



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 18 Issue 1

Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs

April 12, 2018 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

The 740 Mile Northern Forest Canoe Trail

Learn about this premiere water trail and the through-paddle trip Katina Daanen completed in 2011. Named the "Best Canoe Trail" by Outside Magazine, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) is a long-distance paddling trail connecting major watersheds across New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine. The trail traverses 23 rivers and streams, 59 lakes and ponds and includes more than 65 portages totaling about 70 miles. The NFCT links communities and wild places and offers canoeists and kayakers a lifetime of paddling destinations or the adventure of a lifetime. As of 2017, less than 100 people have through-paddled the entire 740-mile distance of this 15-year old trail as a single expedition.

May 10, 2018 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Dynamics in Lake Winnebago Algal Blooms

Dr. Marcel Dijkstra, Assistant Professor of Environmental Engineering Technology UW Oshkosh, will discuss the "normal" seasonal dynamics in lakes relating stratification, wind mixing and oxygen levels near the sediments to algal growth, followed by a discussion of dynamics observed in disturbed ecosystems. In his presentation he will point out the importance of sediment feedback, the dynamics in the fraction of phosphorus available for algal uptake and the impact of zebra mussels on nutrient cycling. This presentation will give the listener a better understanding of the ecosystem dynamics that drive algal blooms in Lake Winnebago.

June 14, 2018 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Renewable Energy

Learn about Sierra Club's roll in transitioning Wisconsin to clean energy from Conservation Programs Coordinator, Elizabeth Ward. Elizabeth will lead a discussion on transitioning to clean energy. Across the state the highest numbers of solar group-buy programs were implemented last year. Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter strives to continue this momentum in partnership with SunVest Solar. For project-specific details, Catie Malcheski of SunVest Solar will explore the costs and benefits of going solar thru the Sierra Club's solar homes program.

July - no meeting

August 9, 2018 - 6:00pm

Plamman Park - Chris Brandt Shelter
Summer Picnic

Come share your summer with fellow Sierrans. Grill will be provided. Bring a dish to pass, your own meat for grilling, beverages, and place setting.

From the Chair

April 2018, By Alan Lawrence

I recently watched the 2016 movie, Star Trek Beyond, and was fascinated by the swarms of tiny drone ships that the enemy unleashed on the Starship Enterprise. These swarms moved like massive schools of fish, independent yet in coordinated unison. These swarms of pointy ships crashed into the USS Enterprise and systematically destroyed it by cutting it into pieces as if by a chain saw.

You'd be helpless against that weapon for, like schools of fish, there isn't really anything to chase. It would be overwhelming, and it was for our friends on the Enterprise. Even during the movie my mind raced to our current world and our current politics. It seems that there is too much going on to follow.

Between our President, Congress, Governor and State Legislatures every manner of damage is being done to protective mechanisms that we had hoped would protect our environment and our public lands. It is being done by hundreds of presumably independent institutions, yet it also seems very coordinated. It seems to be annihilating the world that we know and love.

April is the month of Earth Day. It is useful to remember the world that existed when Wisconsin's Gaylord Nelson conceived of the environmental celebration.

Earth Day began with teach-ins and citizens interested in making changes. The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life. The large numbers of American citizens, independent yet coordinated, convinced an apathetic President and Congress. That day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the landmark Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and many other ground-breaking environmental laws soon followed. Twenty years later, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

As citizens in today's world we must not waiver. We can, and we must, protect our planet.

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

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

**Meetings are at the Girl Scout Service building right next to Bubolz Nature Preserve. 4693 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI.
It is the same driveway as Bubolz.**

Coalition to Save the Menominee River

The Coalition to save the Menominee River was created on April 7, 2017. The coalition was created by a group of Michigan and Wisconsin residents who live near the proposed Back Forty Mine or downstream of the mine site on the Menominee River. The purpose is to collectively focus their needs of representation in order to vocalize their concerns. The elected representatives are not listening to their constituents about the damage the Back Forty Mine will do to the environment, the reduction of their property value, and how it will affect the long term economic benefits of a clean Menominee River. During the following months the Coalition applied and received 501 C-3 and tax exempt status.

