



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 07 Issue 1

Upcoming Programs

February 8 • Northern Wisconsin and the U.P.'s Most Inspiring Landscapes

Eric Hansen will present a slide tour of the Northcountry's best hikes and offer his thoughts on the land, its compelling themes and its almost mythic place in the imagination of people throughout the Midwest. The author of *Hiking Wisconsin* and *Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula - A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in the U.P.*, Eric walked 1,700 miles while researching these guidebook projects.

March 8 • Utah's Redrock Wilderness

Utah's spectacular redrock canyonlands include the largest remaining network of unprotected wild lands in the lower 48 states. Over the years a national campaign to protect these special places has fought off numerous efforts to damage and exploit the land. Learn what we can do together to help protect this special place.

April 12 • FVSG's 25th Anniversary Dinner

See page 3 for details.

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

PCB Cleanup: A Brief Update

By Alan Lawrence

Before the Clean Water Act of 1972 discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Fox River was not regulated. According to the Wisconsin DNR website, in 1954 paper mills began manufacturing carbonless copy paper coated with a PCB emulsion, and PCBs were released to the river through manufacturing processes. Approximately 30 million pounds of this emulsion were used in the Lower Fox Valley between 1954 and 1971. Nearly 700,000 pounds of PCB were released into the river.

It turns out that PCBs are dangerous to wildlife and to people. PCBs are man-made chemicals that bind to sediments where they are consumed by small organisms, bioaccumulating up the food chain. And because PCBs are soluble in fat, they stay stored in an organism's fatty tissue and can build to harmful levels.

A quarter century ago plans began for the cleanup of the PCB contamination. It would be expensive, but it must be done. Contamination flows into Lake Michigan where cleanup is even more difficult. The paper companies, as the polluters, would have to pay for the costs and they favored inexpensive cleanup solutions like capping (covering over) the river bottom. They also favored reducing the requirements of cleanup by allowing higher concentrations of PCB to exist. Environmental organizations and many citizens argued (*Continued on page 4*)

Global Warming Activism

By Diana Lawrence

In the months since July when my husband, Alan and I dragged my teenage daughter to see "An Inconvenient Truth" I have been mulling over what I should do about it, global warming that is. I am after all a wife, mother, full-time college student and very part-time employee; plus I have a challenging mental health issue that saps my energy at times. I realize that I have become passionate about the problem and consequences of global warming, so much so that I think I am willing to come out of my protective shell for a while and try to educate people about

the seriousness of this issue.

One of the reasons why this issue is so important to me, besides being a geography student, is that my daughter is fifteen years old and thinking about her future life. Alan and I try not to scare her but we also want her to be informed that global warming and its potential consequences are very serious and we, the world, are running out of time quickly.

We are running out of time because the nature of legislation and getting the entire country, 300 million people, onboard at the same time to make huge lifestyle and business adjustments takes an enormous amount of time. Once action is taken to reduce carbon

dioxide emissions it will take the natural systems, like the atmosphere, time to rebound. Carbon dioxide particles take about 10 years to fall out the atmosphere and methane particles take even longer. Our culture is so speed oriented that I worry when results for changes are not seen right away people will throw up their hands and wonder why they bothered. Information on global climate change is wonderful but the element that is missing from the discussion is the time it takes natural systems to rebound. During the rebound time damage will still be happening.

People may believe that there is no need to be a henny penny, the sky is not falling - I beg (*Continued on page 5*)

FROM THE CHAIR

As we begin a new year the first thing I need to do is thank our board members. They all contribute their time and energy to helping our club. Our group is supposed to have 13 board members, serving 3-year terms with staggered expirations. These four members have decided to take a short rest from their leadership roles: Maureen Birk, Diane Mandler, Jerry Sonnleitner, and Nancy Graham. Thank you.

You may have noticed the large notice in our last newsletter lamenting the fact that we have too many vacancies on our executive committee. We have room for several of you to become group leaders by joining our board. Please ask about the job.

