



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 10 Issue 4

## PROGRAMS

**November 11, 2010 • 7:00PM**

### *The Cost of Cheap and the Future*

Environmental Engineer, Mark Dawson, will talk about the cost of cheap food and services, and how we must protect what we have left for the future. This will be a controversial talk about the real cost of some of the short cuts we are taking. Mark will also talk about his straw bale house, and the use of solar, wind and geothermal power.

**December 9, 2010 • 7:00PM**

### *Annual Holiday Social*

Please Bring-

- Dish To Pass
- Your Own Beverage
- Your Own Place Setting
- Money Donation To Bubolz Nature Preserve
- White Elephant Gift  
(A gift from your home that you no longer want. Do *NOT* buy a gift: recycle one!  
Wrap your gift in a recycled grocery bag)
- Good Spirits & A Friend

**January 13, 2011 • 7:00PM**

### *Travels in British Columbia*

Don Lorenz goes to interesting places at times when you or I would normally be asleep and gets great pictures. Great spectacular photos of the flora, fauna and wildlife of British Columbia.

**February 10, 2011 • 7:00PM**

### *Wildlife Rehabilitation*

Rebekah Weiss from the from Aves Wildlife Alliance who specializes in birds will give a presentation on rehabilitation. Great program for children and adults with live animals and birds.

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Programs are held at the wheelchair accessible Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Drive (County A) in Appleton, Wisconsin and are free and open to the public. Please join us!  
<http://www.bubolzpreserve.org/>

*Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet*

## GET INVOLVED!

- *Come to a Meeting* •
- *Join Us on an Outing* •
- *Become a Board Member* •

Our Fox Valley Sierra Group is governed by a board of directors. Our charter says that we have 13 board member positions, that board members serve three-year terms, and that elections are staggered so that one third of the positions are filled annually.

We like to have elections for these positions each December, for terms beginning in January. But we need candidates. Some years, and this is one of those years, there are fewer candidates than we have positions for, and it makes no sense to hold an election.

The board of directors, also called the executive committee (ExCom), can approve board members. This is done when we do not hold elections, or when we have the opportunity to fill vacant positions during the year.

There are four board members with terms expiring in December.

Chris Nehrbass (our board secretary)

Sally Peck (our treasurer)

Rich Krieg (our outings chairperson)

Kelly (Krupka) Ramstack (formerly our newsletter editor and fundraising chairperson)

Kelly recently married and moved to Manawa. She is stepping down from her big responsibilities with our group. She deserves thanks from all of us for the wonderful work and leadership that she has provided for the past decade or so.

Rachel Anderson needed to resign from our board recently so that she could be a college student in Stevens Point. Rachel had served as our membership chairperson for several years, while juggling jobs and classes. Her unique activities were a movie night in DePere and organizing a Green Bay event to turn parking lots into parks one Sunday morning. Thank you Rachel for your service and leadership.

We have several vacant board member positions that need to be filled. If you can serve our group in this capacity please contact any board member or Alan Lawrence at [alan\\_lawrence99@yahoo.com](mailto:alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com). Our board meets ten times a year at locations determined by its members. Typically this means meeting at our homes with light snacks for some lively discussions and planning.

## WE NEED YOU!

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## Open Positions

Hospitality  
Fundraising

# Local Sierra Club News Opinions

By Alan Lawrence

As chairperson of our group I am sometimes contacted by the media to offer opinions.

In August the Green Bay Press-Gazette inquired about air quality issues from coal power. I referred the reporter to Jennifer Feyerherm, the director of Wisconsin's Clean Energy Campaign for Sierra Club.

She said any impact to consumers should not be looked at as rising costs.

"I don't see it as energy costs going up; I see it as a true reflection of the actual cost of coal," Feyerherm said. "If you're going to put more soot and smog in the air and you're going to cause illnesses such as asthma, respiratory illnesses and heart disease, then you're going to have to pay the costs of that. Tighter regulations that lead to reduced emissions will save us billions of dollars in health care costs and give us a nice, safe, clean place to live."