Background: A private water well was being drilled early in 2001 and zinc-rich minerals were discovered. Follow-up drill testing of the geophysical anomaly resulted in the discovery of a massive sulfide deposit containing Gold, Silver, Copper, Zinc, and Lead. To date, over 500 diamond drill holes have been drilled over 125,000 meters in which polymetallic ore minerals has been verified from the surface to depths exceeding 700 meters. Rumors of large mineral deposits and possibly an open pit mine were common until 2006 then the exploratory drilling activity subsided, as well as the rumors. Unbeknownst to the general public, Mineral Processing began purchasing land, acquiring mineral rights beginning in 2003. In 2010 the name changed to Aquila Resources which owns 580 acres of land adjacent to the Menominee River near the Shakey Lakes in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In 2007, Environmental Resource Management was contracted to conduct an Environmental Base Line Study and Aquila Resources was quietly proceeding with the environmental site work and engineering to obtain mining permits. On November 12, 2015 Aquila submitted their proposals for the mining permits. The project was quietly moving forward until the August Menominee County Journal article stating the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality found the application to mine was administratively complete with a public hearing in October of 2016. As of this writing, Aquila has been granted three of four final permits by Michigan's Dept. of Environmental Quality: the Nonferrous Metallic Mineral Mining Permit, the Air Use Permit to install, and the Pollutant Discharge & Elimination System Permit. The Wetlands Permit was withdrawn on September 22, 2016 by Aquila and was resubmitted in late 2017. Three permits have been granted but each permit has many pages of conditions attached which have to be met prior to the permit being effective. On January 23, 2018 the Michigan DEQ had a public meeting in the Stevenson Michigan High school. The purpose of the public meeting was to gather public opinion regarding the proposed Back Forty Mine Wet Land Permit. The number of attendees exceeded 300 with 4 people speaking in favor of the mine and 84 opposing the mine. The wetlands permit announcement was scheduled for April 9, 2018; however the date has been delayed. Michigan DEQ allowed the public to submit



written comments on the mine until February 2, 2018 at which time they received greater than 3400 comments and requests for additional information. In response to the public comments, the Michigan DEQ has submitted a 34 page letter of questions to Aquila Resources to verify inconsistencies in their wetland permit application. Aquila has 20 days to respond to the letter which was dated March 2, 2018. The response from Aquila is required before the Michigan DEQ can make a decision on the wetlands permit. If the wetlands permit is issued, site specific conditions will likely have to be met before the wetlands permit is deemed effective.

On March 1st, the author traveled to a Coalition to Save the Menominee River meeting. The meeting was held in the Wagner Town Hall on the Wisconsin side of the Menominee River near the McAllister Bridge. Surveys were handed out to a number of the people attending who lived on the river or near the proposed mine site.

The chairman of the group, Dale Burie, opened the meeting with a prayer for the river and the attendees. Dale proceeded with the agenda, providing updates on the Wet Lands permitting process, The Menominee Nation Clean Water Act section 404 federal law suit, a treasures report, the various public events opposing the Back Forty Mine, future fund raising events, the lack of objective journalism by the Marinette Eagle Herald newspaper, and the lack of representation by their elected officials. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. After the meeting, I met with the people who completed the survey.

The news media, industry, and environmental organizations, tend to focus on job creation or environmental harm. I propose we meet a few of the people who will be most affected by the Back Forty Mine.

Dennis and Andrea Piontek retired 2 ½ years ago and live in their retirement home. They worked and saved to build their dream house on river 10 miles downstream of the proposed mine. Prior to building, they saw some signs about a mine but they were assured the investors backed out and the mine was a non-issue. Dennis and Andrea enjoy nature, clean air, clean water, and the variety of bird life. Andrea told me about the eagle family that lives in the area. Dennis enjoys fishing in the river and the fish are currently safe to eat. They are both very concerned about the river being polluted and the destruction of habitat. Another issue is property values, their home valuation has dropped which they believe is a direct result of the proposed mine activity.

Regina Chaltry and her daughter Gracey spend time at their family cottage south of the Oxbow on the Michigan side of the river. The cottage has been in their family since the 1940's.



They enjoy the quiet solitude and harmony with nature at their cottage. This area is beautiful, completely surrounded by forests, and is nearly untouched. They haven't brought in electricity, opting for a simplified lifestyle. As a family, they enjoy floating down the river. They see eagles, deer, pheasant, porcupine, and beaver; in the evening owls are often heard. The spring ritual of collectively tapping and making maple syrup is an annual event. Regina and her family are very concerned about toxic mine waste polluting the Menominee River and prohibiting them from enjoying their family's lifestyle.

