



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 06 Issue 3

Upcoming Programs

June 8 • Building Wooden Boats

Iswill Rodensal, a physics and chemistry teacher at Neenah High School, builds wooden boats in his spare time. Iswill will bring one or more of his boats to our June meeting and explain what is entailed in building your own wooden boat. *Program is held at 7:00 pm at Bubolz Nature Preserve on Lyndale in Appleton.*

July 13 • No Program. Enjoy your Summer!

The New Frontier

by Diana Lawrence

“Dream as if you’ll live forever. Live as if you’ll die today.”
- James Dean

I see this quote attached often to the bottom of emails and lately I have begun to be bothered about the meaning of the quote, it seems to appeal to college age students and baby boomers alike. The part of the quote that appeals to most people who use it is probably the second sentence. We do live forever in some sense because the majority of us have children and they have children and so on. The problem with living only for today is that it does feel good, next year and the year after become far away, nebulous ideas.

Like or not we are a nation, and increasingly the world, living on credit. Not just credit cards, 30-year mortgages and 5-year car payments but the credit of oil that belongs to our children and their children. We are borrowing against their future lifestyle right now with our greed for oil in all of its forms that we depend upon to bring us the lifestyle we enjoy today. We just assume that everything we have will be available to our children precisely because it has always been that way for us. If two years are far, far away to us then what does 20 years or 50 years feel like?

Recently, President Bush stated very accurately that we are a nation addicted to oil. It is not just oil but cheap oil; it is the lifeblood of our prosperity and our security (*Continued on pg 7*)

FVSG PICNIC - AUGUST 10



Meet Around 5:30 p.m.

- Please bring:
- beverages
 - a dish to pass
 - your own plate & utensils

Grills will be fired up and ready. Please bring your own meat to cook. State park sticker is required for all vehicles. **We'll have our picnic in the lower shelter near the beach.** Call Chris Calhoun with questions at 920-993-1446.

Environmental Award Nominees

Your Vote Will Make a Difference

Please vote for who you think should win the FVSG Environmental Award for 2006.
The second blank allows both members of a joint membership to vote.

___ ___ **Linda Stoll** ___ ___ **John Walsh** ___ ___ **None**

Name(s) of Voter _____

Hand in your ballot at one of our meetings or mail by **July 31st** to:
Charlie Paine, N8172 Firelane 13, Menasha, WI 54952-9650

Linda Stoll

The first time I met Linda Stoll was at a Sierra Club Meeting. She was a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, and for her graduate project she was outlining a plan for a bike trail around the Fox Cities. There was the usual question and answer session after her presentation and a lot of skepticism. At the end, Linda shuffled her plans together, and stated, it might not be as pretty as this, but it will be done. Maybe not those words, but that attitude.

Since then Linda has served on the board of the Fox Cities Greenways and is their current president, was instrumental in supplying the information that led to the finishing of the Trestle Trail, and has raised four children while staying happily married. WHEW. Linda has worked as a Wisconsin representative to the League of Women Voters, worked with Natural Resources Planning, and numerous other organizations. As we now have in place bike trails that go around the Fox Cities, she is thinking of a water trail. By working and interacting with the many diverse groups that make up our society she has been successful in helping our environment by providing functional trails that provide real transportation as well as recreation.

Linda Stoll is a fine example of an ordinary citizen doing extraordinary things.

Submitted by Jan Moldenhauer

John Walsh

Once a boy scout, always a boy scout, seems to be a theme running through the life of John Walsh. Doing things for others is a way of his life. He came to the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh as a student in nursing and participated in the sport of diving throughout his four years. In his professional life he has continued in his field of nursing and public health and is currently the head of Trauma Services for the Affinity Health System. In his extra-curricular life, John is still diving - this time into scouting, and through scouting into the Sheldon Nature Center in Oshkosh. His scouts have taken on 22 projects ranging from paths, plantings, shelters, piers, and the latest, the most modern outhouse in the United States where everything will be using solar power! Sheldon Nature Center was given to the city just a few years ago but became totally established because of John's ability to write grants and the Eagle Scouts to put in sweat equity.

