

## August 14 • Local Foods Picnic at Lutz Park

The FVSG annual picnic will be held at Lutz Park from 5:30-9 PM. Please bring a dish to pass made with at least one local ingredient. And no, the grocery store a mile from your house does not pass as "local." Challenge yourself to buy your ingredients from a Wisconsin producer. Bring along a note card to accompany your dish of where your local ingredients can be purchased.

Also bring your own utensils, plates, beverages and something to grill. The grill will be ready at 5:30 PM for cooking. The park is located at 1320 S. Lutz Street in Appleton on the north side of the Fox River and south of Pierce Park. No pets are allowed.



## September 11 • Fall Kick-off Meeting

7:00 PM at Bubolz Nature Preserve on Lynndale in Appleton.

## October 9 • To Be Announced

Visit our website for updates: [wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley)

## Newsletter Distribution Adjusted *by Alan Lawrence*

After 15 years of being in charge of our newsletter distribution, Jackie Calhoun Smith thought it was time to give up the job to someone else or for our board to find another solution. We have always had a team of volunteers apply address labels to our newsletters and get them into the mail. This edition of the newsletter is being handled entirely by the printer.

Our newsletter is relatively expensive to produce and is the largest expense on our group's budget. We believe it is a necessary tool to communicate with our members, with non-member friends in our community, and to help with recruitment and tabling events. We have thought about electronic alternatives to the newsletter. Since November of 2003 we have published PDF versions of the newsletter to our website. Those issues are still online for anyone to read or print out. Although it would be nice to avoid the expenses of printing and mailing we are not prepared to abandon our printed edition. *(Continued on page 3)*

## Record Money Raised at May Auction

This year's auction held on May 8, 2008 was the BEST EVER! **The Fox Valley Group raised over \$2000!** A hearty thank you to all who participated: for bringing the tasty tidbits and articles to auction off, to the commercial enterprises who contributed services and gifts, to the best auctioneer around, Randy Connour, and to all for coming and making this year's auction a huge success! As you know, this is our only fundraiser of the year, the one that pays the bills for meeting space, the newsletter and mailing and for the various projects that we sponsor or support during the year. We are frugal, but without this money, we could not do anything. You came through again! Thanks to Maureen and Sally for keeping us honest, for Kelly and her boogie, for Neil and his raffle table and to all who contributed by buying something, bringing something, and just plain being there. Thank you! ♣



*Randy & Rachel enticed buyers into bidding higher on great items and services at our annual auction on May 8th.*

## Support Our Donors!

### Fox Valley Sierra Group raised over \$2000 at our May auction!

Please support these local businesses who generously donated goods to be auctioned:

In Appleton: **Custom Printing, Inc., The Free Market, Kindred Spirits Organics, Mill's Fleet Farm, You're Special Gifts & Collectibles**

In Menasha: **The Third Eye, The Wreath Factory**

In Neenah: **Great Harvest Bread Co., Pansies**

In Oshkosh: **Hergert's Sporting Goods, Salon Mode**



*Sally & Maureen took on the daunting task of recording sales during the auction. Their drinks were well-earned!*

# Contacts...

## Chairperson & Webmaster

Alan Lawrence 730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr, Appleton 54911-1224  
alan\_lawrence99@yahoo.com

## Treasurer

Sally Peck 920-468-5986  
1646 Amy St, Green Bay 54302-2456  
herbsinthyme@sbcglobal.net

## Secretary

Chris Nehrass 920-734-1878  
1406 W. Packard St, Appleton 54914  
chrisnehrass@sbcglobal.net

## Newsletter Editor & Fundraising

Kelly Krupka 920-540-9139  
430 Caroline St, Neenah 54956  
kellykrupka@yahoo.com

## Communications & Media, John Muir Chapter Delegate

Will Stahl 725-9185  
216 Stevens St, Neenah 54956  
wrsy55@sbcglobal.net

## Membership

Rachel Anderson 920-609-4496  
De Pere, WI  
sunsetharvest@gmail.com

## Programs & Campus Contact

Jan Moldenhauer 920-231-3407  
1845 Wisconsin St, Oshkosh 54901-2274  
moldenha@hotmail.com

## Political

Cindy Carter 733-0483  
1325 E. Amelia St, Appleton 54911  
cindycat1@sbcglobal.net

## Conservation & Write-Place

Dale Schaber 739-6041  
815 E. Washington, Appleton 54911-5660  
dschaber@athenet.net

