



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 05 Issue 2

AUCTION ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

April 14, 2005 • 7:00 pm • Bubolz Nature Preserve

- Smorgasbord of Treats
- Entertaining Auction
- Raffle
- Cake Walk
- Great Friends

Prepare for Fun!

See page 4 for details



MAY 12

Backpacking, Canoeing, and X-C Skiing Around Lake Superior

Paul Kuenn has hiked and X-C skied at Pictured Rocks Nat'l Lakeshore, canoed the Apostle Islands Nat'l Lakeshore and backpacked in Pukaskwa Nat'l Park in Ontario. His slide show is a circle tour of Lake Superior depicting his outdoor experiences during the past 25 years.

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

2005 IAT Workdays Are Set

by Dale Schaber

The Ice Age Trail Service workdays are scheduled for May 7, June 4, and September 17. We will be doing either maintenance work or new trail development on segments of the IAT in Portage or Waupaca County. Sign up for the workdays at the monthly Fox Valley Sierra Group meetings or contact Dale Schaber at 739-6041 or Mike Kirk at (715)258-2295.

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 located on the northeast corner of 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 a.m.

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.

(Continued on page 4)

Baird Creek Annual Banquet

When: Monday, April 11
Where: Holiday Inn City Centre
200 Main St., Green Bay
Social: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Program: 7:00 p.m.
Speaker: Roy Lukes
Cost: \$15.00 per Person

RSVP by April 8:
Alison Frazier
2516 Pickard Circle
Green Bay, WI 54301
(920)432-2726

Lukes to Speak at Baird Creek Banquet

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation is pleased to announce that Roy Lukes; naturalist, educator, writer, and conservationist, will be the keynote speaker at their Annual Banquet! After twenty years of teaching in Wisconsin schools, Lukes became resident naturalist and manager (1976-1990) at the Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor. In addition to writing weekly nature essays for *The Door County Advocate* and *The Green Bay Press Gazette*, Roy has authored five books and also writes an illustrated Nature Feature for each issue of *Door County Magazine* and contributes to the *Key to the Door* publication. *Tales of the Wild: A Year with Nature*, published in 2000, is the most recent of the five books Roy has written.

Roy Lukes was born and raised in Kewaunee and holds a MS degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is past president of the Inland Bird Banding Association, Botanical Club of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and the Ridges Sanctuary. He has received awards from the National Audubon Society and various ornithological and environmental groups for his outstanding achievements in conservation. In 2002, Lukes was presented an Honorary Doctor of Science from Lawrence University in Appleton. In 2003, he received the UW-Oshkosh Alumni Anniversary Award, which recognizes lifetime career and civic achievements.

From the Chair

Last month on Wisconsin Public Radio I listened to a program about the life and times of environmentalist Rachel Carlson. Her book *Silent Spring* sparked an environmental wake-up call in 1962, revealing the widespread abuse of pesticides. I was surprised to learn that in 1992 a panel declared *Silent Spring* to be the most influential book of the past 50 years. She has also been credited as one of the most influential Americans of the 20th century. Carlson almost single-handedly alerted Americans to the dark side of science in alliance with industrial society.

My wife is taking classes at UW Oshkosh. Her geography class told of many environmental problems in Russia and the former Soviet Union. In 1960 the Aral Sea in Kazakhstan was the world's fourth largest lake (at 26,250 square miles), providing a healthy livelihood for several hundred thousand people. Several decades of diverting water for cropland irrigation (growing rice and cotton in an arid environment) have created an environmental disaster that will last for centuries. Today 60% of the water is gone and the lake is expected to be completely dry by 2050. The mild salinity from the diverted irrigation waters ruined surrounding areas, leaving them laden with salt and infertile. Blowing salt dust is causing health problems and expanding the desert.

Presumably intelligent government and industry leaders often make decisions without considering environmental consequences. Jared Diamond's new book *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* tells about decisions made by ancient and contemporary societies regarding how to work with the environment. One can only wonder how well our country and communities will fare.

Current problems, like high gasoline prices, allow

government and industry to argue that oil drilling should be done in the Arctic National Wilderness Area, or anywhere for that matter. National and local decisions impact the outdoors, the environment, and ultimately our health, economy, and livelihood. The Sierra Club and other environmental advocates must keep reminding our policy makers to consider the environment.

