

Fox Valley Sierra Group PROGRAMS

August 11, 2011 • 5:30 PM

Picnic - Lutz Park, Appleton

(1320 S. Lutz Street, Appleton - on the Fox River)

Please bring a dish to share, utensils, plates, cups, etc., and something you would like to grill for yourself. Grills will be provided and ready by 5:30. Share conversation and food with new and old friends.

September 8, 2011 • 7:00 PM

"Sierra Club Water Sentinels"

Sierra Club Water Sentinels work to protect, improve and restore our waters by fostering alliances to promote water quality monitoring, public education and citizen action. Learn more about the national and state program, and how we as a local group can get involved, such as monitoring local streams.

October 13, 2011 • 7:00 PM

"Keeping Hope Alive"

For environmentalists these can be dark and troubling times. Economic and social forces may seem to overrule the need to care for the Earth in ways we cannot control. Despair and anger aren't helping are cause either; they just make us feel more miserable.

Leslie Taylor from Sustainable Fox Valley will talk about the power of community and strategies for creating a brighter future here in our region. We will discuss ways to develop new approaches -- ones that steer us away from "silos" and the tactics of opposition that have often characterized environmental actions in the past.

November 10, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Canoe Camping on the Pigeon River

Rich Krieg will give a slide presentation about his recent whitewater canoe camping trip down the Pigeon River in Manitoba. The Pigeon is often referred to as "Canada's Colorado River." If his past trips are any indication, there will be many adventurous stories to share.

December 8, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Annual Holiday Party

Unless noted all 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/>

A Big Thanks to All for a Successful Auction Fundraiser

On May 12, 2011 the Fox Valley Sierra Group held its annual fundraiser and raised \$1711 to pay the bills for: our meeting space at Bubolz, printing and mailing our newsletter, and sponsoring or supporting various projects throughout our region.

People brought in wonderful food dishes to share and interesting auction items. Thanks to our auctioneer Randy Connour and his assistant Jo Hjerstedt for a lively, competitive and fun auction.

Angels Restaurant
www.angelsrestaurantappleton.com
Appleton, WI

Blueberry Hill Pancakes
www.blueberryhillwi.com
Appleton, WI

Connie Kanitz/
Balanced Body Massage
Menasha, WI

The Glass Nickel Pizza
www.glassnickelpizza.com
Appleton, WI

Globally Sound Fair Trade
www.globallysound.com
604 West College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

Hergerts Sporting Goods
www.hergertsports.com
1232 North Sawyer Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Just Act Natural
www.justactnatural.com
129 East College Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911

Kitz & Pheil True Value Hardware
www.kitzandpheil.com
Appleton, Berlin, Menasha,
Oshkosh, Fond du Lac

Bob McCurdy, Woodcarver
(920) 839-2754
Baileys Harbor, WI

Jeanne Netterkorn

Niko's Gyros
www.nikosgyros.com
Appleton, Oshkosh

Oshkosh Cyclery & Fitness
www.oshkoshcyclery.com
Oshkosh, WI

Red Radish
www.theredradish.com
Neenah, WI

Regatta 220
www.regatta220.com
Green Bay, WI

91.1 Radio "The Avenue"
Green Bay, WI



Please support these local businesses and artists who generously donated goods to be auctioned:

A Cut Above Salon
1810 Evans St.
Oshkosh, WI

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Flooded Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station

Alan Lawrence

This June the Missouri River flooded and came dangerously close to causing problems for the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station in Nebraska. This picture (from the Internet) shows flood waters right up to the nuclear facility, with some buildings submerged, and all roadways and walkways completely underwater.



Thoughts of Japan's Fukushima nuclear reactor easily come to mind when viewing pictures of the flooded Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Station and reading about other events at this Nebraska facility. A fire on June 7 knocked out cooling for 90 minutes. Could the United States suffer a nuclear disaster like Fukushima (or Chernobyl)? What would the consequences of this be for our country? Is it smart to build nuclear facilities along rivers or lakes? How safe is nuclear power? Should we depend on nuclear power as our primary alternative to fossil fuel?

The Fort Calhoun plant operators and officials with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission insist the public was in no danger.



Florida Wetland

Alan Lawrence

During a family vacation Alan and Diana Lawrence and daughter Jennifer Reschke visited one of the wetlands in Delray Beach, Florida. It looks like a wonderful wildlife sanctuary; ponds filled with native plants, fish, turtles, and zillions of birds of all kinds. Tourists and photographers delight in the setting. The birds are not much alarmed by people and you can see the birds up close. Wakodahatchee Wetlands is actually the final stage of the city sewerage treatment plant.

Fifty acres of unused utilities land were transformed into a wetlands ecosystem. Every day the Water Reclamation Facility pumps approximately two million gallons of highly treated water into the Wakodahatchee Wetlands. By acting as a natural filter for the nutrients that remain, the wetlands work to further cleanse the water.

How many sewerage treatment plants create a beneficial environment to wildlife, and at the same time are of recreational value to residents and visitors? The local economy benefits from this creative project.

Follow FVSG on Facebook and Twitter. 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>.

Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials
- October 15th -
November thru January Issue.



From the Chair

July 2011

In some of my recent columns I lamented that environmental issues had played such an unimportant roll in the 2010 elections. Nevertheless I am encouraged to see signs that politicians are aware of the environmental community.

I've noticed that the website forms used for submitting online comments to my representatives frequently include "The Environment" as a subject line.

And a recent commentary in the Appleton Post-Crescent (July 17) entitled "Why is Obama taking fire from the left?" expounded on some of the reasons the liberal left is disappointed with our president. A paragraph then introduces some of the areas of liberal disquiet. And first on the list was "Environment".

We are a category. Now we need to make sure that we are heard. And we need to remind our elected officials that we are "conservation voters" and that we vote.

