

PROGRAMS

February 10, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Wildlife Rehabilitation

Rebekah Weiss from the from Aves Wildlife Alliance who specializes in birds will give a presentation on rehabilitation. Great program for children and adults with live animals and birds.

March 10, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Growing up with Fish, Nature, and being Human

Bob Brannon a retired fisherman and naturalist who is very familiar with the north woods of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. He authored a book about growing up with his brothers and father, and learning the ways of fish, nature and being human. Since the places he is going to be talking about are familiar to many of us, this should be interesting.

April 14, 2011 • 7:00 PM

The State and Health of the Great Lakes

Tentatively planned program.

Check the FVSG web site for updates.

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>

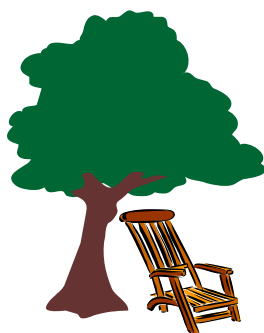
May 12, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Annual Auction Fundraiser

An evening of delicious food, an entertaining live auction, raffle items, great laughs and more as we support our club with this one and only fundraiser. Start thihnking now about what you can donate to the auction. More info to come in our next newsletter.

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/>



From the Chair

January 2011

Alan Lawrence

I suspect that most Americans grew weary of the 2010 election long before November. Campaign literature and advertising tends to be vague and often doesn't clearly differentiate the candidates. Many potential voters decided that there was not much difference, and either decided not to cast a vote, or decided to vote against all incumbents. Others based their voting decisions on differentiating issues that may not have been all that important. Even conscientious voters could be frustrated by "meaningless" campaign literature and based their voting decisions on third-party editorial comments and endorsements.

Now that we have elected our leaders we shall see how well that worked out. I am concerned about what might happen to environmental policies that Sierra Club and other environmental friends have worked for. It is not hard to find scary information suggesting that the new politicians don't believe in global warming or that they want to roll back environmental protections. We will have to remain vigilant and work with our new leaders to make sure that they understand the importance of nature.

Personally, I was disappointed that environmental issues played such an unimportant roll in the elections. I am hoping that future elections will focus more on real issues, and that the environment will be considered to be an important real issue.

Sierra Club can help. Our mission statement encourages us to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth and to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources. We need to keep ourselves educated and informed. Then we must bring it into our own lives, and promote it to others. When our friends understand that nature is really important then the issue will be taken seriously.

So, what's happening with our group in 2011? First, I need to thank our members who have agreed to serve on our Board of Directors. Then I need to point out that we have two vacancies on our board that need to be filled. Our group exists only because we have a board. Please help us.

Our state chapter (the John Muir Chapter) has an Autumn Assembly each October. Groups around the state take turns hosting the weekend event. All Sierra Club members and friends are invited. We are responsible for hosting the event this year. Dale Schaber is organizing this event for us, and he will need the help from many of us. The "Assembly" will take place October 7-9 at Camp Helen Brachman near Hartman Creek State Park.

Continued on page 3

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Open Positions

Hospitality
Fundraising

Welcome New Members

Appleton

Tina Balthazor
Ellen Braatz
Tom Branagan
Wendy Dearborn
Rochelle Freimark
Shannon Glenn
George Hahn
Catherin & Todd
McKensie
Fred Reseburg
Mary Ann Rossi
Delmar Schwaller
Ronald Sell
Patti Trochil
Katherine Westover
Barbara Winter

Baileys Harbor

Susan Bhirdo
Berlin
Sharon Harmel
Laura Studdard

Brussels

Margaret Bayer
Clintonville
Jim Putnam

De Pere

Adrian Bennett
Jennifer Trupke

Eldorado

Diane Schroeder
Ellison Bay
Mike Eischen

Endeavor

Mary Harvestine

Florence

Monica Kaplewski

Green Bay

Constance Albert
Patricia Baeten
Mary Beardmore
Richard Campbell
Dolores Corpus
Shirley Destache
Richard Elm
Michael Finney
Matthew Fure
Jim Graves
Torstein Hansen
David Hemstreet
Dennis Hudson
Kathleen Larkin
Ronald Perz
Richard Poss
Bill Quinlan

