



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 13 Issue 3

Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

August 8, 2013 • 5:30 PM

Picnic - Plamman Park - Chris Brandt Shelter

Come share your summer with fellow Sierrans.

Grill will be provided. Bring a dish to pass, your own meat for grilling, beverages, and place setting.

Plamann Park is located north of Appleton, WI at 1375 E Broadway Dr between N Meade St and N Ballard Rd (County Rd E). The Chris Brandt Shelter is located on the southeast section of the park.

September 12, 2013 - 7:00 PM

Bubloz Nature Preserve - Appleton

Campfire Program

Join us for an outdoor campfire program, complete with songs, treats, and friends. Weather permitting we will have our meeting outdoors at the amphitheater. Bring your friends. Bring a song or story, if you like.

October 10, 2013 - 7:00 PM

Girl Scout building next to Bubolz Nature Preserve.

Use the first parking lot on left.

Hydraulic Fracturing on Eastern National Forests and its Impact with Sand Mining in Wisconsin

The speaker, Chris Johnson, a fellow Sierra Club member and writer based in the Chicago area has co-authored a new book, "Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests."

Some of his topics will include-

- * *Why is hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, occurring on eastern national forests?*
- * *What is the environmental impact of drilling on these forests?*
- * *How does the history of the eastern forests explain why fracking is being permitted?*
- * *Should fracking on public lands be regulated, or should it be stopped?*

FVSG Environmental Award Awarded to the citizen's group "Preserve Waupaca County"

The Fox Valley Sierra Group gives an award, annually, to a person or organization in northeastern Wisconsin. The purpose of the Environmental Award is to recognize and honor individuals or organizations that have achieved significant benefits to the environment from their efforts and contributions. The honor comes with a \$100 prize.

The ExCom voted to accept the nomination written by Rich Krieg and Alan Lawrence. Their nomination essay follows:

For many years Kelly Ramstack has been an active member of our Fox Valley Sierra Group. Generally she felt she was helping to protect the planet for everyone. Life suddenly changed for Kelly, her husband Christian, and her neighbors in July 2012 when they learned that an industrial sand mine might be built in the Town of Union in Waupaca County.

The issue became newsworthy enough for Appleton's Post-Crescent to print a front page article (8/4/12) about A.F. Gelhar Mining Company's plans and the opposition of some of the residents. Kelly soon followed this up with an important Letter to the Editor (8/26/12) that expanded the issue beyond "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) by talking about the environmental issues.

Kelly has helped fight enough battles with Sierra Club to know not to simply accept the news. A "NO SAND MINE" sign in the Ramstack's yard brought in questions from curious neighbors. Kelly and Christian told them that citizens can make a difference, and they asked them to help make that difference.

Except as noted programs are held at the wheelchair accessible Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lyndale Drive (County A) in Appleton, Wisconsin and are free and open to the public. Please join us!

More information can be found at the FVSG web site
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley>

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FVSG Environmental Award

Awarded to the citizen's group "Preserve Waupaca County"

The Ramstacks and their neighbors formed the citizen's group "Preserve Waupaca County". Weekly meetings began in the Ramstack's garage with a giant whiteboard to take notes. As the group grew and the weather turned colder, meetings moved to the public library. During the past year this organization demonstrated an incredible amount of dedication and courage in their exhaustive effort to stop industrial sand mines from coming into Waupaca County. They formed and led a coalition that researched the impact of sand mining. They knocked on doors, wrote letters, signed petitions, met with lawmakers, provided people with signs, spoke eloquently at meetings, and educated neighbors in order to stop the A.F. Gelhar mine or at least make sure that appropriate restrictions were in place. These people, and those who worked with them, learned a lot about democracy during this effort.



Unfortunately, working hard and being on the right side didn't guarantee victory. Despite overwhelming evidence that the citizens are against the mine a permit was recently granted to the mining company. It was a very sad day. The "Preserve Waupaca County" group has filed an appeal. Hopefully there will eventually be good news. In the meantime, Preserve Waupaca County is trying to influence amendments to Waupaca County's Non-Metallic Mining Ordinance to insure that the environment and residents are protected.

Phenology and Climate Change: A Project Proposal

By Diana Lawrence, Conservation Chair

By now we have all heard the cry, "There's an app for that!" Now there is a mobile app for phenology. But let's back up a bit. What is phenology?

