

Fox Valley Sierra Group PROGRAMS

April 14, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Dressing Up Your Garden

Cindy Glatz of Heavycritters in Oshkosh will show us how we can use concrete forms and artwork for the garden and yard.

May 12, 2011 • 6:30 PM

Annual Auction Fundraiser

An evening of delicious food, an entertaining live auction, silent auction, raffle (a carved walking stick with a head of a wolf baying at the moon), great laughs and more as we support our club with this one and only fundraiser.

- \$3 Admission
- Bring a dish to pass
- Bring your own table setting
- BYOB

We will begin the evening at 6:30 with a smorgasbord of treats. So please, arrive on time to setup, socialize and eat. At 7:00 the "Remarkable" Randy Connour will conduct the live auction with unique, priceless items and services donated by our members and local businesses.

We need auction items • Buy raffle tickets
see page 5

June 9, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Water Issues

Ron Bruch a DNR regional manager of waterways, who specializes in sturgeon, will give us insights on the waterways in eastern Wisconsin.

August 11, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Picnic

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/>

EARTH DAY EVERYDAY



Observe Fox Valley Earth Day Events

See page 6

Celebrate Today
Go for a hike!



Celebrate Earth Day with the many Activities in the Green Bay Area
See page 6

Earth Day Celebration at the Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore - Saturday, April 16

Celebrate the 41st Anniversary of Earth Day at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 3000 East College Avenue, Appleton.

The Fox Valley Sierra Group will have a table at the Earth Day event. This free community-wide Earth Day celebration 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. It will take place rain or shine. Featured at the Earth Day celebration will be live Alpacas, ecocars, organically and locally grown food, exhibitors, forums and a live "Trash to Treasure" contest.

For more information check out the FVSG's website for the Earth Day celebration link: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/EarthDay2011.html>.



We will have an information table on April 23 from Noon to 3:00pm at Just Act Natural, Appleton.
www.justactnatural.com

Many cyclists dream of riding...
Across America By Bicycle
Meet two who did!
Menasha Public Library
April 16 at 11:30 am



"John Muir in the New World" 8 PM - Monday, April 18 on PBS

This documentary delves into Muir's life and influences with reenactments filmed throughout the majestic landscapes he visited: Wisconsin, Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada, the Alhambra Valley of California, and the glaciers of Alaska.

Muir is revered as the father of the environmental movement and the founder of the Sierra Club, the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States.

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What I do to Help Protect the Planet!

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Open Positions

Hospitality
Fundraising

- Organic lawn and garden
- Hand wash dishes
- Low water toilet
- Water miser control on shower
- Use clothes line in good weather
- **We are Sierra Club members**

- My job allows me to walk to work, even in the winter, I just put on more clothes. 20 miles a week which reduces 900 pounds of CO2 a year, saves \$500 of gas and an added benefit, burns 88,000 calories.
- Over the years have helped build and maintain many miles of Ice Age Trail.

I am getting old, so I don't strike or parade anymore, I applaud quietly as I watch from the comfort of my living room. But I use my pen and vote, although this year I wasn't very lucky, or my candidates weren't, but I can still sign petitions. I can still use my telephone (rotary dial) to call my assemblyman and government officials and let them know when I am pleased or angry.

- Penny brings home coffee grounds from her office in Madison and places them in our compost bin.
- We add the compost to our flower and vegetable gardens.
- Use three rain barrels to collect rain water for our flower and vegetable gardens.
- Purchase organic milk in returnable glass bottles.
- Pick garlic mustard at High Cliff State Park.
- Walk downtown from our home in Appleton to local cultural and entertainment events.

- We have an electric clothes dryer but it's just taking up space. We hang the laundry to dry on outside lines in 3 warm seasons. Over the winter, we hang laundry in the basement and/or on wooden drying racks in the warmest upstairs rooms.
- During the gardening season, I collect laundry rinse water in big jugs and use that to water outdoor flowers and a small vegetable garden.
- Our 2 composting bins help produce 'enriched material' that's annually spaded into the vegetable growing space.

What I do are mostly small things.

