



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 10 Issue 3

## PROGRAMS

**September 9, 2010 • 7:00PM**

### **Factory vs. Organic Farms**

Steve and Marie Deibele, owners of Golden Bear Farm in Kiel, will talk about organic farming and how factory farms are affecting our area.

**October 14, 2010 • 7:00PM**

### **Election & Our Environment**

Listen to local politicians present their views on issues of environmental interest to citizens in the Fox Valley area. Decide for yourself who is the best steward of the land.

**November 11, 2010 • 7:00PM**

### **The Cost of Cheap**

Mark Dawson, environmental engineer, will talk about the cost of cheap food and services. This will be a controversial talk about the real cost of some of the short cuts we are taking.

**Programs are held at the wheelchair accessible Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, 4815 N. Lynndale Drive (County A) in Appleton, Wisconsin and are free and open to the public. Please join us!**  
<http://www.bubolzpreserve.org/>

## SAVE THE DATE

**The John Muir Chapter's 2010 Autumn Assembly will be held October 8-10 at Camp Ehawee, north of La Crosse, WI.** The Autumn Assembly is an educational and enjoyable weekend gathering featuring workshops, speakers and hands-on nature activities for kids of all ages! The diverse activities will inform and inspire you in the company of Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin. For the schedule of events and a registration form, please visit:  
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>

## FVSG May Auction A Huge Success

Even with people being more cautious with their money, this year's auction fundraiser held on May 13, 2010 was a huge success! Three large tables were packed full of incredible items that were auctioned off throughout the night. Thanks to some competitive bidding, the **Fox Valley Sierra Group raised over \$1900!** A hearty thank you to all who participated: to our talented members, local businesses and area artists who contributed services and gifts for the raffle and auction; to the best auctioneer around, Randy Connour; and a special thank you to woodcarver Bob McCurdy for donating our main raffle item!

The auction is our only fundraiser and pays the bills for our meeting space at Bubolz, printing and mailing our newsletter, and helps to sponsor or support various projects throughout our region. Whether you brought a dish to pass or an item to auction, bought raffle tickets, placed your bids, or just enjoyed the lively atmosphere, we thank you for making this year's auction a huge success!

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

### **Andy "Cosmo-Joe" Watkins**

[www.cosmo-joe.com](http://www.cosmo-joe.com)  
Appleton, WI

### **Art Affair**

196 Main Street  
Menasha, WI 54952

### **Bob McCurdy, Woodcarver**

(920) 839-2754  
Baileys Harbor, WI

### **Botanical & Nature Art by Christina Roberts**

[www.etsy.com/shop/NatureOnPaper](http://www.etsy.com/shop/NatureOnPaper)  
Appleton, WI

### **Bulk-Priced Food Shoppe**

[www.bulkpricedfoodshoppe.com](http://www.bulkpricedfoodshoppe.com)  
W6482 Greenville Drive (Hwy 15)  
Greenville, WI 54942

### **The Free Market**

[www.thefreemrkt.com](http://www.thefreemrkt.com)  
1000 West Wisconsin Avenue  
Appleton, WI 54914

### **Globally Sound Fair Trade**

[www.globallysound.com](http://www.globallysound.com)  
604 West College Avenue  
Appleton, WI 54911

### **Greg Bracken Pet Portraits**

<http://home.earthlink.net/~wildwear>  
Neenah, WI

### **Hergerts Sporting Goods**

[www.hergertsports.com](http://www.hergertsports.com)  
1232 North Sawyer Street  
Oshkosh, WI 54902

### **Just Act Natural**

[www.justactnatural.com](http://www.justactnatural.com)  
129 East College Avenue  
Appleton, WI 54911

### **Kylie Parry Studios**

[www.etsy.com/shop/kylieparry](http://www.etsy.com/shop/kylieparry)  
Menasha, WI

### **The Wreath Factory**

[www.wreathfactoryonline.com](http://www.wreathfactoryonline.com)  
220 Main Street  
Menasha, WI 54952