Certainly our officials are frequently reminded about the environment, as are the people in our communities. Wisconsin Public Radio seems to report on environmental issues almost daily. And I am often pleased to hear them interview Sierra Club staff or members. Even the regular media seem to be reporting on environmental issues with great regularity.

Last year the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico made daily news for a long time. Extreme weather (winter or summer) is often reported, and frequently mentioned with global warming. The Fukushima nuclear disaster made daily news for a while. And "human interest" stories about wildlife, parks, outdoor recreation, hunting or fishing have always been regular items in the news.

But, somewhat missed in mainstream news has been the flooded nuclear power plant in Nebraska. Or the major oil spill in the Yellowstone River. The proposed Gogebic Taconite iron mine in northwestern Wisconsin, potentially 1000 feet deep, 22 miles long, and a half-mile wide, is largely unheard of by most people. We need to make sure these stories are noticed by our neighbors and our leaders.

We also need to help inform our neighbors and leaders about the nasty consequences of tar sands oil and of "fracking". And we need to continue informing people that "clean coal" is a marketing phrase and not factual. But first, how much do you know about tar sands oil or of fracking? I encourage you to enter those terms into a search engine. Then you need to be outraged.

I especially enjoyed part of a blog I read about the Yellowstone River oil spill. Shortened a bit it reads:

"It seems to me that there is no shortage of juicy angles for journalists to work on this developing story: Exxon Mobil, a favorite target of the left, is the responsible party; oil is visible miles downstream; aquatic wildlife is endangered; ...; and the Yellowstone River, like many in the region, is swelled with snow melt and rain, which has rendered difficult the cleanup. For the Associated Press, however, the story wasn't juicy enough. Otherwise, the AP write-up would not have included this sensationalist paragraph:

Exxon Mobil spokeswoman Pam Malek said the pipe leaked an estimated 750 to 1,000 barrels of oil for about a half-hour before it was shut down. Other Exxon officials had estimated up to 42,000 gallons of crude oil escaped.

(Of course 1000 barrels is exactly the same as 42,000 gallons.)"

It actually took longer than originally reported to shut down the pipe. And the amount of oil spilled is still a matter of speculation. But it is still Exxon Mobil, famous for the Valdez oil spill in Alaska in 1989. Exxon has still not paid for the costs of that cleanup.

Now, how to stay informed and excited? Our group is responsible for the Annual Autumn Assembly to be held October 7-9. Please read the article about it in this newsletter and then make the commitment to attend. It will be fun and rewarding.

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

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

A Hiking Honeymoon

Kelly Ramstack

As I write this, it's been only four days since my husband and I returned from our honeymoon. For two weeks we explored the natural beauty of Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks in the Canadian Rockies. Every morning we laced up our hiking boots, donned packs and set out on the steep trails. With awesome wonder we admired the snow-capped jagged peaks, tumbling waterfalls, and dazzling turquoise lakes and streams. The scenery was, quite simply, breathtaking.

For the majority of our trip, we pitched our tent in established campgrounds with flush toilets and showers. While camping in the backcountry provides a unique experience, I wasn't ready to tent in a place where bears outnumber humans. Instead, for two nights of our trip we made a reservation with the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) to stay in the Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut. The ACC manages a series of mountain huts that serve as base camps for alpine climbers. A few of the more accessible cabins are also used by backpackers, skiers and snowshoers. On any given night, up to twelve people can reserve a bunk in the Fryatt Hut, but much to our delight we had the mountain palace all to ourselves.

The Sydney Vallance (Fryatt) Hut is nestled high in a subalpine valley 14.4 miles from the nearest trailhead. To save time the relatively flat first 4 miles can be mountain biked, but we hiked the whole way instead. After crossing swift-moving Fryatt Creek, the remaining 10 miles sent us climbing steadily up the narrow Fryatt Valley. The final 1/2 mile of trail has a steep 650 foot scramble up the Headwall that made our lungs burn and leg muscles scream. Thankfully, the cabin was only another few hundred feet beyond the cliff's edge.

As far as wilderness cabins go, the Fryatt Hut is quite luxurious. In one corner, an L-shaped kitchen counter holds pots, pans and utensils, two propane stoves and kitchen sinks connected to a ground sump. In the opposing corner, an L-shaped padded bench hugs a dining table that offers views of the surrounding peaks. A central wood stove provides heat on chilly nights and from the

ceiling hang drying racks that can be raised or lowered with pulleys. The other end of the cabin holds two levels of comfy sleeping bunks.

During an afternoon of rain, Christian and I snuggled into the dining bench and dreamt of owning our own little cabin just like the Fryatt Hut. Our cabin, we decided, won't be a vacation home; it will be where we live every day. We talked about solar power, a central stone fireplace, a greenhouse and even guest bunks for visiting relatives. The farmhouse we have now is not big, by any means, but we still only use half of the house on a daily basis. Why do we need all of that extra room? To store extra junk, of course! Staying at the Fryatt Hut made us realize how happy and content we can be with so little. Really, home is not the house, it's the ones we love that live there.



Backcountry Chocolate Cake

(Makes 2 small servings)

I love baked goods but they usually don't survive a day in my pack. This chocolate cake is a delicious treat after a long hike into a backcountry campsite. And it's baked in a bag so you won't have a dirty pot to clean!

At home, combine in an oven* bag:
 3/4 C. Jiffy chocolate muffin mix
 2 tsp. powdered eggs
 1 Tbsp. Powdered milk

In camp, add to bag:
 1/4 C. water and mix well

Tie the bag shut leaving a little air inside. Bring about 1 1/2 inches of water to boil in a pot. Press the batter into a round shape about the diameter of the pot and place the bag in the boiling water. Cover the pot and simmer for about 10 minutes. Remove the bag from the heat and let sit for 3 minutes. Cut open the bag and enjoy your steaming hot chocolate cake!

