



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 19 Issue 3

Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs

December 12, 2019 - 6:30

Annual Holiday Party

Please bring a dish to pass for a pot-luck, your place setting, drinks, any alcohol beverage, 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. Enjoy the reactions as people select unopened gifts, or take prizes that are already opened. (About our white elephant gift exchange. Wrap up something you already own, but don't really care to keep for the "White Elephant Gift Exchange". It should be somewhat gift worthy, and can be funny or unusual.)

January 9, 2020 - 7:00

Wild Animal stories of Yellowstone

Join local adventurer and storyteller, Don Lorenz for a special presentation. Lorenz, will tell tales and vivid stories of wild animals taken from his journeys and personal experiences at Yellowstone National Park. Fun, educational, and exciting. Not to be missed. • We will also present the Jan Moldenhauer Environmental Award to Madeleine McDermott

February 13, 2020 - 7:00

Wisconsin Forests

Our group welcomes Ron Jones for a second presentation. His first presentation was well attended and a lively Q&A session followed. Ron worked as a professional forester for the Wisconsin DNR for the majority of his career. He retired a few years ago and currently is working as a private forest management consultant. Ron has a wealth of knowledge and has a very good presentation to share with us. If you have ever wondered why certain species of trees grow in certain soils or wonder if the increased precipitation in recent years will affect our forests or the trees in your yard, Ron may have the answers to these and other questions.

March 12, 2020 - 7:00

Timefulness: By Marcia Bjornerud

Marcia Bjornerud, Professor of Geology and Environmental Studies at Lawrence University, will do a presentation on her new book "Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World". We are looking forward to Marcia sharing her scientific knowledge and insight on environmental science.

April 9, 2020 - 7:00

Severe Weather

As a special program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, Timm Uhlmann, a Meteorologist who works at the Green Bay office of The National Weather Service, will present "Severe Weather". Timm will show examples of various severe weather systems and cloud formations explaining how they form and safety precautions we need to take. He will also touch base on some of the more recent observable weather events and precipitation records.

Meetings are located at the Girl Scout Service Building,
4693 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI
Bubolz Nature Preserve shares the same driveway.

From the Chair

November 2019, By Alan Lawrence

I'm sometimes embarrassed to admit that there are many great places not too far away that I haven't visited yet. Last year my wife and I finally visited Porcupine Mountains and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. And this past September we visited Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore for four nights of camping. I've wanted to see these places for many years, having only experienced these places through the stories and pictures of others who have already explored. Usually we settle for the closer state parks. All are wonderful.



I always observe how well-used our parks are. Campgrounds seem to always be highly utilized, even in late October. I observe neighboring communities benefitting from the parks with supporting sales to the visitors. And I always notice that all parks look under-funded and under-appreciated by funding authorities. I cannot help but wonder about the gap between the appreciation by our elected representatives and citizen appreciation of these places. This past May our group joined the state Chapter and other Sierra Club groups around Wisconsin with a "Wisconsin Loves Parks" program, helping to raise awareness of this conundrum.

I've known for some time about Greta Thunberg, the amazing Swedish teenager who has been inspiring climate action by younger generations. This summer I met Madeleine McDermott, an Appleton teenager inspired by Greta to lead climate actions in Appleton. Protesting each Friday since the beginning of summer, Madeleine gained a following for the Fridays for Future movement and organized a successful local event for the Global Climate Strike of September 20. She received good media coverage with the local newspaper, three television networks, and Newsweek.

I participated in several of Madeleine's events, including the Global Strike that involved four million protesters in 4500 locations across 150 countries. It is inspiring to see this activity. I'm hoping climate change awareness will finally cause necessary changes to be made. Locally, the City of Appleton has taken up a resolution (#13-R-19) that is expected to pass and expected to create a taskforce to help the City to become carbon-neutral.

Continued on page 2...

Loop the Lake Earth Day Walk

The Sierra Club Fox Valley Group is organizing another Earth Day Hike. Because of the success we had last year, we will again be using the Little Lake Butte des Morts Loop the Lake Trail. The trail is 3.5 miles long and crosses the Fox River on two 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. Nonprofit organizations, local small businesses and outdoor clubs will be tabling. Healthy snacks, and refreshments will be available for participants at Fritse Park. This year we will be able to offer live music and adding an activity for children at Fritze Park. The hike will be free to all participants and a picnic lunch is planned for all the volunteers. The hike will start at 9 AM on April 18, 2020 with a rain date of April 25, 2020. Please join us making this another successful Sierra Club event. For additional information please contact me.