Although Sheldon has taken up a majority of his free time, John has established a wonderful family of three children with his wife, and served on many municipal as well as scouting committees both citywide and for the Bay Lakes council. He is a man who works hard to lead other young men. We need more citizens like him!

Submitted by Jan Moldenhauer



On April 23, 2006 twenty people from the Appleton, Menasha, Green Bay, Stevens Point and Waupaca areas joined the Fox Valley Sierra Group on their hike on the Hartman Creek segment of the Ice Age Trail. *Photos by Charlie Paine & Dale Schaber*



Fox Valley Sierra Group raised \$1,766 at our May auction! Please support these local businesses who generously donated goods to be auctioned:



In Appleton: **Appleton Bike Shop, Kitz & Pfeil, 7 Angels Restaurant, and Vertical Stronghold**



In Neenah: **Art Affair**
In Oshkosh: **Hergert's Sporting Goods, Salon Mode Beauty Salon, and YMCA**

FROM THE CHAIR

I try to live a relatively simple life: I live reasonably near my job, I use moderation with my home heating and cooling, I'm rather conservative with my driving, and I drive a mid-sized sedan that's not too bad with gasoline consumption. But I still cringe at today's energy prices. It is expensive to fill my gas tank. Home utility bills are higher than ever. Groceries and other things that I buy also have higher prices, thanks to energy costs that are passed along to the consumer.

And yet, I have long joined with Sierra Club and others who said that gasoline should be taxed until it was expensive enough to encourage people to treat petroleum with respect and begin to conserve it. We simply do not make investments in alternative energies and efficiencies while oil is inexpensive.

Although gasoline prices have certainly risen, it is not evident that habits have changed much. Presumably prices must go higher before we really begin to notice, and do something more significant than drilling new oil wells.

One of my regrets is that prices have gone up, but not because of taxes. Taxes would have helped fund research into alternative energies and conservation efficiencies, which probably would already be helping us. Instead, only the oil producers are benefiting from the high prices that we currently enjoy.

Meanwhile: Large sport utility vehicles are still popular. American automobile manufacturers still concentrate on selling sexy speed demons capable of anything except good mileage. Public transportation is inadequate. Oil is still burned and creating air pollution. Oil resources are being depleted and causing national conflicts. Most people are suffering financially.

The environment is also suffering. It may be worse than I had realized, according to a recent "Nova" show on Public Television about "global dimming" (or "solar dimming"). Scientists have been studying the greenhouse gas effects of global warming for several

decades. But another man-made climate change has only recently been getting serious attention. It is well-established that the airborne dust from volcanic eruptions shades sunlight from reaching the earth, resulting in cooling. The dinosaur extinction may have resulted from such cooling following the impact of a large meteor. It turns out that modern air pollution is also blocking sunlight and is causing a cooling effect.

The burning of hydrocarbons (oil, coal or wood) releases carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. It is widely believed by scientists that this should cause a greenhouse effect and cause the earth to warm, causing significant climate changes that will change life on our planet. The paradox is that this warming has been difficult to measure, making the theory difficult to prove. It is now understood that the same burning of hydrocarbons is also releasing soot and other particles into the atmosphere, and this is shading the earth and cooling it.

The theory is that both warming and cooling are happening at the same time, and this has made the expected warming difficult to measure. Apparently air pollution is protecting us; with cleaner air the effects of global warming would be much more severe.

But this warming/cooling tug-of-war is not harmless. The dimming of the sun is shortening growing seasons. The dimming reduces the evaporation of ocean water and the resulting rainfall, and can already be blamed for deadly droughts.

Furthermore, air pollution is harmful for breathing. To justify allowing air pollution because it offsets global warming is as absurd as cutting off an arm to control weight gain. We must continue working for clean air standards. But we now understand that working to control global warming is more important than ever.

The other lesson is that climate and environment are very complicated. Don't mess around with "Mother Nature".

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

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

Mercury is toxic. Get tested!

The Sierra Club is co-sponsoring a project to raise awareness about the dangers of mercury pollution. For the non-profit rate of \$25, you can order a testing kit to find out how much mercury you have in your body. The Sierra Club can offer these kits at such a low rate because they charge only enough to cover the cost of materials and the lab-processing fees.

