It's Our Nature LUB

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 15 Issue 4

Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

Dec 10, 2015 - 6:00 Fox River Environmental Education Alliance

Holiday Pot -Luck Party

Please bring a dish to pass, your place setting, drinks, any alcohol beverage, and a white elephant gift for the exchange. The party starts at 6PM!! We will also "pass the hat" to collect money to donate to FREEA for the furthering of their environmental educating. Please join us for good food, good conversation and a "mean" game of exchange. (All in good fun.)

> Jan. 14, 2016 - 7:00 Bubolz Nature Preserve

Forests of Wisconsin

Ron Jones a retired DNR Forester, he will speak on the forests of WI and the state they are in.

> Feb. 11, 2016 - 7:00 Bubolz Nature Preserve

Bees and Honey

Jay Breyer a local expert on bee-keeping will talk to us about honey bees: keeping bees, producing honey and about the honey bee collapse.

> March 10, 2016 - 7:00 **Bubolz Nature Preserve**

Looking to the Stars

Tom Eby a local astronomer, has traveled the nation in search of the many different skies over the US and will present to us the COSMOS. It is a most interesting presentation.

> April 14, 2016 - 7:00 **Bubolz Nature Preserve**

Turtles and Other Reptiles

Robert Hay, a Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Specialist and retired DNR Herpetologist will tell us about the "Turtles for Tomorrow" project in WI and about the state of turtles and other reptiles.

This meeting will be held at the Fox River Environmental Education Alliance 1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton (Directions are available on their website, foxrivereea.org or FREEA.org)



From the Chair November 2015, By Alan Lawrence

It has been an exciting summer and fall for those who care about climate change.

In June, Pope Francis used an encyclical to tell the world that climate change is a global problem with grave implications. Pope Francis released an unprecedented call to action on climate change. His encyclical cast climate action as a moral imperative.

He wrote that "Climate change represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." The pope chastised powerful institutions and developed countries, arguing they are not doing enough to tackle climate change, saying, "Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing their symptoms."

In August, President Obama unveiled his plan to reduce greenhouse gases by regulating greenhouse gas emissions from the nation's coalburning power plants.

From the Chair

"We're the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it," he said. "Climate change is not a problem for another generation. Not anymore."

"Power plants are the single biggest source of harmful carbon pollution that contributes to climate change," Obama said in the video that introduced his Clean Power Plan. "Until now, there have been no federal limits to the amount of carbon pollution plants dump in the air."

Locally, in Green Bay, Sierra Club rallied with other organizations and concerned citizens in front of the Pulliam Power Plant, supporting the Clean Power Plan. The rally was reported by four television news crews and Wisconsin Public Radio.

Later in September President Obama toured Alaska and pointed out melting glaciers and talked about climate change. "The time to heed the cynics and critics and the deniers has passed. The time to plead ignorance has surely passed. Those who want to ignore the science are increasingly alone. On this issue, of all issues, there is such a thing as being too late, and that moment is almost upon us."

The Pope visited the United States in September and spoke about climate change to the White House, Congress and United Nations in separate speeches highlighting a continuing commitment to make climate change a central issue of his papacy. He has pushed to make climate change a moral issue, particularly given the toll it will take on the world's poorest. The Pope also praised President Obama's Clean Power Plan as an "encouraging" step.





Our group worked with Lawrence University students to organize a climate rally in Appleton on October 14. This was one of approximately 200 climate events across the United States that day. The People's Climate Movement (the organizers of the 400,000 person march in New York City last year) worked with us to organize this National Day of Action, six weeks before international climate talks in Paris.



The October 14 events were intended to energize major rallies around the world, and the Global Climate March in Paris on November 29 preceding the Paris Climate Summit (United Nations Climate Change Conference) which runs from November 30 to December 11. Another mass mobilization and action on December 12th was planned to make sure the people, not the politicians, have the last word. Unfortunately, the November 13 terrorist attacks in Paris will interfere with the Paris Climate Summit. Citing the heightened security situation in Paris, the French government has prohibited both the Global Climate March and the mass mobilization events planned in Paris.