Mary Reynolds

Daniel Schultz
Chris Seidl
Susan Servais
Jane Stannard
Lynn Terrien
Rita Tuell
Norman Vojtech
Anne Way
Trish Tucker
Ken Virt
Greenville
Carol Roe
Gresham
Ruth Gudinas
Iola
Betty Hafemann
Kaukauna
Ron Brooks
Leon Eppinger
Jean Harkins
Thomas McMahon
Larsen
Michael Birr
Little Suamico
Donald Francis
Manawa
Barbara Black
Markesan
Annie Renner
Menasha
James Arndt
Deborah Banda
Pat Stefancic
Mountain
Nick Adelmeyer
Neenah
Jennifer Dausey
Helen Gloudemans
Dale & Margit Rezabek
Kathleen Stelow
Neshkoro
Holly Walker
New London
Katherine Braun
Jean Johnson
Omro
Pamela Bose
Carrie Edwards
Onieda
Roger Radley
Oshkosh
James Czarnecki
Kim Iversen
Mary Jones

Adam Kleinschmit

Thomas Larson
Jeosph Leroy
Katheryn Resop
Carol Ross
Sarah Stetter
Packwaukee
Pamela Mack
Peshtigo
Kent Finger
Pickett
Helen Parker
Plainfield
Lori Beggs
Victoria Allison-Gengler
Mark Spees
Porterfield
John Berg
Princeton
Jaclyn Jackowski
Pulaski
Luke Wojcik
Ripon
Evelyn Kain
Jeff & Jill
Puhlmann-Becker
Mark Resch
Shawano
Elizabeth Marx
Bryce Szymanski
Sherwood
Ronald Engman
Sister Bay
Martha Garske
George & Barbara Larsen
Sturgeon Bay
Edward Greene
James Scoville
Suamico
Judith Haworth
Roy La Pean
Washington Island
Donna Benson
Waupaca
Cindy Kelm
Judith Wendt
Mary Woolsey
Whitelaw
Kayla Walsh
Wild Rose
Shirley Peterson

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>.

Sierra Club National Issues

Diana Lawrence, Conservation Chair

The original article I had written for this newsletter turned out to be full of gloom and doom on climate change. I decided that was not the way to start off a new year. Instead I decided to digest some of the issues that Sierra Club National is working on right now. We can choose to get involved in any of them. All of them can be found on the national website with information as to how you can get involved.

Beyond Coal: Although coal currently accounts for 50% of our electricity it also contributes 30% of our global warming pollution. Coal is our dirtiest energy source. Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program helps to stop new plants from being built as well as stopping new mines in Appalachia and elsewhere from being given permits.

Clean Energy Solutions: This goes hand in hand with the Beyond Coal campaign. Sierra Club is working to

implement new sources of energy. The goal is to re-power America with clean power like solar and wind and to build green when we build new structures.

Green Transportation: Transportation contributes one third of our carbon dioxide emissions. We must develop clean and efficient vehicles, create lower carbon fuels and expand transportation choices.

If we can get these issues resolved other problems will be reigned in as well. Loss of habitat for wildlife and ultimately people as well, major health issues like asthma and other lung-related diseases, climate change can be slowed and our quality of life in general will increase.

Please take the time to visit the national Sierra Club website and see how you can get involved today. Often there are 'Take Action' campaigns where you have the opportunity to send your thoughts to high level people in the current federal administration and state administrations as well. If you have been involved thank you very much. Now more than ever we need to maintain a spirit of unity and clear message.

.... From the Chair *(from page 1)*

Large CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) farms are a problem in northeastern Wisconsin and elsewhere. A thousand or more large animals generate a lot of waste. This waste contaminates groundwater if not treated properly. Our board is planning a video project. We anticipate a contest to produce short videos that explain the problems a CAFO can cause for the environment.

