

Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

November 14, 2013

7:00 PM

Orchids

If you love orchids our guest will be the owner of Going to Pots Orchids. Mary will tell us all about orchids and her re potting service. Stop in and smell the flowers, she is bringing a few orchids along.

December 12, 2013

7:00 PM

Annual Holiday Party

Please Bring-

- A Dish To Pass, Your Own Beverage and Place Setting
- Money Donation To Bubolz Nature Preserve
- White Elephant Gift (A gift from your home that you no longer want. Do *NOT* buy a gift: recycle one! Wrap your gift in a recycled grocery bag)
- Good Spirits & A Friend

January 9, 2014

7:00 PM

Soap Nuts

The Soap Nut Lady, Rebecca, will drive down from Lakewood to talk to us about soap nuts, an all natural nut that can be used for cleaning, laundry and other environmentally sound uses. She also has some new items on her list to tell us all about. She is eco-friendly and will give us some great ideas on how to keep a chemically free home.

All 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!

From the Chair

October 2013, Alan Lawrence, FVSG Chair

The government shutdown is in its second week as I write this column. I have no idea how it will end, but we have all seen some of the consequences of the shutdown within the initial days.

Ironically, one of the most visible consequences was highlighted the very first day as Google's doodle.

It was the anniversary of Yosemite National Park, and the park was closed.

My family was planning a vacation, now cancelled, to Mammoth Caves National Park. I know others personally affected by other national parks closing.

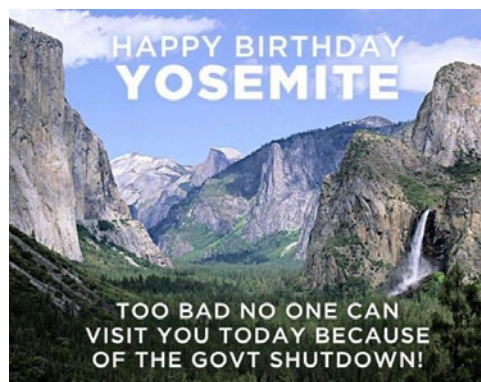
And news of closed parks, monuments and museums made headlines. Nobody liked this. It was unpopular to the tourists, and it was a financial disaster to the communities that depend on these national treasures for their economy. There was an attempt, almost immediately, by Congress to restore funding to the National Park Service.

Restoring funding for some popular government services like the National Park Service was tempting. It certainly would have made the shutdown less painful. And neighboring communities were losing an estimated \$76 million dollars a day without the business visitors brought. Across the nation, national parks welcome an estimated 750,000 tourists a day.

I have long argued that preserving our environment and beautiful wild spaces was important. It simply is the right thing to do, but it also makes very good economic sense to do it. There are

benefits from the natural resources, but the visitors are important. They explore and enjoy these places, and ultimately many will help to protect these places. But they are also spending a great deal of money locally with their visits, and everywhere along their routes to these destinations. That's a significant part of our economy.

...Continued on page 2



...From the Chair

It was distressing to learn that although the public was locked out of our parks that the mining industry was not. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was reduced to a shadow of its former self. Regulatory bodies focusing on air, water, and soil were crippled, and pending legal actions were put on hold. This is not a trivial matter.

I hope that America recognizes, from the parks shutdown, how much we value and need these assets. I would hope this gives legislators courage to create more parks and preserve more land. If you have had the opportunity to watch Ken Burn's series, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," you will have a great appreciation for our nation's parks and the people who helped create them.

Locally, you may have heard that our group lost a valuable leader with the death of Jan Moldenhauer in July. In her honor we have named our annual environmental award after her. At our October meeting the citizen's group Preserve Waupaca County was the first recipient of the Jan Moldenhauer Environmental Award for their work to keep a frack sand mine out of Waupaca County, or at least make sure there were regulations. Their story was published in our last newsletter and is on our website.

