Appleton

### February 6 - Saturday

**Frosty Winter Fun Clinic for Girls (Age 6-12).** 9-11 AM. Learn how to snowshoe, make snow sculptures, make a snowflake and discover how animals stay warm in the winter. Cost: \$5/child, Free/adults. Pre-registration & payment required, no refunds. Limited number of snowshoes, register early! **17th Annual Adopt-A-Bucket.** 11-3. Decorate a sap bucket with your favorite design. Have your picture taken with your bucket before heading to the sugarbush to meet the sapmeister, assist in tapping a maple and hang your bucket to catch sap. Then enjoy ice cream with fresh maple syrup as a topping! All this, plus an 8 oz. jar of maple syrup to take along, Costs \$15/bucket for members; \$20/bucket for nonmembers.

### March 13 - Saturday

**Carry All Basket Weaving Workshop.** 9-1. This basket is woven with natural reed and has a filled bottom and two swing handles. When the basket is finished, you can add a fabric liner that

can be changed for the season or a room. The base measures 14x9" and is about 4 1/2" high. Bring a lunch! Pre-registration & payment by March 2. Cost: \$40/ non-member; \$35/member.

### March 20 - Saturday

**29th Annual Maple Syrup Saturday and Pancake & Porkie Breakfast.** Tour our sugarbush and visit the sugar shack to see how sap is made into syrup. Then enjoy a delicious treat of our own maple syrup on ice cream. Cost for Tour only (10-3): \$10/family, \$3/adult, \$2/seniors & students, Free/Members. Cost for Breakfast (9:30-11) & Tour: \$5/Adults, \$4/Children age 4-12 & Seniors(55+). Reservation required for breakfast.

### April 28 - Wednesday

**Morning Spring Bird Walk.** 8:30-10 AM. Take a leisurely stroll through the prairie, meadow and white cedar swamp looking for migrating bird species. Meet at the nature center building, bring binoculars, walking shoes, and bug repellent. Cost: \$2/nonmembers, Free/members.

## Heckrodt Menasha

### February 27 & 28 - Saturday & Sunday

**Feed the Birds.** 1-3 PM. Learn about bird feeding and make a wooden bird feeder to take home. Cost: \$10/bird feeder made - groups are welcome to work on one feeder. Preregistration and prepayment are required. Print registration materials at [www.heckrodtwetland.com](http://www.heckrodtwetland.com).

### March 13 - Saturday

**Heckrodt Wetland Reserve will exhibit at the Fox Rocks Mineral, Gem, and Fossil show at UW Fox Valley.** 10-5 @ UW Fox Valley. Learn about the importance of rocks as habitat for our Wisconsin critters. There will also be jewelry making, stone polishing, diamond hunters, and so much more. A great FREE family event!

### April 24 - Saturday

**Dirt Day Rumble!** 1-3 PM. Make a dirt craft, dig in the dirt, and stomp in the swamp. Also sample some dirt dessert and grimy grog. Cost: \$5/child. Advanced registration and prepayment required. After March 1st, print registration materials at [www.heckrodtwetland.com](http://www.heckrodtwetland.com).

## Ledgeview Chilton

### February 6 - Saturday

**Winter Family Fun Day.** 10-3. Horse-drawn sleigh rides and snowman-building contest all day; quanzi-making at 10:30; snowshoe relay racing at 11 & 1. Snow required for this event; call to confirm it. Cost: \$3/person, \$5/family.

### February 13 - Saturday

**Dog Sled Demo & Rides.** 9-11:30 AM. Learn about the history of Siberian huskies and the sport of dog-sledding. Assist with the harnessing process in preparation for riding. Program is indoors and out; snow not necessary. Cost: \$3/person (no ride); \$5/person includes ride.

### March 13 - Saturday

**Backyard Maple Syruping.** 1 PM. Learn how to identify a tree, ways to tap and collect the sap, and a processing method for storage using common household equipment. Cost: \$3/person.

### March 27 & 28 - Saturday & Sunday

**Re-Enactors Encampment.** 9-4:30. Enjoy living history as re-enactors portray life from the 1780s-1880s. Fur-trading camp, crafting demos & more. Free. **Maple Syrup Sunday.** 9-4. Tap a maple tree, collect sap, learn the history of how it becomes syrup, and enjoy the taste of pure maple syrup on pancakes. Breakfast (9-1): \$6 age 13 and up; \$3 age 12-6; younger FREE.