- I now buy in bigger amounts and put into a smaller container to use (saves on throwaway packaging.)
- We reuse whenever possible.
- Use less water by shutting off water while brushing teeth, etc.
- Wash clothes when have a full load. Ditto for dryer.
- When shopping try to buy USA when ever possible.
- Shop at farmers markets in the summer.
- Run errands in bunches to conserve on car use.

- I buy as many products with as little wrapping as possible.
- I recycle everything I can. I spend hours picking up trash anywhere I find it, everyday (not just for Adopt -a-Highway day). I encourage my co-workers and friends to recycle as much as possible.
- I reuse items and pick things off the curb, bring them home, fix them up and use them where I can at my home.
- I also use the cloth bags for grocery shopping as much as I can remember to bring them in to the store with me.
- I do not use any type of chemical fertilizers on my lawn and use environmentally safe salt for my sidewalks in the winter.
- I write, email and call legislators regarding environmental issues.

- We try to minimize driving trips.
- We drive a car, not a SUV or truck.
- We compost.
- Our house is cool in the winter and warm in the summer.
- Some shopping is done by walking or bicycle.
- We recycle.
- We do not buy bottled water.

From the Chair

March 2011, By Alan Lawrence

In my last column I recalled the recent November elections and lamented that environmental issues had played such an unimportant roll. I reported that 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. And I believed others based their voting decisions on differentiating issues that may not have been all that important.

I suspect most of my readers think that this was bad. As a result we have seen Congress proposing severe budget cuts to things we believe are important, and restricting the authority of environmental regulatory agencies. And we have seen the turmoil in Madison and around our state as our citizens and politicians worked through legislation differently than we have been used to.

Even before taking office, Governor-elect Scott Walker made it clear to Congress that he did not want the \$810 million gift that was to be used for a high speed rail project that would have created many jobs, helped our citizens have transportation options, and would have jump-started our state in an era that we believe needs efficient public transportation. That gift has been given to other states.

In a special session in January our Governor pushed through a special favors bill to allow a particular business to circumvent environmental laws and build on protected wetlands near Lambeau Stadium. I argued that this special favor was inappropriate.

In February our Governor introduced his budget repair bill and woke up an angry hornet nest. Almost before most of us understood what was in the bill we saw teachers and students protest in unprecedented numbers in Madison and around the state. Within days news of our protests became national and international news. This was not merely a protest of unhappy teachers and public employees.

I was surprised to learn that Sierra Club stood with our workers. Several high-profile blogs, e-mails, and speeches by Sierra Club leadership made it clear that our organization was against the union-busting. I particularly like the following two paragraphs from Michael Brune, Sierra Club's Executive Director:

Why should environmentalists care? Martin Luther King, Jr. put it best: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." If America's workers lose their voice, then corporate polluters will have won a giant victory and all Americans will end up paying a price.

If you need an example, here's a spectacular one: Last year's Deepwater Horizon oil explosion began as a workplace health and safety incident in a nonunion work setting. It turned into the worst environmental disaster in our nation's history. If the 11 workers who were killed had been members of a strong union, their lives might have been saved -- and the oil spill itself might never have happened. We know that unionized workers are more likely to sound the alarm about workplace hazards -- and so do the companies they work for.

Michael Brune said Sierra Club will continue working closely with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement to build a stronger, more equitable America that protects the health of our communities, creates clean-energy jobs, and advances policies that help working families across the country.

Five years ago Sierra Club and United Steel Workers launched a partnership called BlueGreen Alliance. The Alliance has grown to include more environmental organizations and labor unions and now unites more than 14 million members and supporters in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment and a green economy.

My wife and I traveled to Madison several times to participate in the protest rallies. We have never had union-protected jobs, but we recognize the value unions brought to our country and we wanted to show our Solidarity. We were inspired and motivated each time by the many thousands of very friendly people also protesting and showing Solidarity, and we ran into many Sierra Club members there. It is our belief that citizens are being energized and that better government will follow.

Meanwhile, we have some immediate problems. Walker's budget bills are awful. Our environment and people will suffer if his policies go unchallenged. On March 13, Sierra Groups across Wisconsin held simultaneous rallies of Solidarity. Our group sponsored a rally in Neenah that was well attended and reported on by Appleton's Post-Crescent. I served as the MC and one of the speakers for our event.

