



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 14 Issue 4

Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

December 12, 2014 - 6:30 PM

Monte Averno - Center for the Environment

Annual Holiday Party

Please Bring-

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

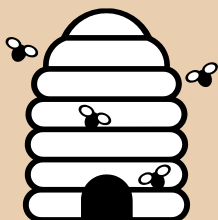


January 8, 2015 - 7:00

Monte Averno - Center for the Environment

Bees and Honey

Jay Breyer beekeeper from the the Hortonville area.



February 12, 2015 - 7:00

Monte Averno - Center for the Environment

Maple Syrup

Jessie Wagner from "In the Woods Sugarbush" maple syrup producer from Manitowoc.

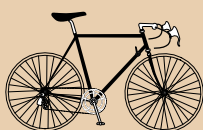


March 12, 2015 - 7:00

Monte Averno - Center for the Environment

Biking

Dave Cieslewicz
The WI Bike Federation



New Meeting Location

Starting with our December Annual Holiday Party program, we will be holding our future meetings at the Monte Averno - Center for the Environment.

The Fox River Environmental Education Alliance has acquired the Monte Averno property for our Fox Cities community.

The mission of FREEA is to provide environmental education opportunities for youth and adults so they may appreciate and understand Wisconsin's natural resources, particularly the Fox River, their problems, protection and management, and that they may have the knowledge and skills to act as environmentally-aware, responsible and committed Wisconsin citizens.



1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton, WI



From the Chair

October 2014, by Alan Lawrence

For most of the time since the Fox Valley Sierra Group was organized on January 14, 1982 we have met for monthly meetings at the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in northern Appleton. This will change, at least temporarily, beginning with our December meeting.

Bubolz is about to begin construction of a modern facility, and during construction we will be without our traditional home. They are currently in a capital campaign to raise the funds and expect to begin construction within the next few months. It might have been possible to meet a couple more months there, but our newsletter schedule dictated that we have firm plans for our upcoming meetings, so we have decided to start elsewhere beginning in December with our Holiday Party.

The Bubolz nature center opened right about the time of our own group's founding, more than 32 years ago. Time and heavy use of the building combined with maintenance challenges and new space needs dictate that a new building is needed. Please look at their website and online brochure. If you can help them it would be appreciated.
(<http://bubolzpreserve.huterra.com/content/overview>)



Our group will begin meeting, starting with our December 11 holiday party, at the Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA). This is the former Monte Alverno Spirituality and Retreat Center. Located on the Fox River in Appleton this will be a good meeting location for our group. The facility is easy to access from Highway 41. Exit at Ballard Road and go south to the end of the street, then turn left. 1000 N. Ballard Rd. (Other directions are available on their website, <http://foxrivereea.org/map-and-directions>).

I write this column the day after Bubolz's annual Romp in the Autumn Swamp fund raising event. Sierra Club has served hot chocolate and snacks at this event for many years as a service project. Yesterday's weather was perfect for the event, and hundreds of families with children were there to enjoy it.



September was very exciting for my wife and me as we decided to participate in the People's Climate March in New York City. Some email first got our attention, followed by an online video. We had missed previous climate rallies and felt we should be at this one. It was being billed as "The largest climate march in history" with a motto of "To Change Everything, We Need Everyone". The event was staged days before the United Nations would discuss the topic in New York City.

We looked at bus opportunities with specially chartered buses, but found them to be all full. Ultimately we decided to make a driving vacation out of it, including visiting Diana's sister in Manhattan within easy walking distance from the beginning of the walk.

The walk was actually more like a parade, except that there were no vehicles. Most people walked with signs or banners expressing environmental messages. 50,000 people would have made this the largest climate march in history, but organizers hoped for at least 100,000 people and had arranged for a two mile long staging area. Nobody would know until that morning, September 21, what to expect. The two mile long area along Central Park was clearly too small. All possible dreams for a large crowd had been exceeded.