In the March/April edition of *Sierra* magazine our Club's executive director, Carl Pope, makes a case that serious "values voters" are interested in the environment. We need to make our government officials aware of this fact.

Speaking of voting, the Club's annual Board of Directors election is going on. This election is controversial. The major issue seems to be our population policy, specifically immigration. Please educate yourself on this issue and cast your vote before April 25. The Club needs your ideas. The club website has more information. Ballots are mailed to all members in mid-March.

In recent years our annual budget has been around \$5000. Our largest expense is our newsletter, our most effective communication tool. While we receive some income from our Chapter, many members are surprised to learn that only a tiny fraction of their Club dues filter back to the Group. Most of our money, to support our newsletter, rent our meeting facility, and support our activities comes from our Annual Auction Fundraiser. Last year we were fortunate to raise \$1600 through the generosity of donations and purchases. I hope you and a friend can attend our April Auction.

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

- Alan Lawrence, FVSG Chair
alan.lawrence@wisconsin.sierraclub.org

See You in September? from www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org

Largest Gathering Ever: Sierra Club Convention to Welcome Thousands to San Francisco, Build Vision for Future

Sierra Summit 2005 was born at a Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting two years ago. Harvard sociologist and former United Farm Worker organizer Marshall Ganz gave a talk about successful social movements of the past century, and noted that they all held conventions where local leaders celebrated, told their stories, and returned home inspired and energized. Bob Perkowitz, a trustee of The Sierra Club Foundation, asked why the Sierra Club couldn't host a convention, then he offered to donate seed money to get the ball rolling. Former board member Nick Aumen offered a resolution accepting that challenge and charging a task force to pursue it.

Gallons of blood, sweat, and tears later, and voilá, Sierra Summit 2005, the Sierra Club's first-ever large-scale convention, to be held September 8-11 in San Francisco's Moscone Center.

The summit will feature speakers and entertainment – comedian Bill Maher will headline Saturday night and pundit Arianna Huffington will speak Sunday at lunch, an exposition featuring more than 150 green and outdoor businesses as well as a cooking stage, a climbing

wall, and an on-site eco-house. And at the center of all this activity will be an unprecedented gathering of delegates from chapters, groups, committees, and task forces, who will work together to plot the direction of the Club for the coming years.

"This will be the most inclusive direction-setting process we've ever had," says board member Greg Casini, co-chair of the Summit Steering Committee.

For years, the Sierra Club has hosted an annual meeting that includes the board of directors and the Sierra Club Council, where each chapter is represented by a Council delegate. But at most, several hundred members have gathered at one time. The Sierra Summit will bring 3,000 members together, 1,000 of whom will be Summit delegates.

There is broad debate in the environmental community now that so much is at risk," says Summit Co-Chair Lisa Renstrom. "With the summit, we have an extraordinary opportunity to give voice to our members, and draw upon their experience, passion, and wisdom to set our future."

Other speakers at the summit include Poet Laureate Robert Hass,



documentary filmmaker Ric Burns, "green" architect Bill McDonough, Mississippi River cleanup champion Chad Pregracke. There will also be dozens of panels, such as "Women Who Rock," "Working to Build Progressive Media," and "The Impossible Will Take a Little While." Other workshops will focus on international tourism, technology and activism, leadership development, campus organization, and more. The Sierra Club Showcase will give participants a chance to share their activism success stories. The expo will include green lifestyle/organic food exhibits, outdoor equipment retailers, hybrid vehicles – there's even going to be a "green" dollhouse, with miniature (and functioning solar panels).

Before, during, and after the Summit, volunteers from the Loma Prieta, Mother Lode, and San Francisco Bay chapters will lead outings and explorations to local parks, trail restoration service trips in Golden Gate National Recreation Area (part of the Dr. Edgar Wayburn Legacy Project), and even, promises David Simon, longtime leader who is coordinating the outings, a trip to the San Francisco Giants game on Friday night. (All outings will be accessible via public transportation.)