August Beres has lived on the Wisconsin side of the river for more than 50 years. Augie dreamed about living on the river since he was a teenager. He worked hard, saved his money, and his dream came true. When Augie's grandchildren visit, they fish, canoe, and play in the river shallows. He is gravely concerned that if Aquila is allowed to mine, there will be a breach in the mine or another unforeseen disaster. His grandchildren will not be able to grow up enjoying all the recreational and environmental opportunities the river has to offer. Augie has written letters to our Governor, both U.S. Senators, U.S. Congressman, State Senator, and State Assemblyman. Augie received some positive feedback from State Assemblyman Jeff Mursau; however no serious action to alleviate his concerns has occurred. Tom Tiffany said the proposed mine was in Michigan and there was nothing he could do.

Tina Lesperance lives on the family farm which is approximately one mile east of the proposed mine site. Currently, the Aquila employees who work at the field office drive past her farm on their way to work. Tina's farm has been in the family since 1930 and she absolutely loves the farm. In her words, "she loves the peace and quiet living with nature". The Shakey Lakes area supports numerous species of migrating birds and waterfowl. Frequently Tina sees wolves on the farm; they know her and haven't been problematic. Tina told me about the time she followed two of them from a distance into the woods. It was beginning to get dark and she thought that it was time to return home. She is

concerned about the blasting, construction traffic, the sulfide dust, and her well water. If the mine is permitted, she is afraid the environment will suffer and it will directly affect her lifestyle.

Doug Stephen has been living on Green Bay north of Menominee Michigan for 1½ years. Doug states the Bay is one of the most beautiful places he has ever seen. The wildlife is amazing: bald eagles, deer, coyotes, and many fish for sport fishing. For reference, Doug lived in San Diego, Rhode Island, and the Chicago area on the water. Doug made a significant real estate investment when he purchased his house. At the time of the purchase, he had no idea a sulfide ore mine was proposed on the Menominee River. At the DEQ hearing in Stephenson, MI. Doug stated, "This is a moral outrage and should be a federal crime for anyone involved in moving forward with the Back Forty mine, not one sulfide mine has ever not polluted".

I have additional stories; however, every person who was at the meeting has a personal reason to oppose the Back Forty Mine and they all have been ignored by their elected representatives. For instance, MI state Assembly Rep Beau LaFave and MI state Senator Tom Caspersen have both been contacted numerous times to help but they refused.

What can we do to help? Tax deductible donations can be made to the Coalition; to support their operating expenses (they have an online PayPal account). Participate in rallies to save the Menominee River. We will post the rallies on the Sierra Club Fox Valley Web Page and our Facebook Page. Then write a letter to your WI state assemblyman and state senator. Copy your letter; send it to John Nygren (WI Assembly District 89) and Tom Tiffany (WI Senate District 12). Finally, send a copy to Governor Scott Walker.

-John Engel (FVSG Vice Chair)

Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

April 7-8, Saturday-Sunday

Canoe Robinson & Morrison Creeks near Black River Falls, Class II; Car Camp

Runnable when the water is up in the spring, these two small, scenic creeks are a lot of fun. There are two drops on the Robinson that can be portaged. We'll pick up spring thaw trash as we go, leaving the stream in better shape for those who follow. Wet or dry suit required for this early season trip. Contact Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net

April 21, Saturday

Earth Day Cleanup at Arrowhead Park, Neenah

Sierra Club will begin Earth Day week with a service project to clean Dolly Smith and Arrowhead Parks on the southern edge of Little Lake Butte des Morts in Neenah. Sierra Club will provide lunch to the volunteers. Please contact our event organizer so we can have the right amount of food. We are meeting at the Herb and Dolly Smith Park parking lot on April 21 at 9:30am and will be finished by noon, in time for lunch. Please have suitable work clothes and gloves. Event Organizer: John Engel, johnwilliamengel@gmail.com, (920) 475-1472



April 28, Saturday

Urban Hike Along the Fox River, Appleton

Join Alan and Diana Lawrence for a leisurely hike around the Fox River in urban Appleton. We will hike a loop of approx. 4 miles. If the ground is dry we can hike some unimproved trails, otherwise we'll be on pavement. Meet at 9:30 and be finished by late morning. In earlier years industry occupied the river and transformed it with locks and bridges. Now the river is part of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Water Trail and serves the public and wildlife. Contact Alan: 920-213-5004, alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com

May 5-6, Saturday-Sunday

Canoe Camp the Pine River, Class I-II

Join us on our 42nd annual Pine River trip. We will address the many challenges facing this state-designated 'Wild River' as we go forward. Contact Gregg Riemer: 608-216-5803, gregg.riemer@gmail.com or Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com