November began with some fantastic news as President Obama finally rejected the Keystone XL Pipeline. This project had been under review for seven years, much longer than most of thought it should be. The pipeline was, and continues to be, divisive. We hope this hastens the end of tar sands oil from Canada. Others believe this decision will ruin economies and lead to more hazardous oil transportation by train.



My hope is that rail transportation will not the tar sands rescue industry. And my hope is that President Obama's rational for the pipeline rejection will make it harder for other pipelines to be approved. Enbridge planning "Line 61" is to cross Wisconsin from Superior through Delavan. This pipeline will have twice the capacity of the Keystone XL, and must not operate.

The Wisconsin Gazette said in their February story,

"The Wisconsin pipeline dwarfs Keystone and affects every waterway in the state". We must be vigilant and prepared to get in the way. (Please see this story for more information. http://www.wisconsingazette.com/ wisconsin/xxlbreakwisconsin-pipeline-dwarfs-keystone-and-affectsevery-waterway-in-the-state.html)

Let me end my column with some news about our group. A year ago we moved out of Bubolz Nature Preserve to the Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA) because planned construction required it. FREEA has been a great home for the past year, but we've re-evaluated things and have decided to move back to Bubolz for our January meeting. Our December holiday party will be our last meeting at FREEA.

But we have a relationship with FREEA now. Last April we organized a very successful Fox River Earth Day Hike for the community, using FREEA's facility and trail. We will do this again next April 16, again kicking off the Earth Day week.

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

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

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch

43 people attended the viewing of the new documentary: "Plastic Paradise" at the Appleton Public Library on September 30. I wish there would have been 243 people, because this is a message that needs to get out to as many people as possible. It was a well done video, which of course, was very depressing and frustrating; an unfortunate truth. The unintended consequences of our need for convenience has lead to tons and tons of plastics in all types and sizes to accumulate on this once beautiful island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The current flow of the ocean brings this plastic junk in massive amounts to this final resting place. It has also created a huge problem for the birds and animals that live on this island. Many of them die a miserable death and when they are examined by the local scientists after their death, their stomachs are filled with plastic pieces. This is such a large quantity of garbage that is just can't be hauled away.

So PLEASE take a serious look at what you are buying and replace plastic water bottles with aluminum reusable ones. Use a cloth bag when you shop, be conscious of what packaging is used when you buy a product. We can all make a small change that will create a big difference. If you would like to view this documentary on your own time, it can be check out at the Appleton Public Library. If you are a teacher, consider showing it to your class. Parents, show it to your children. Call your legislators and tell them to ban plastic bags. The documentary is fully entitled: "Plastic Paradise; The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" by Angela Sun.

-Cindy Carter

Public lands?

The Walker Administration is in the works of passing legislation that would ban anyone who is attempting to video record a hunter or hunters who use dogs for bear hunting or wolf hunting (which is on hold for now in WI, even though Senator Johnson is trying to remove wolves from the endangered species list). The problem with this is that it will apply to ALL PUBLIC HUNTING lands. What part of public don't they understand. Those of us who are anti-barbaric hunting have the RIGHT, to be in the woods along with the hunters. Does their tax dollars carry more weight than mine? Apparently so, as the NRA is probably behind all this non-sense. We have already lost the battle of hunting in state parks, fight now for the right to walk on our public lands, no matter what time of the year it is. If these hunters feel harassed, well that is too bad. I am feeling harassed myself knowing that another one of my rights will soon be taken away. Contact your Representatives and State Senators before it is too late. -Cindy Carter

December 12, 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, richkrieg@new.rr.com

January 9, Saturday Snowshoe at Skunk & Foster Lakes State Natural Area, Amherst

Fulfill your New Year's resolution to exercise more by joining us on a snowshoe hike! We'll combine a section of the Ice Age Trail with the trails at Skunk Lake to make two nice loops through the woods. Hilly terrain offers awesome views of the glacial pothole lakes below. If there's not enough snow to snowshoe, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. Optional: Head into nearby Amherst for lunch. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

January 15-18, Friday-Monday Cross-country ski weekend "Up-North"

As in recent years, 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 to a 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. Deposit: \$50 to hold your spot on this spontaneous ski weekend. Contact: Maureen Birk, 3381 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay, 54311, 920-468-7252, birkmr@ yahoo.com



Fellow Sierrans enjoyed a 10 mile hike on a beautiful fall day in Northern Kettle Moraine on October 10th. Led by Margaret Klose and Phil Synder, they plan on leading more hikes in 2016.

