



It's Our Nature

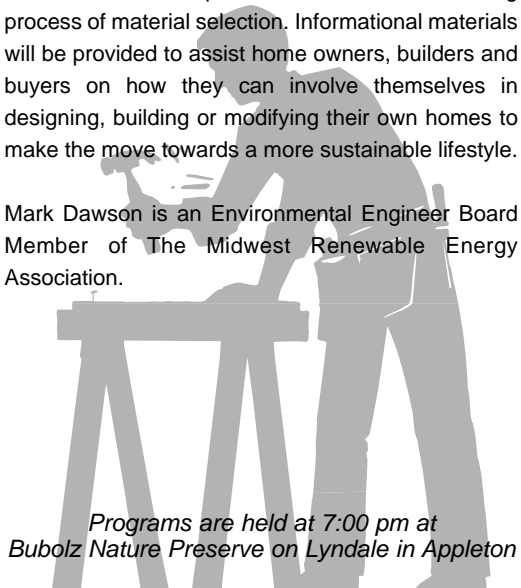
Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 05 Issue 1

MARCH 10TH

Sustainability and Living: How and Why We Did It

Mark Dawson will present his decisions and rationale behind constructing a wind and solar powered house designed and built using alternative construction materials and techniques. He will show photographs of his renewable energy systems. Mark will discuss construction techniques and the decision-making process of material selection. Informational materials will be provided to assist home owners, builders and buyers on how they can involve themselves in designing, building or modifying their own homes to make the move towards a more sustainable lifestyle.

Mark Dawson is an Environmental Engineer Board Member of The Midwest Renewable Energy Association.



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

Trestle Trail Back On Schedule

by Nancy Brown-Koeller

After nearly being de-railed by a shortfall of funds, the Trestle Trail connecting the City of Menasha with the Town of Menasha is back on schedule. The project will convert a former railroad trestle across Little Lake Butte des Morts into a recreational trail for bikers, walkers and fisherpeople. The trail could attract biking tourism and make commuting a little more bike-friendly. Area companies and individuals saw the many benefits to the community and dug deep into their pockets to save the trail. Note that if every resident of an community the size of the Fox Cities (approx. 100,000) replaced a nine-mile car trip with a bike trip just once a month, it would cut carbon dioxide emissions by 3,764 tons per year.

The Trestle Trail will be part of Wisconsin's Friendship Trail which will start in Manitowoc and continue to Stevens Point. Enough commitments have been received to fund construction but other items such as garbage and recycling containers and benches are still looking for funding. You can contribute by sending a check to the Fox Cities Greenways, P.O. Box 5, Menasha, WI, 54952. Checks should be payable to FCG with a note that it's for the Trestle Trail Fund.

New Web Address...

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley

Environmental School to Open in Appleton

by Dale Schaber

We are pleased to announce the opening of the Fox River Academy in the fall of 2005. A tuition-free charter school in the Appleton Area School District, the Fox River Academy is a public elementary environmental education charter school with a focus on the Fox River Watershed.

Fox River Academy will foster in its students the passion and curiosity necessary for lifelong learning and will, through an integrated, multi-age curriculum, increase students' proficiencies in the use of strategic learning processes and higher order thinking skills needed to be stewards of the environmental and community. The school is designed for approximately 75 students in grades three through eight. Initially, for the

2005-2006 school year, the students will work in two multi-age classes divided into grades three/four and five/six. The following school year, a grades seven/eight classroom will be added.

While attending the Fox River Academy, students will be required to participate in a variety of community service projects related to the environment. We welcome support from the Fox Valley Sierra Group as we plan our curriculum. Perhaps you have members who would be willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Perhaps your organization can loan or help us to purchase materials that will enhance our program. Additional

information about the Fox River Academy can be found at: www.aasd.k12.wi.us/foxriveracademy Please contact Julie Spalding or Sandy Vander Velden 832-6301 with any questions or suggestions. You may wish to attend an informational session on Saturday, March 5, 2005, 10:00 AM, at Gander Mountain, Appleton.