More than 75 percent of energy produced in Wisconsin is generated by outdated coal-fired power plants with no modern emission reduction technology in place, she said.

In early September the Appleton Post-Crescent wanted me to comment on statements from the Wisconsin Paper Council claiming new air emission rules could cost 7,500 paper industry jobs and close 11 mills in Wisconsin.

Speaking for myself (and not for our organization) I said don't believe good air quality regulations have to hurt jobs or company profits. "Industry likes to overstate the cost of complying with these regulations. The real costs are seldom as expensive as business claims they will be. Meantime, the cost of failing to protect the environment is almost always much higher than business wants to admit," I said, citing the Fox River's PCB cleanup as a prime example.

I also found this Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) information for the reporter, and it was reported in the article:

The EPA said new regulations will yield more than \$120 billion in annual health benefits in 2014, far outweighing the annual cost of compliance with the proposed rules, which it pegged at \$2.8 billion in four years. The EPA said among the benefits are the avoidance of 240,000 cases of aggravated asthma and 21,000 cases of acute bronchitis, and 1.9 million days when people miss school or work due to ozone- and particle pollution-related symptoms.

# White-Nose Syndrome in Bats

By Diana Lawrence, FVSG Conservation Chairperson

For at least the last year I have been aware of a disease of cave bats called White-Nose Syndrome. Mostly the disease was affecting cave bats in the Eastern United States and Canada and it was not top of mind for me. However, now the disease is on our doorstep and our local bats are at serious risk. The disease causes bats to have erratic behavior that causes them to fly around during the day, missing their meals, and to have lower core body temperatures leading to low body fat and eventually premature death. While some people would say good riddance to the ugly little things, bats are ecologically very important to people. They consume large amounts of mosquitoes and other pests like cucumber beetles which are a problem for food crops like corn. Cave bats can also roost in attics, barns and bridges.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is having Public Hearings throughout the state in October to put four species of Wisconsin cave bats on a threatened species list due to the disease. The four species are the little brown bat, big brown bat, northern long-eared bat and the eastern pipistrelle. The changes to the Administrative Code would also add the fungus itself, *Geomyces destructans*, as an invasive species making it subject to invasive species rules.

The fungus is known to be within 225-300 miles of Wisconsin's northern and southern borders. The dispersal pattern of the little brown bat is 280 miles making the disease within easy reach for some of them. The expected arrival time of the disease in Wisconsin is January 2011. The bat population could literally be exterminated from Wisconsin in a very short period of time. In some parts of the United States 90% to 100% of cave bat populations have died.

One easy way for the average person or spelunker to help control the spread of the fungus is to not wear the same clothing from cave to cave or roosting areas. Some caves, such as Mammoth Caves in Kentucky are enforcing that clothing worn in a cave outside the local cave system is not permissible in their cave.

Bats, while not so cute, are a precious ecological resource that is threatened by a little understood disease. I hope that people support the DNR's decision to put the bats on a threatened species list and we take care not to unknowingly spread the disease by wearing the same clothes from cave to cave or roosting area.

# FROM THE CHAIR

October 2010, By Alan Lawrence

Sometimes the difference between exhilaration and exhaustion is a fine line. In early October my wife, Diana, and I took a vacation, driving to Virginia to visit with my parents. Originally we hoped to camp along the way and take interesting detours, but time was a limiting factor. We managed to spend most of a day hiking Old Rag Mountain in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. I grew up in northern Virginia and have hiked, backpacked, and camped on that mountain many times, though my last visit was more than ten years ago. I eagerly enjoyed my reunion with this mountain. Diana also enjoyed it, but it was exhausting to her as she feared the limitations of her body and the descriptions she had read and heard about the unknown steeper side of the mountain.

I suspect that our different knowledge of the mountain made for most of the difference between my exhilaration and Diana's exhaustion, since it was the same mountain for both of us.

