



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 08 Issue 1

Upcoming Programs

February 14 • A Sustainable Fox Valley

Leslie Taylor and Catherine Weiswender from the Wisconsin Extension Office will speak on a Sustainable Fox Valley. They will present the results of a recent conference and how to implement the findings in your community. Many communities are now putting together "green committees", and this will give you some starting hints. Get out there and do something!

March 13 • Bats!

Jodi Sedlock and Randi Williams of the Wind River Rehabilitation Center will present a program guaranteed to raise the hackles on your neck. With real live bats, they will speak about all the good things these dreaded messengers of the night bring to us. This is a great program for kids!



April 10 • To Be Announced

Please visit our website for updates:
www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley

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

Stop Illegal Open Burning

by Kelly Krupka

At our January meeting, DNR Environmental Warden Tom Krsnich opened our eyes to the problem of illegal open burning in Wisconsin. Open burning of wastes such as plastics, garbage, oil, coated wire, tires, and treated lumber is a public health problem and a major source of air pollution. According to the EPA, it is the largest source for dioxin emissions (a carcinogen) and can lead to serious health problems. Not only is illegal open burning a major source of air pollution, it is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin.

Why is illegal open burning such a large problem in Wisconsin? Currently, the DNR can only issue a citation for burning without a fire permit or burning at the wrong time of day. That means if a citizen has a burn permit and decides to burn illegal materials, the DNR cannot issue a citation. Pretty hard to believe, isn't it? Only a few of the most flagrant violations are prosecuted by the Department of Justice, a long and costly process.

Two bills have been introduced, AB 546 and SB 284, that would allow the DNR and all law enforcement officers to issue citations for illegal open burning of wastes. According to Krsnich, the Senate is going to schedule a vote on the senate bill but the Assembly is *not* planning a vote and will let the bill die before the end of the session. The only way to make the bill a law is to get both the Senate and the Assembly to vote on the bill and send it to the Governor. Call your Assembly representative and demand that AB 546 come up for a vote. Let's stop illegal open burning in Wisconsin once and for all!

FROM THE CHAIR

As the group chairperson, and prominent contributor to this newsletter, I often wonder to myself what I should write about. To be meaningful to my readers I must remember the reasons why people become Sierra Club members. There are about 750,000 Sierra Club members in the organization, approximately 16,000 in Wisconsin, and about 1,600 in our Fox Valley Group. We all appreciate the outdoors. Our mission statement nicely states the various ways we can appreciate the outdoors:

Our mission statement:

- Explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth.
- Practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources.
- Educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.
- Use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Many of us seek companions for hiking, camping, canoeing, bicycling, skiing, or other quiet outdoor activities. Others desire to participate in service projects. And others are enraged by something harmful to the environment and are inspired to do something about it. Many of us do all of these things.

Mike Brandel, the executive director of the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve where our group meets and does service work, retired on January 11. At his retirement party he reminded us that part of the Preserve's mission is to help people enjoy nature and help them develop a sound environmental ethic reflecting an understanding and appreciation of nature.

I feel fortunate to be enjoying this nature preserve, and other lovely places in Wisconsin. I hope we can preserve these places for future generations to enjoy.

Global warming, one of the major conservation issues followed by Wisconsin Sierra Club groups, has come into the mainstream. Most people have heard of this issue and have a basic understanding of it. Most people know that Al Gore has made it his mission to educate the world about the science and consequences of global warming, and most people are aware that he was recently awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

I am convinced that global warming is more than just a hypothesis, regardless of the criticism that can be read on the Internet. I believe the scientific evidence that says atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have increased 37% in only 200 years. This is perhaps the fastest increase seen in the past 800,000 years, and there is now more carbon dioxide in our atmosphere than at any other time measured over those 800,000 years. Climatologists continue to record each recent year as among the warmest years on record. Contemporary evidence of glacier melting and other environmental changes seems to support the hypothesis that global warming is happening and that the consequences will be significant.