## Cool Cities, Outings & Email List

Rich Krieg 920-497-8004  
118 S. Washington, 318B, Green Bay 54301  
eddyout@gmail.com

## Global Warming Expert

Diana Lawrence 920-730-9515  
153 Northbreeze Dr, Appleton 54911-1224  
law\_di03@yahoo.com

## Hospitality

Patsy Gavin 920-954-7887  
609 S. Walnut, Appleton 54911

## Ice Age Trail

Darrel Ruechel 715-258-5226  
608 S. Washington St, Waupaca 54981-1734  
dairl@waupacaonline.net

## Jan Moldenhauer to Receive 2008 FVSG Environmental Award

Jan Moldenhauer is this year's recipient of the Fox Valley Sierra Group's Environmental Award. We will be presenting her with the well-deserved award during our September 11, 2008 meeting. Below is the nomination essay submitted by Alan Lawrence:

Throughout my involvement with Sierra Club, Jan Moldenhauer has always stood out to me as an interesting role model. While learning that many of our active members are, how shall I say this nicely, "seniors", Jan is almost past that stage. Yet she leads or participates in some very physical outings and service outings. Jan is also a member of our group's executive committee, providing useful insight, and doing important leadership work for our group. Our monthly programs are mostly the result of Jan finding speakers and convincing them to be our guests, usually for free. Our annual fundraising auction and holiday social, though the work of many, would be much diminished without Jan's involvement.



National Trails Day, June 7, 2008, on the Ice Age Trail.  
Left-Right: Dale, Mike, Darrel (below), David, Anna, and Alan.



Darrel and Dale follow the Ice Age Trail through  
a patch of Dame's Rocket. MIKE KIRK

In past years I've resisted nominating one of our own members for the Environmental Award because I felt we should be highlighting other community citizens. There are indeed many people outside of Sierra Club who do good things for the environment. But this year I really wanted to spotlight Jan. While trying to be sensitive to the old age issue, there is no hiding this fact. Jan frequently admits that she will not always be with us and that she has already outlived some of her best friends. I have often observed that obituaries recall the wonderful things a person has done, and I have thought it a shame that this was not shared while the person was still living. That is part of my motivation for this nomination.

Jan has been a Sierra Club member for at least 20 years, but she has also been actively involved with Trout Unlimited, Audubon Society, and Greenpeace. She enjoys being outdoors and is not afraid of protesting. She says her brother frequently tells her not to get jailed as a result of protesting. Jan is an active letter writer, attends many public hearings and often finds the opportunity to make a statement. Several years ago Jan went to Washington, DC as a volunteer lobbyist for the Alaska Coalition and was able to tell Congressional representatives why it is important to protect Alaska. She made it personal by telling people about the link between the forests and the medicine that helped her recover from cancer.

Jan is a retired swimming and diving coach for UW Oshkosh. She proudly notes her role in expanding the school's physical education offerings to include outdoor education classes, skiing, canoeing, sailing, and camping. For many years Jan has helped staff a youth summer camp in Canada.

Our organization, and other organizations, have benefited from Jan's interest in the outdoors. She has personally contributed a lot. And she is also a catalyst, helping countless others to do something. Thank you, Jan. ♣

*(Distribution continued from page 1)*

Beginning with this issue our printer will complete the mailing process. Although there is a charge for the service there are some offsetting savings for labeling and postage. The net increase in cost is not expected to be substantial.

I'll let Jackie tell about her group, all of whom have worked without much recognition. They all deserve our thanks.

"My crew and I met for the last time Tuesday, April 22, to fold, tab, and label the 1371 newsletters I took to the Appleton Post Office on Wednesday.

"I don't recall exactly when our present crew of seven became the core of distribu-

tion. We folded, tabbed, and labeled the 1300 to 1500 plus newsletters four to six times a year. In the beginning we sent out more than a hundred of our own labels along with those from National. In the end we just sent a newsletter to non-members who attend meetings. In advance, I picked up mailing boxes from the Post Office, ordered tabs and strapping material, separated the labels into zip codes, downloaded the forms and filled them out.

