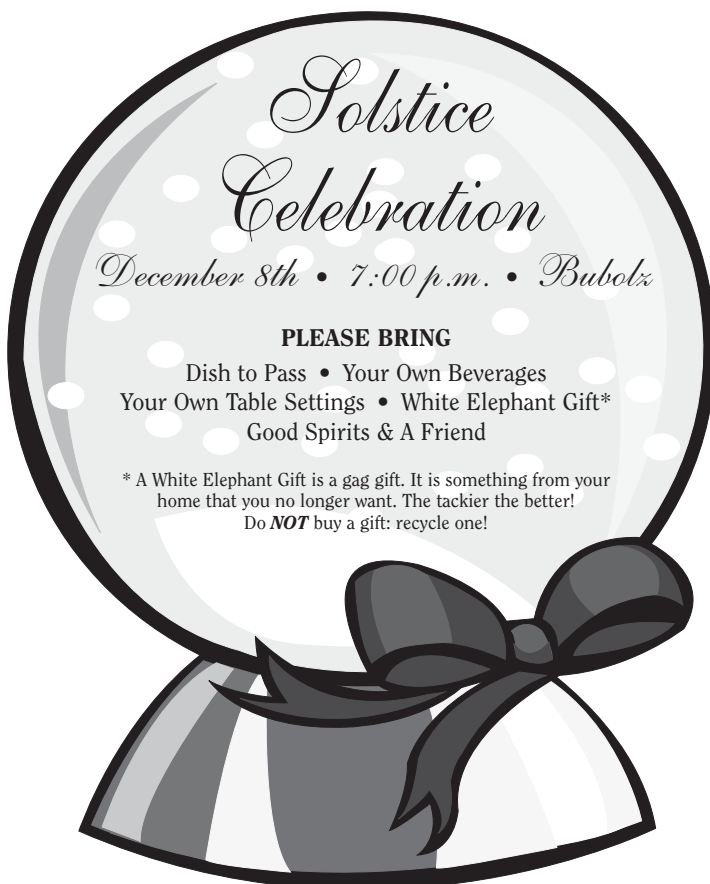




# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group [www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley) Vol. 05 Issue 5



FVSG November & January programs are listed on page 3.

## **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & RESTORE**

*by Nancy Brown-Koeller*

Add a 4th "R" to the environmentalist's refrain of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle! Habitat for Humanity (HFH) has opened a ReStore at 3000 E. College Ave. in Appleton. ReStores are retail outlets where donated quality used and surplus building materials are sold to raise money to build Habitat for Humanity homes.

Large-scale material reclamation projects make a noticeable difference in the amount of rubble hauled away to landfills. According to recent estimates from HFH, based on similar ReStore operations in similarly-sized communities, the ReStore in Appleton can expect to divert as much as 400 tons of construction waste from landfills in the first two years of operation.

Shopping at a ReStore is a treasure hunters dream. Discover things like vintage doorknobs, crown molding, and hardwood flooring. Bargain hunters can look for supplies for their projects, too. The materials sold by ReStores are generally donated from building supply stores, contractors, deconstruction projects, demolitions, and remodeling individual property owners. A pick-up service is offered for larger items. Call 830-8400 to discuss donation items or to make an appointment. (ReStore cannot accept chemicals, used carpeting, used toilets or upholstered furniture.) Most donations are tax-deductible, so it's win, win, win!

# FOX VALLEY SIERRA GROUP

## 2005 Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for four positions. Refer to the accompanying article for information on each candidate.  
Individual spaces are provided for joint members.

	Member 1	Member 2
Dale Schaber	_____	_____
Jan Moldenhauer	_____	_____
Write-in Candidate	_____	
Write-in Candidate	_____	

Please vote for four positions. Return the completed ballot to:  
Sandy Krupka, 151 Richard Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956

***Deadline for voting is December 20, 2005***



### DALE SCHABER

Appleton  
Member since 1976

#### Occupation:

Retired School Librarian and  
Elementary Teacher

#### Background in Sierra Club Activity:

Founding member of the Fox Valley Sierra Group in 1982.  
First Chairperson of Group from 1/1982 to 1/1985. Ice Age  
Trail contact person from 1985 to present. Currently  
Communications and Media Chair.