*Note: You MUST use an oven bag (typically used for cooking meat) or the plastic will melt to the sides of the pot. Trust me, you don't want that to happen.



You're only as old as you feel.

Giant Sequoias are the largest living things on the planet, some dating back over 3,500 years. Sierra Club has worked for the protection of these gentle giants for over 100 years. Sequoias have withstood the test of time -- and by now, their only true enemy is us. Currently, Sequoias are in grave danger of being destroyed by commercial logging. We have the power to preserve or destroy these majestic trees - but we need your help!

Live it up and JOIN Sierra Club to help keep our 100 year tradition of preservation alive.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____
 Email _____

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	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

Ticks. A nurse discovered a safe, easy way to remove Ticks where they automatically withdraw themselves when you follow her simple instructions. "Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20), the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away. This technique has worked every time I've used it and that was frequently, and it's much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me.."

We remember Steve Clark who passed away on January 26th. He and his wife Carol, for many years, helped with the distribution of our newsletter. His wife and daughter asked that any memorial donations in his name be donated to the Sierra Club Foundation.

Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

August 20-21, Saturday-Sunday Class II, Canoe Camp the Flambeau River.

The Flambeau River offers some of the best canoe camping in Wisconsin. Come find out why. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. This is also a "River Touring Section" trip. Rich Krieg 920-660-3557 eddyout@gmail.com

August 22 -30 Canoe Camping the Boundary Waters & Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada.

This is an adult men's multi generational 8 day wilderness canoe camping expedition emphasizing the personal value of preserving wild places. The pristine wilderness setting of Quetico and its challenges offers the opportunity for physical, mental and spiritual awaking and renewal. Exploring Quetico in the company of men of different generations offers a unique bonding experience in an environment that has shaped the identity and character of men for centuries. Personal cost will be at least \$525, which would include camping permits, canoe rental, trailhead lodging, meals while camping and some group gear costs. For complete trip details contact Bill Mathias, 920-339-043, wj.mathias@gmail.com

September 17, Saturday Ice Age Trail Work Day in Portage County.

This Fox Valley Sierra Group trail work day will be held in Portage County to help make preparation for this year's Ice

Age Trail Hike-a-Thon, which will be held on Saturday, October 1, north of Iola. Our trail work will be done on a section of trail that hikers will use in the Hike-a-Thon. Our FVSG will be doing minor trail maintenance. We will begin work on the trail at about 9:30. Tools will be provided. However, if you wish to bring any pruning tools, etc., feel free to do so. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent to this outing. We will stop for ice cream mid afternoon. Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7Dairl@yahoo.com

October 1, Saturday Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon.

Put on your hiking boots and hike in the annual fundraiser for the Portage and Waupaca County chapters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance on Saturday, October 1, at the Iola Winter Sports Club facility north of Iola on County Hwy. MM just west of Hwy. 49. The Portage and Waupaca County chapters sponsor this hike-a-thon in order to raise funds to acquire, develop and maintain the Ice Age Trail for the education and enjoyment of future generations. The fee to hike in the hike-a-thon is \$5. However, one can donate more or acquire pledges. Water, apples, and snacks will be provided. I am planning to hike the entire 10-mile hike that day and would love to have other Sierra Club members join me for all or a portion of the hike. I would anticipate beginning my hike at about 9:00 or 9:30 but would be willing to accommodate as to time. One can begin the hike any time between 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.; so, if you wish to hike on your

own or with friends at a different time, that would also be great. Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7Dairl@yahoo.com

Autumn Assembly October 7-9

See article on page 9 .

Get outside and join us on one of our outings this summer & fall! 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 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>

Sierra Club outings are offered solely because of the generosity of members willing to lead outings and share the experience with others. If you are interested in learning more please contact Rich Krieg at eddyout@gmail.com or 920-660-3557.



FVSG May 14th outing to the International Crane Foundation and Aldo Leopold Center near Baraboo, WI

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune
07/21/2011

I'm usually skeptical of absolutes. But not when it comes to coal. Remember that Edwin Starr classic that Springsteen revived in the '80s? "War, huh, yeah. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing!"

In just about every way, that's how I feel about coal, which is why I was so excited when Bloomberg Philanthropies donated \$50 million to the Sierra Club this summer to help us move America beyond coal.

The Club's Beyond Coal campaign started modestly nine years ago, when government officials proposed building more than 150 coal-fired power plants across the country. Believing it would be almost impossible to oppose all those plants at the same time, Club volunteers and staff mobilized against just two of them, and won. We took the lessons learned from these early battles to train more volunteers and staff to oppose a couple of dozen more proposed plants.

We won the majority of those battles too, but discovered to our dismay that every time we scored a victory against coal in one community, new proposals cropped up for plants in other locations. To prevent dirty coal from being locked in as a dominant energy source for another half century or more, we made defeating these plants our top priority, mobilizing the power of our chapter activists, lawyers, energy experts, and supporters like you as part of a national coalition of grassroots organizations in almost every state across the country.

Coal mining has always been a dirty, dangerous business, but mountaintop removal takes the devastation to new lows. After blowing up more than 500 mountains to uncover coal seams in Appalachia, mining companies have dumped millions of tons of waste into the valleys below, permanently burying more than 2,000 miles of streams, poisoning drinking water, and wiping out entire communities.

Twenty-five million Americans have asthma. If, like me, you're a parent, you probably know that children are most affected. My kids thankfully do not have asthma, but nationally 1 in 10 children do, and coal-fired plants are a primary contributor to their misery.

It gets worse: Every year, soot from coal-fired power plants kills an estimated 13,000 Americans prematurely and is responsible for \$100 billion in healthcare costs. Old, outdated coal plants are also the single biggest source of mercury pollution, which causes birth defects and developmental damage in young children.

After coal is burned, the leftover toxic ash is dumped in thousands of poorly regulated sites nationwide. Even though it contains arsenic, lead, cadmium, and other heavy metals, the ash is regulated almost as if it were household garbage. These poisons spill or seep into the ground and contaminate drinking water.