"Seven people have been at the core of distribution for years--Roddie Larsen, Steve and Carol Clark, Diane Mandler, Chris Calhoun and Paul Siket, and myself, Jackie Calhoun Smith. Roddie Larsen was helping collate the newsletter when I took over distribution from Monny Hjerstedt some fif-

teen years ago. She was also assisting with mailing *The Muir View*. Penny Bernard Schaber was group chairperson at the time. Kim Fenske was the new editor. It wasn't long, though, before Mary Heleniak took over the editing job. Steve and Carol Clark were always willing, always there. Few members have met them, because they don't attend meetings, but they volunteer. Chris Calhoun and Paul Siket joined us nine years ago when they moved to Appleton. Diane Mandler has been helping probably thirteen years. Without this group of faithful, reliable volunteers, I would not have been able to do this job. These are people who quietly make a difference to groups such as ours. I thank them for sticking with me for so long. It wasn't all work. We always had a good time together." ♣

## FROM THE CHAIR

This summer my wife, step-daughter and I took a two-week vacation. The family I grew up with was having its week-long family reunion at a state park in Virginia, and I wanted to drive instead of fly this year. Driving allowed my family to see more of the country, and I think the economics of driving worked better than flying.

The Manitowoc to Ludington car ferry across Lake Michigan was our way out of Wisconsin. While the ferry represents a transportation shortcut for many people, it is definitely a tourist attraction to most. It is a wonderful way to experience our Great Lake. You can see its beauty, marvel at its size and reflect on what the lake means to us. It is an opportunity to understand that the Great Lakes are fragile and need protection. The lake provides water, entertainment, transportation, jobs, food, and even local weather. A polluted lake is far less useful.

This summer marks an important chapter in the protection of the Great Lakes. Wisconsin joined with other states and Canadian Provinces in the Great Lakes basin. Our legislature and governor voted to support the Great Lakes Compact. The Compact still needs to be supported by the U.S. Congress in order to become law. The Compact will protect the Great Lakes from water diversions outside the watershed, and will help protect the quality of the water.

We enjoyed Niagara Falls from the Canadian side. What a beautiful natural wonder. We were only able to enjoy it because people had decided to protect it. And because so much of the water gets on you and on your lips as you get close to the mist, or take a drenching tour at the bottom of the falls, you really hope that the water is clean. Appleton's toilets flow, after hopefully adequate treatment, into the Fox River, then into Lake Michigan, and eventually over Niagara Falls. Tourists have reason to hope that all upstream communities kept the water clean.

I made an observation about the way Canada and the United States showed off Niagara Falls. Access to the falls for

US visitors is through a State Park, which I assume charges an entrance fee. Canadian visitors have free access to the falls because the community has merged itself with the natural attraction. You can freely drive along the river. I suspect the setting is more "park like" on the US side, but it is also somewhat more exclusive. Tourists flock to both sides, seeing the falls and spending money on attractions, food, lodging, and souvenirs. This is only possible with a clean lake system that has enough water.

Our family reunion was at Fairy Stone State Park in Virginia. The park has a few dozen cozy cabins available for rent. My family had stayed in these cabins several times when I was a child. The park also has a campground and a sandy beach used by many local day visitors. The lake does not allow motor boats or jet skis. Most of the shoreline is undeveloped; indeed it looks almost completely undeveloped from the water. The park is a good steward of its resources, and park guests and the local economy benefit. I wondered whether the cabins, which date back to the 1930's, took up a large footprint within the park with perhaps the best views. Did the park's staff spend more attention on cabin guests than on other guests? I suspect this is the case. But I thought this system, accommodating both the camper and non-camper, made the park attractive to all people and not just the outdoors types.

The return to Appleton took us past the new windmills near Fond du Lac. Some people decry windmill farms for their appearance, but I'm impressed with them. They certainly look a lot nicer than the oil refineries and coal mines we passed in Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Back to club business, I want to thank everyone who helped with our annual fundraiser auction. Our May 10 event generated \$2083 of income for our group. This represents most of the money that our group uses for the year.