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

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

Thank You Kelly

Kelly (Krupka) Ramstack was our group's newsletter editor from the summer of 2002 until the fall of 2010. Kelly assumed the job when Mary Heleniak, the previous editor, moved out of the area. Kelly relinquished the job after marrying last August and moving to Manawa to live on a farm with her husband, Christian. Monny Hjerstedt has assumed the job, a role he filled many years ago.

Kelly is still a member of our group, but will be less active now. She deserves thanks for her help to our group. She joined our group as a high school student and helped on buckthorn removal projects at Bubolz Nature Preserve and Ice Age Trail workdays in Waupaca County. She joined our board of directors in 2001.

She spent part of her summer in 2000 doing trail maintenance on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in Colorado with the Student Conservation Association. A slideshow presentation of that service trip was the program for our group's kickoff meeting that September.

She became newsletter editor in 2002 and did a wonderful job. During her tenure she changed the format and distribution process and began producing PDF versions for our web site and electronic distribution. She also served as newsletter editor for the John Muir Chapter for several years.

In 2004 Kelly traveled with the International Crane Foundation to teach environmental education to children and teachers at Murakovia Park in Russia. Muraviovka Park, located in Far Eastern Russia along the Amur River, was the first privately operated nature park in Russia.

Kelly has actively helped our group as our fund-raising chairperson, helping immensely with our annual auction in recent years. She has also tried smaller fund-raising activities for us; selling Sierra Club coffee, tea, and other items. She has also led or helped on several of our group outings, including bicycling, canoeing, camping, and skiing.

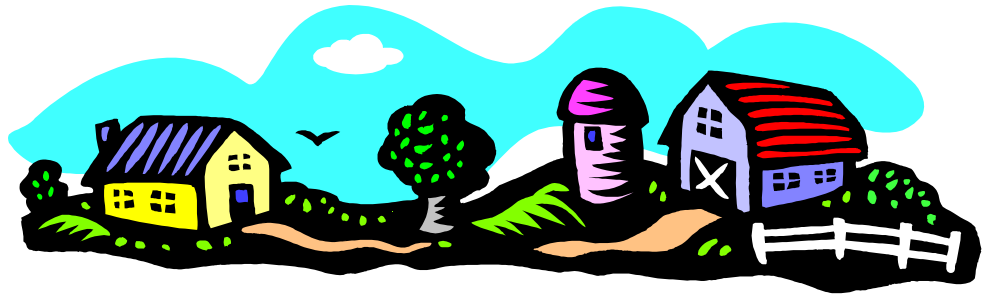
Thank you Kelly for everything mentioned above and for everything else not mentioned.

Environmental Friend Passes

Dale F. Druckrey, age 77 of Bonduel, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010 as a result of a house fire. He attended UW Madison and worked for many years as a social worker in Menominee County. He raised beef cattle on his farm, and was an avid hunter, trout fisher and canoer. Dale was active in environmental and conservation issues, lobbying for clean water, and financially supported Trout Unlimited, the Clean Water Action Council, and others. He was an unassuming and gentle man, active in Sierra Club in the 90's.

KELLY'S KITCHEN

Dreaming of Spring



I can't stand the month of February. If I didn't know the history behind Valentine's Day, I would assume that some Vitamin D deficient Midwestern folk invented it to help us get thru this sorry month. During this time of year, a crust of ice caps the powdery snow leaving our snowshoes to sit in the basement among the company of mice. The blustery wind makes me think twice about a run to the mailbox or compost bin. Even the barn cats are miserable. They jump into my warm car as I unload groceries or try to sneak into the house to escape the bitter cold. When the promise of spring has all but diminished, little pieces of hope start arriving in the mail: seed catalogs. Bright, blooming flowers pop off of the pages and unique heirloom vegetables pique my curiosity. Winter's icy shell is starting to crack as I plan out this years bountiful garden.