I think it can be argued that the difference between those who love and care for the environment, and those who don't, is often just our knowledge and experience of nature. This reminds me of the first point in the Sierra Club mission statement, "Explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth." People will only protect what they love.

An automobile trip out East always reminds me how big our country is. There were many miles to travel and many hours were required. Most of the trip was done on busy highways among thousands of other motor vehicles. Wide highways had carved and landscaped the terrain. Untold quantities of paving materials had been used, coming from quarries and using tar and cement. We used lots of gasoline; unimaginable amounts were used by all the traffic we encountered. And huge sections of road were under construction.

Although it is efficient for automobiles and trucks to drive on good highways it still bothers me how badly these highways damage the land. Many of the scars will never heal. One example is Sidling Hill in Maryland. A 340 foot deep notch was excavated for Interstate 68 exposing 810 feet of strata in a tightly folded syncline. It is beautiful. But what did this massive cut do to underground aquifers? The rock was deposited 330 to 345 million years ago and it feels wrong to disturb it so badly.

We passed a number of rock quarries, including Thorton Quarry just south of Chicago. It is huge, deep, and impressive. The interstate highway crosses through the middle on a 200 foot high land dike. Buildings, roadways, and shorelines use a lot of rock and gravel.

But the worst damage is mountaintop removal. Mountaintop removal is a radical form of coal mining in which entire mountains are literally blown up. You really need to do a web search for "mountaintop removal" since the subject is larger than I can begin to do justice to.



Interstate 68, 340 foot deep notch in Sliding Mountain, Maryland



Thorton Quarry just south of Chicago

Every day, mountaintop removal mines use more explosive power than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, according to the websites. It is utterly destructive and dirty. It ruins the local economies. Entire mountains may be destroyed to harvest relatively thin seams of coal. It is entirely immoral. And yet, America consumes a lot of coal.

In June actress Ashley Judd was keynote speaker at the National Press Club luncheon. She denounced the mining practice and urged that more attention be paid to its impact on people living in and around the devastation.

"I am here to tell you, mountaintop removal coal mining simply would not happen in any other mountain range in the United States. It is utterly inconceivable that the Smokies would be blasted, the Rockies razed, the Sierra Nevadas flattened, that bombs the equivalent to Hiroshima would be detonated every single week for three decades. The fact that the Appalachians are the Appalachians makes this environmental genocide possible and permissible."

Judd also made a point regarding tourism and how states practicing mountaintop removal are losing valuable future revenue.

"The Smokey Mountains, as the crow flies, not so far away, generated a billion dollars in tourism revenue last year for the state of Kentucky. Using shovels the size of buildings, the essential ingredients of deep time is pushed into the lauded and mythical hollers of Appalachia, indiscriminately burying all that is produced and lives there: watershed, perennial and permanent streams, all plant and wildlife, contaminating the ground water in the process."

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

Alan Lawrence, 920-730-9515 or alan\_lawrence99@yahoo.com

# KELLY'S KITCHEN

## Adjusting to Country Living

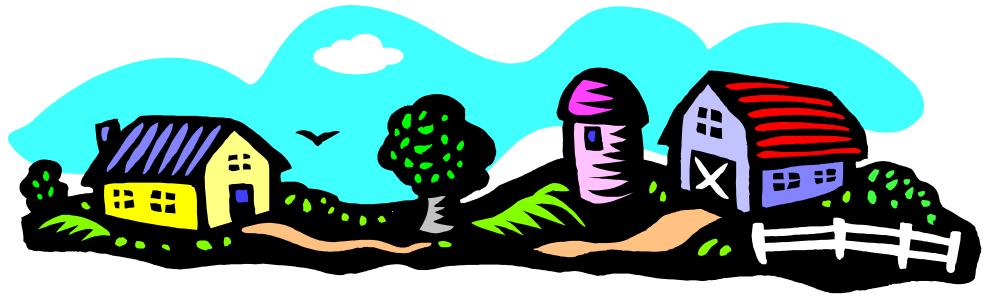
My life has changed drastically in the past few months; I sold my house, got married, and moved to the country. I've lived in small cities my whole life and was brought up camping, hiking, fishing and canoeing. While I have an appreciation for the outdoors, I understand now that I am, by no means, a country girl. Don't get me wrong, I love living in the country; it's just different. This is what I've learned so far about country living:

- You can't get a queen-sized bed up an old farmhouse stairway.
- There are monsters in the corn, I swear. And one of these mornings when I take the garbage out, they're going to get me.
- 80mph winds can rip a door off the barn.
- Twenty minutes: the amount of time it takes for the Fire Department to arrive when your silo might be on fire.
- Cows bite. Hard!
- When the power goes out, you can't flush the toilet. No power = no well pump. (This one was a real eye-opener for someone who's had city water their whole life.)
- The barn is cleaned (of manure) in the morning. In other words, don't hang your clothes out on the line until after noon unless you want to SMELL like you live in the country.

So far, every week of country living has brought it's own set of challenges. But then there are those moments that make me never want to see another city like how early in the morning, wispy fog rests on top of the farm fields before the sun burns it away. Or an autumn storm that turns the sky black but a few rays of sunlight sneak through and make the cornfields glow as if gilded in gold. Or night skies so clear and dark that the pinks and purples of galaxies delight the eye.

Autumn is a great time to fall in love with just about any place but winter is quickly approaching. If you're anything like me, you've squirreled away some vegetables to help get you through the cold months ahead. Hopefully you have a few butternut squash left to make a pot of my delicious, creamy soup.

*Kelly Ramstack lives in the country near Manawa, Wisconsin with her husband, border collie, and a handful of mischievous barn cats. To read about more of her adventures, visit Kelly's blog at <http://adventureswithkelly.blogspot.com>.*



## Butternut Sage Soup (serves 4-6)

2 butternut squash, roasted and peeled  
2 Tbsp. olive oil  
1/2 C. onion, diced  
1/2 C. carrots, diced  
1/4 C. celery, diced  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1 Tbsp. fresh sage, minced  
4 C. vegetable broth  
1 C. heavy cream  
1/4 C. honey  
pinch cinnamon

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cut squash in half lengthwise and scoop out seeds. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place cut side down on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake for 50-60 minutes or until squash is tender. Scrape pulp out of the skins and set aside. (Roasting the squash can be done the day before.)

In a 5 or 6-quart stock pot, heat oil over medium heat. Saute onions, carrots, celery and garlic until onions are translucent, about 4-6 minutes. Add squash and sage and saute for 2 minutes.

Add broth and simmer for 15-20 minutes. Finish with heavy cream, honey and cinnamon. Cream soup with an immersion blender or puree until smooth in a blender.

## Follow FVSG on Facebook and Twitter

The Fox Valley Sierra Group is now on Twitter and Facebook! Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events. On Facebook, search for "Fox Valley Sierra Group" then become a fan. Find us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FVSierraClub>.

## DEADLINE

for submitting materials for the  
Feb - mid April newsletter is Jan 9!

Anyone can submit articles, photos,  
poems, trip reports, etc.

Email Monny Hjerstedt at [mhjerstedt@tds.net](mailto:mhjerstedt@tds.net)

# FVSG WINTER OUTINGS

Get outside and 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.

Contact the trip leader; they will provide you with the trip details and any changes. Additional outings information may be available at the FVSG website. <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley>

## January 8, Saturday

**Cross Country Ski.** We will be skiing at the Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay. Hot apple cider will be served afterward!! Rich Krieg 920-660-3557

