



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.fvsg.org Vol. 04 Issue 4

Upcoming Meetings

SEPTEMBER 9

Discovering Wisconsin On the Ice Age Trail: Trekking With Dale and Penny

This informational program will consist of three parts: a brief introduction into Wisconsin Glaciation, what preparations Dale and Penny make for hiking the Ice Age Trail, and how one can learn about hiking and working on the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin.

OCTOBER 14

Threats to America's Wild Lands; Western Public Lands vs the Bush Administration Slide Show Tour

This land is our land from Utah's spectacular redrock canyons to the forested plateaus of Colorado and the grassland desert of New Mexico's Otero Mesa. Or is it? According to Bush administration policy it might just as well belong to the oil and gas industry.

Come view the evidence and learn what you can do to stand by the land at the "Western Public Lands vs the Bush Administration Slide Show Tour" sponsored by the Sierra Club's National Wildlands Campaign Committee.

The land is beautiful, the damage is real, and individual Americans are coming forward to protect our Creator's natural heritage. Will the health of the earth and all who live on it be maintained for our families' benefit or will the land be used for highways, oil wells, and the refuse of development? This slide show will tell the story. Come see it and do your part!

Annex to Protect Great Lakes

by Emily Green and Amy Roanhaus

Rainfall and snowmelt replenish each year only about one percent of the water in the lakes, rivers and aquifers that make up the Great Lakes basin. The other 99 percent of water in the basin is finite and nonrenewable. This slow rate of recharge is what makes the Great Lakes fragile and susceptible to long-term ecological damage. Enhancing and maintaining Great Lakes water supplies and ecosystems is vital to the health of the people and economies of the Great Lakes states. They are a resource for us to use and protect. They connect the ecosystems that we rely on for life and are a gift of beauty and bounty that enrich our lives and identify our region. Healthy and abundant water-based ecosystems give the region a competitive economic advantage and define our quality of life. Commercial and sport fishing alone contribute \$4 billion to the Great Lakes economy.¹

In 1998, a private Canadian company, the Nova Group, proposed to ship water from Lake Superior to Asia in tankers, to be sold as bottled water. A huge public uproar, from both Canada and the U.S., persuaded Ontario to cancel the permit for the water withdrawal. This incident made it evident that a review of the Great Lakes governors and premiers authority was necessary. The Great Lakes states include Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin as well as the Canadian provinces Ontario and Quebec.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

On July 19, Great Lakes governors and premiers released a draft agreement designed to strengthen the regulations that protect the Great Lakes basin from harmful water diversions and withdrawals. The agreement, the Great Lakes Charter Annex, also known as Annex 2001, proposes a set of standards against which new or increased water withdrawals would be reviewed. This new agreement would bind the Great Lakes states and provinces more closely to collectively plan, manage and make decisions regarding the protection of the waters of the Great Lakes.

The proposed Annex 2001 standards would apply to all new or increased water withdrawal proposals. Any person or company that wishes to withdraw or divert water would have to meet three main standards. (1) The withdrawal or diversion must cause "no significant adverse individual or cumulative impacts to the quantity or quality of the Waters and Water-Dependent Natural Resources of the Great Lakes Basin."² This includes surface and tributary ground water. (2) The person or company must be able to conserve the water by

"preventing or minimizing Basin water loss through return flow and implementation of environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures." The water not consumed must be returned to the originating major lake watershed, not merely the Great Lakes basin, and (3) the person or company using the water must provide a plan that will lead to "improvement to the Waters and Water-Dependent Natural Resources of the Great Lakes Basin."

The Sierra Club supports the goals set forth in the Great Lakes Charter Annex by the Great Lakes Governors and Canadian Premiers and believes that this agreement has the potential to protect Great Lakes water from overuse, sale and export. However we have some concerns and will be working to strengthen and improve certain sections. We cannot allow this precious and vulnerable resource to be sold to public or private entities because of loopholes or ineffective enforcement.

