

# It's Our Nature

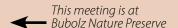
Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 18 Issue 2

## Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs



## September 13, 2018 - 7:00pm

**Bubolz Nature Preserve** 

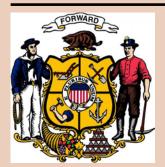


### **Wisconsin Master Naturalist Program**

Are you fascinated with nature? Do you enjoy learning more about the forests, lakes, plants and animals in Wisconsin? Do you want to make Wisconsin a better place through your own volunteering, and want to feel well equipped to volunteer in public lands? The Wisconsin Master Naturalist program, a statewide effort to promote awareness, understanding and stewardship of the state's natural resources, is developing a corps of informed volunteers throughout the state. You can become a WI Master Naturalist Volunteer! Anyone over 18 is eligible.

Wisconsin's citizens want to learn more about the state's wealth of natural resources and how they might involve themselves. In the past, administrators, scientists and educators recognized that the state lacked a coordinated infrastructure to efficiently provide volunteer training, information, resources and support. They asked University of Wisconsin–Extension's Environmental Resources Center to take the lead in developing and implementing a course hosted by organizations such as nature centers, state parks and museums modeled after successful Master Naturalist programs in more than 25 states. The result is a 40 hour course designed to give a broad overview of geology, ecology, plants, fungi, wildlife, water and life in the water and effective interpretation.

Certified by the UW-extension as trained instructors, Mary Trainor and Sue Eiler have worked as a team, teaching the class at Hartman Creek State Park for the past five years. Both are avid experienced outdoors people, with extensive experience as interpreters in the various Wisconsin ecological communities. As a team, they possess both academic and practical knowledge for all areas in the course, especially in the fields of ecology, zoology, and botany and volunteer their time as instructors. Their classes have ranged from 10-25 students from throughout the state, ages from 18-80 with backgrounds covering the spectrum of life experience and education. All have a thirst for knowledge but may or may not have any natural resource background and seek to volunteer in a variety of settings.



### October 11, 2018 - 6:30pm

These meetings are at the Girl Scout Service Building

Girl Scout Building

### Chili Cook-off • WI Legislation 101 • WI Quiz

Sample different kinds of chili and vote for your favorite at our 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off! Cost: \$5/person which will help offset our yearly operating costs. Once your belly is full, learn the ins and outs of our State government from FVSG member Penny Bernard Schaber, a former state representative for Assembly District 57 from 2009-2015. We will wrap up the evening with a fun quiz, "How much do you know about Wisconsin?"

If you would like to enter our Sierra Club Chili Cook-off with a crock full of chili for people to taste:

Contact Jo Hjerstedt (920) 479-4900 or jhjerstedt@hotmail.com

## November 8, 2018 - 7:00pm

# Girl Scout Building Not a Drop to Drink

We've all seen the bathtub rings around Utah's half-empty Lake Powell. The Sierra Club encourages abandoning this "unnecessary and enormously destructive" 186-mile-long lake to increase the amount of water available to 50 million people in the Southwest and, at the same time, uncover Glen Canyon, America's lost national park. Phil Snyder, a member of the Fox Valley Group, has led 10 Sierra Club National Outings in Utah and will talk about the ever-increasing demands on the Colorado River that have led to some wacky proposals for new water sources, including pipelines from the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Will Lake Michigan be next?





## December 13, 2018 - 6:30pm

Girl Scout Building

### **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.) a white elephant gift is not something you buy but something you have in your house that you think someone else may like. Don't buy a gift - recycle one!

# From the Chair August 2018, By Alan Lawrence

I'm writing this column in early August, contemplating the end of another summer that I've barely had the time to enjoy.

In my personal world, in addition to myriad things that are ongoing with Sierra Club leadership, I've found myself involved with politics. It seems like a natural extension for Sierra Club members who have become activists and are occasionally engaged with their elected leaders about issues. Protecting our planet is perhaps more satisfying when done at our small human scale, but it is more effective when done at the political level.

