

It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 17 Issue 4

Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs

December 14, 2017 - 6:30

1000 Islands Environmental Center 1000 Beaulieu Court, Kaukauna WI Annual Holiday party



Please bring a dish to pass for a pot-luck, your place setting, drinks, and a white elephant gift for the exchange. The party starts at 6:30PM!! Please join us for good food, good conversation and a "mean" game of exchange.* (All in good fun.)

January 11, 2018 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Effects of Climate Change on Biodiversity

Israel Del Toro, Assistant Professor Of Biology, Lawrence University uses observational studies, experiments, spatial and statistical species distribution models to measure and predict the effects of a changing climate on ecosystem processes and biodiversity. He has also led the Appleton Pollinator Project

February 8, 2018 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Assessing Groundwater Quality in the Dolomite Aquifer of NE Wisconsin.

Dr. Maureen Muldoon teaches Hydro Geology as well as Environmental Geology at UW Oshkosh. Her team recently completed the field work on a USDA 2 year study of Kewaunee County. Dr. Muldoon will present an overview of how the Dolomite Aquifer functions and why it is so vulnerable to contamination from various land-use activities. The Kewaunee study is a good case study of the types and timing of groundwater contamination.

March 8, 2018 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Wild Ones: Why native plants are essential.

Native plants have been forever beautiful and historically significant. New research highlights their critical function in manmade landscapes. Loris Damerow, past president of Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter, will bring nature home by highlighting native plant species and the important role they play in the environments we create.

April 12, 2018 - 7:00

Canoeing 760 miles with over 65 portages in up-state New York and Maine on the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

Girl Scout building is at, 4693 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI. Same driveway as Bubolz Nature Preserve.

From the Chair November 2017, By Alan Lawrence

Last month our group continued our tradition of helping Bubolz Nature Preserve with their 24th Annual Romp in the Swamp. It is a major fundraiser for the nature center that has been our meeting home for most of our 35 years. I don't know if we helped in the early years, but I have a collection of tee shirts going back quite a few years, and I know it was a tradition before me.

The nature center building was torn down this summer, victim of age and failing infrastructure, and is in the process of being rebuilt. Bubolz has long been our meeting home and we hope to move back in early 2018. Our hesitation is that our rental fee is increasing. Without financial help from our members we worry about our budget and our ability to pay for this meeting space. (Hint: If you can help, we are not too proud to accept it. Contact our Treasurer, listed on the back page of this newsletter.)

I'm using this column to point out that our December 14 holiday meeting will be at 1000 Islands Environmental Center in Kaukauna. This is a social potluck dinner and fun white elephant gift exchange*. We hope you will join us there.

We had a very harsh hurricane season this year, especially notable for Harvey, Irma, and Maria and their destruction to Texas and Puerto Rico. Wildfires ravaged across California. It is always a question of whether this is just natural weather variation or if Global Warming has anything to do with it. What do you think?

On November 3 the National Climate Assessment was released by 13 federal agencies. It states, "This assessment concludes, based on extensive evidence, that it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century." A Washington Post story headlined "Trump administration releases report finding 'no convincing alternative explanation' for climate change" expressed surprise that the White House did not seek to prevent the release of the report, which is at odds with White House decisions to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord earlier this year.

Two years ago, the world watched Paris and the climate talks and celebrated the agreement that was adopted by most of the world. This year, November 6-17, a major climate change summit (COP23) takes place in Bonn, Germany. Sierra Club is taking part, with Bruce Nilles of our Beyond Coal Campaign speaking to audiences. The Club believes Beyond Coal is one of the most successful environmental campaigns in history and will be a central strategy for the US to meet its Paris goals.

...From the Chair continued

On October 18 our group sponsored the showing of the video, "The Messenger", about songbirds dying off. It was distressing to learn about this. It is complicated with myriad factors, most of which seem to be caused by people. Also in October the local Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) sponsored the showing of the video, "Racing Extinction", which amplified the distress. There have been five major mass extinction events in the history of our planet, and there is strong evidence that we are in the process of number six, and people are the problem.