...continued page 3



The “march” began at 11:00 am, but our position a mile within the staging area did not budge for more than two hours. This was because crowds pouring out of side streets and the subway had to get moving first. It still took nearly an hour for us to finally cross the official starting point around 2:00 pm. In a very festive, fun and friendly atmosphere we marched past the Rockefeller Center and Times Square before reaching our destination at 5:00 pm. We purchased gyro sandwiches from a street vendor and ate while watching some of the parade behind us continue going by for another hour. Restroom needs caused us to leave at 6:00 while the parade was still going on.



The social justice aspect of Climate Change was a major theme. Change will be hardest for those least capable of doing anything about it.

Eventual estimates are that 400,000 people participated in this march. That’s a lot of people! That is more than five times the record attendance at the Green Bay Packer’s Lambeau Stadium. This is the entire population of everyone living in Outagamie County, Winnebago County and Calumet County combined. It turns out that over a two day period there were 2646 other rallies in 162 countries. Surely the media and our world leaders would take notice. I’m wondering what you saw on TV or in your newspaper. You may want to check these two websites: <http://watchdisruption.com>, and <http://peoplesclimate.org>.

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

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

Boundary Changes

Wisconsin’s John Muir Chapter continues to ponder the merits of reorganizing the boundaries of the Sierra Groups across the state to match easy county line borders instead of irregular zip code lines. Nothing has been decided yet, but the proposal would reduce the size of our group’s area, removing the northern and eastern sections of our current territory. It is hoped that newly carved regions will encourage new groups to form, and that easy to understand borders will be helpful.

September 1, 2014 marked the anniversary of an event that few people noticed.

One hundred years earlier, at about one o’clock in the afternoon, Martha, the world’s last passenger pigeon, died in captivity.

It is extraordinary to know the exact moment a species becomes extinct. This was stunning because less than 50 years earlier the passenger pigeon was the most abundant bird in North America numbering in the billions.

Martha’s death haunts us because there is no better cautionary tale to the proposition that no matter how abundant something is – be it fuel, water, or an organism – we can lose it if we are not good stewards.

Martha’s story teaches us that we need to be vigilant and proceed with caution. If the passenger pigeon can disappear in decades, so can so many other of the planet’s riches, be they biological or not – even if they now seem abundant. And those that are rare can vanish in a heartbeat.

It is important to educate our public and our government officials about the need to preserve our natural world. Environmentalists are very concerned about future generations; children, grandchildren, and their grandchildren.

Our Wild Wisconsin: Calling All Wolf Advocates

The John Muir Chapter is forming a sub-committee to advance science-based wolf policy in Wisconsin. We need to coordinate member presence at meetings, letter writing, and contacting legislators to sponsor needed legislative action. No matter where you live in the state, if you are interested in helping wolves, please contact Laura Menefee, Executive Committee, John Muir Chapter at: menefee.laura@gmail.com

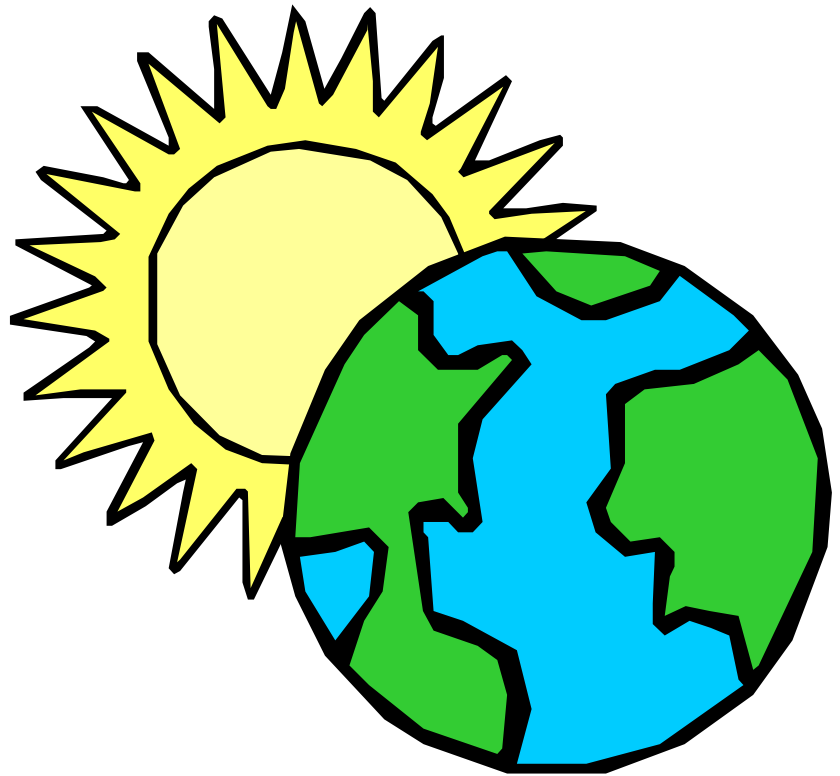
Diana's Climate Corner, A New Newsletter Section