Earlier this summer the John Muir Chapter of Sierra Club endorsed Caleb Frostman for the June 12 special election for Wisconsin State Senate because he had demonstrated a strong understanding and support for the environment while is opponent had demonstrated the opposite.

I'm writing this only a few days from the August Primary that will determine who our candidates are in November. There will certainly be endorsements from our Club for some of the candidates. It's worth paying attention to the endorsements as you make your own study of the candidates. And it is very important that you actually vote in all available elections. We need leaders who understand sulfide mines, climate change, and oil pipelines, among other issues we believe are important.

I was fortunate to spend two weeks in Oregon in July. The state has wonderful beauty in its mountains and ocean shores. It was also refreshing to be in a state that funds its State Parks and makes most of them available for free to the public. In contrast, Wisconsin government does not invest a single penny in our State Parks. Our leaders prefer to require Parks to pay for themselves through higher user fees, and possible private partnerships. You may also be aware that Kohler-Andrae State Park is the subject of a battle between park supporters and a company that wants to take some of the

Park's best land for its private golf course, with the blessing of our Governor. This is an example of why we need to be engaged with our elected leaders.

My visit in Oregon was quite warm, as it also was in Wisconsin. We experienced several days at or near 100 degrees, without rain. You've probably heard that there are numerous forest fires raging out of control in our western states. Being out there makes it impossible to miss that news. My wife and I planned to visit Crater Lake National Park, and nearly abandoned those plans because of news about a smoky fire within the Park. We went, and enjoyed the park, but smoke lingered to obscure some views and threaten my asthma.

On September 8 hundreds of communities across our country, and the world, are uniting in a global day of action by hosting rallies and events focusing on climate change. Called "Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice" (or simply as "Rise For Climate") the event takes place a weekend before San Francisco's Global Climate Action Summit and two months before our November elections.

Across the country, people will show our power by hitting the streets, holding community forums, and educating voters about the issues – all to ensure that elected and private sector leaders make action on climate a priority. We intend to organize an event in the Fox Cities, but don't yet have details to share. Details about all the events are unfolding on the riseforclimate.org website. Take a look.

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

# **FVSG Board of Director Elections**

Our Sierra Club Group serves as the local Club entity in northeastern Wisconsin and has a membership of approximately 1600 members. Groups are required to have an elected Board of Directors, also referred to as the Executive Committee (ExCom). The board provides the leadership to keep the Group alive and supporting Sierra Club policies. The board provides the meeting place, programs, outings, newsletter, fundraising and everything the group needs. It is an important job, and it is generally fun. We meet about 10 times a year, taking turns hosting at a member's home.

Each December we elect four or five members to the board as three-year terms expire. Nominate someone or nominate yourself. We are currently seeking interested candidates. If you are interested please contact a current board member. (Deadline October 22, 2018)

#### The Pollinator Pad

Having audited an environmental science course last fall, I came to realize just how important native pollinators are to the health of our biosphere. We hear about the honey bees in the news but the honey bee was imported to North America by European immigrants. What we don't hear about are the many species of bees and wasps that are native to North America. What is happening to native pollinator species? As I suspected, they are under stress; their populations are declining due to habitat destruction and using agricultural and residential pesticides to improve yield per acre or beautify our flower gardens. I realized we could each do our small part to help the little buggers. Let me tell you I am not Mr. Green Thumb Gardener, I grow a few tomatoes, lettuce, kale, and peppers, in a raised bed garden. Pretty simple, buy the plants in the spring, plant in mid-May: water, weed, and pick veggies. We have 150 sq. feet of sunbaked hard red clay between the raised bed garden and the woodshed. Mother Nature never liked grass growing in this space, maybe I could make a Pollinator Pad? Now, this is a new venture for me so I did a bit of research and promptly realized I needed help! A phone call to Wild Ones and they assured me native plants would thrive in red clay. The native plants genetically adapted to growing in red clay soil over the years. A conversation with Loris Damerow from Wild Ones helped me select the plants that should thrive in our clay soil. While I was waiting for the plant order to arrive, I scalped the sod off the area then screened the precious black dirt off the sod into a wheel barrow. When the site was cleared, I broke up the clay a bit with a rototiller and amended the clay with some organic peat moss. On May 18th, I stopped by the Wild Ones to pick up a couple of flats of native plants: red milkweed, giant blue hyssop, purple and yellow cone flowers, ironweed, blue bergamot etc. It was fun to finally get the pollinator pod planted then mulched with cedar bark. I have been deep watering the garden about once every 4-5 days. I was told next year the roots will be very deep and I probably will not need to water. As the past three months of late spring and summer passed, the pollinator pad is home to numerous varieties of bees and monarch butterflies. I know this may seem like old hat to some of you but if an old gear-head retired engineer can plant a pollinator pad so can you.