The three-year terms of two of our board members are up. Sally Peck and Rich Krieg have agreed to serve another term. We'd like to have an election for these board positions, but

we actually have several unfilled vacancies. Please step up and help our organization.

I am finishing this column while attending the Sierra Club Autumn Assembly. We learned more about the Gogebic Taconite mine in northwestern Wisconsin and why we must prevent it from being built. We learned more about frack sand mining in Wisconsin, harvesting our 500 million year old sandstone. We learned about high-capacity water wells damaging water levels for neighbors and reducing levels in rivers and lakes. We learned about large CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) contaminating water in northeastern Wisconsin and elsewhere.

Quite frankly, there seem to be too many issues to fight. And I've long realized there are almost too many issues

to even name and identify, and that I do not have the expertise needed. But, we have no other choice. We must learn about the issues and we must fight for what is right.

Our John Muir Chapter awards some of its volunteers each year for work they've done. Every example is wonderful to hear and is motivation for the rest of us. I hope you will join us. There is much for us to do.

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

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



FVSG members enjoying a hike at Dawson Prairie at the Autumn Assembly in Green Lake.

A New Attitude?

By Diana Lawrence, Conservation Chair

Alan and I attended the annual Autumn Assembly the weekend of October 12. We came away with some great information.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Hebelein, Professor Emeritus at UW Madison. He has written a critically acclaimed book entitled *Navigating Environmental Attitudes*. Dr. Hebelein's basic premise is that environmental attitudes and attitudes in general are fixed and extremely hard to change. If you want to gain cooperation in a divisive issue you need to approach it completely differently than we have been.

Activists are accustomed to trying to educate our way through environmental problems. This often has met with limited success. Many activists feel that if they could just educate people to their way of thinking we will solve our problems. We beat our heads against the wall when for all of our attempts at education the desired outcome is not realized after all.

Dr. Hebelein is suggesting we go about making change in a different way. He uses the analogy of kayaking down a river. The big boulders we all see are what we concentrating on the most. However, it is the boulders and rocks under the surface that can sink us. Finding your way in to a calm eddy may mean the difference of

finding your way through a problem or crashing into the boulders you can see.

An example he used is the potential mine in the Penokee Range, the GTAC mine. Don't try to make the water change directions and flow another way to solve this issue. Stop telling people what the Sierra Club stands for. It is not news. Frame the problem differently. Tell people about the missed opportunity for them when the mining company extracts their local resource and does not really pay them for it. Tell people the missed opportunity for better infrastructure as the mine takes away a precious resource from their backyard and leaving it in ruins. Tell them they are being treated as a third world country.

We must take these environmental messages to a new level and stop trying to educate everyone to our way of thinking. They will never come around if they do not already have leanings that way. We must lead them down a road where they have an understanding based on their own experiences and relatedness to the problem.

The book is called *Navigating Environmental Attitudes* by Thomas A. Hebelein. Published by Oxford University Press, 2012.

The chapter's Autumn Assembly concluded with a trip to John Muir Memorial County Park in Marquette County, 8 miles south Montello on County Road F. This is the childhood home of John Muir. Once used for farming, the land has been restored to prairie, oak savanna and forest surrounding a 30 acre spring-fed lake. The site was designated a state natural area in March 1972. The Ice Age Trail also runs through ther park. Sierra Club members and supporters raised money to help purchase this impressive property.



Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon

More than 12,000 years ago, an immense flow of glacial ice sculpted a landscape of remarkable beauty across Wisconsin. As the colossal glacier retreated, it left behind a variety of unique landscape features. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a thousand-mile footpath, entirely within Wisconsin, that highlights these Ice Age landscape features while providing access to some of the state's most beautiful natural areas.

The Fox Valley Sierra Group has several service days each year helping to construct or maintain sections of the trail within our area. The trail is primarily cared for by volunteers, which are organized into chapters. Each October many chapters sponsor Hike-A-Thon events to help raise money to buy tools and supplies necessary for the trail.