The Sierra Club urges all Great Lakes communities to get involved in the development of the final Great

Lakes Charter Annex to ensure that it will conserve, protect, restore and improve this globally unique freshwater source. The Annex is now available for 90 days of public comment, which will be critical to shaping the final agreement.

If you would like more information or are interested in helping to protect the Great Lakes please contact Emily Green at the Sierra Club, (608) 257-4994 or emily.green@sierraclub.org

¹ "Choosing Fresh Water Forever" National Wildlife Federation, www.nwf.org/greatlakes.
² Great Lakes Charter Annex

Hike The IAT With Dale and Penny!

Join Dale and Penny as they hike the Ice Age Trail in Hartman Creek State Park at the Hike-A-Thon on October 2nd. Dale and Penny started hiking the IAT in September of 2003. Many FVSG members have expressed an interest in joining them as they hike. This is your chance! Please contact Dale at 920-739-6041 for hiking and travel details. For more information on the Hike-A-Thon see the article on page 6.

From the Chair

Goals of the Sierra Club include (1) exploring the outdoors, (2) enjoying the outdoors with friends, and (3) protecting the outdoors so that it can be enjoyed. Participating in our outings and programs are ways to enjoy the outdoors with friends and learn about issues related to protecting the outdoors. I hope to meet and visit with you at some of our events.

Our annual "Autumn Assembly" will be held October 8-10 at Girl Scout Camp Ehawee in Stevenstown, about 25 miles northeast of LaCrosse. I have enjoyed the past four Autumn Assemblies (formerly known as the Annual Chapter Meeting) and anticipate this one will also be great. This is a gathering for all Sierra Club members and friends, not just members with leadership positions. More information is available on our website.

I'd like to spotlight our next two monthly programs. Members Dale and Penny Schaber are attempting to hike the entire thousand-mile Ice Age Trail. We will learn more about this at our September meeting. In October Clayton Daughenbaugh, Sierra Club National Conservation Organizer, will be here with a "Threats to America's Wild Lands" slide show presentation. You will not want to miss either of those programs.

Speaking of "threats" remember that citizens can influence public policy concerning our environment. We frequently present issues at our meetings and encourage our audience

to write letters to our representatives. The Wisconsin chapter of the Sierra Club (John Muir Chapter) is a partner of the Wisconsin Conservation Team Network. Their website, available as link from our website, provides information on environmental issues of interest to Wisconsinites.

Our Fox Valley Sierra Group is in need of volunteer help. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a notice seeking candidates for our board of directors. We have 13 positions on our board and need to fill seven by election time in December. Last December we voted to make the positions 3-year terms, and fill one third of our positions each December. Previously, terms had been two years. We need members to help direct our group's interests. It is a bit of work but satisfying. Please contact any of our board members, including myself, if you are interested in learning more.

We also need a volunteer to help organize our Fox River(bank) cleanup. Suspended for the past two years, this had been our annual Earth Day project for 13 years. We have had hundreds of community citizens, families, and Scout groups help us clean over a dozen parks and green spaces along the Fox River. We'd like to offer this event to the public next spring, so we someone to take the reigns.

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

- Alan Lawrence, FVSG Chair
alawrenc@execpc.com

Bush Administration Misses the Train

by Eric C. Olson

The Bush administration's transit policies are missing the train, and American workers are paying the price. That's the conclusion of a new Sierra Club report, which details how local economic pressures feed a growing demand for rail and other public transit projects and how the administration's bias against transit is out of touch with America's communities and commuters.

The growing popularity of public transportation underscores an important realization that is taking hold in communities across the country: that public transit spurs revitalization and redevelopment and it fights smog and traffic. It does so without feeding sprawl the way haphazard road building does. Regardless of these facts, the Bush administration is trying to shortchange transit and favor highway building in our communities.