Although consequences are difficult to predict, we can expect that the weather will change, and that it may change faster than many plants and animals can adapt. In recent centuries humans have harmed plant and animal species by trespassing on and destroying their habitats, or by excessive hunting. The future may add weather changes that further harm survival to plants and animals and the things that they depend upon.

Indeed, humans may find their own territories changing too quickly. Predictions suggest that melting polar ice will cause oceans to rise and displace people and crop growing areas. Predictions suggest changing weather will cause droughts on traditional fertile crop lands, while perhaps watering lands with infertile soils.

We are already seeing our food supplies challenged. Most of you have already seen grocery store prices increasing recently. Some of this can be blamed on the higher distribution and production costs due to higher gasoline prices. And some of this can be blamed on ethanol production, which some people believe will help with gasoline prices. Ethanol production currently uses corn, which consequently means that farmland that used to feed people or livestock is now being used to grow automobile fuel. And this is causing the price of all foods based on corn to rise. Imagine the consequences of further ethanol production while farmland continues to be destroyed by urban sprawl, and climate change affects our abilities to use our remaining farmland.

The world, particularly Americans and our political representatives, does not seem ready to take global warming seriously. Indeed, I worry that even Sierra Club is not concerned enough. Our official policy is that "we must reduce global warming emissions 80% by 2050 which is a reasonable and achievable 2% per year." I believe we need to make significant changes faster than that.

In case you missed our January group meeting, we had a last-minute change of speakers. DNR Environmental Warden Tom Krsnich informed us about the problem of illegal open burning in Wisconsin. People are illegally and dangerously burning plastics, tires, paints, and other materials. Resulting dioxins and other pollutants are very harmful to our environment and our economy. We learned that illegal burning is the #1 cause of forest fires in Wisconsin. Dioxins are considered to be among the most toxic substances known to man, causing major health problems. Trash burning contributes 25% of Wisconsin's airborne dioxins. The DNR is seeking the authority to issue citations to violators. Two bills (SB-284 and AB-546) awaiting voting in the Wisconsin legislature provide the DNR with citation powers for open burning and the storage of scrap tires without a license.

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

Alan Lawrence
alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com
920-730-9515

A Sustainable Fox Valley

by Penny Bernard Schaber

November 3, 2008 was a beautiful fall day. The sun was shining, the leaves were colorful and the temperature was great for a day-long walk, hike or bike ride. What were those people doing, sitting inside at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship hall in Appleton? How could anyone stay inside on such a great day?

All 106 of the people in the fellowship hall were attending the conference that was partially sponsored and supported by the Fox Valley Group and the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. "A Sustainable Fox Valley – Building Sustainable Communities through the Natural Step Approach" was a one-day workshop that presented a summarization of the history, scientific basis, business and community application of the four sustainable objectives that are the corner stones of the Natural Step Approach. This approach has been promoted in the book; "The Natural Step for Communities, How Cities and Towns can Change to Sustainable Practices?" by Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti. Participants in the workshop included individuals and local elected officials from Neenah, Menasha, Ripon, Appleton, Saint

Paul and Chicago. Other sponsors of the workshop included the Community Foundation, League of Women Voters from Appleton and Neenah, the UW Extension of Winnebago and Outagamie Counties, the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Action Committee, and the East Regional Planning Commission.

The first speaker was Amy Oberg. She is a futurist, working for Kimberly Clark. She talked about patterns of material consumption. Mentioning that companies are recognizing the fact that the low resource consumer is a growing portion of the shopping public. She talked about how businesses have started to look to the future and are finding that companies need to consider the spiritual, religious and sustainable connections that consumers have to the earth.

Jay Moynihan, from the Shawano County UW Extension, was the next speaker. He received training from Paul Hawken in the Natural Step Approach. Jay focused on determining our own "carbon strategy". He presented methods for identifying and adjusting our consumption patterns to decrease individual carbon footprints, thereby decreasing worldwide carbon consumption. Jay's presentation included a review of the basic scientific aspects of sustainability.