### April 3 - Saturday

**Natural Egg Dyes.** 1 PM. Learn how you can make natural dyes for Easter eggs, and then do some egg-dyeing. Bring your own hard-boiled eggs. Limit: one dozen. Cost: \$2

## Mosquito Hill New London

Visit [www.mosquotohill.com](http://www.mosquotohill.com) for more details.

### February 20 & 21 - Saturday & Sunday

**Winter Camping.** \$50/adults, \$40/students 14-17, seniors, FOMH.

### February 27 - Saturday

**Willow Basketry.** 8:30-4. Cost: \$39/person, \$34/FOMH. Registration & payment due Feb. 19. **Pruning Shade Trees: Beyond the Basics.** 10:30-4. Cost: \$20/adults, \$17/seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due February 25.

### March 13 - Saturday

**Landscaping with Native Plants.** 1-2:30 PM. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment are due March 7.

### March 20 - Saturday

**Build Your Own Rain Barrel.** 1-3 PM. Cost: \$45/adults, \$40/students, seniors & FOMH. Registration and payment due March 6.

### April 10 - Saturday

**Rain Gardening Workshop.** 1-2:30 PM. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3.50/students, seniors & FOMH. Registration and payment due April 1.

### April 23 - Friday

**Newstar Astronomy.** 8 PM. Cost: \$3/adults, \$2/students, seniors, FOMH. Register by April 20.

### April 24 - Saturday

**Taming Backyard Invasives.** 1:30-3:30 PM. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3.50/students, seniors & FOMH. Register by April 15.

*The aforementioned activities are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.*



## A Beaver Tale

by Allan J. Mortensson

The beaver flapped her tail that day to warn of my encroaching,  
It seems this was her favorite spot, and I her peace was broaching.

I heard the water-leaking dam, ahead as I drew near;  
The stream inflow matched the out go – she's one great engineer.

What once was just an aspen groove in a narrowing valley  
Had now become many pointed stumps, too numerous to tally.

A ten inch tree – in six minutes, felled in her dining galley,  
Followed with gnaws to make log lengths to float down dam build alley.

And logs dragged to that narrow place, plus rocks – while on her belly,  
Are joined with interlocking sticks and grass – it is no time to dally.

From dusk to dawn the job goes on – there is no need for coaching;  
It's – gnaw, gnaw, gnaw and build, build, build – there is no need for loafing.

Inside the pond a tepee stands, a lodge of peeled sticks:  
It's linked with rocks and turf and stuff to make a mighty mix.  
This lodge – with an underwater door, and a nest to coexist,  
Is home to this buck-toothed wonder – she's one great "wetland" fix.

A place for frogs and fish and ducks – a pond for this whole clan;  
Where beavers feed on leaves and bark, their substitute for spam.  
An osprey builds a nest above – a place to take command,  
And do a bit of fishing with a claw used as a hand.

The mild day silence continues on, inside her lodge she's resting,  
Besides her mate, two years of kits, with whines her nerves are testing.

The kits play at imitation in a rivulet 'neath the dam;  
Their blockages like the real thing, thus they proclaim "I am".  
After two short years the older kits are no longer in the plan,  
The they say goodbye forever, with a silent, "thank you, 'mam".

The bears, the wolves and coyotes slyly visit at the dam;  
They're all her natural predators, but not as bad as man.  
(Let's hope they let the beavers be, for I'm their greatest fan).  
Some day the aspen will be gone, then they will leave this land.

So flap your tail just one more time, before you take your leave,  
'Cause I've enjoyed your wondrous tale, it's not a time to grieve.



## Snowshoe and Cross Country Ski Events

### Sundays in February

**Guided Snowshoe Hike at Ledgeview, Chilton.** 1 PM. Learn how to use snowshoes, and then we're off to find out what's going on in that quiet white world. Hike lasts 1-2 hours. A boot hike will be led if there's not enough snow. Cost: \$5/person (includes rental).

### February 2 - Tuesday

**Beginner Cross Country Ski Instruction at Bubolz, Appleton.** 10-11 AM. Pre-registration and payment required. Have you always wanted to try cross country skiing? Here's your chance. Ski instructors will be on-hand to take you through the basic steps necessary to learn how to ski. After instructions, you will have an opportunity to practice on the Preserve's beautiful groomed trails. Cost: \$10/person (includes skis, boots, & poles)

### February 6 - Saturday

**Candlelight Snowshoe Walk at Mosquito Hill, New London.** 6:30-9 PM. Registration and payment due ASAP. Cost: \$8/adults, \$5/students, seniors, FOMH or \$25/family.