Sierra Summit At-A-Glance

When September 8-11, 2005

Where Moscone Center, San Francisco

Speakers/Entertainers Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Ariana Huffington, Bill Maher, Robert Hass, George Lakoff, Bill McDonough, Ric Burns

Workshops/Panels Arts and the Environment (photography, poetry, painting, music, salvage art, and more) • Living Well (spirituality/religion, sustainable cooking, bikes and transit, and more) • Natural Heritage (birds and wind power, forest protection, urban nature, and more) • Outdoor Adventure (ecotourism, backpacking with family, non-traditional allies, and more) • Visionary Solutions (reshaping the forces of globalization, leaving fossil fuels behind, restoration, and more) • Working Smart (framing the public debate, technology and organizing, nurturing new leaders, and more)

Exposition 150 green and outdoor businesses, a cooking stage, a climbing wall, an on-site eco-house, "green" dollhouse, hybrid cars, and more...

Outings Day hikes in Golden Gate Park, trail restoration service trips, San Francisco Giants baseball games. (all accessible by public transit)

Direction-Setting Process Gathering of 1,000 delegates, representing chapters, groups, committees, and other entities to set the direction of the Club for the coming years.

Delegate Breakdown 1,000 delegates to be appointed or elected - 1 delegate from each group (totalling 300) • 4 delegates from each chapter (1 Council of Club leaders delegate, 1 senior volunteer, 1 activist under 30, 1 outing leader, totalling 272) • 163 "at-large" delegates from chapters, based on number of members • 285 delegates from national committees, board s, govcom, other entities. (For more on the delegate selection process, go to clubhouse.sierraclub.org.)

Sierra Club Showcase All entities invited to showcase their work, share their success stories in poster sessions.

Cost (if you register by May 31): Members: \$260, leaders: \$200, delegates \$100

To Register and Find Out More sierrasummit2005.org

(Continued on next page)

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The Summit delegate-selection process, which is still being refined, is designed to reflect the broadest possible participation while honoring the Club's leadership structure. Here's how the delegates break down:

Each group will send one Summit delegate, and each chapter will send four – its Council of Club leaders delegate, a senior leader, someone under 30, and someone from outings. Another 163 at-large delegates will be selected, based on chapter membership size – one at-large delegate per 5,000 members. In addition, there will about 285 national delegates, including the board of directors, conservation

some chapters. In the Rocky Mountain Chapter, for example, chapter leaders held a pre-summit discussion recently where they came to a consensus that the top priority for the Club was to develop more effective messages and framing about values.

Between now and the summit, says Casini, the Club will be surveying activists about the goals we should set, the roles we should play, the strengths we should nurture, and how we can best build involvement and support for our work in local communities. (You can find out more about the Summit delegate process at: clubhouse.sierraclub.org/sierrasummit/delegates.)

Remember...

to submit your nomination for FVSG's Environmental Award before the deadline of April 30. Think of someone who has done good for the environment, write up a description of what they did, and send it to Charlie Paine. Requirements for nominations are in the previous issue of *It's Our Nature*.

To register, go to sierrasummit2005.org and either complete the form online or mail or fax it in. You can also e-mail: scs051.attendee@expoexchange.com or call (301) 694-5243. If you sign up by May 31, you save \$75 off the regular Sierra Club member rate.

govcom members, and other national leaders.

The direction-setting process will start far in advance of the summit, says Casini, and in fact has started already in

(The registration fee varies depending on whether you are a member, leader, or delegate, as well as whether you attend the whole summit or part of it.)

Get a Sierra Club Email Address

Wisconsin Sierra Club members can now have email addresses in our chapter domain name. For instance, mail sent to: first.lastname@wisconsin.sierraclub.org will be auto forwarded to a personal account of that person's choice. This means that if you have a Yahoo, AOL, etc. account all mail sent to your Sierra Club address will automatically go into your Yahoo/AOL inbox. In addition, personal addresses of club members are protected from spammer harvesting. We wish to present one Sierra Club face to the world. To get your email address or for more info, contact Kelly Krupka: postmaster@wisconsin.sierraclub.org

IAT Workdays (cont.)