### **"You're Special"**

**Gifts & Collectibles**  
[www.yourespecialgifts.com](http://www.yourespecialgifts.com)  
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Appleton, WI 54913

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## Open Positions

Membership  
Fundraising

## 2010 FVSG Environmental Award Recipient

*The Fox Valley Sierra Group recognizes environmental leaders with our annual Environmental Award. The purpose of this award is to honor those that have achieved significant benefits to the environment from their efforts and contributions. Nominations for this award come from our membership. Award recipients are selected by the FVSG Executive Committee or by voting through our newsletter. This year we are making our first posthumous award, to a young woman who accomplished so much in her short lifetime. Her husband, Bob Welch, writes the essay below.*

### Debra Ann Martin

A former member of Fox Valley Sierra Group (FVSG), Deb assisted educational lobbying efforts to eliminate the Crandon Mine on the Upper Wolf River. In 1986, Deb joined the Wisconsin Timber Wolf Recovery Program, becoming a board member of Timber Wolf Alliance. She developed K-12 educational units and reviewed unbiased wolf literature. She loved the Sierra Club's outings and continued to be involved in overnight camping and day trips.



Deb helped found Timber Wolf Information Network (TWIN) in 1989. She coordinated Adopt-A-Wolf Pack Program for collars monitoring the less than 80 wolf population. She reviewed new wolf books and managed book sales. She volunteered with Wisconsin wolf trapping team, capturing and collaring wolves. Deb was a TWIN board member and instructor for the Study of Wolves course at UWSP for over 15 years.

In the tradition of FVSG, Deb struck out and began extended outings. In 1992, Deb joined an expedition to Alaska's remote, dangerous outdoor laboratory in Katmai National Park, contributing research on the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes (V10KS). This three week adventure got her hooked on extended outdoor experiences. In 1996, Deb returned to the V10KS to research volcanoes and plants colonizing the 175 square miles of ash deposits. In 1999 she assisted her team to reach the steaming dome of Novarupta, some 50-miles by backpack; and without knowing how to swim, sea kayaked over 40 miles in Prince William Sound to study ten Knight Island beaches severely impacted by the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989.

Deb's early years in the Sierra Club taught her the importance of fighting for the remaining natural resources we must share. She joined the North East Wisconsin Land Trust board to preserve these lands. In her own unique way, Deb wanted to contribute on a deeper level, always believing the importance of being a good model to others. In 2006, Deb signed a conservation easement on her farm, placing over 91% (155 acres) under special protection, now the Emmons Creek Barrens State Natural Area (No. 365). This area is central Wisconsin's largest oak savanna and sand prairie ecosystem, a globally endangered landscape.

Deb Martin loved the out-of-doors, and preferred camping on the ground in a tiny tent to a plush resort with all the amenities. Since 1999, Deb took her experiences with the Sierra Club to heart, by traveling to remote Corcovado National Park in coastal Costa Rica and began organizing educational expeditions to Alaska and Canada. She led a sea kayaking trip to Broken Island Group near Vancouver Island, BC to study rare reefs, and guided 5 horseback expeditions into Banff / Jasper National Parks. She enjoyed planning and taking trips from Montana to Arizona. Her involvement in the Sierra Club was one of her favorite memories. Learning to be independent and self reliant was very valuable to her in her quest to make a better world for all to share.

Born in Wisconsin Rapids on July 22, 1955, Debra Ann Martin passed away at her rural home near Waupaca on Mother's Day, May 9, 2010. She was 54 years old. ♣

# FROM THE CHAIR

The recent BP oil spill is on the news and in the minds of many Americans. As Sierrans, we all understand that this is a very serious environmental disaster. We have also been enlightened to understand that the oil industry and our government regulators do not always have the same interests as the general public.

The BP oil spill means different things to different people. Some people see spoiled beaches. Some see dead wildlife. Some see a harmed fishing industry. Some want to boycott BP gas stations. Many want to make sure that BP pays every penny of the cleanup costs and compensation for job losses. And some see this as an isolated incident that should not get in the way of other oil industry jobs.

