



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley Vol. 09 Issue 1

Upcoming Programs...

February 12, 2009 • 7:00 PM Making Good Photography GREAT

Professional photographer Tim White will teach you everything you need to know about taking great pictures. Bring your camera and questions!

March 12, 2009 • 7:00 PM Wood and Wind

We'll start the night with a slide presentation from Maureen Birk on sustainable construction which uses unmilled trees and trimmings from trees ("round wood"), for columns and beams in projects large and small. Program will show large completed projects as well as the step by step process of designing and building a small shelter. Then, Connie Lindholm from WE energies will discuss wind power in the Fox Valley area.

April 9, 2009 • 7:00 PM Solar Electric Systems for Your Home

Thinking about what you can do to lower your energy bill? Patrick Nahm, owner of Appleton Solar, will discuss solar electric systems and what it takes to get a complete system installed on your home or business.

May 14, 2009 • 7:00 PM Annual Auction Fundraiser

A smorgasbord of food, entertaining live auction, raffle items, games, silent auction, and so much more! Stay tuned to our next newsletter for more details. You won't want to miss this exciting night of fun and laughs!

Programs are held at the wheelchair accessible Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Drive (County A) in Appleton, Wisconsin and are open to the public. Please join us!

<http://www.bubolzpreserve.org/>

For Sale: Sierra Club Coffee and Tea

Warm up this winter with Sierra Club fair trade, organic, shade grown coffee and tea. Choose from Custom Blend and French Roast coffee in drip grind and whole bean and four varieties of premium loose tea: Earl Grey, Green, Darjeeling, and Backcountry Berry (Herbal).

For sale at our February, March, and April meetings for only \$8.00!



Join Us for the 5th Annual Conservation Lobby Day

Do you want your legislators to vote to protect clean water, clean air, natural areas, and sporting opportunities? So do we! Join us for the 5th Annual Conservation Lobby Day 2009 and ask legislators to *Be Your Voice* for conservation!

On February 25, 2009, join citizens from across Wisconsin at the state Capitol to tell legislators that you expect them to vote well on natural resource issues.

Since the first Conservation Lobby Day in 2005, it's grown from 100 citizens to more than 500! Each year, representatives from nearly 100 conservation groups from across Wisconsin descend on the Capitol to share their conservation values with their Legislators. When hundreds of citizens speak with a unified voice, legislators simply can't ignore the tremendous support that exists for conservation.

On Conservation Lobby Day, you will speak to both your state Representative and state Senator about key conservation issues. In addition, you will receive skill and issue training that you can take away and apply when advocating back home. You will also have the opportunity to meet and network with others that share your conservation values.

In 2009-2010, the conservation community will be fighting to make sure:

- Wisconsin adopts a strong statewide plan to tackle global warming.
- Wisconsin returns to an Independent DNR Secretary and has timely votes on DNR Board Appointments.
- Wisconsin has clean, abundant drinking water and a statewide water conservation plan.
- Wisconsin protects drinking water supplies by making sure we safely spread agricultural, municipal, and industrial waste.

Legislators need to continue to hear from you! Keep the conservation momentum going! Join us for Conservation Lobby Day on February 25, 2009 at our State Capitol.

To RSVP, visit: www.conservationvoters.org
RSVP deadline is Feb. 13th. ♣

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Bush Signs Marine National Monument Act

by Cindy Carter, FVSG Political Chair

President George W. Bush, on January 6 of this new year, signed into law the Marine National Monument Act. This federal protection will save 195,280 square miles of ocean "gems" from oil and gas exploration, fishing, and tourism forever. The three areas included in this legislation are: the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean near Guam, the Rose Atoll (Rose Islands) in the U.S. Territory of American Samoa, and the Pacific Remote Islands of Hawaii.

If you would like to see the news snippet from January 6, you can go to: <http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=6588428>. You can also "Goggle" Marine National Monument Act. ♣

Coal is Still Dirty

by Alan Lawrence, FVSG Chair

The coal ash spill on December 22, 2008 in Harriman, Tennessee woke our nation to the problems of coal ash. 5.4 million cubic yards of sludge spilled, breaking through the earthen retaining wall of a holding pond. That's over one billion gallons or more than 100 times as much as the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989.