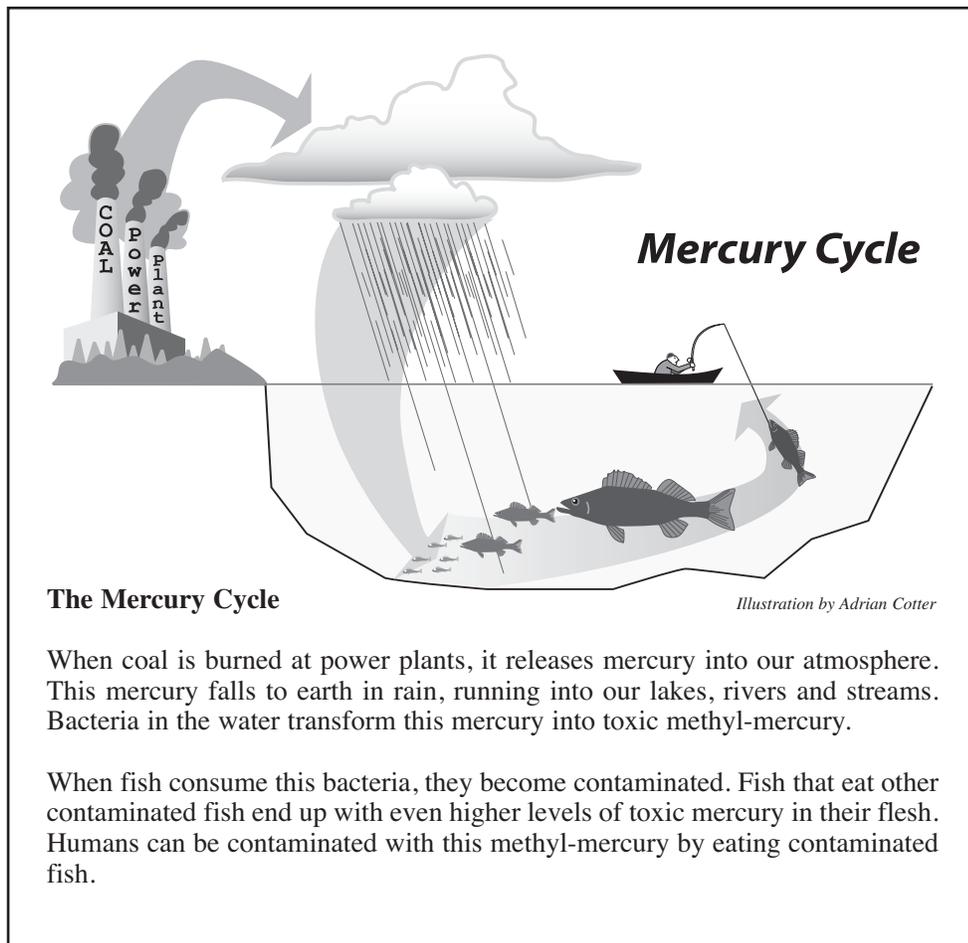
On February 8, 2006, interim results of the nation's largest mercury hair sampling project were released by the Environmental Quality Institute (EQI) at the University of North Carolina-Asheville. The report found mercury levels exceeding the EPA's recommended limit in one in five women of childbearing age tested. More than 6,600 people from 50 states of all ages participated in the hair tests conducted by Sierra Club and Greenpeace. Mercury contamination is a particular concern for women of childbearing years (16 to 49 years old) and their small children (under the age of six) because mercury exposure in the womb can cause neurological damage and other health problems in children.

The test involves snipping a small sample of your hair and sending it to an academic laboratory, the Environmental Quality Institute at the University of North Carolina-Asheville, which will process the results. The kit includes a cardboard scale to measure your hair sample size, plastic gloves, postage-paid and pre-addressed envelopes to submit the sample, and detailed instructions that help guide you through the testing process. Your data will also be added anonymously to a UNC research study, which will have the largest sample size of any study to date, on the effects of mercury in the U.S. population.

When you receive your results, you will also get information about what you can do to reduce your exposure to mercury.