I certainly do not see this as an isolated incident. I think it is an excellent example of how we fail to think things through. And many still do not feel too badly if the unintended consequences are harmful to the environment since they do not understand how important the environment is to everything.

Lest this BP example be seen as isolated, take heed of the recent revelation that there are more than 27,000 abandoned oil wells in the Gulf. Most have only temporary caps, and nobody is monitoring these for potential leaks.

The ill-fated Titanic cruise ship is a famous example of business underestimating possible consequences of an engineering design. Engineering and environmental issues are often too complex to predict well. It is foolish to believe that we know exactly how things work. Unfortunately, it often takes an isolated incident to make us aware of the consequences and the high costs of those consequences.

In hindsight the BP oil spill seems like a "duh moment". Who wouldn't have anticipated that this accident was possible, and who wouldn't have thought it would be expensive? I like to think, "if you cannot afford the con-

sequences then you should not be risking the consequences." This is one of the ways our public regulators let us down.

I am of mixed feelings how the BP oil disaster should be paid for. It is the fault of BP, the oil industry, and our government. Our government should have required adequate safety and probably should not have allowed this type of drilling in the first place. And our government should have demanded higher fees for the mining rights.



*On an Ice Age Trail hike led by Butch Siegel at Skunk and Foster Lakes State Natural Area on May 22, 2010.*



*Jennifer, Diana and Darrel enjoy refreshments after a hike sponsored by the Ice Age Trail Alliance.*

There are countless other examples of disasters for which society has bailed out the victims, even, for example, when it is evident that the victims were foolish about building in flood zones. I suspect that the logic requiring government bailout for those victims will require that "we" also help BP. We are all angry with BP, but they are still a victim. This disaster will be too expensive for BP to pay for, so society will have to pay for it.

Our lesson is that we need to be careful with the environment. We must always consider the possible consequences and the costs. This might mean we have to walk away from risky projects. Or it might mean that we demand higher fees for mining rights and better insurance. It certainly means that we cannot afford to allow mining companies (oil, minerals, timber, water) to harvest public resources without adequate

consideration for the environment and without adequate payment to the public treasury.

How about trying to come up with a list of other disasters? Chernobyl, Bhopal, Three Mile Island, Love Canal, the Exxon Valdez, mountain-top removal, Fox River PCBs.... It will be a very long list, and it should convince you that the know-it-alls don't know it all.

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

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

## Adventures in Alaska *By Diana Lawrence*

In July my daughter Jennifer and I went on a 14 day cruise from Seattle to Alaska. In taking a cruise, I was worried, as I always am, about my carbon footprint. But, I figured, the ship was going whether we were aboard or not. Also, the chance to see Alaska with its glaciers may not come again for us so we went for it. My rationale for going was to see Alaska before climate changes make it unrecognizable from today.

On our first morning we awoke to the vistas of the Inside Passage of British Columbia and Alaska. Even on a large ship the serenity I experienced was incredible. There were no planes overhead and the nearby boats still allowed a sense of peace and quiet. The Inside Passage is relatively narrow so we were close to the shore and could clearly smell the evergreen trees. There was nothing for miles around on the horizon but trees and snow covered mountains.

We went to the cities of Ketchikan, Sitka and Skagway, all situated in breathtaking beauty. My favorite place was probably Glacier Bay National Park. You can only get in and out by plane or boat. As a nation we

are lucky to have such beautiful National Parks and Glacier Bay is a real gem. I firmly believe that people need wild places to recharge their emotional lives and reconnect with nature. I was initially afraid my 18 year old daughter would not find it as interesting as I but she was thrilled with the beauty as well. We saw three tidewater glaciers that day including the large Johns Hopkins Glacier. These glaciers may not be there when my daughter is my age and I'm glad we had the opportunity to see them.