Kohler-Andrae State Park, south of Sheboygan, is under attack by a wealthy private developer who seeks to take public park land and develop it into a private golf course. This is a problem for this park and sets precedent for other parks. Our group and our Chapter are working with the local Friends of The Black River Forest to publicize this land grab and try to stop it.

The proposed Back 40 Mine, on the Michigan side of our Menominee River remains an issue for us as we hope to prevent it from being approved. Good news in October is that the Outagamie County board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Resolution opposing mines without adequate safeguards. Outagamie County joined a growing list of communities opposed to dangerous mines, like the Back 40.

Nevertheless, Wisconsin state legislators have renewed efforts to make it easier for sulfide mines to operate in our state, without safeguards. Such a vote has already passed in the State Assembly and needs only the State Senate's approval before going to the Governor's office. This is a problem.

The highlight for my wife and me was a trip in September to France and London. We were tourists and bicycled for ten days in two regions of France. A special thrill for us was the excellent mass transportation enjoyed in both countries, with an excellent system of trains, subways and buses. We relied extensively on public transportation. It was awesome to see how well it is used by the communities and how efficiently it worked.

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

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

* About our white elephant gift exchange in December. Wrap up something you already own, but don't really care to keep. It should be somewhat gift worthy, and can be funny or unusual. Enjoy the reactions as people select unopened gifts, or take prizes that are already opened. It is a fun way to wrap up a pot-luck holiday party.

Michael Brune Commentary from the Sierra Club's Executive Director

October 30, 2017

Sandy and the Scientists

It was five years ago yesterday that Hurricane Sandy slammed into New Jersey and caused destruction second only to that from Hurricane Katrina just seven years before. Although Sandy was especially damaging in the New York/New Jersey area, the storm affected the entire Eastern Seaboard and 24 states. If Katrina gave the first indication that we've begun a new era of powerful, more-destructive superstorms, Sandy proclaimed it in all caps. Then, of course, came Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

None of these storms were caused by climate change, but warmer ocean waters helped them become more powerful while at sea, and rising sea levels made them destructive when they reached land. These are trends that won't get better anytime soon (i.e., within our lifetimes), but they're likely to get much worse. Many scientists predict that sea levels could rise as much as six feet or more by the end of this century. Sandy damaged the house I grew up in. Under this latest scenario, though, nearly the entire island I grew up on would be imperiled, along with much of the current low-lying property on the entire Eastern Seaboard.

The good news is that people in this country are beginning to realize what's happening (the rest of the world has been way ahead of us on this one). After Katrina, 39 percent of Americans said they believed climate change helped to fuel the intensity of hurricanes. When surveyed after Harvey and Irma, 55 percent believed that.

But you know who doesn't need more convincing that climate change is making hurricanes more intense? Scientists. The data on wind speed and storm surge is irrefutable. Scientists may argue about the exact details of what is happening, but the bigger picture is impossible to ignore.

Unless, of course, you work for Donald Trump, who has packed his administration with a who's who of climate deniers. First and worst among them is EPA administrator Scott Pruitt, who treats the scientists in his own agency more like enemies than employees. Earlier this week, the agency went so far as to tell three of its scientists that they were forbidden to speak about the effects of climate change at a conference in Providence, R.I., on the health of Narragansett Bay. Pruitt had already seen to it that mentions of climate change were scrubbed from the EPA website. The material deleted included examples of plans for states to adapt to extreme weather.

Pruitt's a zealot, and my heart goes out to the career scientists and other professionals who now find themselves working for him. That can't be easy when you've devoted your life to discovering the truth. Those who manage to stick it out are heroes. If you're an EPA employee and are reading this, thank you for your service! Although Pruitt can make your jobs difficult or even miserable and encourage you to leave, the one thing he can't do is make you believe something that isn't true. "E pur si muove," Galileo muttered after being forced by the Inquisition to say he was wrong -- and that the Earth did not revolve around the sun. "And yet, it moves."