2007 is a special year for our group because we are celebrating our 25th anniversary. Enough local Sierra Club members wanted to form a group and do things together. Some of these members are still with us. You will want to join us for the celebration on April 12 at the Columbus Club in Appleton. Dale Schaber, one of our founding members, is organizing the event. We anticipate an event you will not want to miss. See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter, then check our website for updates.

April is also Earth Day. We plan to have several ways to celebrate the Earth this year. You should be able to find a way to participate. We'll be joining an Ice Age Trail work weekend to help plant 500 trees near Waupaca on the 21st and 22nd. On the 28th we'll have our annual project of pulling invasive garlic mustard plants. We will also participate in the Earth Day celebrations of other organizations.

Our members received post cards from our state chapter in November informing us about the PCB cleanup of the Fox River. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the US Environmental Protection Agency face continuing pressure from the polluting paper companies responsible for funding the cleanup project. Consequently, the agencies recommended a different strategy for the cleanup. Our organization does not believe the new plan is effective. We helped to organize a large turnout at the public hearing in Green Bay on December 5. Most of the public was against the "capping" proposal made by the paper companies and the government agencies. The newspapers and television stations heard the people. Soon we'll know whether the agencies heard us, too.

Global Warming is one of the conservation issues our organization is following. Most informed people regard this as a serious human-made issue that will cause major climate changes around the world. We can't know just how the forecasts will play out, but we can anticipate that most people and most species of plants and animals will be effected and harmed. My wife, Diana Lawrence, has decided to become an activist on this issue. You can see her article elsewhere in this newsletter, and follow-up articles in upcoming newsletters.

Finally, the generosity of our members at our December holiday party added \$277 in donations to the Bubolz Nature Preserve. Thanks you.

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

Alan Lawrence
920-730-9515

alan.lawrence@wisconsin.sierraclub.org

FVSG's 25th Anniversary Dinner Celebration

Join other Fox Valley Sierra Group members at our 25th Anniversary Dinner on April 12, 2007! The dinner will be at the Columbus Club in Appleton at 2531 North Richmond Street (Highway 47), (920) 733-9710. The Columbus Club is located on the west side of Richmond Street (Highway 47) approximately one mile south of the Hwy 41 and Hwy 47 (Richmond Street) Intersection.

The dinner starts at 7:00 PM. Meet in the bar area at 6:30 PM for drinks.

We will have a Country Family Style Dinner with two entrées: oven roasted chicken and tenderloin tips. The dinner will be served family style and includes potatoes, gravy, dressing, hot vegetables, dinner rolls, cole slaw, relish, cranberries, dessert, coffee and milk. A vegetarian meal will also be available. The cost per meal is \$13.25 and includes 15% service charge (tip) and 5% sales tax.

Representative Spencer Black (D), 77th Assembly District in Madison, will be our guest speaker. He was the Chairperson of the John Muir Chapter when our group was organized on January 14, 1982. Rep. Black is author of numerous environmental laws including the Stewardship Fund, the largest conservation effort in Wisconsin's history, the Mining Moratorium Bill, the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, the statewide recycling program, and the endangered species match grant.

Another guest invited to the dinner is Caryl Terrell. During most of our 25 years she was the Executive Director of the John Muir Chapter in Wisconsin.

Also at the dinner will be our very own Tom Sutter, historian and photographer, who will present a program on the life and legacy of John Muir. John Muir, naturalist, writer and conservationist, founded the Sierra Club on May 28, 1892.

More information about other invited guests and activities will be announced at our February and March monthly meetings and on the FVSG's website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>

PLANTING, PICKING & PULLING!

Garlic Mustard Pulling and other Earth Day Activities!

There are lots of things each of us can do to celebrate Earth Day this year. Planting trees is a great idea. Picking up garbage helps our neighborhoods and parks. Pulling out Garlic Mustard is great for the native wildflowers that are being overgrown.

Please join us in a variety of Earth Day Activities. We will be planting trees on Earth Day weekend, April 21 and 22, 2007. See the article by Dale Schaber on this activity for the details. We are also planning our 5th annual Garlic Mustard Pull for April 28, 2007.