John Engel – Vice-Chair Wild Ones Contact Information: Wild Ones (920)730-3986 • Wildones.org



The FVSG continues the fight pulling Garlic Mustard



FBRF is also looking for donations of bird pictures, and nature/bird artwork to sell at the event.

# Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

# October 5-7, Friday-Sunday Group Camping & Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon at H

# Group Camping & Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon at Hartman Creek, Waupaca

Enjoy the scenery and fresh air at a group campsite for all or part of the weekend at Hartman Creek State Park. Saturday morning we will participate in the 32nd Annual Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon. The rest of the weekend there will be plenty of free time for more hiking, biking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking or just telling stories around the campfire. Family friendly outing. We may hold Potluck dinner Saturday night. Cost for Hike-A-Thon is \$5/person or \$15/family. Cost to be determined for rest of weekend. Signup by October 2nd. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt. Call/text (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a thousand-mile footpath that highlights these landscape features as it travels through some of the state's most beautiful natural areas. The Trail is entirely within Wisconsin and is one of only eleven National Scenic Trails.



We start our adventure at 2:30 at the Horicon Marsh Education and Visitors Center, near Horicon. Learn the importance of this largest freshwater cattail marsh in the U.S. We will then hike the trails near the Center. Approximately 4 miles. As an option we can then travel to the northern part of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge along Highway 49 to view the migration of the ducks and geese. If you want bring a sandwich, drinks and a lawn chair. Sunset is 6:02.

Contact: Monny Hjerstedt. Call/text (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

The Horicon Marsh has a unique and important story to tell. The geologic features of the area, created by our last ice age, were instrumental in providing resources for wildlife and humans alike. The human history of the Horicon Mash is rich with culture and story, however is one of tragedy and restoration. The wildlife present today at the Horicon Marsh is the result of geologic and human activities, including modern-day wildlife management.

# November 10, Saturday Loop the Lake Trail Fall Hike, Neenah, Menasha

Sierra Club Outings are a means to socially engage our members, provide physical activity, and learn about our environment. On Saturday, Nov. 10th, we will be doing an urban hike. Participants will meet at Dolly Smith Park at 10 AM to hike around Little Lake Butte des Morts. The trail is paved and level, a very easy 3.3-mile hike. It may be a bit brisk as we cross the lake on the Trestle Trail Bridge and the pedestrian bridges over the Fox River. If rain is threatening the morning of the hike, the outing may be delayed.

Contact: John Engel, johnwilliamengel@gmail.com (920) 475-1472

# 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.



Two Rivers - Ice Age Trail hike - June 2



Summer Solstice hike at Mosquito Hill - June 21





Point Beach - Ice Age Trail hike - July 28



# **Wild Ones Outing**

Sierra Club Outings are a means to socially engage our members, provide physical activity and learn about our environment. This past March Loris Damerow past president of the local Wild Ones Fox Valley Chapter gave a presentation, "Why Native Plants Are Essential for the Health of Our Environment". We followed up with Loris and planned a local outing at the Wild Center located in Neenah. This outing was a bit different; the Wild Center is in an urban location, we were going to see and learn about the benefit of native prairie flowers. As an added bonus, the prairie flowers were in full bloom. There were two guides for the outing Loris Damerow and Dave Edwards (the grounds keeper). We had nineteen participants including the author and guides who participated in the outing, enjoying the evening at the Wild Center. Dave and Loris have a wealth of knowledge, that they were more than willing to share with the participants. The evening was warm. When we walked near the wood line the mosquitos were a bit aggressive (the OFF worked well). After spending 1 ½ hours touring the grounds, we had a wrap-up discussion and called it a night. When the participants left, Loris told me about a mature 15-acre prairie we may be able to visit next summer.

