



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 14 Issue 3

## Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

**August 14, 2014 - 5:30  
Picnic**

*Plamann Park - Chris Brandt Shelter*

Come share your summer with fellow Sierrans. Grill and lemon-aide will be provided. Bring a dish to pass, your own meat for grilling, place setting, and beverages (alcoholic if wanting to partake).

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 11, 2014 - 7:00  
Campfire meeting**

*Bubolz Nature Preserve*

Bring folding chairs, an appetite for smores and snacks, and maybe a song they'd be willing to teach and lead.

**October 9, 2014 - 7:00  
Dealing with a Pet Loss**

*Girl Scout Building  
next to Bubolz Nature Preserve*

Valarie Adams from the Healing Heart Foundation will be our speaker. The Healing Heart Pet Loss Partnership and Pet Loss Advocacy are part of the HHF, which was founded to help people deal with the loss of their beloved pet. Valarie will tell us how they got their start, the changes made since conception, what to do if you find out your four legged family member has a terminal illness and how you can prepare for that loss.

**November 13, 2014 - 7:00  
History of High Cliff**

*Bubolz Nature Preserve*

Cindy Mueller from High Cliff State Park will be speaking about the history of High Cliff.

Bubolz Nature Preserve is located at 4815 N. Lynndale Drive (County A) in Appleton, Wisconsin. The Girl Scout Appleton Service Center is adjacent to Bubolz at 4693 N. Lynndale Dr.

## **From the Chair** July 2014, by Alan Lawrence

If you were to ask a winter enthusiast about the winter past you'd probably hear that we enjoyed cross-country skiing in the plentiful snow. Others, less enthusiastic about the cold and the snow might tell you that it seemed like winter just wouldn't end. And our summer, now in July, seems to have started slowly and not gotten very warm. The days are already growing shorter and it sometimes feels like autumn is close.

This might seem at odds with the warming we might expect with Global Warming. Certainly some of our neighbors feel that way. But climate change scientists will tell you not to be surprised. Warming is about average temperatures. Heat energizes our oceans and winds, making them stronger and causing them to sweep and mix more violently. This past winter we were introduced to the term "polar vortex", a condition where faster moving air currents sweep frigid air from far northern regions towards us, making us freeze. Meanwhile our warm air heated the North Pole. While we shivered other regions of our planet were unusually warm.

On June 24, over 600 volunteers from Citizens' Climate Lobby were in Washington, DC, lobbying their members of Congress to support legislation that taxes carbon and gives the revenue back to households. These volunteers traveled from all across the US on their own dime to make the case for what they see as the best first step to a stable climate and a livable world. Forty-some came from Wisconsin. James Servais, a Sierra Club member, leads an active group of CCL in the Green Bay area.



I understand that part of their message was that the air belongs to all of us and we deserve a carbon dividend, a refund paid to us from money collected by the carbon dioxide polluters. It is a variation of the carbon tax and is an interesting concept.

*Continues Page 2...*

...From the Chair

There remains, unfortunately, considerable doubt among our citizens about the reality of global warming and climate. Why is that? There has, of course, been extreme marketing by those with a financial interest in lucrative fossil fuels. An interview on Wisconsin Public Radio with authors Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway introduced me to their book written in 2011, "Merchants of Doubt". I need to read it.

It tells the controversial story of how a loose-knit group of high-level scientists and scientific advisers, with deep connections in politics and industry, ran effective campaigns to mislead the public and deny well-established scientific knowledge over four decades. The same individuals who claim the science of global warming is "not settled" have also denied the truth about studies linking smoking to lung cancer, coal smoke to acid rain, and CFCs to the ozone hole.

The authors were on the radio interview because of their latest book, "The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future". In this work of science-based fiction they imagine a world devastated by climate change. I'd like to read it, for I believe we are at a critical time. The science of Global Warming has now been known for more than a century.

"The year is 2393, and the world is almost unrecognizable. Clear warnings of climate catastrophe went ignored for decades, leading to soaring temperatures, rising sea levels, widespread drought and—finally—the disaster now known as the Great Collapse of 2093, when the disintegration of the West Antarctica Ice Sheet led to mass migration and a complete reshuffling of the global order. Writing from the Second People's Republic of China on the 300th anniversary of the Great Collapse, a senior scholar presents a gripping and deeply disturbing account of how the children of the Enlightenment—the political and economic elites of the so-called advanced industrial societies—failed to act, and so brought about the collapse of Western civilization."