## January 14-17, Friday-Monday

**X-C Ski Afterglow Lake Resort** trip, Phelps, WI, in the Wisconsin snow belt. We have the coveted MLK weekend reservations at this family run resort. Stay for three nights, ski for 4 days! The Afterglow Lake Resort is located 18 miles north of Eagle River, WI. They have a website for more information. We have half a duplex type cabin reserved. There are 3 bedrooms (2 double beds and 2 bunks.) a wood burning fireplace and full kitchen. Skiing is available right at the resort. Both diagonal/classic and skating tracks are available, and separate snowshoe trails. Trails are excellently maintained; the owner prides himself on his grooming. There are no trail fees for resort guests. There are other trails in the area, if you wish to venture farther. Tubing and ice-skating are also available for those who are interested, as well as a whirlpool and a sauna. And a hole in the water for the polar plunge for the daring! Blankets and pillows provided; bring sheets or sleeping bags, towels. Food, etc: Bring your own breakfasts and lunches. Friday Night: On your own. Eat in, or there is a supper club in Phelps and several in nearby (12 miles) Land 'O Lakes also. Check in and see who would like to go where. Saturday Night: wine/beer and cheese tasting first, then Pot Luck! Leader will provide lasagna. Please bring something that goes with it, like salad or bread and bring your own wine/beer/beverage and cheese for sharing. Sunday Night: Leftovers or do-what-you-want night. Lodging costs are about \$120 per person for all three nights. Non-refundable (unless we are able to replace you) Deposit of \$100 due to reserve your spot. This trip fills up fast, since we have just one cabin. There is the option of "overflow lodging" at a reasonably priced motel in Phelps- info upon request. Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252.

## February 17, Thursday

**Starlight Ski/Snowshoe on Green Bay.** It's become an annual Green Bay event (almost). We'll venture out on the Bay, under the stars. (Flashlights or headlamps are helpful). We could have a full moon this year, if it's not cloudy. Bring snowshoes or skis, dress for the weather. We hug the shore, where the water is shallow. 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 & "fixin's", BYOB. Please call by Monday, February 14, so I know how much chili to make. Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252



*Darrel Ruechel, Diana Lawrence and Dianne Frislie working on the Ice Age Trail*



*Dale Schaber, Joann Ruechel, Butch Siegel, Darrel Ruechel and a Portage County Ice Age Trail volunteer enjoy a rest stop on the Hike-A-Thon at Hartman Creek State Park. Patti Leiskau*



*Jan Moldenhauer and Steve Deibele of Golden Bear Farms. Members toured the organic farm after a FVSG program.*

# NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

## Brillion *Brillion*

### *Smalls and Tall: Dinosaurs*

**Thursday, November 11th and Saturday, November 13th, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Discover the paleontologist inside yourself as we dig up model dinosaur bones and assemble the skeleton. This program is designed for Adults and Pre-school age children to participate together. Fee: \$3/child-members, \$5/child-non-members

### *Avian Gourmet*

**Saturday, November 13th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Grab an apron! Here is your opportunity to learn an exciting new approach to bird feeding. We will begin with a short presentation on birds that remain in the area throughout the winter. Then we will learn how to make special treats for our feathered friends such as Cardinal Casserole, Flicker Fricassee and Junco Jubilee. Pre-registration required, Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: Members/\$3 Non-members/\$5

### *Winter Weenie Roast*

**Saturday, December 11, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Thumb your nose at the drop in temperatures with a weenie roast around a campfire. Learn the art of fire building and try your hand at using a bow and spindle or flint and steel to make heat, sparks, and maybe even fire. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee: Members/\$3 Non-members/\$5

### *Smalls and Tall: Animal Tracks*

**Thursday, January 6th and Saturday, January 8th, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** How many different feet you'll meet! We'll look at animal feet and try to match feet to tracks, go on a hike to look for tracks outside and make some tracks of our own. This program is designed for Adults and Pre-school age children to participate together. Fee: \$3/child-members, \$5/child-non-members

### *Lighting with Luminaries*

**Saturday, January 8th, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Decorating with light can create a unique and welcoming atmosphere for any gathering. Learn how to make three different styles of luminaries – tin punch lanterns, glass luminaries and paper luminaries – for lining paths or driveways or decorating outdoors. All materials will be provided. Participants must pre-register for this program. Fee: \$3/members, \$5/non-members