This was, of course, a rally and public relations event. I pointed out several serious problems Governor Walker's budget will cause for the environment. But I also tried to explain to my audience why Sierra Club was even involved in what many thought was just a problem involving public employee unions.

I said that environmental organizations often receive bad publicity and hateful shallow comments because of our values and the things we try to protect. And we are called "tree huggers" by those who want to make us seem foolish so that our voices will not be taken seriously. In recent times union workers, especially those in the public sector, have also received some bad press and shallow hateful comments from the public. I said we have a lot in common and we must work together.

Hard hats and tree huggers share fundamental goals and values, including the right to safe and healthy working conditions and the creation of good clean-tech jobs.

Wisconsin has been an environmental leader. John Muir, Aldo Leopold, and Sigurd F. Olson lived in Wisconsin. Former Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson was a founder of Earth Day in 1970. Earth Day is considered the birth of the modern environmental movement. We must not let the movement end in Wisconsin.

Legislation and politics work poorly for all of us when private interests with big money get in the way. Many of us believe that is happening now. I reminded our crowd that recall petitions and elections provide us with the opportunity to do something about legislators who are not working for their constituents. Sierra Club members are helping to collect signatures on recall petitions. I urge you to help in this effort. Many of our legislators have not been working for us.

Learn more about Sierra Club and workers from our website or this link:
http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/Sierra_Club_Stands_with_Workers.pdf

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

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



KELLY'S KITCHEN

Cooking Real Food

When summer's long days haven't quite reached us, there's nothing that I love more than spending the evening in the kitchen – but I wasn't always of that mind set. In our fast-paced, over-worked, impatient world, for most people cooking from scratch has become a thing of the past. Food manufacturers make dinner fast and easy with boxed staples and freezer-to-microwave meals. But when you eat something that a corporation has made, how do you know for sure what you're really eating? How can one granola bar contain 57 ingredients? And what are some of those ingredients anyways? For me, cooking from scratch started after I realized how much fake food – as in processed food – I was actually eating.

In 2004 I had the privilege of traveling with the International Crane Foundation to the Russian Far East. For three weeks we taught environmental education at a summer camp for area teachers and students. While there, our wonderful cook, Olga, kept our



bodies nourished with homemade meals consisting of fresh, local ingredients. Many of us worried that we would get sick from drinking the water and eating the food in such a poor part of the world. Only after I returned to the States and went back to my old eating habits of frozen chicken patties, Spaghetti Os, and Little Debbie snacks did my stomach and innards protest. This was my eye-opener into the world of real vs. processed food. With my newfound desire to eat better, I also learned how to cook.

So that is how I came to love the sound of my chefs knife tapping on the cutting board as I dice carrots, onions and celery. Or why I love when the kitchen windows steam up from stock simmering on the stove. Or the blast of hot air that rushes past my face as I open the oven door. Or the way the whole house (inside and out) breathes out the delicious aromas of my next home-cooked meal.

I cook from scratch because I need to know that what I'm putting into my body is good and wholesome. Sure, I could go out to the grocery store and buy a frozen pizza, pop it in the oven and have myself a meal in 15 minutes. But I don't want a meal that's high in sodium and sugar and has more ingredients listed that I can't pronounce than those that I can. So, instead, I wait 45 minutes while my dough rises and dice up fresh veggies for a pizza topped with ingredients that even my great grandma and grandpa would know. Real food has never tasted so good!

Kelly Ramstack lives in the country new Manawa, Wisconsin with her husband, two border collies, and a handful of mischievous barn cats. Read more tales from the country at <http://adventureswithkelly.blogspot.com>.

Pizza Crust (made in food processor)

Makes 1 large crust

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 tsp. dry yeast | 1 C. bread or all-purpose flour |
| 1/4 tsp. sugar | 1 C. whole wheat flour |
| 2/3 C. warm water (not boiling!) | 3/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 tsp. olive oil | |

Combine yeast and sugar in warm water. Let sit 3-5 min. until foamy then stir in olive oil.

Meanwhile, combine flours and salt in food processor. With processor running, slowly add the liquid. Mix until dough forms a ball and then 1 min. longer. Lightly brush dough with olive oil and let sit in a warm place for 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Flatten dough out into a pizza crust shape and place onto pizza pan. Cover with sauce and toppings and bake for 15-25 minutes or until done.