Let's hope that our generation is not remembered by future generations for failing to act.

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

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

**Don't forget to VOTE in the upcoming elections. The earth would appreciate it and it does make a difference.**

## Concerns Rise Over Pesticide Use, Birds, and Bees

by Alan Lawrence

A Science Friday.com radio program on July 11 tells the sad story of neonicotinoid pesticides.

Research published in the journal "Nature" linked the use of these pesticides to declining populations of some insect-eating birds. These pesticides, which have been banned in the European Union, have come under fire for possible connections to straggling bee colonies. These pesticides are commonly used on seeds, and eating a single seed is capable of killing a song bird. There is a real fear that we may be creating a new "Silent Spring" similar to what Rachel Carson warned about in her 1962 book.

## Brat Fry

On May 17 our organization held a brat fry fundraiser under the leadership of Cindy Carter. It was our first attempt at this kind of fundraiser and was only marginally successful. Thank you to everyone who helped. We are looking for an opportunity to hold another brat fry at a better location.



## Gardening and Pick-Your-Own Farms

by Alan Lawrence

I enjoy growing food in my backyard garden. But I have come to realize that my yard is small and some of my talents and tools are limited. This year I had a wonderful crop of strawberries ripening, but critters got to almost all of it. I have had limited success growing my own apples, so my family heads out to a local orchard each fall. We pick cherries in Door County in July. And in June we head out to Cuff Farms in Hortonville for strawberries. I appreciate that they advertise that they do



not use herbicide, pesticide or fungicide on their strawberries. That gives you the confidence to sample liberally while collecting a larger crop to purchase. I appreciate that these farmers share the experience with city folks with pick-your-own opportunities.

Vol. 14 Issue 3 August-November 2014.  
*It's Our Nature* is published four times a year  
by the Fox Valley Sierra Group,  
P.O. Box 264, Appleton, WI 54912-0264.

Subscription included with Sierra Club membership dues.  
**Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials - October 15th  
-November - January Issue.**

## Sierra Club Group Boundary Changes

The John Muir Chapter of Sierra Club is in the process of considering boundary changes for the groups within Wisconsin. Currently it can be difficult to know which group serves a particular population because the borders are difficult to describe. We are looking at using county boundaries; a group would be made up of a specific set of counties.

The July-September issue of the Chapter's "Muir View" newsletter describes the proposal and shows some maps. If you have an opinion on the potential reorganization we would like to hear it.

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/newsletter.asp>

## Air Emissions Recycling

One of our members, Philip Nolan, has a vision for carbon dioxide that he has been sharing with anyone who will listen. He lives in Waupaca, near the shadow of a refinery belching smoke. Most of us see a waste product in need of better disposal. Some who care about the carbon dioxide content have expensive visions of compressing the smoke and piping it to another state for underground storage.

Philip has a better vision. There is so much of this stuff. Why not think of it as a resource instead of garbage? We will be working with Philip in the coming months, and probably years, to work on the idea. He explains that valuable materials in the smoke can be separated out and sold. The clean carbon dioxide would be perfect in green houses where the gas is converted into useful hydrocarbon building blocks.

## Attend the 2014 Sierra Club Autumn Assembly

The John Muir Chapter of Sierra Club, serving Wisconsin, holds a statewide gathering of Sierra Club members and supporters each October. This year the event will take place October 10-12 at the Phantom Lake YMCA Camp in Mukwonago. Regardless of your level of participation with other Group or Chapter events you should consider this to be YOUR event.

Most of the event takes place on Saturday. But there are activities on Friday and Sunday and you may want to stay overnight.

Please check the event website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp> to see the event description and schedule. Registration is requested before September 15 to avoid late fees.

## Preserve Waupaca County and Tellock Hill Mine Update

In early May, Preserve Waupaca County experienced a setback when the Waupaca County Board of Adjustments voted unanimously to uphold the conditional use permit that could result in an open-pit silica sand mine and processing site in the Town of Union near the Tellock's Hill Woods State Natural Area.