Coal burning used to be even more polluting, releasing lots of particulate waste into the atmosphere. Today, electrostatic precipitators remove much of this ash from the exhaust stream from modern coal plants.

Coal ash can consist of two kinds of coal waste products. Fly ash is captured from the chimneys of coal-fired power plants. Bottom ash is removed from the bottom of coal furnaces. Coal ash is highly toxic, containing mercury and other heavy metals like lead and arsenic.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has decided that coal ash should not be regulated as a hazardous waste. The chemistry of this waste varies considerably, so the health-risk assessment is difficult. Consequently millions of tons of coal ash are stored in hundreds of lagoons similar to the one that breached in December.

According to the Associated Press, "Without federal guidelines, regulations of the ash ponds vary by state. Most lack liners and have no monitors to ensure that ash and its contents don't seep into underground aquifers."
(Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090109/ap_on_go_ot/coal_ash)

There are opportunities to recycle coal ash, yet most is still wasted. According to a Wikipedia article on fly ash, "The recycling of fly ash has become an increasing concern in recent years due to increasing landfill costs and current interest in sustainable development. As of 2005, U.S. coal-fired power plants reported producing 71.1 million tons of fly ash, of which 29.1 million tons were reused in various applications. If the nearly 42 million tons of unused fly ash had been recycled, it would have reduced the need for approximately 27,500 acre feet of landfill space"

While it is a good thing to remove fly ash from the smoke of coal, coal is still a dirty energy source until all aspects are responsible and clean. ♣



To learn more about the Sierra Club's
"Move Beyond Coal" Campaign, visit:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/>

FROM THE CHAIR

I'm guessing that most people are very aware of the financial crisis that hit the mortgage industry, the stock market, and seemingly just about every other business in the world. People have lost money, jobs, and confidence in the future. Focussing on nature can be difficult when you are worried about yourself.

The financial mess is complicated but several observations seem interesting. Sierra Club has long said, "Sprawl hurts us all". I think sprawl is one of the problems that started this mess. New homes were built further from cities. These homes tended to be large and expensive. Funded with easy loans, these homes were affordable and seemed like good investments as long as the real-estate market was growing. If our message about sprawl had been heard, I wonder if the outcome might have been different.

Sierra Club has other environmental messages that went unheeded with expensive consequences. High fossil fuel energy costs in recent years are blamed for contributing to higher costs for just about everything, and this has contributed to the financial crisis. Largely ignored is the fact that Sierra Club has been encouraging conservation and development of alternative energies for many years. Part of our message was to require automotive manufacturers to produce efficient cars. Another part of our message was that American gasoline prices were relatively cheap. Increasing the gas tax would encourage conservation, encourage the automotive industry to build better vehicles, and encourage the development of alternative energies. Revenues from the gas tax could have helped new "green" businesses get started.

Instead, we know that the American automotive industry fought all attempts that required them to build efficient cars. Indeed, General Motors had developed a promising electric car but decided to recall and destroy all of the cars and their future models. The movie, "*Who Killed the Electric Car*", documented that disaster.

As should have been foreseeable, gasoline became expensive. Our automotive industry had nothing to offer to it's consumers, so consumers are purchasing cars elsewhere and our automotive industry is suffering.

Sierra Club has always argued for responsible care of the environment. Yet our nation often follows short-sighted policies and business practices that are contrary and value doing what is more profitable for the moment. That philosophy does not work well on Wall Street, is not good for the environment, and is not good for our people. The long view would be better for our environment and our workers. How many jobs have been moved to foreign countries to avoid fair labor costs or environmental regulations? It is my belief that if businesses had treated the environment with respect and retained local jobs that our financial crisis might have been avoided.