Tom Boldt, CEO of Boldt Construction, Inc., presented the business side of sustainability. Tom talked about his personal philosophy as a builder and contractor, indicating that this philosophy has helped him to make his company profitable by incorporating green construction practices. Boldt Construction, Inc. has been designing and building LEED certified buildings throughout the country. Boldt Construction recently built the Aldo Leopold Center near Portage. He talked about how business practices are recognizing the consumers desire to become sustainable. This is the driving force behind changing business practices.

The next speaker was Lisa McKinnon from 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin. Her portion of the workshop covered community practices such as improved recycling of a wider variety of waste products and the development of water-saving strategies with gray water and water filtration systems. Lisa compared the sustainable practices of Scandinavian communities to US communities. She talked about how involved citizens can work with their local elected officials to improve sustainability at the community level.

During a working lunch participants gathered in neighborhood and community groups to work (Continued on page 5)

Take Back the Pavement

A public art project that will turn parking spaces into parks or other creative landscapes.

Be a part of Earth Week events this year by bringing your imagination and supplies to create a temporary park where a parking space currently exists. These spaces may raise awareness about the way our streets are constructed and used or just add interest to the lay of the land. This event will kick off Green Bay's Earth week festivities, beginning on April 20th from 9am-11am on Broadway Street in Green Bay. Join this celebration of parks, community and creativity!

For more information or to sign up for a parking space contact Rachel by phone at (920) 609-4496 or via e-mail at sunsetharvest@gmail.com.



Stay Updated on Local Issues...

For information about conservation issues important to FVSG members, please check the FVSG Website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>. Click on the link to the Conservation's Chair's Page.

2007 Autumn Assembly Was A Smashing Success!

by Dale Schaber

Members of the Fox Valley Sierra Group received many favorable compliments about the 2007 Autumn Assembly we hosted at Camp Helen Brachman on October 12-14, 2007. Many Sierra Club members came together from throughout Wisconsin to meet one another, share ideas and to discuss common environmental issues and concerns. The programs, meals, musical entertainment and location provided not only a relaxing experience for all participants but also unique learning opportunities.

I would like to personally thank the following Fox Valley Sierra Group members who were especially involved in planning and organizing the Autumn Assembly: Fox Valley Sierra Group Executive Board members for their encouragement and support; Sally Peck, FVSG Treasurer; Maureen Birk, Registration; Ruthann Hetzler, Registration; Nancy Brown-Koeller, Meals and Food Service; Kelly Krupka, Fox Valley Sierra Group Newsletter editor; and Charlie Paine, Early Riser Hikes and the Bike Outing on Sunday morning.

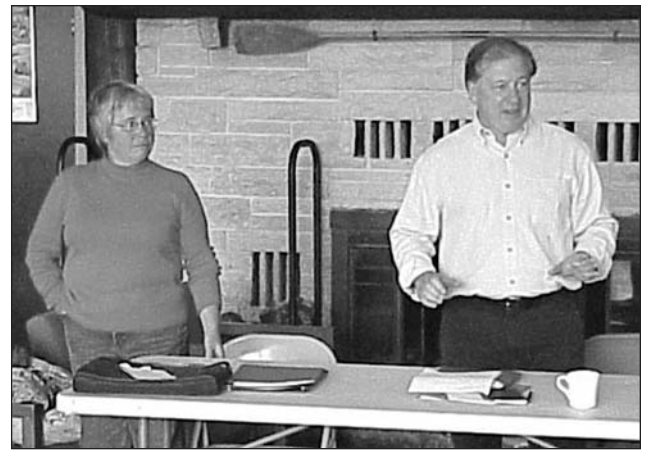
See you at the 2008 John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly hosted by the Four Lakes Group at Upham Woods 4-H Camp located in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin.