John Engel - Outing Leader

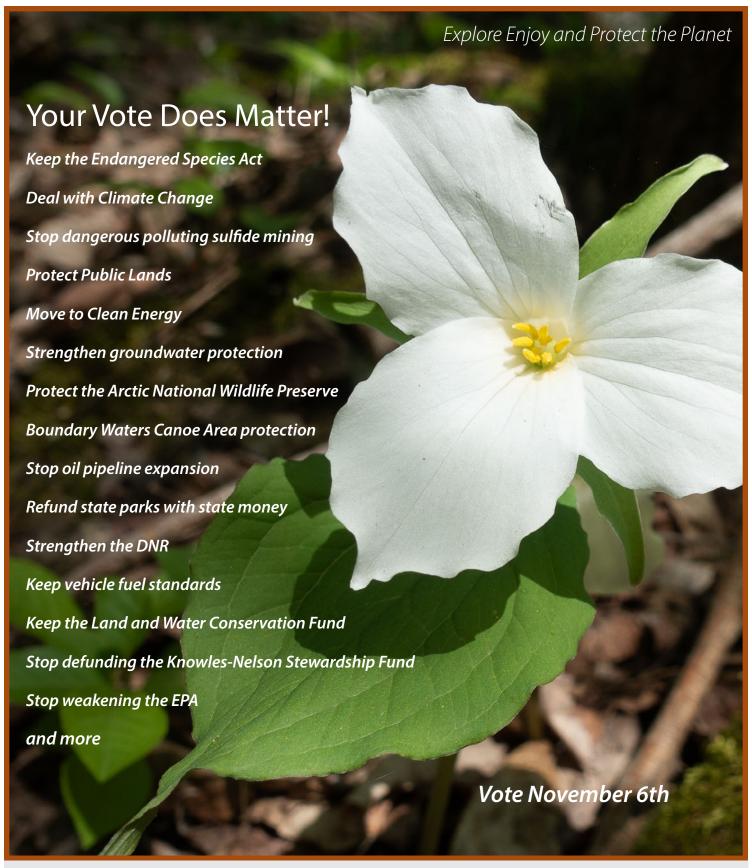


## 2019 Earth Day Hike

A committee was formed to begin organizing the 2019 Earth Day Hike. The first major decision was to move the hike from the Appleton area to Neenah, Menasha. A number of issues were addressed prior to voting on moving the hike. The last hike we had in 2017 had great media exposure with TV and radio, as well as, social media. Unfortunately, on the day of the hike, major fundraising events were held in Kaukauna and at Thrivent Insurance Co. The number of participants was down. It takes considerable time and effort

to organize the Earth Day Hike; we want the number of participants to grow. Having checked into past events in the Neenah/ Menasha area, it looked like we would have less competition from non-profit organizations in that location. We will be the first official group to use the Little Lake Butte des Morts Loop the Lake Trail for an organized event. The trail is 3.3 miles long and crosses the Fox River on two new pedestrian bridges and Little Lake Butte des Morts on the Trestle Trail Bridge. Beside the water attractions, the trail passes thru Arrowhead Park on the south side of the lake. The trail is flat with no obstructions, so parents with strollers and people who have physical challenges are able to participate. Meetings were held with Neenah Mayor Dean Kaufert (he is very supportive) and the Park and Rec Directors for Neenah, Menasha, and Fox Crossing. The purpose of the meetings was to obtain a "buy in" from the municipalities, their input on organizing the hike, information on permitting, and insurance requirements. As the newsletter is going to print, we are currently seeking financial donations from area businesses to pay for the expenses. The hike will be free to all participants and we are planning a picnic lunch for all volunteers. The day of the hike will be held on April 20, 2019 with a rain date of April 27, 2019. We will be keeping our members informed as the preparations are finalized. More Sierra Club volunteers will be needed than in previous years. Please join us in making this another successful Sierra Club event and contact me for details.

