



Cedar Wapsie Group

Summer-Fall 2013

Serving Benton, Jones, Linn, and Tama Counties

Cedar Wapsie Group Calendar of Events

2013 Mark Your Calendars! 2014

Summer Outing: Saturday, August 17th starting at 3 p.m.

Since we were rained out of our Spring Outing at Morgan Creek Park, we are going to have our Summer Outing there on August 17—a kind of do-over. It's easy and close to home, but feels like you're away from it all. Cost is just \$10 per tent for the overnight stay or just join us for the evening if you wish. Check in after 3 p.m. on Saturday. Food is on your own, but there will be lots of sharing! We'll build a fire and share some good times as well. **Call Mike Wyrick at 319-350-1063 or write to mikewyrick@gmail.com for more information.**

Road Side Cleanup: Sunday, September 29, 2-3 p.m.

Feel good about taking true action to clean up the planet by joining us for our Road Side Cleanup, Sunday, September 29 from 2-3 p.m. (or so). Meet at the corner of North Center Point Road and County Home Road. Elwood will have orange vests and bags for us, and we're hoping for a great day! **We hope to see you then, please call Mike 319-350-1063 if you have any questions.**

Fracking Presentation: Tuesday, October 8, 7-8 p.m.

Chris Johnson is a writer based in the Chicago area who has co-authored a new book, *Forests for the People: The Story of America's Eastern National Forests*, published by Island Press. Also a Sierra Club member, he's presenting about hydraulic fracturing; "Hydraulic Fracturing on Eastern National Forests: A Growing Threat," featuring numerous photographs. Chris believes that the presentation will provide valuable context to our members because of the environmental impact fracking and sand mining could have on Iowa. The presentation is based on a chapter in the book about the environmental impact of natural-gas drilling on the Allegheny National Forest in western Pennsylvania. He recently made similar presentations to the Northwest Cook County Group and the Piasa Palisades Group of the Illinois Sierra Club. He was also interviewed recently on the program Lake Effect on Milwaukee Public Radio.

This program is co-sponsored by Linn County Conservation and will be held at the Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Center. If you haven't been there since their expansion, you should plan to come early and take a quick tour of the new facilities as well.



Senator Rob Hogg leads the discussion on July 10 at Blue Strawberry in downtown Cedar Rapids. The first of a four-week series on his new book, *America's Climate Century*. About 40 people attended the first week.

"Remember Hurricane Sandy" Climate Campaign Underway

by Rob Hogg

One of the challenges with climate change issue is that it's so big, people often do not know where to begin. A simple thing anyone can do to help: call Congress October 22 thru October 28 and ask our Congressional representatives to "Remember Hurricane Sandy" by taking action and fight climate change.

To deal effectively with climate change, we need American leadership on a global basis. Meaning, we need Congress to support climate action now and to sustain that action over many decades.

Hurricane Sandy was a transforming moment in American history, Americans saw an unprecedented late October storm bring record storm surges through downtown New York City and across much of the East Coast. It killed Americans, ruined homes and businesses, destroyed public infrastructure and cost our country more than \$70 billion, or more than \$200 per American.

It is not the only climate disaster we have experienced recently, but it is the biggest - the second most costly disaster in American history behind only Hurricane Katrina in 2005. If Hurricane Sandy does not get our Congressional representatives to take action on climate change, what is it going to take? Are we going to wait until the water rises through New York City permanently?

The first anniversary of Hurricane Sandy is an opportunity to remind Congress about the cost of inaction and the need for action. There are many things Congress could do right now to help the fight against climate change, including stopping the Keystone pipeline, making the renewable energy tax credit permanent and investing in infrastructure to guard against future climate disasters. Numbers are below, after your calls, please report them to SenatorRobHogg@gmail.com.

Iowa numbers to call:

Congressman Tom Latham: 202-225-5476 or 515-282-1909 Congressman Bruce Braley: 202-225-2911 or 319-287-3233
Congressman Dave Loebsack: 202-225-6576 or 319-351-0789 Congressman Steve King: 202-225-4426 or 712-224-4692
Senator Chuck Grassley: 202-224-3744 or 515-288-1145 Senator Tom Harkin: 202-224-3154 or 515-284-4574

Cedar Wapsie Group Officers

Mike Wyrick, CHAIR
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Elwood Garlock, POLITICAL CHAIR
Rob Hogg, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CHAIR
Pam Mackey-Taylor, CONSERVATION CHAIR
Michele O'Connor, OUTINGS CHAIR, SECRETARY
Vince O'Connor, TREASURER, WEBMASTER
Connie Lehman, BOARD MEMBER
Chris Heald, BOARD MEMBER
Harold Hensel, BOARD MEMBER
Marlene Julich - BOARD MEMBER

For more information on additional Sierra Club events, please look for us on www.sierraclub.org.