Public Transportation Progress

Jeopardized Among hundreds of public transportation projects that could be significantly stalled due to the Bush administration's transportation proposal, the report highlights a dozen public transportation projects. These include:

Florida: Tampa Bay Regional Rail System

Georgia: Atlanta-Athens Commuter Rail

Indiana: Northeast Indianapolis Corridor Rapid Transit

Louisiana: Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Charles Parishes light rail

Maryland: Bethesda to New Carrollton Purple Line

Michigan: Downtown Detroit to Metro Airport Rail Project

New Hampshire/Massachusetts: Lowell-Nashua Commuter Rail Extension

Ohio: Cincinnati Interstate 75 Corridor Light Rail

Oregon: Portland South Corridor Light Rail

Texas: Houston Light Rail Extension

Virginia: Williamsburg-Newport News-Hampton Light Rail

Wisconsin: Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Metra Extension

While dozens more projects would likely suffer under the Bush Administration proposal, the projects listed above are a representative sample. Delaying or preventing these from getting built would harm commutes, economic revitalization, better jobs and improving our environment.

Need for Greater Transit Investment

The Sierra Club report documents the benefits of transit and the costs of the Bush administration policies. The report argues that the United States deserves a balanced transportation plan that is sensible for both the environment and the economy.

In recent years, demand for public transportation has increased significantly, and new transit ridership has greatly exceeded projections. Since the last time Congress took up a major transportation funding bill in 1998, public transit ridership has increased 21 percent. New transit lines are greatly exceeding projected ridership in Houston, Dallas, Denver, Salt Lake City and elsewhere. New Starts, the federal program that helps promising transit projects get off the ground, has a record backlog of over 200 projects, reflecting the fact that more and more communities are embracing, and clamoring for, public transportation.

The report lays out the economic issues behind this growing support for public transit in America's communities, looking at employee stress levels, the challenges of low wage commuters, redevelopment linked to transit, and jobs directly in the transit sector.

The benefits of transit seem lost on the Bush administration, which proposed, as part of its six-year transportation plan, a radical change to the ratio for federal matching transit funds. Currently, the federal/state funding match for new transportation projects is 80:20, however, the Bush administration would like to dramatically increase the state share to 50 percent for all new transit projects. In doing so, this administration would put hundreds of transit projects across the



by Kelly Krupka

We can enjoy easier commutes and a better environment with a stronger commitment to public transportation.

country in jeopardy, and with them, the jobs and economic benefits those projects bring locally.

And it's not just the Sierra Club that is criticizing the Bush Administration over public transportation. Paul Weyrich, of the conservative Free Congress Foundation, in a recent commentary called the Bush Administration "THE most anti-rail administration in the history of federal involvement in mass transit" and notes "the Bush folks are not pro-transit."

We Can Do Better We can enjoy easier commutes, more sensible development, jobs in better locations, and a better environment with a stronger commitment to public transportation. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has chosen to reward its friends in the road lobby rather than promote a balanced transportation policy. What's more, communities across the nation are eager for public transportation, but they will be waiting longer and paying more for transit under the Bush administration's plan.

Please see www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/report04 for a copy of Missing the Train. To weigh in on these important public transportation issues with your Members of Congress, visit: <http://whistler.sierraclub.org/action/?alid=280>

Eric C. Olson works for the Sierra Club's national Challenge to Sprawl Campaign.

Thank you...

to our volunteers who help collate the newsletter:
Roddie Larsen, Steve and Carol Clark,
Chris Calhoun and Paul Siket,
Diane Mandler and Jackie Smith

FVSG Develops Nature Trail at Camp Helen Brachman

by Dale Schaber

In March 2004 I received a phone call from Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, Camp Director at Camp Helen Brachman, asking me if the Fox Valley Sierra Group would like to develop a Nature Trail at the Camp. Camp Helen Brachman is located in central Wisconsin near Stevens Point. I first met Jake in October 2001 when the Fox Valley Sierra Group hosted the John Muir Chapter Annual Meeting at Camp Helen Brachman.