*Mendenhall Glacier and Meadow in Juneau, Alaska.*



*Diana and Jennifer at Mendenhall Glacier.*

Another favorite sight was the massive Hubbard Glacier, 6 miles wide and 76 miles long. We watched it calve for about an hour before fog rolled in and hid the glacier. It was at that point that all of us outside on the decks heard the loudest crash yet as the biggest calve of the day hit the water. An audible sigh went through the ship as we realized what we missed.

I can see why people are drawn to live in Alaska with its wildness and beauty. It's not just another place to get oil from. The inaccessibility of large tracts will protect it somewhat from human incursion and exploitation but it is a definitely a place we should preserve as much as we can. I would recommend a trip to Alaska for everyone. Whether you explore Alaska's beauty by land, sea or air, the trip will be worth it. ♣



### You're only as old as you feel.

Giant Sequoias are the largest living things on the planet, some dating back over 3,500 years. Sierra Club has worked for the protection of these gentle giants for over 100 years. Sequoias have withstood the test of time -- and by now, their only true enemy is us. Currently, Sequoias are in grave danger of being destroyed by commercial logging. We have the power to preserve or destroy these majestic trees - but we need your help!

**Live it up and JOIN Sierra Club to help keep our 100 year tradition of preservation alive.**

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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.

**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



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## Book Roundup: National Parks

Every week, The Green Life (<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/>) reviews a selection of new and upcoming books addressing a specific aspect of environmentalism. Their latest recommendation were books about national parks.

**National Parks: The American Experience, 4th Edition** (by Alfred Runte, \$26, Taylor Trade Publishing, Mar. 2010) Runte, a prominent environmental historian, argues that America's national parks were not established for purposes of environmental protection but from a rising sense of nationalism. His book, an engaging and enlightening history of national park development, also contains beautiful color illustrations.

**Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks** (by Tyler Nordgren, \$20, Praxis, May 2010) With breathtaking photos of night skies, Nordgren weaves an equally beautiful narrative that links astronomy to geology and history. The book explores everything from star formations to the autumn moon, highlighting the intricate connections between the heavens, natural landscapes, and the human culture reflected in our national parks.

**Knowing Yellowstone: Science in America's First National Park** (edited by Jerry Johnson, \$16, Taylor Trade Publishing, June 2010) Each chapter explores a specific research project at Yellowstone, and how its findings inform policy at the national park. Johnson's narration clearly depicts how scientists continue to work to understand one of the world's largest ecological refuges.

**Adventures with the Parkers: An Adventure Series in National Parks** (by Mike Graf and Marjorie Leggitt, \$11, Fulcrum Publishing, 2010) From focusing on the Grand Canyon to Yosemite to Yellowstone, each book in this vibrant children's series goes on a journey with the Parker family foursome through a different U.S. national park. Each book is filled with nature facts and outdoor safety tips, and introduces kids to some of the environmental issues facing national parks.

**J.B. Harkin: Father of Canada's National Parks** (by E.J. Hart, \$27, University of Alberta Press, Jan. 2009) This biography of James Bernard Harkin explores the life of a pioneer wildlife conservationist and major force behind Canada's national parks system. ♣

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## FVSG Newsletter Has New Editor/Designer

Kelly Krupka has been the editor and designer of "It's Our Nature" for the past eight years and has decided to retire. Kelly recently got married and moved to the countryside and would like to take some time off to enjoy her new life.

Board member Monny Hjerstedt from Neenah will be taking over the reigns for our next issue. Please submit newsletter articles and photos to Monny at [mhjerstedt@tds.net](mailto:mhjerstedt@tds.net) or 567 Oak Street, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956. The deadline for the November 2010 - January 2011 issue is Saturday, October 9th ♣

## SNAPSHOTS

FVSG Annual Picnic at Lutz Park, Appleton  
August 12, 2010



# NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

## **Brillion** *Brillion*

**September 9 & 11 - Thursday & Saturday Smalls & Talls: Nature Detective.** 10:30-11:30AM. Nature is full of mysteries. Use tools from the BNC field packs to search for clues and figure out answers that will lead us to a hidden treasure. This program is designed for Adults and Pre-school age children to participate together. Cost: \$3/child-members, \$5/child-non-members.