This was a disappointment to PWC, which had hired legal representation and spent a great deal of time preparing for the hearing. The group has filed an appeal at the circuit court level and continues to weigh the costs against the potential benefits of pursuing further legal action.

Brad Millikin, one of the group's more active members, said, "I think most importantly we have kept our options open by filing [an] appeal which sends a message to the board that we are not going to let this go quietly away. It also gives us options as far as what happens in November with state elections [and] spring elections in Union."

In addition to opposing a mine on the Tellock Hill site, group members are influencing the future of all non-metallic mining in Waupaca County. A county-level ad hoc committee charged with reviewing and revising Waupaca County non-metallic mining ordinances recently voted to extend an existing moratorium on new non-metallic mines. Members of the committee are in open communication with Preserve Waupaca County, whose members were specifically invited on a tour of the county's existing gravel pits and mining sites.

Fundraising has also been a major part of the group's activities. In addition to receiving a grant from the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, the group ran a crowd-funding campaign through the site Indegogo, held seven brat fries at area grocery stores, (which have resulted not only in much-needed funding but also gave the group a public presence and a forum for education), and held a three-day rummage sale.

Preserve Waupaca County continues to reach out to people. The group mailed postcards to apprise Town of Union residents of hearing dates. PWC members have also been networking with groups in other counties and with residents of Waupaca County's Caldonia Township, where, under an existing permit, a small gravel pit expanded into an industrial mine with on-site processing. Efforts are underway to strengthen and more fully utilize these connections.

Group members maintain communication with email and through a Facebook page "Preserve Waupaca County." Donations are always welcome and can be sent to Preserve Waupaca County, P.O. Box 202, Manawa, WI 54949. Please contact the group through Facebook to be added to the email list or to volunteer for fundraising events.

## Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

### August 23-24, 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 13, Saturday

#### Bike the Green Circle Trail, Stevens Point

This 26-mile bike trail ([www.greencircletrail.org](http://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. The outing will last about 5 hours depending on our pace. We'll stop for ice cream about halfway around the "circle." For details contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

### September 27, Saturday

#### Ice Age Trail Work Day in Waupaca County

The Fox Valley Sierra Group will be assisting the Waupaca County Ice Age Trail chapter in one of two ways on September 27: (1), we will assist in doing corridor trail clearing within Hartman Creek State Park to help prepare for a 2015-scheduled Ice Age Trail Foundation project to reroute the trail through the park; or, (2), we will be doing light trail work on the section of the trail that will be hiked upon during their annual Hike-A-Thon on October 4. In either event, tools will be provided. We will work until mid-afternoon. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, good work shoes, and insect repellent. For details contact: FVSG Coordinator Darrel Ruechel, 920-993-0903, r7dairl@yahoo.com

### October 4, Saturday

#### Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon

The Waupaca and Portage County chapters of the Ice Age Trail Foundation will be sponsoring their annual hike-a-thon on Saturday, October 4, with the hike beginning at Hartman Creek State Park just west of Waupaca. These Ice Age Trail chapters sponsor this hike-a-thon in order to raise funds to acquire, develop and maintain the Ice Age Trail in each of their respective counties. The fee to hike is \$5. However, one may donate more or acquire pledges. Water, apples, and snacks will be provided. I am planning to hike 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 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 desire to hike on your own or with friends at a different time, that would also be great. For details contact; FVSG IATA Coordinator Darrel Ruechel, 920-993-0903, r7dairl@yahoo.com



### October 11, Saturday

#### Bike the Mascoutin Valley Trail to a Winery

The western segment of the Mascoutin Valley State Trail connects the small towns of Berlin and Ripon. The rail-trail goes past farms, prairies and wetlands. We'll start our morning in Berlin and bike about 9 miles to Vines & Rushes Winery where we'll enjoy a free tasting of their wines. The winery also has soda, cheese, crackers and other locally made items available for purchase. We'll enjoy a snack before biking back to Berlin. \*NOTE: Must be 21 to come on this outing! For details contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

### October 25-26, Saturday & Sunday

#### Whitewater canoeing on the Wolf River (Sections II & III)

This is the River Touring Section's annual Halloween trip. It includes some class II and class III rapids. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net

### October 31 - Nov 2, Friday - Sunday

#### Explore Trempealeau Weekend

Choose from 1-3 activities. There will also be free time to wander over to the locks or watch the barges on the Mississippi from the deck of the Trempealeau Hotel.

