



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 06 Issue 6

Solstice Celebration



December 14th
7:00 pm • Bubolz

PLEASE BRING

Dish to Pass • Your Own Beverages
Your Own Table Settings • White Elephant Gift*
Donation for Bubolz • Good Spirits & A Friend

* A White Elephant Gift is a gag gift. It is something from your home that you no longer want. The tackier the better! Do NOT buy a gift: recycle one!

FVSG's 25th Anniversary Events

During 2007 the Fox Valley Sierra Group will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. Our Group had its first meeting at the Appleton Public Library on January 14, 1982. The guest speaker was Jim Staudacher who was the first person to hike the entire Ice Age Trail. His 1979 trek took him 81 days, from May 14th to August 2nd. At that time he was a 20-year-old Marquette University student.

During 2007 we are planning three events to celebrate our 25th Anniversary. At our January 11, 2007 meeting we will celebrate with an anniversary cake. On April 12, 2007 we will have a dinner meeting with special program activities at a local banquet hall. Our final celebration will take place during the 2007 Autumn Assembly at Camp Helen Brachman on October 12-14, 2007. The Fox Valley Sierra Group is hosting the 2007 Autumn Assembly.

Get ready to celebrate in 2007. More information about these events will appear in our February newsletter and on the FVSG's website.



DO YOU WANT US TO DIE?

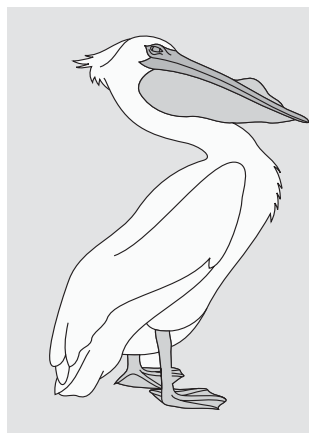
Our Executive Committee does not have enough members to function.
To volunteer contact Jan Moldenhauer 920-231-3407 or Kelly Krupka 920-540-9139.

One Tree at a Time

by Sharon Duerkop

How fast do you think it takes to destroy Nature? About the speed of a bulldozer or bomber? Now how fast does it take to restore Nature? Yeah, about that slow. And with the milder winters of climate change, we'll be seeing more undesirable species that used not to survive our winters move north. Hopeless? Not necessarily.

One destructive force we're heard more of in the last decade is invasive species (plants/animals that normally live on other continents and are aggressive growers when they move out of their home systems of checks and balances). FVSG is part of a group of Fox Valley residents making a dent on several invasive species in our own back yards. Each fall we put in a bit of time and sweat equity in turning the tide of a buckthorn



The "White Pelican"

The White Pelican is an internet blog for Green Bay environmentalists. It is a place for people to share thoughts and information about sustainable lifestyles and political activism. To join the discussion, just click on "comments"!

This blog can be found at
<http://whitepelican.blogspot.com/>

infestation at the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton. One tree at a time we're making a difference in this seventh year of the project. The November and December work dates are listed in the Outings section. We work from 9 to 3 - come for all or a part of these days. All you need is sturdy footwear, dress for the weather and bring your lunch.

Instructions and materials are provided. Call Sharon (see Outings) with your contact info so she can let you know of any rain cancellations. Join us and meet a few other hopeful people in the great Wisconsin outdoors!

FROM THE CHAIR

Never one to enjoy attending a planning meeting I was reluctant to give up most of a weekend in September to attend our Sierra Club Chapter (state) Strategic Planning conference. But I attended, and the weather outdoors was beautiful. Fortunately, the conference was invigorating and I don't resent the experience.

Friends and new acquaintances from around the state gathered together and worked with a skilled leader from National Sierra Club. We spent the weekend at a beautiful rustic camp, surrounding our work with good meals, enough free time, and a bunkhouse experience.

An early activity was to talk about weaknesses of our organization. "Too few people for too many jobs" was a common theme for us, and apparently for most organizations. Other observations were that we are unable to connect our priorities to public concerns, and we don't have a well-run fundraising culture. We all wished our active membership included more youth.

We worked through an outline entitled, "The Four Habits of Highly Successful Sierra Club Chapters, Groups and Leaders," with these key points: (1) We plan ahead, strategically, to win environmental protections. (2) We work well together as leaders and activists. (3) We build relationships with people and involve them in our work. (4) We connect with our communities to protect the environment.