**September 11 - Saturday What's the Buzz at BNC.** 1:30-3PM. Check out the BNC's new apiary. Learn about the fascinating lives of honeybees and gain a new appreciation for nature's honey-makers. Participants will discover how these social insects live out their roles in the hive and the benefits to people. All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: Members/Free, Non-members/\$1-individual or \$3-household.

**October 16 - Saturday Pumpkin Walk.** 5:30-8PM. The Nature Center's 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*

**October 16 - Saturday Romp in the Autumn Swamp.** 4-8PM. Celebrate our 17th annual Romp in the Autumn Swamp fun walk with illuminated hiking trails, live music, pumpkin decorating, an outdoor movie, community rest stops, face painting, campfire, live characters on the trails, food stand, and fall colors! Pre-register for a discounted rate. \$25 for a family. All ages welcome. Day of Event Costs: \$9 adults, \$7 kids, \$30 family.

## **Heckrodt** *Menasha*

**September 11 - Saturday Monarch Madness.** Noon-3PM. This fun carnival program is all about Monarch butterflies. Join us for games, crafts, stories, and education about these magnificent migrators. Have a hand in some monarch tagging from our gardens and prairie. Cost: \$2/person.

**October 8 & 9 - Friday & Saturday Creepy Crawlies Halloween Event.** 6-9PM. Activities at our 11th annual Halloween Program include live owls, make and take craft, storytelling, and a non-haunted illuminated hayride. Our non-scary Little Spooks Trail is perfect for kids up to 5 years old. For those that dare, our Haunted Trail includes theme music, sounds, and spooks. This program requires advanced wristband purchase. Cost: \$8/person. Limited space available - purchase early!

## **Ledgeview** *Chilton*

**Most Weekends Cave Tours.** 1PM most weekends; call for schedule. Take a naturalist-guided tour of Carolyn's Caverns. Learn the geology, biology, and human history of the caves. Opportunities for exploring will be provided. Caves are naturally dark, damp, and dirty. Wear layers and plan on getting dirty. Bring flashlight. Caves accessed by stairs and ladders. Recommended minimum age five years old with parent. Minors must be accompanied by supervising adult. Tours last about two hours. (No access to caves except on guided tour.) Please arrive before 1:00. (Groups should make separate reservations.) Cost: \$6/person.

**September 11 - Saturday Food and Energy Fest.** 10-4. Local foods, organics, alternative energy sources, children's activities, live animals, live music, much more. Cost: \$3/carload.

**October 22 & 23 - Friday & Saturday Halloween Candlelight Cave Tours.** 6-8:30PM. Enjoy a family-oriented evening visiting Ledge View's trails and caves by candlelight, and meet some unusual personalities with strange stories. Educational rather than scary. Minimum recommended age five years old with parent. Wear old clothes—you may get dirty. Caves are accessed by stairs and ladders. Tours will depart every half hour. First come, first served. No reservations taken. This event is a fundraiser. Cost: \$5/person.

**October 24 - Sunday Prairie Wildflower Seed Collection.** 1PM. Participants will collect seeds from a number of prairie wildflower species and learn how to prepare them for spring planting. Cost: \$5/person.

## **Mosquito Hill** *New London*

**September 11 - Saturday Composting Basics Workshop.** 9-11AM. Registration due September 8. Cost: \$5/person, \$3/students, seniors, members.

**September 19 - Sunday Honey Sunday.** 1-4PM. Informational sessions on beekeeping, beeswax candle dipping, cooking with honey and more. Observe active hives, enjoy honey sundaes, purchase honey baked goods. Cost: \$8/per car.