Ice Age Trail News

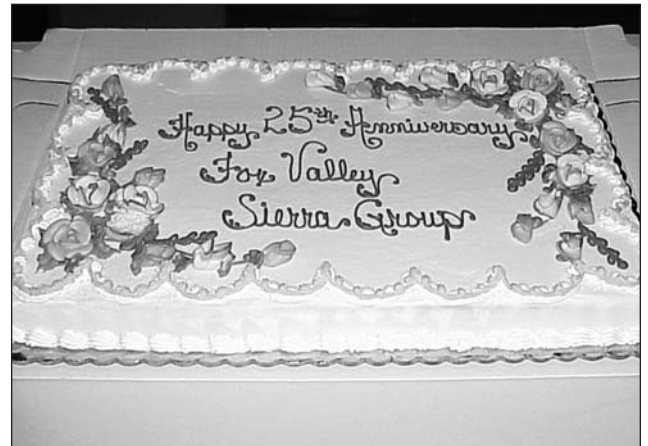
Darrel Ruechel will be the new Ice Age Trail contact person for the Fox Valley Sierra Group starting in 2009. Dale Schaber and Darrel will jointly coordinate Ice Age Trail activities in 2008.

Darrel's phone number is 715-258-5226 and his email address is dairl@waupacaonline.net. His address is 608 South Washington Street, Waupaca, WI 54981-1734.

The Ice Age Trail Workdays in 2008 are scheduled for June 7th and September 20th. More information about the workdays will appear in the next issue of *It's Our Nature*.



Penny Bernard Schaber and Stan Gruszynski spoke at the Autumn Assembly. Stan discussed the importance of citizen involvement in local, state and national policy areas. Penny explained why running for political office helps to achieve a sustainable future. DALE SCHABER



At dinner on Saturday night at the Autumn Assembly, Fox Valley Sierra Group members celebrated the Group's 25th Anniversary with slices of anniversary cake and scopes of vanilla ice cream. DALE SCHABER

Welcome New Members!

APPLETON

Vivian Benoit
Mary Nabbefeld
Craig Walle
John Bachman
Alice Baker
Jason Brown
Erin Arndt
Doris Bauer
Carolyn Corrigan
Kathleen Lhost
Melissa Paulson
Luke Rudolph

BRUSSELS

Mare Westin
CAROLINE
Susan Thomas
DEPERE
Maxine Beach
Constance Lorig
Trish Tucker

FISH CREEK

Eric Bengtsson

FREMONT

Bryan Hahn
GREEN BAY
Carl Eckhardt
David Gundt
Lois Ott
Prithcard
Lester Rentmeester
Kathryn Riebe
Maureen Davitt & John
Sarah Melendy
Gordon Zelzer
Arthur Cohrs
James Johnson
John Kronenburg
Amy Vandalen
GREEN LAKE
Jean Bunkelmann
Horance Lo
GREENVILLE
Karen Toshner

GRESHAM

Bruce Eggum
HORTONVILLE
Claire Baumann
Karla Zirbes
KEWAUNEE
Marjorie Cosentino
LAKESWOOD
Linda Burdecki
MARINETTE
James Dechert
MENASHA
Katharine Grotback
James Koslowski
MOUNTAIN
Ruth Olson
NEENAH
Allan Harding
Judy Owen
Katherine Calder
Linda Parsons
Karen Thorne

NEW LONDON

John Davis
ONEIDA
Christine Zasuly
OSHKOSH
Ann Duginske
Robin Eckstein
Erin Hartz
Kiernan Rozum
Lorene Cartwright
James Pelt
PRINCETON
Paul Middleton
PULASKI
Barb Coenen
RIPON
Linda Clemente
Dresden Goodwin
SEYMOUR
Jane Webster
SHIOCTON
Neale Payton

STURGEON BAY

Michael Nevitt*
Nancy Feld
WASHINGTON ISLAND
Jeff Heal
WAUPACA
Kristin Sperberg
WESTFIELD
Barbara Woods
WEYAUWEGA
Duane Beyersdorf
WILD ROSE
Thomas Stepanek
WINNECONNE
Jeff Knutson
WRIGHTSTOWN
Brent Felchlin

* Transfer

Ramblin' with Rich

Rise of the Locavores by Rich Krieg

I was pleasantly pleased by the fact that the word “locavore” was recently named 2007’s Word of the Year in the New Oxford American Dictionary. A “locavore” is someone who seeks out and eats food from their local foodshed or from within 100 miles. (As I type this, Microsoft Word has underlined “locavore” and “foodshed” in red.)