John Engel – Committee Chair
Johnwilliamengel@gmail.com



...from the Chair

Our group is awarding Madeleine McDermott with our Jan Moldenhauer Environmental Award at our January 9 meeting. This award is named in honor of our former member, a recipient of our Group's environmental award in 2008. Following Jan's death in 2013 this award was renamed to honor her. Jan had personally contributed a lot, and she was a catalyst, helping many others to do something for the environment. This should be an annual award, but we last made the award in 2013. That was to "Preserve Waupaca County" for their efforts to stop a disastrous frack sand mine.

Meanwhile, our country is posed to abandon the Paris Climate Agreement. President Trump intends to officially pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement the day after the 2020 presidential election.

Next April the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. We are working to sponsor a public walk on April 18 on the Loop the Lake Trail around the southern portion of Little Lake Butte des Morts. John Engel is again heading up our annual walk.

Two efforts that our group is supporting seem to be making progress. The Coalition to Save the Menominee River has been fighting to



Coalition to Save the Menominee River Receives Good Citizen Award

Each year the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club recognizes individuals and organizations that provide extraordinary work protecting our planet with various awards. This year the Coalition to Save the Menominee River was one of the nominees who received the Good Citizen Award. The Good Citizen award is given to organizations and individuals external to the club who are championing innovative programs or processes that protect the environment. The Coalition to Save the Menominee River is dedicated to educating and supporting citizens regarding environmental issues affecting the Menominee River and Green Bay watersheds regarding the potential impacts of the proposed Back Forty Mine project. The Coalition members were unable to attend the awards ceremony in Milwaukee due to a conflict with their fall fund raiser. John Engel was asked to speak and present the award on behalf of The John Muir Chapter to the Coalition at their fall fund raiser. John is currently serving as the Fox Valley Group Vice-Chair is a member of the John Muir Chapter Mining committee. He has been working closely with The Coalition to Save the Menominee River from the Back Forty Mine project.

prevent the Back 40 Mine from building a dangerous cyanide mine on the Michigan shore of the river. Approval permits had been nearly complete, but recently were restarted due to inconsistencies discovered in permit applications and testing. The Friends of the Black River Forest is holding strong in preventing a private company from taking valuable public land from the Kohler-Andrae State Park for a private golf course. Our state chapter is now partnered with the Friends group in this important effort. Success is not certain with either cause, but citizen groups are powerful.

Our Sierra Club group exists only because we have volunteers who serve on an executive committee. We meet ten times a year to plan meetings and events and make sure we have funding for meeting places and newsletters and activities we organize. Members can be appointed during the year by the board and are re-elected at the end of their terms. Please use the ballot in this newsletter to affirm your support of our candidates. You may notice we have four positions and only three candidates. We have room for you to join us.

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

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

Madeleine McDermott to Receive the 2019 FVSG Moldenhauer Environmental Award

We are very pleased to announce that the recipient of our 2019 Jan Moldenhauer Environmental Award is Madeleine McDermott. Madeleine is a Junior at Xavier High School in Appleton. We will be presenting her with the well-deserved award during our January meeting.

Madeleine has been instrumental in raising awareness and inspiring local leaders to take action with regard to climate change. She is involved with Fridays for Future, an international global climate activism movement started by Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg. Madeleine has brought this effort to our own community by organizing several rallies at Houdini Plaza in Appleton. Back in September, she organized a Global Climate Strike event. On this day, dozens of middle school, high school and college students walked out of class to participate in a rally at Houdini Plaza.

According to the *Appleton Post-Crescent*, Madeleine has developed her interest in climate activism from her Catholic faith and finding God through nature. She is also inspired by other youth activists.

Madeleine's efforts seem to be paying off and show that activism and rallies really do make a difference. Right now, Appleton's City Council is looking at creating a "Taskforce on Resiliency, Climate Mitigation and Adaptation." Madeleine told us, "It makes me really happy to finally see the City taking action." In Green Bay, similar efforts have supported the mayor in his efforts to include a "Coordinator of City Resilience" in his new budget. This position will coordinate the city's efforts to combat flooding and develop renewable energy opportunities in order to better position the city to face a changing climate.