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

Alan Lawrence, 920-730-9515  
or alan\_lawrence99@yahoo.com

# Welcome New Members!

## **APPLETON**

Terry Tess  
Anton Balza  
Tom Cody  
Pamela Draheim  
Valerie Kennedy  
Helen Matunas  
Patti Trochil  
Elizabeth Braatz  
William Burke

## **ATHELSTANE**

Dorothy Seville

## **BAILIES HARBOR**

Theodore Podraza

## **BERLIN**

Mitzie Schoppenhorst

## **BIG FALLS**

Fred Zimmerman

## **CLINTONVILLE**

Claire Denell  
Theresa Lehman

## **CRIVITZ**

Jay Julian

## **DALTON**

Thomas Reif

## **DEPERE**

Mitch Weber\*

## **DENMARK**

Richard Jansen\*

## **EGG HARBOR**

David Clowers

## **ELLISON BAY**

Mary Olson

George Krall

Gary Olson

## **EPHRAIM**

Paul Burton

## **FLORENCE**

Phyllis Coleman

## **FORESTVILLE**

Phil Lemmens

## **FREMONT**

Bill Fitzpatrick

## **GREEN BAY**

Thomas Zeise

Mar Londo

Richard Oliver

Judith Saldana

Sandra Culver

Jerry Geise

William Kispert

Jesse Berger

Jaime Des Jardin

Pam Herm

Jane Lagore

Annice McClure

Laura Mullins

William Style

David Wehmeyer

J Dalsing

Michael Haase\*

Edward Burns\*

James Liebig\*

## **GREEN LAKE**

Glen Sommer

## **HILBERT**

Judith Harfl

## **HOBART**

Louise Boggs

Terrance Otzelberger

Kelly Schuessler

## **IOLA**

Korin Kupris

## **KAUKAUNA**

Margaret Dahlin

Josh Mischler

Edward Steidl

## **KESHENA**

Greg Askenette

## **KEWAUNEE**

Harold Papham

## **KRAKOW**

Christina Kafura

## **LITTLE SUAMICO**

Kathy Rettke

## **MARINETTE**

David Despins

## **MARKESAN**

Marcel Marquart

## **MENASHA**

Schierl

G H Meyer

Mary Jo Weidert

Harry Olszewski

## **MOUNTAIN**

Nick Adelmey

## **NEENAH**

James Clausing

Dawn Jones

Chuck Geiger

Edward Meler

Sarah &

Andrew Wilke\*

## **NEW FRANKEN**

Kathy Daul

Terri Jacobs

## **NEW LONDON**

Karen Euhardy

## **OCONTO FALLS**

Tammy Wagner

## **OMRO**

Donald Field

## **ONEIDA**

David Hanson

## **OSHKOSH**

John Bodnar

Owen Eliason

Robert Kettner

Deborah Laffin

Leonore Bernardy

Lorna Conners

Alyssa Gruett

Helen Nigl

Tim Schiessl

M F Summerville

Lucas Van Bommel

Jean Wiskow

## **POUND**

Ted Rydell

## **PRINCETON**

Michael Hopkins

## **PULASKI**

Judith Nackers

## **RED GRANITE**

Justin Mathis

## **RIPON**

Harold Erdman

## **SISTER BAY**

Lyle Bruss

## **STURGEON BAY**

James Williamson

James Haen

Greg Koelpien

Mrs. Robert Hansen\*

Trudy Voss\*

## **WASHINGTON ISLAND**

Susan Rock

Jennifer Munao

## **WAUPACA**

Rachel Stiebs

Myrtle Seno\*

## **WAUPUN**

Kathy Hazeltine

## **WAUTOMA**

James Krappenberger

Paul Martin

## **WILD ROSE**

Larry Caves

## **WINNEBAGO**

Oliver Rockman\*

## **WINNECONNE**

Mike Wicinsky

\* Transfer

## The Great Lakes

by Ashley Brenke

The Great Lakes hold one fifth of the world's fresh surface water, provide drinking water to over 42 million people, and support the region's tourism and manufacturing economy. Yet each day, our Lakes are damaged economically and ecologically by untreated sewage, toxic hot spots, polluted runoff and invasive species. Unless we invest in a solution today, the price we will pay tomorrow will be much higher and future generations may never experience the Lakes as we know them.

Fortunately there is a solution. The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy (GLRCS) is a comprehensive regional plan that dedicates funding to address these problems, protecting our drinking water, economic future and way of life. A collaboration of over 1500 federal, state, local and tribal government officials, scientists,

businesses and private stakeholders developed this plan, which was published in December 2005. The plan calls for action at all levels to address key threats to the health of the Great Lakes.

We can all take action to help protect and restore the Great Lakes. The Sierra Club Great Lakes Program recently released its "Citizen's Guide to Protecting the Great Lakes" report which identifies Great Lakes problems and solutions that individuals can implement to protect the Lakes. It also highlights the major policy changes that state and federal governments need to make to ensure that future generations can enjoy the Lakes as we do today. Visit [www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes](http://www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes) to learn more.