We will plan to work at High Cliff State Park in Sherwood, Kaukauna High School and possibly at Lawrence University in Appleton. Penny Bernard Schaber will coordinate the Garlic Mustard Pull this year. She will need your help. Call her at 920-739-6041 or mail her at dschaber@athenet.net to sign up. This activity will be done in the morning of April 28th from 9:30 until 12:00 followed by a hike at High Cliff State Park.

Plan to spend at least three hours in your own neighborhood or a nearby city, county or state park picking up litter. This is easy to do, needs no advance planning and can be done by a single person, a couple, or a family. You can do this as a young or old person and you can also do it year round. Earth Week is a great time to get started with this new habit. Plan to take a plastic bag with you once a week when you walk in your neighborhood or visit a park and pick up litter and trash as you go along.

25th Anniversary Dinner Reservations

Deadline for the dinner reservations is **April 4, 2007**. If you have any questions, contact Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

_____ County Family Style Dinner @ 13.25 each \$ _____

_____ Vegetarian Dinner @ 13.25 each \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Send your dinner reservations with a check made out to the Fox Valley Sierra Group to: Dale Schaber, 815 East Washington St., Appleton, WI 54911-5660.

(PCB continued from page 1)
for thorough cleanup solutions. They favored dredging and vacuuming the river bottom, and allowing only very low concentrations of PCB to exist.

Following years of study and public comment several significant decisions were made. A Proposed Remedial Action Plan was published by the DNR and EPA in 2001. Then two Records of Decision (RODs) were issued in 2002 and 2003 explaining the cleanup methods that had been chosen by the DNR and EPA.

The RODs established an "action level" of 1 part per million (ppm) for the cleanup effort. Any sediment found in the river with a concentration of PCBs of 1 ppm or greater is targeted for removal.

The agencies created agreements with some of the paper companies named as "responsible parties" in the Fox River cleanup committing the companies to funding the cleanup.

Unfortunately, the RODs also provided for acceptance of a contingent remedy of "capping in some areas of the river if capping can be done at a lower cost and shown to result in as good or better risk reduction in both the short and long terms."

The responsible parties have had regular contact with the DNR and EPA, and pressured those government agencies to propose changes to the cleanup plan.

It is claimed that the original cleanup plan will cost significantly more than originally calculated. This opens the "loop hole" to consider the contingent remedy of capping. The proposed change would clean only the worst sections of

the river, and would cover over the remaining contamination with sand and gravel.

The proposed plan is said to be less expensive, but is still estimated to cost \$390 million. This would still be the largest and most expensive sediment cleanup project in the country.

Sierra Club, other organizations and private citizens believe that the proposed capping plan is not acceptable. Capping is simply not a permanent solution. The caps will eventually fail and the contamination will again be a problem. We are saying, "CLEAN UP not COVER UP".

Publicity was generated and a large crowd, estimated at 300 people, packed the Public Meeting on December 5 at the Brown County Library. Dozens of citizens spoke up for and against the proposal, taking the meeting until past 10 pm. A strong majority of the speakers were against the capping proposal.

Among the reasons why caps are unacceptable are: The caps will eventually fail because of floods, ice jams, groundwater upwelling, and other punch-through scenarios. Capping changes the river bottom and water flow. Capping consumes thousands of truck loads of quarry resources and the fuel resources to drive those trucks; none of which is good for the environment. Capping is only temporary, yet the responsible corporations will be released from liability, making future cleanup the responsibility of taxpayers.

For more information please visit:
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/FoxRiverPCB.html>

ANNUAL AUCTION

It's that time again to start thinking about our annual fundraiser held **May 10, 2007**. Enjoy an evening of delicious food, an entertaining auction and so much more! Donations for the auction are needed in order to make this evening a success. Previous "hot sellers" include: art photos, bike ride & picnic, professional massage, craft projects, yard work, food specialties, antiques, sporting goods (new), dinner for two, ect. **Start thinking NOW about goods and services you can bring to our annual auction!** More info to come in our next newsletter.