It is our hope to establish lasting community partnerships. Thank you for your support of this exciting educational opportunity.

If you have questions about the Fox River Academy, you may contact Dale Schaber (920) 739-6041, Fox River Academy Board Member, or Julie Spalding and Sandy Vander Velden (920) 832-6301, co-founders of the Fox River Academy.

From the Chair

Kelly Krupka and I recently had the opportunity to attend a workshop at Sierra Club headquarters in San Francisco for newsletter editors and webmasters. The workshop was organized well before our recent presidential election with the understanding that the Sierra Club has a lot of work regardless of who won the election. Through our newsletters and websites the Sierra Club message is shared to members and non-members. The workshop goal was to help give participants the tools and the message to become effective front-line communicators and publish compelling newsletters and websites. I'm sure Kelly and I will make use of this training and the new contacts we made.

An announcement was made at the workshop for the Sierra Summit 2005 scheduled for this September 8-11 in San Francisco. You may have recently received a postcard announcement. Please do not dismiss the invitation for all members to attend this gathering. We'll be talking more about this in the coming months.

We have given more thought to the name of our group website. Although most of the content for our web pages reside on the Club server we have been using FVSG.ORG as our official site name. We once felt that it was important to have a short name that was easy to remember. However, many folks have difficulty with the acronym for our group, Fox Valley Sierra Group. We are adopting Club policy encouraging groups to use the Club server for their websites. There are many benefits to this decision including better branding of our group as part of the Sierra Club. Accordingly, please begin using our new address when visiting our site: www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley

I have received letters from several members who were disappointed with some of the election endorsements

made by Sierra Club. Important issues are cited by these folks. The Club makes its endorsements on the basis of environmental, conservation and outdoors issues that are important to our members. The Club realizes that we need to help everyone understand that our values are values that are important to most people. We will be seeing more of this message in the future.

The story that the environment is the "mother of all issues" is being told by many organizations, authors, and reporters. In a recent week, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond was a guest on two Wisconsin Public Radio talk shows. His latest book, "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" explains the evidence why ancient and modern societies have collapsed. Regard for the environment appears to be an important factor in whether societies succeed or fail.

Recently my father discovered an unmailed letter that I had written forty years ago as a 10 year old. With five cents postage I had written to the editors of The Washington Post urging them to add a section on wildlife or conservation. While it is fun to have that letter now, I wonder what effect this letter might have had if it had been mailed. My fifth grade teacher was very interested in conservation. She organized a Conservation Club, for which I briefly served as president, and she encouraged her students to request literature from government agencies and to write essays and letters promoting conservation. Forty years later her influence is still felt. Efforts that each of us make today also have the chance to be long-lasting. Be aware of opportunities to make a difference.

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

- Alan Lawrence, FVSG Chair
alawrenc@execpc.com

We Must Win The Battle To Save Our Environment by Zalman P. Saperstein

Alan Lawrence the Fox Valley Area Chairperson of the Sierra Club voiced his concern about the recent election outcome and the relatively low status given to environmental issues by both major parties. Most Republicans believe that it is too costly to improve the air we breathe and the water we drink and that global warming is a fairy tale based upon junk science. Most Democrats seem to be concerned but generally are unwilling to put environmental issues on the front burner. The Sierra Club and many other organizations continue to be strong advocates for environmental protection but this advocacy has failed to reach the average voter or citizen with an individually meaningful message. The terms "clean water" and "clean air" are just too vague and nebulous to excite the population. We must start a campaign that hits home so that the American people feel the impact of the Bush Administration's attack on our environment and consequent damage to our health and the disease and deaths of unborn future generations.