Many environmental issues were discussed, including the cleanup of the Fox River, the Cool Cities campaign, the

state Stewardship fund, parks, trails, forest fragmentation, energy, recycling, and global warming. There are indeed many issues that concern us, and that's why we find ourselves following too many issues with too few resources. We must focus on fewer issues, and do a better job with those issues.

Our Chapter then decided upon signature campaign issues; issues for which we can play leading roles and become known for.

Global warming, also known as "climate change," was high on everyone's list because credible science suggests that we may have only a decade before serious change is irreversible. But Wisconsin is a water state and protecting our water resources is always a signature issue for us.

Eventually we combined and simplified our priorities and came up with two signature campaigns to focus on for the next two years: (1) Global warming / energy solutions and action. (2) Great Lakes Compact / water quality / organic yards.

These are great issues for us to work on. We hope that working on important issues for which we can make a difference will be rewarding to our members and visible to our communities.

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

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

Fighting for ANWR in D.C.

by Jan Moldenhauer

One of the great things about belonging to the board of an organization like Sierra Club is the unique opportunities that arise for travel and learning. It seems every meeting that I attend a new horizon lights up. So it was last summer when we were asked if anyone wanted to go to Washington D.C. for an Alaskan Wilderness Coalition meeting. Without even checking my calendar, my hand went up, and I became the Fox Valley Sierra Group's representative.

When I was growing up, I wanted to homestead in Alaska, and I devoured books about it, and wrote papers about it. Then, in the 90's I had a chance to travel with friends through Alaska for four months. We went everywhere that there was fish, and a road that supported a half

ton truck and 26 foot trailer. It was everything that I had dreamed of, even though I sort of got sick of fish two times a day. Sometimes it seemed that the world stretched on forever with the mountains layering in different colors and the forests covering everything, and daylight that seemed to never end!

So I went to Washington to protect this wilderness that was already changing drastically. At risk was the ANWR and the Tongas Rain Forest. At least those are the things most talked about. I never did see the Tongas, because you have to get a boat to get there, but I had a vested interest in it. In the early 80's I had breast cancer and resigned myself to an early death. But the husband of my best friend, a victim of breast cancer took me

to Madison so I could take part in a pilot study to determine protocol for a relatively new medicine called Tamoxifen that had been found in the bark of old Yew trees in the Tongas Rain Forest. You'll notice that I'm still here.

My recent trip to D.C. was not just a pleasure trip, I had made appointments with my senators and representative, and I was appointed a young aide, Shaun, who made sure I kept those appointments. The groups was given pep talks and informational lectures starting at 8:30 A.M. Our hotel was located in Arlington, and we could shuttle in on the Metro, which was an experience in itself for an old lady, or as happened, I found others who preferred less walking and took a cab. The meetings were held all over D.C. and even in a church basement. Church basements must have a master plan, they look the same everywhere!

Due to the lectures, I had started with a dream, but ended up with hard facts. The money we spend subsidizing the lumber companies in the Tongas was amazing to me. 35 million dollars for a million dollar return! And protecting the workers?! What workers?! Mostly machines, only about 500 lumbermen, and those surely not local. That was just one tiny facet of the over abundance of information available from the meetings.

I also learned how the media can be fooled into believing anything. We saw a staged presentation of the G'wich indian tribe protesting drilling for oil, and then at a full Senate hearing we heard BP spokesmen saying they would repair the pipeline. That pipeline used to have a monitor going through it 24 hours a day when I was up there, so no leaks could occur. BP had not maintained this practice and hadn't looked at the pipeline in over 5 years! Now that has to rank as gross negligence! But the representative had promises galore and ranked people to defend their practice of getting billions of dollars of profit.

All in all, it was a grand experience, I saw Tom Petri, and he actually remembered me! We talked about bike trails as well as Alaska, The city is beautiful, and the buildings and statues, and views made me proud to be an American. My feet were a little sore when I got home, but my spirit was flying. Thanks to Sierra Club and the Alaskan Coalition for giving me a chance to perhaps make a difference and to renew my belief in the greatness of America!

SIERRA CLUB 2007 CALENDARS



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Fox Valley Sierra Group, 1016 B Green Tree Ct., Appleton, WI 54915

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

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Wilderness Calendar (13 1/2 x 11 5/16)	___	x	\$12.00	\$ _____
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Total amount enclosed				\$ _____

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



During the John Muir Chapter Strategic Planning Meeting at Camp Helen Brachman on September 23-24, 2006 two conservation topics became the top priorities after hours of discussion. The two conservation topics are Water and the Great Lakes and Global Warming or Climate Change.