#### Candidate Statement:

*What are your goals for FVSG?*

My main objective is to involve more people in  
Northeastern Wisconsin with the Fox Valley Sierra Group.  
By concentrating on educational activities and projects  
(IAT and Nature Trail Signs) I want to leave a legacy so  
others will continue the work that FVSG members have  
started during the past 23 years.

*What conservation issue have you followed recently?*

Maintaining the environmental protections that Senator  
Gaylord Nelson and others established in the 1970's and  
1980's. The Bush Administration is destroying our air,  
water, land and species protections. We need these  
protections to maintain our quality of life in these United  
States.

#### Contact Information:

815 E. Washington Street  
Appleton, WI 54911  
(920) 739-6041  
dale.schaber@wisconsin.sierraclub.org



### JAN MOLDENHAUER

Oshkosh  
Member for about 20 years

#### Occupation:

Retired swimming and diving coach

#### Background in Sierra Club Activity:

Board member for about 10 years. Currently serving as  
Program Chair.

#### Candidate Statement:

Since I have always been involved with activities in and  
around water, I find my chief interest is in water and  
water based subjects. I attend meetings of the Army Corp  
of Engineers to insure water quality in Lake Winnebago  
and its watershed. As a paddler, sailor, and fisherman, I  
have done water quality surveys on lakes and streams  
with the University and Trout Unlimited. I have  
contacted both local, and state people about conditions  
that affect our waterways. Our state or national senators  
know my name, because i think they must be held  
accountable for laws that affect our state. I am an activist  
and a vocal member of our community.

#### Contact Information:

1845 Wisconsin St.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901-2274  
(920) 231-3407  
jan.moldenhauer@wisconsin.sierraclub.org

***Deadline for voting is  
December 20, 2005***

# IAT Workdays Report for 2005

By Dale Schaber

**May 7th:** FVSG members cleared and blazed the Ice Age Trail from the Emmons Creek Fishery and Wildlife Area parking lot on Stratton Lake Road to the end of the Trail in Portage County and back again. We also installed additional and replacement posts along the Trail where needed.

**June 7th:** FVSG members repaired the Trail approaches to a bridge over Allen Creek near Edminster Road northwest of Hartman Creek State Park.

**September 17th:** FVSG members worked with Butch Siegel, Mobile Skills Crew member, to clear a trail corridor in preparation for the Ice Age Mobile Skills Crew Project on October 13-16 at the Skunk/Foster Lakes State Natural Area.

**Thanks to the following FVSG members for their help on the Ice Age Trail in 2005:** Maureen Birk, Alan Lawrence, Kelly Krupka, Sandy Krupka, Monny Hjerstedt, Dan Bartell, Bob Anibas, Sharon Duerkop, Darrel Ruechel, Butch Siegel, Mike Kirk, Lora Corcoran and Dale Schaber.

## NOVEMBER 10

### ***Sustainability and Living: How and Why We Did It***

Mark Dawson will present his decisions and rationale behind building a wind and solar powered house designed and built using alternative construction materials and techniques. 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

## JANUARY 12

### ***Sierra Summit 2005: Sierra Club's National Convention & Expo***

The Sierra Club's first-ever national convention, Sierra Summit 2005, filled San Francisco's Moscone Center with some 6,000 visitors, 150 exhibitors, and green ideas galore. During the four-day summit, attendees listened to speakers like Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Arianna Huffington and participated in a wide variety of hands-on workshops and panel discussions. A thousand Summit delegates, representing every chapter, group, and national committee, met throughout the weekend to discuss the Club's work and help set new priorities and direction for the next five years and beyond. Neil Koeneman and Jaci Mueller represented FVSG at the Summit and will share their experience.

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

## From the Chair

I decided to wait until after our annual Autumn Assembly before writing this column. The Assembly, for all Club members and friends, was located in Milwaukee at the Urban Ecology Center. The Great Waters Group of Sierra Club, which hosted the event this year, faced a challenge in providing an urban setting for the Assembly which is typically held in a rustic setting. The questions: could they find an appropriate setting within the city, and would the audience be satisfied?