To order a mercury testing kit, go to:
http://www.sierraclub.org/mercury/get_tested/

All of the information on this page was excerpted from www.sierraclub.org



The Mercury Cycle

Illustration by Adrian Cotter

When coal is burned at power plants, it releases mercury into our atmosphere. This mercury falls to earth in rain, running into our lakes, rivers and streams. Bacteria in the water transform this mercury into toxic methyl-mercury.

When fish consume this bacteria, they become contaminated. Fish that eat other contaminated fish end up with even higher levels of toxic mercury in their flesh. Humans can be contaminated with this methyl-mercury by eating contaminated fish.

TEST YOUR MERCURY I.Q.

You may have seen the warning signs in your grocery's seafood aisle cautioning you against eating certain kinds of fish that have high levels of mercury. But, beyond that, how much do you really know about toxic mercury? Take the Sierra Club Mercury I.Q. test to see just how much (or how little) you really know.

1. True or False: Most states and territories in the U.S. have fish advisories for local waterways indicating the safety of the fish being caught there.
2. True or False: Toxic mercury affects only women and young children.
3. True or False: One in six women of childbearing age has enough mercury in her body to put a baby at risk.
4. True or False: It's safe to eat a 6 oz. can of albacore tuna once a week.
5. True or False: The federal government is cleaning up mercury from coal-fired power plants as quickly and effectively as available technologies allow.
6. True or False: Sushi lovers don't need to adhere to the same safety precautions for seafood because the fish is raw.
7. Only women that are already pregnant should be monitoring their mercury levels.

Answers: 1. True, 2. False, 3. True, 4. False, 5. False, 6. False, 7. False

Trekkin' with Dale



This summer I hope you see many butterflies fluttering about your yard and at the special places you travel to throughout Wisconsin.

If you want to observe butterflies you need to be patient, go slow, stay low and avoid having your shadow cross over the butterfly. This change in light may frighten the butterfly away.

You might want to attract butterflies to your home by planting a butterfly garden. The colorful flowers, plants and trees provide food for both the butterflies and their caterpillars.

Here are some tips for planting a butterfly garden:

- Butterflies are cold blooded. They use the sun to warm their bodies. Choose a sunny spot for your garden. Place a few flat stones in the garden for the butterflies to rest on and to warm up.
- Butterflies need water. They land on moist sand or dirt. They slurp up the moisture from the sand or dirt on the sides of puddles. Keep a container of moist sand or a small damp mud puddle in your garden.
- Plant your garden near trees and shrubs where butterflies have shelter from the wind and rain. The trees and shrubs also provide a place for the butterflies to rest at night.
- Butterflies lay eggs on plants that have red, orange, yellow and purple flowers. These plants also provide food for the caterpillars.
- Plant a garden that has a variety of species. This creates an interesting garden and will attract many butterflies. You will need both nectar plants and host plants. Nectar plants have food for the butterflies. Host plants are places where female butterflies can deposit eggs. They also are food for the caterpillars to eat.

Do you need some ideas about what nectar plants and host plants to have in your butterfly garden? Here are a few suggestions: Asters, Bee Balm, Butterfly Bush, Butterfly Weed, Coreopsis, Cosmos, Lupine, Purple Coneflower, Hollyhock, Joe Pye Weed, Marigold, Milkweed, Nasturtium, Queen Anne's Lace, Shasta Daisy, Violet and Zinnia.

For additional information on butterfly gardens check out the UW Extension Urban Horticulture web site at: <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/flowers/ButterflyGarden.htm> Look for the publication Planning a Butterfly Garden.

You might check out the Butterfly House during the summer months at Mosquito Hill Nature Center near New London, Wisconsin. Contact the Center at 920-779-6433 or visit the web

site at: http://www.co.outagamie.wi.us/Parks/MH_home.htm. The office and interpretive center are closed on Mondays.

The Karner blue butterfly is a federal endangered butterfly found in central and northeastern Wisconsin. This blue butterfly has a 1-inch wingspan. The pale blue underside wings have a continuous band of orange spots along the edges of the wings.

The Karner blue butterflies live close to the wild lupine. The wild lupine leaves are the only source of food for the Karner blue caterpillars.