It was rainy on October 5 and this severely dampened attendance of the Hike-A-Thon near Iola. Kelly and Christian Ramstack were among the few to brave the weather. They hiked the full 10 miles. "We never got rained on but we were walking in the clouds. Kind of a perfect fall day, if you ask me", she said.

Darrel Ruechel is our FVSG coordinator for trail work.

For more information on the Ice Age Trail Alliance.
www.iceagetrail.org



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**Next Newsletter Deadline for
submitting materials
- January 11th - February thru
April Issue.**

Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley>.

Follow FVSG on Facebook and Twitter.

- On Facebook, search for "Fox Valley Sierra Group" then become a fan.
- Find us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/FVSierraClub>.

Fox Valley Sierra Group **OUTINGS**

December 14, Saturday

Cross-country Ski at Reforestation Camp

We will be skiing at the Brown County Reforestation Camp north of Green Bay. Hot apple cider will be served afterward!! Contact Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com

January 17-20, Friday-Monday

Cross-country ski weekend

Are you up for a ski adventure? The only thing definite about this trip, are the dates: skiing Fri, Sat, Sun, and Mon, over the MLK weekend. Whichever days you can join in. Due to the unpredictability of snow the last couple years, we did not make a long range reservation, and risk losing it if there was no snow in that area. BUT WE WILL SKI!! Destination: most likely “up north”, but we will be as changeable as Mother Nature herself, going where the snow is: The Phelps area, and the well groomed trails of After Glow Resort; Eagle River and Anvil trails; Boulder Junction, or north to the U.P. and the predictable snow of ABR. Lodging to be arranged. This may have to be close to a last minute decision, based on snow availability. We will try for group accommodations, but may end up with hotel rooms. Cost/Fee: Also to be determined, but will include lodging, meals, and trail fees. Deposit: \$50 to hold your spot on this spontaneous ski weekend. Contact Maureen Birk, 920-468-7252, 3381 Nicolet Dr, Green Bay, 54311, birkmr@yahoo.com

Feb. 9, Sunday

Snowshoeing at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London

Winter brings frozen wetlands and that means a chance to see lowlands of the Wolf River not usually accessible. They turn into frosty wonderland trails and are a pleasant, easy trek on snowshoes. Meet in the Nature Center building for about a 2-hour hike. Rental available. Arrive 15 minutes early if you are renting. Bring a sandwich if you'd like to stay for late lunch afterwards. Leader will bring hot chocolate. Fee: Donation for trail use. (rental additional.) Leader Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715 853-6625.

Feb. 23, Sunday

Snowshoeing at Navarino Nature Center, Navarino

Meet in the Nature Center building for about a 3 hour hike. Arrive 15 minutes early if you are renting. Bring a sandwich if you'd like to stay for late lunch afterwards. Leader will bring hot chocolate. Fee: Donation for trail use. (rental additional.) Leader Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715 853-6625.



Get outside and join us on one of our outings this winter! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings or contact the outings leader directly.

The 2013 Jan Moldenhauer Environmental Award Presented to Preserve Waupaca County

At the October 10th meeting the citizen's group Preserve Waupaca County was presented with the Jan Moldenhauer Environmental Award from the Fox Valley Sierra Group.

The Sierra Club group serving northeastern Wisconsin gives an award each year to honor a person or organization in the area that has achieved significant

benefits to the environment through their efforts and contributions, or has demonstrated environmental leadership.

During the past year Preserve Waupaca County has demonstrated an incredible amount of dedication and courage in their exhaustive effort to stop industrial sand mines from coming into Waupaca County. They formed and led a coalition that researched the impact of sand mining. They knocked on doors, wrote letters, signed petitions, met with lawmakers, provided people with signs, spoke eloquently at meetings, and educated neighbors in order to stop a Town of Union sand mine or at least make sure that appropriate restrictions were in place.