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 home. Hope to see you on the Trail! *Contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041 for more information.*

- **Smorgasbord of Treats:** \$3 admission lets you indulge on an array of goodies. We will start eating promptly at 7:00 so please arrive earlier. **Bring a dish to pass and your own table settings. BYOB.**
- **Entertaining Auction:** Back by popular demand, the Remarkable Randy will conduct the bidding on unique and priceless items and services. Items will also be up for bid on silent auctions.
- **Raffle:** Purchase tickets for your chance to win an Adirondack chair.
- **Cake Walk:** In this old-fashion game, walk your way to winning delicious deserts such as cakes, muffins, bars, brownies, and breads. **Please consider bringing a baked good on April 14 to be included in the Cake Walk.**
- **Auction Donations Needed:** In order to make this fundraiser a success we need people to bring an appetizer to pass and an item or service to auction. Previous "hot sellers" include: art photos, computer work, bike ride & picnic, craft projects, professional massage, yard work, food specialties, sporting goods (new), antiques, dinner for two, rock climbing lessons, ect. Please consider bringing a gift basket for our silent auction.

Please pre-register items or services for auction by phone (920)468-7252 or by mail: Maureen Birk, 3381 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. Include your name, phone#, item/service to auction, any limitations, and estimated value. Bring items at the time of the auction, or call Maureen at (920)468-7252. Last-minute items accepted at the door, but please come 15 minutes early.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Trekkin' with Dale



In Wisconsin the month of April brings warmer weather and with it the spring renewal of the earth in the Northern Hemisphere. I can't help but think of the following important events that occur in Wisconsin during the months of April, May and June.

This year is the 21st annual Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The induction ceremony will occur on Saturday, April 9, 2005 at the Sentry Insurance Theater in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

"The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation was established to encourage the growth and practice of a conservation ethic as a legacy for the people of the state. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization composed of 24 Wisconsin conservation related organizations". The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club is a member of the Foundation. "The inductees to the Hall of Fame have helped to define and extend the conservation ethic by their valuable contributions to conservation throughout their professional and private lives. The Hall of Fame commemorates individuals who have contributed significantly to conservation programs, projects and public understanding in the state of Wisconsin and the United States." This year three individuals will be inducted into the Hall of Fame: Harold J. "Bud" Jordahl, Walter Kuhlman and Cedric A. Vig. For information about the program on April 9, 2005 and to make luncheon reservations, call 715-346-4992.

If you are unable to attend this event, you may visit the Conservation Hall of Fame in the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The Hall of Fame is located on North Point Drive (across from the Sentry Insurance's golf course). The visitor center is open 8-5 seven days a week. The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame website contains additional information about the Hall of Fame, a list of inductees beginning in 1985, a map and a virtual tour of the Visitor Center: <http://www.wchf.org/>.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings and the Annual Conservation Congress County Meeting that occurs upon the completion of Department rules hearings happen in April. The hearings/meetings for each Wisconsin county will occur at 7:00 PM, Monday, April 11, 2005. The Conservation Congress allows Wisconsin citizens to have input into Wisconsin conservation issues. Checkout their website for information on the location of the 2005 Spring Rules Hearings and the Annual Conservation Congress in your county: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/au/index.htm>.

April 21st is John Muir's birthday. Learn about the contributions of John Muir as a naturalist, writer, conservationist and founder of the Sierra Club at the John

Muir Exhibit http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/ found on the Sierra Club's website.

Earth Day is celebrated this year on April 22, 2005. Access <http://earthday.envirolink.org/> to learn about Earth Day events happening throughout the United States. Learn about Wisconsin's Senator Gaylord Nelson and how he started Earth Day on April 22, 1970.

On May 28, 1892 the Sierra Club was founded. Learn about important events in Sierra Club history at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/history/>.

Saturday, June 4, 2005 is National Trails Day. Join other trail enthusiasts by celebrating trails with the American Hiking Society. Check out their website at <http://www.americanhiking.org/events/ntd/index.html>. You may also join other Fox Valley Sierra Group members on the Ice Age Trail at Hartman Creek State Park. See the Ice Age Trail article in this issue of It's Our Nature.

Springtime is cleaning time at many Wisconsin homes. Contact your local county government for information about its household hazardous waste program or its Clean Sweep Program. Household hazardous waste is material that is too dangerous to place with the regular trash. Most counties have a Clean Sweep Program to dispose of household hazardous waste. For information about Household Hazardous Waste in Outagamie County access www.co.outagamie.wi.us. Click on "Departments" then on the "Recycling/Hazardous" link.