A recent news-item tells that the City of Appleton is afraid of its liability in the Fox River PCB cleanup. The City expects to pay \$250,000 this year in legal fees related to a lawsuit involving removal or capping of deposits of polychlorinated biphenyls from the Fox River. Seven paper companies are responsible for the cleanup and its costs. Two of the companies have sued municipalities along the river to share in the cleanup costs. The cities face liability because municipal wastewater plants handled some of the original PCB contaminated water. Allowing corporations to do the wrong thing can cost communities money in the long run.

Global warming pollution, mostly carbon dioxide, will probably be very expensive to deal with in the future. Isn't it short-sighted to ignore the problem today? Shouldn't we do everything possible today?

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

Alan Lawrence
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Ice Age Trail Chair Needs Assistance

by Darrel Ruechel

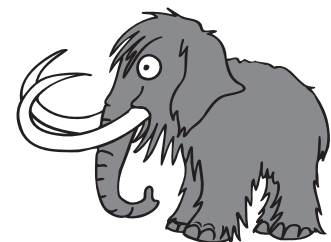
Having now replaced long-time Ice Age Trail chairperson Dale Schaber, I would gratefully appreciate assistance in two specific areas. Qualifications include enjoying the outdoors and an appreciation for the Ice Age Trail, a national and state scenic trail. Even if you do not attend group meetings that often, your assistance would still be appreciated. The Fox Valley Sierra Group (FVSG) assists with trail maintenance in both Waupaca and Portage Counties. The two areas in which I would appreciate assistance are:

- 1) Occasionally photographing with a digital camera Sierra Club members at an Ice Age Trail project. Photographs would then be printed in our group newsletter, "*It's Our Nature*" and the chapter newsletter, "*The Muir View*." I don't have a digital camera, and pictures can be so meaningful.
- 2) Occasionally attending a FVSG monthly meeting at Bubolz in my absence and giving a short update on upcoming Ice Age Trail events.

Many FVSG members have worked on the Ice Age Trail and many more will in the future. Both of these areas where I could use help show and tell the importance of

this club project. There are generally three to five Ice Age Trail projects each year, beginning in May and ending around October.

Anyone interested in taking on one or both tasks or has questions should call me, Darrel, at (715) 258-5226 or e-mail me at dairl@waupacaonline.net. ♣



Penny Bernard Schaber Sworn In

Penny Bernard Schaber became the Representative for the 57th Assembly District. The Inauguration Ceremony was held in the Assembly Chambers at the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison on January 5, 2009. Penny also held an In District Swearing-in Ceremony at the City Center in Appleton on January 9, 2009. Wisconsin State Supreme Court Justice David Prosser presided at her In District Swearing-in Ceremony. Penny is a member of the Fox Valley Sierra Group and previously served as Group Chair as well as John Muir Chapter Chair.

Here is Penny's Contact Information in Madison:

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 57th Assembly District
 State Capitol
 P.O. Box 8953
 Madison, WI 53708
 rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov
 608-266-3070
 888-534-0057
 Fax: 608-282-3657



Penny Bernard Schaber with Wisconsin State Supreme Court Justice David Prosser.

Welcome New Members!

APPLETON

Ian Trudeau
 Valerie Braun
 Robert Krupinski
 Beth Lepinski
 Rev. Dottie Mathews
 Tammy Treichel
 R. Colwell
 David Penniston*

BRANDON

Laura Stricker

DEPERE

Sean Brawner
 Beatrice Spaanem

GREEN BAY

Janice Beck
 Benjamin Heide
 Manfred Heidorn
 Chris Hoffman
 Carrie Jauquet
 James Koltz
 James Lunney
 Laura Porter
 Barbara Shadis
 Joseph Spangler
 Rocky White
GREEN LAKE
 Nicholas Matthias*
HILBERT
 Kimberly Ninedorf

KEWAUNEE

Peter Lundgren
LUXEMBURG
 Glenn Mattison
MARKESAN
 Eva Wall
MENASHA
 Caitlin Hernandez
 Fran Johnson
 Karen Erm
 Stephan Young
NEENAH
 Nancy Felda
 Brian Beltz
 Ann Voges