May 12, Saturday

Bike the Ahnapee State Trail, Casco to Algoma

Bike on one of the three sections of this rail-trail from Casco to Algoma, about 20 mile round trip. Spring wildflowers should be in bloom. Limestone surface. Bikes with wider tires recommended. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller: 715-853-6258, nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com



May 19, Saturday

View Whooping Cranes at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

Conservation Wildlife Biologist Dr. Misty McPhee will take us to view whooping cranes in their natural habitat. Whooping cranes were nearly extinct with a population of only 21 birds but their current population is approx. 400 due to the efforts of the International Crane Foundation and numerous volunteers and scientists such as Dr. McPhee. Hike approx. 3 miles to view the cranes then have a wrap-up discussion at the visitor center. Bring a lunch. Carpooling from Green Bay and the Fox Valley is suggested. Contact John Engel: 920-475-1472, johnwilliamengel@gmail.com

May 26, Saturday

Paddle the Flowage in Navarino Wildlife Area

This is a chance to see a beautiful, quiet, natural area full of bird life that is navigable only in the spring. Bring your own canoe/kayak and gear. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller: 715-853-6258, nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com



June 2, Saturday

National Trails Day Hike on the Ice Age Trail, Manitowoc/Two Rivers

Celebrate National Trails Day and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System with a hike on the Ice Age Trail. Learn how the National Trails System Act established National Scenic, Recreation and Historic Trails and what trails we have in our area. We will hike the Dunes Segment in the Woodland Dunes State Natural Area near Manitowoc and the City of Two Rivers Segment stopping at the home of the original ice cream sundae. This is a loop hike so we will return by hiking along the Mariners Trail to experience the longest continuous view of Lake Michigan in Wisconsin. Trails are relatively flat and easily. Hike approx. 7 miles. Contact Dale & Penny Schaber: 920-739-6041, dschaber@athenet.net

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 and/or meeting locations are not listed in these descriptions to ensure participants will check with trip leaders before proceeding. All participants will be required to sign a waiver.

 **June 9-10, Saturday-Sunday**
Canoe the Pike & Wolf Rivers, Class II+ Car Camp

Come to enjoy these beautiful whitewater rivers. We'll paddle the Pike on Saturday and Section 2 of the Wolf on Sunday. Contact Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net

June 21, Thursday Evening
Summer Solstice Hike at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London

Hike past ponds and through prairies and woods to end up on the top of Mosquito Hill with hopefully a spectacular view of the sunset looking over Outagamie and Waupaca Counties. Hike approx. 3 miles. Contact Monny Hjerstedt: call or text 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

July 18, Wednesday Evening
Native Plants Walk at the WILD Center, Neenah

Join us for a guided tour of the WILD Center grounds at 2285 W Butte des Morts Beach Rd, Neenah. We will be led by a volunteer from the Wild Ones who will be able to answer your questions about native flowers and prairie grasses. If you are thinking about replacing some of your lawn with native plants you will be able to see many species in bloom. This is a very easy walk for all adults and children. Contact John Engel: 920-475-1472, johnwengel@earthlink.net

 **July 23-??**
Whitewater Paddling in Montana, Class II-III; Car Camp

Join experienced paddlers on some classic whitewater rivers in Montana. The trip will be flexible to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this approximately two-week trip, day hike(s) included. Contact Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net

 **July 28, Saturday**
Hike the Point Beach State Forest Segment of the Ice Age Trail, Two Rivers

Hike about 8 miles along the beach, over ancient beach ridges, swales, creeks, wetlands and mixed forests. We will probably get our feet wet and there will be mosquitoes - bring repellent! Pack a lunch to enjoy on the trail. Contact Monny Hjerstedt: call or text (920) 558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

August 18, Saturday
Bike the Wiouwash State Trail, Larsen to Oshkosh


Meet at the Town of Larsen Park on Saturday morning. Bike the Wiouwash to Sunset Bay on Lake Butte des Morts 9.5 miles one way. We will stop at a few native prairie grass areas and get refreshments near Oshkosh then return to Town of Larson Park. This Rail Trail has a crushed stone surface and is an easy ride with a very flat grade recommended for all adults and teenagers. Contact John Engel: 920-475-1472, johnwengel@earthlink.net

Celebrate Two 50th Anniversaries in 2018

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act which includes National Scenic Trails, Historic Trails and Recreation Trails. These trails were created for the conservation and enjoyment of the scenic, historic, natural or cultural qualities of the areas through which they travel. In Wisconsin we have the North Country and Ice Age National Scenic Trails as well as many other recreation trails including the incredible network of rail-trails. To learn more visit www.trails50.org.