Everyone seems to be talking about food issues these days. Even former presidential candidate Christopher Dodd mentioned how eating food grown within 100 miles is an important part of the new American dream. It is too bad that he was talking in Iowa, where they now grow only soy and corn and import over 80% of their food.

I see the current trend toward local food as being one of the most significant aspects of the environmental movement ever. Nothing about us as individuals has more of an impact on the environment

than our diet. Do the people of the Fox Valley really need to eat bread from New York, blueberries from Argentina, and organic salads trucked in from California?

It is not just the food we eat that has an impact. The concept of living locally can be applied to many aspects of our lives.

Why in the world are we importing toxic plastic toys from China? This system can’t be good for American *or* Chinese children. Where is the local toymaker who lives down the street? When did our “Buy American” campaigns get replaced with NAFTA?

Looking for local products of any kind can seriously reduce one’s ecological footprint and keep dollars in one’s own neighborhood. Producing energy locally greatly increases efficiency and reduces cost. If someone lives, works, and plays in the same neighborhood it greatly reduces their transportation impact. The more I learn about environmental issues the more I realize that the best approach to solving most ecological problems is to do things locally.

To find out which Wisconsin food products and services are offered in your area visit: www.savorwisconsin.com or www.localharvest.org

Award-Winning Author, Noted Hiker Eric Hansen To Address Marinette/Menominee Audubon Society Banquet March 28

His topic will be: The U.P. and Northern Wisconsin—An Iconic Landscape and Its Regional Magnetic Power



Eric will present a slide tour of our Northland’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. Hansen will also describe the robust citizens’ campaigns that secured protection for the Porcupine Mountains -- and shielded Wisconsin waters from ill-advised proposals for metallic sulfide mining. He believes those notable successes hold key lessons for our current challenge: defending the U.P., our spiritual homeland, from dangerous metallic sulfide mining.

The author of *Hiking Wisconsin and Hiking Michigan’s Upper Peninsula—A Guide to the Greatest Hiking Adventures in the U.P.*, Eric walked 1,000 miles while researching these guidebook projects. He found miles of quiet Lake Superior shoreline, thumping waterfalls and sparkling cascades, and high rock balconies with knock-your-socks-off views that stretch 50 miles and more.

His slide shows are popular -- twice drawing overflow crowds of more than 500 people. Widely traveled, Eric is a veteran of 24 treks to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and successful ascents of most of the high peaks of Glacier National Park. The Outdoor Writer’s Association of America awarded him first prize for 2005 conservation and environment newspaper writing for his *Chicago Tribune* op-ed essay (available at www.eric-hansen.com) highlighting the U.P.’s iconic coaster brook trout and the threat of metallic sulfide mining there.

See www.chappeerapidsaudubonsociety.org/ for further banquet details -- and url’s for audio clips of Eric highlighting our Northland, and the citizens campaigns that have protected our inspiring landscapes, on Wisconsin Public Radio.

(Sustainable continued from page 3)
together to identify areas of concern in their own communities. The group discussions led to the beginning of general plans to improve sustainability and decrease the carbon footprint in neighborhoods and communities.

Throughout the day participants were reminded of the four sustainability objectives. These are:

1. Reduce wasteful dependence on fossil fuels, and scarce metals and minerals.
2. Reduce wasteful dependence upon chemicals and synthetic substances.
3. Reduce encroachment on nature.
4. Meet the needs of all humans fairly and efficiently.