According to Gary Fewless, of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, it is the study of the timing of natural events. It is when the first Blue Jay comes to your yard or when the first crocus pops up in your garden. It may not seem important but the data collection is very important. Aldo Leopold was famous for his recordings of natural events and Ralph Waldo Emerson was up to the same thing in his time when he wrote the book 'Walden'. Phenology is going to play a critical role in our understanding of climate change.

Flowering and animal migration are important indicators of climate change. Changes have occurred in flowering times of plants and trees and that is having negative repercussions on migrations. Animals and birds are missing out on their food resources. Animals are slow to respond generally to climate change as many, many generations have to pass before anything changes. By then many species could be extinct. They just cannot change as fast as they need. We may start to see a significant loss of species in the next few years.

Solid information about changes in the natural environment if done on a large enough scale will be meaningful in my opinion. The climate change naysayers will have to change their minds and real work can start in our response to climate change.

About the mobile app then. Turns out it is through Nature's Notebook; which is through the USA National Phenology Network. The USA National Phenology Network is always looking to partner with people and groups to provide data and to communicate with the public about the importance of keeping records of natural events. I would like to have members of the Sierra Club find a place, or places ideally, where we can have observers take note of what is happening on a regular basis. We would then report those findings to the national database.

I think a project of this sort could be very important in helping to understand climate change and how our natural world, including us, will be affected by climate change. If you would like to help please call me at 920-730-9515 and leave a message if I do not answer. Another way to reach me is by email at law_di03@yahoo.com.

I hope you can volunteer to help gather this important information.

Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials

October 12th - November thru January Issue.

Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley>.

Follow FVSG on Facebook and Twitter.

- On Facebook, search for "Fox Valley Sierra Group" then become a fan.
- Find us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FVSierraClub>.

From the Chair - July 2013, By Alan Lawrence

I enjoy walking over lunch hour in the neighborhood around my office. It is a business park, so I'm basically just seeing business buildings and taking a bit of delight in the underdeveloped sections with tall grasses, weeds, and wild flowers. Most of the businesses have small retention ponds to handle rain water that would have soaked into the ground had it not been for parking lots and roofs. These ponds can be interesting, especially when the landlord ignores them and allows them to be wild. Then they are attractive to birds and frogs.

There is a larger pond in the corner of the business park, sort of acting as a buffer zone between the businesses and the residential area on the other side. I often see ducks, geese and herons enjoying this pond, even though it is treeless, regular-shaped, and well-mowed. Over the past year I noticed that a gravel trail and some picnic tables and benches were built on the other side. I've sometimes noticed joggers or walkers using that trail.

Recently I altered my regular walking ritual and decided to investigate. There was an inviting sign from the Town of Greenville welcoming people to use the park. To my surprise I discovered that the gravel trail not only crossed the mowed area but also a wildish area. Furthermore there was a small forest. I had always assumed these trees had survived only because the business park hadn't found a tenant for this corner, and I hadn't paid much attention to it. Without a trail it is difficult to explore and enjoy the land. And so much land is privately owned and off limits. I was delighted to discover that a lovely trail system ran through this small, but beautiful, forest.

I later learned that this park, Pebble Ridge Park, in the Greenville Business Park, in the Town of Greenville is 13 acres in size. I think it is wise planning.

The trend I've seen in my town (Appleton) has been to build retention ponds in existing community parks because the land is already owned by the city, reducing the costs of water retention projects. This, unfortunately, also leads to the loss of useful park land.

The contrast shown with Pebble Ridge Park is to build a new park around a retention pond, thus increasing community park land. People really do enjoy and value parks.

The documentary movie, "Gasland", came out in 2010 and helped many to understand what needs to be feared with fracking. The sequel to this movie, "Gasland Part II", was released in July for HBO cable television. I don't have cable

TV and haven't seen the new movie, but I can tell you that the older movie really makes you worry. The fracking industry was exempted from many environmental regulations that are supposed to help keep us safer. Without it, we are exposed to many hazards and risks. I've heard that the amount of water in our country being permanently spoiled by fracking in one year is approximately the same as volume of water that goes over Niagara Falls in one day. Water is too precious to waste that way.