January 23, Saturday Snowshoeing at Mosquito Hill Nature Center,

just east of New London

Winter temperatures freeze the wetlands and that means a chance to get in to see lowlands of the Wolf River that are not usually accessible. Meet in the Nature Center's warming room. We'll go for about a 2 hour hike on flat, easy walking terrain. Bring a sandwich if you'd like to stay for a late lunch and hot chocolate in the cozy log-sided warming room. Fee: Donation for trail use. Snowshoe rental available (additional fee). Arrive 15 minutes early if you are renting. If snow cover is insufficient, the hike will still be on – just done without snowshoes. If you have not snowshoed before this is the perfect place to start. No experience needed. Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715 853-6625

February 6, Saturday Snowshoe Hike & Wine Tasting in Manawa

Snowshoe the Little Wolf River Trail (LWRT) over a covered bridge and through the woods to get to Winemaker's Daughter in downtown Manawa. We'll sample locally made wines and warm up by the fire before snowshoeing back. Learn how the LWRT is built & maintained entirely by volunteers. If there's not enough snow to snowshoe, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. *NOTE: Must be 21 to come on this outing! Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139.

Feb. 13, Saturday Snowshoeing at Navarino Nature Center

Winter brings a chance to hike to the porcupine den and often find Mr. Porcupine at home. Continue over a frozen bog and through the woods. Some small hills, uneven terrain. Meet in the Nature Center lower level for about a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour hike. Fee: Donation for trail use. Rental available (additional fee). If snow cover is insufficient, the hike will still be on – just done without snowshoes. Arrive 15 minutes early if you are renting. Enjoy a hot chocolate after the hike. Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715 853-6625



Outings: 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. In order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings or contact the outings leader directly. Time and meeting 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.



Photo by Wisconsin DNR

Early Evening Echoes

From a standing hollow timber in a distant wood Comes the distinct hoot of a wise coot. As the sun fades red in the western sky, He adjusts his foot, thinking of his future loot. There's a mouse out there that he will not share, And a worried hare - that had best take care.

Next the sound from the ridge - as a truck comes down, Makes a turn toward the bridge - then a hollow sound -As it crosses the pond, not on solid ground. The the engine strains - as the truck climbs the hill; Then silence returns - and all is still.

It's not quite dark when the doe comes out With an active baby fawn, that does prance about. When a coyote's shrill yelp leads the doe to rout, Shyly returning to the woods - as she has her doubt.

Now as darkness comes to the nearby pond, The young frogs sound off in a chorus round. Then the bull frog answers in a deep bass voice. Then silence returns - and the woods rejoice.

From the south comes the barking from the farmer's yard; Their self appointed sentinel shows that he's on guard. Then the putting cadence of a milling machine, Tells of human interference in nature's dream. And the head lights of an auto pierce the night time air; All these things I remember - and I'd like to share.

As I turn from the porch of my cabin in the woods, I think of this experience - and it is all good. Nature showed its bounty on this fading day, As its early evening echoes now have had their way. I will close this tribute - I've no more to say.

Allan J. Mortenson 2015

Needed: Someone To Take Over Fox Valley Sierra Group Garlic Mustard Pulling Project in 2016

This past May we have noticed a significant decrease in the amount of garlic mustard growing along the Indians Mounds Trail while pulling garlic mustard at High Cliff State Park. We have seen an increase in the amount of native wild flowers growing where garlic mustard once existed along the Indian Mounds Trail because of our work.

In addition, we have started pulling garlic mustard at Memorial Park in Combined Locks.

