



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group [www.fvsg.org](http://www.fvsg.org) Vol. 04 Issue 2

## Upcoming Meetings

### May 13

#### ***The Menominee Indian Tribe and the Crandon Mine Site: Native American Philosophy and Future Plans***

Ken Fish will explain how the Native American philosophy of the relationship between Mother Earth and the Human Spirit relates to the Menominee Indian Tribe's perspective on the future of the Crandon Mine Site. He will review the history of the Crandon Mine Site, and then discuss the Menominee Indian Tribe's plans for reforestation of the area, the future use of the land, and the spiritual values of the recovery of the land to the Menominee Indian tribe.

### June 10

#### ***The Red Rock Wilderness of the Colorado Plateau: A Presentation by Don Lorenz***

The Colorado Plateau region of Utah and Arizona has huge expanses of undeveloped territory and some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Within this region are canyons - sized from grand to sinuous, flat-topped mesas, winding green and brown rivers, mountain ranges with snow-covered peaks, prehistoric Anasazi sites, vast wild areas and a host of national parks. Having taken many trips over a 30-year time span to the Plateau, I will show slides and talk about some of these wondrous places, with an emphasis on the beauty and the importance of maintaining and protecting the wildness of the area. There will be pictures from the Paria/Vermillion Cliffs, Grand Staircase/Escalante, Cedar Mesa canyons and ruins, slot canyons near Page and Escalante and the national parks of Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands and Arches. In these sublime places, the red rock desert comes in all fantastic shapes, sizes and colors. And the rock is sometimes so luminous that light seems to glow or shine out of the rock, rather than just being reflected from it.

I am a serious amateur photographer and inveterate adventurer. Having a love of wild places and things, I am constantly drawn back to the Colorado Plateau for its beauty, its wildness and its unbelievable variety of natural splendor. There are few places like it in the world. It is truly a place of spectacular mystery!

*Programs are held at 7:00 pm at  
Bulolz Nature Preserve on Lyndale in Appleton*

## Wisconsin Conservation Team Network

The Wisconsin Conservation Team Network is a collaborative project of Wisconsin's conservation and environmental community. The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club is a member of this Network.

"The concept of the Wisconsin Conservation Team Network is to build teams of conservation-minded citizens all over the state who are active in raising the environment as an important issue in public debate by writing letters to the editor, contacting decision makers and other activities. The Conservation Team Network will function as a rapid response network, so that when there is an imminent policy decision that would affect the environment, Conservation Teams all over the state will be ready to respond and tell decision makers that the public expects their support for strong environmental protection. With the involvement of concerned citizens statewide, decision makers will be more likely to represent the strong public concern for protecting our air, water, open spaces and the natural beauty of our state."

The Fox Valley Sierra Group has been active in establishing a Conservation Team in the Appleton area. Dale Schaber is the local contact person. Alan Lawrence (FVSG Chairperson) worked with Laura England, Network Organizer, to develop the WCTN web site.

The next meeting of the Appleton Network will occur in early May at Lawrence University. Contact Dale Schaber (920-739-6041) for meeting information.

Access the Wisconsin Conservation Team Network web site ([www.conservationteams.org](http://www.conservationteams.org)) for information about the state-wide Network.

Fox Valley Sierra Group  
815 E. Washington Street  
Appleton, WI 54911-5660

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## 2004 IAT Workdays

By Dale Schaber

The Ice Age Trail service workdays are scheduled for May 1st, June 12th, and September 18th at Hartman Creek State Park.

Sign up for the workdays at the monthly FVSG meetings or contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041 or Mike Kirk at 715-258-2295.

This year we will be doing either maintenance work or new trail development on segments of the IAT in either Portage or Waupaca Counties. If new trail is developed in the town of Belmont, Portage County, we will work with Marty Wacker. In Waupaca County we will be working with Mike Kirk.

The annual fundraiser for the Ice Age

Trail will take place on October 2nd at Hartman Creek State Park. More information about the Hike-A-Thon will appear in the fall issue of FVSG's Newsletter.