The Urban Ecology Center proved to be an excellent setting. The Center was built in a blighted neighborhood at the edge of a neglected city park that had become a home for vagrants and crime. Building the Center was a grass-roots project initiated by a few neighbors. The plan reminded me of the Sierra Club concept; teach someone to appreciate the environment and they will protect it. The Center now provides environmental lessons to thousands of city children and adults. The building itself takes advantage of many recycled components and is a model of recycling and conservation. It was inspiring to visit, and camp within. (Those with tents camped on the 2nd floor deck.) The energy and vision of the Center's director, Ken Leinbach, were amazing. One person really can make a difference.

Some of us concluded the weekend with a bicycle ride or canoe trip. My wife and I were in the cycling contingency, enjoying part of Milwaukee's 100-mile Oak Leaf Trail. We saw thousands of people enjoying the parks on the shore of Lake Michigan. A coffee-shop catering to the outdoors people was flourishing.

I was reminded that downtown areas are enriched by public green spaces that can be enjoyed by everybody.

Next fall the Autumn Assembly will be hosted by the Southeast Gateway Group at a Girl Scout Program Center near Kenosha and Racine. Put October 6-8 on your calendar and consider joining us.

Changing the subject, I continue to be amazed about the number of issues that clamor for our attention. I have long known about the Arctic Wilderness Refuge, under attack by the oil industry. I have known about the Redrock Wilderness in Utah, under attack by the oil industry and off-road motor enthusiasts. Very recently I learned about Otero Mesa, "America's Wildest Grassland" in New Mexico. In addition to the unique plant and animals in this undeveloped area there is an immense underground fresh water aquifer large enough to serve a million people for over a century. The oil industry intends to risk this water, and the unique surface features, for the minimal amounts of oil that can be found there. It just seems so immoral to destroy things of immeasurable value in order to reap short-term gains. While amazed at the selfish actions of some, especially those with financial interests, I am wildly amazed and thrilled that there seem to be people everywhere striving to protect these areas. I owe my thanks to these people for their efforts to save the riches of this planet that I may not even know exist.

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

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

## A Loony Birthday

by Jan Moldenhauer

I celebrated my birthday as usual in Canada this year. One of the presents I received was a small replica of the common loon. These plush birds that are sold by the National Audubon Society are equipped with buttons that play the authentic call of the bird.

It was a couple days after my birthday and I was sweeping the screened porch of our staff cabin when I thought I'd give the bird a squeeze. We normally have loons in our bay, and our cabin is less than fifty feet from the water. I held the bird up to the screen and gave the call by pressing the button. Then I put the toy down on the table and resumed sweeping. Whoa! The call came back from way out in the bay somewhere! Just to be sure, I went to the table and gave the loon another squeeze. The answer came back quicker and closer, so I looked out into the bay. There was a loon doing a silly dance and flapping his wings like crazy! I just wonder exactly what call I was giving.

## New Signs at Camp Helen Brachman

by Dale Schaber

During this past spring, summer and fall Kelly Krupka and I have written and designed 16 additional signs for the Nature Trail at Camp Helen Brachman near Waupaca. We also updated the Gaylord Nelson sign. The subjects and topics of these new signs cover hawks, foxes, tree farming, renewable energy sources, the glacier at Camp Helen Brachman, the Karner blue butterfly, Pickerel Lake, black bears and white-tailed deer.

In early May, an Americorps National Civilian Community Corps Group (consisting of eight Corps Members and their Team Leader) cleared the route for the Nature Trail extension. Later that month, Maureen Birk, Monny Hjerstedt, Alan Lawrence, Jan Moldenhauer and myself dug the holes and placed the posts for the additional signs. The Nature Trail is an important addition to current camp activities.

Funding for the additional signs and the Nature Trail Handbook came from a grant the FVSG received from the John Muir Chapter. The Handbook provides background information on each individual sign. Included in the Handbook are copies of the internet information I used to research the subjects and topics. The summer camp naturalist and other camp staff will use the Handbook when hiking the Nature Trail with summer campers.