Finally, coal plants are our largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. Every ton of coal burned generates three tons of carbon dioxide pollution. The 150 new coal-fired power plants proposed in 2002 would have emitted an estimated 585 million tons of CO2 pollution annually for the next 50 years.

Here's the good news: Thanks to a combination of community organizing, strategic communications, and aggressive litigation, we stopped those 150 plants and more. Our once-tiny campaign has grown into one of the most effective environmental efforts in history despite fierce opposition from the influential and well-funded coal lobby. Countering those deep pockets took all the passion and commitment we could muster.

Now, though, the playing field has been leveled a bit. The generous gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies is a recognition of how much we've achieved and a challenge to go further. Besides stopping new coal-fired plants from being built, we can clean up or shut down the existing fleet of deadly plants. Equally important, we can advance the solutions, like solar and wind power, that will protect our air and water and offer enduring well-paying jobs. This really is the beginning of a clean-energy transition.

And there's absolutely everything to like about that.

Ready to join us? Take our pledge to end coal and usher in a new clean-energy future. And then start spreading the word!

More picketing in Madison...

Cindy Carter
Political Chair

Wednesday afternoon 7-13, about a dozen or so donned themselves in black robes and picketed the Capitol in Madison. They were not protesting Governor Walker per se, they were upset that the DNR allowed the Parks Department in Madison to round up 210 or so Canadian Geese from the waterfront and haul them off to their death. Apparently the geese were then cleaned and donated to the local food pantry. The protestors felt that the geese should have been relocated.

Ah, humans, when we feel that nature becomes a pest, we destroy the pest. I ask you: who is the biggest, greediest pest that feels this is their earth and their earth alone? MAN, and at times like this I am ashamed to admit that. Some say there are too many geese, well I say there are too many humans.

Step Into Action

FVSG Editor

It's been a stormy confrontational time in politics nationally and statewide. The economic crisis, collective bargaining, unions, congressional and state legislative district redistricting, recall elections, defunding the EPA, lessening environmental regulations, etc. It seems the environment is suffering and not as important.

We need to let everyone know what is important to us. Get outside, enjoy the outdoors, invite others on a hike, join nature centers, join environmental groups (Sierra Club), get involved, let your feelings be known, contact your legislators, vote and always "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet".

Garlic Mustard Pull

For a couple of weekends this past spring FVSG members spent some time out in the local woods clearing garlic mustard plants. Garlic mustard is an invasive species which out competes many tree seedlings and other native vegetation. It also adversely affects native insects and other wildlife. In the spring it can be effectively controlled by hand pulling. Thanks to these pullers; Darrel Ruechel, Alan Lawrence, Monny Hjerstedt, Diana Lawrence, Jennifer Reschke, Ellen Braatz, Elizabeth Braatz, Dale Schaber and Penny Bernard Schaber.



Green Bay Climate Action Tour September 24



On September 24, concerned citizens will be marching in thousands of cities throughout the world to demand that our leaders take action to solve and prepare for climate change and global warming. This international "MOVING EARTH" event is being coordinated by the environmental group "350.org."

Walkers, dancers, bicyclists, canoeists, skateboarders, chanters, drummers, rollerbladers, and stilt-walkers are all encouraged to participate !! No unnatural carbon emissions will be allowed during the event !! The organizers hope that many Sierra Club members will participate in this day of action.



In Green Bay, a "Climate Action Tour" rally will start at 10:00 AM at Flatley Park, 400 S. Washington St. It will end at City Hall at about noon.

For event details go to www.moving-planet.org.

Prairie Hike at Ripon College

Alan Lawrence

While attending an alumni weekend at Ripon College, Alan Lawrence participated in a guided hike of the college-owned Ceresco Prairie Conservancy. The Conservancy is 130 acres of native prairie, oak savanna and wetland habitat. It serves as a place of study as well as recreation.

The hike was led by botany professor Skip Wittler. "Prairie and oak savanna ecosystems have fallen to .01 percent of their former acreage in Wisconsin, and from 6,000 acres to six acres in Fond du Lac County," according to biology Professor Bill Brooks.



In the Company of Loons

Thoroughly devoured by mosquitoes, and Deer Flies, I am back from the In wilds of the UP, and an otherwise pleasant week canoeing, fishing and just being outside.

One of my earliest memories is of Michigan, visiting my great-grandmother. The first time I drove over the Wisconsin state line as an adult, the UP seemed to me much more like a part of Wisconsin, than of Michigan, and I have felt that way ever since.

Historically, there was substance to my intuition: the UP did, in fact, at one time belong to Wisconsin. It was brokered to our nearest neighbor to the East in a deal which also divested Wisconsin of Chicago and Minneapolis, as recompense to Michigan for ceding Toledo to Ohio, in order to “spread the wealth” of shipping access to Ohio and our neighbor states, Illinois and Minnesota, settling the Mississippi as our geographic border to the West, as well as increasing the number of free states in the North in the decades before the Civil War. I propose a new Wisconsin bumper sticker:

TAKE BACK THE UP!

On this trip, we stayed in a yurt on a remote lake on the west of the Upper Peninsula. We caught fish too small to eat, and I did not hear wolves, although they are there--the equivalent of lupine No Trespassing signs, wolf scat was everywhere in evidence in spots where they would not be missed: roadside rocks, middle of the road, logging track intersections...I was sorry not to hear them, but happy they are there.

We did hear Barred and Great Horned owls and possibly a moose, and saw beaver, a beaver dam, Great Blue Herons, a king fisher, a bald eagle, and loons. A family of Northern Flickers kept us company in a tree above the picnic table, and we enjoyed sharing our meal times with them. The woods abounded with warblers, but my birding-by-ear skills are not developed enough to identify them.