The Guide details a variety of things individuals can do, from installing a rain garden to prevent polluted runoff or writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about upcoming Great Lakes legislation.

There are a lot of great opportunities to get involved with Great Lakes activities. In September is the fourth annual Great Lakes Restoration Conference in Milwaukee, hosted by the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition. For information on the Conference, visit [www.healthylakes.org](http://www.healthylakes.org). This is the website of the Healing Our Waters coalition, a coalition of more than 100 organizations working to protect and restore the Great Lakes. The Sierra Club is a founding member of this coalition and we urge our members to get involved.

To learn more about these issues, contact me at [abrenke@gmail.com](mailto:abrenke@gmail.com) or 608-257-4994. I can send you some more information, such as the "Citizen's Guide to Protecting the Great Lakes," and add you to our action alert team, where you take immediate action on important Great Lakes issues by sending letters or making phone calls to public officials and newspapers. ♣

# Ramblin' with Rich

## Plastics, Again by Rich Krieg

I have a friend whom I used to laugh at because he would wash, air-dry, then re-use his plastic ziplock bags. His efforts were due more to frugality than concern for the environment, but now I see the wisdom of his ways from both points of view.

Plastic has got to be one of the most noxious substances ever produced. The production and recycling of plastic are very energy intensive and produce many toxins. As Sarah Streed so thoughtfully pointed out in her recent Muir View article, the use of plastic produces incredible amounts of permanent waste and surprisingly dangerous toxins.

I agree with Sarah that we need to minimize the use of plastic to the greatest extent possible. Kleankanteen.com offers stainless steel water bottles. Reuseablebags.com offers alternatives to almost any type of plastic bag. There are non-plastic substitutes for many of the plastic items we use.

Sometimes it is an uphill battle. I get frustrated at seeing all the plastic bags that are handed out with the produce at my local farm-

ers market. Recently, a cashier at Gander Mountain was very insistent that I take a plastic bag for my few items. From now on, when I see a plastic bag "floating" through my neighborhood, I am going to "return" it to the store it came from.

Rwanda, China, and Bangladesh have now banned free plastic bags. Ireland has instituted a very successful "plas-tax" on their use. The citizens of San Francisco supported a bag ban and now Boston, Oakland, and Madison are considering similar bans. It would be a great step if the people of Oshkosh, Appleton, or Green Bay pushed for a ban.

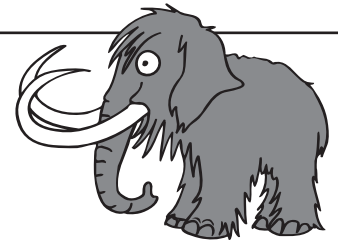
We also need to have new policies that do not allow the marketing of new plastics until their safety is guaranteed. If any plastic item must be disposed of, it should be treated as a toxic substance that is carefully landfilled.

A meaningful exercise is to go through a day and take note of every time that you use something made of plastic. The extent to which plastic has become a part of our lives is absolutely amazing. It was not that long ago that there was no such thing as a ziplock bag.

I really did not mean to steal Sarah's idea for a column. Sometimes, as some of you know, I just cannot help getting my two cents worth in. ♣

## TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE!

### 22nd Annual Hike-A-Thon Set for October 4, 2008



Mark your calendars and shine up your hiking boots for the 22nd Annual Hike-A-Thon scheduled for October 4, 2008. The purpose of the Hike-A-Thon is to raise funds to acquire, develop and maintain Ice Age Trail lands for the education and enjoyment of future generations.

Join thousands of concerned people from all across Wisconsin who will be hiking throughout the state on completed segments of the Ice Age Trail raising funds through Sponsor Pledges to help preserve unique natural resources.

The Hike-A-Thon will take place on the Hartman/Emmons/Murray Creek IAT Segments at Hartman Creek State Park. Hiking is rated easy to moderate. Please bring clothing for rain or shine.

Registration is from 8:30-11:00 AM at the Hartman Creek State Park Shelter off of Windfeldt Lane. Registration Fees: Individuals \$5; Family \$15, children 5 and under are free; school/youth

group (5 or more hikers, ages (6-18) \$3; corporate/municipal sponsorship \$3.