**September 25 - Saturday Harvest Moon Festival.** 4-9PM. Final schedule TBD. Cost: \$8/car.

**October 1 - Friday Fenlon Memorial Speaker Series: John Bates.** Noted Wisconsin naturalist and author John Bates speaks at Mosquito Hill. Call for reservations. Cost: \$15/person.

**October 3 - Sunday Build a Compost Barrel.** 1-4PM. Registration due September 23. Cost: \$60/adults, \$55/students, seniors, members.

**October 10 - Sunday Tour de Fall Bike Ride with a Naturalist.** Noon-4:30. Registration, release forms before October 5. Cost: \$8/adults, \$6.50/students, seniors, members.

**October 16 & 17 - Saturday & Sunday Bird Seed Sale.** 10-3. Stock up on birdseed for winter feeding at this annual fundraiser.

**October 30 - Saturday Creatures of the Night.** 7-9PM. Registration due October 23. Cost: \$5/person, \$3.50/students, seniors, members.

## **Navarino** *Shiocton*

**October 2 - Saturday Voyaging down the Wolf River.** 8:30-2:30. Canoe the Wolf River in the DNR Voyageur Canoes, all equipment is provided. Bring a lunch and any personal items. RSVP by Sept. 29th. Cost: \$15 NNC members, \$20 general public.

**October 9 - Saturday 5th Annual Geocaching.** 8:30-3. Teams/individuals use GPS units to see how many geocaches they can find on the Navarino Wildlife Area.

**Fall Family Fun Day.** 11-3. Apple cider press, candle dipping, wagon rides and more. Meals can be purchased between 11-2. Free to the public.

**October 9 - Saturday Sunset Wagon Ride.** 4-6:30PM. Ride through the Navarino Wildlife Area viewing waterfowl, fall colors and hundreds of Sandhill Cranes on the return trip. Cost: \$5 NNC members and \$10 general public.

**October 23 - Saturday Halloween Happenings.** 6:30-8:30PM. Non-scary Halloween event consisting of Halloween games, a Jack-o-Lantern Trail walk, and food around a bonfire. Cost: \$3/person.

## **Woodland Dunes** *Two Rivers*

**September 27 - Saturday Five Buck Hootenanny.** 7PM. Enjoy fun folk music for the whole family! This concert will feature Pete Johnson and Fritz Schuler. Doors open at 6:30. Cost: \$5 (\$2 children under 12).

**October 16 - Saturday Owlfest.** 8-Noon. Celebrate the fall migration of the Northern Saw-whet owl. Owl banding and release demonstrations, children's activities, guided hikes and more! Cost: Members \$4; Family \$8; Non-members \$5; Family \$10.

# FVSG SUMMER & FALL OUTINGS

Please join us on one of our outings this summer and fall! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts and see some of Wisconsin's most beautiful places. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. 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 the trip details.

## September 18, Saturday

**Ice Age Trail Work Day in Portage County.** This is a joint work day between the Fox Valley Sierra Group and the Portage County IAT chapter. The FVSG will be doing minor trail maintenance for the upcoming Parade of Colors Hike at Hartman Creek State Park on October 2nd. Tools will be provided. However, if you wish to bring any pruning tools, feel free to do so. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent to the outing. We will stop for ice cream mid afternoon when our work for the day is done. *Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903.*

## October 2, Saturday

**Ice Age Trail Annual Fall Hike-A-Thon.** Mark your calendars for the annual fundraiser for the Ice Age Trail Alliance taking place at Hartman Creek State Park west of Waupaca. The Hike-A-Thon is an annual event to raise funds to acquire, develop and maintain Ice Age Trail lands for the education and enjoyment of future generations. A variety of hiking distances are available. Registration is from 8:30–11AM. *If you would like to join other Sierra Club members as we hike, contact Darrel for more information. Darrel Ruechel, 920-993-0903.*



Many enjoyed a May 25th bike ride on the Wiouwash Trail with a pit-stop at Charlie's Place in Hortonville for burgers and malts.