By incorporating all of these objectives in our individual and community life styles, we will be able to sustain our planet.

So on November 3, 2008, 106 people from around the Fox Valley were inside working and learning together. Through this workshop many more people learned of the Natural Step Approach. The participants were motivated and energized through the conference to work with their families, friends and community leaders to promote a more sustainable living style.

NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

Brillion Brillion

February 23 - Saturday

Snowwalkers. 1:30–3:00 PM. Learn the history of snowshoes and then strap on a pair for a hike around the trails. 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. Please register in advance. Cost: members/\$3, non-members/\$5.

March 29 - Saturday

Maple Syrup Camp. 10–3. Observe maple tree tapping demonstrations, participate in collecting sap, learn some of the old and modern methods of boiling sap to make maple syrup, and sample the finished product. Program is weather dependent. Call 920-756-3591 to confirm or check BrillionNatureCenter.net. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Donations appreciated.

April 19 - Saturday

Woodland Wildflower Hike. 10–11 AM. Hikers will learn about and view some of the many native plants that adorn the forest floor. This program will be held entirely outdoors on natural trails. Participants should dress for the weather and be prepared for possible muddy conditions. Cost: Members/Free, Non-members/\$1-individual or \$3-household.

Annual Spring Banquet. 5 PM cocktails, 6:30 dinner. Admission includes dinner, raffles, live and silent auctions, and the opportunity to learn more about the mission and programs of Brillion Nature Center. Come out to Cobblestone Creek on Hwy 10 in Brillion help support environmental education and conservation at this fun-filled event. Call 756-3591 for ticket information.

Heckrodt Menasha

February 10 - Sunday

Live Birds of Prey. 1:30–3:00 PM. Join wildlife rehabilitator Ann Rosenberg as she exhibits some of her feathered friends. Learn about these animals and the commitment that is made to care for them. Cost: \$2/person.

March 8 - Saturday

Cabin Fever Breakout. Noon–3 PM. Breakout of the cabin fever doldrums. Join us for a program about wellness that includes aromatherapy, herbs, massage, natural foods, etc. Demos and info will be presented. Cost: Free.

April 26 - Saturday

Chrustowski Weekend. 10–11:30 AM. Turtle Crossing. Hop Frog. Bright Beetle. All titles of books we love by children's author Rick Chrustowski. Meet the artist and learn how he writes his books. Follow the process from the idea to the delivery of the books on the doorstep. Cost: Free.

Master Gardener

February 12 - Tuesday

The Benefits of Buying Locally Produced Food. 6–7 PM. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh. Joy Perry, a lecturer in biology, botany and ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley campus, is the guest speaker. Cost: Free.

February 23 - Saturday

Jewels in Your Garden. 8:00–Noon. Coughlin Center. Anita Carpenter will present on the ecology and life history of Wisconsin butterflies and how to attract them to the home garden. **Green Building Basics.** Annette Weissbach of the DNR will talk about the factors that went into the design of the LEED-Gold Certified DNR headquarters building in Green Bay. To register contact Audrey Ruedinger, 920-231-5745 or aud@vbe.com. Cost: \$15.

March 15 - Saturday

Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care. 8–Noon. Coughlin Center. Dean Schiller, Greenville Public Works Supervisor will discuss the town's new ordinance banning fertilizers containing phosphorus. Dan & Kim Dieck, owners of By Organics Healthy Lawns for Healthy Living, Greenville, will explain how to have a healthy, attractive lawn without environmentally harmful chemicals. To register contact Audrey Ruedinger, 920-231-5745 or aud@vbe.com. Cost: \$15.

April 12 - Saturday

Vermiculture. 9–11:30 AM. Oshkosh Correctional Institution, 1730 W. Snell Road. A presentation and tour on vermiculture, a type of composting that uses earthworms to create a natural soil fertilizer known as worm castings. The Institution has had a successful program for many years. (Name & birth date required in advance) To register contact Audrey Ruedinger, 920-231-5745 or aud@vbe.com. Cost: \$15.