#### Hiking Options:

- The starting point of each hike is at the Hartman Creek State Park Shelter off of Windfeldt Lane.
- From the Shelter on Windfeldt Ln to the Ice Age Trail and return is 1 mile.
- Shelter south to Emmons Creek and return is 6 miles.
- Shelter south to Stratton Lake Rd and return (excluding the Faraway Loop) is 8 miles.
- Shelter south to the end of Murray Creek IAT Segment (1 mile beyond Stratton Lake Rd., including the Faraway Loop) and return is 15 miles.

Refreshments are provided at each monitor station and at the start point. At the start point, there are refreshments, bathrooms, water/beverages, door prizes, educational displays and videos if space is available, and a survival party after the hike.

What will you experience: Hiking south of Hartman Creek State Park on the Hartman/Emmons/Murray Creek IAT Segments, you will see the wooded and pitted landscape of the Elderon Moraine. A wide range of plant communities, including oak savanna and prairie, are home to wild turkey flocks, hawks, turkey vultures, pileated woodpeckers and songbirds. Glacial erratics are found in Hartman Creek State Park.

For more Hike-A-Thon information or to obtain a brochure, contact Dale Schaber in Appleton at 920-739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net or contact Darrel Ruechel in Waupaca at 715-258-5226 or dairl@waupacaonline.net. You may also obtain info from Dale at the FVSG's September 11th meeting.

If you have never hiked on the Ice Age Trail, this is an excellent time to start! ♣

# NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

## Brillion Brillion

### August 23 - Saturday

**Butterflies and Moths.** 1:30-3:00 PM. Explore the differences between butterflies and moths and learn how to distinguish between similar species. We will focus on species native to Wisconsin and spend a large part of the program outside in the prairie. Monarchs will be swabbed for OE parasite research. All insects will be observed and released at the end of the program. Cost: Free/members, \$1/individual or \$3/household for non-members.

### September 27 - Saturday

**Tree Lore.** 1:30-2:30 PM. Hike through the woodlands as we identify Wisconsin trees and learn some of the folklore and facts that make each species special. This program will be held entirely outdoors on natural or chipped trails. Cost: Free/members, \$1/individual or \$3/household for non-members.

### October 18 - Saturday

**Pumpkin Walk.** 5:30-8:00 PM. The stroller-friendly Cottonwood Trail will be lined with hundreds of lit jack-o-lanterns carved by local school children during this family-friendly Halloween event. Back at the building, enjoy refreshments inside and warm up by listening to stories up in the loft or sitting around the bonfire. Add to the fun by entering the pumpkin carving contest. Call 756-3591 for information on entering a pumpkin. Free.

## Bubolz Appleton

### August 13 - Wednesday

**Native Prairies of Wisconsin.** 6:00-7:30 PM. Presented by David Bayer, Outagamie County UW Extension. Great numbers of prairie restoration projects are beginning to change the un-forested natural areas in Wisconsin. This PowerPoint presentation tells the richness, the history and the beauty that can be a part of anyone's landscape. Afterwards, take a walk to the Bubolz prairie restoration site. Please call to pre-register. Cost: \$2/Non-members, Free/Members.

### September 7 - Sunday

**Red Tail Hawks - Live Birds of Prey.** 1-2:30 PM. Red-tailed hawks are one of the most common hawks of our area. Learn about these amazing giants of the sky and see a beautiful Red-tail up close. Program presented by Wind River Wildlife Educators, Trish Elko and Randie Segal. Donations appreciated.

### October 18 - Saturday

**15th Annual "ROMP IN THE SWAMP" Family Fun Walk.** 12:30-4:30 PM. Join us for an afternoon of food, festivities and family fun. Pre-register by October 1st and you will receive a FREE t-shirt designed for this year's event. Cost: \$30/Family, \$9/Adults, \$7/under 13.

## Heckrodt Menasha

### August 16 - Saturday

**Pollination Celebration.** Noon-2 PM. Find out why pollinators are some of the most important critters in the world. We'll celebrate through hands-on activities, cool pollinator collections, and face painting. You'll have a chance to meet local experts, gardeners, and bee keepers to find out why they are celebrating this pollination craze. We will also enjoy some sweet pollinator treats. Cost: \$2/person.

### September 6 - Saturday

**11th Annual Turtle Days Fall Harvest Festival.** Noon-4 PM. Enjoy many fun fall activities including hayrides, games, crafts, as well as live entertainment. Walk through our Fun Fall Maze and enjoy food and beverages. Cost: \$3/person.