When working at Hartman Creek State Park we will meet at the Citgo Station at 8:30 a.m. to travel to the work area. The gas station is at the intersection of Highway 96 (Wisconsin Ave.) and Highway 76 west of Appleton. We will meet Mike Kirk at the Hartman Creek State Park Office at approximately 9:30 AM.

Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent with you on the work outings. If you have a lopper or a pruning saw, please bring them along with you as well.

Ticks (both deer and wood) are a concern for all of us who will be

working on the Trail. As a precaution, wear protective clothing with long sleeves and have your pant legs tucked into your socks. Wear light clothing so ticks can be easily seen. Use tick repellent and check for ticks when arriving at home.

While working on the Ice Age Trail you will learn about Wisconsin's glacial topography and about the plants that are growing during the various seasons. We might even see the tracks and scat of animals that frequent the Trail during the day and night.

Not only do we do a lot of work on the Trail but we also have a lot of fun! We always stop for ice cream on our way back home. Hope to see you on the Trail!

*Please contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041 for more information.*

## From the Chair

Earth Day has been observed each April 22 since 1970 when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson helped found the first of these celebrations. Earth Day is an annual event for people to celebrate the earth and our responsibility toward it.

Rachel Carlson's book "Silent Spring", released in 1962, is credited with making the public aware of environmental problems and responsibilities. The Amazon.com website has this review for her book:

"Silent Spring, offered the first shattering look at widespread ecological degradation and touched off an environmental awareness that still exists. Rachel Carson's book focused on the poisons from insecticides, weed killers, and other common products as well as the use of sprays in agriculture, a practice that led to dangerous chemicals to the food source. Carson argued that those chemicals were more dangerous than radiation and that for the first time in history, humans were exposed to chemicals that stayed in their systems from birth to death. Presented with thorough documentation, the book opened more than a few eyes about the dangers of the modern world and stands today as a landmark work."

Donella "Dana" Meadows' bestseller, "The Limits to Growth", released in 1972, influenced a generation of thinkers on the interplay between economic and population growth and natural systems and helped jump start the sustainability movement.

Has progress been made in the years following? Yes, much has been done. But we still must be alert to problems.

Unfortunately, recent years have been problematic. There is interplay between economic growth and natural systems, and the economy seems more important right now to many of our legislative public servants. We believe they fail to see that there

is an interaction and that natural systems are vital to our economy, and indeed to our very survival.

Involved citizens and groups like Sierra Club must counter current public thinking. Many environmental protection laws have been eroded in recent years. To our own members, I urge you to inform yourselves of the issues, attempt to influence the debate, and then cast your votes in our elections.

For 13 years our group has participated in Earth Day by organizing the cleanup of parks along the Fox River in communities from Neenah to Kaukauna. Thousands of citizens joined our efforts, partly as responsibility, and partly as an Earth Day celebration.

Two years ago we realized that those parks had gotten much cleaner, and we needed another project. This year we are again organizing teams of volunteers to battle an invasive species of plant called garlic mustard. Lori Weyers is organizing teams to help protect High Cliff State Park and a natural area behind Kaukauna High School.

If you read my comments in time, let me remind you that our group's annual auction fundraiser is April 8, at Bubolz Nature Preserve. Most of the income that supports our group comes from this fundraiser. Please come, enjoy the camaraderie with a potluck of food and games, and please be generous with your wallets.

Whether you are a Sierra Club member or just reading our newsletter, please know that we have public meetings most months at Bubolz Nature Preserve, and generally have an interesting program. You are encouraged to visit. You will be welcomed.