Everett Woods*

ONEIDA
 Pat Farah
OSHKOSH
 Deanna Englemann
 Richard Jeffery
 Tom Lorensen
 Mary Mueller
 Amanda Zuehike
PORTERFIELD
 Charles Felch
 Kris Noel
POUND
 Mary Rickling
 Carole Rydell

SCANDINAVIA

Kevin Hamm
STURGEON BAY
 Laverne Blasier
WAUTOMA
 Gilbert Sabel
WEYAUWEGA
 Suzanne Rath
HOUSTON, TX
 Margaret Hansen

* Transfer

Annual Auction - May 14th

It's that time again to start thinking about our annual fundraiser on May 14, 2009.

Enjoy an evening of delicious food, an entertaining live auction, raffle items, great laughs, silent auction, games and so much more!



Donations of goods and services 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, etc. Start thinking now about what *you* can donate to our annual auction! More information to come in our next newsletter.

Save the Date!

The Baird Creek Preservation Foundation invites you to the 11th Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Guest speaker Gary Fewless, Herbarium Curator and Botanist at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay will explore Baird Creek, as a place for all seasons.

Join us Monday, March 16, 2009 at the Holiday Inn City Centre, downtown Green Bay, Wisconsin.

5:00 PM
 Light Refreshments and Reception

6:00 PM
 Dinner and Program

Please RSVP to Alison Frazier by calling (920) 432-2726 before March 7th.

For more info, visit: <http://www.bairdcreek.org/>

Ramblin' with Rich

A Bit of Eco-Economics *by Rich Krieg*

With all the talk these days of our economic problems and the importance of sustainability, it is interesting that there are not many commentators talking about sustainable economics. We need an economy that is based upon healthy ecosystems and protecting the natural capital and resources they provide. It is with this in mind that I would like to make some economic proposals that I think would help pull us out of this current mess, a mess brought to us by the golden idols of capitalism, the profit motive, and "growth."

There are some government and business policies that should be instituted. We should start by focusing on producing products that are extremely durable. The concept of planned obsolescence and the waste it produces needs to be eliminated. If a company produces a product, whether it is a computer or a sofa, they should be responsible for that product for its entire life-cycle, including the proper disposal or recycling of that product.

In terms of taxes, we need to raise taxes on businesses and process-

es that extract non-renewable resources at an unsustainable rate. Some large and well-placed carbon consumption taxes are also in order.

Instead of arguing about whether or not to eliminate an eighteen cent per gallon gasoline tax, politicians need to show some leadership and propose raising taxes on gasoline. Now I know that this is not likely to get me elected in the near future, but we should start by adding a dollar per gallon to gasoline taxes. I also think it would be a fantastic idea to institute a "horsepower" tax on vehicles. Part of the revenue raised by these taxes could be used to help create bikeable/walkable neighborhoods and invest in modern mass transit systems that are energy efficient and free to users.

Finally, as a culture, we need stop focusing on consumerism and possessions and start to focus on what really produces a meaningful and happy life. I completely understand that our current recession has been extremely difficult for many people. I personally know several who have lost their jobs, are in danger of losing their homes, or had their pensions basically disappear. However, one benefit of the current economic crisis is that it may finally make many people realize that they really don't need to purchase or own so many "things." Perhaps Americans will finally and permanently be shaken from the notion that shopping is a lifestyle. ♣

February-April 2009 Events Calendar

February 25

Conservation Lobby Day

(See front page for more info)

April 7

Spring Election Day

Early April

Annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meetings

Approximately 6400 people attended the 2008 Spring Fisheries and Wildlife Rules Hearings and Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meetings that were held in all 72 counties statewide on April 14, 2008. The hearings allow citizens to comment and vote on proposed fish and wildlife rule changes, Conservation Congress and Natural Resources Board advisory questions, and to submit resolutions for rule changes they would like to see in the future. For meeting location info in your county, access the Conservation Congress website: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/index.html.