**Friday, Oct. 31** - Short late afternoon ride on the Great River Trail  
**Saturday, Nov. 1** - Hiking in Perrot State Park and biking on a different section of the Great River Trail  
**Sunday, Nov. 2** - Bike roads through or hike in Trempealeau National Wildlife Area. The National Wildlife Refuge System, within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, manages a national network of lands and waters set aside to conserve America's fish, wildlife, and plants. The Trempealeau Refuge has great easy biking and hiking trails. And on the Mississippi flyway, we are sure to see some inspiring sights. Stop at Eker's apple orchard on the way home. Only place I know of to get Pippin apples grown in Wisconsin. Get a pie to go!

Accommodations on your own: camping available in Perrot State Park; historic Trempealeau Hotel has rooms with shared bath above an excellent restaurant; other motels in Trempealeau.

For details contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller; nbkappleton@gmail.org; 715 853-6625

*Get outside and join us on one of our outings this summer and fall! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. 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. Time and meetings locations of outings can change. Some trips are weather dependent. Times are not listed in these descriptions to ensure participants will check with trip leaders before proceeding.*



# AN AFTERNOON ON THE RIVER

[Or: COW-ED CANOEING] by Maureen Birk

There we were, wooden paddles in hand, floating in a fragile Royalex canoe, and staring down larger-than-life, black and white, silent, creatures, with big, brown, bovine eyes ..... [Well, perhaps that's a bit dramatic.]

This story begins on a recent lovely summer afternoon. Steve Meyer and I had speculated for some time about the navigability of the East & West Twin Rivers (in Two Rivers). With this year's higher water levels, it seemed the perfect time to finally check it out. The East Twin was a new river to me, and Steve had not paddled that stretch for some years.

After scouting conditions from several bridges, and shuttling the cars, we launched the canoe in Norman. By map, and "as-the-crow-flies", it looked like about 3 miles to the landing site in Tisch Mills. But it is a very meandering little river, with surprises around every bend. We maneuvered the open areas without mishap, but the windfalls almost were our undoing. There were the branches we slid under, and the low ones we dragged the canoe over, or climbed on the trees, and pushed the canoe through under the branches. At one point, we pulled the boat up a steep overgrown bank, and dragged it through waist high vegetation, taking care to avoid the stinging nettle. [... praying there was no poison ivy down around our ankles!] And we waded one stretch in water deeper than my legs are long, slipping over logs, and towing the canoe around impossible turns.

All of this made me relish the open stretches even more. There were enough clouds to keep it comfortable, with a light breeze. Perfect for soaking in the peace and calm, and for quiet conversation. As we wound our way around the bends, we passed through wooded areas and farm fields. It really is a very pretty river; peaceful, with abundant wildlife. White tail deer plunging into the river ahead of us, dragon flies in multiple colors flitting in the sunlight, duck families scuttling to stay ahead of us, a goose family running up the embankment. There were red tail hawks and turkey vultures soaring overhead, great blue herons protesting our intrusion, kingfishers fishing [?], and swallows picking bugs off the water's surface. And one lone green frog who just avoided being squashed in the mud by the canoe.

But the domestic critters proved to be the highlight of the trip. At several points we surprised groups of cows, who watched us with apprehension. They slowly backed up, keeping one eye on us, until they felt safe to turn their backs and hurry up the hill and out of sight.

Further down river, though, we got a different reception from a group of younger cows (heifers, I think) They came rapidly down to the river bank, in a manner that might have seemed aggressive (at least to me), but turned out to be merely curious. They crowded together, shoulder to shoulder, in a line along the bank, and watched us go by. As we passed, they walked along the bank with us until it became too overgrown to continue. Then, to our amazement and amusement, they turned as a group, and hurried up the slope to an apparent (cow?) path, and ran to the next open spot along the river bank. This continued several more times, with them galloping (if cows can be said to gallop) to the next vantage point, where they would watch while we passed. Finally there must have been a fence that kept them from following us further. As we paddled out of sight, I heard a "moooo" in the distance. I choose to believe it was "good bye".