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

- Alan Lawrence, FVSG Chair  
alawrenc@execpc.com



# Northwoods under **ATTACK!**

by John Bates



seemingly choose either environmental quality or increased income from tourism. The problem is that the question of which is more important simply can't be answered, because the value of things is not always monetary. For instance, how much is it

If we can't play the game of putting a figure on all our values, then we might consider playing the "what-would-it-cost-to-replace-it" game. Try to estimate the cost of building any inland lake in our area. Bulldoze the basin, construct the lake bottom, raise all the fish, all the insects, all the birds, all the plants, all the amphibians, all the micro-organisms we can't pronounce, place them all in the right balance, and then hire someone to manage it properly forever. Pitting economics vs. environment never considers that taking care of the natural world is good

I'm deeply concerned about the present-day impacts of ATVs, but for me the more important issue is what the Northwoods will look like fifty and a hundred years down the road if we continue on our current pace of change. Who in 1950 would have predicted the Northwoods would look the way it does today? Who could have seen the phenomenal rise in property values, which has led to the continual division of lands into the smallest lots allowable? Who would have forecast the extraordinary increase in the size and power of outboard engines, the appearance and popularity of jet skis, the multiplication and omnipresence of snowmobiles, and now the rapid recreational use of ATVs? Who can divine what's next for motorized recreation, and next after that, ad infinitum? At the heart of the entire matter is this essential question regarding the North Country: What is the sense of place, the character, that defines this area as "The Northwoods"?

The follow-up question is equally important: Are we in danger of losing what that character is, and at what point do we cross that threshold? There's a triple-bottom line at work here - ecological, economic, and social sustainability. The complexity of trying to balance all three requires of us deep wisdom and a long view.

No one can give definitive answers to these questions and issues, least of all me. But from my perch in southern Iron County, I do have strong feelings, particularly regarding the argument that we have to have ATVs for our economic survival. This argument sets up a false dichotomy, forcing us to

end of your dock and watch a sunset; to see an otter family slipping through the water; to be mesmerized by an aerial duel between osprey and eagle for rights to a fish?

Likewise, try putting a monetary value on the love of your spouse or your closest friends, the health of your parents, the education of your children, the strength of your spiritual life. Ask anyone who has lost a family member, a home, or a beloved forest if money received in compensation could ever equal the real value. Dollars can't function as the assigned tokens by which we appraise all that we value in our life. Yet we constantly try to use dollars to describe the quality of life that a beautiful and healthy environment provides us. We can't afford to play this game anymore.



by Dale Schaber

### *Intricate Details*

*Jaci shows off some of the hand-painted bowls she brought back from Russia.*

economics - short-term and long-term - plain and simple. Without the environment, there is no economy. "Every economy is the wholly owned subsidiary of the environment," writes Ray Travers, a forester in Canada. Ma Nature is the CEO directing our lives whether we want to admit it or not.

There's danger, though, in relying on the argument that good conservation is good commerce. It is, but commercial determinism always leads us down a dark path of no return - clearly we could make even more money in the North Country if we became a clone of Wisconsin Dells or some version thereof. That's the end game where using economic arguments alone will certainly take us.



by Dale Schaber

### *Privyet!*

*At the February meeting, Neil and Jaci shared stories about their recent trip to Russia.*

Instead of quantity, whether dollars or people or jobs, we need to look at principles of quality, (Cont. on next page)



(Cont. from previous page) and understand that the Northwoods is simply a better place with wild lands and water left intact. Think of it this way. Everybody wishes they could live off the interest of their savings, and not have to touch the capital. When we use up the capital, we eventually go broke. The question is, what is the true capital of the Northwoods? The answer I keep coming back to is the beauty of the natural world - the beauty of lakes, of animals seen in their native habitats, et al. We live emotionally and spiritually off the interest this capital provides us every day of every year. If you moved here, this is almost certainly why you came here. If you moved here to strike it rich, you were short a little wattage for starters, but you also misjudged the source of our true wealth - it's our lands and waters. And while we can use them to a certain degree - we can cut timber, recreate, enjoy tourism and do much of what we already do - we can't use more than the interest they give us every year, or we bleed away everything we have been given.