Mosquito Hill New London

February 9 - Saturday

Leave No Family Inside: Snowshoeing for Beginners. 12:30–3 PM. Registration and payment are due ASAP. Cost: \$5/person, \$8/family.

February 16 & 17 - Saturday & Sunday

Winter Camping Made Easy. 10 AM (Sat.) - 1 PM (Sun.) Registration and payment due February 8. Cost: \$50/person, \$40/FOMH.

February 23 - Saturday

Learning to Think Like a Bluebird. 9–Noon. Attracting bluebirds & other cavity nesting birds. Please call to RSVP. Cost: Free.

March 1 - Saturday

Tree Pruning Basics. 1–4 PM. Registration due by Feb. 23. Cost: \$10/adults, \$7/seniors, FOMH.

March 2 - Sunday

Leopold Bench Building Workshop. 1:30–3:30 PM. Registration and payment are due Feb. 22. Cost: \$50/person, \$45/students, seniors, FOMH.

March 8 - Saturday

Leave No Family Inside: Hunting For Hoots (Owls). 6–8 PM. Registration and payment due March 1. Cost: \$5/individual, \$8/family.

March 15 - Saturday

Crane Count Planning Meeting. 1–2 PM. All persons interested in taking part in the Annual Sandhill Crane Count on Saturday, April 19 are encouraged to attend this session to gather important information and receive a site assignment for the count day.

March 16 - Sunday

Musky Magic. 11–5. For musky fishing fanatics. Held at the New London Middle School. Cost: \$8/adults, \$6/students 14 and under.

March 29 & 30 - Saturday & Sunday

Making a Meditation Flute. 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Registration and payment due before March 1. Cost: \$80/adults, \$70/students, seniors, FOMH

April 5 - Sunday

NatureMapping Training. 12:30–3:00 PM. NatureMapping is a biodiversity survey program that allows citizens, school groups, and professionals to enter wildlife observations into a statewide database. Advance reservations appreciated; walk-ins also welcome. Cost: Free.

April 19 - Saturday

33rd Annual Sandhill Crane Count. 5:30–7:30 AM. All are welcome to take part in this inventory that allows biologists to track the Midwest's Sandhill crane population. All new counters must attend the training session. Cost: Free.

April 19 & 26 - Saturdays

Morning Bird Hikes. 7–10 AM. Everyone welcome. Bring binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours), field guides, waterproof boots and dress for the weather. Cost: Donations appreciated.

April 20 - Sunday

Leave No Family Inside: Wonderful Wetlands. 1–3 PM. Learn about aquatic insects up-close and personal, how trees and plants survive floodwaters and just why wetlands are so very important. Register by April 10. Cost: \$5/individual or \$8/family.

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 3, Sunday

Snowshoe Walk at Mosquito Hill. 12:30-2PM. Easy walk through the lowland forest trails on specially designated snowshoe trails. Rentals available. Meet in the Nature Center. *Nancy Brown-Koeller 920 830-6635*

February 10, Sunday

Cross-country Ski at Brown County Reforestation Camp. Hot apple cider will be provided! *Rich Krieg 920-497-8004*

February 29-March 2, Weekend

Ski Weekend near Ironwood, MI. Stay at The Inn B&B on the WI-MI border in the far Northwoods, in the center of Montreal, Wisconsin's Nat'l Historic District. (4 hr drive from Appleton.) Lodging rooms at The Inn are on the 2nd and 3rd floor. Accommodations are flexible for either couples or solo travelers. A light breakfast is served. Bring your lunches. Eat at local restaurants for dinner. It's tradition to have pizza at the Liberty Bell on Friday night. ABR Nordic Ski Trails are 12 minutes away - classic and skating trails on expertly groomed trails. Rental and lessons available. There are additional nordic trails across the street in Montreal or a short drive to Ironwood or Bessemer Michigan. The Inn is located 10-45 minutes from 5 major alpine ski hills: SkiBlackjack, SkiPowderhorn, SkiWhitecap, Indianheadmtn, Porcupine Mountains. Cost is approximately \$40/person/night - final cost depends on # of participants. \$50 deposit to reserve your place. *Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920 830-6625; nbk04@sbcglobal.net*