You will find the Karner blue in oak savannas and pine barrens. The soil in these areas is sandy.

You can observe Karner blue butterflies at Hartman Creek State Park located near Waupaca, Wisconsin. The Butterfly will be near the wild lupine in late May or early June. Later in summer you will see the butterflies near butterfly weed, goldenrods and sunflowers. Hike north along the Ice Age Trail off of Emmons Creek Road to check out the Karner Blue Butterfly Kiosk. Ask for directions at the Park Office.



For more information about the Karner blue butterfly check out this EEK! website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/EEK/critter/insect/karner.htm>.

Look for these butterfly books at your local library:

Caterpillars of Eastern North America: A Guide to Identification and Natural History, David L. Wagner, 2005.

The Butterfly Book: An Easy Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification, and Behavior, Donald and Lillian Stokes and Ernst Williams, 1991.

The Family Butterfly Book: Discover the Joy of Attracting, Raising and Nurturing Butterflies, Rick Mikula, 2000.

Garden Butterflies of North America: A Gallery of Garden Butterflies and How to Attract Them, Rick Mikula, 1997.

Have fun this summer watching and attracting butterflies!

Dale

NATURE CENTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Brillion Brillion

June 3, July 1, August 5 - Saturday

Naturalist On The Loose. 10 AM and 2 PM. Hike the trails with a naturalist using Nature Center field packs to explore the woods, prairies or wetlands. Themes will vary. This program is intended for individuals or family groups. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Hikers should dress for the weather and meet at the Nature Center building. Cost: \$1/individual or \$3/household, Free/member.

June 8 - Thursday

Composting Workshop. 4:30 PM. Join Mary Kohrell, UW Extension to learn the how's and why's of backyard composting. This program is intended for adults. Please register in advance. Cost: Donation requested.

June 10 - Saturday

Purple Loosestrife and Bio-Control. 10 AM. Join Naomi Waddell as she talks about the effective impact of Galerucella beetles in controlling the invasive weed, purple loosestrife. This program is intended for adults. Please register in advance. Cost: Donation requested.

August 12 - Saturday

Prairie Tour. 11 AM. Ever-changing and dynamic habitats; view our hundreds of acres of restored prairies. Please register in advance. Cost: \$5/adult, \$3/child under 16, Free/member.

Bubolz Appleton

June 9 - Friday

Ed-Venture Series I - Canoeing & Geocaching at Navarino Wildlife Area. 8 AM - 3:30 PM. We will carpool to Navarino Wildlife Area and canoe Pike Peak Flowage and McDonald Flowage. You will have an opportunity to view wildlife up-close as we paddle through the beautiful Wildlife Area. Learn about history, ecology and management along the way. Canoes are provided. In the afternoon participants can go geocaching on the property or hike the trails. Bring a bag lunch, sunscreen, and bug spray. Register by June 2. Cost: \$20/member, \$25/nonmembers.

June 11 - Sunday

Advanced Geocache Workshop. 1-4 PM. Going Paperless. Topics covered will include Pocket Queries, GSAK, cache list filtering, Cache Mate, palm pilots, MS Streets & Trips, mapping strategies, route planning, navigational units, & whatever comes up. Call to register 920-731-6041. Cost: \$10/person.

June 24 - Saturday

Beginning Geocache Class. 1-4 PM. This class will introduce participants to the basics of geocaching and the geocaching website. You will learn how to download coordinates onto your GPS unit. Several GPS units will be available for use, if you have your own GPS unit, please bring it. Dress for the weather. Cost: \$10/person.

July 22 - Saturday

Nature Mapping Training. 9-11 AM. Join us for an outdoor session focusing on birds and watchable wildlife. We will spend time in the field observing and recording our findings. Indoors we will learn how to enter our sightings into the state Nature Mapping database. Call to register by July 10th. Cost: FREE.

August 4 - Friday

Ed-Venture Series II - Green Bay Natural Area. 8:30 AM - 4 PM. We'll visit Green Bay Botanical Garden for a guided tour of their gardens. The gardens are highlighted by outstanding architecture and perennials, roses, trees, shrubs, annuals, and lots more. In the afternoon we will visit Barkhausen Waterfowl Reserve located on the west shores of the Bay of Green Bay. We will have a tour of Barkhausen and learn about the history, habitats, management and ecological significance of the Reserve. Bring a bag lunch and sunscreen. Register by July 21. Cost: \$20/member, \$25/nonmembers.