Consider also the basic economic truth of the value of scarcity. What is becoming more and more scarce, and therefore more and more valuable every year on this planet? Wild lands, clean water, pure air, open spaces, silence, serenity, beauty... the very attributes of natural plant and animal communities living on wild lands and waters in the Northwoods.

Over many years, in times of doubt on other issues that have played the same chords as the current ATV controversy, I have gone back and read Aldo Leopold's comments on our relationship to land and water, and their

relationship to recreation and economics. Among a thousand good quotes, here are three:

"We end, I think, at what might be called the standard paradox of the twentieth century; our tools are better than we are, and grow better and faster than we do. They suffice to crack the atom, to command the tides. But they do not suffice for the oldest task in human history: to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."

"There is a basic distinction between the fact that land yields us a living, and the inference that it exists for this purpose."

"Quit thinking about decent land-use as solely an economic problem. Examine each question in terms of what is ethically and esthetically right, as well as what is economically expedient. A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

Since ATVs clearly fail to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community - the erosion, pollution, wetlands destruction, etc., that they cause are amply documented - we must, if we accept Leopold's definition, conclude that they are wrong for recreational use in the Northwoods.

My great hope in all this is that we realize that we live in one of the last "great" places left in Wisconsin. I believe we have an absolute obligation to future generations to preserve the soul of this place, to think first with our heart, and second with our wallets. We must place the value of our land and water communities first, and profit for the human community

**"It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it."**

**-George W. Bush**

second. This is an idea that's always portrayed as radical and impractical. But far more radical and impractical is to give these natural communities away for the quick buck. We've done just that for centuries in our urban centers, and now people stream out of cities in long lines of cars to escape all the noise, pollution, and crowds. And where do they go? To what little is left - the lands and waters of the Northwoods.

I don't know when the "right" time to make a stand against economic determinism will occur. All I know is that we already have over 3,000 miles of ATV trails in Wisconsin, and that ATV trails on a few Vilas county forest roads won't satisfy the mechanical yearnings of enthusiasts - show me the moment in time when we have stopped building bigger, faster, louder machines and when the demand for more places to ride them has declined. Our population continues to grow, our demands on public lands continue to grow, and there's no end in sight. It's time to speak loud and clear that our natural communities have profoundly more lasting value than any engines we could ever make and ride, now or a century from now.

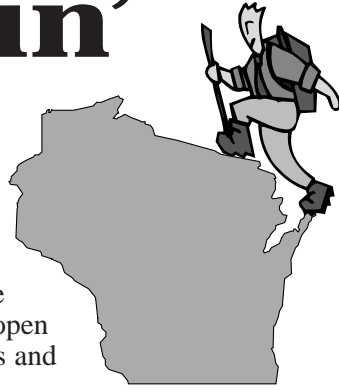


Wondering  
what to do with your spent  
energy efficient mercury-containing  
fluorescent lamps? Wisconsin localities do  
ban homeowners from disposing of such  
lamps in normal household trash.

A good resource for locating recycling centers for  
these lamps is [www.nema.org/lamprecycle](http://www.nema.org/lamprecycle). This  
website is sponsored by the Lamp Section of the  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
(NEMA) to encourage the recycling of spent  
mercury-containing lamps.

Click onto the "Recycling Household  
Lamps" link to find "Earth 911." "Earth  
911" allows you to locate local  
recycling centers by zip code.  
Information about hazardous  
waste collection events in  
your area can also be  
found on "Earth 911."

# Trekkin' with Dale



Wisconsin is celebrating an important centennial this year: the Year of Wisconsin Forestry. This year will be celebrated with tree plantings, open houses in state parks and forests and special Arbor Day Observances.

The year 2004 was chosen as the Centennial Year because in 1904 E. M. Griffith was hired as Wisconsin's first forester. He established state-owned forest preserves, built the first tree nursery at Trout Lake, developed the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison and was the first in the United States to use aircraft to spot forest fires.