These topics are similar to the three conservation initiatives adopted by the National Sierra Club: Smart Energy Solutions, America's Wild Legacy and Safe and Healthy Communities. For more information on these initiatives link to the Sierra Club website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/>.

During the next few months you will hear more about the two conservation topics discussed at the Strategic Planning Meeting. To get a head start you might checkout the EEK! (Environmental Education for Kids) site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/eeek/>.

Clink onto "Our Earth" and then "Water Wonders." Here you will find information about the water cycle, lakes, mercury pollution and groundwater. Try your luck with the groundwater quiz and the water word search.

There are links for a Great Lakes Map: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/habitat/greatlakesfacts.htm> and list of Great Lakes facts. Try the Great lakes Quiz at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/cool/GreatLakesQuiz/index.asp>.

Global warming or climate change information is found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/earth/air/global.htm#kids>. Here

you will learn about global warming and what you can do to help slow down global warming.

Many Sierra Club members have seen the movie, "An Inconvenient Truth". The producer of this film, Laurie David, recently wrote *Stop Global Warming: the Solution is You!* This book is a great resource of information about global warming. I think the best part of the book is the list of activities we all can do to slow down global warming.

Laurie David is also the founder of the Virtual March to Stop Global Warming (<http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/default.asp>), an internet campaign launched last year with Senator John McCain and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

HAUNTINGLY VOID

When up was not what down is now,
And thought confused my memories.
I looked at pitch-black darkened night,
And saw the light of centuries.

A tale reversed to lead me on;
My mind o'erwhelmed by what might be.
I knew the future of the past,
For clearly fog did let me see.

Outside my soul revealed time's wealth,
The Sun unlit, the Earth in freeze.
I saw a riddle solve itself,
What ever was, could never be.

Allan J. Mortenson

NATURE CENTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Heckrodt Menasha

January 13 & 14 - Saturday & Sunday

Free Snowshoe Weekend. 11 AM - 4 PM. Snowshoe rental is free and staff will be available to help visitors gear up. This event is pending 6" of snow base. Reservations are not required, but snowshoes are available on a first come, first served basis.

Brillion Brillion

November 4 - Saturday

Animal Signs. 2-3:30 PM. Learn to recognize signs of animals as we search the area for tracks, scat, browse, and other evidence animals leave behind. Cost: Members Free, Non-members \$1/person, \$3/household

November 11 - Saturday

From Acorns to Ashes: Grow, Harvest, and Burn Your own Firewood. 1-3 PM. Discover which kinds of wood burn most efficiently and learn how to improve your woodland by cutting firewood. Garner tips on wood storage and burning safety. Conclude program with warm beverages around the campfire. Cost: Free

December 2 - Saturday

Beeswax Candles. 2-3:30 PM. Just in time for the holidays, learn about three different methods of candle-making and roll a pair of beeswax candles to take home. Please register in advance. Cost: Members \$3, Non-members \$5

January 20 - Saturday

Winter Adaptations Hike (on snowshoes). 2-3:30 PM. Learn the history of snowshoes. Then, strap on a pair for a hike around the trails. If snow depth is less than four inches, hike will

be done without snowshoes. Please register in advance. Cost: Members \$3, Non-members \$5

January 24 - Wednesday

Success Takes Planning: Get the Most From Your Woodland. 6:30-8 PM. This workshop will take you through the crucial beginning steps of forest management. Learn about the factors that influence your property's potential and what resources will be needed to make your vision a reality. Put your ideas on paper and start your own forest management plan with the help of a WDNR forester and private forestry consultant.

The aforementioned activities are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

How Nutrients Poison Waterways

Sewage is just one of many sources of nutrient pollution, which contributes to impairing waterways in all 50 states. Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, which are needed by plants and animals to survive, can become dangerous when too many of them run off into waterways, causing algal blooms that essentially smother other organisms. This graphic shows the primary contributors to nutrient pollution and how they get into the water.

1 SEWAGE

Sewage overflow can escape into waterways when sewage treatment facilities are overtaxed or poorly maintained.