We fished with lead-free tackle and picked up lures others had left. The Audubon Society, Sierra Club and other environmental organizations are involved in efforts to eliminate lead shot and tackle. Shore birds by the hundreds of thousands die each year from lead poisoning. Ironically, our most wild areas are most at-risk for lead pollution, as these wilderness areas attract hunters and anglers, as “a study at the James A. Reed Memo-



photo - L. Menefee, 2011

rial Wildlife Area in Missouri revealed that 728 dove hunters had deposited 348,037 lead pellets per acre” (“Bad Shot;” *Audubon*, May-June, 2011). Audubon Magazine cites “The U.S. Geological survey reports that...400,000 lead shotgun pellets per acre rain annually on popular hunting fields, and that about 80,000 tons of lead accumulate each year on the nation’s trap, skeet, and target ranges.” <http://audubonmagazine.org/incite/incite1105.html> The article further explains that “while most of the lead entering the environment comes from target shooting, most of the lead poisoning wildlife comes from hunting.” And there is no more fitting representative of wilderness than the loon.

Loons do not tolerate a lot of human disturbance and quickly leave lakes and woodlands under “development.” When you are in the company of loons, you are some place very special, a place in need of protection, a place in danger of loss. However, in 2010, “Tufts received carcasses of at least 50 loons that had died of plumbism,” or, lead poisoning. X-rays show sinkers in the birds’ digestive tracts--they pick up lead pellets as grit, or ingest tackle left in fish, along with the fish.

We should enjoy our wilderness areas and wild places--respectfully, with minimal intrusion, in the knowledge that the very act of visiting them harms them to a degree. “Leave no trace” camping and motorless watercraft, roadless access and regulations to protect wildlife, including the use of lead-free tackle and ammunition, allow us to enjoy our wild places without destroying them.

Every night at sun down the songs of the loon wafted over the lake. We heard the pair call to each other and accidentally found their nest, with two, large, brown eggs on a little islet off shore, obscured by grasses and fallen logs.

This summer, as you honor your families’ summer traditions and make a few new ones, I hope you remember the ones for whom the season is a time of survival--to survive predation and human encroachment, loss of habitat and resources--to perpetuate and to prepare for the long winter ahead. Honor them, with your traditions, and help them to remain, for themselves and for the ones who come after

by Laura Menefee, Fox Valley Group, Sierra Club
She resides in Door County in a former dairy farmhouse

Don't Miss This Event!

2011 John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly

Join other Wisconsin Sierra Group members on October 7-9, 2011 at Camp Helen Brachman for an enjoyable and educational weekend. You can renew old acquaintances, make new friends, learn about environmental issues, find out what's new in the Sierra Club, and enjoy outdoor activities. This event is also open to the public. Invite your friends to join you.

Camp Helen Brachman offers 200 acres of open prairie, red pine plantation and upland hardwood forest. It is located on Pickerel Lake, a small seepage lake that is surrounded by a sand beach and wooded bluffs.

The address for Camp Helen Brachman is 9341 Asbury Drive, Almond, WI 54909-9509. The phone number for the Camp is (715) 366-2234. The Rosenblum Lodge/Dining Hall will be the site for registration, meals and some small group activities. We will meet in Rogers Hall for presentations, large group activities and musical entertainment. Flashlights are recommended for nighttime navigation at Camp Helen Brachman.

Click on the underlined link: "[the shores of Pickerel Lake near Stevens Point Wisconsin](http://www.coa-yfc.org/camp/camp-helen-brachman.html)" on the Camp Helen Brachman website: <http://www.coa-yfc.org/camp/camp-helen-brachman.html> for driving directions and a map.

Families are encouraged to attend the Autumn Assembly. Children, ages 5-13, are invited to participate in tailored nature activities on Saturday. Parents may opt to

join in these activities or attend Saturday's workshops.

Primary indoor lodging will be in the Retreat Center. There are 8 rooms each with 4 bunks. Bathrooms are located in the hallways. The rooms are suitable for families, couples or groups of individuals. Room sharing is highly recommended to control costs. We'll assign roommates if you wish. Overflow lodging will be available in a heated bunkhouse: separate men's/women's open bunk areas. One bathroom is located in each area.

You are encouraged to register early for indoor lodging at the Camp to guarantee a bed. Guests staying indoors are expected to provide own bedding/sleeping bags, towels, all weather clothing and personal gear. Ear plugs are recommended if noise sensitive and sharing a room.

Tent sites are also available. Tenting is allowed anywhere on camp grounds. Restroom and shower facilities for campers and individuals staying at the camp are located at the Shower House which is close to Rodgers Hall.

Nearby hotel lodging and bed and breakfast lodging is also an option. There are two hotels located on the west side of Waupaca, Wisconsin at the intersection of Highways 10 and 54: Best Western (715-258-9212) and the Comfort Suites (715-942-0500). Additional hotels are available in Plover, Wisconsin. Bed and breakfast information in the Waupaca area is available at www.visitwaupacacounty.com. Refreshments and snacks will be available on Friday night, all day Saturday and again

on Sunday morning in Rosenblum Lodge/Dining Hall. Camp Helen Brachman will provide food service during the weekend.

Early registration for the 2011 Autumn Assembly is recommended, and early registrants will receive a price break. Indoor beds or on site meals cannot be guaranteed for walk-ins. Use the registration form found in the July-September 2011 *Muir View* or download a copy at the Fox Valley Sierra Group's website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/AA-2011/>. Mail the registration form and payment to Maureen Birk, 3381 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-7205. Contact Maureen at (920) 468-7252 or birkmr@yahoo.com with questions.

Updated information on the 2011 Autumn Assembly Program Schedule is available at the Fox Valley Sierra Group website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/AA-2011/>.

If you have questions or need general information about the 2011 Autumn Assembly, contact Dale Schaber by phone at (920) 739-6041 or by email at: dschaber@athenet.net or check the event website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>.