April 18

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

The next Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held April 18 in Stevens Point. 2009 inductees will be Herbert F. Behnke, Martin Hanson, and Charles H. Stoddard. For more info, access the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame website: <http://www.wchf.org/>.

April 21

John Muir's Birthday

The John Muir Exhibit features the life and contributions of John Muir: naturalist, writer, conservationist, and founder of the Sierra Club: http://www.sierra-club.org/john_muir_exhibit/.

April 22

Earth Day

Earth Day Network (EDN) grew out of the original Earth Day in 1970. EDN is a driving force steering environmental awareness around the world. Through EDN, activists connect, interact, and have an impact on their communities, and create positive change in local, national, and global policies. EDN's international network reaches over 17,000 organizations in 174 countries. Our domestic programs engage 5,000 groups and over 25,000 educators coor-

dinating millions of community development and environmental protection activities throughout the year. Earth Day is the only event celebrated simultaneously around the globe by people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities. More than a billion people participate in Earth Day each year. About Earth Day Network: <http://www.earthday.net/>

April 24

Arbor Day in Wisconsin

www.arborday.org/states/?state=WI

April 25

Habitat ReStore Earth Day Celebration in Appleton, Wisconsin

<http://www.foxcitieshabitat.org/>
Contact Dale Schaber for information about participating in this event: 920-739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net.

Late April or early May

Garlic Mustard Pull at High Cliff State Park

Contact Dale Schaber for information about participating in this event: 920-739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net.

NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

Brillion Brillion

February 21 - Saturday

Alive in the Cold. 1-2:30 PM. Learn about some of the winter-active animals that live in the Brillion Wildlife area, their habits and means of survival. Then, if conditions permit, we'll put on snowshoes and hike the trails, looking for evidence of animals that endure through Wisconsin winters. Please register in advance. Snowshoe rental: Members/\$3, Non-Members/\$5.

March 14 - Saturday

How to Manage Your Land (and Your Yard) to Help Birds. 1:30-2:30 PM. Join international coordinator of Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras*®, Vicki Piasowski for a discussion on simple ways to make your yard or property more bird-friendly. Following the indoor presentation, we will head outdoors to search for birds and learn about how they survive during our cold winters. Register in advance for this FREE program.

March 28 - 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. Check BrillionNatureCenter.net to confirm. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Donations appreciated.

April 4 - Saturday

The Beetles Are Coming! 1-2 PM. For two years, BNC has been a mass rearing site for Galerucella beetles that eat the exotic, invasive purple loosestrife plant. Learn about this effective form of biological control and find out how you can get involved with this exciting conservation effort. Cost: Free!

April 18 - Saturday

Annual Spring Banquet. 5:00-cocktails, 6:30-dinner. Admission includes BNC membership, dinner, door prize, live and silent auctions, and the opportunity to learn more about the mission and programs of BNC. Come out to Cobblestone Creek on Hwy 10 in Brillion to help support environmental education and conservation at this fun-filled event. Call 756-3591 for ticket info.

Heckrodt Menasha

February 8 - Sunday

Hoot Hoot Wants to Be A Millionaire (or Live Birds of Prey). 1:30-3 PM. Join wildlife rehabber Ann Rosenberg as she exhibits some of her feathered friends. Then put what you learned to work as you play Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - Heckrodt Style! Cost: \$2/person.

April 18 - Saturday

Uncommon Facts about Common Birds. 6-8:30 PM. We'll welcome author and wildlife photographer for this dessert and coffee presentation.

Learn fascinating facts about some of the birds people love to hate. Check out our Extreme Makeover: Birdhouse Edition silent auction and place your bid for an art birdhouse. Cost: Free!

April 25 - Saturday

Dirt Day Rumble! 1-3 PM. Are you ready to rumble? We'll make pet rocks, dig in the dirt, and stop the swamp. Dirt dessert and grimy grog included! Cost: \$5/child, prepayment required.

Ledgeview Chilton

Sundays in February

Naturalist-guided snowshoe hikes focusing on winter ecology. We'll teach you how to use snowshoes, and then we're off to find out what's going on in that quiet white world. Hikes can last 1-2 hours and travel through field and forest. Dress for the weather. If snow cover is inadequate, a boot hike will be led instead. Cost: \$5/person (includes snowshoe rental).