Aug 12 - Saturday

Reptile Day. 1-4 PM. Would you like to learn more about snakes, lizards, turtles and other reptiles or amphibians? The Fox Valley Herp Club will be on hand with an assortment reptiles and amphibians. Families will have the opportunity to learn more about these fascinating animals up-close and personal. Come anytime during the afternoon. Cost: \$5/family.

Ledgeview Chilton

July 29 - Saturday

Prairie Wildflower Hike. 1 PM. Hike with a naturalist to see the prairie flowers in bloom and learn flower folklore. Cost: \$3/person.

All Summer Long

Cave Tours. Most weekends at 10 AM and 1 PM. Call (920) 849-7094 for schedule. Learn the biology, geology, and human history of Ledge View's caves. Plan on getting very dirty! Bring a flashlight and wear long sleeves and shoes (no sandals!). 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.

Mosquito Hill New London

June 3 - Saturday

Froggie Went A-Courtin'. 6-8:30 PM. Indoor presentation with live frogs, followed by an outdoor hike to locate "froggies a-singing." Held rain or shine, as frogs love the rain! All ages welcome. Call to register ASAP. Cost: \$5/person or \$3.50/students, seniors, FOMH & \$12/family.

June 10 - Saturday

Leaf Sculpture Workshop. 9-11:30 AM. A giant rhubarb leaf and Quick-crete will help you to create a leaf-shaped feeder, bird bath or garden

ornament. Call to register by June 5. Cost: \$10/adults and \$8/students, seniors and FOMH.

June 17 - Saturday

Natural Gardening Series: Integrated Pest Management. 11 AM - Noon. IPM is the practice of using environmentally sound methods to control insects, disease and problem plants in your garden. Learn how your gardens will benefit from this healthy and economical practice. Registration and payment due June 13. Cost: \$3/adult, \$2/students, seniors, FOMH.

July 5 - Wednesday

Butterfly House Opens for the 12th Season. Come and see Butterfly House when it opens for the season. This outdoor exhibit featuring live Wisconsin butterflies in an enclosed landscaped habitat will be open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM - 3 PM, through Sunday, Aug. 27. Volunteer educators will staff the exhibit to answer questions and point out the many species of butterflies. A \$1 donation/person is requested to offset expenses associated with this exhibit.

July 15-16 - Saturday & Sunday

Overnight Hike. 6:30 PM - 9 AM. See the nature center in a whole new light. . . moonlight! Learn about nocturnal animals on an interpretive hike with naturalist Jessica Miller; then pitch a tent and sleep under the stars. A continental breakfast will be served the next morning. Registration and payment due July 8. Cost: \$10.50/adults, \$9/students, seniors, FOMH, \$25/family.

August 26 - Saturday

Natural Gardening Series: Can I or Can't I? 11 AM - 1:30 PM. Learn the basics of food preservation. Registration and payment due August 18. Cost: \$3/adults, \$2/students, seniors and FOMH.

Navarino Shiocton

June 11 - Sunday

Movie - Amazing Journeys (wildlife migrations) 6:30 PM. Pop and popcorn for a small fee. Donations accepted.

July 9 - Sunday

Movie - Alaska's Bears. 6:30 PM. Pop and popcorn for a small fee. Donations accepted.

August 5 - Saturday

Prairie Walk. 9-10 AM. Walk with the Naturalist along the NNC Prairie Trail and identify blooming prairie plants and hear about prairie restoration and management. Cost: NNC members Free, Individuals \$2, Families \$5.

August 13 - Sunday

Movie - Timber Wolves of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. 6:30 PM. Pop and popcorn for a small fee. Donations accepted.