John Engel – Committee Chair Johnwilliamengel@gmail.com



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Subscription included with Sierra Club membership dues.

Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials November 8th for December thru March Issue.

### **Welcome New Members**

Appleton Lewis And Kay Bellile John & Marlessa Benson Hans Beutel Norman Christnacht John Cohrone Wendy Dearborn

Alice Estrup Patricia Filzen **Daniel Gauslin** Karen Jensen Jennifer Kamm Gordon Lewis

Barbara Mauthe Peggy A. Mcgaffey Robert M Molitor

**Gregory Peter** 

Robert S & Tommy K Pierce Ms Mary Poulson James Reader

Ms Lenore S Rvan Mr Helmut Schwab **Donald Slavik** 

Darran and Ben Tilghman

Aleen Van Dyke **Dustin Wilson** Campbellsport Katie Reimer

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De Pere

Terese Boeck Ms Carole Clark Sharon Harswick Mr John James Mr James Lunnev Elton Petersen **David Walker** 

Denmark

Lawrence & Jennifer Franke Ms Katie L Hansen

Fond du Lac

Kenneth Butkus Ms Ellen Demarco Barbara Kahlhamer Linda R Lowry

John And Patricia Maurer

D Mills

Joseph Roberts Julie Treiber Thomas Whealon Vicki Zydowicz

Green Bay Mr Will D Agen

> Sally Alft Rachael and Becky Bain Kathy & Tony Baldwin

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James and Nancy Moran Tim O'Brien Gregory O'Connell Ms Carole Pasowicz Randall Pouwels Faith Powers

Kathryn E Riebe A Schmieder and A Rosen-

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Ms Audrey Salzbrun Alexandra Siebens Ms Anna Smith Debra D Smith **Bill Sparks** Ms Theresa Stinski Cameron Werner **Daniel Whetter** Megan White Green Lake

Ms Jeannette Kreston

Greeniew

Catherine Kiesow

Hortonville Theresa Jasken Roger Mulroy Jesse Short

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Kaukauna Carolyn Laga Mr Mark J Scherer **Amy Suprise** Ann Vander Wyst

King

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Menasha

Mr Daniel Krautkramer

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Carol Codner Courtney Finch Hillard Harms Jane Jonscher Helen Kurka Ms Kathy Marien S Powley and J Powley Mr Mark Schroeder James Syverud New Franklin Cathy Holl

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**New London** 

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Onieda

Patricia Collen Loretta Metoxen

Oshkosh

Andy Bearwald Robert Bokelman Mary Brenzel Roger Brey Chuck Dahlke Joel Dowhen J Grunloh

Mr Steve Krawiec Vickie Morse Victoria Oliver Patricia Ostertag

Joanne and Thatcher Peterson Tricia Burg & Lucas Pendell Mark Phillip

Callaghan Schellenger Peggy Schumacher

Lisa Stiebs Gloria Wachholz Karen J Zimmer

Mr Henry H Conti Marykay Magdanz **Betsey Miller** 

Sherwood

Charles & Lynn Brummond

Suamico

Ms Sophia Peretto Two Rivers

Maureen Birk Van Dyne

Dina O'Brien

Waupaca

Deanna Isham Blank

Georgia Calvo

Dan and Franciene Hassman Mrs Karen Janecek-bocanegra

Richard Kellner James Owen

Joanne Schachtschneider

Patrick Small West Bend

Tom Hildebrandt

Weyauwega Jean Kaluzny Debra A Potts Winneconne **Sherry Seubert** 

Cade Wilson



#### 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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Special Offer	<b>□</b> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	□ \$ 39	\$ 49
Supporting	<b>\$</b> 75	\$ 100
Contributing	\$ 150	\$ 175
Life	\$ 1000	\$ 1250
Senior	\$ 25	\$ 35
Student	\$ 25	\$ 35
Limited Income	\$ 25	\$ 35

Mambanshin Catananias Individual

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.

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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 **foxvalleysierra** 