February 7 - Saturday

Moonlight Ski. 6:30 PM. Evening activities at the nature center are special because they are so rare: normally the park closes at dusk. Enjoy our trails by moonlight and warm up indoors with hot cider. Bring your own skis or call the nature center to reserve a rental pair (separate \$6 rental fee). Cost: Skiers \$4/person (includes trail fee).

February 14 - Saturday

Naturalist-guided Evening Snowshoe Hike. 6:30 PM. Learn constellations and warm up with hot cider afterward. Dress for the weather. Call ahead for snow conditions. Cost: \$5/person.

March 15 - Sunday

Backyard Maple Syruping. 1 PM. Learn how to identify a tree, ways to tap and collect the sap, and a processing method for storage, using common household equipment. Cost: \$3/person

April 4 & 5 - Saturday & Sunday

Re-Enactors Encampment (Sat. & Sun.) and Maple Syrup Sunday. 9-4:30. Enjoy living history as re-enactors portray life from the 1780s to the 1880s. Fur-trading camp, crafting demos & more. On Sunday, celebrate the maple syrup season. Tap a maple tree, collect sap, learn the history of how it becomes syrup, and enjoy the taste of pure maple syrup. Pancake breakfast is served from 9-1. Live folk music courtesy of the Ledge View Players. Rain or shine. Cost: Tours and demos FREE. Pancake Breakfast \$6 age 13 and up; \$3 age 12-6; younger FREE.

Mosquito Hill New London

February 7 - Saturday

Indian Storystick: An Experiential Workshop. 1-4 PM. With its roots in ancient Native teachings, The Indian Storystick encourages participants to "explore" their past as they embark on

this life-altering experience. While adorning their sticks with ribbon, beads and feathers, participants are guided by presenter and Oneida storyteller Debra Morningstar on a journey of self-discovery. Adults are invited to be a part of this life-altering experience as The Indian Storystick takes you on your "Earth Walk" of reflection. Participants are encouraged to provide their own stick (about 2"x1.5" diameter). Additional sticks will be available. Registration and payment due ASAP. Cost: \$20/person, adults only please

February 15 - Sunday

Lenses and Telescopes. 1:30-3 PM. Learn how lens and telescopes work by constructing one of your own. That's what Galileo did! This hands-on class is for 5th graders thru adults and focuses on inverted images and lasers. Space is limited. Call to register by February 5. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3.50/students, seniors, FOMH

February 28 - Saturday

Natural Health Day. 10-2. The burgeoning fields of holistic health and natural foods are filled with new ideas and practices that can be challenging to understand and appreciate. This open-house event will bring together experts from a variety of fields that provide education, products and services to help you stay healthy. Organic foods and beverages will be for sale. Cost: \$3/adults, \$2/students, seniors & FOMH.

March 28 - Saturday

Steps to Successful Vegetable and Fruit Gardening. 1:30-3 PM. This presentation by Master Gardener Lucy Valitchka will cover a season of gardening—getting started, tending it and harvesting the crops. Lucy has 40 plus years of gardening experience at her Appleton home. Call to register before March 21. Cost: \$5/adults, \$3.50/students, seniors & FOMH.

Ridges Baileys Harbor

Fridays in February

Guided Snowshoe Hikes. 1 PM. A limited number of snowshoes are available, call ahead to reserve. Meet at the Upper Rangelight building, 8270 Hwy 57, Baileys Harbor. Call 920-839-2802 for more info. Cost: \$5 donation/person requested.

March 13 & 14 - Friday & Saturday

Building for Bluebirds. 10 AM. Learn how to help bluebird recovery efforts and build a bluebird nest box to take home. Same program is held both days. Held at Girl Scout Camp Cuesta, 8026 N. Maple Rd, Baileys Harbor. Call 920-839-2802 to sign up or for more info. Cost: \$8/box donation will help 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.