If you have a chance this spring, summer or fall travel to the Ranger Station at Trout Lake on Highway M and view the historical marker #123 that reads " Forest Restoration - The Beginning." This will give you a short history on forest restoration in Wisconsin that started at Trout Lake.

For more information on the Year of Wisconsin Forestry celebration, access the Year of Wisconsin Forestry web site: [www.wisconsinforestry.org](http://www.wisconsinforestry.org). Here you will find a calendar of events, places to explore, activities to do, and information about the re-establishment of Wisconsin's forests.

In Wisconsin Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April. This year Arbor Day is on April 30th. For Arbor Day information in the United States, access the National Arbor

Day website: [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) .

The DNR Environmental Education for Kids website (EEK!) has Arbor Day information for young FVSG members: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/>. Check out the list of reasons why trees are so important to us all.

While traveling in Northern Wisconsin this spring spend some time waterfall hunting. The newly melted snow and ice will add water to the Wisconsin rivers. Wisconsin Waterfalls: A Touring Guide is the best guidebook available. It is now in its second edition. Patrick J. Lisi, a Menasha resident, is the author. The book contains photographs, descriptions, location information, maps and driving directions to the waterfalls. Information about nearby waterfalls in Minnesota and Michigan is also included.

To keep track of the waterfalls we have seen I mark the date we saw them next to the name of the falls in the table of contents. This is an easy way for us to keep track of the falls we have seen and also to remember the other falls that we have not yet discovered.

I like Patrick Lisi's last paragraph in the foreword: "Waterfall hunting is a wonderful family activity. It is quiet, peaceful, and a perfect way to spend time outdoors with people you love. Our family has grown closer over the years as we shared the fun of searching out waterfalls throughout the United States. Mother Nature can do the same for you."

Don't forget to celebrate John Muir's birthday on April 21st and Earth Day on April 22nd!



## Garlic Mustard Pull

Please join us in the 2nd Annual Fox Valley Sierra Group Garlic Mustard Pull on Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 to noon at High Cliff State Park and Kaukauna High School.

**WHAT** For those unfamiliar, garlic mustard is an invasive (non-native) species which often chokes off the native vegetation of an area. By pulling the garlic mustard plant early in spring and removing the root, we prevent it from going to seed and returning to spread and overrun the affected area.

**WHEN** Saturday, May 8 from 9:00 am to noon.

**WHERE** We will have two garlic mustard pulling sites: High Cliff State Park in Sherwood, and Kaukauna High School. High Cliff volunteers, meet at the main park entrance (where you would normally pay to get in... but we'll be given special passes to get in free that day). Kaukauna High School volunteers, meet in the parking lot by the greenhouse, which is in the back of the high school building.

**WHO** The garlic mustard, perhaps knee-height at its tallest, is easy to pull. The only equipment needed will be

work gloves and a sturdy pair of shoes

or boots. Adults and teens (middle school age and up) are invited to join us. Garlic mustard is easy to pull, but we are going "middle school and up" to make sure youth are old enough to distinguish the garlic mustard from other native plants that may look similar.

**WHY** Join a hearty group of workers accomplishing something tangible for the environment. With the High Cliff grounds, plus up to 40 acres at Kaukauna High School, we'll have plenty of work. When our environmental work is so often comprised of doing letters or phone calls to the "people with the power to make decisions," this service outing, we're guaranteed success!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP

Please contact Lori Weyers at [maillori@athenet.net](mailto:maillori@athenet.net) or 920-751-0881. If you RSVP, then I can let you know if there are any changes in plan, and I can also make sure the volunteers are appropriately distributed between sites. Thanks and see you there!

# Environmental Award Nominations

Each year Fox Valley Sierra Group solicits its members for nominations for our Environmental Award. We ask that each member think of someone deserving of this award and submit a nominating essay. The purpose of the Environmental Award is to recognize and honor individuals, groups of individuals, or organizations that have achieved significant benefits to the environment from their efforts and contributions. The Environmental Award will consist of a plaque and a \$100 cash award to be presented at a regular meeting of the FVSG.