## Bubolz *Appleton*

### *Join Sandy Bulgrin, Basket Weaver*

**Saturday November 6, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Using dyed and natural reed, you will weave up this basket that could be used for your holiday cards or for napkins on your dinner table. After the basket is finished, you will add the 3 reed trees and stars. This basket is the perfect holiday decoration or a great gift. Participants will have the opportunity to make 2 baskets, (included in the cost) keep one and give the other as a gift. Base measures 7" X 3" and the basket is about 6" high. Start your holiday decorations early. Cost is \$40 for Nonmembers, \$35 for Members. Pre-registration required at info@bubolzpreserve.org or (920) 731-6041.

### *Wild Game Marinades - Culinary Series.*

**Tuesday November 9, 6:30 p.m.-8:00p.m.**

The class is going to focus on game meats such as bison, elk, and pheasant and methods of preparation such as dry rubs and marinades. The class participants will be given a hands-on experience and be able to create their own rubs/marinades to their tastes. For example, if someone doesn't like garlic, they can leave the garlic out and substitute something else.

### *Holiday Festival.*

**Saturday December 11, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Come and celebrate the season with us at Bubolz Nature Preserve. Music, lights, and treats to get you in the holiday spirit. Enjoy a warm campfire and story and get your picture with a jolly Santa Claus!

### *Moonlight Skiing, Snowshoeing or Hiking*

**January 21st & February 18th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

One and a half miles of trail will be illuminated by candlelight. Flashlights or headlamps are recommended. Ski rental available for special rate per person. Trail fees apply to nonmembers with own equipment. Hot dogs, Burgers, Chips and hot beverages will also be available for a small fee. The trails will be lit for hiking if there is not enough snow to ski. For more information call (920) 731-6041.

## Heckrodt *Menasha*

### *Wall-E Flick*

**November 20, 5-7 PM.**

Let's watch a great eco-aware movie together! Popcorn and drinks will be served.. \$2 for food - movie is free.

### *Children's Christmas Gift Workshop*

**December 4, 9-11:30 AM and 1-3:30 PM**

Avoid the busy stores during the holiday season. Kids will make 6 gifts, get them wrapped by our cheerful elves, and be done with their shopping. Cookies and hot cocoa will be provided. \$10/child includes all materials and gift wrap for 6 gifts. Advance registration and payment are required by December 3 or when event fills.

### *A Wetland Winter Walk at Night*

**January 15, 6-8 PM**

Under the almost full moon, we'll go outside for winter hike into the wetland. Learn about winter animal tracks and some nocturnal basics. Dress for the weather! \$2/person - registration appreciated.

## Ledgeview *Chilton*

### *Cave Tour*

**Sat., Nov. 6 and 13; Sun., Nov. 7, 14, 21**

\$6 per person. Take a naturalist-guided tour of Carolyn's Caverns. Learn the geology, biology, and human history of the caves. Opportunities for exploring will be provided. Caves are naturally dark, damp, and dirty. Wear layers and plan on getting dirty. Bring flashlight. Caves accessed by stairs and ladders. Recommended minimum age five years old with parent. Minors must be accompanied by supervising adult. Tours last about

two hours. (No access to caves except on guided tour.) Please arrive before 1:00. (Groups should make separate reservations.)

### *Cornucopia Workshop*

**Sat., Nov. 20, 1 p.m.**

Weave a real cornucopia for your holiday table using smoked round reed. Reed will be provided; participants will need to bring a pail, towel, awl or screwdriver, needlenose pliers, and a scissors. Please pre-register by calling Ledge View at 920-849-7094. \$8 per person.

### *Holiday Wreaths*

**Sat., Nov. 27, 1 p.m.**

Wreath greens, pine cones, wire all provided. You bring a wreath frame, ribbon, wire cutter, and pruning shears, and we'll show you how to create your own holiday wreath. \$5 to \$15 for wreath materials. This workshop takes place in same room at same time as the nature ornament activity.