Snapshots: Solstice Celebration

Photos by Dale Schaber



RACK 'N ROLL

Have you noticed bike racks on the front of Valley Transit buses? Through the efforts and donations of individuals, corporations, and non-profits such as Fox Cities Greenways, bike racks were installed and operational during the summer of 2006. It's a great boost to multi-modal transportation. To use the racks, however, one must be trained and certified. Plan now to get the training and be ready to rack and roll come spring.

Walk-in appointments are available weekdays from 8-5 at the Transit's Administrative office, 801 Whitman Ave. Appleton or schedule an appointment at the Transit Center 100 E. Washington St. For further information review the Rack N Roll Rules and Regulations brochure on the Valley Transit website or call 832-5800 or e-mail valley.transit@appleton.org.

Trekkin' with Dale



One of the many things I like to do in winter is read. Here are a few of the things I found while reading on a cold wintry night in December.

Roy Lukes, former naturalist at the Ridges Sanctuary in Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, wrote in an article for the Appleton Post Crescent on December 6, 2006, "Winter is a good time to think about birds. For one thing, there are far fewer species of birds in our region during the cold months, making identifying them much easier. Second, what wonderful Christmas gifts bird feeders, bird feed, bird books and field guides can be."

To help you identify familiar winter birds check out the Wisconsin's Favorite Winter Birds Poster at this WDNR site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/ee/critter/bird/birdposter/index.htm> . Here you can point to and click on any bird to learn about them and what they are eating at the feeders.

While outdoors combine your birding activity with a winter scavenger hunt! Use this list of winter items found on this WDNR site <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/ee/nature/winterhunt.htm> to help you observe the art and beauty of nature in winter. Use the list at city parks, local nature centers or at nearby county and state parks.

Roy Lukes has been writing nature stories and answering nature questions in the Appleton Post Crescent for the past 30 years. He will be our featured speaker and guest at the 2007 Autumn

Assembly at Camp Helen Brachman on October 12-14, 2007 hosted by the Fox Valley Sierra Group.

In the January 8, 2007 issue of Newsweek Magazine Joan Raymond lists 10 simple tips for living greener in 2007: "Environment: Easy To Be Green" <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16399617/site/newsweek/> . Use some of the activities for celebrating Earth Day on April 21, 2007.

Sierra Club has its own website and blog for living well and doing good: "The Green Life" <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/> . Jennifer Hattam, editor of "The Green Life", welcomes readers to "The Green Life" blog.

"The Green Life' was launched in the November/December 2005 issue of Sierra magazine as a place to showcase trendsetting people, cool products, and empowering ideas. Quickly we saw that there was too much happening, too fast, to limit our coverage to a few bimonthly pages, and thus this blog was born."

"When we devoted our January/February 2005 issue to the burgeoning green-lifestyle movement, we saw there was a huge interest in earth-friendly options for living well. What we wear, where we live, how we get around, and how we spend our money affects not only our own quality of life, but the quality of our environment. Fortunately, style and sustainability increasingly go hand in hand, reaffirming our belief that the best things in life truly are green.

"What's your favorite green product? What ideas have made your life a little easier and the Earth a little happier? Share your rants, raves, tips, and questions with other readers and us."

Hope you use the ideas found at these sites to live greener in 2007!

WANTED: ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD NOMINEES

The Fox Valley Sierra Group is seeking nominations for our Environmental Award. The purpose of the Environmental Award is to recognize and honor those that have achieved significant benefits to the environment from their efforts and contributions. The nominee's contribution to environmental improvement need not be earth-shaking. The award will consist of a plaque and a \$100 cash award to be presented at a FVSG meeting.

Persons making nominations must be current members of FVSG. Any individual or group may be nominated: for example, an informal group of individuals, a club, a company, a unit of government, or a nonprofit organization. Nominations must be submitted in essay form no more than 500 words in length. The nominating essay will describe the action or effort put forth, the environmental benefits accruing thereto, and the contribution of the nominee to the effort or action; plus any other pertinent information.