How much lasting damage Pruitt can do during his reign of denial is an open question. For our part, the Sierra Club is challenging him every step of the way. At the same time, we and our allies in local governments, in business, and in other countries are working harder than ever to advance the clean energy solutions and adaptation strategies that are the only rational response to climate disruption.

Yes, Scott Pruitt can try to gag his scientists. He can "challenge" their data. He can abuse his power and do everything he can to censor, distort, and limit information about climate change.

And yet, it changes.

http://www.sierraclub.org/michael-brune This and many good articles can be found on the Sierra Club's website.

Proposed Golf Course Could Take Away Our Public Lands

The following letter was written by Jim Buchholz, former Kohler-Andrae State Park superintendent, in opposition to Kohler Company's plan to use state park land for a proposed golf course. The letter was given to DNR staff during a public input session when they announced their plan to rewrite the state park master plan for the benefit of a private business. The letter highlights reasons why our state park lands should not be used for one company's own profit. For more in-depth explanation of Kohler's plans, visit the Friends of the Black River Forest website at www.friendsblackriverforest.org

I am opposed to all proposed changes to the current Kohler-Andrae State Park master plan that would allow Kohler Company to use publicly-owned property for any development and construction for the following reasons:

State Park public lands belong to the people of Wisconsin. This property is held in trust on behalf of all the citizens of the state and should NOT be given away to a private citizen nor any corporation for the purpose of enriching a company's own profits.

- Federal LAWCON 6 (f) regulations prohibits the state from giving away, leasing or selling public lands for nonrecreational purposes or private use. These public lands were purchased and developed by the state for "public" use. They were not intended to be used to support the financial gain by a private company such as the Kohler Company.
- The Kohler Company should not expect special consideration and rights to public land any more than anyone else. Their plan to build three large maintenance buildings totaling 24,000 square feet plus paved parking areas of unknown dimensions on public property should not be approved. In addition they ask permission to install a large traffic roundabout at the park visitor station and build a two lane asphalt entrance road for their golf course all on state park property as well. Clearly this permanent destruction of previously undeveloped state park property cannot be considered "recreational use" of these lands and is of no value to the state park system and its visitors.
- If approved, this part of the park will certainly be posted against trespass by the very public that owns it. Kohler's private security staff will no doubt aggressively ban state park visitors from their own property by sign postings, physical engagement, legal action, and by installing unsightly chain link fencing as shown in Kohler's development plan for the area.
- Promises of local seasonal employment and/or local tax collection increases from a private company adjacent to a state park property has never, and should never, be used by the state as reason to change a property master plan and consider giving away state park lands to private land owners.
- The five (or twenty) acre of state park property identified to be leased to the Kohler Company for 99 years has been mistakenly been identified as "marginal, unused" public lands. Nothing could be further from the truth. This area of the park was intentionally left in its natural state

- through the existing property master plan to protect the unique mature forests of white pine, beech, maple and oak trees as a refuge for area's wildlife and for the use and enjoyment of the public. In addition, this area of the park serves to preserve both open and wooded rare undeveloped sand dune ecosystems of the same type found in the state natural area adjacent to this site.
- If the state allows Kohler to develop proposed roundabouts, entrance roads and massive maintenance facilities and parking areas this unique and beautiful section of the Kohler-Andrae State Park will be destroyed for all time. Many, if not most, of the area's woodland vegetation and mature trees would be cut down, ancient sand dune formations would be filled in and bulldozed flat to make way for the roundabout, asphalt roadways, paved parking areas and three 24,000 square feet maintenance buildings. What recreational gain for the park users and state park system will be achieved by this destructive action?
- The Kohler Company already owns 270 acres of their own property to build their golf course. If they desire to bulldoze this rare sand dune woodland ecosystem along the shoreline of Lake Michigan for the purpose of building yet another high end golf course they will probably gain the permits they seek to do so. There is "NO JUSTIFIABLE REASON" for the state of Wisconsin to allow them to use an additional 5 to 20 publicly-owned acres of rare Lake Michigan sand dune habitat from the state park for their private development.