The Apollo 17 space mission took the picture of earth, showing it as a little blue marble. This helped us to realize what a tiny skin the earth had to support life. All of our atmosphere, water, and mineral resources are contained in a very thin skin around our planet, thinner in proportion than an apple skin on an apple. It is just as fragile. Apples perish when their skin is damaged. We must not allow that to happen to our planet.

Wisconsin has become the best place for mining sand used for fracking. It is a big problem for our state. Certainly it is making some people wealthy, but it is endangering communities and people in the poorly-regulated process. This year our group gives our Environmental Award to an organization that is opposed to industrial sand mining in their neighborhood. Read the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

As you think about regulations, and whether they are desirable or not, think about some of these recent incidents and whether better regulations would have helped protect the neighbors: the oil spill in the Arkansas suburban community, the Canadian oil train that ran away and destroyed a town, and the Texas fertilizer plant explosion. Then think about our Gogebic Taconite mine in northwestern Wisconsin. And think about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

All year in Wisconsin is a good time to be outside. But summer is an easy time to be out. Yesterday my wife and I joined with a large group of canoes and kayaks to paddle down the Fox River from Neenah to Appleton. It was a great event and allowed us to see our community and the river as we seldom do. We treasure the opportunity and are reminded that our river needs to be protected and showcased so that we can all enjoy it.

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

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

Fox Valley Sierra Group **OUTINGS**

August 24-25, Saturday-Sunday Canoe the Flambeau River

This is a canoe camping trip that includes some class II rapids. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. For details contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com

September 14, Saturday

Bike the Green Circle Trail, Stevens Point
This 26-mile bike trail (www.greencircletrail.org) connects parks and quiet neighborhoods around the outskirts of Stevens Point. Must be comfortable riding on boardwalk, dirt trails and a few busy roads. The scenery along the way is a nice mix of wetlands, rivers, woods and old industrial. We'll pack a lunch and stop for ice cream at a shop along the trail. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

September 21, Saturday

Ice Age Trail Work Day in Portage County

Our Fox Valley Sierra Group will be doing minor trail maintenance in Portage County in the Iola area. We will begin work on the trail at about 9:30. We will be on a portion of the trail that will be hiked in the Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon that will be held two weeks later. Feel free to bring a pruning tool. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, work shoes, and mosquito and tick repellent to this outing. We will stop for ice cream midafternoon. For head-count purposes, location to meet, ride consolidation, and information, contact Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, R7Dairl@yahoo.com

September 28, Saturday

First annual "Bike the Quilts."

Supported bike ride through rolling countryside. Various routes, 5-25 miles. Beautiful fall colors and views of the famous Shawano County barn quilts. Fundraiser for Shawano Pathways, an organization dedicated to improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety and trails. Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715-853-6625

October 5, Saturday

Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon in Portage Co.

Put on your hiking boots and hike in the annual fund raiser for the Portage and Waupaca County chapters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The hike-a-thon will be held at the Iola Winter Sports Club facility north of Iola on County Hwy. MM just west of Hwy. 49. The fee to hike in the hike-a-thon is \$5. However, one can donate more or acquire pledges. Hike the entire 10 miles or any portion. Water, apples, and snacks will be provided. I am planning to hike the entire 10 miles 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. If you wish to hike on your own or with friends at a different time, that would also be fine. Contact: Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, R7Dairl@yahoo.com

October 19, Saturday

Manitowish Waters Day Trip

Lunch at Little Bohemia restaurant, John Dillinger hang-out and scene of the famous shoot out. Used for the film Public Enemies. Followed by easy hiking along the North Lakeland Discovery Center birding trail (\$5 donation recommended.) Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920-830-6625

November 9, Saturday

Hike at Rib Mountain State Park plus visit to Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

About a two hour hike at Rib Mountain. (State Park sticker or fee required. Steep trail. Walking stick recommended.) Lunch at local restaurant. Followed by a visit to the Birds in Art exhibit (donation.) Since 1976, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum has organized Birds in Art annually, seeking to present the very best contemporary artistic interpretations of birds and related subject matter. Approximately 100 two- and three-dimensional artworks in all media other than crafts and photography are selected by a jury for the Museum's flagship exhibition. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920-830-6625



John and Nancy were the only paddlers on the May 4 Wolf River outing. Beautiful day and great paddling. Join us next year!

