



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 19 Issue 2

## Programs

### September 12, 2019 - 7:00 "Hempstead Project Heart"

Their mission is to raise awareness of the benefits of industrial hemp for people, the planet; redevelop thriving hemp economies that connect tribal, urban and rural communities. Marcus A. Grignon, Project Director of The Menominee Nation Hempstead Project Heart will be sharing the story of Industrial hemsps comeback in the United States, focusing on Wisconsin farmers. Come and listen to Wisconsin's first 21st century hemp farmer and hear his story on a 70-year indigenous struggle for self-determination.

During World War II Wisconsin was one of the world's leading hemp growers and manufacturers. The fiber was in high demand to make things like rope. Hemp is used to make a variety of commercial and industrial products including rope, textiles, clothing, shoes, food, paper, bioplastics, insulation, and biofuel. Humans were making hemp fabric 10,000 years ago.

### October 10, 2019 - 7:00 Wisconsin Wetlands Association

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems. The association use science-based programs, education, and advocacy to fulfill its mission. 2019 will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Wisconsin's Wetlands Alliance the Director Tracy Hames will give a presentation on Fifty Years of Wetland Preservation in Wisconsin.

### November 14, 2019 - 7:00 Plum Island's History & Future

See what it means to be a Friend of Plum and Pilot Island. Paul Kuenn with gives us an armchair exploration of Plum Island and it's rich maritime history at Death's Door Passage. Many photos of the island's flora and the work volunteers have accomplished helping to save the remaining historical buildings and opening trails for walks around this Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

### December 12, 2019 - 6:30 Annual Holiday party - Bake Sale

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 6:30 pm!! 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!

We will also be having a Christmas Bake Sale. Bring your Christmas treats: cookies, bars, caramels, fudge etc. Items will be sold by the lb. so pack as many as you want. You can take them home in your own container or some will be provided. More information will follow, contact Jo Hjerstedt 920-479-4900 if you are bringing a treat or have questions.

All meetings are at the Girl Scout Service Building, 4693 North Lynddale Dr., Appleton, WI. It shares the same driveway as Bubolz Nature Preserve 4815 North Lynddale Dr.

## Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting

A perfect day for the Loop the Lake Earth Day Hike



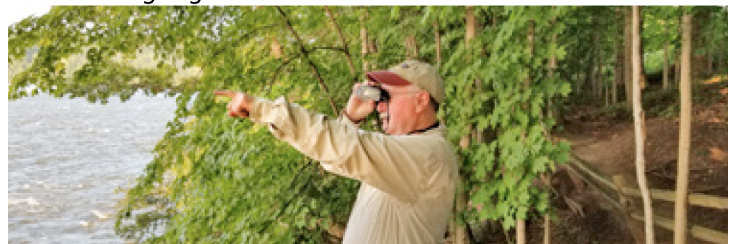
Pulling Garlic Mustard at High Cliff State Park



Summer Solstice Hike at High Cliff State Park



Viewing Eagles on the 1000 Islands Nature Center Hike



## From the Chair July 2019, By Alan Lawrence

My wife and I had the opportunity to recharge ourselves with a 16-day vacation in June. A week of that was a family reunion in Florida. We decided to drive instead of flying this year, and that gave us some opportunities to see things. But, unfortunately, my first observation is that we needed more time. However, we did have an enjoyable three days with the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.



At 6,643 feet, Clingmans Dome is the highest point in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is the highest point in Tennessee, and the third highest mountain east of the Mississippi. On clear days you can see more than 100 miles. It was cold, windy, and cloudy when we climbed the observation tower.

More than nine million people visit Great Smoky Mountains National Park each year, making it the most popular national park in the United States. This is almost twice as many as the next most popular National Park, Grand Canyon. I wondered why.

Part of the reason is surely related to how the park was created. Easterners wondered why they couldn't have parks like we do out west. Money was raised by individuals, private groups, and even school children who pledged their pennies. The Legislatures of Tennessee and North Carolina appropriated \$2 million each for land purchases. John and Laura Rockefeller matched what had been raised and donated \$5 million, assuring the purchase of the remaining land.

The park was built upon land already in use by thousands of small farms and paper and timber companies. There is inevitably a lot of pain caused to people when their way of life changes. Yet it is undoubtably the case that America is enriched with this popular

park, and the acquisition of our other parks.

Surely, part of the popularity of this park is its proximity to major populations. I believe one compelling reason for the popularity is that admission is not charged at this park. This makes it easy for people to justify short or repeated visits. It is interesting history why a fee is not charged, but the fact is that this is the only National Park that is free to the public. It is also recognized that this park contributes billions in annual revenue to the local economies.

It is very clear to me that parks are important to the communities near them. Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge are gaudy tourist towns right outside the park, while owing their existence to the park. It works well. It also works in countless other situations, including our own Wisconsin Dells and the lovely Wisconsin River and its bluffs. Protect nature and you create strong opportunities for profitable businesses.