WINTER OUTINGS

Please join us on one of our outings this winter! They are a great way to meet other members and to see some of Wisconsin's most beautiful places. Outings are open to all members and non-members. In order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings at Bubolz or contact the outings leader directly. After you contact a trip leader, they will provide you with all of the trip details.

February 8, Sunday

Cross-country ski at Brown County Reforestation Camp. Let it snow! Hot apple cider will be provided! Rich Krieg, 920-497-8004, eddyout@gmail.com

February 22, Sunday

Snowshoe walk at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London. Noon-2 PM. Easy walk through lowland forests and along Wolf River. Snowshoe rental available (if renting, please arrive by 11:30). Meet in the warm Nature Center building. Nancy Brown-Koeller 920-830-6625 or 715-524-2293

February 27-28, Sat/Sun

X-C Ski/Snowshoe Weekend in the Ironwood, MI and Hurley, WI area. Lodging for 2 nights at "The Inn" (a Bed and Breakfast) in Montreal, WI. It's a classic foursquare built in 1913 as the Montreal Mining Company office. The company town of Montreal is on the National Register of Historic Places. Options for families, couples or solo travelers. Skiing at ABR on Saturday. A family operated, full service touring (classic, skate and snowshoe trails; lessons) area located on over 500 acres of varied terrain along the Montreal River - it has the most reliable snow in the area. Sunday ski options include the city of Montreal's nearby trail with historical markers along the way or the Wolverine Trails at Big Powderhorn About \$45 per person per night plus trails fees and dinner at local restaurants.

(Famous Liberty Bell pizza Friday night!) See you in Big Snow Country! \$90 deposit due with reservation to Nancy Brown-Koeller, N410 Mayflower Road, Appleton, 920-830-6625 or 715-524-2293

March 21, Saturday

Hike at High Cliff State Natural Area. This is expected to be the first spring outing of 2009 as the equinox falls on March 20, the day before. The High Cliff State Natural Area is immediately south of High Cliff Park and is close to the Fox Valley. We plan to hike about two hours. Wear hiking shoes for rough terrain and dress for the weather. Charlie Paine 920-739-1900

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 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.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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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Sustainable Life Environmental Film Series

Bubolz Nature Preserve • 6:30-9:00 PM • \$3.00 Suggested Donation

February 4 • "In the Light of Reverence" • A stunning portrait of land-use conflicts over Native American sacred sites on public and private land around the West.

March 4 • "The Salmon Forest" • Reveals the fragile connection between salmon, bears, trees, and people in the NW rainforest.

April 1 • "My Father's Garden" • Explores sustainable agriculture and the contrast between chemical and organic farming.

Sponsored by: Northeastern Wisconsin Audubon Society, Helfenstein Soup Council, Multicultural Center of Green Bay, PEAC, Bubolz Nature Preserve





It's Our Nature



Lori Bankson, senior animal keeper at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, introduces Al the Turkey Vulture at our January meeting. KELLY KRUPKA

Deadline...

for submitting materials for the
May-July 2009 newsletter is April 4th!

Anyone can submit articles, photos,
poems, trip reports, etc. Email Kelly at
kellykrupka@yahoo.com

Support Our Nature Preserves

For many years, the Fox Valley Sierra Group has held its meetings at the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton. This is an ideal arrangement for our group because of the nature setting. During the years we have participated in service projects that have benefited the Preserve such as buckthorn removal and Romp in the Swamp.

In recent years we have collected contributions for Bubolz at our December holiday party. This year we collected \$700. Bubolz is badly in need of operating funds. Our contributions are much appreciated and will be helpful. If you missed your opportunity to add to our group's contribution you can still help. Bubolz accepts donations at anytime. Bubolz memberships are an ideal way to provide financial assistance because you become a real member, enjoying the privileges that come with membership and the pride that comes with your involvement. Other nature preserves, perhaps in your community, also need help and deserve your support. ♣



Dale pets Jazz the Skunk (held by Rachel) at our January meeting. KELLY KRUPKA