My love of gardening started at a young age. Growing up, my family didn't have a garden but visiting grandma and grandpa meant that I could help out in theirs. Grandpa and I would crawl through the



rows of beans searching for the ripest specimens. Once they were all picked, grandma and I would sit on the swing underneath the apple tree and snip the ends off the beans. Some of my fondest memories of my grandparents revolve around that garden and to this day, my favorite vegetable is grandma's green beans.

For years I lived in an apartment and even though I didn't have a yard for a garden, I grew tomatoes in pots and had numerous houseplants. By the time I bought my own house, I was dating my now-husband who already had a garden, or at least something that

could resemble a garden once the weeds were removed. Instead of starting a garden in my own yard, I decided to take over his - with his approval, of course.

Each year the boundaries of our garden stretch a little wider. This year, our fourth, we're starting out with 748 sq/ft. That seems like a lot of room to grow things but every year I seem to plant too much in too little of an area. I have a patch a strawberries that came from my grandpa's garden, an area for herbs, and then the rest of the space is for whatever heirloom veggies catch my eye in the February seed catalogs like pear-shaped tomatoes, speckled melons, and bi-color sweet corn. And, of course, I always plant a row of green beans.

Kelly Ramstack lives in the country near Manawa, Wisconsin with her husband, border collie, and a handful of mischievous barn cats. To read about more of her adventures, visit Kelly's blog at <http://adventureswithkelly.blogspot.com>.

To make winter a little more bearable, our weekend breakfasts consist of steamy pancakes drowned in local maple syrup. We love made-from-scratch pancakes but it can be a hassle to put together all of the ingredients before the caffeine from my coffee has worked it's way into my bloodstream. To make breakfast a little faster and easier, I mix up a big batch of my oatmeal pancake mix ahead of time, store it in an airtight container and use as needed.

Oatmeal Pancake Mix (yield 10 cups mix)

- 4 C. rolled oats
- 2 1/2 C. whole wheat flour
- 1 1/2 C. white all-purpose flour
- 1 C. brown sugar
- 2/3 C. powdered milk
- 1/3 C. powdered buttermilk
- 3 Tbsp. Baking powder
- 2 Tbsp. Cinnamon
- 5 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 tsp. Cream of tartar
- 1/2 tsp. Nutmeg

Mix all ingredients together and store in an airtight container.

To Make a Batch of Pancakes:

- 2 C. oatmeal pancake mix (see recipe above)
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 C. vegetable oil
- 1 C. water

Combine all ingredients and pour about 1/2 cup of batter per pancake onto skillet. Cook slowly until done. Enjoy with chocolate chips, pecans, whip cream, blueberries, strawberries, bananas, etc. The delicious possibilities are endless!

DEADLINE

for submitting materials for the
Mid April - August newsletter is March 26!

Anyone can submit articles, photos,
poems, trip reports, etc.
Email Monny Hjerstedt at mhjerstedt@tds.net

FVSG OUTINGS

Get outside and join us on one of our outings this winter! 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.

Contact the trip leader; they will provide you with the trip details and any changes. Additional outings information may be available at the FVSG website. <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley>

February 5, Saturday

Winter hike at the Skunk and Foster Lakes State Natural Area. Get some exercise on Saturday so you can spend the next day on the couch watching the Super Bowl. We'll combine a section of the Ice Age Trail with the trails at Skunk Lake to make two nice loops through the woods. Hilly terrain offers awesome views of the glacial pothole lakes below. Learn why this area is so special and unique. After our hike we'll head into nearby Amherst for lunch at a little cafe. If there's adequate snow, we'll snowshoe instead. Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139.