### *Nature Ornaments*

**Sat., Nov. 27, 1 p.m.**

Make as many nature ornaments as you like; materials will be provided. \$2 per person. This activity takes place in the same room at the same time as the wreath workshop.

### *Snowshoeing and X-C Skiing*

**Sunday, Jan. 16, 23, 30.** Guided snowshoe hikes through field and forest. \$5 per person includes snowshoe rental. Snowshoes and limited number of x-c skis available for rental with at least six inches of snow cover. Call for more information, 920-849-7094.

## Mosquito Hill *New London*

Advance registration and payment are required for all programs unless otherwise noted. www.mosquitohill.com

### *Snowshoe Lacing Workshop*

**Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6 – 7, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM.** Lace your own 10" x 56" white ash Alaskan-style snowshoes with neoprene lacing. Easy-to-use rubber bindings included. Cost: \$175. Registration & payment due ASAP.

### *Green Gift Giving with a Healthy Twist*

**Saturday, November 20, 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon.** No charge. Call ahead to RSVP.

### *Natural Ornaments*

**Sunday, November 21, 12:30 – 3:30 PM**

Create a selection of holiday ornaments made from natural and collected materials. Best suited for adults and older teens. \$15/person, \$13/students, seniors, Friends of Mosquito Hill (FOMH) members. Registration & payment due November 14.

### *Fall Foliage Wreath*

**Saturday, November 27, 12:30 – 3:30 PM**

A faux foliage wreath will be created using a heavy weight metallic scrapbooking paper. Best suited for adults and older teens. \$15/adult or \$13/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration & payment due November 20.

**Pine Cone Picture Frame**

**Sunday, November 28, 12:30 – 3:30 PM**

Create a nature-themed picture frame with tiny cones and other embellishments. \$15/person, \$13/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration & payment due November 21.

**Holiday Make & Take**

**Saturday, December 4, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

You won't want your kids to miss this one! They'll make 8 unique gifts and wrap them up with the assistance of our volunteer team. Most appropriate for K – 5th graders. \$12/child  
Registration & payment due November 20.

**Winter Bird Feeding**

**Sunday, Dec. 5, 1:00 – 3:30 PM**

How to prepare your yard and feeders for the cold-weather bird feeding season. \$5/person, \$3/students, seniors, FOMH  
Registration & payment due November 30.

**Leave No Family Inside: Basic Outdoor Winter Survival**

**Saturday, December 11, 12:30 – 3:30 PM**

\$6/person or \$10/family  
Registration & payment due December 4.

**Candlelight Snowshoe Walk**

**Friday, Dec. 17, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Self-led walk through the center's lowland forest lighted by tiki torches. \$7.50/person, \$5/students, seniors, members. Registration & payment due December 10.

**Shiocton Area Christmas Bird Count**

**Friday, Dec. 17, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

Take part in our annual census of resident winter birds. All bird enthusiasts are welcome to join us in the field or count at their home feeders. The day includes a potluck luncheon. Call for details or reservations.

**Public Snowshoeing**

**Weekends, January and February from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

Call for current snow conditions or to check on equipment availability, should you wish to snowshoe on a weekday. \$3/adults, \$2/up to age 14. If you provide your own snowshoes a small donation is requested.

**Campfire Astronomy**

**Saturday, Jan. 29, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

Enjoy the beauty of the winter sky; then warm up by the campfire with cocoa and snacks. \$5/person, \$3/students, seniors, members. Registration & payment due January 21.

**Ridges Sanctuary** *Baleys Harbor*

**"Survival!"**

**Saturday, Nov. 13, 10:00 AM:** What would you do if you were lost in the winter? Learn some survival strategies. \$10 per family (1 or 2 adults and their children under 18). Pre-registration required, call 920-839-2802 or e-mail karen@ridgessanctuary.org. Part of the "No Family Left Inside" series sponsored by The Ridges Sanctuary and the Door County YMCA.