Quick Pizza Sauce

Covers 1 large pizza

- 1 6-oz. can tomato paste
- 2 Tbsp. minced onion (optional)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced (about 2 tsp.)
- 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 2 tsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. red wine or red wine vinegar
- salt & pepper to taste

Combine all in a small bowl then spread on crust.



Rebekah Weiss from Aves Wildlife Alliance showed off an American Kestrel (also known as the Sparrow Hawk), a Red Tail Hawk and a barred owl at our February Meeting.

DEADLINE

for submitting materials for the Mid August-December newsletter is July 16th!

WRITERS WANTED

Environmental issues, nature stories, trip stories or examples of good stewardship of our world from individuals, communities or businesses.

E-mail Monny Hjerstedt at mhjerstedt@tds.net



Enjoying the snowshoe trails at Mosquito Hill Nature Center on a winter Sierra Group outing in February.

Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

MAY 1, Sunday

Hike a small gem of a rail system near Shawano, Maple Hills.

After about 2 hour hike, we'll go into Shawano to one of the best places to look for sturgeon on their annual run up the Wolf River. Learn about their historic route and how it ends at the dam in Shawano. Nancy Brown-Koeller, 920-721-5431 (work), 920 830-6625 (home)

MAY 14, Saturday

Tour the International Crane Foundation, & the Aldo Leopold Center

These centers are located within 15 min. of each other, near Baraboo, Wi. We will begin Sat am at the ICF; multimedia presentation followed by a guided tour of the entire crane exhibit area. Learn about the challenges these magnificent birds face worldwide, and what ICF is doing, in conjunction with other organizations in 20 countries, to find solutions. (Members free; adults \$7.) Then a short trip to the Aldo Leopold Center: for a guided tour of the famous "shack" and surrounding land. Learn about the Leopold family's reclamation of a worn out farm, and Aldo's development of his "land ethic", that has changed the face of conservation. This will be followed by a

tour of the new Leopold Center building, which was built to follow his principles. Learn how it has earned the highest LEED Platinum rating of any building in the U.S. With use of sustainable building materials, and energy from solar and geothermal sources, it uses less energy than it produces. (Members free; adults \$15). Group size is limited, so sign up as early. Fees will be paid when we arrive. Contact leader for times, directions, etc. Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252, birkmr@yahoo.com

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-milefootpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin. Darrel Ruechel, 920-993-0903, r7dairl@yahoo.com

August 20-21, Saturday-Sunday

Class II, Canoe Camp the Flambeau River.

Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com

August 22 -30

Canoe Camping the Boundary Waters & Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario, Canada.

This is an adult men's multigenerational 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, trailhead lodging, meals while camping and some group gear costs. For complete trip details contact Bill Mathias, 920-339-043, wj.mathias@gmail.com

Get outside and join us on one of our outings this spring & summer! 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>

Auction Donations Needed: In order to make our annual fundraiser successful we are seeking items or services from local businesses, artists, craftspeople and members. Previous donations include: art prints, computer work, craft projects, garden planting, yard work, bicycle repair and tuning, professional massage, homemade or special breads, pickles or canned goods, sunset sail cruises, canoe trips, stained glass, dinner for two, ...be wild.

Please pre-register items/ services for auction by phone (920) 468-7252

or by mail: Maureen Birk, 3381 Niciolet Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311. Include your name, phone#, item/service to auction, any limitations, and estimated value. Bring items at time of auction, or Call Maureen. Last minute items accepted at door, but please come 15 minutes early!

Can't make it to the auction but still want to support the Fox Valley Sierra Group?

Mail a check made payable to "Fox Valley Sierra Group" to FVSG Treasurer Sally Peck, 1646 Amy Street, Green Bay, WI 54302

Fox Valley Sierra Group
Auction
Annual Fundraiser
May 12, 2011 • 6:30PM
Bubolz Nature Preserve

FVSG RAFFLE TICKET ORDER FORM

Purchase tickets for your chance to win
Drawing at Auction May 12th:
Hand Carved Walking Stick
with a head of a wolf baying at the moon.
Artist Bob McCurdy of Baileys Harbor

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Ticket prices:

___ 1 for \$5 ___ 3 for \$10 ___ 8 for \$20

**Complete form and mail check payable to "Fox Valley Sierra Group" to:
Sally Peck, 1646 Amy Street, Green Bay, WI 54302**

Note: Need not be present to Win! We will not mail the raffle tickets to you. We will automatically enter them into the drawing to be held the night of our fundraiser on May 12, 2011. If you win your prize will be mailed to you.