Christian Ramstack out on Skunk Lake

February 17, Thursday

Starlight Ski/Snowshoe on Green Bay. It's become an annual Green Bay event (almost). We'll venture out on the Bay, under the stars. (Flashlights or headlamps are helpful). We could have a full moon this year, if it's not cloudy. Bring snowshoes or skis, dress for the weather. We hug the shore, where the water is shallow. Conditions permitting, we can explore the zebra mussel shell deposits that are forming dunes along the shore. A crackling fire and chili supper will warm us after. \$3 donation for chili & "fixin's", BYOB. Please call by Monday, February 14, so I know how much chili to make. Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252



February 26, Saturday

Snowshoe at Mosquito Hill Nature Center. 2 hours of snowshoeing on easy trails along the Wolf River. Call MHNC for snow conditions at 779-6433. Rentals available for \$3. No trail fee. Bring a lunch if you would like enjoy lunch inside the warm building after the hike. Leader will bring hot chocolate. Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920-721-5431 day, 920-830-6625 evening

May 21, Saturday

Ice Age Trail Work Day in Waupaca County. The Fox Valley Sierra Group will do trail work on the Ice Age Trail in Waupaca County on May 21. The FVSG has been a long-time supporter of the Ice Age Trail. Be sure to put this date on your calendar. This service project assists the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the National Park Service, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in supporting and maintaining this eventual thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin. Darrel Ruechel, r7dairl@yahoo.com

August 22nd -30th

Canoe Camping the Boundary Waters & Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada. This is an adult men's multi generational 8 day wilderness canoe camping expedition emphasizing the personal value of preserving wild places. The pristine wilderness setting of Quetico and its challenges offers the opportunity for physical, mental and spiritual awaking and renewal. Exploring Quetico in the company of men of different generations offers a unique bonding experience in an environment that has shaped the identity and character of men for centuries. Personal cost will be at least \$525, which would include camping permits, canoe rental, trail head lodging, meals while camping and some group gear costs. For complete trip details contact Bill Mathias, wj.mathias@gmail.com, 920-339-0437

For Sale

- Grey Owl wood kayak paddle, take apart, adjustable feather, 218 cm, 32 oz, blade 18.5" by 6.25", \$90.
- 2 Hydrosticks (water cannons) with flotation, \$8 each.
- Lycra faced fleece wetsuit vest and shorts, size small, \$5.
- Patagonia paddling jacket, size medium, zip chest pocket, mango color, \$7.

Jerry at 920-336-6788 or jkayakl@new.rr.com

NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

Bubolz *Appleton*

Moonlight Skiing, Snowshoeing or Hiking **February 18th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

1.5 miles of trail will be illuminated by candlelight. Flashlights or headlamps are recommended. Ski rental available for \$15/person for Non members; \$10 for Members & Snowshoe rental for \$6/person for Non members; \$4 for Members. Trail fees apply to nonmembers with own equipment. Hot dogs, Chips, Marshmallows and hot beverages will also be available for a small fee. Outside we will have a big camp fire for roasting your hot dogs or marshmallows. The trails will be lit for hiking if there is not enough snow to ski. For more information call (920) 731-6041.

The 18th Annual Adopt – A – (Sap) Bucket Program

March 5 anytime between 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. Participants will decorate a pail with their favorite design. Pictures will be taken of the family and decorated bucket. There will be demonstrations on how to tap a maple tree in the Preserve's sugar bushes and then the decorated buckets will be hung to catch sap throughout the 2011 Sap Season. An 8 oz. Jar of maple syrup, pictures taken of you and your family with your bucket, and maple syrup sundaes included for \$20/bucket for members and \$25/bucket for nonmembers. Open to the public.

30th ANNUAL MAPLE SYRUP SATURDAY & Pancake Breakfast **Saturday on March 26**

30th Annual Maple Syrup, 2011. Tours begin at 10:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day until 3:00 p.m. All ages are welcome. Pancake and Porkie Breakfast will be served at the Girl Scouts Service Center, morning seatings: 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 am. **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR BREAKFAST.**

Breakfast and Tour: \$5.00/adults; \$4.00 for children ages 4-12 & Seniors (62+); kids under 3 are free. For more information call: (920) 731-6041

Heckrodt *Menasha*

Wonderful Wolves

Sat., February 12, 1-3 PM

Join a local wolf expert and enthusiast to learn about wonderful wolves. Program will include hands-on stations, a craft and presentation. Howling included.

Dirt Day Rumble!