A day to remember with smiles and a few laughs; a unique experience to be savored!



## Two Bike Rides for Good Causes

### Navarino Nature Center Wildlife & Wheels Adventure Bike Ride, Sat. Aug. 16

"Four rustic routes traveling around the wildlife area."

Continental breakfast before and hearty lunch after riding.  
Rest stops and SAG wagons.  
For more information see [www.navarino.org](http://www.navarino.org).

### Shawano Pathways Bike the Barn Quilts, Sat. Sept. 27

"Routes of various lengths on rolling county roads, passing the famous Shawano County Barn Quilts."

Continental breakfast before and hearty lunch after riding.  
Rest stops and SAG wagons.  
For more information see [www.shawanopathways.org](http://www.shawanopathways.org)

---

## US Fish and Wildlife Service

We as citizens are lead to believe that the US Wildlife Service is a government agency that does good work to "manage" our wildlife. This is not the case, as this agency is under great scrutiny because of their lethal and indiscriminate predator control programs that wastes millions of taxpayer dollars killing over 100,000 bears, cougars, coyotes, foxes, and wolves every year. These innocent victims are killed at the request of ranchers and state wildlife management agencies. The methods used to murder these animals are barbaric and includes poisoning, snare traps and assaults from the air.

I have tried to find the exact numbers but when I goggle US Fish and Wildlife services I don't get anything that lists information about the "killing fields". It is sad, we humans take over every where and the wildlife pays the ultimate price, many times for no other reason than just existing.

If you would like more information on the "War on Wildlife" go to the website [www.PredatorDefense.org/USDA.htm](http://www.PredatorDefense.org/USDA.htm). WARNING - IT IS VERY DISTURBING.

Cindy Carter, Political Chair

## The 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and Wisconsin Wilderness Areas

On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law – “for the use and enjoyment of the American people.”

During 2014, as the Wilderness Act turns 50, we'll reflect on the historic value of this major American cultural and environmental achievement. Sierra Club, other wilderness groups, and the four federal wilderness managing agencies are organizing a whole year of celebrations to use the golden anniversary to educate a broader public about the concept and benefits of wilderness.



The 1964 Wilderness Act defines Wilderness as areas where “the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man,” with untrammelled meaning left wild and free from human control or manipulation. Wilderness designation provides the strongest and most permanent protection of our laws for Wilderness values such as adventure, solitude, a respite from the pressures of civilization, clean air and water, scenery, wildlife, and scientific understanding of how the natural world works when left alone.

Only Congress can designate wilderness—by law – and it was the voices of Americans that convinced Congress over the past 50 years to expand the initial 9.1 million acres of wilderness set aside in 54 national forest areas in 13 states to about 109 million acres with 757 areas in 44 states -- wild places in national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and western lands of the Bureau of Land Management. Although Wisconsin was not one of the 13 states with wilderness designated in 1964, it has achieved considerable wilderness protection over the years in seven areas.

The Wilderness Act declared it to be the policy of our nation to “to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness”. On Sierra Club outings, participants can directly enjoy that benefit. While Sierra Club began long before the Wilderness Act was signed, the basic principles underlying the Act are also the founding principles of the Sierra Club--preserving wild places. And Sierra Club has played a big role in the national wilderness effort from the start. From 1949 to 1975 the Sierra Club hosted a series of biennial wilderness conferences to determine how best to keep wild places the way they were and worked hard on getting the 1964 bill passed. The Sierra Club outings program has always

drawn attention to protected places and places that need to be saved from development. Sierra Club outings leaders are among the most passionate supporters of keeping wild places reserved for nature. During 2014 all Sierra Club outings – whether national, international, Chapter or Group, will highlight wilderness to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Uniquely American, wilderness is a great social and environmental achievement by which our nation agreed to restrain in special wild places the normal trend toward development – to let nature dominate here forever. Let's make 2014 America's year for wilderness.

In 2014 we'll celebrate all of Wisconsin's seven Wilderness Areas (7): Blackjack Springs, Gaylord Nelson, Headwaters, Porcupine Lake, Rainbow Lake, Whisker Lake, Wisconsin Islands.