### October 10 & 11 - Friday and Saturday

**10th Annual Creepy Crawlies Halloween Event.** 6-8 PM. Activities for everyone include live bats and owls, make and take craft, storytelling and an Illuminated Hayride. Our fun and spooky haunted trail will get you movin' and groovin' with lantern led haunted hikes and themed Halloween music and sounds. Cost: \$5/person advanced tickets; \$8/person at the door.

## Ledgeview Chilton

### August thru November

**Cave Tours.** Learn about caves with a guided tour, fun for all ages 6 years old and up. Optional exploring - the more fun you have, the dirtier you get. Half mile walk to the caves; must be able to use stairs and ladders. Bring a flashlight. Minors must be accompanied by supervising adult. Call 920-849-7094 for schedule. Cost: \$5/person.

### September 13 - Saturday

**Fall Food Festival.** 11:00-4:00. Support sustainable agriculture and experience the flavor and health of local whole foods. Farmers' market, demonstrations, organics. Cost: \$5/carload.

### October 17 & 18 - Friday and Saturday

**Halloween Candlelight Cave Tours.** 6-8:30 PM. A family-oriented evening. Visit Ledge View's trails and caves by candlelight, and meet some unusual personalities with strange stories. Tours are guided and depart each half hour. Educational rather than scary. Minimum recommended age 5 years old with parent. Wear old clothes - you may get dirty. Cave are accessed by stairs and ladders. First come, first served. This is a fundraiser. Cost: \$5/person.

### October 26 - Sunday

**Prairie Wildflower Seed Collecting.** 1:00 PM. Participants can gather seeds from a variety of native wildflower species and learn how to prepare them for spring planting. Cost: \$5/person.

## Mosquito Hill New London

### September 13 - Saturday

**Geocaching for the Whole Family.** Noon-4:30. Learn the basics of this popular outdoor hobby. Cost: \$5/person, \$8/family. *Registration due before September 5.*

### September 14 - Sunday

**Honey Sunday.** 1-4 PM. Informational sessions on beekeeping, beeswax candle dipping, cooking with honey and more. Observe active hives, enjoy honey sundaes, purchase honey baked goods. Cost: \$5/per car.

### September 20 - Saturday

**Two Presentations by Midwest Naturalist and Author Stan Tekiela.** Times TBA. Contact 920-779-6433 for more details.

### October 4 - Saturday

**Green Building Fair.** Noon-4 PM. This event will showcase exhibitors and offer seminars for people interested in building or remodeling using the latest green building and energy conservation practices. Concessions available. Free.

### October 5 - Sunday

**Nature Scrapbooking.** 12:30-3 PM. Learn how to document your outdoor adventures through drawing, photography, journaling and more. Cost: \$5/person, \$8/family. *Registration due before September 26.*

### October 10 - Friday

**Harvest Moon Festival.** 7-9 PM. Educational sessions, hands-on activities, moon watching through telescopes, hayrides and more for all ages. Call 920-779-6433 for final schedule of events. Cost: \$8/car.

### October 17 - Friday

**Fenlon Memorial Speaker Series.** 7-9 PM. Michael Meyer with the Wisconsin DNR will speak on loons in northern Wisconsin. Reception to follow. Call for reservations.

### October 18 & 19 - Saturday and Sunday

**Bird Seed Sale.** 10-3. Stock up on birdseed for winter feeding at this annual fundraiser.

### November 1 - Saturday

**Trees are Terrific.** 1-3 PM. Learn about our native trees through activities, crafts and outdoor investigation. Tree cookies to decorate. Cost: \$5/person, \$8/family. *Registration due before October 24.*

*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.*

# FALL OUTINGS

## August 9, Saturday

**Bike from Manitowoc to Point Beach State Forest.** Approximately 30 miles round trip. Much of the route is on off-road trails along the Lake Michigan shore and through the Point Beach Forest, with the remainder on city streets. Along the way we'll stop at a museum to learn a bit of the history of the area, and perhaps to get some ice cream. Bring a bike, helmet, sun block, and water. Dress for the weather. *Charlie Paine* 920-739-1900

## August 16-17, Sat/Sun

**Canoe Camping on the Flambeau River (Class II Rapids).** The Flambeau River offers some of the best canoe camping in WI. Come find out why. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. This is also a "River Touring Section" trip. *Rich Krieg* 920-497-8004 eddyout@gmail.com