I am looking for someone to take over the FVSG Garlic Mustard Pulling Project so we don't lose what we have accomplished during the past 8-10 years.

If you are interested, please contact me. I will work with you this coming spring in 2016. Contact me: 920-739-6041 or email: dschaber@athenet.net.

Welcome New Members

Appleton John Buchanan Chris Cabello Virginia Johnson Eric and Jeanine Knapp Donald Lanska Margie Loberger Elizabeth MacKelvie **Richard Novitske** Allan Pritzl Shannon Rabas **Brian Reimer Constance B Roop** Mary Roth M Selzler Jenna Smith Ms Diane Tadisch Patti Trochil Rebecca & Martin Veitch Ms Jill Williams Diane Ziemann Campbellsport Spence Lavrenz Clintonville Marie Rouse DePere Mildred Jacobson Robert and Barb Joswick **Dorothy Ninham** Emily Owens Denmark Deannadeanna Buraczewski Eden Bert Roate Fond du Lac Ms Jeanette P Burnett Georgiana M Enfelt Alice Pfeifer Kenneth Tilleman **Robert Ziegler** Freedom Josh Mischler Joan Sanders Fremont Linda Garrett Green Bay Doug Augustine **Robert Bjork** John Carlson

Roger Carter Mr Robert S Cook Judy Enstrom Gary Van Ess Lisa Fehrenbach Mary E Heleniak Steven Johnson Sara Kelleher Donna Kessler Don Langenkamp Steven Libal P Lindsley **Kimberly Mamrosh** Ms Carole Pasowicz **Richard Poss** Gordon Pratsch Ms Carol Ratulowski Judith & Savanah L Saldana Marcia M Thompson John VanDeuren Joyce and Lucas Weisshappel Dr Elizabeth Wheat Dorothy Witkowski Green Leaf **Gladys Klein** Hortonville Mr Steven Fleming Iola Kathleen Theige King **Billy Goodrich** Little Chute Ambers Van Howerton Maresan Mark Gelhar Menasha James Funk Sharon and Gary Geurts Sally I Nelson-Kluck N. Fond du Lac Barbara Halsey Neenah Lynne Darkow **Rick Fahrenkrug** Steve Klassen Kay Foley Jim Pawlowski **Mrs Loraine Rueckert Robert Storey**

New Holstein **Donald Hoffmann** Jessie Rountree New London Dan Behnke Karen Euhardy Oakfield Ellen Garner Ogdensburg Wayne Boutwell Omro Paul Stellpflug Oneida **Robert Miller** Oshkosh Bruce Black **Thomas Conley Constance Friedel** Linda Henningsen Marianne Kettelhut **B** Olejniczak Joyce Pokrandt & Robert Gluth Mike Schellenger William Thimke Tom Underwood Al Utke Mr George Wickboldt Ripon **Robert Hannaford** Victoria Hughes Saint Cloud Ms Marcie Zimmerman Suamico **Rosemary Patzke** Waupaca Matthew Gardner Ms Janice Swanson Waupun **Evelyn Bogart** Iris Ehlert David Geschke Wautoma Nancy Lueddecke Winnneconne Barbara Noffke Helen Shanklin

Two of our Fox Valley Sierra Group Members received awards at the Wisconsin John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly at the Perlstein Resort near Lake Delton, WI on October 2-4, 2015.



John Engel recieved the New Activist Award: Given to a person who has been a John Muir Chapter member for less than two years who is an enthusiastic participant in issues and the organization who possesses a willingness to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues.



Monny Hjerstedt recieved the Wildflower Award: Given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter, including an individual whom exemplifies all that wonderful in the environment and the club; A mentor for new and existing activists; or An educator that promotes a positive image for the Club.



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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Standard	🗖 \$ 39	\$ 49
Supporting	\$ 75	\$ 100
Contributing	\$ 150	\$ 175
Life	\$ 1000	\$ 1250
Senior	\$ 25	\$ 35
Student	\$ 25	\$ 35
Limited Income	\$ 25	\$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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



Diana Lawrence runs the Wheel of Nature for kids at the Annual Romp in the Swamp at Bubolz Nature Preserve October 24th. The FVSG sponsored a table of hot chocolate, snacks and games.