**Blackjack Springs:** Congress designated the 5,908 acre Blackjack Springs Wilderness in 1978 and it is located in Northeast Wisconsin on the Eagle River Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and managed by the Forest Service. Much of the area was changed by logging and fire in the early 1900s with subsequent reforestation, road building, and timber harvest under National Forest management. In the midst of the wilderness, four large crystal-clear springs, for which the wilderness is named, form the headwaters of Blackjack Creek. Here, glaciation from the last ice age has produced a rolling and uneven terrain. The delightfully named Whispering Lake is surrounded by forest that provides habitat for black bears, deer, fishers, ruffed grouse, and a variety of sweet-throated songbirds.

**Gaylord Nelson:** In 2004, 80% of the land area of Wisconsin's Apostle Islands National Lakeshore was designated as federally protected wilderness. The new wilderness area - Wisconsin's largest-- the 33,500 acre Gaylord Nelson Wilderness, managed by the National Park Service, honors former Wisconsin Governor, U.S. Senator, and founder of Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson. Although many of the 22 Apostle Islands were logged, farmed, or quarried in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, most of them (21 of the 22 are included in Apostle Islands National Lakeshore) are currently wild and primitive. The waters of Lake Superior within the National Lakeshore are not included in the wilderness area. The beauty of the islands is enhanced by the area's geology. Colorful precambrian sandstone have eroded into interesting cliff formations and sea caves.

**Headwaters:** Congress designated the 22,033-acre Headwaters Wilderness in 1984 and it is managed by the Forest Service. Giant Pine Grove and Shelp Lake have some of the largest and oldest trees of Nicolet National Forest.

Deer hunting, bass fishing, hiking, and a chance for solitude lure people to Headwaters; all three wilderness sections are crisscrossed with trails off Forest Service roads that border the entire Wilderness.

**Porcupine Lake:** Congress designated the small, 4,073-acre Porcupine Lake Wilderness in 1984 and it is managed by the Forest Service. Touching the northern tip of Porcupine Lake, the North Country National Scenic Trail carves a path for approximately eight miles through the very heart of this forest, rich with sugar maples, red maples, and yellow birches, as well as aspen, red oak, hemlocks, white pine, balsam fir, cedar, spruce, and tamarack. Black bears are frequently seen. There are six lakes larger than five acres. Fishing and paddling attract visitors to Porcupine Lake, with northern pike, largemouth bass, and bluegill. Cross-country skiers enjoy this Wilderness in winter.

**Rainbow Lake:** Designated in 1975, the 7,133 acre Rainbow Lake Wilderness is managed by the Forest Service. Rolling terrain stands cloaked in northern hardwoods, balsam fir, pine, and paper birch that provide shelter for deer, black bears, red foxes, and coyotes. Hiking is relatively easy. Bald eagles, hawks, owls, loons, woodpeckers, and songbirds enliven the sky, and waterfowl are seen on Reynard and Wishbone Lakes.. The lakes also attract canoeists. Cross-country skiers come for the winter snow.

**Whisker Lake:** Congress designated the Whisker Lake Wilderness 1978 and its 7,267 acres is managed by the Forest Service. Located on the Michigan-Wisconsin border, this area takes its name from the large old pine trees near the shoreline of Whisker Lake-- called “chin whiskers” by locals. Rolling uplands fall away to wetlands flooded by beaver activity. Six small lakes and three major streams provide trout fishing, most notably Riley Lake, Edith Lake (which is split by the eastern boundary), Wakefield Creek, and the Brule River. The Whisker Lake Trail crosses the entire Wilderness, a distance of approximately 2.5 miles.

**Wisconsin Islands:** Congress designated the tiny Wisconsin Islands Wilderness in 1970 and it has a total of only 29 acres and is managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Three small limestone outcroppings in Lake Michigan-- Gravel Island, Spider Island and Hog Island-- are managed as national wildlife refuges. They provide important protected nesting grounds for colonial birds, especially herring gulls, ring-billed gulls, and double-crested cormorants. Because human contact could easily destroy these fragile and threatened communities, the public is not permitted on the islands. Boaters are asked to stay at least a quarter-mile offshore so as to preserve the wildness of the islands and not to endanger the nesting areas. Bring your binoculars.