Nominations must be received by April 2, 2007. Send your nominating essay to: Charles Paine, N8172 Firelane 13, Menasha, WI 54952-9650. Those selected by the reviewing committee will be published in the May issue of *It's Our Nature* along with a ballot for members to use to vote for the nominee of their choice.

(Warming continued from page 2)
to differ. Unlike other human endeavors such as mountain top removal or polluted waterways, mitigation of a damaged atmosphere at some point is not possible. There is a certain point, unknown to any person, at which if we do nothing or not enough, the damage will be irreversible. The Earth itself will go on, it will keep turning; there just will not be life on it. Personally, I think Venus is beautiful, for a dead planet that is.

Back to my original problem of becoming a true activist; I am scared. I am going to be putting myself out there trying to sound rational when inside I feel a deep sense of urgency. I will be out of my comfort zone in ways I can't yet imagine, but for my daughter I am willing to try.

'06 Calendar Collection... Don't throw out your 2006 calendars with the pretty pictures! They can be used once more for craft projects in nursing homes. Nancy Brown-Koeller will collect them at the February meeting.

NATURE CENTER EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Heckrodt Menasha

February 11 - Sunday

Birds of Prey. 1:30-3 PM. Learn about birds of prey and meet some up close. Cost: \$2/person

March 17 - Saturday

Break out of the cabin fever doldrums. 12-3 PM. Join us for a program about wellness that includes aromatherapy, herbs, massage, natural foods and others. Cost: \$2/person

Ledgeview Chilton

February 3 - Saturday

Musical Evening Snowshoe/Ski. 6-10 PM. Cross-country ski on moonlit or candlelit trails till 10 PM, naturalist-guided snowshoe hikes every hour, hot cider, hot chocolate, cheese and crackers, and good fellowship with live music by a bluegrass/folk band. Snowshoe rental/ski trail fee are included in the cost (bring your own skis). If the snow is missing, we'll do discounted boot hikes instead. No pets, please. Cost: \$8/person, CNS Members \$4/person

February 24 - Saturday

Natural Fiber & Drop Spindles: Nettles. 1 PM. Learn the historic European and Native American preparation and use of nettle fiber, make a drop spindle to spin nettle yarn, and (optional) make a spiderweb dreamcatcher. Bring two coarse-toothed combs or brushes, medium-grit sandpaper, pliers, a crochet hook or blunt large-eyed needle. Please pre-register to ensure



Christian, Kelly, and Riley hike through the snow at Rib Min. on the Nov. 11, 2006 FVSG outing.

by Charlie Paine

materials availability: Cost: \$5/person

March 10 - Saturday

Maple Syruping Workshop. 1 PM. Learn how to tap the maple trees in your own yard and make maple syrup using ordinary household tools and equipment. Cost: \$3/person

March 31 & April 1 - Saturday & Sunday

Historical Re-enactors Encampment. Call ahead to confirm. Cost: Free

April 1 - Sunday

Maple Syrup Sunday. 9-4. Tap a maple tree, collect sap, learn the history of how it becomes syrup, and enjoy the taste of pure maple syrup on pancakes. Pancake breakfast is served 9-1. Sugarbush demonstrations & tours offered all day. Pancake Breakfast \$5 age 13+; \$3 age 12-6; younger Free. Sugarbush tours & demos Free.

Mosquito Hill New London

February 17 & 18 - Saturday & Sunday

Winter Camping Made Easy. 10 AM (Sat.) - 1 PM (Sun.) Our annual weekend of cold-weather, mosquito-free camping will include many fun outdoor activities, an indoor presentation on Arctic adventures, 4 hearty meals, & much more. Call for details on our registration discount. Registration and payment due February 4. Cost: \$45/person, \$35/FOMH

February 24 - Saturday

Snowshoe Races. 9:30 AM. 200-meter children's race for 10 & under. One, 4 & 8-mile events for all ages. Bring your own racing snowshoes or rent a pair for a small fee. Call for race fees.

March 3 - Saturday

Willow Basketry. 9 AM - 4 PM. Locally collected willow will be used to make an attractive basket. Registration & payment due February 24. Cost: \$39/person, \$36/FOMH

Aldo Leopold Weekend/The Fox Valley Reads Leopold.