Wisconsin's state park lands are not for sale to private developers regardless of their size, wealth and political affiliations and/or donations to current or past lawmakers. Changing the Kohler-Andrae State Park master plan for the sole purpose of giving an advantage to one private company at the expense of the citizens of this state will set an unwelcome and unfair statewide precedent. Approval of such an unprecedented land give away can only evolve into more and more requests in future years for more giveaways of state park and other publicly-owned lands to other corporate or private entities big and small.

I ask on behalf of many like me who care deeply about their state parks and have enjoyed using them that the state NOT APPROVE this master plan change.

Sincerely, James Buchholz Plymouth, WI

Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

January 13, Saturday Snowshoe Hike at the Kroenke Lake State Natural Area

Explore a relatively new and unknown State Natural Area with great snowshoe trails on the border of the Menominee Reservation. Learn about history of the area from Kroenke family members. No experience necessary. Free but please register by Jan. 12. Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller: 715 853-6258, nbkappleton@gmail.com

January 20, 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

February 3, Saturday

Snowshoe at Plover River State Fishery Area, Aniwa

Follow the Ice Age Trail through hilly hardwood and cedar forests and along a Class I trout stream. Learn how to spot porcupine dens in the wintertime. If there's not enough snow, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. Distance: 3-6 miles depending on group's abilities. Optional: Stop at Nueske's in Birnamwood to refuel after our hike. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

February 10, Saturday More of Kelly and Christian's Excellent Adventures

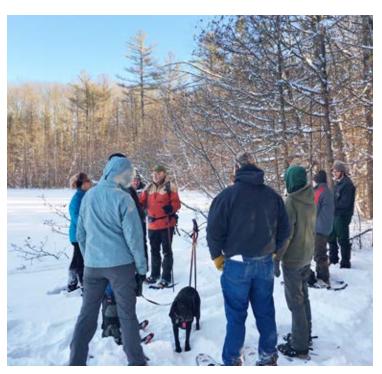
More of Kelly and Christian's Excellent Adventures And Snowshoeing.

Kelly and Christian Ramstack always have beautiful photographs and interesting tales of their adventures. You will have chance learn about some of our northern national parks like Pictured Rocks and the Apostles as well as Porcupine Mountains State Park. Presentation at

Navarino Nature Center from 1:00-2:00, with cookies and hot chocolate. Guided snowshoe hike on the Navarino trails from 2:00-4:00. Snowshoe rental available. This is a good time to try snowshoeing if you haven't been out before. This event is a jointly sponsored by Fox Valley Sierra Club, Navarino Nature Center and Shawano Pathways. Fee \$3 for member of any sponsoring group, \$5 nonmember. Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715 853-6258, nbkappleton@gmail.com

March 17, Saturday Hike at Skunk Lake, Waupaca

We'll combine a section of the Ice Age Trail with the trails at Skunk Lake to make two nice loops through the woods. Learn how this hilly area was shaped by glaciers. Optional: Head into nearby Amherst for lunch. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139



Check out our webpage or facebook frequently for updates or additional outings.

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.

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Subscription included with Sierra Club membership dues.

Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials March 3rd for April thru July Issue.