Sat., April 16, 1-3 PM

Don't be a Dud! Come have some fun in the mud! We'll make a dirt craft, dig in the dirt, and stomp in the swamp. Sample a dirt dessert and grimy grog. Best for kids 4 - 9 years old. Fee \$5/child - advanced registration required.

Ledge View *Chilton*

1 p.m. Snowshoe Hikes

Sun., Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27

Ledge View offers 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 one to two hours and travel through field and forest. Snowshoe hikers should dress for the weather. If snow cover is inadequate, a boot hike will be led instead. \$5 per person (includes snowshoe rental).

Dog Sled Demo & Rides

Sat., Feb. 12, 9:30 a.m. to noon

Learn about the history of Siberian huskies and the sport of dog-sledding. Assist with the harnessing process in preparation for riding. Program is outdoors; snow not necessary. \$3 per person; additional \$2 for a ride

Guided Evening Snowshoe Hike

Sat., Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Evening activities at the nature center are special because they are so rare: normally the park closes at dusk. On this night visitors are invited to take a naturalist-guided snowshoe hike. Learn some constellations and warm up with hot cider in the nature center afterward. Dress for the weather. Call ahead for snow conditions. \$5 per person

Backyard Maple Syruping

Sat., Mar. 19, 1 p.m.

How to set up a small-scale maple syruping operation. Participants will learn how to identify a tree, ways to tap and collect the sap, and a processing method for storage, using common household equipment. \$4 per person

Re-Enactors Encampment

Fri., Sat., and Sun., April 1-2-3, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Enjoy living history as re-enactors portray life from the 1780s to the 1880s. Fur-trading camp, crafting demonstrations & more. The re-enactors also invite groups to come on Friday for a special visit; please inquire for arrangements. Free

Maple Syrup Sunday

Sun., Apr. 3, 9-4 p.m.

Celebrate the maple syrup season by tapping a maple tree, collecting sap, learning the history of how it becomes syrup, and enjoying the taste of pure maple syrup on pancakes. Pancake breakfast is served from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participatory tapping demonstrations and tours offered 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live folk music courtesy of the Ledge View Players. This event goes on rain or shine (precipitation actually makes the sap run better!). Tours and demonstrations FREE Pancake Breakfast \$6 age 13 and up; \$3 age 12-6; younger FREE.

Mosquito Hill *New London*

Advance registration and payment are required for all programs unless otherwise noted. www.mosquitohill.com

Evening for Sweethearts

Saturday, February 12, 7:00 – 10:00 PM

Celebrate Valentine's Day with your sweetheart and be treated to a reception with appetizers (you can skip dinner), beverages and soft music. Enjoy a quiet snowshoe walk and campfire. Take home a small gift as a memento. Cost: \$40/

couple. Reservations and payment due February 4.

Full Moon Series: Cross-country Skiing Under the Full Moon

Friday, February 18, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Enjoy the excitement of cross country skiing by moonlight on the center's un-groomed ski trail around Mosquito Hill. Fields and forest, hills up and down, all are delightful in the evening air. Naturalist Steve Petznick will lead the way. Participants need to provide their own ski equipment. Cost: \$6/adults, \$4/student, seniors, FOMH or \$12/family. Registration and payment due February 15.

Leave No Family Inside: Snowshoeing for Families

Saturday, February 19, 10:00 AM – 12 noon

Join naturalist Jessica Miller as she guides you through the process of learning how to snowshoe. A guided hike around the nature center property will give you some practice with the new foot gear and a chance to learn about our winter world. Cost: \$6/individual or \$10/family. Registration and payment due February 11.

Tree Care Basics

Saturday, February 26, 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Naturalist Steve Petznick will present an indoor session addressing proper tree pruning, root health and general troubleshooting. The afternoon will be devoted to outside practice of what was learned indoors. For advice on your problem trees, bring clear photographs of leafless trees taken from several angles. Cost: \$20/adults, \$17/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due February 19.