Around the world, it seems like young people like Madeleine are forcing leaders to follow them. Who would have thought they would be the ones who might save the world? We know that it takes an enormous amount of courage for Madeleine to be doing what she is doing. Her courage is the main reason we are honoring her with this award. We also know that if Jan Moldenhauer was still with us, she would be extremely proud of Madeleine McDermott.

Please join us on January 9, at our general meeting, to help us congratulate and present the award to Madeleine.



The Fox Valley Sierra Group Needs Your Help!

Only a tiny fraction of the money you pay as dues is returned to our group, so we rely on gifts and fund-raisers to remain a viable group. Meeting spaces, newsletters and some activities cost money. We will "pass the hat" at our December 12 holiday party to collect needed funding for our group. Please consider donating to our group. You may also send checks anytime to Fox Valley Sierra Group, PO Box 124, Neenah, WI 54957. *Thank you!*

Fox Valley Sierra Group **OUTINGS**

December 15, Sunday

Hike or XC Ski at High Cliff State Park, Sherwood

Enjoy a gentle trail with Lake Winnebago views and Indian Mounds to enjoy. Activity depends on the ground cover. Contact Penny Bernard Schaber, 920-739-6041, pennybernardschaber@athenet.net

January 11, Saturday

Snowshoe at Kroenke Lake State Natural Area, Shawano

Take an off-the-beaten-path snowshoe hike at Kroenke Lake. This remote natural area is known for its pristine lake adjacent to Menominee Reservation. This is a joint outing with Shawano Pathways and FVSG. Guides will take you on the unmarked trails and afterwards enjoy hot chocolate and cookies in the log cabin of the Kroenke family. Shawano Pathways Contact: Nancy Brown Koeller, 715-853-6625, nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com. FVSG Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139, kjramstack@yahoo.com

January 25, Saturday

Cross-country Ski at Reforestation Camp, Suamico

We will be skiing at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay and discussing the history of this area. Hot apple cider will be served afterward!! Contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com

February 8, Saturday

Presentation & Snowshoe Hike at Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton

Mary Lisa Carezza Keenan, Volunteer Park Ranger at Glacier National Park, will share her experiences on hiking and volunteering at one of our most beautiful national parks. Afterwards, join us on a guided hike through the woods and over the rolling hills. We'll have a chance to see porcupines! This is a joint outing with Shawano Pathways and FVSG. Cost: \$3/person if member of either Sierra Club, Shawano Pathways or NNC; \$5/person non-members. Snowshoes are available to rent for an additional fee. Shawano Pathways Contact: Nancy Brown Koeller, 715-853-6625, nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com. FVSG Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139, kjramstack@yahoo.com

February 15, Saturday

Snowshoe or Hike Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest - Greenbush Area

Explore the glacial landscape by snowshoe. BYO snowshoes. Distance 3-6 miles. Bring a lunch to enjoy. Mid-morning starting time. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

March 7, Saturday

Snowshoe at Hartman Creek State Park, Waupaca

We will be snowshoeing the rolling hills of the Ice Age Trail and Hartman Creek trails. If there's not enough snow, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. Distance: 2-4 miles depending on group's wishes. Mid-afternoon starting time. Optional stop afterwards at the Wheelhouse for pizza. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt17@gmail.com

March 14, Saturday

Sugar Shack Snowshoe Hike, Shawano

Take a guided snowshoe hike (or walk if no snow) through a Shawano County sugar bush. Choice of 3 distances. This is a joint outing with Shawano Pathways and FVSG. Enjoy a hot beverage and snacks at the sugar shack while watching the maple syruping process. You'll have a chance to buy maple syrup "hot off the press." Note: Date subject to change depending on when sap is running. Shawano Pathways Contact: Nancy Brown Koeller, 715-853-6625, nancybrownkoeller@yahoo.com. FVSG Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139, kjramstack@yahoo.com

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.



Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon near Iola

**Summer Outings
Planning Meeting
March 5, Thursday • 6:30pm**

Copper Rock Coffee Co.
(North Appleton Location)
1835 E. Edgewood Drive, Ste. 108
Appleton, WI 54913

Do you have a place that you love to hike, paddle, bike, etc? Would you like

Fox Valley Sierra Group to have an outing there? Maybe you would like to learn about local geology, native plants, water quality issues, or tour a recycling facility. Attend our outing planning meeting to brainstorm ideas for our summer outings. All are welcome!

Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139, kjramstack@yahoo.com



Ice Age Trail Hike at Hartman Creek State Park

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Subscription included with
Sierra Club membership dues.

**Next Newsletter Deadline
for submitting materials
March 10th
for April thru July Issue.**

Sierra Club Book Club

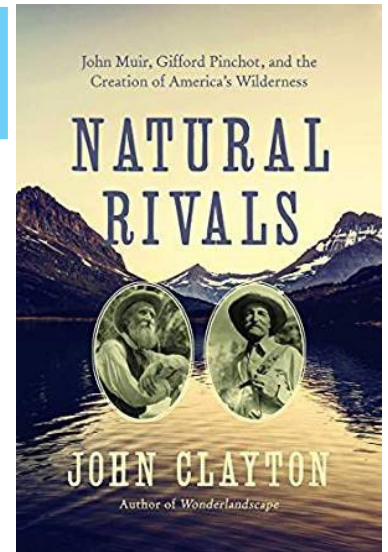
February 27 • 6:30 P.M.

The Attic • 730 Bodart St, Green Bay, WI 54301

This winter, the Fox Valley Sierra Group is hosting a book club discussion. The book we will be reading is *Natural Rivals: John Muir, Gifford Pinchot, and the Creation of America's Public Lands*, by John Clayton. This book examines the lives of two of conservation's historic giants, their unique relationship, and their competing philosophies in terms of protecting our country's natural heritage. Their work and efforts continue to affect how our public lands are managed today. We will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, February 27, at 6:30 P.M. at "The Attic" coffee shop in Green Bay. Please join us in reading and discussing this important book. For more details, or for help with obtaining a copy of the book, call Rich at 920-660-3557.

"Anyone interested in the history and concerned about the future of America's public lands should read this provocative and well-written book."


—National Parks Traveler



Welcome New Members

Appleton	Denmark	Hortonville	Debra Butch
Stephanie Allaire	Cheryl Markvart	Randy Dedecker	Pamela Crane
Julie Bittrick	Elkhorn	Scott Kolbeck	Linda Gardner
Michael J & Susan A Centner	Alexis Pegram-Piper	Kaukauna	Laura J Giffin
Joanne Dietz	Fond du Lac	Ron Brooks	Chas H Halsey Jr
Martin Erickson	Mr Robert Barbee	Daniel Diedrick	Nancy Jahnke
Cal Gardner	Deborah Mills	Mary Hague	Gerald Johnson
Ms Anne Kidd	Jonathan Rasmussen	Tim Heinzen	Joan Kaeding
Mark Kloehn	Susan Seresse	Larson	Larry Klotz
Sherri McNamara	Patricia Thorpe	John Olson	Evelyn Milosch
Ms Janet Parfenoff	Richard Whaley	Little Chute	James Rudolph
Mr William Perloff, Jr	Green Bay	Rosalie & Luke Hietpas	John Sandberg
Lane Pittner	David Baranczyk	Markesan	Callaghan Schellenger
Allan Pritzl	Amparo Baudhuin	Sieglinde Abendroth	William Selwitschka
Jessica Radtke	Gerald Bayer	Ms Katharine Loudenslager	Kathryn Stark
Monica Rico	Debra Benishek	Menasha	Valerie Williams
William Schlaak	Tammy Brusky	Stefan Goerlitz	Ripon
Timothy Techlin	David & Katie Brusky	Keith Long	Gail Bender
Tammy Treichel	Ms Katherine Campbell	Neenah	Diane Beres
Nicole Weir	Thelma Clarage	Richard Batley	Megan Bins
Kathryn Weyenberg	Mary Cowman	Carol Codner	Jerald Davidson
Ms Lynne Wilhelm	Linda Dittmann	Ms Mary Flood	Victoria Hughes
Brandon	Ruth Feldhaus & Greg Gaie	John Gibson	Stephen Meyer
David Olstad	Sue Carol Filerio	Steven L Hill	Alice Uecker
Brillion	Suzette Franklin	Brian Holinbeck	Seymour
Ms Judy Bessert	Joseph Geohegan	Tom Mchugh	Fred Rafeld
Grace Meetz	John & Nicki Griffin	Edward Meier	Sherwood
Campbellsport	Marvin Hanson	John Smith	Bonnie McClusky
Judy Czerniak	Mr Richard Haywood	Susan St Peter	Suamico
Chilton	Nanci Holzner	Bridget Wirtz	Jonathon Konen
Mrs Kim Holze	Frank Kolczak	New London	Waupaca
Ms Renee M Voskuil	P Lindsley	Edward Esche	Christine Jacoby
Clintonville	Ms Janet McKay	Karen Euhardy	Jerry Riggle
Betty K Stiefel	Ms Judith Murphy	Ogdensburg	Waupun
Lois Renner	Caryl Peters	Denis Wandtke	David & Laurie Geschke
Combined Locks	Jo Steber & Cindy Rysewyk	Omro	Deanne Goodlaxon
Stacy and Katrina Lake	Bruce Tlachac	Heather Longworth	Nancy R Schindel
De Pere	Carol Vallier	Oshkosh	Weyauwega
Richard Annen	John Van Dalen	Christopher Arnold	Wanda Lee
Maxine Beach	Gary Van Ess	Susan Belsky	Winneconne
Mrs Zoomie Hardtke	Greenlake	Ms Marcia Benak	Rosemary O Shade
Louis Seiler	Scott Johnson	Patrick Bertram	Caley Powell
Cary Wiesner	Kurt Wilkens	Lance Bucko	