## Project Upcycle at Greenville Elementary School

Greenville Elementary School (GES) participates in a TerraCycle program by recycling items such as packaging and pouches that are usually not collected by municipalities. These items are sent to be upcycled into other goods - toys, pet products and more - which reduces the amount of plastic that enters our landfills. How can you help? Homes or businesses should bring the items listed below (please rinse as needed and bring only the items noted) to GES at W6822 Greenridge Drive in Greenville. The proceeds go toward environmental projects at GES. Items are collected for their "Project Upcycle" year-round. Questions? Email [gspprojectupcycle@gmail.com](mailto:gspprojectupcycle@gmail.com).



Currently Collecting...

Personal care and beauty items: make-up packaging, body wash and shampoo/lotion bottles  
 Diaper and wips plastic packaging  
 Lunch kit plastic trays, lids, film and outer wrap  
 GoGo Squeeze snack pouches and caps  
 Cheese wrappers and packaging  
 Drink pouches (straws are OK)  
 Dairy tubs and lids  
 Granola, energy, breakfast and protein bar packaging  
 Toothpaste tubes, packaging and toothbrushes  
 Tape dispensers and inner cores  
 Inkjet printer cartridges  
 Elmer's glue stick and bottles (only Elmer's brand)

(This is a wonderful way to keep more trash out of landfills. Perhaps someone in the FVSG lives near GES and would be willing to pick up items at our meetings so there is a large amount going to GES per trip. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller if you are interested.)

## Welcome New Members

Algoma	John R Hill	Tom Vangrunsven	Mr Norman Mathewson	Seymour
Cathy Saulig	Kelly Lautenslager	Dr Nicholas Vukich	Edward Meier	L. Zastrow/Hendrickson
Appleton	James Stevens	Dorothy Witkowski	Phil & Paula Sorensen	Charles Petersen
Jeanette Bayer	Melissa Tesoro	Joan And Jerry Zwicky	Mr Willy Spinner	Shawano
Bruce Beach	Mr Randy Toellner	Greenleaf	Joseph Wierzbicki	Kenneth Bente
J C Peterson & M K Hemwall	Denmark	Terri Hankemeier	Mory Wrase	Keith Milner
Carrie Hershman	Phil Clish	Hortonville	New Franklin	James O'Betts
Cheryl Konkol	James Crawford	Beverly Hoff	Paul Hoffman	D Weasler & E A Weasler
Ms Ranae Kubichek	Diane Lassila	Iola	New London	Sherwood
Carla Kukla	Egg Harbor	Dorothy Fleckenstein	Linsey Desrochers	Scott Wittmann
Jim Manderle	Judith Endle	Trzebiatowski	Julia & Jeremy Martinson	Sturgeon Bay
Linda & Brad Norcross	Al & Beth Luellhoff	William Westphal	Miles	Carol Bockhop
Carol Peterson	David Zuckerman	Kaukauna	Oconto	Alison Ernst
Mr Fred W Reseburg	Embarrass	Amanda Lee	Linda Richter	M Freeman and K S Scott
Noele Reynolds	Mary Doan	Little Chute	Sonja Tieg	Trudy Voss
Michelle Richard	Endeavor	Joshua Harkins	Omro	Iver Warren
Aileen M Riggins	Steve Novak	Rosalie & Luke Hietpas	Janis Eberhart	Jeanne Whildin
J Stone-Wilms &	Jonathan R &	Little Suamico	Jon Piezker	Lynn Zawojski
B Wilms-Stone	Brenda L Vetter	Hal Whitaker	Holly Shapiro	Suamico
Beth Vanderlois	Fish Creek	Manawa	Oshkosh	Lynn Matzke
Jan Williamsen	Dale R Eskra	Kristine Jordahl	Dr Rosalie J Easton	Washington Island
Nancy Winslow	Florence	Manitowoc	J Elert	Shirley Weese Young
Athelstane	Nicholas Baumgart	Gordon Perlman	Christine Glidden	Waupaca
Dennis R Dettman	Diane Lutsey	Marinette	Mary L Huybers	Barbara Mehlberg
Berlin	Freedom	Mary Goyette	Robert Kettner	David Metcalf
Lee Otis	Linda Delzer	Evelyn Neziri	Ricky Losse	Butch Siegel
Black Creek	Fremont	Sarah Peck	Robert McWilliams	Waupun
Judy M Samson &	Stephanie Thompson	Margy Renner	Lynne Moeller	Jeanne Dupuis
Alisha G Huss	Gillett	Menasha	Beth Olson	Westfield
Bonduel	Ruth Christensen	Bob Galle	James Rudolph	Joe and Wendy Koehler
Jack Simanson	Green Bay	Robert Keehan	Connie Thornton	Weyauwega
Briggsville	Doug Augustine	Marie Murton	Lawrence Verzal	Florence Rachwal
Rich Paulson	Betty Bienash	Armando Ordonez	Pickett	Wild Rose
Clintonville	Anthony Cretton	Thomas Scherer	Janet Keck	Patricia Waid
George Skokan	Mrs Carol De Groot	Cindy Strong	Princeton	Bonnie Wieseke
Crivitz	Beth Keller	Gary Granke	Micah Sommer	Winneconne
Anton Huber	Diane Lebal	Neenah	Pulaski	Ms Evelyn Behm
Jay M Julian	Alissa Lick	Mary Appleton	Victor Gauthier	
Tim Randall	James Metzler	Charlotte Arendt	Ripon	
Dale	Robyn Nielson	Kathryn Babbitz	Arthur Baseler	
Timothy Jones	Randall Pouwels	Jonathan And Bonnie Burke	Samantha Klein	
DePere	Patricia Rahikainen	Steven L Hill	Ms Jayne Rufener Rauch	
Gloira Deaton	Feldhaus Ruth			
Mrs Zoomie Hardtke	Carol Schauer			
Paul Hickey	David W Schonke			
	L Schulze			
	Bill Sparks			
	Douglas Sterk			