Such a campaign must engage the average American so that they feel the threat to their individual and families health and future life quality. So what if mercury compounds fall from the skies from coal burning plant smoke stacks? Tell the people that mercury is a killer and that as it enters your body and your child's body they are being poisoned. Would any sensible person voluntarily

eat mercury compounds let alone knowingly breathe mercury polluted air? The Bush Administration seems to believe that it is O.K. since they continually delay the implementation of regulation that would reduce mercury effluent from coal burning plants by at least 90%. They claim that it would be too costly to attain the 90% reduction. Too costly for whom? The children who are permanently impaired by damage to their brain and central nervous system by mercury poisoning? The people who unknowingly eat mercury contaminated fish that slowly poisons their bodies? The Bush Administration seems to be more interested in the operators of the coal burning power plants and their immediate profits than the people who are being poisoned. Spending corporate money to reduce mercury poisoning does not make economic sense to the Bush Administration. Simply put, they say that it is better to be poisoned.

Now, of course, the very wealthy supporters of the Bush policies live in homes that are equipped with the latest technology to purge air pollutants from the air. They can afford the best water filtration

equipment that money can buy and maintain. They send their children to private schools where the environment is tailored to provide a healthy surrounding and certainly they are not living near power plants that spew the

Thank you...

Members of the Fox Valley Sierra Group donated more than \$400 to Bubolz Nature Preserve during this past Holiday season.

...from Bubolz!

toxins into our air and water. Most are driven in ultra expensive cars that are equipped with air filtration systems that clean the air before they breathe it. But those of you who, like most, are not economically privileged to be protected from environmental pollution seem to sit back and just take it. Most of us do not seem to care or become defeatist. It is well past the time to start caring and to act. The list of diseases caused by environmental pollution keeps growing as the Bush Administration tells us that it is not a problem or that it is too costly to fix. Well President Bush, how about eating mercury contaminated fish from the Great Lakes or swimming in polluted waters in the Bay of Green Bay? Our leadership seems to be indifferent to the global pollution problem and has (*continued on page 4*)

Buckthorn After 5 Years

by Sharon Duerkop

Another 15-20 more acres of the Bubolz Nature Preserve was cleared of the European buckthorn shrub/tree due in part to some members who "walked the talk". Volunteers spent 4 weekends last fall applying herbicide and/or cutting the invasive plant. The word about this project got out a bit further in the community thanks to a very informative article written by Dave Horst for the Post-Crescent. Dave also bent his back to our eradication task. As a result, I hope many more of the public take a closer look around their own backyards and have scalping plans in mind. Others will be a bit more informed the next time the multi-billion dollar national effort to combat these plants out of place is mentioned.

Check out the Preserve this summer to see the changes going on. In fall 2005 we'll begin year 6 of making a difference in a natural treasure right in our own backyard. Come and join us.

Many Thanks to...

The following *Buckthorn Busters* for their contribution to habitat restoration with the Bubolz staff and volunteers: Bob Feavel, Dave and Ryan Gerlach, Diana and Alan Lawrence, Penny Bernard Schaber & Jeff Ulman from FVSG and David Bayer, Mike Brandel, Alan Cable, Norm Neilssen, Jennifer, Lynn Peters & Dave Wege from Bubolz. Thank you, everyone!

(continued from page 3) attempted to down play the dangers. The Bush Administration refuses to sign on to the Kyoto Treaty that would reduce emissions that have been proven to contribute to global warming. Yet most countries of the world have signed or are about to sign including China and Russia. The U.S. pollutes more per capita but does not seem to be responsible enough to want to do anything about it.

According to the Collaborative on Health and the Environment a significant number of miscarriages, birth deaths, birth defects, and chronic infant diseases are caused by environmental pollution. Mercury compound have long been known to cause serious neurological damage leading to brain damage and loss of motor skills. The pollution cocktails in our air and water are known to be the cause of various types of cancers in animals and humans. Asthma and other breathing disorders are primarily caused by air pollution. The list goes on and on. When will our government take the side of our people and promote environmental well being instead of taking actions to block it? When will we, all of us, demand action instead of standing back and allowing our Government and the corporate interests that they seem to represent tell us what is good for us and generations yet to be born?