2 SPRAWL

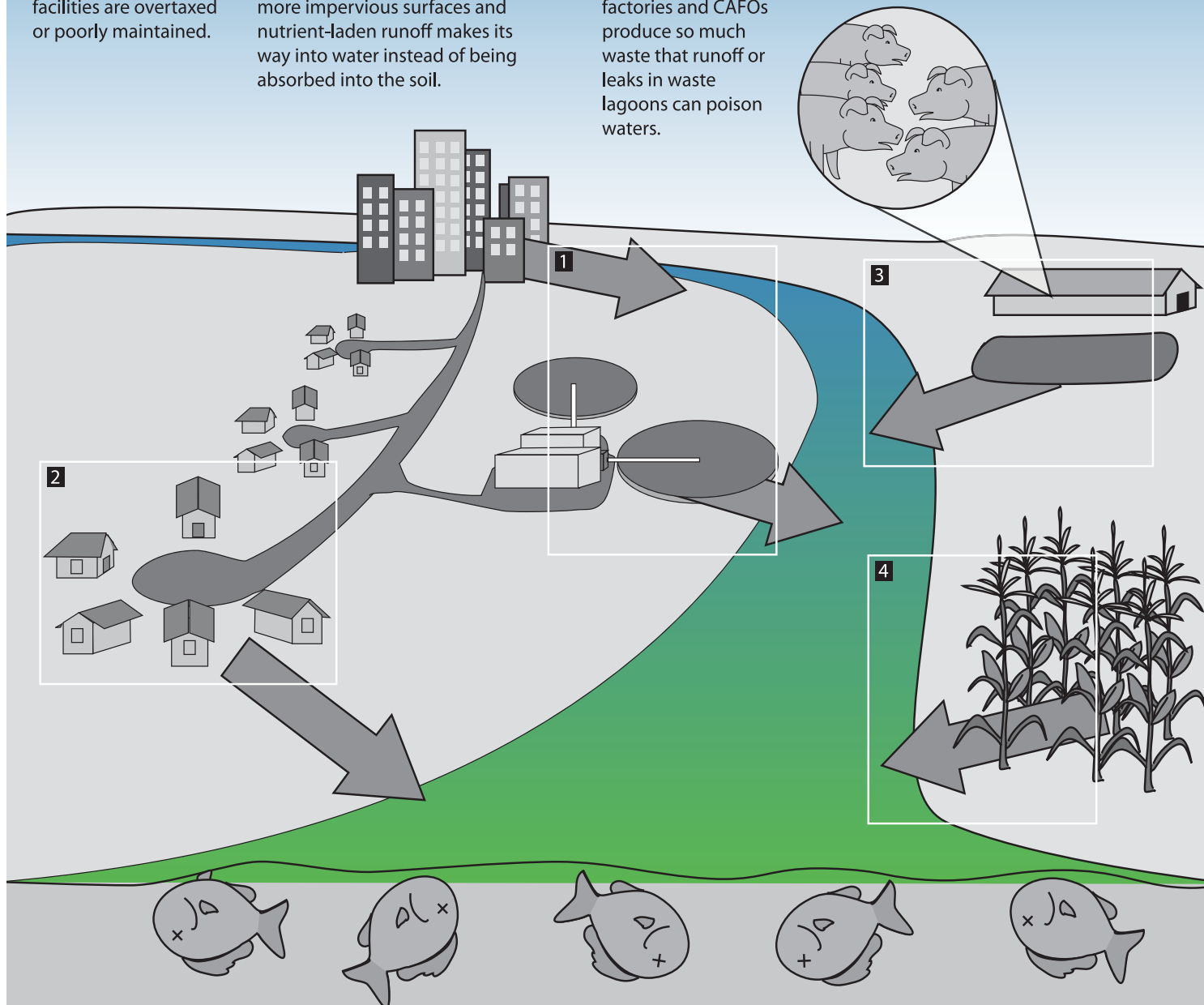
When open areas are paved over for streets, parking lots, and other developments, there are more impervious surfaces and nutrient-laden runoff makes its way into water instead of being absorbed into the soil.

3 FACTORY FARMS

In small quantities, animal manure can be used as fertilizer. But huge animal factories and CAFOs produce so much waste that runoff or leaks in waste lagoons can poison waters.

4 ROW CROP RUNOFF

Fertilizers and pesticides from croplands seep into the water table and then into streams, rivers, and lakes.



5 ALGAL BLOOMS

When too many nutrients enter the water, they contribute to an overabundance of algae, which robs other organisms of oxygen and light.

6 DRINKING WATER IMPACTS

To kill pathogens in drinking water, water agencies use chlorine and other disinfectants that create toxic by-products when waters contain high organic matter.

7 FISH KILLS

Nutrient pollution can deprive waters of oxygen so much that it results in massive fish kills.

WINTER OUTINGS

November 4 - Saturday

Buckthorn Removal at Bubolz.
Sharon Duerkop 920-734-1419.

