



Cedar Wapsie Group

Fall-Winter 2014

Serving Benton, Jones, Linn, and Tama Counties

Think Spring! Mark Your Calendars for the next Eco-Fest: April 25, 2015



People of all ages enjoying the weather, learning, and having fun at Eco-Fest 2014, sponsored in part by the Cedar Wapsie Sierra Club. Remember to attend next year's - Mark Your Calendars now for Eco-Fest 2015 on April 25th!

After the Elections, Speak Up for Climate Action

By Senator Rob Hogg

Climate action was not a losing message in the elections. For US Senate, six strong leaders for climate action were elected: Gary Peters (Michigan), Jeanne Shaheen (New Hampshire), Jeff Merkley (Oregon), Brian Schatz (Hawaii), Tom Udall (New Mexico), and Al Franken (Minnesota).

In a Congressional race in Nebraska, Republican Representative Lee Terry – that state's leading advocate for the Keystone pipeline – was defeated. But with the new Republican majority in the US Senate, there is a belief that environmental laws must be weakened or repealed to make way for so-called economic growth. Despite Lee Terry's loss, one of the first targets on the GOP list is the Keystone pipeline. That makes our efforts to speak up for climate action more important than ever.

Make sure your elected officials understand we already have too much greenhouse gas pollution in our atmosphere. Let's draw a red line in the atmosphere and commit to stopping the buildup of greenhouse gases before 2030.

Reach out to community leaders, community groups, and the news media to educate them about the dangers of climate change as well as the climate solutions that work.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues to join the Sierra Club and other groups that are leading the way for climate action and environmental protection.

Personal action continues to be important because it shows that the solutions work. At home, at work, and in your community, you can conserve energy, prepare for extreme weather, divest from fossil fuels, and invest in clean energy.

Climate solutions – like energy efficiency, wind, and solar – create jobs, save consumers money, and protect health and the environment.

With sustained education about the importance of the environment and climate action, we can elect candidates and adopt laws that will improve health, broaden prosperity, and safeguard our people and property from the effects of climate change.

Here is the contact information from the Secretary of State's office for our newly elected and re-elected federal representatives:

Senator-Elect Joni Ernst
910 N. 6th Street
Red Oak, IA 51566
(712) 621-4931
joniernst@hotmail.com

Representative Dave Loeb sack
326 N. Westminster St.
Iowa City, IA 52245
(319) 804-9218
info@loeb sackforcongress.org

Representative-Elect Rod Blum
11361 Oakland Farms Road
Dubuque, IA 52003
(563) 580-3916
rod@rodblum.com

Representative-Elect David Young
616 Elm Street
Van Meter, IA 50261
(515) 996-0325
info@youngforiowa.com

Representative Steve King
3897 Esther Avenue
Kiron, IA 51448
(712) 664-5097
steve@steveking.com

Mark it down! 2014-2015

Chili Luncheon and Silent Auction, Saturday, November 22, Noon-2pm:

Outdoor gear at a great price? Come to Indian Creek Nature Center on Saturday, November 22rd from noon until 2pm. Shop the most unique auction around and come hungry! \$6 lets you sample a variety of chilis and desserts 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.

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, deliver donated items to the Nature Center any time after November 1. Proceeds benefit the Cedar Wapsie Chapter of the Sierra Club and Indian Creek Nature Center. For more info, call the Nature Center at 319-362-0664 or check online: www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org

XC Ski/Snowshoe/Hike, and Raptor Center Saturday, January 10, 2-4pm:

Join us at McBride Raptor Center for a program on the raptors and a fun time cross country skiing and snowshoeing, or a hike—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. Contact Connie for more info: connie.lehman29@gmail.com, or 319-533-6529.

Winter Outing, Friday-Sunday, February 6-8:

Our Sierra Winter Outing will be at Backbone cabins again, this year from February 6-8. The basics of that weekend: Our Winter Outing is in Cabin #9 at Backbone State Park, near Strawberry Point, an hour from Cedar Rapids. Two-story cabins, heated, include a stove/oven, refrigerator, microwave, pots/pans, a shower and 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 are given sleeping priority, so reserve your bed ASAP. Lodging is \$20/night or (\$30 for both nights) per person. Sleeping bag/bedding and towels are not provided.

Cabin #9 at Backbone has a great view of the lake, and we plan on snowshoeing, x-country skiing, hiking, etc., depending on the weather. Bring appropriate equipment. We can get in any time after 4p on Friday, and we need to be out by 1pm on Sunday.

We are on our own for food Friday night and Saturday lunch (with lots of sharing). We provide Saturday breakfast, and Sunday breakfast. We also provide our entree for Saturday night. If you could bring a side, salad, or desert, then that should about do it. Contact Connie for more information: connie.lehman29@gmail.com, or 319-533-6529.

Annual Dinner on Saturday, March 21, 5:30-8pm:

The Cedar-Wapsie Group of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club annual dinner is on Saturday, March 21, at the Clark Alumni House, Coe College campus. Please join us for a great evening!

Social hour (with a 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; we'll provide more information about our speaker and meal closer to the date. 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 15. Payments may be made at the door, but no last minute cancellations are allowed, as we have to lock in our numbers on March 15. Please RSVP to: connie.lehman29@gmail.com, or call Connie Lehman at 319-533-6529.

Cedar Wapsie Group Officers

Chair – Connie Lehman /319-533-5946 / connie.lehman29@gmail.com	Secretary – Michele O'Connor
Vice Chair – Mike Wyrick	Webmaster - Vince O'Connor
Treasurer – Vince O'Connor	Conservation – Pam Mackey-Taylor
Political Chair – Rob Hogg	Board Member – Marlene Julich
Environmental Education Chair – Elwood Garlock	Board Member – Harold Hensel
Outings – Michele O'Connor	Board Member – Tom Podzimek

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