Earth Day '05

*Celebrate by giving someone
a Sierra Club Membership in
commemoration of Earth Day*



Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club
Member's Weekender Bag

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp Date: ____/____/____

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Card Number _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968,
Boulder, CO
80322-2968

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	
INDIVIDUAL JOIN	
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

What's happening at:

Bubolz Appleton

Saturday, April 16

Stepping Stone Workshop. 9:00-10:30 a.m. Decorate your walkway or garden with this one of a kind stepping stone. We will use natural materials to create a unique stone to brighten your garden or walkway. Cost: \$15 (\$10 Bubolz members). Please Register by April 1st. (Bring a box to transport your stone home).

Monday, May 4, 11 & 18

Morning Bird & Wildflower Hike.

8:30-10:30 a.m. Join us for a leisurely stroll through the prairie, meadow and white cedar swamp of the Nature Preserve looking for migrating bird species and spring ephemerals. Bring a pair of binoculars & good hiking shoes. Cost: \$2 (Free to Bubolz members).

Fallen Timbers Seymour

Saturday, April 16

Annual Spring Migrations and Spawnsings.

9-11:00 a.m. Meet in the Bruce Nagel Environmental Education Facility. Journey to a nearby mitigated wetland to view a variety of migrating waterfowl and raptor species. Next view spawning lake sturgeon (conditions permitting) at Bamboo Bend on the Wolf River. A DNR Game Warden will provide an onsite tour. Cost: \$5/adult. \$3/child. \$12/family. Call to register. (920) 984-3700

Heckrodt Menasha

Saturday, May 21

Buds and Beaks. Join Heckrodt Wetland Reserve (HWR) and Brillion Nature Center (BNC) for a celebration of wildflowers and migratory birds. Meet at HWR north parking lot at 9 AM to board a bus for BNC. At BNC enjoy a wildflower and bird hike. In the Nature Center enjoy hands-on activities with Kaytee Avian Education Stations Beginning Bird Watching and Habitats and Appetites. Bird Song I.D. will also be featured.

Board the bus at BNC at 11:30 for the return trip. At HWR, we'll enjoy our lunch while viewing the documentary Flight of the Cranes. Afterward participate in a flower and bird hike, enjoy hands-on education stations in the Nature Center, and meet live birds of prey. The bus makes a return trip to BNC at 3:00 PM. Cost: \$5/person (children under 2 are free). If not participating in the bus tour, fee is \$2/person. Bring a sack lunch. Registration required. Call HWR at 720-9349 to register.

Mosquito Hill New London

Saturday, April 9

Rustic Garden Bench. 9:00-11:30 a.m. Use cedar logs, planking and grape vine to build and decorate your own rustic looking bench. Cost: \$25/person. \$20/student, senior & FOMH. Call to register. (920)779-6433

Friday, April 15

Star Astronomy Program. 8:00 p.m. An indoor program on an astronomical topic will be followed by an evening of outdoor stargazing through telescopes, binoculars and the nature center's Douglas Observatory. Dress for the weather. Bring your binoculars or telescope if you wish and enjoy the beautiful spring skies. Cost: \$3/adult. \$2/student, senior, & FOMH. \$7/family. Call to register. (920)779-6433.

Saturday, April 16

Basketry for Beginners. 8:00 a.m. - Noon. Create your own cracker basket, napkin basket or both. Cost: \$25/person. \$20/student, senior & FOMH. Call to register. (920)779-6433

Saturday, April 23

Aldo Leopold Bench Building Workshop.

9:00 a.m. - noon. Build your own 4' bench made famous by Wisconsin's first conservationist. Cost: \$45/person. \$40/student, senior & FOMH. Call to register. (920)779-6433

Saturday, April 30

Intro to Aromatherapy. 10:00 a.m. - noon. Learn the history of aromatherapy and how oils derived from individual plants have been used over time. Make your own sea salt or turbinado sugar bath scrub with a personal blend of essential oils. Cost: \$13.50/person plus a \$5 materials fee. Call to register before April 24. (920)779-6433

Ridges Sanctuary Baileys Harbor

Saturday, April 23

Spring Birdhouse Sale. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Baileys Harbor Town Hall. Celebrate Earth Day by visiting our "kick-off" sale of bird and bat houses, field guides, and other products to help you create a wildlife sanctuary in your own backyard.

