



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 21 Issue 2

PROGRAMS

Currently we are not holding in person meetings but are holding Zoom Meetings.

2021 Fall Speakers - 7:00pm - September 9 • October 14 • November 11

Check for an email, our website or our Facebook page for links to join a meeting and which program is scheduled for the specific month.

Wisconsin Wolf Update

Sierra members recently received an email from Executive Director of The Sierra Club, Michael Brune, asking for our help with the Wisconsin Wolf situation. A few weeks ago, the DNR published a recommendation for a quota of 130 wolves for the November 2021 wolf hunt. However, it is likely that the NRB will reject that recommendation and establish a much larger quota, largely because outgoing NRB president, Dr. Frederick Prehn, refuses to step down and allow Evers' appointee Sandy Naas to assume her new post. This is occurring against the backdrop of a federal lawsuit. Attorneys general in Michigan and Oregon have filed a joint amicus brief in litigation against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which alleges the federal government improperly removed gray wolf endangered species protection.



Please join us as we welcome the Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife to our monthly meeting as they update us on the latest challenges facing the grey wolves of Wisconsin.

Winter Gardening In Wisconsin?

The average bite of food travels 1500 miles to arrive on your fork. That is a HUGE carbon foot print and is one reason why the Climate Victory Garden movement is taking hold here and around the world. Many of us in Wisconsin are used to planting a garden as part of Memorial Day weekend activities and beginning our canning and freezing for winter storage around Labor Day. But did you know that is possible to grow fresh produce right through our Wisconsin winters without an expensive heated greenhouse or even a huge piece of land?



Join us on zoom as Penny PaiserWilson shares how you can enjoy a fresh salad, a fresh tomato on your sandwich or fresh leek soup in January. If you live in a studio apartment or on acres of land, if you have a family and a full time job plus or if you are looking to fill all those hours you normally spend in your summer garden, if you want a fresh treat during a polar vortex or are looking to make a significant impact on your carbon foot print and your family's winter nutrient intake, this program will have something for you!

Back 40 Mine Update

Members of the Save the Menominee River Coalition or the Menominee Nation will update us on the Back 40 mine near the Menominee River between Wisconsin and Michigan. A proposed 750' deep open pit mine will produce 70 million tons of acid-producing rock and milled tailings. It threatens our cultural and environmental resources.

OUTINGS

Because of Covid we are just starting to lead group outings. Check our website or Facebook page for upcoming events.

www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley • www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra

From the Chair

August 2021, By Alan Lawrence

I've been a member of our Sierra Club group since 1998 and have been the chairperson since 2003. It has been an awesome privilege to lead our group, and to do it for 19 years. Our group was formed in 1982 and has been led by seven other chairpersons over 39 years.

I recently retired from an IT career. My wife, Diana, decided that we are now free to explore another part of our country. We will soon be moving to a suburb of Roanoke, Virginia into an old house built in 1860, before Lincoln was elected as President, just 34 years after the death of Thomas Jefferson, and a mere 22 years after the birth of John Muir. Muir, the founder of Sierra Club, was a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and taking his first botany lesson that year.



So, we're off for new adventures, but this also means a loss of two leaders (my wife and myself) for our group. Because we are still holding meetings over the Internet, I can continue my role until my term ends in December. But then we really do need new leaders for our group. Please let me know if you might be interested, or please talk with one of the other board members. We need board members to exist as a Sierra Club group.

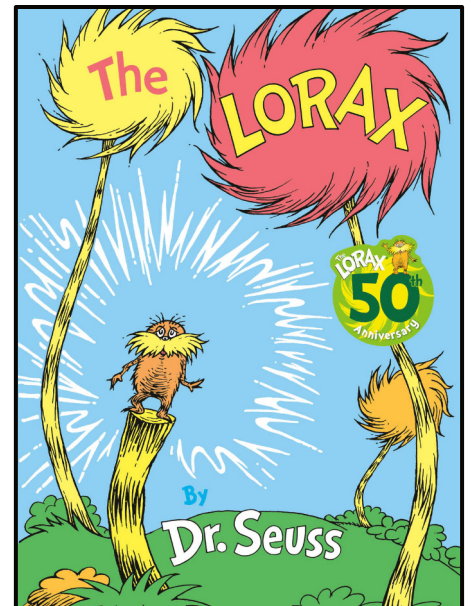
There is never enough time to do everything on your bucket list. I assumed that I would have a lot more time after retirement to finally see more of Wisconsin than I could conveniently fit into weekends and occasional vacations. I'm sure I shall return to see some of these places over the years (and to visit my children and grandchildren living in Wisconsin), but a whole new world in Virginia is opening up to us. Considering the size of our actual world we will still be exposed to only a tiny drop of it. Our world is a marvelous place. Mostly I'll have to experience it in photographs taken by others. We are lucky to have it here and available.