Willow Basketry

Saturday, February 26, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Create your own rustic, rib-style basket in this class taught by Faith Schlaeppli, a New London area landscape gardener and accomplished basket maker. Locally collected willow will be used to create an attractive and functional basket. Start by splitting and stripping branches. The remainder of the day will be spent weaving and putting on finishing touches. Cost: \$39/adults or \$34/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration required by February 18.

Leopold Education Project

Saturday, March 5, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

The Leopold Education Project is a curriculum based on Aldo Leopold's classic, A Sand County Almanac. Each participant will receive a copy of A Sand County Almanac, an activity guide, TASK cards, and other handouts (a \$35 value). This class is perfect for teachers, naturalists, group leaders, and others interested in fostering a relationship between children and the natural world. Cost: \$20/person. Registration and payment due February 22.

Leopold Bench Building Workshop

Sunday, March 6, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Build your own rustic wooden bench designed and made popular by noted Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold. Naturalist Mike Hibbard will lead you through the steps to create an attractive bench to grace your patio or back yard. Cost: \$50/person, \$45/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due February 22.

Full Moon Series: Moon Madness

Friday, March 18, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

This class especially for families will be held primarily indoors to learn about our only natural satellite, the Moon. Through hands-on activities, many questions will be answered. Learning has never been so much fun!

Cost: \$6/adults, \$4/student, seniors, FOMH or \$12/family. Registration and payment due March 15.

Musky Magic

Sunday, March 20, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

If you love musky fishing, you'll love this show with our featured speaker, Rob Manthei, more than 30 vendors, pool side demonstrations, door prizes and food and beverage sales. This annual event is held at the New London Middle School.

Tickets are \$8/adults, \$6/students 14 and under, and for sale only at the door.

Steps to Successful Vegetable & Fruit Gardening

Saturday, March 26, 1:30 – 3:00 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. She says, "I've had successes and failures, but persist every year for the excitement of seeing new growth and enjoying the wonderful produce."

Cost: \$6/adults, \$4/students, seniors, FOMH. Registration and payment due March 22.

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, April 2, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Turn a recycled plastic 55 gallon drum into a useful tool for catching rainwater and preventing storm water runoff problems. All materials and instructions provided.

\$60/person \$55/students, seniors, members Register by March 19.

Crane Count Planning Meeting

Saturday, April 2, 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Be a part of the Midwest Sandhill Crane Count on April 16.

Free. Advance reservations appreciated.

Morning Bird Hikes

Saturdays, April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 7:00 – 10:00 AM

Join us for any or all of these Saturday morning jaunts to search for spring migrants. All skill levels are welcome. Bring binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours), field guides, waterproof boots and dress for the weather.

Full Moon Series: Hike on the Hill

Sunday, April 17, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Enjoy a short indoor program followed by a hike under the full moon.

\$6/person \$4/students, seniors, members Register by April 10.

Navarino Shiocton

Owls of Navarino

Friday, February 11, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Walk / snowshoe a section of Navarino listening for owls and other wildlife. Fee: NNC members \$2, Non members \$5, Families \$12

Snowshoeing Navarino

Saturday, February 12, 9 am

Snowshoe across the bog, through fields and forest as we explore different areas of Navarino in winter.

Fee: NNC members \$2, Non members \$5, Families \$12

Grand Canyon

Saturday, February 12, 1:30 pm

Naturalist Tim Ewing will share his experience in explore the Grand Canyon through photos and video from his 4 day trip in 2011. Fee: NNC members \$2, Non members \$5, Families \$12

Candle light snowshoe hike

Friday, February 18 & 19, 5 -7 PM

Snowshoe or ski the one mile loop from the nature center across the boardwalk and back by the light of the stars, moon and candlelight. Fee: NNC members \$2, Non members \$5, Families \$12

Aldo Leopold Weekend: Books and Benches

Saturday, March 5, 9 AM

Come out to Navarino Nature Center and hear the words of Aldo Leopold as we put together Leopold Benches. Leopold Bench information TBA.

Fee:

Astronomy at NNC & DARK WARS presentation

Saturday, March 11, - 6 PM

The DARK WARS presentation is on astronomy & light pollution created by National Park Service DARK RANGER Kevin Poe, and shared with NNC naturalist Tim Ewing. Following the presentation there will be observation outside at using several telescopes, spotting scopes and binoculars.