Persons making nominations must be current members of FVSG. Any individual or group may be nominated: for example, an informal group of individuals, a club, a company, a unit of government, or an organization. Nominations must be submitted in essay form no more than 500 words in length. The nominating essay will describe the action or effort put forth, the environmental benefits accruing thereto, and the contribution of the

nominee to the effort or action plus any other pertinent information.

The FVSG Board will appoint a committee of three or more to review the nominations and select those to be published in June issue of 'It's Our Nature' along with a ballot. Each FVSG member may vote for one of the nominees or may vote to select none of the nominations. Normally the award will go to the one nominee receiving a plurality of the votes cast. In the case of a tie or near tie the board may elect to present more than one award, in which case the cash award would be split among the recipients.

Send your nominating essay to:  
*Charles Paine, N8172 Firelane 13,  
 Menasha, WI 54952-9650*

## Counting Cranes for a Cause

*by Kelly Krupka*

Dating back to 1976, the Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count is among one of the largest single species inventories in the world. Each

year over 2,500 volunteers spread out across 100 counties in five different states to collect data on the once endangered sandhill crane. The International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, WI then analyzes the data to monitor population and distribution of the birds and estimate the impact of development. The more data we gather, the better we are able to understand the population of sandhill cranes in the Midwest. For more info on the Crane Count go to: [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)

This year's Crane Count is from 5:30 am to 7:30 am on April 17th. The ICF would like your help in conducting the census. Volunteers are the most important part of this unique program. Each county has a County Coordinator who can tell you what you need to know to count cranes. They will designate a site and give you any training you might need. Coordinators often hold a county meeting to train participants, distribute data sheets, and provide updates about the cranes. If you would like to participate in the 2004 Crane Count, please contact one of the County Coordinators listed below:

**Brown County:**  
 Mark Payne 920-391-3678  
[markpa@ci.green-bay.wi.us](mailto:markpa@ci.green-bay.wi.us)

**Calumet County:**  
 Jean Haack 920-894-7542  
[ledge@dotnet.com](mailto:ledge@dotnet.com)

**Door County:**  
 Paul Regnier 920-839-2802  
[paul@ridgesanctuary.com](mailto:paul@ridgesanctuary.com)

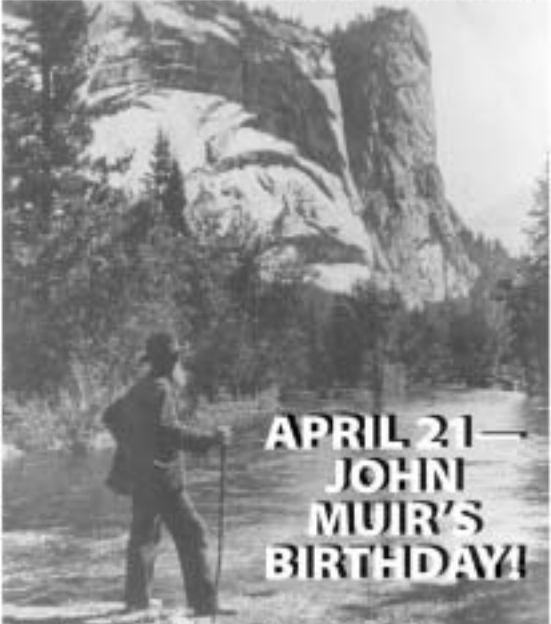
**Manitowoc County:**  
 Bernie Brouchoud  
 920-793-4007  
[woodlanddunes@lakefield.net](mailto:woodlanddunes@lakefield.net)

**Outagamie County:**  
 Jessica Miller 920-779-6433  
[millerja@outagamie.wi.us](mailto:millerja@outagamie.wi.us)

**Shawano County:**  
 Larry Riedinger 715-754-2995  
[lgkriedinger@yahoo.com](mailto:lgkriedinger@yahoo.com)


**Waupaca County:**  
 Pat Fisher 920-982-6578  
[feather@athenet.net](mailto:feather@athenet.net)

**Winnebago County:**  
 Tom Underwood  
 920-426-0349  
[thomasj335@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thomasj335@sbcglobal.net)