SUMMER OUTINGS

June 1 - Thursday

Paddle excursion to Point Sable. This is an area of winding channels and wetlands on the eastern shore of Green Bay. We will observe the changes to the shoreline with the recent inundation of zebra mussel shells. Trip leaves from my land at 7 PM, with a leisurely paddle to the point, time to explore, and return by dark. The evening will conclude with a bonfire on the shore. Soft drinks provided. If you don't want to paddle, you can still join us. Come, relax on the shore, tend the fire and enjoy the view. Bring a canoe or kayak, paddles, life vest, etc. Also bug repellent (!), binoculars, camera, other beverages. Boat sharing may be possible. Call to let me know you are coming. *Maureen Birk 920-468-7252; 3381 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay*

June 3 - Saturday

Ice Age Trail joint workday between FVSG and local IAT Chapters. 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. Bring a lopper/pruning saw if you have one. *Dale Schaber 920-739-6041.*

June 11 - Sunday

Hike in Governor Thompson State Park northwest of Crivitz. We will learn about plans to develop the park and about the formation of the adjacent Peshtigo River State Forest. Meet at 9 AM at the entrance to the park at Paust Ln & Ranch Rd. Email jkayakl@new.rr.com or call after 6 PM for directions. *Jerry Ladewig 920-336-6788.*

June 18 - Sunday

Trestle Trail Bike Ride. This new route across Little Lake Butte des Morts takes advantage of an abandoned railroad bridge and helps connect a network of trails being built around the Fox Cities. From the Trestle Trail we'll continue westward on the Friendship Trail. Depending on participant interest, we may ride the new trail to its intersection with the Wiouwash Trail. Bring lunch and water. Meeting place is yet to be decided. *Alan*

Lawrence 920-730-9515.

June 21 - Wednesday

Bike the Wiouwash Trail from Medina to Hortonville. 10 miles round trip. This is an evening ride, returning to Medina before dark. Along the way we'll have a good chance of seeing sandhill cranes. We'll stop at Charlie's Place in Hortonville for ice cream. Meet at 6 PM *sharp* in the parking lot across from D&D Liquidators in Medina on Hwy 96 (old Hwy 10). Helmet required. *Kelly Krupka 920-540-9139.*

July 15 - Saturday

Canoe the Peshtigo River Trail starting in Peshtigo. This is a flat water trip through forest and open marshland. Wildlife is abundant with bald eagles, waterfowl, and other birds frequently seen. Bring your own canoe, paddles, life jackets, lunch, water, sunblock, insect spray. *Maureen Birk 920-468-7252; Nancy Brown-Koeller 920-721-5431 (home), 920-830-6625 (work); 715-524-2293 (weekends).*

(Outings Continued on Back)

(Oil Continued)

to live a good life. The President's solution to this addiction is just as a former addict might think: find more. Do whatever it takes to find a new supply of the drug. A life of crime often follows as the addiction worsens and lives are ruined, it is a vicious circle. We must ask ourselves "what are we willing to do for cheap oil"? Are we willing to start wars to get more? Are we willing to damage our environment and have our grandchildren look in picture books for the beauty we take for granted today? China is worried enough about the supply of oil that their leader is traveling the world locking in deals with any oil-producing nation that will agree to what must surely be an arrangement that favors China. Now that China is in the market for vast amounts of oil we are losing our clout as the biggest market for obtaining cheap oil. In the near future it will not be a matter of cheap oil but just oil.

Drilling for oil off the coast states like Florida and Virginia and in pristine wilderness like ANWR is the exact opposite of what we should be doing. Draining our national oil emergency reserve and not restocking the supply is like raiding our 401K's and spending our entire current paychecks. What price will we pay down the road for the lifestyle of today? We should instead be guarding with all of our might the offshore reserves and other reserves of oil and coal we are lucky to have. Conservation of the most precious energy and material resource the world has known since the industrial revolution began is the only way to protect the lifestyle we currently enjoy.

Our national security is something we are currently obsessed about, we feel vulnerable to the outside world. We want to build fences to keep people out, deport illegal immigrants by the millions because we feel the pressures of a shrinking employment base as corporations take their manufacturing to countries with limited or no enforcement of their own environmental laws. We look outside of our own borders to find

national security in the form of a war on terror, picking a scab from September 11 all the while cancer is slowly and quietly invading the rest of our nation. The cancer is an unwillingness to believe we have a problem with how we consume oil. To maintain national security we need to conserve every bit of coal and every drop of oil we have. If we want America to survive another 230 years we have to take drastic measures now. Tomorrow is here. We need to become the world's leading producer of renewable energy. Renewable energy must depend on oil and coal as little as possible for its production.