Common sense tells all of us that impurities in our air and water are suspect and should be avoided, yet we seem to buy the bull that our own government feeds us that it is OK. A little mercury is OK. A little PCBs are OK. Would you agree that a little brain damage is OK? Or how about a little cancer? Or maybe my baby's heart defect? Is that OK? I am sure that your answer would be NO. When we accept our Government's casual attitude toward our environment we are in effect allowing these to become the norm. The time is *now* to DEMAND CLEAN AIR AND WATER! Let your political representatives and our White House know they must become responsible advocates for a clean environment for our country and planet that we all share. We must win the battle to save our environment!

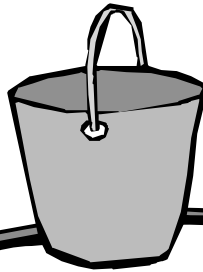
24th Annual Maple Syrup Saturday

Bubolz Nature Preserve
March 19th • 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tour the sugar bush.
See how sap is made into syrup.
Taste this delicious treat on ice cream!

\$10 family, \$3 adult, \$2 seniors and students.
Members are FREE for this event!

**Come to Bubolz on March 5
to Adopt-A-Bucket!**



We Need Your Help!

Each year the Fox Valley Sierra Group solicits its members for nominations for our Environmental Award. We need input from you, the members, to identify deserving award recipients. We ask that each member think of someone deserving of this award and submit a nominating essay. The nominee's contribution to environmental improvement need not be earth-shaking. 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 a nonprofit 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 may appoint a committee of three or more to review the nominations and select those to be published in '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 nominees. 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.

Nominations must be received by April 30, 2005. Those selected by the reviewing committee will be published in the June newsletter along with a ballot for members to use to vote for the nominee of their choice.

Trekkin' with Dale



While hiking, skiing or snowshoeing this winter I can't help but think of Wilson Bentley as I catch snowflakes on my jacket's sleeves. I marvel at the intricate beauty and wonderful design of each snowflake I happen to catch.

February 9th is the 140th birthday of Wilson Bentley. Bentley was born in 1865 on a farm in Jericho, Vermont. Jericho is located in the snow belt region of Vermont where the annual snowfall averages 120 inches per year.

As a young child Wilson enjoyed watching snowflakes and studying them with an old microscope his mother had given him. He wanted to save the snowflakes he studied so others could see their designs and beauty. He tried drawing the winter wonders but they melted before he could finish.

When he was seventeen his parents gave him a camera that had its own microscope. The camera created images of the snowflakes on glass negatives. Wilson could magnify a tiny snowflake from 64 to 3,600 times its normal size.

On January 15, 1885 Wilson Bentley took his first successful snowflake photograph. He became dedicated to developing the art of snowflake photography. For forty-six years he produced over 5,000 images of snowflakes on glass photographic plates. Wilson Bentley became known as "The Snowflake Man" in Jericho, Vermont.

In November of 1931 he published a book titled *Snow Crystals* containing over 2,000 images of snowflakes. A few weeks later he died of pneumonia after walking home in a blizzard to take more pictures of snowflakes. He was sixty-six years old.

A monument was built in honor of Wilson Bentley in the center of Jericho, Vermont. The plaque on the monument reads: "Snowflake" Bentley: Jericho's world famous

snowflake authority. For fifty years Wilson A. Bentley, a simple farmer, developed his technique of microphotography to reveal to the world the grandeur and mystery of the snowflake - its universal hexagonal shape and its infinite number of lovely designs.