Fall Colors Bike Ride

On Saturday Sep 30 five Sierra Club members met at Marble Park on the west side of Winneconne to enjoy a fall bike ride. The weather was about perfect with the temperature in the low 60's, a blue sky and light wind from the south east. It usually doesn't get much better than this on a late September day in Wisconsin. The group headed north on 7th st and turned west on Lakeshore rd. the group rode down Lakeshore a couple of miles then turned right on county RD B. There



was more traffic than on previous bike rides which made riding a-breast dangerous so the group rode single file and enjoyed the sights. We had a brief rest stop at the Lake Poygan boat landing then continued west on county road B until the road intersected county road D. The scenery on county road B is mixed some trees in fall color and rural farm land. We doubled back on county road B then diverted south to Jacques road. The scenery on Jacques road was rural farming land with a bit of contour. After a brief stop on Jacques road at the wildlife area we continued back to Winneconne We road 22.7miles and averaged about 9 MPH the fall colors flat terrain and light wind made for an unforgettable outing. As I am writing this I am thinking about a couple of rides for 2018 until then let's get the Skis waxed and hope we have a normal winter.

John Engel Outing Leader

The Weather doesn't always Cooperate

Hiking in the rain at Point Beach State Forest



Hiking and Understanding the Proposed Changes to Kohler-Andrae State Park

On a September 23rd outing, Jim Buchholz led participants around Kohler-Andrae State Park to show us first hand the land Kohler Company would destroy with their proposed golf course.





Gifts Wrappers Needed!!

Calling all volunteers for the 2nd annual gift wrapping extravaganza! This year we will be wrapping gifts on Thursday, December 21st at Appleton's Barnes and Noble store. While we wrap presents for the store's customers, we'll also share a little bit about the Club and it is a fund raiser for our club. Last year's participants had a lot of fun, so come out and join us if you can.

No experience or expertise needed. If you can tear off a piece of tape, we can use your help. Shifts are three hours in length from 9 am – 9 pm, but we can work with anyone's schedule. Wrapping paper, scissors and tape will be pro-

vided. We just need YOU to help! If interested, please contact Diane at dperschbacher1@new.rr.com or 920-216-2159.



Welcome New Members

Appleton Cathlynn Brusky Carolyn Corrigall Allen Davis Joanne Dietz John Doran Joanne Ehrhardt Jolee Ellingson Margaret Van Heuklon Anne Jackson Mr Mark Jennerjohn Lori Lauerman Barbara Leslie Cathy Nennig Al Olson Meg Pickett

Pamela Pray Gloria Rieckmann Aileen M Riggins Elizabeth Ryan Mr Brandon Salveson Valerie Schilling Jenna Smith Mrs Jane Tarr Todd Trueblood Jack and Martha Voight

J Stone-Wilms & B Wilms-Stone Campbellsport Judy Czerniak

James and Russell Theisen Chilton John Endsley

Nancy Baumgartner

Dalton

Clintonville

Tammy Dawson

De Pere

Terry Clancy Rose Costello Sophie Cuene Olga Kamschulte Norma Primeau

Brock C and Stacy R Zieske Denmark

Norman Hebel Fond du Lac Ruth Battaglia

David Dorn and Mary Bowe

Ms Jean Braun Jonathan Brinkley Jon Feven

Julie Romaine Franson

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Teresa Magana Ken Maciejewski Barbara Neitman Susan Seresse Green Bay

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Pam Lunde Dianne Marchant Phoebe A Mix Stace Nickolson Rath Pribyl Wayne Provencher

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Vikki Shellman Jo Steber

Mr Tony Vanderbloemen Bridget Van Laanen Carol Van Der Perren Joyce and Lucas Weisshappel

Ms Lois E Welty Terry Zasada Greenview

Ms Debra Aschaker Chas Reuter Kaukauna Karen Bauer

Ron Brooks Kris Debruin Lanell Gilchrist Scott Jerome

Katie and Mike Verbeten

Doris White

Ted & Marian Doehling

Little Chute

Kathleen Alexander Joe & Leone Eiting Ms Patt Vanden Heuvel

Mr James Mckenna Mary Provo

Manawa

Mr Anthony Bauer

Menasha

Diane M Ballinger Chester Behnke Sara Companik Faithe and Daiel L Daoust

Cindy Edelman

Andrew Griepentrog Ms Nona Kyle R Luedke

George Sahotsky

Neenah

Sharon Bowen Diane Eparvier

Mary and Peter A Geniesse Michael Hackstock James Hackstocks **Edward Meier** Robin Pasholk Mr. Tod Schweitzer Sue Vandesande