I was really intrigued by the idea of developing a nature trail and said, "yes" to the challenge. After getting the approval of the FVSG Executive Board in March I meet with Jake and Scott Maxham, the Property Manager at Camp Helen Brachman. While hiking the proposed trail we discussed general ideas for 21 signs that would reflect the history and natural resources of the area.

In April Penny, my wife, and I walked the trail placing stakes for sign locations along the route. We planned the subjects and topics for each sign based on the physical surroundings of that area. The subjects

and topics range from knowing the difference between white and red pine trees, looking for animal tracks in the sand, discovering glacial erratics along the trail, to learning about three Wisconsin Environmental Heroes and one Wisconsin Environmental Heroine: John Muir, Gaylord Nelson, Aldo Leopold and Pearl Pohl.

During early May an AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Group (consisting of eight Corps Members and their Team Leader) cleared the route for the trail.

On May 23rd Monny Hjerstedt, Kelly Krupka, Alan and Diana Lawrence, Jan Moldenhauer, Penny and I dug the holes and placed the posts for the signs. We were thanked for our work at a dinner honoring the AmeriCorps Group.



by Kelly Krupka

Monny Hjerstedt fills in a post hole along the Nature Trail.

Fox Valley Sierra Group at the Nature Trail Dedication at Camp Helen Brachman.

We have received numerous thank yous and congratulations "for a job well done" from the Camp Helen Brachman Staff and the Children's Outing Association (COA) Directors. The COA in Milwaukee operates Camp Helen Brachman and "provides camping, and year-round programs including child care, positive activities for children, and a Family Center."

Funding for the Nature Trail Signs and the Nature Trail Handbook will come from the John Muir Chapter. The Nature Trail Handbook will provide background information on each sign for the youth leaders at Camp Helen Brachman.

Thanks to all the FVSG members who helped in any way on this Nature Trail Project. Special thanks go to Kelly Krupka for the excellent job done on creating the highly effective and extraordinary Nature Trail Signs.



by Dale Schaber

Tom Schneider, Executive Director of the COA, Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, Camp Director, and Scott Maxham, Property Manager, congratulate each other at the Nature Trail Dedication on July 16, 2004.

After finishing the script for each sign I gave copies to Steve Hoffman, a DNR Wildlife Biologist at Hartman Creek State Park. Steve read the scripts and then verified the information as he and I walked along the trail.

Once Jake approved the scripts I gave them to Kelly Krupka, FVSG Newsletter Editor. Kelly is a graphic artist who works for Custom Printing, Inc. in Appleton. She completed the signs by adding the necessary graphics and photos. The signs were then printed at Sign-A-Rama in Appleton and attached to the posts in June. On July 16th Penny and I represented the



by Dale Schaber

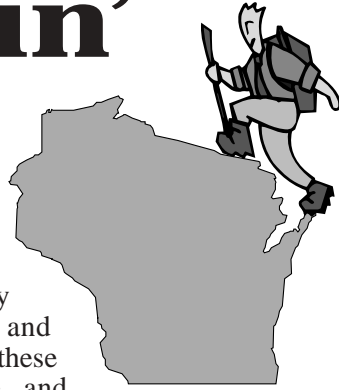
Kelly Krupka digs a hole for a post along the Nature Trail.



by Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Dale & Penny Schaber celebrate at the Nature Trail Dedication

Trekkin' with Dale



While hiking the Ice Age Trail Penny and I have used Stan Tekiela's easy-to-use photographic guides to identify Wisconsin's birds, trees and wildflowers. We have found these guides to be very accurate and helpful. They are the perfect size (4 3/8" X 6") to carry in our daypacks or backpacks.

Stan Tekiela is a naturalist and wildlife photographer who lives and gardens near the Twin Cities with his wife Katherine and daughter Abigail. To learn more about Stan access his web site at www.naturesmart.com.

We use Stan's "Birds of Wisconsin," "Wildflowers of Wisconsin," and "Trees of Wisconsin." Hopefully in the future he will write a guide about Wisconsin's reptiles and amphibians.