The words of President John F. Kennedy are indeed timeless because they are so very true, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for country". It is time to stop living selfishly on the resource credit of our children and come to grips with the very fact that oil is running out. Even if there is enough for another 100 years why not conserve it anyway? We feel today that we have 'rights' and are entitled to do anything we want, what about the rights of people 50 or 100 years from now? Are they going to have the answers we do not have today? They will not if we hand down the same ideals we have today of living for today because we might be dead tomorrow. We cannot be sure that technology not currently invented will get us of this problem just because we have seen massive improvements in technology from 50 or 100 years ago.

Oil has been the secret to our success and way of life for so long we cannot accept the truth that it will run out and that the turning point may already be upon us. It is not in the best interests of our children and grandchildren to use and waste as much oil as we are currently. It is not in our current national strategic interests to be dependent on foreign energy resources or to drain down our own supplies of energy. History is made in the decisions of today, let our grandchildren look back and be proud. The frontier spirit is alive and well in America, the new frontier is renewable energy and conservation.



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. **Add your voice to protect the planet. Join the Sierra Club today.**



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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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	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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32	
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24 <input type="checkbox"/> \$32	

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July 16 - Sunday

Bike the Fox River Trail: Greenleaf to DePere. (25 miles) The Fox River Trail is about 10 miles of rail-trail covered with crushed stone. The remainder of the route is on paved county and town roads. Along the way we will learn a bit of the history of both the Wisconsin Railroad system and of the Fox River locks and dams. Bring your bike, helmet, and water. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

July 19 - Wednesday

Bike the Wiouwash Trail from Medina to Hortonville. See June 21 outing.

August 5 - Saturday

Bike the Irish Heritage Tour in the North Kettle Moraine (25 miles). Along the way we'll visit lovely St. Michael's Church with its graveyard of Celtic crosses, Parnell Tower, and the Henry S. Reuss Ice Age Interpretive Center. Meet at 9 AM at the park 'n ride at the intersection of Highways 55 & 114, a mile north of High Cliff golf course. Bring water, helmet, lunch and, of course, a bike. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

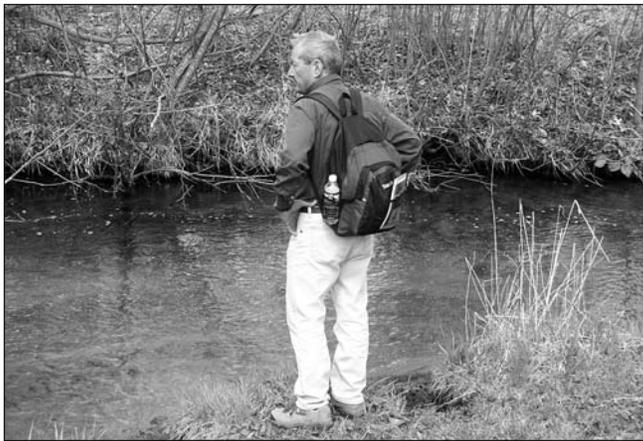
August 19 - Saturday

Adventure Caving at Ledgeview Nature Center. Learn the history of Ledgeview Nature Center's caves as you take a naturalist-guided tour of 2 caves. Temp in the caves is in the upper 40's. Wear layers and plan on getting very dirty as you crawl. Min. age is 8 years old. Bring a flashlight/headlamp and clean clothes to change into afterwards. **Cost is \$5.** Meet at Ledgeview Nature Center at 9:30 AM or call to arrange a carpool. *Kelly Krupka 920-540-9139.*

September 9 - Saturday

Rustic Roads Bicycle Tour. Bike the backroads in the Waupaca Chain of Lakes area. Distance is 24 miles. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

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.



by Charlie Paine

What happened to the bridge?!!

Dan Winter judges the water depth in Emmons Creek.

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is August 5!

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

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