New Franklin Ms. Carolyn Hawk New Holstein

Kathleen Gerner New London

Karen Euhardy Terry Laib Virginia Pharr

North Fond du Lac **Gerald Butzler**

Omro

Barbara Croisant Holly Ray **Quinn Thompson** Olivian Wilde

Onieda

David Bertler

Oshkosh Jerilyn Abba

Madeline Anteau Lance Bucko Michael J Cooney Keith Cram

Dorothy Glidden

John And Mary Gronlund

Sally Guenther Jean H Kimber Stephen Nemmetz

Ms Erin Plier Mr Richard Rodriguez

James Rudolph Mrs Barbara Rowe

Bernice Rupert Louise Schang Mike Schellenger Elizabeth Schubert

M Snortum & S Seggelink

Tom Wilkinson Pickett

Amy Wondra Ripon

Dorothy Frank Lee A Prellwitz

Joan Reger Lissa Riviers

Rosendale

Dale Jungwirth Scandinavia

Richard Haug Shiocton

James Hooyman

Suamico

Chad Cornette Valerie Peeters **David Turriff**

Waupaca

Merlin Lang Lisa Lawrence Joseph Mccausland

Gerald and Elizabeth M Moede

Ray Parker Tony Poznanski Susan Wesche

Waupun

Daniel Posthuma Mr Robert Zamzow

Carole Cronin Ann Henderson

Weyauwega Joanne Kennedy

Winneconne

Darius and Sami Leavens

Fox Valley Sierra Group Board Members

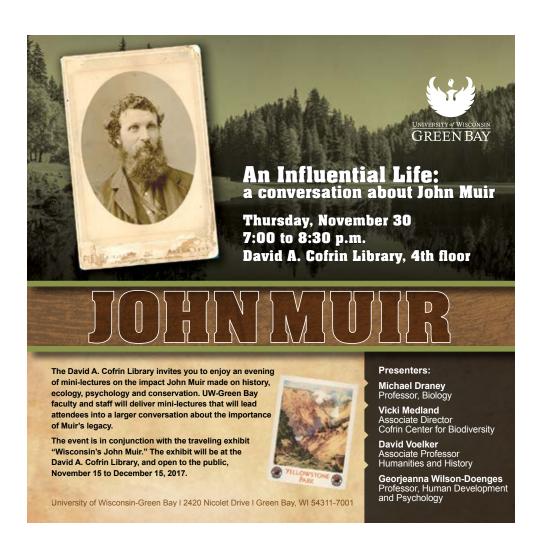
Our Executive Committee consists of ordinary Sierra Club members who are interested in being a bit more involved. We meet about 10 times a year. Members are elected via newsletter ballot in December when we have enough candidates. Members may be selected anytime during year by a vote from the Executive Committee.

This year Monny Hjerstedt, our newsletter editor, is the only candidate up for election. A ballot election does not make sense this year. We hope other interested members will inquire about serving on our Executive Committee to help lead our group.

MAKE THE WORLD BETTER

UNLESS SOMEONE LIKE YOU CARES A WHOLE AWFUL LOT, NOTHING IS GOING TO GET BETTER. IT IS NOT!

DR. SUESS, THE LORAX





Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Giving's a Breeze. JOIN Sierra Club.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	□ \$ 15	N/A
Standard	\$ 39	\$ 49
Supporting	\$ 75	\$ 100
Contributing	\$ 150	\$ 175
Life	\$ 1000	\$ 1250
Senior	\$ 25	\$ 35
Student	\$ 25	\$ 35
Limited Income	\$ 25	\$ 35

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Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at **sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley** or find us on **Facebook**



FVSG web site