Full-page color photographs (taken by Stan and other professional photographers) of each bird, flower, tree and critter clearly and accurately show the field marks necessary for identification. Each species also has a range indicating where it is found within the state, and a unique compare section that is not included in any other bird, tree or critter book. Another special feature in Stan's field guides is "Stan's Notes." This section is packed with many gee-whiz nature facts, interesting tidbits and extra information to help you identify the subject in question.

Because these guides are state-specific, you will no longer have to look through page after page of species that don't even occur in our state. Browse through the selection of Stan's field guides and other books and get ready to become "Nature Smart" quickly at www.naturesmart.com.



You may order Stan Tekiela's books from Amazon.com or purchase them at your local bookstore. Copies are also available at your local Public Library.

Recruitment for Wisconsin Mercury Assessment Study

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is seeking volunteers for a mercury exposure study. Participants will receive a free mercury exposure assessment which involves providing a hair sample for analysis and completing a brief questionnaire. All materials for this study will be mailed to your home along with a pre-paid, return envelope.

Call 1-866-236-3461 if you are interested in participating in this research.

Election Year Environmental Action Opportunity

During this important election year, the Sierra Club is launching an Environmental Voter Education Campaign (EVEC) to give prominence to environmental issues in the election. The EVEC program will organize volunteers to talk to voters about the environmental records of Senator John F. Kerry and President George W. Bush. We will ask "Who shares your priorities?" and encouraging everybody to vote on November 2nd.

Our members are our greatest strength. Please contribute your time at phone banks or community walks several times during the course of what many consider to be one of the most important elections in recent history. Training, refreshments and opportunities to work and socialize with likeminded folk will be provided! Contact your local group chair or the Chapter office (608-256-0565) to learn about local election volunteer opportunities.

For those living in S.E. Wisconsin,

consider signing up for one of these activities for

Environmental Voter Education Action at the new Sierra Club office in Wauwatosa:

Weekly throughout September and October:

- Tues., Wed. & Thur. early evening phone banks
- Wed. nights & Sat. walks/lit drops
- Sun. evening phone banks

If you live within a 2.5 hour drive of Wauwatosa, consider organizing a carpool of your friends for the three major Rallies and Walks. Dates are Saturday September 18th, Saturday October 2nd, Saturday October 30th, Sunday October 31st and Monday November 1st. These are high visibility events. We will be joined by folks from out-of-state but we need you to participate to reach our goal of 150-300 walkers per event.

Please call and talk to a Sierra Club Conservation Organizer at 414-453-3127, or email: joyce.harms@sierraclub.org to sign up today!

Final '04 IAT Workday

by Dale Schaber

The final Ice Age Trail service workday is scheduled for September 18th at Hartman Creek State Park. Sign up for the workday at the September 9th FVSG meeting or contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041 or Mike Kirk at 715-258-2295.

We will be doing either maintenance work or new trail development on segments of the IAT in Portage or Waupaca County.

When working at Hartman Creek State Park we will meet at the BP Station at 8:30 am to travel to the work area. The

gas station is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Highway 10 and County Highway CB southwest 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 home. Hope to see you on the Trail!

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



GOING, GOING... GONE?

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. Yet the Kemp's Ridley sea turtle is quickly fading away—it is losing its habitat at an alarming rate. At the Sierra Club, we've mounted a major campaign to defend the Endangered Species Act and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever. Please join the Sierra Club today and help protect threatened and endangered animals. Because no amount of popular demand can bring an extinct species back to life.

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	RENEWAL	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"/> \$325
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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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gift card 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.

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SIERRA CLUB
WORLDWIDE

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Take a Walk on the Wild Side!

Mark your calendars for the 18th Annual Hike-A-Thon scheduled for October 2nd. The Hike-A-Thon raises funds to acquire, develop and maintain Ice Age Trail lands for the education and enjoyment of future generations. The Portage and Waupaca Chapters of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation are sponsoring the event. Join thousands of concerned people from all across Wisconsin who will be hiking throughout the state on completed segments of the Ice Age Trail raising funds through Sponsor Pledges. You do not need to have sponsor pledges to hike at the Hike-A-Thon.