November 11 - Saturday

Hike at Rib Mountain State Park in Wausau. Meet at 10:30am in the parking lot just after the booth at the entrance to the park. The hike will take about an hour and has some steep ups and downs. Bring a walking stick or ski poles. After the hike we'll head to Hudson's for lunch and then to the Leigh-Yawkey-Woodson Museum for the **Birds in Art Exhibit**. Rib Mountain is west of Interstate Hwy 39/U.S. Hwy 51 southwest of Wausau. Exit the freeway onto County Hwy N west. Turn right at the first intersection onto Park Drive and go about 2.5 miles to the summit. A Wisconsin State Park vehicle admission sticker is required and may be purchased at the park. *Nancy Brown-Koeller 920-830-6625 evenings, 920-721-5431 work, 715-853-6625 cell.*

November 26 - Sunday

Buckthorn Removal at Bubolz.
Sharon Duerkop 920-734-1419.

December 2 - Saturday

Hike the High Cliff Escarpment State Natural Area. Wisconsin has designated over 300 areas in the state as 'State Natural Areas' and one of those is almost in our backyard. The High Cliff Escarpment SNA is less than three

miles south of the village of Sherwood. Unlike the state parks, the SNA's have no campgrounds, no picnic areas, no johns or other facilities. The trail in and along the cliffs is unmarked but obvious. Wear hiking shoes and be prepared to walk for 1-2 hours. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

December 2 & 3 - Sat/Sun

Buckthorn Removal at Bubolz. (Rain Dates)
Sharon Duerkop 920-734-1419.

January 1 - Monday

Cross Country Ski at High Cliff State Park. What a way to clear the cobwebs after New Years eve! We'll ski the mostly flat trails at the top of the cliffs for a couple of hours then retire to my place for some hot chili around the fireplace. We'll meet in the parking lot by the tower; time to be determined. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

Jan 12-14 (3 night trip!)

Cross-country ski trip to Afterglow Lake Resort, Phelps, WI. Surrounded by Nicolet National Forest, ski right from your cabin on meticulously groomed diagonal and skate trails. Also ice skating rink and excellent snowshoe trails. Cabins have fireplaces and full kitchens. Afterglow has reputation for reliable snow. (These reservations are not easy to come by!) Cost will depend on number of people signed up. Approx. \$35/per person/per

night. Max. 12 (in 2 cabins). *Nancy Brown-Koeller 920 830-6625 and Penny Bernard Schaber 920 739-6041.*

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 Kelly Krapka

The Au Sable Lighthouse casts a shadow on the Superior shoreline at Pictured Rocks.

Portage and Waupaca Ice Age Trail Chapters Honor FVSG

During the Hike-A-Thon at Hartman Creek State Park on October 7, 2006, the Portage and Waupaca Ice Age Trail Chapters recognized the Fox Valley Sierra Group for their 20 years of volunteer service to the Ice Age Trail in Portage and Waupaca Counties. An Aldo Leopold Bench was built and dedicated in the Group's honor and placed on the Ice Age Trail west of the Family Campground at Allen Lake. The message on the plaque states "In recognition of the Fox Valley Sierra Group for their years of dedication to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Portage and Waupaca County Ice Age Trail Chapters."

Sitting on the bench starting from the left front is Mike Kirk, past Waupaca County Ice Age Trail Chapter Coordinator; Dale Schaber, Fox Valley Sierra Group, at the left back is Sally Freckmann, Portage County Ice Age Trail Chapter Coordinator; Jean Potter, North Central Field Coordinator, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation; Butch Siegel, Waupaca County Ice Age Trail Chapter; Maureen Birk, Fox Valley Sierra Group; and Debbie Krogwald, Waupaca County Ice Age Trail Chapter Coordinator.



Upcoming Programs

November 9

Have you ever wondered where your food is coming from? Have you looked at those little stickers on your fruit and realized that your plum came from Brazil and your orange from Belize? Greg Peters, a professor in Foods at Fox Valley Technical College will explore the cost of eating foods that are not in our food shed. The facts may surprise you!

December 14

Solstice Celebration. See front page for details.

January 11

Prof. Bob Stelzer, a professor in aquatic biology at UWO, has been literally testing the waters of the area for several years. He probably knows where the big ones are hiding, but his real interest is in the microscopic stuff that exists in runoff and spills. This is a must hear presentation!

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




by Kelly Krupka

*Polished Rocks Crowd the Superior Shoreline at
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park*

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is January 6, 2007!

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



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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