The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act also turns 50 this year and protects 12,734 miles of water. That may sound like a lot but it's only 0.35% of the total rivers we have in the U.S. In Wisconsin this includes the St. Croix, Namekagon and Wolf Rivers. To learn more visit www.rivers.gov.

The Fox Valley Group is leading a few special outings this year to commemorate these two milestone anniversaries. Look for this icon on our outings page to explore, enjoy and protect our National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers. 

WHITEWATER CANOE CLINIC
(Solo and Tandem)

June 2-3 Wolf River

Are you comfortable canoeing in rivers and would like to develop or practice some beginning whitewater canoeing skills? Then the Chapter's "River Touring Section" whitewater canoe clinic is for you.

For complete details, contact Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, rich-krieg@new.rr.com



Hello from Big Sky Country!

I never expected when I retired and moved to Montana that I would become a “professional” conservation volunteer. But now I find I spend hours every morning reading material, conferring with conservation partners, writing letters and emails to our elected officials, and communicating with others in the community, urging them to attend meetings. Some days I attend 2 meetings in a row.

Here is what we face:

Wilderness Study Areas release - In the 1960's sections of the Custer-Gallatin national forest were considered for wilderness designation and their characteristics assessed. Congress did not designate these areas as wilderness and they have remained in WSA status. Our Senator Daines would like to “release” 5 of the WSA's from that status, in exchange for allowing 30,000 acres in Paradise Valley (where I live) to be protected under another bill proposed by Senator Tester. The concern is that the next step is the USFS will sell the federal lands to the state of Montana, which makes them vulnerable to be sold to development for mineral extraction and to balance the budget as our constitution requires.

Mining - Mining of gold, silver, palladium and platinum has a long history in Montana. In Paradise Valley, between Livingston and Jardine, at the northern border of Yellowstone National Park, exist 2 recent mining threats. The Custer-Gallatin National forest enacted a 2 year mineral withdrawal on public land in this region and has now submitted a 20 year withdrawal request to Interior Secretary Zinke. However, the potential for water degradation flowing to the Yellowstone River still exists, as there are patented mining claims on private land that can be pursued.

The Smith River is an iconic, canyon type waterway in central Montana fed by snowmelt and small streams. Sandfire Resources has proposed a copper mine in a sulfide ore body near the main feeder stream for the Smith River. As this is on private land, little can be done to prevent it, though those in opposition have noticed our state Department of Environmental Quality, with vigor, pointing out deficiencies in the permit application plan submitted by Sandfire.

Gravel pit/Asphalt Plant - In 2017, one mile from my house, an open pasture was sold to a gravel pit/asphalt plant operator. This fronts a historic buffalo jump, is adjacent to tourist lodging, and one half mile from the Yellowstone River. Here concerns were water and air quality, noise and unsightliness, in the midst of a residential area. We formed a group called Emigrant Neighbors, developed a campaign, solicited comments from the public, got the Park County Environmental Council behind us, met with the Department of Environmental Quality, and wrote many letters pointing out deficiencies in the permit application. This caused the operator to back out of the purchase. Alas, the property is back on the market.

Park County Growth Plan - Our county has no zoning! In 2016 our county planners managed to create and pass a growth plan with both pro and con public input. The County advisory board is starting to consider how to implement the foremost elements of the plan, the first of which is creation of a zoned district along Highway 89 between Livingston and the Gardiner gateway to Yellowstone National Park, to standardize billboards. This is the heavily traveled road between 2 scenic mountain ranges, following the historic Yellowstone Trail, and parallels the Yellowstone River. As this is vacation country, many dwellings in Paradise Valley are vacant most of the year, as they are

second homes or rental vacation homes. This means they dot the valley, as ranchers have subdivided acreage for profit. At issue is continued, unplanned, helter-skelter growth, and what it means for visual and water quality degradation, new road needs, more groundwater withdrawal, commercial development adjacent to residences, emergency response, and disruption of the riparian river corridor, upon which our ecosystems depend. The Park County Environmental Council has suggested to our county planners that future development be contained along existing travel-ways, and clustered near existing infrastructure, rather than polka-dotting the open spaces. However, to date, there is no authority to limit such development.