10 AM - 3 PM. Fox Valley students and local Leopold aficionados will come together to read aloud A Sand County Almanac.

Leopold Bench Building Workshop.

1:30-3:30 PM. Registration and payment due February 24. Cost: \$45/person, \$40/students, seniors, FOMH.

March 24 - Saturday

Grey Wind and Company: A Sandhill Crane Story. 12:30-1:30 PM. Learn about a woman's 20 career rehabilitating sandhill cranes. Advance reservations appreciated; walk-ins also welcome.

Cost: \$5/adults, \$3/students, seniors, FOMH

Annual Sandhill Crane Count Training Session.

1:30-2:30 PM. Attendance required to take part on the count day, April 14, 5:30-7:30 AM. Advance reservations appreciated; walk-ins are also welcome.

March 31 - Saturday

Walking Stick Carving. 1-4 PM. Registration and payment due March 23. Cost: \$20/person, \$18/seniors, FOMH

April 22 - Sunday

NatureMapping Training. 1-3 PM. NatureMapping is a biodiversity survey program that allows citizens, school groups, and professionals to enter wildlife observations into a statewide database. This training session is open to anyone. Advance reservations appreciated; walk-ins also welcome.

April 28 - Saturday

Birding By Canoe. 7:30-11 AM. Bird watching from canoes in the scenic Mukwa Wildlife Area. Registration and payment due April 20. Cost: \$7/adults, \$5/students, seniors, FOMH

Ridges Baileys Harbor

February 2, 9, 16 - Friday

Snowshoe Hikes. 1 PM. Some loaner snowshoes are available at the Sanctuary, call ahead to reserve a pair. No snow? We'll go for a hike anyway. Cost: Free for Ridges members, donations accepted for nonmembers.

February 10 - Saturday

Tracks and Traces Hike. 1 PM. Search for wildlife clues, and maybe some early signs of spring. Meet at the Ridges Nature Center, 8288 Hwy Q, Baileys Harbor. Cost: Free for Ridges members, donations accepted for nonmembers.

March 9 & 10 - Friday & Saturday

Building for Bluebirds Workshops. 1 PM. Learn what bluebirds need to survive, and build a bluebird box to take home. Preregister for either day by calling 920-839-2802. Cost: Donation of \$5/box to cover cost of materials.

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.

OUTINGS

February 10 - Saturday

Cross-Country Ski at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay. The camp has a large heated lodge with fireplace, tables, and indoor facilities (johns). While skiing through the forest we can learn about reforestation in northeast Wisconsin. After skiing we can stop for pizza on the way home if the group wishes. Easy-Moderate trails groomed for both striding and skating. A fee is charged. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

February 18 - Sunday

Snowshoe Walk at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Meet at 11:30 AM. Snowshoeing is growing in popularity because you enjoy it on your own terms. Whether you're looking for an aerobic workout, or just want some fresh air, there are quiet, scenic trails are waiting for you. We'll walk about 2 hours. Bring your own snowshoes and use the trails at no charge, or rent a pair of snowshoes for \$3/adults or \$2/students and seniors. Please call ahead to check on snow conditions. *Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920-830-6625 (eve); 920-721-5431 (day). Leave message.*

February 23-25 (Weekend)

Cross Country Ski or Snowshoe in the Ironwood MI and Hurley WI area. Meet for dinner Friday night. On Saturday, we'll head to ABR, a beautiful, friendly, family-run center which has the most reliable snow and best grooming around. Ski and snowshoe rental available. Your choice of other areas on Sunday. Lodging is at a modest but historic B&B in Montreal, "The Inn" (originally the Montreal Mining Company's office). Lodging is about \$40/person/night. Trail fee \$10 at ABR. **Deadline for sign-up is Feb. 9.** Please include \$70 deposit. *Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920-830-6625 (eve); 920-721-5431 (day). Leave message.*