24th Annual Conference
Toward Harmony with Nature
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020
 Oshkosh Convention Center
 2 North Main St., Oshkosh, WI



Re-establishing a Mutually Nourishing Relationship Between People and Nature

Stephen Packard's keynote presentation will draw upon his many years of experience as a leader of volunteers in using garden-grown and wild-collected seeds to restore high-quality prairies, savannas, woodlands and wetlands.

Please join us to hear Packard and nine other native plant experts on a full range of natural landscaping and native plant topics for urban, suburban and rural yards.



Space is limited. To Register & for program details please go to:
TowardHarmonywithNature.org

Fox Valley Sierra Group 2020 Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for up to four positions. Multiple boxes for joint members.

Mail to - Fox Valley Sierra Group, P.O. Box 124, Neenah, WI 54957
 or Bring to the December Meeting

John Engel

I enjoy a variety of outdoor activities, Whitewater Kayaking, Nordic Skiing, Cycling, Canoeing, and Day Hiking with my wife Sue and friends. Outdoor activities allow me the opportunity to ground my environmental activism seeing the effects of our society's unchecked use of fossil fuels, insecticides, and resource extraction devastating our biosphere. It is fulfilling to have helped facilitate some of The Fox Valley Group's many accomplishments the past couple of years, the number of outings has increased, our monthly educational meetings have a broad cross section of qualified speakers, and our 2019 Earth Day Hike was a resounding success (mother nature cooperated). I think a person can have the greatest effect helping to change public opinion, and protect the planet at the grass roots level, therefore I am asking for your vote to continue my service as a member of the Fox Valley Group ExCom.

Rich Krieg

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for the last 27 years and have been very active in the Chapter's River Touring Section. My interest in the environment comes from childhood family camping and canoeing trips. In recent years, I have been the "Outings Chair" for the Fox Valley Group and would like to continue in that role. Today, I think it is imperative that all Sierra Club members become politically involved in working to protect the places we love. I taught Biology and Environmental Science at Green Bay East High School and was the advisor for the environmental club at that school.

Penny Paiser Wilson

My first direct involvement with Wisconsin's Sierra Club was volunteering for the climate march in Madison in 2017 where I headed up the social media team. A month later, I joined the Fox Valley Sierra Group's executive committee. During my time with the group I have managed the facebook page, coordinated with the Friends of the Black River Forest and their efforts to stop the Kohler Andrae Golf Course and served on the Earth Day Hike committee. I hope you will support me in my passion for protecting our environment and building a sustainable future.

Write In _____



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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 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
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
 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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

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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 or find us on Facebook