Plan to Attend the John Muir Chapter's Autumn Assembly - October 7-9, 2011

Wondering what to do during the second weekend of October? Why not join other Wisconsin Sierra Club members and friends at the 2011 Autumn Assembly! This annual, statewide event, which is open to the public, will be held at Camp Helen Brachman, located 15 miles west of Waupaca, Wisconsin. It is south of Highway 54 on County Highway A north of the town of Blaine, Wisconsin.

The Fox Valley Group is hosting this year's event. Camp Helen Brachman is located on Pickerel Lake, a small seepage lake that is surrounded by a sand beach and wooded bluffs. The website for Camp Helen Brachman is <http://www.campbrachman.org>.

The Autumn Assembly features inspiring speakers and hands-on nature activities for kids of all ages! It is your chance to relax as you are informed and inspired by Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin. Saturday also features awards for our most outstanding activists and a silent auction with unique, eco-friendly items and art work donated by generous local businesses that supports our conservation work.

The theme of this year's Autumn Assembly is "We are all one Club: working together for conservation from local groups to the statewide John Muir Chapter to our national."

A complete schedule of programs, workshops, speakers, driving directions, and lodging information will appear in the July-September issue of the Muir View.

Updated information <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/> or <http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>

Don't Miss It! We hope to see you there.

Eric Hansen Wins Broadcasters Award For Climate Essay, Presents in Door Co. - April 24

Fox Valley Group Sierrans may recall reading a print version of Eric Hansen's essay "Copenhagen, Climate Change and Common Sense Conservation in Wisconsin" in this newsletter last winter. Turns out the WUWM Radio version of that essay went on to win first prize for Commentary/Editorial from the Wisconsin Broadcaster's Association. Hansen will be a pulpit guest for Door County Unitarians on Earth Day Sunday, April 24, 10am. His theme will be: "Our Ferocious Love of Life vs. Catastrophic Climate Change" Humans, both as individuals and societies, have confronted towering crises before. What lessons and hope can we draw from those experiences? How do humans perceive that a crisis is at hand – and an immediate change in course is wise? Eric Hansen is an award-winning conservation essayist and public radio commentator, lifelong Unitarian, and frequent pulpit guest.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County
10341 Water St. (Hwy. 42)
Ephraim, WI 54234
920-854-7559
<http://www.uufdc.org/>

GREATER GREEN BAY AREA -EARTH WEEK COALITION

April 15th	Downtown Green Bay Cleanup
April 16th	Baird Creek Parkway Cleanup
April 16th	East River / Joannes Park Cleanup
April 16th	Fox River Trail Cleanup
April 17th	"Green Fire" Film Showing -Bay Beach Wildlife
April 18th	Showcase / Tour of Sustainable Businesses
April 18th	"Green Fire" Film Showing -Downtown GB Library
April 20th	"Gardening for Wildlife" -GB Botanical Gardens
April 21st	Leave Your Car at Home Day
April 21st	"Carbon Sucker" Unveiling / News Conference
April 21st	Critical Mass Bike Ride
April 21st	Green Drinks at Kavarna
April 20/21	Earth Day Readings / Activity at Elementary Schools
April 25th	UWGB Environmental Film Showing
April 28th	"Transitions, Building a Resilient Community" by Eric Lindberg from Transitions Milwaukee (Stone Soup Evening at House of Tawet)
April 28th	Eco-Film / Discussion Night showing Food, Inc. - Downtown Library
April 29th	Marker Tree Presentation at GB High and Middle School
April 30th	2nd Annual Green Parade
April 30th	1st Annual Eco-Fair / Block Party
April 30th	Tree Marker event at the Art Garage
May 1st	Teddy Bear Hunt / Family Conservation Day