March 10 - Saturday

Hike the Trails at Bubolz Nature Preserve. This is probably too early to see migratory birds returning to the area but what with global warming, maybe not. Anyhow it will be a great time to get out and enjoy nature. If there should be snow we can look for tracks; if not we'll look for other wildlife signs. Dress for the weather and plan to hike over rough terrain for 2-3 hours. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900.*

April 14 - Saturday

Riverbank Cleanup via canoe on the Neenah Slough. Part exploration, part service project. We'll meet at 11 AM in the parking lot for Bridgewood Offices at 996 S. Green Bay Rd in Neenah (across from Burger King). From there we will canoe on the Slough and collect garbage that we spot along the river. Wear work gloves and shoes that can get wet. (We may have to cross some fallen trees.) Bring garbage bags, water, and a snack. *Kelly Krupka 920-540-9139.*

April 21 & 22 - Sat. & Sun.

Ice Age Trail Workday. 10 AM. Join us for an Earth Day tree-planting along the newly-acquired section of trail north of Grenlie Rd. 500 trees is the goal, so we need lots of hands! Bring water, lunch, work gloves, and tick repellent (yes, it is that time of year). Directions: Hwy 10 west of Waupaca to Foley Rd. north to Grenlie Rd. east to IAT crossing. Watch for signs. *Dale Schaber at 920-739-6041 or at dale.schaber@wisconsin.sierraclub.org or Debbie Krogwald at 715-677-4974 or at dkrogw@co.waupaca.wi.us*

April 28 - Sat.

Garlic Mustard Pull at High Cliff State Park, Kaukauna High School and possibly at Lawrence University. Pull is from 9:30 until 12:00 followed by a hike at High Cliff State Park. *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 Alan Lawrence

Exploring the Rustic Roads near Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca on September 16, 2006.



by Alan Lawrence

Outing leaders Caroline and Charlie enjoy a cold treat after a long day on the saddle. After all, it wouldn't be an official FVSG outing without ice cream!

FVSG's Programs & Special Events for 2007

January 11	Meeting and Program
February 8	Meeting and Program
March 8	Meeting and Program
April 12	25th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration Columbus Club, Appleton, 7:00 PM
April 20-21	Plant Trees along the Ice Age Trail, Waupaca
April 21	Earth Day Celebration at Lawrence University
April 28	Garlic Mustard Pull
May 10	Annual Auction
June 14	Meeting and Program
July	No Meeting or Program
August 9	Picnic
September 13	Meeting and Program
October 6	Hike-A-Thon, Iola Winter Park, Scandinavia, WI
October 11	Meeting and Program
October 12-14	Autumn Assembly, Camp Helen Brachman, Almond, WI
October 20	Romp in the Swamp, Bubolz Nature Preserve
November 8	Meeting and Program
December 13	Solstice Celebration

Ice Age Service Workdays in Portage/Waupaca Counties

On Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, at 10 AM we will be working with the Waupaca Ice Age Trail Chapter planting trees along the Ice Age Trail north of Hartman Creek State Park and near to the Skunk Lake State Natural Area.

Join us for an Earth Day tree-planting along the newly-acquired section of trail north of Grenlie Rd. 500 trees is the goal, so we need lots of hands! Bring water, lunch, work gloves, and tick repellent (yes, it is that time of year).

The Ice Age Trail Service Workdays are scheduled for June 9th and September 22nd. More information on these workdays will appear in the next newsletter.

Directions: Hwy 10 west of Waupaca to Foley Rd. north to Grenlie Rd. east to IAT crossing. Watch for signs. Contact Dale Schaber at dale.schaber@wisconsin.sierraclub.org or at 920-739-6041 or Debbie Krogwold at 715-677-4974 or at dkrogw@co.waupaca.wi.us



by Dale Schaber

Eliza Koeller, Nancy Brown-Koeller and Andrea Bessert at FVSG's station at Romp in the Swamp on October 21, 2006 at Bubolz.

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the next newsletter is April 14, 2007!

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



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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Surprise someone with an
**Earth Day
Gift Membership**
Because everyday is Earth Day.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
Email _____

YES! I would like to give an Earth Day gift membership to

Gift Recipient _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<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
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