**"A Natural Christmas at The Ridges."**

**Saturday, Dec. 11, 2:00 - 5:00 PM:**

Enjoy cookies and hot chocolate, music of the season, holiday crafts, a campfire and a hike along the boardwalk lit with luminarias. Donations accepted.

**"Family Snowshoeing."**

**Saturday, Jan. 15, 10:00 AM:**

Bundle up the kids and join our naturalist for a hike through the snow-decked conifers. A limited number of snowshoes available, call ahead to reserve or bring your own. \$10 per family (1 or 2 adults and their children under 18). Pre-registration required, call 920-839-2802 or e-mail karen@ridgessanctuary.org. Part of the "No Family Left Inside" series sponsored by The Ridges Sanctuary and the Door County YMCA.

**Woodland Dunes** *Two Rivers*

**Winnie Smith Harvest Dinner**

**Saturday, November 13th 6:00-9:00pm**

You are invited to join us for our annual Harvest Dinner! This fundraiser serves up the fun with an autumn themed meal, a richly-illustrated presentation from Greg Septon of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program and a silent auction. Reservations required. Cost \$50 a ticket. For more information or to make your reservations, call Jessica at 920-793-4007.

**Dunes Movie Night; Microcosmos!**

**Thursday, November 18th 7:00-8:30pm**

\$2 per person. Employing unique microscopic cameras and powerful specialized microphones, this highly praised French documentary is a fascinating look at the seldom-explored world of insects and other minute creatures as they go about their daily lives. With footage of ladybugs feasting and snails mating set to a mystical score by composer Bruno Coulais, the film won five awards. This film is rated G. Call Kelly to register at 920-793-4007.

**Snow Ball**

**Saturday, January 22nd 4:00-7:00pm**

Members \$4; Family \$8; Non-members \$5; Family \$10. Enjoy storytelling in the tipi, candlelight snowshoe hikes and warm up with chili around the campfire. Don't miss this fun celebration of winter! Note: This event is held at Woodland Dunes Field Station on Goodwin Road. Questions call 920-793-4007 or email Kelly at kellye@woodlanddunes.org.



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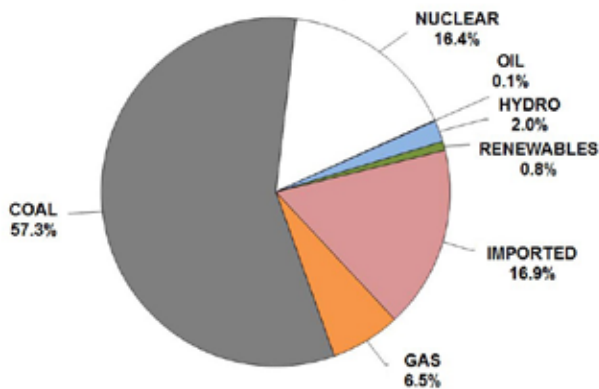
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# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 10 Issue 4

## Wisconsin Energy Production



Source: PSC of WI, SEA, April 2009



Illustration from Wisconsin Focus On Energy website

**Mining coal is dirty, dangerous, and destructive.** But we will keep mining coal until we stop using so much of it.

Wisconsin's electricity comes mostly from coal. Approximately 57% of our electricity comes from coal burned in Wisconsin, and another 8% from coal burned in other states. An additional 16% or more comes from dangerous nuclear production. Very little comes from safe renewable sources.

Wisconsin does not produce coal or nuclear fuel; it is all imported. Our money leaves the state.

It takes approximately one pound of coal to produce one kilowatt of electricity; enough to power a 100 watt light bulb for 10 hours. How much coal do you personally consume?

What if we burned wood to make electricity? Here are some rough conversions:

1 cord of wood = 1 ton of coal = 4 barrels of crude oil = 20 million BTU

Wisconsin has lots of wood. It is renewable. And it is carbon-neutral.

The coal industry advertises "clean coal", but there is no such thing as clean coal. It is an advertising slogan.