The Hike-A-Thon will take place at Hartman Creek State Park. Registration Time starts at 8:30 am and lasts until 11:00 am. The Starting Point of the hike is at the Hartman Creek Shelter located southeast of the Visitors Center. There are three hiking options: 4 miles to Edminster Road and back; 7 miles to Highway 54 and back; and 10.5 miles to Frost Valley Road and back. All three hikes are rated easy to moderate.

The Registration Fees are \$5.00 for individuals, \$15.00 for families, \$3.00 each for school/youth groups (5 or more hikers, ages 6-18) and participants ages 5 or under are free. There will also be a pledge form and a disclaimer on the registration form.

Wear clothing for rain or shine. Water and apples will be available at each monitoring station. There will be a survival party at the Hartman Creek Shelter after the hike with refreshments, door prizes and educational displays.

To get to Hartman Creek State Park from the Fox Cities take Highway 10 west to Highway 54. Turn right off of Highway 10 and then turn left (southwest) onto Highway 54. Stay on Hwy 54 (5 miles) until you reach Hartman Creek Road. Take a left and travel south to the Park Entrance. Follow the signs to the Hartman Creek State Park Shelter.

For registration info, contact Dale Schaber (920-739-6041) or see him at the FVSG's September meeting. If you have never hiked on the Ice Age Trail, this is an excellent time to start.

Summer Outings

September 11

Learn about the geology, biology and human history of Ledgeview Nature Center's caves as you take a naturalist-guided tour of Carolyn's Caverns and Mother's Cave. Caves are naturally dark, damp, and dirty. Temperature is in the upper 40's. Wear layers and plan on getting very dirty as you crawl through the caves. Carolyn's Caverns is accessed by stairs and ladders. Recommended minimum age is 8 years old. Tours last two to three hours. Bring a flashlight or headlamp and clean clothes to change into after we are done. **Cost is \$4.00.** Limited openings so sign up in advance! Meet at Ledgeview Nature Center at 1:30 p.m. or call to arrange a carpool. *Kelly Krupka 540-9139*

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.*

September 19

Honey Sunday at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. 1:00-4:00 pm. Celebrate the honeybee and the gentle art of beekeeping at this annual event. The Waupaca County Beekeepers' Association will join nature center staff and volunteers in presenting informational sessions and demonstrations, leading tours to



by Dale Schaber

One of the many beautiful Nature Trail signs that can be found at Camp Helen Brachman

our observation hives and selling delicious honey baked goods and honey sundaes. **Cost is \$5.00 per car.**

September 26

Bike 15 or 30 miles on the Mariner's bike trail. We will start at the parking lot at the Manitowoc Library and bike to Rawley Point in Point Beach State Park. In Two Rivers the trail runs close to Lake Michigan providing great views. We will stop at the historic Washington House Museum - a 1850's immigrant hotel and home of Berner's Ice Cream Parlor. *Maureen Birk 920-468-7252 or Steven Meyer 920-684-4174*

October 2

Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon. *See "Take a Walk on the Wild Side" article on page 6.*

October 2-3

After hiking at the Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon drive just 4 miles west of Hartman's Creek State Park to the Krupka family's land for free camping. Relax your tired legs around the campfire. Once rested, explore 113 acres of rolling hills and Oak and Evergreen forests. On Sunday we will go to nearby Wolf Lake for a service outing. As we hike around the lake we will pick up garbage left over from a summer of fun. Bring your own garbage bag. Your feet may get wet. If you do not plan on camping Saturday night, we will meet at the Krupka's property at 9:30am to carpool to the lake. Call for directions. *Kelly Krupka 540-9139*

October 8-10

Autumn Assembly hosted by the Coulee Region Group at Girl Scout Camp Ehawee in Stevenstown, about 25 miles northeast of LaCrosse. *See Muir View for information and sign up.*