March 7 & 8, Weekend

Cabin Camp in da U.P. It's BYO everything: sleep bags, pots, food, TP, water jug. We'll stay in Tom's Lake, a driveway length off the forest road, northeast of Escanaba and northwest of Manistique. Activities are ice fishing, star gazing, animal tracking, snowshoeing, skiing, etc. Trails are adjacent and not groomed so you get fresh tracks. The educational element is you, teaching us what you know about winter animal behavior, or winter weather. The cabin has 2 rooms, 8 bunks, and is fairly roomy. No lights, heat is from the wood stove, the biffy is out back. A sled may be handy to bring gear in. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Cost about \$25/person. Send money and I will send you directions. Carpooling suggested due to limited parking. *Jerry Ladewig, 3320 Patrick Ct., Green Bay, WI 54301 email: jkayaki@new.rr.com (that is an L after the K) 920-336-6788*

March 29, Saturday

Breakfast Hike at Thousand Islands Nature Preserve. We will take an early morning hike on the trails at Thousand Islands then retreat to the Bela Bakery and Café for coffee and nourishment. Along the way we will look for waterfowl and other migrating birds arriving early for the coming nesting season and learn a little of their ways. We will also check the eagles' nest for signs of activity. *Charlie Paine 920-739-1900*



Eric Hansen talks with members after presenting in November. DALE SCHABER

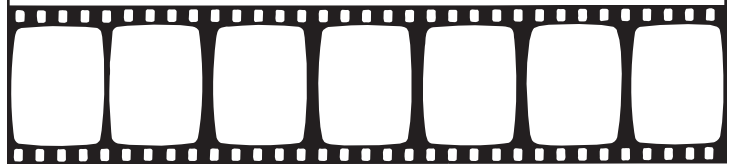
Meet the Director

You saw the movie, now meet the director!

The environmental organization at Lawrence University is bringing Chris Paine, director of the movie, *Who Killed the Electric Car?* to Appleton.

There will be two showings of *Who Killed the Electric Car?* on Sunday, February 24th and Tuesday the 26th, both at 8:00 PM in the Wriston Art Center on the Lawrence University campus. Then, at 8:00 PM on Wednesday, February 27th Chris Paine will give a talk and then open the floor for a Q&A session.

Cost: FREE!



April 26, Saturday

Hike the Ice Age Trail near Waupaca. We will hike a section of the Ice Age Trail in the vicinity of Hartman Creek State Park and learn about the influence the glaciers had on Wisconsin's landscape. We will look for early season wild flowers which should be emerging by this time. Plan to walk for about three hours, bring water and a lunch, and dress for the weather. *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. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see Chapter's web site: wisconsin.sierraclub.org/outings.htm

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



Penny, Chris & Paul prepare FVSG's table at Romp in the Swamp. D SCHABER



Buy A Tote - And Use It!

It might seem like a no-brainer to most of you, but if you aren't already, bring a reusable tote bag when you go shopping. Making disposable plastic bags requires energy equal to 4 million barrels of oil a year, while paper bags use up 14 million trees annually.

Sierra Club tote bags will be for sale at our March meeting for only \$1.00!

So Very Big

We are wee - you and me;
But just think of what must be.
In space - interlaced -
Beyond this human race,
Is a world of wonder - out yonder -
With its own special face -
The enchantment of Space.

by Dr. Allan Mortenson



the world isn't waiting, why are you?

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

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

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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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Surprise guest, folk singer Giles Clark whistles a festive tune at the FVSG holiday party in December. KELLY KRUPKA

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the
May-July 2008 newsletter is April 5th!

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

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