By the way, the National Park System sees approximately 330 Million visitors each year. Government support for our parks has been insufficient in recent years and there is now a \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in the National Park System. This needs to be addressed.

Next April the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. 20 million Americans participated in the first Earth Day in 1970 which had been organized by Gaylord Nelson, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin. Earth Day is meant for reflection on the outdoors and our environment, and environmental protection. Earth Day has become the largest secular observance in the world, celebrated by more than a billion people every year, and a day of action that changes human behavior and provokes policy changes.

Our group has organized Earth Day Hikes for the community along the Fox River in recent years. We intend to put emphasis on this anniversary next year.

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, 2019)



## Fox Valley Sierra Group **OUTINGS**

### **August 24-25, Saturday-Sunday**

#### **Canoe Camp Flambeau River, Class II**

Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. Learn how healthy state forests are important for protecting water quality. Contact Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com

### **September 18-22, Wed-Sun Noon**

*(Come to any part of the event or the entire project.)*

#### **Ice Age Trail Worktrip - Bohn Lake Segment, Waushara County.**

*(Not an official Sierra Club outing but run by the Ice Age Trail Alliance Mobile Skills group.)*

A favorite hike in Central Wisconsin grows to new lengths. We're adding nearly three quarters of a mile of new Trail, extending a loop trail at the well loved Bohn Lake Segment, and improving access to the Mecan River Segment.

No previous experience is necessary; training is provided by certified volunteer crew leaders. There will be roles for all ages and abilities. The IATA provides food, tools, and campsites free to all who volunteer.

To register for this event follow this link from the Ice Age Trail Alliance Site: <https://www.iceagetrail.org/event/mobile-skills-crew-trailbuilding-event-bohnlake-segment-waushara-county-sept2019-2/>

If you have any questions I would be glad to answer them. I plan on attending this event. Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com. You put in some work, but you can go at your own pace. They are fun events and they serve great food.

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is built, supported, and maintained by the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) and hundreds of passionate volunteers. They donate thousands of hours of time every year to care for the Trail, lead hikes and field trips, and connect with communities near the Trail. In fact, without our volunteers, the Ice Age Trail would just be another line on a map.

### **October 5, Saturday**

#### **Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon**

Put on your hiking boots and let's hike together in the annual fundraiser for the Portage and Waupaca County chapters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. The hike-a-thon will be held near the Iola Winter Sports Club facility. The fee to hike is \$5. However, one can donate more or acquire pledges if desired. Hike the entire route or any portion. Water, apples, and snacks will be provided. We would be meeting and hiking as a group around 9:00. If you wish to hike on your own that would also be fine. More details will be coming. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text/call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com.

### **October 4-6, Friday-Sunday**

#### **Group Camping at Hartman Creek State Park**

Along with hiking the Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon on Saturday Morning you have the opportunity of group camping with fellow Sierra Club hikers. Friday and/or Saturday night. Relax around the campfire, share stories, bring a bike or canoe or hike some more. Sign up by October 1st. Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013 text/call, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

### **October 19, Saturday**

#### **Ice Age Trail hike through Hartman Creek State Park**

Enjoy the fall kaleidoscope of color on the Ice Age Trail through Hartman Creek State Park, beginning at 10 a.m. This National Scenic Trail, one of 11 in the country, is a beautiful, classic footpath, pristinely maintained by local volunteers. Learn about moraines and other glacial features; experience challenging hills, dense pine and oak forests; hear songbirds and enjoy wildflowers.

The 6.5-mile hike is point-to-point requiring a shuttle, starting at the northern border of the park on Edminister Road and ending south of the Emmons Creek Wildlife Area. Maps of the trail and trailheads will be provided to all who register with Phil Snyder, hikerphil@icloud.com or Margaret Klose, margaretklose@gmail.com. Registration is important so we can figure out the logistics of the shuttle. Bring lunch, at least two liters of water and other essentials. In case of rain, the trip will be cancelled by email by 8 a.m. on the day of the hike.

### **October 26-27, Saturday & Sunday**

#### **Whitewater padding on the Wolf River, Class II+**

Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section 3 of this wild, scenic river on Sat. and Section 2 on Sun. Wet/dry suit required. Potluck dinner on Sat. night. Contact Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net

### **November 9, Saturday**

#### **Hike Plover River Segment of IAT, Aniwa**

Follow the Ice Age Trail through hilly forests and along a Class I trout stream in the Plover River State Fishery Area. Pack a lunch to eat on the trail. We will hike approx. 6 miles. Optional stop at nearby Dells of the Eau Claire after our hike to view the waterfalls. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139.