Fee: NNC members \$2, Non members \$5, Families \$12 (Contact NNC for group or class rates).

Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, March 12, 10 AM

Looking to add a rain barrel to water the flowers or garden, come out to NNC and make your own or take a pre-made barrel. Make your own: \$50 per barrel, Pre-made barrel \$60 per barrel (White or Blue available)

Willow Trellis Workshop

Saturday, March 19, 9 AM

Make a "Two of Hearts" willow bent wood trellis. Trellis when completed is close to 8' high by 36" wide. Class limited to 12 people, RSVP by Wednesday, March 16, 2011. Equipment needed: hammer, pliers, wire cutters, tape measure.

Fee: \$30 per trellis

Beginner Basket Weaving Class

Saturday, April 9, 9 AM

Learn how to make a reed basket, this class will be led by Marilyn Manthei of Shawano. Participants will over a 4 hour class create a basket. Participants must RSVP by Wednesday, March 30, 2011. A list of items needed will be provided at time of RSVP. Fee: NNC members \$15, non-members \$20

Sandhill Crane Count

Saturday, April 16

Contact NNC if interested in counting cranes in Shawano Cty.

Snowshoeing and Cross Country Skiing

Available at many Nature Centers. Call for details.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Friend or Foe?

America's water, rivers and lakes are at risk from giant, corporate-owned factory farms which are fouling our water with pathogens and chemicals. The air around these farms is contaminated with suspended dust particles, which have been linked to bronchitis and other diseases. Our government wants to pass legislation which would allow factory farms to be free from health and environmental laws. Support Sierra Club's effort to keep our water clean and our air friendly. The hogs have gone wild, now it's our turn.

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
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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. 11 Issue 1

CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY 2011

The 7th Annual Conservation Lobby Day
is Wednesday, March 16, 2011!

On Conservation Lobby Day, hundreds of citizens from across Wisconsin descend on the Capitol to share their conservation values with their Legislators. Conservation Lobby Day is a unique opportunity to share your conservation stories and experiences with legislators and have a huge impact on conservation policies affecting all of Wisconsin. As we head into the 7th annual Conservation Lobby Day, there is one thing we can guarantee-when citizens come together to make their conservation values known, legislators listen!

The re-authorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and the passage of the Strong Great Lakes Compact are two great examples of how citizen lobbying resulted in ground-breaking conservation laws.

This Conservation Lobby Day, you can help to:

1. Defend the Good Conservation Laws Already on the Books. In these tough fiscal times, legislators are being forced to make difficult decisions. Conservation Lobby Day is your opportunity to remind them that Wisconsin's economy is driven by healthy and plentiful natural resources

2. Re-Establish the Wisconsin Conservation Corps. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps would provide practical job training to benefit the conservation programs that make Wisconsin a draw to tourists and residents alike.

3. Create a "Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights." The Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights will demonstrate legislative support and guidance for the programs and activities that encourage children and families to play, explore, and learn in Wisconsin's outdoors.

For more information log on to - www.conservationvoters.org

Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve

Our group has had a long relationship with the Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve. Originally we met at the Appleton Public Library and other locations, but Bubolz was eventually selected as the best location. It is a great setting for an environmental organization like ours. And it offers opportunities for us to be involved with the nature preserve.

Visit their website at <http://www.bubolzpreserve.org/> and please consider completing their online Time and Talent Survey for potential volunteers.

Our group helps Bubolz with their annual Romp in the Swamp fundraiser and has helped with buckthorn removal and other projects. In recent years we have collected donations at our December meeting. They can really use financial help through donations or memberships.

If you have only visited Bubolz for our meetings then you should really come back during the day. The preserve protects 775 acres and has more than 8 miles of trails.

Our chair, Alan's step-daughter Jennifer Reschke (in back) skiing with their Australian exchange student Kimberlee Robinson at Bubolz.