Fox Valley Sierra Group  
*Of The John Muir Chapter Of The Sierra Club*

P.O. Box 264  
Appleton, WI 54912-0264

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
GREEN BAY WI  
PERMIT 460



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 14 Issue 3

[wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley)

## FOX VALLEY SIERRA GROUP CONTACTS

### **Chairperson & Webmaster**

Alan Lawrence • 920-730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr,  
Appleton 54911-1224  
alan\_lawrence99@yahoo.com

### **Treasurer**

Sally Peck • 920-468-5986  
1646 Amy St, Green Bay 54302-2456  
herbsinthyme@sbcglobal.net

### **Newsletter Editor**

Monny Hjerstedt • 920-725-5775  
567 Oak St, Neenah 54956  
mhjerstedt@tds.net

### **Programs**

#### **Political Issues**

Cindy Carter • 920-840-6362  
1102 N. Superior St, Appleton 54911  
cindycat1@sbcglobal.net

### **John Muir Chapter Conservation**

#### **Chair & FVSG Delegate**

Will Stahl • 920-725-9185  
216 Stevens St, Neenah 54956  
wrsy55@sbcglobal.net

#### **Membership & Hospitality Assistant**

Jo Hjerstedt • 920-725-5775  
567 Oak St. Neenah 54956  
mhjerstedt@tds.net

#### **Outings, Forestry & Land Mgt**

Rich Krieg • 920-660-3557  
118 S. Washington,  
318B, Green Bay 54301  
richkrieg@new.rr.com

#### **Conservation & Write-Place**

Diana Lawrence • 920-730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr,  
Appleton 54911-1224  
law\_di03@yahoo.com

### **Ice Age Trail**

Darrel Ruechel • 920-993-0903  
3517 N. Durkee St,  
Appleton 54911-1243  
r7dairl@yahoo.com

### **TBD**

John Engel • 920-475-1472  
325 Parkwood Drive,  
Neenah, WI 54956  
johnwengel@earthlink.net

### **Public Relations**

Bill Herrbold • 715-258-5849  
N1743 Catherine Way,  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
wherb@charter.net

### **Hospitality**

Nancy Brown-Koeller • 920-830-6625  
nbk04@sbcglobal.net

### **Hospitality Assistant**

Sara Hillestad  
shillestad@new.rr.com

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