We hope to see you there! As you can see, it will be both an enjoyable and an educational event and you'll be able to renew old acquaintances, meet other members of the Fox Valley Sierra Group and make new friends among Sierra Club members in Wisconsin! Let's have some fun!



Rosenblum Lodge/Dining Hall at Camp Helen Brachman



View of Pickerel Lake from Rosenblum Lodge/Dining Hall

NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

Bubolz Nature Center

Appleton

Herp Fest – Fox Valley Herp Club

Saturday, August 13th 11 – 3:00 p.m.

Would you like to learn more about snakes, lizards, turtles and other reptiles or amphibians? The Fox Valley Herp Club is dedicated to the health and welfare of reptiles and amphibians and educates the public on the responsible keeping of pet reptiles as they try to lessen the fear of these interesting creatures. Club members will be on hand with an assortment of live animals. Families will have the opportunity to learn all about these fascinating creatures up-close and personal. Come anytime between 11 – 3 p.m. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

August 16th 7 – 8:30 pm

“Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold’s life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.” <https://www.aldoleopold.org/greenfire/PR-WI.shtml> Tickets are \$5 for non-members and free for members. Please contact Josh Bray to register or for more information at 920-731-6041 or at jbray@bubolzpreserve.org. www.bubolzpreserve.org

Bubolz Preserve Whitetail Classic

Saturday, August 27th 12 – 4:00 pm

Youth will have the opportunity to learn firearm basics and safety at the pellet gun range, learn to target shoot at the Kid’s Archery Lane, and join a WDNR warden for an interactive laser shoot. Kids will also be able to enter in a coloring contest for prizes, and enjoy many other activities at the Youth Hunter’s Hut including making s’mores around the campfire. • Activities for all include sampling venison products, having your antlers officially measured, getting tips from a local taxidermist, and talking with DNR representatives about Wisconsin deer hunting. Trails will be open to explore the Preserve. Food and beverage will be available at the event. • Kids under 12 will receive 1 free ticket for the Kid’s Prize drawing. There will be a Classic Raffle, and a Whitetails Unlimited Raffle to help support the youth and disabled hunt. Event Cost: FREE

Romp in the Autumn Swamp

October 22nd from 3pm to 7pm

Join us for another beautiful Wisconsin Autumn here at Bubolz Nature Preserve. 2011 marks the 18th annual Romp in the Swamp fundraiser. The proceeds from this perennial favorite all go to support the educational programs offered by the preserve. • The day will be full of fun and excitement on the preserve with plenty of great seasonal foods, games for the kids, crafts and activities for children of all ages, hayrides, facepainting, outdoor movie, jack-o-lantern trail, campfire complete with storytelling and s’mores! • Register or for more information at 920-731-6041 or at www.bubolzpreserve.org

Brillion Nature Center

Art in the Prairie

Saturday, August 13th, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Drop in at the Brillion Nature Center to learn from local artists as they demonstrate a wide variety of arts including painting, nature photography, field sketching and more. Register in advance to participate in free hands-on workshops. This program is intended to take place entirely outdoors. Be prepared with sunscreen

and insect repellent or long sleeves. Free.

Monarch Tagging

Saturday, August 27th 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

After a presentation on monarch natural history and life cycles, we’ll walk the prairie and field areas with nets, capturing, tagging, and releasing monarch butterflies. • Fee: Members/\$3, Non-Members/\$5.

Smalls and Talls: Trees

Thursday, September 8th and Saturday, September 10th, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We’ll take a close look at the different parts of a tree, search for different kinds of tree seeds out on the trail and use them to make recycled paper. Pre-registration is required. Fee: \$3/child-members, \$5/child-non-members

O.W.L.S. (Older and Wiser, Learning for Seniors): Trees

Thursday, September 8th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Participants will enjoy a slide presentation showing some unusual forms, growths and occurrences found in the Brillion Nature Center’s woodlands. We will discuss some of the folklore and facts that make each tree species special. Optional: woodland hike along handicapped accessible trail. • Fee: \$3/members, \$5/ non-members

Smalls and Talls: Munchkin Pumpkin

Thursday, October 6th and Saturday, October 8th, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Come learn about pumpkins, jack-o-lanterns, and seeds. Children will taste a pumpkin snack, paint a mini-pumpkin and explore the different parts of a pumpkin. Pre-registration is required. • Fee: Members-\$3.00/child-adult pair, Non-members-\$5.00/child-adult pair Fee: \$3/child-members, \$5/ child-non-members

O.W.L.S. (Older and Wiser, Learning for Seniors): Owls

Thursday, October 13th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meet a live barn owl as animal rehabilitator Sue They of Wildlife of Wisconsin presents information on the wise old owls. Participants will learn about owls native to Wisconsin and some of the features that make them unique and help them survive. This program will be conducted entirely indoors. • Fee: \$3/members, \$5/ non-members

Pumpkin Walk

Saturday, October 15th, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Nature Center’s stroller-friendly Cottonwood Trail will be lined with hundreds of lit jack-o-lanterns carved by local school children during this family-friendly Halloween event. Back at the building, enjoy refreshments inside and warm up by listening to stories up in the loft or sitting around the bonfire. Add to the fun by entering the pumpkin carving contest. Call 756-3591 for information on entering a pumpkin. Fee: Free

Smalls and Talls: The Skin We’re In

Thursday, November 3rd or Saturday, November 5th, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Compare the body coverings of different animals found at Brillion Nature Center and discover their similarities and differences. We’ll do feather painting and explore our sense of touch while we get to know more about the skin we’re in. Pre-registration is required. Fee: \$3.00/child-members, \$5.00/child-non-members

Nature Journaling – The Write Stuff

Saturday, November 12th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Resident Naturalist and Author Jennifer “Louie” Kolberg will discuss tips and techniques for creating a nature journal. Then participants will choose a spot inside or outside and practice some of those techniques.