But other news is scary. Heatwaves continue hitting our country (and world) each summer. Forest fires continue raging out of control each year, destroying places that had once been on my bucket list. We hear that each year is warmer

than the previous year. Have you considered that means THIS year may be the coldest year we will ever experience again in our lives? Can that be true?

NPR recently reminded its listeners that "The Lorax", the environmental book written by Dr. Seuss, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. The conflict between the industrious, polluting Once-ler and the feisty Lorax, who "speaks for the trees,"

feels as prescient as ever. While it was written to be a children's book, its ominous message of what happens when you harvest nature to death made it an icon of the environmental movement. Theodor Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss) started writing "The Lorax" at a time of growing concern about the environment including the first Earth Day in 1970. We are all needed to speak for our planet and all its species. Being champions for the environment is an ever-lasting task.



<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/12/1026385429/the-lorax-dr-seuss>

Covid is still an issue, and it still affects Sierra Club activities. We recently began allowing outdoor outings again, but we are still avoiding most indoor meetings. So, our September, October and November meetings will be done using Zoom.

On August 12 we had our annual club picnic (instead of a meeting). My wife and I were surprised to be honored by our friends there with a lovely cake and a nice picture display to help us remember the group. Thank you!

Thanks for reading my comments. As leader of our group, I welcome your feedback. - Alan Lawrence, 920-422-2347 or alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com



Do you have an idea for a speaker for one of our monthly Fox Valley Sierra Group Meetings? Is there a topic or issue you want more information on? Let us know. We want to hear from you. Contact Penny at wilscats@new.rr.com with your ideas for upcoming Sierra events.

Natural Resources Board Update

At the time of this writing, The Wisconsin State Journal is reporting that outgoing Natural Resource Board president, Dr. Frederick Prehn, has yet to step down and is continuing to impact numerous decisions that we in Sierra Club know to be vital to protecting the rich natural heritage we enjoy in Wisconsin. On April 28th of this year, Gov. Tony Evers appointed Sandy Naas and Sharon Adams to the policy board to replace Prehn and Julie Anderson, who were appointed by former Gov. Scott Walker and whose six-year terms expired May 1.

Adams joined the board in May after Anderson stepped down. But Prehn declined to leave, citing a Supreme Court ruling that allows appointees to stay on until a replacement is confirmed by the Senate (GOP leaders in the Senate have yet to refer either of Evers' new appointees to a committee for a confirmation hearing.) Without Naas, Republican appointees hold four of the board's seven seats as they take up controversial topics including the regulation of PFAS and the DNR's wolf management plan.

Please take a moment today to contact WI Attorney General Josh Kaul to ask him to insure that we have timely transfer of power as Prehn's presence undermines the sound, responsible and accountable management of natural resources held in public trust.

Calendar Sales

Sierra Club publishes a beautiful calendar of beautiful scenes. Each year we sell these calendars, and our group makes a small profit from them. We are again selling them. But without monthly meetings you will have to reach out.

Diane Mandler is taking orders from you by email.

dsmandler@gmail.com

Calendars must be pre ordered.

Price is the same as last year \$14.50 for wilderness wall calendars and \$15.50 for engagement calendar.

I will deliver order if local (fox cities) out of town must pick up at my house or I can mail if purchaser covers postage.

Diane is placing our order on September 20th.

You can see the calendars on the Sierra Club website.

The wall calendar:

Spiral bound, measures 11 5/16" x 13 1/2" when closed.

<https://store.sierraclub.org/2021-sierra-club-wall-calendar-p711.aspx>

The engagement calendar:

Spiral bound, measures 6 5/16" x 9 1/4" when closed.

<https://store.sierraclub.org/2021-sierra-club-engagement-calendar-p710.aspx>

We are the nation's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental group.

We champion solutions to the climate crisis.

We work for clean air, safe water, land protection, and a vibrant natural world.

We fight for environmental and social justice.

We believe in getting people outside to enjoy the outdoors.

Be a Champion for the Environment.

We need your voice.

The Fox Valley Sierra Group is in need of volunteers to help run our local group.

- Board members
- Website editor
- Program coordinator
- Outings leaders
- Newsletter writers
- Group representative at State Chapter
- Volunteer coordinator
- Fundraising
- Tracking conservation issues
- Tabling at events
- Rallying for an issue
- Host for public meetings
- Group contact person

Get a hold of one of the Fox Valley Sierra Group Contacts if interested!

Fox Valley Sierra Group
Of The Wisconsin 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.com/foxvalleysierra](https://www.facebook.com/foxvalleysierra)**

To join the Sierra Club log on to SierraClub.org