In a new section of the FVSG Newsletter I will be informing the reader of climate issues. It is called "Diana's Climate Corner". I want the column to be educational, inspirational and generally informative about an issue so important for the world. I want people armed with information when they engage in conversations with others about climate change. I used a militant verb in that last sentence because I do feel we need to be readily aggressive with good information in discussions with others. So many naysayers about climate change like to think there is a huge amount of data that disagrees with climate science as presented today. Looking into some of the more well-known deniers I find they are employed by groups like The Cato Institute and other think tanks. There is so much misinformation in the news media these days. Even in speaking with some of my own siblings, I have had to inform and dispel bad information. I do believe that humans have greatly affected whatever climate changes occur naturally and are largely responsible for the changes we are starting to see now.

If you have any questions or concepts you would like me to address please send me an email at law_di03@yahoo.com. I will gladly take suggestions on topics. In addition, if you think I have made a mistake you can take me to task on that as well.

Where does one begin to talk about climate and the changes that are happening? Well at the beginning, I suppose!

The little blue planet we all live on is a whopping 4.5 billion years old. In the first one billion years, the planet likely had an atmosphere made of hydrogen and helium followed by water vapor that likely condensed to form our great oceans. Volcanic eruptions and other fumaroles spewed carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere. Most of the carbon and sulphur ended up in sedimentary



rocks. Oxygen only arrived on the scene around one billion years ago in very small concentrations. With so much water vapor in the atmosphere combined with the Sun's energy the water molecules were broken up into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen is light and mostly moved off into space. It took another several billion years for oxygen to reach the levels we have that can sustain life and provide an atmospheric barrier to the Sun's ultraviolet radiation. Life forms out of the oceans were established around 300 million years ago. Relative to the Earth's physical history, terrestrial life has not been around very long. Scientists believe that the protective ozone (oxygen) layer has everything to do with that.

As we will see in upcoming articles, the balance we live under regarding our atmosphere is complicated. My article next time will be on the carbon cycle.

Reference: Weather, Climate and Climate Change: Human Perspectives. 2005. O'Hare, Sweeny and Wilby.

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Subscription included with Sierra Club membership dues.

Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials - January 15th -February thru April Issue.

Fox Valley Sierra Group
OUTINGS

November 8, Saturday

Buckthorn Eradication service outing

Our Fox Valley Sierra Group will be doing buckthorn eradication in the Bubolz Nature Preserve cabin area. If left unchecked, buckthorn will overrun the area. This area is in the front portion of the property and is in an area covered with white pine. The buckthorn that can be pulled will be pulled and the remainder will be cut with loppers and chemically treated. Bring a water bottle and dress for the weather.

Please contact the trip leader for more details if interested in helping or if you have questions. Weather conditions may determine whether the project goes forward or not.

Contact Darrel Ruechel, 920-993-0903,
R7dairl@yahoo.com

December 13, Saturday

Cross-country Ski at Reforestation Camp.

We will be skiing at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay. Hot apple cider will be served afterward!!

Contact Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557,
eddyout@gmail.com

January 16-19, Friday-Monday

Cross-country ski weekend.