Thanks to all FVSG members who helped in any way on the Nature Trail Project. A special thanks to Ruthann Hetzler for proof reading the text of the signs for us.

Members of FVSG are welcomed to hike the Nature Trail on November 6 at Camp Helen Brachman. Camp staff will provide us with a light lunch. Please contact me at (920) 739-6041 by November 1st if you would like to participate. I will send you driving directions and a map to Camp Helen Brachman.

Please take a minute to view the Nature Trail Signs on Kelly's website at:

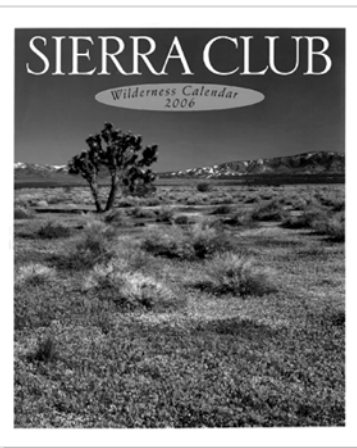
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wolfcreeker/sets/1030010/>

## SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS



**Sierra Club 2006 Wilderness Wall Calendar**—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

**Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar**—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



Mail this form, with check made out to FVSG to:  
Fox Valley Sierra Group, 1801 W. Main St., Appleton, WI 54911.

Your order will be DELIVERED to the address below. Call (920) 832-0612

Name

Address

City  State/Zip

Phone (Work)  (Home)

	Qty		Price	Total Price
Engagement Calendar (6 5/16 x 9 1/4)	<input type="text"/>	x	\$12.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
Wilderness Calendar (13 1/2 x 11 5/16)	<input type="text"/>	x	\$11.00	\$ <input type="text"/>

Home Delivery/Shipping Fee:	under \$25	\$3.00	
	\$25 to \$100	\$4.00	
	over \$100	\$5.00	\$ <input type="text"/>
<b>Total amount enclosed</b>			\$ <input type="text"/>

A portion of the proceeds from sale of these calendars goes to support the efforts of the Sierra Club to preserve and protect our environment



# Trekkin'

## with Dale

### New Wisconsin Field Guide Books Available

Stan Tekiela is an award winning author, naturalist, columnist, wildlife photographer and radio personality. Recently he published two new books in his Wisconsin Field Guide Series: "Reptiles and Amphibians of Wisconsin Field Guide" and "Mammals of Wisconsin Field Guide".

To learn more about Stan access his web site at <http://www.naturesmart.com/index.htm>.

Full-page color photographs of each reptile, amphibian and mammal (taken by Stan and other professional photographers) 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 amphibians, reptiles or mammals that don't even live in our state. Browse through the selection of field guides and other books, and get ready to become "Nature Smart" at <http://www.naturesmart.com/index.htm>.

### Animal Tracking

This winter try following animal tracks in your yard, at a local park or at a state park or forest. Think about the kinds of animals that live in the area you are investigating. To help you get started access this link at the Wisconsin DNR Environmental Education for Kids Website:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/track.htm>

Here you will find hints to get you started in identifying animal tracks. You can even test your animal track knowledge by matching tracks with the animal that made the tracks at "Tricky Tracks Quiz for Beginners":

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/cool/trackQuizLVOne.htm>.

Happy Tracking!

## Enlightened By the Summit

*by Neil Koeneman*

Sierra Summit 2005. This reads as if it were a frequent occurrence, but in reality the Summit was the first ever national gathering of Sierra Club members in over 100 years. Using frequent flyer miles and a small stipend from the Fox Valley Group, Jaci and I attended all four days of the inaugural event.

Conference Highlights included Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. as one of the keynote speakers. Kennedy is the president of the Waterkeepers Alliance and also a legal council for the Sierra Club. His speech topic, "Crimes against Nature," is also the title of his most recent book. Arianna Huffington, political commentator and former California Governor candidate in the 2003 recall election, entertained us at lunch. She is a nationally syndicated columnist and writes about a myriad of topics including the environment and politics. A surprise speaker, Al Gore, showed up on Thursday as Hurricane Katrina caused a cancellation of a

meeting of the insurance adjusters of America.