To learn more about snowflakes and "Snowflake" Bentley check the Wisconsin DNR Environmental Education For Kids site "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow".
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/snow.htm>

In 1998 a children's biography of Wilson Bentley was written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by Mary Azarian. It won The Caldecott Medal in 1999.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryaward/caldecottmedal/caldecottwinners/caldecottmedal.htm>

Check out this "Snowflake" Bentley website maintained by the Jericho Historical Society.
<http://snowflakebentley.com/index.htm>

Here you can learn about Wilson Bentley and view 26 of his crystal photographs. On the site, click on the word "snowflakes" next to the Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley 1925 photograph. Once on the snowflake crystal photographs page you can enlarge each of the snowflake photographs by clicking on them. You can even print them if you wish.



<http://snowflakebentley.com>

Dover Publications reprinted *Snow Crystals* in 1962. It is still available for purchase from Dover Publications:
<http://store.yahoo.com/doverpublications/0486202879.html>

In 2003 Kenneth Libbrecht wrote a book about snowflakes, snow crystals and other ice phenomena called *The Snowflake: Winter's Secret Beauty*. Patricia Rasmussen used Kenneth Libbrecht's snow-camera apparatus to create the photographs for the book. References to "Snowflake" Bentley are made throughout the book. You can access the most recent news and views of snow-crystal research at Kenneth Libbrecht's website: www.snowcrystals.net

I hope that you too will think of Wilson Bentley as you enjoy the beauty and the designs of snowflakes this winter.

Snapshots from our Solstice Celebration...



WINTER OUTINGS

February 3 (Thursday)

Starlight ski/snowshoe. An annual event for several years. Each time the weather has been different: snow, rain and gale-force winds. As long as the ice is solid we give it a try. The weather may be unpredictable, but the fire and the chili will be HOT!

Bring snowshoes or skis, dress for the weather, and meet at my house at 6 pm. We'll venture out on the Bay, under the stars. (In case of clouds, flashlights or headlamps are helpful). Conditions permitting, we can explore the zebra muscle shell deposits that are forming dunes along the shore.

A crackling fire and chili supper will warm us afterwards. **Call by Tues 2/1, so I know how much chili to make. \$3 for chili & "fixin's. BYOB.** *Maureen Birk (920) 468-7252: 3381 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay (Call for directions).*

February 5

Cross-Country ski Northern Kettle Moraine. Skate or stride on some of my favorite trails. All skill levels. See the effects of the last glacier. Several loops to choose from. Later on we will enjoy a candlelight ski at Camp Sinawa at St. Nazianz. Warm food & drink will be available. *Steve Meyer (920) 684-4174*

February 11-14 Fri-Sun (Mon)

Return to Cable-Hayward: Wisconsin's Ski Mecca. This year there will be snow! (Last year was better than 2003.) It's a long drive, but the skiing is amazing! At least a dozen ski areas locally with hundreds of kilometers of trail to explore. Striding and skating at a variety of skill levels. Choose the narrow, winding and wooded tracks at Rock Lake or



Jerry Sonnleitner talks to students at the UWO Environmental Fair in December

the wide and rolling Birkebeiner Trail. Bring your snowshoes too. Local events can be fun; last year we watched the barstool races in Drummond.

This is a 3-4 day trip. I will stay until Monday. Come for the whole 4 days or part early. **Estimated \$35/night/person (depends on how many sign up). Trail fees, food, etc. is extra. Some shared meals, some on your own. Trip fee \$2.50. Registration deadline is January 25th. 2 night deposit and trip fee due at sign-up.** (Note: We will ski somewhere this weekend; location will change if needed.) *Maureen Birk (920) 468-7252*

February 12

Valentine's Day Snowshoe Hike at Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. Take your loved one on a guided snowshoe hike through a winter wonderland. There will be a Valentine's Day treat waiting back at the nature center upon your return. 9-11:30 am. Cost: \$15 per couple. **Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 11th.** *NNC (715) 758-6999*

February 13

Snowshoe and Potluck at Navarino Nature Center, Shiocton. Enjoy the snow by snowshoeing, sledding or skiing. Afterwards warm up in the nature center and enjoy a winter potluck. Please bring a dish to pass. Snowshoes are available for rental: \$1.50 for children (15 and under), \$2.50 adults. Open 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Potluck at 1:00 pm. *Contact Lolly at (715) 526-9728 or NNC (715) 758-6999 for more info.*