**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.*

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

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

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[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley)

## FOX VALLEY SIERRA GROUP CONTACTS

### **Chairperson & Webmaster**

Alan Lawrence • 920-730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr,  
Appleton 54911-1224  
alan\_lawrence99@yahoo.com

### **Vice Chair**

John Engel • 920-475-1472  
325 Parkwood Drive,  
Neenah, WI 54956  
johnwengel@earthlink.net

### **Treasurer**

Diane Perschbacher • 920-216-2159  
2531 Bruce Ct, Neenah 54956-6108  
DPerschbacher1@new.rr.com

### **Newsletter Editor**

Monny Hjerstedt • 920-558-0013  
567 Oak St, Neenah 54956  
mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

### **Social Media - Facebook**

Penny Paiser-Wilson • 920-720-9741  
133 Klompen Court,  
Neenah 54956-4352  
wilscats@new.rr.com

### **Outings, Forestry & Land Mgt**

Rich Krieg • 920-660-3557  
1428 S. Clay St., Green Bay 54301  
richkrieg@new.rr.com

### **Outings Co-Chair**

Kelly Ramstack • 920-540-9139  
E6512 Hillside Rd  
Manawa, WI 54949  
kjramstack@yahoo.com

### **John Muir Chapter Conservation Chair & FVSG Delegate**

Will Stahl • 920-725-9185  
216 Stevens St, Neenah 54956  
wrsy55@sbcglobal.net

### **Secretary**

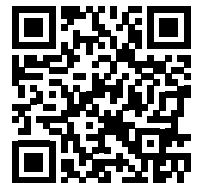
Bill Herbold • 715-258-5849  
1027 Charles Wright Dr., Waupaca,  
54981 • wherb@charter.net

### **Environmental Education**

Diana Lawrence • 920-730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr,  
Appleton 54911-1224  
law\_di03@yahoo.com

### **Membership & Hospitality**

Jo Hjerstedt • 920-479-4900  
567 Oak St., Neenah 54956  
jhjerstedt@hotmail.com



FVSG web site

Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley) or find us on Facebook [foxvalleysierra](https://www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra)

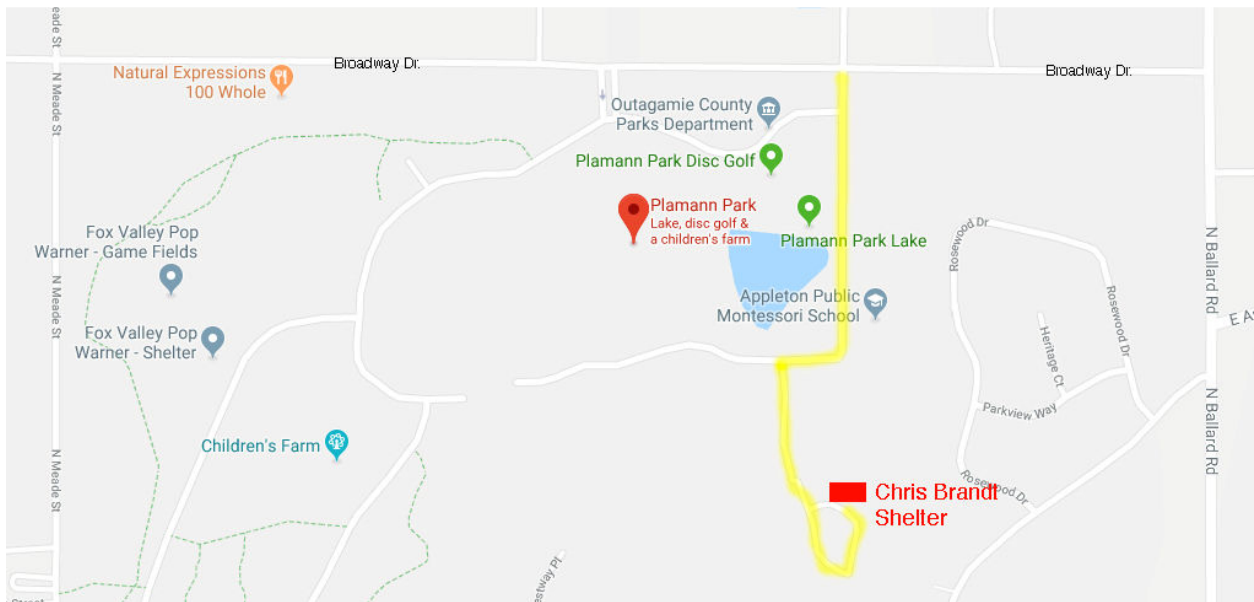
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Subscription included with Sierra Club membership dues. To Join - [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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

**August 8, 2019 - 6:00**  
**Plamann 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.



Plamann Park is located north of Appleton, WI at 1375 E Broadway Dr between Meade St and Ballard Rd (County Rd E). The Chris Brandt Shelter is located on the southeast section of the park. Ballard and Richmond are suitable exits from Hwy 41. Drive north to Broadway Drive. The park has two entrances from Broadway. The eastern entrance is marked above.