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.earthweekgb.com

ECOS FOX VALLEY -EARTH WEEK EVENTS

April 12th	Good Food Revolution
April 13th	Sustainable Business Exchange
April 16th	Community Wide Earthday Event - Restore
April 16,18-23	Precycle (Before You Recycle)
April 16th	Dirt Day Rumble
April 16th	Spring Clean-Up & Tree Seedling Pick-Up
April 18-22	Earth Friendly Stories & Art
April 18&20	Lunchtime Learning Session
April 19th	Electronics Recycling
April 19th	Dirt - The Movie
April 19th	After School Special: Earth Day Craft
April 19th	Menasha Library Celebration
April 20th	Who Killed the Electric Car
April 20th	Appleton Library Book Discussion
April 21st	Bag It!
April 21st	Earth Week Night at the Movies -Appleton
April 22,23,25	Paper Discovery Earth Day/Arbor Day Event
April 22&23	Just Act Natural Open House & Events
April 23rd	Lawrence Earth Day Celebration
April 23rd	Downtown Appleton - Walking Trivia
April 23rd	Robert Frost's "One Straw Rob" -Neenah Library
April 25th	Aldo Leopold's Green Fire Film -Neenah Library
April 26	Going Wild, Native Plant Gardens - Wild Ones

Complete Information at:

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>
EarthWeekFV-EventsFlyer.pdf

The Exportation of Coal from the United States

By Diana Lawrence

While reading the article entitled "Digging a Hole For China" in the March/April Sierra magazine I began to ask myself some questions. Here is the link for the story in Sierra Magazine <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/201103/china.aspx>. The basic premise of the article is that activists in Longview, Washington do not want Ambre Energy (an Australian based company) to obtain a permit to build a new shipping terminal in their city. Longview happens to be nicely located on the Columbia River with an outlet to the ocean. The main reason for not wanting the new terminal built is that it will largely be exporting coal from the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming. The coal would be sold to China on the order of 5 million tons to start with and ending up with 30 million tons in this one terminal per year.

There are pollution problems associated with transporting coal over long distances and the idea that coal is a big pollution problem are what the activists are concerned about. China has some of the world's largest coal reserves; the United States has the largest. China's main problem is that it is difficult to get the coal from the province in which it is located to where it is needed. It takes a similar journey in miles through China as it would to just import it from the United States and other countries. The problem is not limited to China as India also is looking for coal.

My understanding of mineral rights is that unless the land is federally owned the minerals underneath the land belong to whoever owns the surface land. However, it is abundantly clear to me that we are currently dependent on coal and that fact may not change much over the next 25-50 years. According to a 2007 report by the Bureau of Land Management, 58% of the coal under federal land comes from the Powder River Basin mentioned above. That's 550 billion short tons of coal. It is also my understanding that private companies have rights to that coal for relatively low rates or they would not be mining there.

My question is: why are we allowing private companies to mine a federal asset and then allowing it to be exported to a country that we are in competition with for industry? In my mind that coal belongs to the people of the

United States and it ought to be treated as a savings account. Since we cannot seem to get off our coal addiction yet for the foreseeable future we need to protect our assets. China is going to blow through their reserves in 20-25 years. They originally thought they had several hundred years of coal reserves but they burn it so quickly they are running out or it is too difficult to get. So now they are looking to our reserves to supplement them.

Maybe United States coal reserves should no longer be doled out to private companies with mineral rights since their main goal is to make money. Since coal consumption in the United States has fallen off somewhat they are looking to China and India to sell it to. India is another country we are in competition for industry. Normally I do not think of myself as a protectionist type of person but in this case I think we have to be. We are not as a nation moving fast enough to get off our coal dependence and if we run out in 50 years or less we will be forced to turn to nuclear. Nuclear of course has its own set of problems.

I think we ought to be seriously looking to our federal government for some answers. Coal is an important ingredient in our way of life. We are so concerned about jobs and industry going to places like China and here we are providing them with a means to become more competitive with us. Countries fall and break apart when they lose their natural resources. Part of what made this country great was an abundance of natural resources we could exploit. What happens when that is all gone? Think about it.

NATURE CENTER ACTIVITIES, LOCAL EVENTS & CLASSES

Call or check their web sites for many fine activities, events and classes.