## September 20, Saturday

**Ice Age Trail Work Day at Hartman Creek State Park.** Joint workday between the Fox Valley Sierra Group and the Portage and Waupaca Chapters of the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. While working on the Ice Age Trail you will learn about Wisconsin's glacial topography and about the plants that are growing along side the Trail during the spring, summer and fall. We might even see the tracks and scat of animals that frequent the Trail during the day and night. We will meet at the Citgo Station that is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Hwy 96 (Wisconsin Ave) and Hwy 76 west of Appleton at 8:30 AM to travel to the work area. We will meet Mike Kirk and Darrel Ruechel at the Hartman Creek State Park Office at approximately 9:30 AM. Specific trail work will be provided on site. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent to the work outing. Not only do we do a lot of work on the Trail but we also have a lot of fun! We always stop for ice cream on our way back to the Appleton area. *For information on the segment that will be worked on and travel info, contact Dale Schaber in Appleton at dschaber@athenet.net or 920-739-6041 or Darrel Ruechel in Waupaca at 715-258-5226 or dairl@waupacaonline.net*

## October 4, Saturday

**Annual Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon on the Hartman/Emmons/Murray Creek Segment at Hartman Creek State Park.** For more information, see the article about the Hike-A-Thon on page 5 in this issue of the newsletter.

## November 8, Saturday

**Hike at Rib Mountain State Park and Visit Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum.** Enjoy Rib Mountain during it's quiet time. Meet at 10:30 AM near the A-frame at the entrance on top of Rib Mountain for about an hour hike. Bring walking stick or ski poles for steep trails. After lunch visit LYW's flagship Birds in Art exhibition. This fine art exhibition has mixed tradition, whimsy, and sass for more than three decades by bringing avian interpretations from around the world to north central Wisconsin. *Nancy Brown-Koeller*, 920 830-6625, 920 721-5431 or nbk04@sbcglobal.net

*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. To read a copy of the waiver, please see the Chapter's website: 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.*

## Did you know...

You do not need to be a Sierra Club member to participate in our outings. So join us on an adventure!

## Fox River Bike Tour

by Charlie Paine

July 12, 2008

Four of us set out from the Thousand Islands Nature Preserve in Kaukauna and headed up County Z toward Wrightstown. A few miles along we stopped at the little park at the Rapid Croche dam. We slipped and slithered down the muddy trail to the edge of the Fox River to get a closer look. The river was high and muddy, flowing fast, and swollen from the heavy rain the previous night.

We continued to Wrightstown, then turned east toward Greenleaf. Here we turned south on the Fox River Trail, a gravel-surfaced rail-trail. Three miles later we turned west toward Kaukauna and into the considerable wind. The weather had been pleasant, partly cloudy but rather windy. Now clouds started to build in the south, but we completed the ride with no rain. ♣



*Diana and Alan Lawrence fight the wind on Charlie's Fox River Bike Tour outing.*

## Save the Wild Upper Michigan Peninsula

When Eric Hansen, hiker and outdoor writer, spoke to the Fox Valley Sierra Group last February, he mentioned the metallic sulfide mining proposals for Michigan's Upper Peninsula. On Eric's website, [www.eric-hansen.com](http://www.eric-hansen.com), he states **Stand by Your Land**. "I would ask you to go to [www.SaveTheWildUP.org](http://www.SaveTheWildUP.org) for complete background on the citizen's campaign to stop ill-advised sulfide mining proposals in the U.P. Then consider writing a letter to Michigan Governor Granholm. Inform her that the U.P. is our spiritual homeland - not a candidate for a sulfide mining sacrifice zone."



# It's Our Nature





*Snowflakes flew and the bitter wind howled during an April 26, 2008 hike on the Ice Age Trail near Waupaca. CHARLIE PAINE*

## Deadline...

for submitting materials for the  
 Nov 08 - Jan 09 newsletter is October 11th!

Anyone can submit articles, photos,  
 poems, trip reports, etc. Email Kelly at  
[kellykrupka@yahoo.com](mailto:kellykrupka@yahoo.com)


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

### Liberty... for all?

Giant Sequoias are the most massive trees on the planet - some stand as tall as the Statue of Liberty and date back 3,500 years, making them among the largest and oldest organisms on Earth. Now this historic conservation area is being threatened with plans to open the Giant Sequoia National Monument to the chainsaws of the logging industry. We need your help now!

Join Sierra Club and help protect our gentle Giants.




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