February 18

Moonlight Ski & Hike at Bubolz Nature Preserve. 5-8:00 p.m. Enjoy the Preserve's cross-country ski trails and winter hiking trails at night. A flashlight/headlamp is recommended. Ski rental available at special rate of \$5 per person. **Trail fee is \$3.** Hot beverages available in building. Weather permitting. *Bubolz 731-6041*

February 19

Cross-Country Ski at the Brown County Reforestation Camp 10 miles north of Green Bay. This area offers a variety of trails well-groomed for skating and traditional skiing. *Charlie Paine 739-1900*

February 25-27

Ski or snowshoe in the Ironwood and Hurley area (ABR and others nearby). Stay in one of the houses built at the turn of the century for the Montreal Mining Company employees. Learn why the whole town of Montreal is on the National Register of Historic Places. About \$40 per person per night for lodging. **\$40 deposit. \$2 trip fee. Deadline for sign-up is February 3rd.** *Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)*



by Dale Schaber

Wild About Elk

FVSG members discuss the differences between elk and deer antlers at our January meeting

March 12

Join a group from the Fox Valley traveling to Madison for the day. In the morning, be a part of Wisconsin Public Radio's funniest audience on Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know? Show. (Catch it live on 88.1 at 10am on Saturdays or check out notmuch.com.) We'll find lunch at some interesting place on State Street. For those who want, we can explore Canoecopia 2005, the World's Largest Paddlesport Expo. Speakers! Exhibitors! Deals! If you're in the market for a new bike, Bike-O-Rama is right next door. **Radio Show \$9. Reserve in advance by contacting Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work) by Feb. 18.** (Canoecopia \$5 at door, \$4 per car parking.)

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.

What's happening at:

Navarino Shiocton

Saturday, February 5

Winter Fun Day. Experience some good clean fun with the Winter Fun Day games. How far can you make a Snowsnake slither? Try your aim with a game of Hula Hoops. Have you ever shot baskets with snowballs? There will be plenty of food and fun for the whole family. Snowshoeing led by the NNC Naturalist and volunteers. Bring a sled and try out the sledding hill. There will be Snow and NO Snow activities planned. 11:00-3:00 pm. Free

Saturday, February 26

Basic hints to Photography. Photographer Kirby Shapiro will share hints on how to correct some common photography problems. Bring your camera, manual and a few pictures. 3:00 pm. Cost: \$2 members. \$4 individuals. \$6 families.

Saturday, March 5

Aldo Leopold Weekend in Wisconsin. Share your favorite Leopold quotes with a group of interested peers. The NNC Woodworkers will be making Leopold Bench kits out of cedar. Order your bench kit and assemble it with our help, or take it home for assembly later. Each bench is 4 ft. long and will sit 2 people comfortably. Cost: \$50 per bench, plus a copy of Leopold's "A Sand County Almanac". **Orders for benches must be placed by Feb. 11th.**

Saturday, March 12 & 19

Snowshoe Rocker Workshop. Weave a snowshoe style rocking chair. The rocker is made out of Ash lumber with tubular nylon webbing. Participants can join in on any of the workshop dates depending on their skill level and needs: March 12 if you need lots of time or March 19 if you are a quick study. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Cost: \$225 per rocker. **RSVP & payment by Feb. 23rd.** Call (715) 758-6999 or email: nnc1@tds.net to register or ask questions.

1000 Islands Kaukauna

Saturday, February 5

Tracking 1000 Islands Critters. Search for animal tracks at 1000 Islands while making your own paw prints with snowshoes. Free. Ages 7 and up. 10:00 am.

Saturday, February 26

Eagle Watching on Snowshoes. View nesting and/or migrating eagles that utilize 1000 Islands during the winter months. Free. Ages 7 and up. 1:00 pm.