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve

Menasha

Turtle Days Festival

August 27, 2011, Noon - 4 PM

Join us for many fun activities including hayrides, games, crafts and live entertainment. Enjoy treats, beverages, and much more. \$5/person

Bat Detectives

September 10, 2011 7-9 PM

Learn why bats are important and we have been partnering with Lawrence University of monitor the bats on the Reserve this summer. Find out how to use the electronic equipment, and then we’ll go out to count some bats. \$2/person

Creepy Crawlies

October 7 & 8, 2011, 6-9 PM each day

\$8/person advanced wristband purchase, \$10 at the door (limited availability) • Join us for our fun family Halloween event. Activities for everyone include live owls, make and take craft, storytelling, and an illuminated hayride. Little Spooks Trail (not scary) for little ones, Haunted Trail (moderately scary) for those who dare.

Wisconsin’s Big Bird Day

November 17, 2011. 1-3 PM. FREE!

Come out to enjoy a hands-on discovery date. Explore interpretive trunks about Bald Eagles and White Pelicans.

High Cliff State Park *Sherwood*

Morning Bird Hike Saturday

August 13th • 9 - 10 AM

Leisurely hike. Try to find and identify the birds that call High Cliff home! Best for older kids and adults.

Make-Your-Own Bird Feeder

August 13th • 1 – 2 PM

Learn how to attract birds to your yard and take home your own bird feeder!

Campfire Cooking

Saturday, August 20th • 2 - 3 PM

Learn some easy and quick campfire recipes!

Night Hike

Saturday, August 20th • 9 – 10 PM

Discover how the creatures of the night adapt to their surroundings and do some fun games!

Forest Management Trail Hike

Saturday, August 27th • 9 – 10 AM

Learn why forests are managed the way they are and habitats they provide. Best for older kids and adults.

Tree Activity

Saturday, August 27th • 2 – 3 PM

Discover the wonderful variety of trees at High Cliff.

GO! Family Play Day

Saturday, September 3rd • Noon – 3 PM

Check out the different nature stations and go play with your family in the park!

Native American Hike

Sunday, September 4th • 9 – 10 AM

Discover the history of the effigy mounds and why they should be preserved.

General Store & Museum Tour

Sunday, September 4th • 2 – 3 PM

Discover the community that made up High Cliff.

Ledge View Nature Center

Chilton

Cave Tours most weekends 1 pm.

\$6/person, bring flashlight, plan on getting dirty. Minors must be accompanied by supervising adult. Involves half-mile walk and use of stairs and ladders. Call for information and schedule to confirm, or check Ledge View's Calumet County website.

Food, Fiber & Energy Fest

Sat., Sept. 17, 9 am-4 pm, \$5/carload, rain or shine.

Halloween Candlelight Cave Tours

Fri. & Sat., Oct. 21 & 22, 6-8:30 pm, \$5/person, tour every half hour, educational and family-oriented. Involves half-mile walk and use of stairs and ladders.

Mosquito Hill *New London*

Preserving Your Harvest

Saturday, August 13, 9:00 AM - 12 noon

Learn the basics of safe canning and other food preservation techniques. Make salsa and sample goodies from the garden. • \$12/adults, \$9/students, seniors, Friends of Mosquito Hill (FOMH) Registration and payment due August 6

Full Moon Series: Shooting Stars, Comets & the Moon, Oh My!

Saturday, August 13, 8:30 - 10:00 PM

Learn about the Perseid Meteor Shower and how a certain comet fits into the picture. Then head outdoors for a tour of the summer sky. \$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH or \$12/family • Registration and payment due August 9

Leave No Family Inside: Overnight Adventures

Saturday, August 20 - Sunday, August 21

6:30 PM Saturday - 9:00 AM Sunday
Learn about nocturnal animals with many fun activities and an interpretive hike. Then sleep under the stars. Continental breakfast served. \$13/person or \$25/family
Registration and payment due August 13

Fall Bird Hikes

Saturdays, August 27, September 10 & 17, 7:30 - 10:00 AM • Our fall hikes provide a great opportunity to catch a final glimpse of some summer residents before they take off for the season. No charge.

Monarch Tagging for Beginners

Saturday, September 3, 12:30 - 3:00 PM

Assist with capturing, tagging, testing and releasing monarchs from Butterfly House. • \$6/adult or \$10/family • Registration and payment due August 27

Honey Sunday

Sunday, September 18, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Informational sessions on beekeeping, beeswax candle dipping, cooking with honey and more. Observe active hives, enjoy honey sundaes, purchase honey baked goods. • \$8/car

Build a Compost Barrel

Saturday Oct. 1, 9:00 - 12:00 noon

\$60/adults, \$55/students, seniors, FOMH
Registration and payment due September 16

Harvest Moon Festival

Saturday, October 8, 5:00 - 9:00 PM

Educational sessions, hands-on activities, moon watching through telescopes, \$1 hayrides and more for all ages.
\$8/car. Final schedule TBD

Fenlon Memorial Speaker Series

Friday, October 14, 7:00 PM

Jake Stachovak, the Portage to Portage paddler, speaks at Mosquito Hill.
FEE: TBD. Call for reservations.

Full Moon Series: Stuck in a Rut-Whitetail Deer Biology

Thursday, November 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

\$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, members
Registration and payment due November 5.

Navarino Nature Center Shiocton

Nature displays on the movies topic will be available. Popcorn, pop and snacks will be available for a small fee. The film will be shown on the 8 1/2' by 11' screen in the Great Room.