Get outside and join us on one of our outings! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. For more details and in order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings or contact the outings leader directly.



Darrel, our Ice Age Trail leader, working on the Trail in Waupaca County in May. Join him and others as we work in Portage County in September and hike a portion of the Trail at the October Hike-a-Thon.

The Fox Valley Sierra Group Annual Fund Raiser was a Success.

We had good food, fun and made some money with a spirited May auction. Thanks to: Auctioneer Howard Johannes for his auctioneering services. (Johannes Auction Service, LLC, N3040 Lawson Dr., Waupaca, WI 54981); Sally Peck & Maureen Birk for their help; All those who donated services and items; And all who spent money. And thanks to these firms who donated items: Just Act Natural, (129 E College Ave, Appleton, WI 54911, 920-574-2931); and Globally Sound Fair Trade, (604 W. College Ave., Downtown Appleton. WI, 920-993-9989).



Welcome New Members

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| Algoma
Peggie Kruswick
Tim Minahan | Combined Locks
Henry Trautwein | Richard Berg
Evan Miller | Larsen
Theda Eckstein | Elizabeth Schubert
William Ulezelski | Sturgeon Bay
Trudy Voss |
| Appleton
Shannon & Kristine
Glenn
Nancy Ropella
Joseph Gambosky
Rebecca Veitch
Felipe da Silva
Peter Boulanger
Sharon Kortenhof
Val Green
Diane Temple
Cody Reynolds
Jerry Krejcha
James Marks
Lorraine Luebben
Betty Lembcke
Megan Luedtke
Lynne Drews
Eva Browing
Peter Peterson
Mr Richard Huss
Marieluise
Tessendorf
Barbara A
Schimmelfenning
Marion Shepard
Pamela Allwardt | Casco
Jamie Sisel | Douglas Scholes
Carrie Jauquet
Elaine Conway
Loraine N Prue
Ray P Scanlan
Jane E Stannard
Joyce Weissappel
Shelly Moffatt
Rachael Bain
James Dennison
Gary Van Ess
Alex Roup
Majorie Burkart
Eugene W Priem, Sr
Raymond Stefens
Sue Hogleund | Little Suamico
Frank Newell | Karen Beckstrom
Audrey James
John Juedes
Janey Robson
Doris Busha
Sharon V Pongratz
William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Joseph Fischer
Mike Orlock
Shirley Talmadge
Shirley Mann
Ellen Mcneil
Tom Zwicky |
| Ellison Bay
Mr Richard Huss
Marieluise
Tessendorf
Barbara A
Schimmelfenning
Marion Shepard
Pamela Allwardt | Dalton
Thomas and Barbara
Reif | Green Lake
Margaret Schultz
Matthew Wagner | Luxemburg
Rod Spude | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Waupaca
Kevin Minton
Jim Trainor
Mary Trainor
Daniel Landre |
| Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | DePere
Betty Deleon
John R Boardman
Don Henrickson
Orville Schroeder
Bridget Chapman
Rachel Enright
Gary Nabielski | Greenville
Debra Gylund
Chas Reuter | Marinette
Ricardo Jaimes | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Waupun
Mr James Laird |
| Brillion
David S & Katherine
Giese | Egg Harbor
Maryna Oleksina
Elizabeth Warren | Hancock
Nancy Livingston | Marion
Tim Mass | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Wautoma
Debra Biskner
Katherine
Simanovsky
Joan Shelby |
| Clintonville
Dick Koeppen
Jim Putnam | Fairwater
Jerry Sanders | Kaukauna
Lee W Mothes
Sarah Pelkey | Markesan
David Burbach
Barbara Mills | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Westfield
Joe and Wendy
Koehler
Jean Urbach |
| | Fond du Lac
Rollin Senger | Kewaunee
Lynn Utesch
Marsha Brown | Menasha
Charlotte Foth
Deborah Pickett | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Weyauwega
Deana Hirte |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | King
Ronald Mitchell | Neenah
Frank L Nelsen
Dale Winkler | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | Wild Rose
Roxanne Jeske
Thomas Erickson
John Jenks
Katherine Gayton |
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Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Neshkoro
Polly Miller
Barbara Woods
Ann Augsburger | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
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Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | New London
Joette Wheeler
John Lutter | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Oconto Falls
Roberta Olshesky | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Oshkosh
Julie Anne Wagner
Mark Roley
M F Summerville
Myrna Murken
Donna Bersch
Patricia Ostertag
Tammy Brown | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Peshtigo
Sandra Cota
Kent Finger | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
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Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Pulaski
William Meier
Charles Korger
Don & Linda Patzke | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Ripon
M Stuart | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Rosendale
Christopher
Giffey-Brohaugh | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Scandinavia
Evangeline
Anderson-Myhre
Kevin Hamm | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
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Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Seymour
Jane Webster | William Hower
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Gary Adams | |
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Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Shawano
Rebecca Droster
Christine Singer | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |
| | Green Bay
Peggy Kubiak
Ronald Goska
Rev Luke Farwell
Jennifer Rome
Linda Doro
Deborah Robbins
Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Shiocton
Cheryl Carter
Scott Braun | William Hower
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Gary Adams | |
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Sherrie Macco
Dolores Corpus
Ms Leigh Begalske
Brian Simurdiak
Jean Dussault
Mary Grimmerett | | Sister Bay
Harriet Overby
Thomas Allyn | William Hower
Bev Boettcher
Gary Adams | |