Both programs will take place on snowshoes provided by 1000 Islands as long as there is 8 inches of snow. Otherwise bring boots! Dress appropriately for the weather. Space is limited. Please call to sign up for the programs at (920) 766-4733.

Ridges Sanctuary Baileys Harbor

Every Friday in February

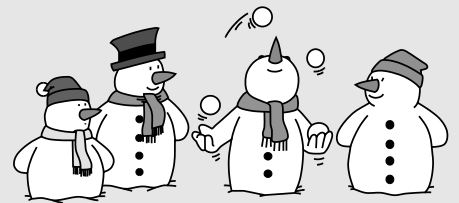
Snowshoe Hikes. 1:00 pm. Some snowshoes available. Call (920) 839-2802 to reserve a pair. If no snow, we'll hike anyway. Meet at the Ridges office. Cost: Donation requested.

Saturday, February 19

Mid-Winter Family Hike. 1:00-3:00 pm. We'll search for wildlife clues and maybe some early signs of spring. Dress for the weather. Meet at the Nature Center. Cost: Free to Ridges members. A donation is requested from non-members.

Saturday, February 19 and March 12

Building for Bluebirds Workshop. 1:00 pm. Learn about what bluebirds need to survive then build a bluebird house to take home. Donation of \$5.00 per box requested to cover cost of materials. Please call (920) 839-2802 to register.



America needs a smart energy policy that increases our energy security and protects the environment. There is a better way. Congress should pass legislation that cuts our country's dependence on oil, increases our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, protects our public lands, and modernizes the electricity grid to prevent future blackouts.

Join the Sierra Club today and add your voice to protect the planet.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



My Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
email _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my MasterCard Visa AMEX Exp. Date ____/____

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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/LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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

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Attention All Students!

What: Midwest 2005 Sprog
When: July 11-17, 2005
Where: Peré Marquette State Park, Grafton, IL
Who: Midwest high school and college students
Cost: \$120 (Contact the FVSG board for sponsorship if you are interested in attending.)

Sierra Student Coalition members will educate students in how to build the Midwest into an environmental powerhouse. Sessions will focus on Organizing 101, Communications Skills, Campaign Organizing, and Environmental Issues. "State Breakouts" will be held each day to apply newfound knowledge to local issues.

The week is filled with hikes, nighttime activities, and great food - even for vegetarians and vegans! We'll live rustically for 7 days in Illinois' largest state park!

Deadline for registration is March 15. Seats are filling up fast! To register online please visit www.ssc.org and click on Summer Training Registration.

Check out the FVSG website for an informational brochure on the Midwest 2005 Sprog:
www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/ssc.html



by Nancy Brown-Koeller

Taste Testing Trail Treats

Guests at our September meeting sample a trail mix recipe in preparation to vote for the "Official FVSG" Trail Mix

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is March 6th!

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



It's Our Nature is printed on 50% recycled fiber, 30% post-consumer recycled, and should be recycled.

Annual Auction!

APRIL 14

It's that time again to start thinking about our annual fundraiser. Enjoy an evening of delicious food, an entertaining auction and so much more! Donations for the auction are needed in order to make this evening a success. 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. **Start thinking NOW about goods and services you can bring to our annual auction!** More info to come in our next newsletter.

A Hundred and One Points of Light

Sierra Club Insider - January 10, 2005

Without volunteers, there would be no Sierra Club. Sierra Club volunteers are more than the grassroots - they're the trunk, branches, and crown of a giant sequoia.

If the New Year has you wondering whether now might be a good time to get more involved in the Club, you should know about the on-line resource we call "Sierra Club 101" - it's a quick primer on how the Club works and how you can be a part of it. Check it out at www.sierraclub.org/101 and you'll find that there are many ways to volunteer - one of which is probably just right for you - and easier than you might think.

Chairperson & Webmaster

Alan Lawrence 730-9515
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