Saturday, May 7

May Bird Hike. 6:00 a.m. Meet at the Ridges Nature Center and plan to carpool to avian hotspots around Baileys Harbor. Cost: Donations accepted (Free to Ridges members).

Saturday, May 7

Spring Wildflower Hike. 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Early woodland wildflowers will be the focus of this guided hike through the Ridges' Logan Creek Property on Clark Lake. Meet at Mr. G's Supper Club, south of Jacksonport on Hwy 57. Please call (920)839-2802 to preregister for either the morning or afternoon hike. Cost: \$5/person. \$10/family.

Thursday-Saturday, May 26-28

Door County Festival of Nature: Exploring Birds, Wildflowers and Conservation. This Festival is a cooperative event that celebrates and promotes the protection of the Door Peninsula's natural landscape and all its components. Keynote address by Roy Lukes, two days of field trips to natural areas throughout the county, birding trips, an all-day trip to Rock Island State Park, and much more! Pre-registration for all events is required. For more info, call (920)839-2802 or e-mail festival@ridgesanctuary.org.

Heaven Sent?

Nancy Brown-Koeller skis Razorback



1,000 Islands Kaukauna

Sunday, May 15

Nature's Images Spring Art Fair.

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Over 50 fine artists & craftsmen show nature related paintings, photography, natural crafts, botanicals & garden arts along the river. Music, food, picnic area, wildflower hikes.

Woodland Dunes Two Rivers

Saturday, April 2

Maple Syrup, Simplified. 10:00 am - Noon. Boil sap and learn about syrup making basics. Enjoy ice cream served with maple syrup topping. Cost: \$2 (\$1 for Woodland Dunes members)

Thursday, April 21

Annual Meeting and Spring Peeper Party. Hike into our marsh to learn frog songs and biology, & enjoy a campfire. An indoor program will be held in case of inclement weather. Cost: Free.

Tuesday Evenings, April 26-May 10

Bird Identification Class. 7-9:00 p.m. This is a comprehensive introduction to birdwatching. Two morning field trips will also be included on May 14 and 28 from 6-8:00 a.m. Cost: \$30 (\$25 for Woodland Dunes members).

Thursday, May 6

Space Day. 7-8:30 pm. Explore a wide variety of exhibits and presentations about astronomy. We will have telescopes for astronomical viewing if weather permits. Cost: Donations accepted.

Saturday, May 14

Bird Breakfast & International Migratory Bird Day. We will have guided bird hikes, bird banding demonstrations, indoor exhibits, and a tasty pancake and ham breakfast. Cost for breakfast: \$4.50 adults. \$3.50 children.



SPRING/SUMMER OUTINGS



April 24

Hike the Ice Age Trail at Hartman Creek State Park located west of Waupaca. We will be hiking on the segment of the trail that the Fox Valley Sierra Group built three summers ago. Learn about the wildflowers blooming along the trail and the glacial features we observe while hiking. This hike is rated easy to moderate. Bring a lunch and water. We will meet at 11:00 AM at the Emmon's Creek Ice Age Trail Area parking lot on Stratton Lake Road. Contact Dale Schaber at 739-6041 for maps and outing information.

May 7

Ice Age Trail Workday. Joint workdays between the Fox Valley Sierra Group and local Ice Age Trail Chapters. Meet at Hartman Creek State Park west of Waupaca at 9:30 AM. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent. If you have a lopper or a pruning saw, please bring it with you. Dale Schaber 739-6041

May 7-8

Canoe Camp on the Pine River. Grade I-II. Join us for the 30th annual Pine River weekend! Hwy 55 to Chipmunk Rapids in Forest and Florence Counties. Terrific opportunity to camp and paddle one of Wisconsin's designated wild rivers. There will be time to reflect and discuss the challenges and changes facing this river. Larry Zibell (920) 499-6417



by Dale Schaber

*"Ok, now how do I change its diaper?"
Maureen gently cares for a frog at
our February meeting.*

May 14

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 the spring while they are on their nests and before the trees leaf out. We will also hike the preserve trails so wear adequate footwear. Charlie Paine 739-1900

June 4

Ice Age Trail Workday. Joint workdays between the Fox Valley Sierra Group and local Ice Age Trail Chapters. Meet at Hartman Creek State Park west of Waupaca at 9:30 AM. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent. If you have a lopper or a pruning saw, please bring it with you. Dale Schaber 739-6041

June 4-5

Wolf River Annual Tandem Whitewater Clinic. Grade II. Car Camp. For those wanting to add whitewater to their canoeing skills. Tandem paddling experience on rivers (moving water) is a prerequisite for this clinic. Classroom, shore session and practice on the water. Fee: \$20 plus camping charges for the weekend. (No refunds of clinic fees).