The New Wolf Hunting Committee -

L Menefee, Wolf/Predator Conservation Chair
Conservation Committee, Executive Committee
Sierra Club-JMC

While state politicians moved Wolf Recovery into Wolf Management, Wisconsin's wolf policy has been quickly taken over by special interests representing no more than 14% of the state population.

Wolf "management" of course means legal wolf killing, and more wolves will be legally killed this year, over bait, trapped, and possibly with the use of dogs, than in the first season, last year. The NRB approved a quota of 275, a 37% increase over last year, a move that's causing grave concern among those not in the 14%, including dedicated biologists, Tribal Governments, conservationists, and the majority of people in Wisconsin, 81% of respondents, according to recent polls.

A new "Wolf Advisory Committee" has been created to take the place of the recently dissolved Wolf Science Committee which advised policy throughout recovery, and was made up of biologists including Environmental Science faculty. The Wolf Stakeholders' Committee, legislatively mandated to advise wolf policy in 1999, on which the John Muir Chapter had continual representation, has also been dissolved. Membership on the new WAC is by invitation only, from Walker's appointee to WDNR Secretary, Cathy Stepp, a former real estate developer.

"We're past the recovery stage; now we're in the management stage" says WAC Chair, Bill Vander Zouwen, WDNR Wildlife Ecology Chief. "It makes the most sense to have the people at the table who are OK with managing and not always fighting that battle."

"Management," of course, means killing, and 24 of 26 WAC members are either lobbyists for wolf killing, or agency representatives who enforce regulations for wolf killing:

The timeline and agenda set for the WAC over the next year is entirely focused on wolf hunting regulations. There are no timelines for developing educational outreach on the WAC agenda. Only two members, Peter David, biologist for Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Council, and Randy Jurewicz, recently retired WDNR wolf depredations officer and now representing Timber Wolf Alliance, an educational organization, are not affiliated with wolf removal interests.

David noted recently and at the 2013 Midwest Wolf Stewards Conference that very few wolves were killed in areas experiencing higher depredations, and many wolves were taken in

areas where wolves cause little problem. He argues that a non-selective hunt bears no relation to depredations management. It is important to note that .016% of Wisconsin's more than 7,000 farms and livestock operations in wolf territory experience confirmed wolf depredation.

Wolves in Wisconsin would have suffered higher death tolls last year had not the tribes exercised their treaty rights to 50% of the take in the ceded territories. They elected not to kill their allotted number of wolves. This year, the NRB threatens to increase the quota proportionately if the tribes don't kill their allotment. In disregard of the latest research in distribution and mortality models to come out of UW Madison's Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, no refuge areas outside of the reservations have been designated.

Absent from the WAC are University of Wisconsin faculty. Two days prior to the first meeting in April, 2013, a memo from Stepp's office barred UW faculty from serving on wildlife advisory committees.

While the WAC continues to refer to 350 wolves as a "population target," that number was established in the early recovery period, over thirty years ago, as a threshold below which wolves in the state would be regulated as "threatened." This number was never established in any Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan as a maximum population for the state. Nevertheless, those interested in killing wolves, who constitute 95% of the new Wolf Advisory Committee, continue to refer to 350 as the maximum number of wolves we should tolerate. Population goals, or biological carrying capacity estimates, have not been reassessed in WI since 1992, or by USFWS since 1971. However, deer population goals are reassessed in Wisconsin every 3-5 years.