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F94Q W 1607 1

**APRIL 21 —  
 JOHN  
 MUIR'S  
 BIRTHDAY!**

**Won't you join the Sierra Club and add your voice  
 to protect the planet, and John Muir's legacy?**



**SIERRA  
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**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**



# Spring/Summer Outings

## April 24

Look for eagles at the 1000 Island Nature Preserve in Kaukauna. Bring your binoculars and we will learn about the nesting habits of eagles. The best time to spot eagles here is in spring after they have returned to their nests and before the trees leaf out. We will also hike the preserve nature trails, so wear adequate footwear. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900*

## April 25

Hike at Hartman Creek State Park. We will hike along the Ice Age Trail's southern segment from the Emmon's Creek Parking lot south of Hartman Creek State Park to the end of the completed trail south of Second Avenue. We will be hiking on the new segment of the Trail which the Fox Valley Sierra Group worked on two summers ago. We will learn about the wild flowers blooming near and around Emmon's Creek and also learn about the glacial features one can see while hiking along the Ice Age Trail. This hike is rated easy to moderate. Please pack a lunch to eat on the trail. We will meet at 11:00 am at the Emmon's Creek Parking Lot. *Call Dale Schaber at (920) 739-6041 for maps and outing information.*

## May 1

Ice Age Trail work day. Joint workdays between the Fox Valley Sierra Group and Portage and Waupaca Chapters are scheduled for Hartman Creek State Park. Volunteers should meet at Hartman Creek State Park, west of Waupaca, at 9:30 am. Specific Trail work will be provided on site. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent to the work outings. If you have a lopper or a pruning saw, please bring it with you. *For information on which segments will be worked on for each specific date contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041.*

## May 2

Bike the Fox River Trail from DePere to Greenleaf and back. Lunch at the Greenleaf cafe. Meet 11:00 at Voyagers Park in DePere near the trail kiosk. Along the way we will have views of the Fox River and Niagara escarpment. **\$1 trip fee.** Free if you attended the April Fundraiser. *Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)*

## May 8

Service outing: Garlic Mustard Pull. See page 5 for details.

## May 15

Come and join us for a hike and a picnic on the Ice Age Trail in the Skunk Lake area north of Hartman Creek State Park. Learn about the land, the lakes, animals and plants found at this outstanding property near the Portage/Waupaca county line. Meet at 10:00. *To register for the hike and to receive additional details (map and meeting location) contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041.*

## May 22

Take a bird walk in a grassland to welcome the return of the Bobolink. The males return from South America around May 6 in full breeding colors. The females return a little later. The Bobolink and the Eastern Meadowlark, along with other grassland birds, are disappearing. Learn about the fate of these birds as we hike along the grasslands adjoining 60 acres now protected from development by a conservation easement with NEWLT. Bring snacks, water, hiking shoes, bug dope, field glasses, and your bird book. *Pat Timm 920-244-7823*



*Fine Dining*

*Kelly and Jan at the Baird Creek Parkway fundraising dinner.*

## May 29

Canoe the Tomorrow River in Waupaca County. A great attitude will help as this river brings the unexpected (like downed trees). You can expect to get wet feet. Meet around 9:00 am and bring a lunch, water and snacks. You will need a canoe or kayak, PFD, and paddles. I have a canoe trailer to help with the shuttle. *Pat Timm 920-244-7823*

## June 5

National Trails Day Hike! Hike the Ice Age Trail at the Northern Kettle Moraine State