### February 19 - Friday

**Moonlight Ski & Snowshoe Hike at Bubolz, Appleton.** 6-9 PM. Bring the whole family out for an enjoyable ski or hike under the moonlight on the Preserve's cross-country ski and winter hiking trails. Over 1 1/2 miles of trail will be illuminated by candlelight. Flashlights or headlamps are recommended. Ski rentals are available at a special rate of \$5. Snowshoes rentals are \$3.50. Trail fee for non-members with their own equipment is \$3. Food & beverages will also be available for a small fee. The trails will be lit for hiking if not enough snow to ski.

### February 20 - Saturday

**Winter Snowshoe Hike at Brillion Nature Center.** 1-2:30 PM. Look at the wonders of winter as we search for evidence of active wildlife and enjoy the signs of the season. Register in advance. Snowshoe rental: Members/\$3, Non-Members/\$5.

### Guided Evening Snowshoe Hike at Ledgeview, Chilton.

6:30 PM. Evening activities at the nature center are special because they are so rare: normally the park closes at dusk. On this night visitors are invited to take a naturalist-guided snowshoe hike. Learn some constellations and warm up with hot cider in the nature center afterward. Dress for the weather. Call ahead for snow conditions. Cost: \$5/person.

### February 21 - Sunday

**Leave No Family Inside: Snowshoeing for Families at Mosquito Hill, New London.** 12:30-3 PM. Registration & payment due Feb. 10. \$6/individual, \$10/family.

## Save the Date...

The first **Winnebago Pool Lakes Conference** will be held from 9:00-4:00 on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Coughlin Center, Cty Road Y, Oshkosh. Whether you are a local leader, a member of a conservation group, or an individual who resides on, recreates, benefits from, or simply enjoys our lakes, the Winnebago Pool Lakes Conference will cover issues affecting you. Learn about what is currently happening on our lakes and influence what may happen to our waterways in the future. This conference is free and open to the public. To RSVP, email your name and number attending to: [info@winnebagolakes.org](mailto:info@winnebagolakes.org)

Fox Valley Sierra Group  
of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

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# It's Our Nature

## FVSG WINTER & SPRING OUTINGS

*Please join us on one of our outings this winter! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts and see some of Wisconsin's most beautiful places. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings at Bubolz or contact the outings leader directly. After you contact a trip leader, they will provide you with the trip details.*

### February 4, Thursday Evening

**Starlight Ski/Snowshoe on Green Bay.** After a couple years of uncooperative weather, let's try again! Bring snowshoes or skis, dress for the weather, and meet at Maureen's at 6:00PM. We'll venture out on the Bay under the stars. (flashlights or headlamps are helpful). Conditions permitting, we can explore the zebra mussel shell deposits that are forming dunes along the shore. A crackling fire and chili supper will warm us after. \$3 donation for chili. BYOB. Please call by Monday, February 1 for directions and so I know how much chili to make. *Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252.*

### February 21, Sunday

**Cross Country Ski at Point Beach State Park.** We will meet at the State Park parking area. An admission fee is charged if you do not have a State Park sticker. Bring your own equipment and water. *Charlie Paine, 920-739-1900, chasp@ntd.net.*

### February 26-28, Friday-Sunday

**Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe the ABR and Wolverine Trails near Ironwood, MI.** ABR has easy to moderate trails and provides lessons and rental equipment. Wolverine has more challenging trails. Both have warming shelters and classic and skate trails. Lodging is in the historic town of Montreal at "The Inn," the former headquarters of the Montreal Mining

Co. From our B&B hosts, learn about the history of Montreal, the company, and nearby Hurley, WI. Good trip for families or solo travelers as there are suites and lofts available. Cost: about \$45/person/night (2 night min.) plus trail fees, lunch and dinners out. \$90 deposit. Sign-up by Feb. 15. *John & Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715-853-6625 (cell), 920-721-5431 (work).*

### March 6, Saturday

**Winter Hike at 1,000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna.** Enjoy views of the Fox River as we wander our way through the woods and learn about the eagles that nest there. After our hike we'll go out for pizza lunch at Plum Hill Cafe just down the road. *Kelly Krupka, 920-540-9139.*

### April 25, Sunday

**Hike a Section of the Ice Age Trail in the Hartman Creek State Park Area.** Details to be determined later, but plan to hike 2-3 hours. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy hiking shoes, bring a trail lunch and water. Along the way we will look for evidence of glaciation and learn a little about how this landscape was formed. *Charlie Paine, chasp@ntd.net, 920-739-1900.*

*Times and meeting locations of outings can change. Always check with a trip leader at least 24 hours before the outing. Upon arrival all participants must sign a Release of Liability form. To read a copy of the waiver, visit: wisconsin.sierraclub.org In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.*



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