Leader: Phil Johnsrud (715) 445-4777.
Co-Leader & Registrar: Mary Blandino (414)546-0375, madino@execpc.com, 2416 S. 80 th St, West Allis, WI, 53219

June 11

Bicycle from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay campus to Wequioc Falls just a few miles north of Green Bay. Wequioc is a pretty and under-appreciated falls and can be rather spectacular when the flow is heavy early in the year. In the glen below the falls we will look for early season flowers and learn a little of the geologic forces that formed the layers of dolomite exposed by the relentless erosion of the river. Charlie Paine 739-1900

June 11-12

Wolf River Annual Solo Whitewater Canoe Clinic. Grade II. Car Camp. For reasonably experienced tandem whitewater paddlers or novice solo paddlers who want to begin whitewater. This is for open canoes, not kayaks. Paddlers must provide their own properly equipped canoes. Space is limited.. Fee: \$30 plus camping charges for the weekend. (No refunds of clinic fees). Rich Krieg (920) 497-8004

June 18

Annual Quiet Water Canoe Clinic. Day Trip. 9 am - 3 pm. This clinic is designed to prepare paddlers for safer and more enjoyable quiet water paddling. Clinic topics: basic paddling strokes, practice of strokes, paddling games, canoe rescue, and more. Fee: \$25. Minimum age 14 years. Need to provide own equipment. Held at Lake Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center in Madison. Preregistration by June 1 required. Space is limited. Meg Nelson prairiesmoke@juno.com



by Dale Schaber

Potential dining fare?

Emily Korb checks out a bullfrog at the February frog program given by her father, Randy.

July 16

Canoe the Peshtigo River Trail from the city of Peshtigo to the mouth of the river on the shore of Green Bay. This river route passes through areas rich in historic significance and through the Bloch Oxbow State Natural Area. We will pass a rock weir built by Menominee Indians to catch fish, former farm fields overgrown by red oak, white oak, aspen, and various pines, and the ruins of the Peshtigo Harbor Mill, one of the largest on Lake Michigan in its day. We will look for two man-made Osprey nesting platforms installed in the marsh in the early 1990's. If we are lucky we will see some of the many bird and mammal species that live in the marsh. This will be an approximately four hour canoe trip, depending, of course, on current, wind, and the energy of the paddlers. Charlie Paine 739-1900

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.

Garlic Mustard PULL

Please join us in the 3rd Annual Fox Valley Sierra Group Garlic Mustard Pull on Saturday, May 21 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 21 from 9:00 am to noon.

WHERE We will have two 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 youth (grade 5 and up) are invited to join us.

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. This is our 3rd year in a row picking at KHS, and our 2nd at High Cliff. In order to fully eradicate garlic mustard from an area, we need to pull that area five years in a row, as that's how long the seeds can remain viable underground. We're halfway there!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP

Please contact Lori Hein at lhein@new.rr.com 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!



Solace in the City

by Kelly Krupka

Riley (my dog) and I went out for a walk at 6:30 this morning. Had I known it was going to be so cold I might have stayed in bed. We ventured around the Neenah point where the historic lighthouse stands. The views were breathtaking.

An eerie fog was drifting across the frozen lake as a blaze-orange sun crept over the far shoreline. As the sun rose higher, the fog turned from dreary gray to a soft, glowing orange. New frost glistened on the brittle tree branches. The marina breathed steam across her cooling waters as a pair of loons dove for a morning snack. The neighboring houses and factories no longer existed. They were lost behind mother nature's winter curtain. I could have stood at the edge of the water for hours but the cold was creeping into my bones. Riley's coat was covered in frost and icicles poked out from her chin. Wearing smiles, we headed for home.

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is May 8!

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

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