As last year, this trip will be somewhat fluid in nature. The dates are definite: Fri, Sat, Sun, and Mon, over the MLK weekend. The unpredictability of the snow for several years has made it impractical to make lodging reservations far in advance, due to the risk of non-refundable deposits. However, WE WILL SKI!!

Destination: most likely "up north", but we will be as changeable as Mother Nature herself, going where the snow is: The Phelps area, and the well groomed trails of After Glow Resort; Eagle River and Anvil trails; Boulder Junction, or north to the U.P. and the predictable snow of ABR. Lodging: to be arranged. This may have to be close a to last minute decision, based on snow availability. We will try for group accommodations, but may end up with motel rooms.

Cost/Fee: Also to be determined, but will include lodging, meals, and trail fees. In the past, group/cabin settings have run around \$125/person for 3 nights lodging. Naturally this will depend on where we find snow and rooms.

Contact Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252,
3381 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay, 54311,
birkmr@yahoo.com



FALL

**A leaf fluttered to the ground,
brown and withered,
its life ending.**

**Yet it smiled,
realizing it had done its job,
giving life to the great oak
for another season.**

Cindy Carter

TOWARD HARMONY WITH NATURE

Saturday, January 24, 8 am
Oshkosh Convention Center

Keynote: Dr. Stanley Temple

Topic: Aldo Leopold, Phenology and Climate Change

Wild Ones Fox Valley Area presents the 19th Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference. The keynote speaker, Dr. Temple will discuss how Aldo Leopold's meticulous phenological observations have provided us with an unparalleled record of when plants bloomed, birds migrated and other natural events occurred. His historical observations combined with recent records helps us understand how climate change is affecting the ecological community. Dr. Temple is a Professor Emeritus in Conservation at UW Madison. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

In addition, there will be 9 expert guest speakers for break-out sessions, exhibitors and vendors, and silent auction. Escape from the cold and enjoy the day with like-minded fellow nature-lovers. For more information and registration, go to www.towardharmonywithnature.org or email wildonesfoxvalley@gmail.com.

Your Fox Valley Sierra Group Board

Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting the Planet

In the Spring Issue we highlighted board members Bill Herrbold, Alan Lawrence, Cindy Carter and Sally Peck.

John Engel

I was gainfully employed for 30 ½ years as a Electrical Project Manager / Engineer at Baisch Engineering. What provided the greatest professional satisfaction was applying energy saving solutions to new paper machines and process systems. The initial hardware cost was usually more expensive however if I could justify the return on the investment the customers usually would approve the design.

My wife Sue and I have been on many flat water and white water canoe trips. We perfected our wilderness tripping skills in Sylvania and the Boundary Waters. Our white water skills were developed as I was teaching white water kayaking at the Neenah YMCA. While working in Coquet MN. Sue and I went on 5 Boundary water trips in the summer of 1987. This prepared us for trips in Ontario, British Columbia and finally a 258 Mile trip in northern Alaska. Beside canoeing and white water kayaking, we enjoy skate skiing, bike riding, sailing and scuba diving. Needless to say we are quite active I am a bit more so than my wife.

As I was nearing a new chapter in the book of life (retirement) I started to think about what the future would bring. I probably was not going on any more wilderness canoe trips, nor mixed gas diving on Caribbean or Hawaii reefs. But I realized our environment needed protection because I would like future generations to see the paragon falcon nesting sites on the Coleville River, Anasazi ruins in the Grand Canyon, the large barrel sponges on the north shore reef at Grand Cayman etc.

Sue and I joined the Sierra Club in 2005. At the time I was basically donating money to an environmental organization which was in alignment with my personal values (Green Peace was flooding me with junk mail). Having attended a few meetings I enjoyed the programs (learned a bit as well). The board members are friendly and it seemed like a good fit.