## Rescue Adventure on a Mountain *By Alan Lawrence*

My family was vacationing in July near Mt. Hood in Oregon for our annual week-long family reunion. We did a lot of hiking. One day our family encountered a group of backpackers, one of whom had just collapsed. His group was tending to him and trying to determine his condition and whether he needed to be rescued. It turns out that this was a group of nurses, so they had reasonable first aid training and lots of aspirin and pain killers.

A member of my family is a doctor, but she was ahead of us and missed the incident. We said we would continue our hike to a spectacular waterfall and would notify the doctor when we caught up with her. She and two of my brothers went back to tend to the patient. Word soon was sent back to us that we were all needed to carry the man back to the parking lot. It was believed he had a serious heart problem and needed professional care.

Beyond cell phone coverage, several of the nurses headed down to the parking lot in an attempt to make

an emergency phone call. The rest of us constructed a crude lifter to carry the man. Several people carried the stretcher while others carried the equipment. We traveled about two miles before we were met from below by a team of emergency responders. They reviewed the patient's condition and transferred him onto a better stretcher that they had brought. The patient was transported the remaining mile to the parking lot and into an ambulance. We were surprised to discover that perhaps two dozen emergency people had responded and were in the parking lot with a large number of vehicles.



The patient discussed his symptoms with EMT before being transferred from the homemade emergency lifter to one the EMT team brought with them.

Carrying the man down the mountain was very hard work and we were exhausted. We wished that the emergency guys had been faster, though they really had arrived quite quickly.

We have not heard anything further about the patient or his fellow backpackers. This was a lesson to all of us that you might be called into service when you least expect it. ♣

Fox Valley Sierra Group  
of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

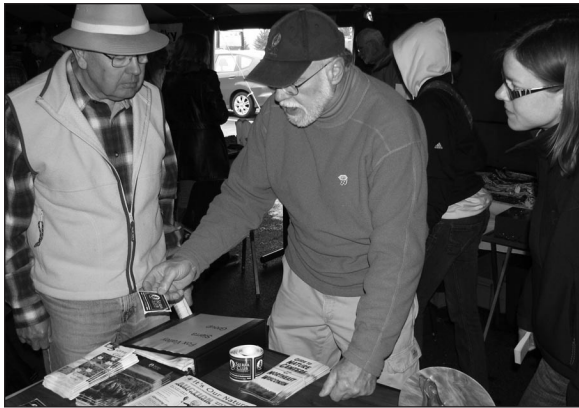
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# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 10 Issue 3



*Charlie Paine (left) stopped by FVSG's table at the Habitat ReStore's Earth Day Celebration on April 24, 2010. Board members Will Stahl and Kelly Krupka handed out literature and talked to guests. DALE SCHABER*

## Wisconsin Conservation Priorities

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters is one of the Fox Valley Sierra Group's allies in our quest to protect the environment. In recent years this organization has worked with interested parties to come up with short lists of important conservation priorities. This is done through a series of "listening sessions" around the state which are currently in progress. The list of priorities is refined in upcoming months and is then presented in February to our legislators through an event known as "Conservation Lobby Day". Several hundred people from Sierra Club and other environmental organizations and individuals will present these issues to our legislators. It has been a successful model.

The list of conservation priorities is currently being developed. If you have an idea please send it to our northeast Wisconsin representative, Staush Gruszynski, at <staush@conservationvoters.org>

Website reference: <http://www.conservationvoters.org/blog/?p=6928> ♣

## DEADLINE

for submitting materials for the  
Nov 10 - Jan 11 newsletter is Oct 9!

Anyone can submit articles, photos, poems, trip reports, etc. Email Monny Hjerstedt at [mhjerstedt@tds.net](mailto:mhjerstedt@tds.net)

## Follow FVSG on Facebook and Twitter

The Fox Valley Sierra Group is now on Twitter and Facebook! Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events. On Facebook, search for "Fox Valley Sierra Group" then become a fan. Find us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FVSierraClub>. ♣