Custer-Gallatin National Forest - The national forest is undergoing a public comment process as they revise their usage plan. Some people want more mechanized trails, some want airplane landing strips, some want more footpaths and wilderness designations. This forest encompasses from southwestern Montana into northwestern South Dakota, and contains many areas of historical and cultural significance. As this is cattle country, much acreage is leased for grazing, using our public lands for private profit. And, where is all this beef going? To Midwest feedlots for finishing. There are few local ranches selling grassfed beef to our local grocery outlets.

Water Conflict Issues - In the mid 1800's a priority system of water use was established. Montana became a state in 1889 and adopted the priority system, meaning an upstream user can take all they are legally allowed, even if the downstream users have none. Effect? Some fish incubator streams do not flow to the river year-round. In 2016 the Yellowstone River experienced a major whitefish die-off due to a bloom of an endemic protozoan, which proliferated in the presence of low, warm water. All recreation uses of the river were prohibited until the cause was identified, and the fish die-off ceased. The economic impact was staggering. This had never happened before. People were outraged. Guided trips and lodging reservations were canceled. The Yellowstone River is our cultural heritage, and the biggest economic driver in the county. As a result, a number of citizens and organizations have been meeting but have floundered on restating a name and goals, so addressing water and fishery issues has not begun.

Having lived in the upper Midwest from 1971 to 2012, it seemed environmental issues were not so extensive. At least, there is zoning. And yes, I have participated in mining issues in Minnesota and Wisconsin. At times I feel

overwhelmed, and wished I never left Wisconsin! I try to be a “good” citizen, following the “refuse, reduce, re-use, and recycle” concept, participate in public matters, and do good in the world. I have long been a trail advocate, maintainer, and now trail ambassador for the nearby Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. I do not have an answer to resolve all these issues, but I believe in citizen participation. Current science is emphatic in documentation of global climate change. Here in Montana many seem to be trying to live an earlier century lifestyle, disregarding the changes in the world that affect us all, and do not recognize the need to modify their practices. After the recent death of a friend, I am reminded to live thoughtfully and kindly, and I will keep trying to save a little piece of the world. I support your efforts to save your piece of the world. And get out and play! Happy trails!

Submitted by Jerry Ladewig, Emigrant, MT
(Former FVSG member)



View from Jerry's home, on a rise above the Yellowstone River, looking across the valley.

Service Project Needs Your Help

The Fox Valley Sierra Club will continue the community service of pulling garlic mustard at High Cliff State Park and Memorial Park in Combined Locks. Although we cannot give dates for an evening or morning of service now, please know we are recruiting members and friends to get on our list to call/email/text, now. We need to pull the garlic mustard before it goes to seed. That window of opportunity could be from mid-April to early June, depending on the weather. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Marjie Fendt at marjiefendt@gmail.com with your contact information. I would like your name, email, and phone number. (Texting might be the best quick message.) Also let me know if your preferred time to help is morning/evening and if Saturdays and/or Sundays are preferred.



Nine Outing Leaders Certified in February

On February 24th, nine Fox Valley Group members received OLT101 certification. This means that they have Basic First Aid training and are certified to lead official Sierra Club outing day trips. For some this was a refresher course but we also had a few new people get certified. The Fox Valley Group has one of the most vibrant outings programs in the state so take advantage of the unique trips we offer. The leaders certified on Feb. 24th are: John Engel, Monny Hjerstedt, Rich Krieg, Alan & Diana Lawrence, Christian & Kelly Ramstack, and Dale & Penny Schaber. If you are interested in becoming an outing leader, contact Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139 or kjramstack@yahoo.com. A training is scheduled for the end of April in the Milwaukee area. Also, if you have an idea for an outing that you would like us to plan and lead, please let us know!

INTERESTED in a Fox Valley Sierra Group Book Club?

Read and discuss books about nature and the environment with fellow Sierra members. Possible locations could be in Oshkosh, Neenah, Appleton and Green Bay. Send us your ideas of book titles, times & dates that would work for you. Or maybe you would like to help organize or lead a group.



Let us know if this is something that would interest you? Email - mhjerstedt17@gmail.com.

Vol. 18 Issue 1: April 2018 - August 2018
It's Our Nature is published three times a year
by the Fox Valley Sierra Group,
P.O. Box 124, Neenah, WI 54957.

Subscription included with
Sierra Club membership dues.

**Next Newsletter Deadline
for submitting materials
July 9th
for August thru December Issue.**



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.

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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

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

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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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

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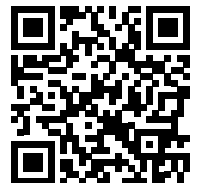
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