- September 10, 2011 at 1 pm "Open Season"
- October 15, 2011 at 1 pm "Alpha and Omega"
- November 12, 2011 at 1 pm TBA
- December 10, 2011 at 1 pm "Iron Will"

"It's Daylight in the Swamp" with Bill Jamerson

Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 6 pm

Bill Jamerson, author, filmmaker and songwriter, will give a concert in the Great Room at Navarino Nature Center taking you back to the days of the Lumberjacks and tall tales. Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Contact 715-758-6999

Voyaging down the Wolf River Saturday

October 1, 2011 • Time: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Canoe the Wolf River in the DNR Voyageur Canoes, all equipment is provided. Bring a lunch and any personal items. • Please RSVP by Sept. 29, 2011. • Fee: NNC members \$15, non-members \$20

6th Annual Geocaching Event at NNC

Saturday, October 8, 2011 • Time: 8:30 am to 3pm • Teams / individuals use GPS units to see how many geocaches they can find on the Navarino Wildlife Area. Meals can be purchased at NNC between 11 am to 2 pm at the Fall Family Fun Day event.

Fall Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 8, 2011 • Time: 11 am - 3 pm

Family oriented activities and crafts, wagon tours of the wildlife area, renewable energy displays and activities, fun for the whole family.

Fee: Free Contact: 715-758-6999 for more details.

Sunset Wagon Ride

Saturday, October 8, 2011 • Time: 4 - 6:30 pm

Take a two hour wagon tour through the Navarino Wildlife Area viewing wildlife, fall colors and hundreds of Sandhill Cranes. Fee = NNC members \$5, non-members \$10

Halloween Happenings

Saturday, October 22, 2011 • 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Non-scary Halloween event consisting of Halloween games, a Jack-o-Lantern Trail walk, and food around a bonfire. Fee: \$3 per person

Wreath making workshop

Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 9 am

Cost: \$25.00 Limited to 10 people

"Winter Songs & Holidays" with Tim Grimm

Sat., December 3, 2011 at 3 pm

Award winning songwriter and actor from southern Indiana, who walks the fine line between folk and country. Tim's songs are full of rural rumblings that have shaped his life - rich with descriptive details, and sung with warmth and intimacy - recognizing the inextinguishable national romance with the idea of the family farm and the vanishing landscape of rural America. Contact: 715-758-6999 for details, also www.navarino.org or

www.timgrimm.com • Tickets: \$10 per person until November 30, 2011 \$15 per person starting December 1, 2011.

The Ridges Sanctuary

Baileys Harbor

LAKE LESSONS "The Lowdown on Dirt"

August 11 • David Lea, a permaculturist and member of SustainDoor will discuss the consequences of ignoring our most valuable resource, the soil under our feet!

NOT SO EARLY BIRD HIKE

August 13 • For the not so early riser, a bird hike that starts at the more reasonable hour of 9 AM on a Saturday. Everyone is welcome, from seasoned birders to don't know a sapsucker from a woodpecker types. Meet at the Marshall cabin at The Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor and we'll go to a birding hot spot in Door county. Meet at the Marshall cabin at The Ridges Sanctuary. Members are free - non-members \$5 donation.

MOON WALK

Aug 17 • Who's in the woods?? Take a night hike and call for owls in the forest of the Ridges. We'll learn about owls' nighttime adaptations with activities along the hike. Bring your night eyes and explore with all your senses! The Full moon comes up at 7:38 - hope for clear skies! Wednesday, August 17, 8:00-9:30 PM \$10/family. Pre-registration required: Call the Northern Door Y at 868-3660 or The Ridges. Limit 12

Woodland Dunes *Two Rivers*

Butterfly Garden Festival

Saturday, August 20th 9:00am - 1:00pm • Members: \$10 family, \$5 individual; Non-members: \$15 family, \$8 individual • Learn about the butterflies and the plants that attract them at this fun family event. Enjoy butterfly and caterpillar demonstrations, butterfly art projects, garden talks and wildflower and butterfly hikes. Also join us for catching, tagging and releasing monarchs to help track population and migration. Refreshments sold.

Owlfest

Saturday, October 15th 8:00am-1:00pm •

Members: \$10 family, \$5 individual; Non-members: \$15 family, \$8 individual • Celebrate the fall migration of the Northern Saw-whet owl. Owl banding and release demonstrations, children's activities, guided hikes and more!

Enchanted Forest

Saturday, October 29th

Members: \$10 family, \$5 individual; Non-members: \$15 family, \$8 individual • Journey through a candlelit forest to meet some of Mother Nature's favorite (costumed) animals. The outside self-guided hike has surprises around every turn; indoor space and warm refreshments will be available. This will be an educational evening, not a scary one. Please wear costumes and warm clothes.

Adult Education Series: The Wonder of It All

Woodland Dunes hosts an adult education series called The Wonder of It All. This series is offered on the second Wednesday of each month during 2011 and is a result of a grant funded by the Dominion Foundation. Different nature topics relevant to the area will be explored and art will be incorporated in some of the seminars. The program is free and open to all adults. See our events calendar on our website www.woodlanddunes.org for program details.



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 11 Issue 3

The Robin and the Netting

Alan Lawrence

This year I was fortunate to have a small crop of ripening raspberries in my garden. Knowing that birds also enjoy these treats and that they have more time to forage convinced me that I needed to cover the plants with a protective net. I've seen other people do this, and I see the nets sold in garden supply stores. So that's what I did.

And I almost regretted it a few days later when I noticed a young robin trapped in the net. It was very tangled and would not have been able to escape. It would have died if I had not discovered it. I was so happy that I made the discovery in time, but I was also frustrated that I hadn't anticipated this possible outcome.

I carefully cut away some of the net so that I could pick up the bird and take it to a shady place for more work. After perhaps 15 minutes of careful cutting and untangling I finally freed the bird. Its parents had been watching us, and I believe everything worked out.

This incident reminded me that aquatic animals (especially turtles and birds) are trapped or suffocated by plastic items that make it into the trash and then into the oceans or rivers. Huge numbers of animals have died this way.



Plan on attending the John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly this October 7-9 hosted by Us, the Fox Valley Sierra Group. See page 9 for information.