Carl Pope, the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, took his turn at the podium and reminded all of us of our responsibility to our earth. His comment on Katrina was memorable. "Katrina was not a natural disaster. It was a natural storm. It was human failure that caused the disaster." Referring, of course, to the destruction of the buffer of wetlands protecting New Orleans.

As many as seven concurrent sessions were held throughout each day. Jaci attended many as I spent most of my time in sessions for the delegates. The delegate sessions were extensive and dealt mainly with the direction of the Club. Around 700 delegates from across the country took part. Broad topics were selected by the Board of Directors, but the delegates narrowed the list and prioritized it. It was not easy but we were very productive.

The Sierra Summit Film Festival was very popular. It featured award-winning films and we heard from the people who made them. "Affluenza : the All Consuming Epidemic" is excellent movie that everyone should see. Read the book as well.

The Exhibit Hall included many interesting displays including some of the new hybrid cars that we could try out, outfitters, climbing walls, environmentally responsible companies, many Sierra Club Chapters and Groups and even a wine tasting booth (very popular). The Sierra Club had a small store (t-shirts, water bottles, cups, etc.) and the "Leave No Trace" people had a display and provided an educational session as well.

All in all the Sierra Summit was a very enlightening conference. There were some logistical problems with registration, delegate status, and volunteers, but once the conference began it went smoothly. Jaci and I felt privileged to be a part of this inaugural event..

# HOLIDAY GIFT MEMBERSHIP

A Sierra Club Gift Membership is a wonderful way to let someone know you care—about them *and* the environment.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



☐ YES! I'd like to give a holiday gift membership to:

Gift Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State \_\_\_\_\_



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City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

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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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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## AREA NATURE CENTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

### Bubolz Appleton

#### Saturday, November 5

##### NatureMapping Workshop. 9-11 AM.

NatureMapping is a system of documenting the location of wildlife observations on a state and national level. The observations are then used in natural resource management, scientific studies, and environmental education. We will take a hike to observe wildlife at the Preserve and then learn how to report our sightings on the internet. The data collected will become a component of a national program designed to improve wildlife management. Wear good hiking boots. Cost: \$2/person or \$5/family.

#### Saturday, November 12

**Amulet Pouch Workshop.** 9 AM - Noon. Join instructor Judy Douglas to learn how to create your very own Amulet Pouch. These pouches are made with natural materials including birch bark, cedar, pine needles, inner bark of basswood, ash strips and leather. Waxed linen is used to stitch the fibers together. You will learn how to twist the inner basswood and waxed linen into a cordage to be incorporated into the necklace. Glass beads and hand dyed/spun yarn will also be available to embellish your finished pouch. Cost: \$15/non-members; \$10/members.

#### Tuesday, November 15

##### Annual Meeting: Remnants of the Rainforest.

7 PM. Guest speaker Dennis "Dino" Tlachac of Nature's Niche will share his experiences about rainforests around the world. Join us for an evening of exploration and education as we learn through interactive, hands-on demonstrations. Live animals will provide hands-on experience to young and old. Meeting is open to the public.

#### Saturday, December 10

##### Birch Candle Lantern Workshop. 10 AM - Noon.

We will use birch logs and decorative glass lamp shades to construct beautiful candle lanterns. Hand dipped candles will add a finishing touch to this unique Christmas gift or decoration. Please register by December 1st. Cost: \$15/non-members; \$10/members.

#### Friday, January 13

**Moonlight Ski & Hike.** 5-8 PM. Enjoy the Preserve's cross-country ski trails and winter hiking trails at night. 1.5 mile candle-lit trail. Flashlight/headlamp recommended for remaining trails. Ski rental available at special rate of \$5. Hot beverages in building. Weather permitting.

#### Sunday, January 15

##### Beginner Cross Country Ski Instruction.

9-11 AM. (Adults) 1-3 PM. (Family) Join expert

ski instructors, Rich and Janelle Schiller, who will take you through the basics of cross-country skiing, including instruction on equipment and proper clothing. Morning session will be for adults only. Afternoon session will be for families with children 7 and older. Register by December 28th. Cost: \$6/person. Ski rental is available for the special rate of \$4.