Chili Luncheon & Silent Auction, Saturday, November 23, Noon to 2 p.m.

This event moves back to Saturday this year (where it belongs!) Are you looking for a great way to pick up some outdoor gear at a great price? Come to Indian Creek Nature Center on Saturday, November 23, Noon until 2 p.m. and shop the most unique auction around.

And come hungry! Just \$6 lets you sample a variety of chilis made by members of the Cedar Wapsie Chapter of the Sierra Club. Then browse through and bid on a variety of gently-used outdoor gear to take home. This year, member Gary Goldstein has donated a great collection of all kinds of outdoor gear to get us started. Backpacks, tents, skis, and a whole lot more.

Whether you've got a pair of old skis stashed in your garage or are looking for a tent, this is the event for you. The Sierra Club and Nature Center annually sponsor this silent auction of outdoor gear to recycle items gathering dust in attics or basements and get them to people who will put them to use.

More items are needed. Anyone interested in donating items can bring them to the Nature Center any time after November 1st. Proceeds from the auction and lunch benefit the Cedar Wapsie Chapter of the Sierra Club and Indian Creek Nature Center. **For more information, call the Nature Center at 319-362-0664 or check their website at www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org**

Enjoy December with your family!

X-Country Ski/Snowshoe/Hike: Saturday January 11, 2-4 p.m.

Join us at Morgan Creek Park for a fun day of Cross Country skiing and snowshoeing if the weather allows, or a hike if it doesn't- followed by a fire, hot chocolate and snacks. Bring your own equipment if you have some, and we'll have some available for folks who don't. **Call Mike Wyrick at 319-350-1063 or write to mikewyrick@gmail.com for more information.**

Winter Outing: Friday through Sunday, February 7-9

Our Sierra Winter Outing will be at Backbone cabins again, this year from February 7-9. Once again this year the White Pine group, out of Dubuque, is going to rent the cabin next to ours and we are looking forward to getting to know them even better.

Our Winter Outing is in posh Cabin #9 at Backbone State Park, near Strawberry Point- about an hour from CR. The cabins are two-story, heated, have a stove/oven, refrigerator, microwave, pots and pans, a shower- and best of all- Beds. There are "beds" for a total of 9 people each night, and a few more can sleep on their own cots/pads, for a maximum of 12 people each night. Early registrants will be given sleeping priority, so write me back and reserve your bed asap.

It's \$20 per night, or (\$30 for both nights) per person, for lodging. You'll need to bring your own sleeping bag/bedding and towels. Cabin #9 at Backbone has a great view of the lake, and we'll be planning on snowshoeing, x-country skiing, hiking, etc, depending on the weather. Bring your appropriate equipment. We can get in any time after 4 on Friday, and we need to be out by 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Directions: Only the south entrance is open. From CR, you just go North on Highway 13, through Manchester, and continue north to E64 where you'll turn left (west) and go to Dundee. This road will curve north into town, then you continue North on W69 which takes you to the park. Once you turn into the park, you take a quick right to go up to the cabins. If you end up in the outdoor camping area (like we all did the first year) then you need to loop around and come back down and go left just before you get back to the main road.

Food: we usually just kind of do our own deal on Friday night and Saturday lunch (with lots of sharing). We will provide Saturday Breakfast, and Sunday Breakfast. We will also provide our entree for Saturday night. If the rest of you could bring a side/salad/desert, then that should about do it. **Call Mike Wyrick at 319-350-1063 or write to mikewyrick@gmail.com if you have any thoughts or questions.**

Annual Dinner: Saturday, March 22, 5:30-8 p.m.

The Cedar-Wapsie Group of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club will be holding our annual dinner on Saturday, March 22nd, at the Clark Alumni House on the Coe College campus. Please join us for what promises to be a great evening!

The social hour (with cash bar) begins at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by a very entertaining program. Our speaker has yet to be determined, but I do know for sure that there is going to be a very important announcement made that night that you won't want to miss.

We'll get you more information about our speaker and meal soon, but they will be wonderful as always- so please mark your calendars now and plan to attend our most important fundraiser of the year. Tickets are \$35, and reservations are due by March 17. Payments may be made at the door, but no last minute cancellations are allowed, as we have to lock in our numbers on March 17. **RSVP to this email address, or call Mike Wyrick at 319-350-1063.**



Home Energy Audit with Green AmeriCorps