- Brillion Nature Center
(920) 756-3591
www.brillionnaturecenter.net
- Bubloz Nature Preserve
(920) 731-6041
www.bubolzpreserve.org
- Heckrodt Wetland Reserve
(920) 720-9349
www.heckrodtwetland.com
- Ledge View Nature Center
(920) 849-7094
www.co.calumet.wi.us/departments2.html?dept_id=70
- Mosquito Hill Nature Center
(920) 779-6433
www.mosquithill.com
- Navarino Nature Center
(715)758-6999
www.navarino.org
- Ridges Sanctuary
(920) 839-2802
www.ridgesanctuary.org
- Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve
(920)793-4007
www.woodlanddunes.org

We remember Steve Clark who passed away on January 26th. He and his wife Carol, for many years, helped with the distribution of our newsletter. His wife and daughter asked that any memorial donations in his name be donated to the Sierra Club Foundation.



Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Since it was first listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act in 1975, the grizzly bear has made a strong recover, but there is still more work to be done. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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 Phone (____) _____
 Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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.

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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. 11 Issue 2

PORTAGE COUNTY ICE AGE TRAIL CHAPTER

The Ice Age Trail will be, when completed, a thousand-mile or so footpath entirely within Wisconsin. It is maintained by a member-based nonprofit organization, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, whose mission is to create, support, and protect the entire footpath tracing Ice Age glacially-sculpted formations across Wisconsin. The Ice Age Trail Alliance, the National Park Service, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have united to see the trail to completion. Volunteers are vital to the trail.

The Portage County chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance has 14 1/4 miles of trail that they maintain. They have many, many volunteers in their chapter. Our Fox Valley Sierra Group has and will continue to schedule an outing each year that involves doing maintenance on the trail in Portage County.

Sally Freckmann has been a long-time chairperson of the Portage County IAT chapter. Under her able leadership, their chapter has not only enlisted the many volunteers needed for trail maintenance and development of new trail within Portage County but their chapter is present through information booths at many special events in their county. Their chapter also leads and sponsors field trips for youth and adult groups together with sponsored nature and snowshoe hikes. When you include giving talks about the trail at area schools and conducting landowner relations with landowners and neighbors where the trail now is or perhaps may be, they keep busy. Their chapter volunteers an estimated 1800 hours in a year's time.

In each county where the IAT traverses there is a chapter. Each chapter is important in protecting and maintaining and lengthening the trail in their respective counties. The Portage County chapter continues to do that. The Portage County volunteers have extended a new segment west from County Highway Z to Sunset Lake Road near Peru, which is northwest of Iola. Their trail is approaching the

remarkable New Hope Pines State Natural Area. South of Hartman Creek State Park and Emmons Creek State Wildlife Area, their chapter has also extended a new segment south of 2nd Avenue to the area of Murry Creek. Eventually that segment of trail will extend to the Portage-Waushara County line.

Portage County has bed and breakfasts and inns at locations such as Stevens Point and Amherst, which are located near the trail's route. There are campgrounds at Hartman Creek State Park and Collins Park, which are located on or near the trail's route. With advanced reservations, some innkeepers may even be willing to help shuttle hikers for a gratuity.

On October 1 of this year Portage County, together with Waupaca County, will host the annual hike-a-thon on a Portage County section of trail. Last year there were 143 hikers. The starting point this year will be at the Iola Winter Sports Club north of Iola. Our FVSG has had many of our chapter members hike in the hike-a-thon. Consider hiking in the hike-a-thon and supporting their section of trail. In addition, our FVSG will do minor trail maintenance on the section of trail that will be hiked in the hike-a-thon. Our workday is scheduled for Saturday, September 17. By attending the September 17 workday and hiking at the annual hike-a-thon on October 1, you will directly support Portage County and the Wisconsin Ice Age Trail.

To join the Ice Age Trail Alliance, go to www.iceagetrail.org. The Portage County chapter, as other county chapters, may be designated as the chapter you may wish to affiliate with. Then you will receive newsletters from the Portage County chapter. In your Ice Age Trail membership application, simply indicate "Portage County" as the chapter you wish to be affiliated with. The Portage County Chapter's website is at www.portagecoiat.org.

Darrel Ruechel, FVSG Ice Age Trail Coordinator