Clayton Daughenbaugh spoke to us about the movement to protect the unique and threatened public lands of the America's Red Rock Wilderness in Utah at our September 10th meeting.

Towards Harmony in Nature

20th Annual Conference, Oshkosh Convention Center, Jan 30th. Featuring keynote speaker Darrel Morrison, one of the most distinguished native landscape designer and educator in America along with nine other expert presenters. More information at- TowardHarmonywithNature.org.



Vol. 15 Issue 4 December 2015 - Feb 2016. *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 January 15th for February thru April Issue.

Let us know if you are willing to help out!

Do You Explore the Nature Around You? Do You Enjoy Getting Outside? Would You like to Protect the Planet?

Then We Need You!

Help Wanted!

Treasurer Secretary Outings Leaders Garlic Mustard Coordinator Environmental Researchers Political Action Coordinator Facebook Editor Writers

- Join Us at Our Regular Monthly Meetings.
- Join Us on an Outing.
- Write or Contact your legislators.
- Write an article for our local newsletter.
- Get involved.
- Enjoy the outside.
- Rally for the Climate
- Become a Board Member on our Local Fox Valley Sierra Group Board. (We meet at different board members homes 10 times a year, to guide our group and usually with some delicious snacks and a glass of wine or a beer.)

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6 spots are open.

Bring ballot to December meeting or mail to FVSG, P.O. Box 264, Appleton, WI 54912-0264.

Return by Dec. 31

Cindy Carter -I am again running for Political Chair and Program Chair. I am and have been for many years a political junkie. I have also been a friend of the environment as long as I can remember back to my childhood. I also enjoy greatly the opportunity to seek out interesting speakers that relate to our mission. I ask for your vote for this coming election.

Will Stahl - Though I joined Sierra Club in 1986, in Illinois, I have only been active since the early 2000's here in Wisconsin. For a number of years, almost since joining the Ex-com, I have served as FVSG delegate to the JMC Executive Committee. I currently serve as the JMC Ex-Com-appointed chapter conservation chair. I hope to continue in those roles. Growing up in rural Illinois, I spent my time walking in the woods, playing in the creek and riding my bike. My idea of a good time hasn't changed much.

Diana Lawrence - I serve currently as the Secretary for the Fox Valley Sierra Group and have done so for several years. I enjoy the outdoors as much as I imagine most Sierran's do. I also very much enjoy indoor activities such as reading by the fire and cross stitching. Learning is a central theme in my life and I have been a life-long, curious learner. The chance to learn something new comes everyday if one is open to it. As I have all of my life, if I have a question I try and find some books on the subject and read about it. Today the books are often internet resources as well. But I do remember as kids we ran to the family set of Encyclopedia's. I think that set of encyclopedias was my parent's best investment as it created curious kids who grew up to be curious adults. Alan Lawrence and I have been married for 12 years and I have a daughter who is now grown and on her own.

Jo Hjerstedt - I've been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years. In that time I've enjoyed many outings, social events and meetings the club has offered. For the past 3 years I have been able to serve on the Executive Committee. As a board member I have been able to guide the club in our involvement in local and national issues. There is much work still to be done and I would like your support to continue. I believe now is the time to explore, enjoy and protect the environment.

Alan Lawrence - I joined Sierra Club in 1999, with an interest in outings, the meeting topics, and environmental protection. I have served on their board of directors since 2000, and also maintain our website. Since 2003 I have served as the chairperson for the Fox Valley Sierra Group, the regional group of 1600 Sierra Club members in northeastern Wisconsin.

I have always liked the nature, initially enjoying and exploring it, coincidently two of the words in our club motto, though I didn't know that most of my life. I've never ceased my awe of nature, but these days I find that protecting nature has become the third leg of my involvement. While I have the ability to do something I believe I have the responsibility to try. This is why I am proud to serve on our board and why I am running for another term.

Write in - _

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

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sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley

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