#### Saturday, January 28

**Snowshoe Workshop.** 9 AM - 3 PM. Construct a functional pair of snowshoes from recycled materials. These bear paw style "shoes" will carry participants through the deepest snow, and they are fun to make. Register by January 15. Bring a bag lunch & drink. Cost: \$50; includes materials.

### Heckrodt Menasha

#### Saturday, January 14

##### Winter Nature Detectives Snowshoe Hike.

1:30-3 PM. This naturalist-lead hike will take you to look for animal tracks and learn about winter ecology. Registration is required by January 11. Info is available at [www.heckrodtwetland.com](http://www.heckrodtwetland.com), click on Programs and look for Family Naturalist Brochure. Cost: \$2/person with an additional \$2/person to rent snowshoes. (920) 720-9349.

(Continued on back page)



# WINTER OUTINGS



## November 5 & 27

**Buckthorn removal work day.**  
Sharon Duerkop (920) 734-1419.

## November 6

**Nature Trail Hike at Camp Helen Brachman** west of Waupaca. A light lunch will be provided by the Camp Staff afterwards. Outing is rated easy to moderate. Call by November 1st for driving directions, lunch reservations and maps. Dale Schaber (920) 739-6041.

## November 12

**Hike at Rib Mountain State Park** and after lunch visit **Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum**. The LYW's flagship Birds in Art exhibition turns 30 this year. Look for a mix of tradition, whimsy, and sass as Birds in Art concludes its third decade of bringing artistic avian interpretations from around the world to north central Wisconsin. Meet at 10:30 am near A-frame. Bring walking stick or ski poles for steep trails. Nancy Brown-Koeller (920) 830-6625 or (920) 721-5431 nbk04@sbcglobal.net

## December 10 & 18 (Rain date)

**Buckthorn removal work day.**  
Sharon Duerkop (920) 734-1419.

## January 1, 2006

Start the year out right with a **cross country ski trip to High Cliff State Park** located just a few miles west of Menasha. We'll get a nice view of Lake Winnebago from atop the Niagara escarpment. Members of FVSG have worked here to eradicate garlic mustard. Charlie Paine (920) 739-1900.

## January 13-15

**Cross Country Ski at Afterglow Resort.** A condo/duplex has been reserved at the Afterglow Resort located 18 miles north of Eagle River in Vilas County. These trails are in the middle of Wisconsin's snow belt, so come and learn how to ski while learning about winter in the Nicolet National Forest. \$30 deposit required, trip limited to 12 people. Skate and Classical Skiing available. Penny Bernard Schaber (920) 739-6041.

## January 28

**Cross Country Ski at the Brown County Reforestation Camp** north of Green Bay. Both skating and striding, easy to intermediate are available. Warming house. Here we can see the results of forest conservation and reforestation. Charlie Paine (920) 739-1900.

## February 1 (Wednesday)

**Starlight ski/snowshoe on Green Bay.** Bring snowshoes or skis. Meet at Maureen's at 6 pm. We'll venture out on the Bay under the stars. (flashlights or headlamps are helpful). A crackling fire and chili supper will warm us after. Call by Monday, January 31, 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).

*More detailed outings information may be found on our website. 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.*

## Spreading the Word at Outdoor Festival

*by Eric Uram, Regional Rep. - Sierra Club Midwest Office*

During the last weekend in August, Sierra Club Midwest Regional Office, WI BEC office, and the Fox Valley Group all partnered to have a presence during the three-day Great Outdoor Festival held in Oshkosh.

Last year, over 50,000 people went through the venue and signed over 400 postcards on the federal mercury rule and a suite of other local issues at our booth. The show was extremely well-attended this year. With perfect weather all three days, there was more likely an even higher gate total than last year.

This year, we concentrated on the Great Lakes. By the end of the event we collected almost 700 (x2) postcards. One going to Governor Doyle on preventing future water diversions and the second going to the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Plan Executive Committee seeking full-funding for restoration of the Great Lakes to help increase fish and waterfowl habitat.

Sierra Club's booth was located at the Conservation Village. Other groups present included conservation, fishing, hunting and trapping interests around the state, region and nation: Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Pheasants Forever, Whitetails Unlimited, WI Trappers Association, and, of course, Ducks Unlimited to name a few.