Having recently joined the board I will be the Conservation Chairperson. Having been interested in and actively conserving energy in my prior professional career. I now have been granted the privilege of learning more about Soil, Water, Habitat, Wetland, and Wildlife conservation. A key issue that will have a profound effect on the state of Wisconsin is the proposed Gogebic Taconite Mine. I am looking forward to informing people how this mine would harm the environment. Factual information and education help people make informed decisions be it in the voting booth or in their daily lives. It has been proven each of us in a small way with our personal behavior can have a cumulative positive effect on our planet (The Grand Canyon would have another dam in Marble Canyon).

If we work together we can save our planet for future generations. The time is NOW tomorrow may be too late

Rich Krieg

I have been a Sierra Club member for 22 years, been on the Fox Valley Board for at least fifteen years and am also chairperson of the John Muir Chapter's "River Touring Section."

I grew up in Mosinee, WI, and as a kid had many camping and canoeing experiences. I have been living in Green Bay for the past 27 years and am a Biology teacher at Green Bay East High School. My big interest is canoeing! My favorite place to "explore" the outdoors or "enjoy" nature is Northern Wisconsin (especially the Wolf River) and the mountains and rivers of Montana. My most recent "favorite place" is Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

The most important thing that the Sierra Club does to protect the planet is that it gets people outdoors through its Outings program. It is through these experiences that we develop an understanding of how important it is to protect the Earth's wild and beautiful places.

Jo Hjerstedt

I have been involved in Sierra Club over 30 years. It began as a way to meet people with similar interests: love of nature, socializing and being active in environmental issues.

I am married with four children, we have enjoyed many outings, learned from programs and made long lasting friendships along the way.

One of my favorite places is the Porcupine Mts. I've backpacked, hiked and camped there many times and each time experienced new things.

This is my first year on the Board. It amazes me how many local issues there are but if we work together we can make changes that will take care of our environment so we can all enjoy it.

Monny Hjerstedt

I have been on the Fox Valley Board for the last few years as the Newsletter editor. Joined the Sierra Club back in 1981 and was an early member of our group. Was the 2nd newsletter editor for our group in the 80's for about 8 years.

I grew up and have lived most of my life in Neenah. I work at Munroe Studios which provides trade show displays and graphics.

My interests are hiking, working on the Ice Age Trail, backpacking, sailing and photography.

I enjoy going somewhere. It's the journey. One of my most favorite places was backpacking in Glacier National Park. Spending one morning going back and forth on switch backs, climbing 1000 feet in a mile to Pitamakin Pass. After all that work the view was breathtaking. Continuing on we encountered a grizzly but luckily he didn't see us.

To protect the planet we need more people to share the love and concern for our environment. By coming to a Sierra Club meeting, joining in on an outing, visiting one of the many nature centers and parks, or just going for a hike. Hopefully our Newsletter can inspire people to get out and get involved.

Diana Lawrence

Environmental Education Chair 1 month, Defacto Secretary 3 years, Sierra Club Member for 11 years

I grew up in Appleton, moved away for a period of years and moved back to start a family. I have lived in Madison, as well as, Virginia Beach, VA. I married Alan in 2003 and that's when I became a member of Sierra Club.

My new focus in the FVSG is climate. This includes how it works and how we are changing it, as well as, the effects of that change. Look for articles from me in the newsletter.

I enjoy biking, gardening, reading, jigsaw puzzles and just getting outdoors.

My favorite place to explore the outdoors is my garden. The garden is a great place to look for insects and wildlife. I am always fascinated by butterflies and bees. I love to watch the plants grow from little stubs in the ground to lush, insect loving greens and flowers. Of course, nothing is ever really placed correctly and that involves lots of moving of things around every year!

The Sierra Club can "protect the planet" by giving people an appreciation for the outdoors and how important the wild places are; no matter how small, to our souls and well-being.

Darrel Ruechel

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1992. I have been on the Fox Valley Sierra Group board (executive committee) for a little over a year. I lived in Waupaca for about 40 years and now live in Appleton. I am retired. I enjoy working in the outdoors. I have helped to maintain the Ice Age Trail in Waupaca County for over 30 years and continue to do so. I have been our Fox Valley Sierra Group's Ice Age Trail liaison for over five years.

Welcome New Members



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help we can protect the wolf

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1 % of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

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Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley>.