"You have to do all kinds of disgusting things to them to get them down to 350," one expert speaker at a WAC meeting told me privately. Things like hunting into breeding and denning periods, setting aggressive quotas, and refusal to allow refuge areas.

The John Muir Chapter's first petition for inclusion on the WAC was denied by WDNR Secretary Stepp. Our second petition was submitted and also denied.

Union Sand Mine in Limbo - by Kelly Ramstack

See article *Sand Mines: Coming to a Town Near You?* in Vol. 12 Issue 4 of *It's Our Nature* for the background story on this mine. Read online at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/Newsletter.html>

The Waupaca County Planning and Zoning Committee approved the permit for an industrial sand mine next to Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area on June 6, 2013 but we still have a chance to stop it. Members of Preserve Waupaca County, a citizen's action group that formed in opposition to this mine, filed an appeal with Waupaca County on July 5th. We are concerned with the impact this industrial sand mine will have on our water, air quality, property values, quality of life, and the adjacent state natural area.

In early May I led a spring wildflower hike in Tellock's Woods. Elward Engle, retired from the DNR and a wildflower enthusiast, shared his knowledge of the area as we meandered through the quiet trees. Elward was instrumental in getting Tellock's Woods designated a state natural area and we have become friends during our fight to preserve the area. Trout lilies, dutchman's breeches, hepatica, bleeding hearts and many other spring flowers blanketed the forest floor. Overhead old growth hemlock and ash entwined their ancient branches to create a peaceful cocoon for us walking down below. Tellock's Woods is a place like no other in this state and I believe you don't truly understand how special it is until you've spent a few hours lost within it.

How can one justify putting such a special place at risk? If you remove one side of the hill that the ancient trees stand on, will they survive? If you coat the wildflowers in a layer of silica sand dust, will they survive? If you operate heavy machinery around the clock, will the serenity of the woods survive? These are all questions that I have but not once has protecting Tellock's Woods come up for discussion in the many meetings about the mine at both the town and county levels. Instead, our elected officials only seem to care about jobs: supporting Waupaca Foundry and creating new jobs at the sand mine.

Currently, Badger Mining supplies Waupaca Foundry with silica sand out of their facility in Green Lake. Badger still has plenty of sand avail-

able and would love to continue to supply the foundry. I recently had a conversation with a man who works for Badger. He, along with many others, are very concerned about losing their jobs if Badger loses the Foundry contract. The Union sand mine won't create new jobs; it will steal them from others. Why create a new sand mine next to a residential area and a state natural area when the foundry already has enough sand available to purchase?

While the Town of Union was holding meetings to determine their recommendation regarding the sand mine permit, town board members were encouraged to adopt a set of conditions that would set restrictions on the mine. We were told numerous times by county officials that it's rare for a county board to vote against a town's wishes but the conditions are a backup plan in case that were to happen. Well, that's exactly what happened. Even though the Town of Union recommended a

denial of the conditional use permit for A.F. Gelhar's sand mine, the County Planning & Zoning Committee voted in favor of it. Not only that, they then went through the conditions that Union worked so hard to put together and they weakened a few of them. Union wanted no nighttime hauling but the county changed the condition to allow around-the-clock trucking. Union wanted the target noise level from the mine site to be 65 decibels but the County changed it to 75 decibels. Union wanted the mine to be no closer than 2,000 feet from a residence, a policy called out in our comprehensive plan, but the county changed it to 500 feet from a property line. Our elected officials are supposed to protect their citizens. How are these weakened conditions benefiting the people? They aren't; they cater to the mining company.

The appeal that has been filed will be forwarded to Waupaca county's Board of Adjustment which will then review the decision to grant A.F. Gelhar's conditional use permit for an industrial sand mine in the Town of Union. Another public hearing will be held before the Board of Adjustment makes their decision. At this time, no date has been set.

Questions, comments or concerns? Contact Kelly Ramstack at 920-540-9139 or kjramstack@yahoo.com



Standing on the dividing line between the State Natural Area and a proposed industrial sand mine.



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