Forest on National Trails Day. We will tour the Ice Age Trail Exhibit at the Henry S. Reuss Visitors Center, and hike Butler Lake Trail on the Parnell Esker before lunch at Mauthe Lake. Then we will climb Parnell Tower and hike to the bottom of the Greenbush Kettle. The day will end with dinner at the Forest Home Restaurant. This hike is rated moderate. Learn about the Wisconsin Ice Age and the plant and animal life that existed in Wisconsin 10,000-15,000 years ago. We will learn about kames, eskers, drumlins, kettles, erratics, and interlobate moraine. Bring a lunch, water, and insect repellent. Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring rain gear. *To register and to receive additional info (map and meeting location) contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041.*

## June 6

Wiouwash QUAD. This is a fundraiser for the Wiouwash Trail and some of your board members are participating in the competition. Form your own team of a runner, walker, biker, and horseback rider or just come out to cheer on FVSG's team and enjoy the festivities!

## June 12

Ice Age Trail Work Day. Joint workdays between the Fox Valley Sierra Group and Portage and Waupaca Chapters are scheduled for Hartman Creek State Park. Volunteers should meet at Hartman Creek State Park, west of Waupaca, at 9:30 am. Specific Trail work will be provided on site. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent to the work outings. If you have a lopper or a pruning saw, please bring it

with you. *For information on which segments will be worked on for each specific date, contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041.*

## June 26

Canoe Kangaroo Lake in northern Door County. We will put in around 3:00 pm, paddle up to the north end for an hour, and have plenty of time for some serious bird watching on the way back. We will have a biologist to explain the estuary ecology to us and to help us identify birds. Canoe rentals are available in the area. **Cost is \$5.00.** *Charlie Paine 739-1900 (more on back)*

(outings cont.)

### June 27

Bicycle northern Door County and Washington Island. Even in summer the back roads of Door County are lightly traveled. We'll load our bikes on the Washington Island ferry at Northport, travel across Death Door Strait, then bicycle around the Island before returning to Northport on the late ferry. There is not a lot of commercial stuff on the Island, so bring a lunch and we'll picnic on the beach. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900*

### June 29 (Tuesday)

The Appleton YMCA is sponsoring a bus trip to the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Located 25 miles north of downtown, the CBG is home to 385 acres that include English, Rose, Japanese, Waterfall, Bulk, Heritage, Perennial, and Dwarf gardens and tranquil lakes. Through a 45-minute narrated tram tour and a walking tour led by a docent, visitors will learn about indigenous prairie, native woodlands and gardening styles. **Cost: YMCA member \$56; Public \$60.** Trip includes transportation, admissions and lunch. Call 954-7609 to sign up.

### July 25

Bike from Bailey's Harbor to Toft Point and back. Learn why the Nature Conservancy has protected this unique landscape. Meet at 1:00 pm in the downtown park behind the Historical Museum. BYO Picnic on the beach. **\$1 trip fee.** Free if you attended the April Fundraiser. *Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)*

### September 18

Ice Age Trail Work Day. Joint workdays between FVSG and Portage and Waupaca Groups are scheduled for Hartman Creek State Park. Volunteers should meet at Hartman Creek State Park, west of Waupaca, at 9:30 am. Specific Trail work will be provided on site. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent to the work outings. *For information on which segments will be worked on for each specific date, contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041.*

*Times and meeting locations of Outings can change. Always check with a trip leader at least 24 hours before the outing. Upon arrival all participants must sign a Release of Liability form.*

## Don't Forget...

to cast your vote in the Sierra Club Board of Directors election. Ballots are due April 21. Please make an informed vote. Refer to *The Muir View* for information on how to find out more about the candidates.

## Keep Your Calendars Open

The annual FVSG picnic is July 8th at High Cliff State Park. More info will be in the next issue of the newsletter.



by Dale Schaber

### Celebrity Sightings at Baird Creek Dinner

L to R: Laura Scharner, Dr. Michael P. Dombeck (Pioneer Professor of Global Environmental Mgt., UW-Stevens Point), Kathy and Charlie Frisk (President of the Baird Creek Preservation Foundation).

## Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is May 30th!

Anyone can submit articles, photos, poems, trip reports, etc.

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