October 16

Romp in the Swamp at Bubolz Nature Preserve. 12:30-4:30 pm. Enjoy strolling through the Preserve's beautiful trail system while stopping for delicious goodies along the way. **Cost: \$25 per Family, \$8 per Adult, \$7 for kids under 13.** *Contact Bubolz for more information or to volunteer.*

October 23

Pick Apples and Bike the Old Abe Trail near Eau Claire. *Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)*

October 24

Head west to bike the Old Abe Trail on Saturday then stick around and enjoy another trail in the area on Sunday. The Red Cedar trail is a 14.2 mile crushed limestone bike trail that follows the Red Cedar River. Bald eagle sightings are common, and at points we can look for nests. We will ride along a sandstone bluff and through the ghost town of Dunnville, a once thriving river town. Water levels permitting, we can also canoe down the river. There are canoe and bike rentals in Menomonie at the trailhead. Distance, shuttles, etc. will be determined by the interests of the participants. Information on camping or lodging will be available closer to the date. **Trip fee \$2.** *Maureen Birk 468-7252*



by Dale Schaber

Interpretive sign #12 explains the dangers of deer and wood ticks along the new Nature Trail at Camp Helen Brachman

October 30-31

Hike the historic Fox River Pathway in the U.P. near Seney. Day hikes of about 6 to 8 miles. Car camp at the Fox River Campground 6 miles north of Seney. The Fox River was the inspiration for Hemingway's "Big Two Hearted River" and used as a log conduit for white & red pines. See how the area has recovered since logging in the 1850's and 1970's. Meet at the campground at 8:30 am on Saturday. Easy hiking. Be prepared for cool weather and muddy trails. *Jerry Ladewig 336-6788 or jlpeaches@new.rr.com*

November 13

Hike Rib Mountain near Wausau and see the Birds in Art exhibit. *Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)*

(more outings on back page)

(outings continued)

January 28-30

Ski in the Ironwood and Hurley Area and learn of the legacy left by mining. Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)

February 25-27

Ski in the Land-O-Lakes area and stay at the historic Gateway Inn. Nancy Brown-Koeller 722-2648 (home), 721-5431 (work), 715-524-2293 (weekends)

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.

Call for Nominations

The Fox Valley Sierra Group is starting its annual election process. We need you to help with the success of the Group. We are looking for several people who would like to share their time and expertise with the Group by agreeing to run for a position on the Executive Committee. We need to elect 7 people in this upcoming election.

The Executive Committee meets 8 to 10 times each year to help guide the local Group. The Ex Comm is made up of 13 people elected from the membership at large. Each year a portion of the committee is elected. Those elected will serve for a 3 year term.

If you are interested in being nominated to run for a position on the Executive Committee please contact a member of the current Ex Comm.

What's happening at:

Mosquito Hill Nature Center

Friday, September 24th

The Fenlon Memorial Speaker Series will feature Joe Duff, co-founder of Operation Migration. This nonprofit group's current project involves establishing a migratory flock of whooping cranes with a migration route between central Wisconsin and the west coast of Florida. The evening will begin with a reception followed by a program starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 per person and are available at Mosquito Hill Nature Center.

Friday, October 1st

Join in the fun from 7-9pm at Mosquito Hill's family-friendly alternative to scary haunted houses and too much candy. The full moon will light the sky as we offer hayrides, fresh-pressed apple cider, educational sessions featuring live bats and owls, hands-on activities, moon watching through telescopes, and much more! Cost is \$7.00 per car plus nominal fees for hayrides and snacks.



Something to Smile About

Jan Moldenhauer with Ken Fish: our May meeting guest speaker.

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter (election issue) is September 19!

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

Chairperson & Webmaster

Alan Lawrence 730-9515
153 Northbreeze Dr, Appleton 54911-1224
alawrenc@execpc.com

Vice Chair, Farms, Romp & Trails

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