The Oshkosh/DU venue is a prime example of the effectiveness of the Partnerships Program's efforts to enlighten the public about the universality of concern in the public on environmental issues. In addition, it gives us the ability to vie for the hearts and minds of those folks in attendance. Many wouldn't attend a Sierra Club event if invited but are becoming more accepting of the Sierra Club's mission and may, in the future, take the opportunity to attend a Sierra Club sponsored event.

We now have two years of database from the signatures generated. We

plan to cross-reference these two years to see if there is a base of folks who regularly attend and support our issues.

In the future, we may want to consider having a presence in two venues; both the Conservation Village and the retail area. This could give us additional exposure and increase our marketability to this population demographic.

For more photos visit:  
<http://adobe.kodakgallery.com/I.jsp?c=jir18rt.kfohhoh&x=0&y=-ajj0fv>



*Penny Bernard Schaber and Adel Baum  
"man the table" at the Great Outdoors Festival*



## Ledgeview Chilton

**November 5, 6, 12 & 13**

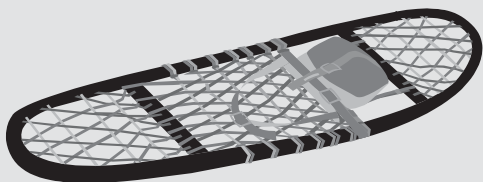
**Cave Tours.** Call (920) 849-7094 for schedule. Naturalist-guided tour. 2-3 hours long. Plan on getting dirty! Bring a flashlight and wear long sleeves. Minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult; minimum recommended age 5 years old w/parent. Caves are accessed by stairs and ladders. Cost: \$5/person.

**Saturday, December 3**

**Holiday Wreaths & Natural Ornaments.** 1 PM. Kids can make natural ornaments while you make a wreath. You bring wreath frame, ribbon, wire cutter, and pruning shears. Greens, cones, wire, and instruction will be provided. Cost is \$5-\$15 for wreath materials. Kids can make as many ornaments as they like; materials will be provided. Ornaments cost \$2 per person.

**January 15, 22, 28 & 29**

**Guided Snowshoe Hikes.** 1PM. Naturalist-guided hike focusing on winter ecology. Length of hike depends on weather and participants; usually 1-2 hours. If snowcover is inadequate, a boot hike is led instead. Fee includes snowshoe rental and training. Cost: \$4/person.



by Kelly Krupka

*FVSG members enjoy a picnic hosted by the Waupaca IAT Chapter in recognition of our work on the Ice Age Trail.*

## Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is January 14, 2006!

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

## Into the War Zone

by Kelly Krupka

Autumn is here. At least that's what my eyes are telling me. Bright yellows, oranges, and reds speckle the hillsides. Autumn is here, but it feels like summer. The warm sun is making my skin glisten with sweat. I'm glad I packed a pair of shorts.

We spent the morning in the heart of our great state learning about cranberry farming. I've lived in Wisconsin my whole life – traveled to every end of it – and had never seen a cranberry bog. Actually, I probably *had* seen a bog without even knowing it. The tart red fruit can hide itself pretty well under a tangle of thick vines.

Early afternoon I found myself carrying two paddles down to the boat landing. As soon as we saw the "Canoe Rental" sign we ditched our effort to go hiking and headed to the water instead. Our vessel had no sooner slid into the marsh when three gunshots cracked above us. Two dogs exploded into the water to retrieve their prize. Our peaceful marsh was now a war zone.

The tepid water lapped around our canoe as we gently paddled through the lily pads. Lifeless ducks bobbed around us as the hunters stood ready, camouflaged by the reeds. I could almost hear them cursing under their breath but we had a right to be there as well. I've been around hunting long enough that the gunshots didn't bother me. Call me crazy, but paddling into a marsh on Opening Day can be pretty exhilarating.

### Chairperson & Webmaster

Alan Lawrence 730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr, Appleton 54911-1224  
alan.lawrence@wisconsin.sierraclub.org

### Farms, Romp in the Swamp & Trails

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