The award is named in honor of Jan Moldenhauer, a Sierra Club leader devoted to the environment. Jan was involved with Preserve Waupaca County. She died in July.



Around the campfire joining in song at the Fox Valley Sierra Group September meeting at Bubolz Nature Preserve

2014 Sierra Club Calendars



Calendars are available for sale at our monthly meetings.

Help Wanted!

People to
EXPLORE, ENJOY, and PROTECT the PLANET

*Let your feelings be known!
Share your love of the planet!*

*Write your legislators, voice your opinions,
take a hike, volunteer, plant a tree,
attend a FVSG meeting,*

Become a

Fox Valley Sierra Group Board member.

Sally Peck and Rich Krieg have agreed to another term and with the passing of Jan Moldenhauer we still have several openings/opportunities for you to serve on our board. We could use your help with meetings, outings, fund raising, conservation/environmental issues and projects, and more.

We need your help!

Welcome New Members

Algoma Venice Gigstead Ken Rummel	DePere Eddie Biebel Ms Carole Clark R Harrington, MD Jean Kolbusz Wes Schroeder Melissa Tesoro Brandon Vine Gary D Wenzlaff	Ms Barbara Juelich Cletus Kaster Mr Daniel Kramer Duane Kroening Gemma Lewis Ms Michelle Madruga Susan Mchugh Janette Meverden Kay Mullins Hilarie J Rath Ms Devra Siebert David B Smith Rhona Stofferan Mary & Lawrence Teofilo Melanie Thompson Norman E Vojtech Darlene Wenholtz	Lena Eileen Duffeck Mr Dennis Jahnke Fred Joyce Little Chute Melissa Ambrose Luxemburg Frank Kolczak Lisa Peot Manawa Mr Anthony Bauer Ms Jane Nelson Marinette Charles Bergold Donald Bolen Ms Joan Campbell John Garon Menasha Deborah J Banda Amy Hammerich Kevin Hoesly Tim Murphy Eileen Rutten Mercedes Schaefer	Omro Gordon Moran Mr Randy O'Connell Onieda Dr Brian T Perkovich Oshkosh M Chester V Christman Roxanne Hallock Laura J Giffin Patricia La Quier Victoria Melum Mrs Thomas Pech Derek Schukow Lisa Volkening Pound Jeri Prevost Redgranite Pam Martin Ripon Audrey M Conant Kent Gallaway Brenda & Peter Grams Scandinavia Cara Dowssett Sister Bay Morse Anderson B Basch David & Joanne Skidmore Sobieski Kay Meek	Sturgeon Bay Carri Anderson Timothy Hickey Ms Terri Kohlbeck William Sneeberger Suamico Carol Dill Washington Island Bonnie J & David P Burnham Waupaca Fran And Dan Hassman Ae Hughes Mary Polebitski Waupun Patricia Vandenberg Wautoma Camille Stelmachowski Westfield Patti Christiansen Bob Wojtas Weyauwega Sylvia Robison Wild Rose Nancy & Tom Erickson Winneconne Darius Leavens
Appleton Elizabeth Braatz Valerie Braun Bart De Stasio James Dewall J Edmondson Kevin Elberts Thomas Glass Wade Farmer Michael Forster David Haas Connie Krueger Myrtle Ogilvie Gail Rammer Ronald Tank Mrs Jane Tarr Samuel Voss Laurie Yingling	Denmark Jane M Hertel Patrick Johnson Egg Harbor P Banting Mary Enigl Kathy and David Franke M/M John and Karen Wilson Ellison Meg Ziegelmann Ephraim Allen Shanahan Fish Creek Al & Judy Wittenkeller Fond Du Lac Mr Jerald P Donohue Green Bay Julia Caldwell Bryan J Delos Christy Faymonville Mr Rick A Gadbois Joseph Geohegan Ms Jessica Hall William and Mary Ann Hitch	Green Lake Heather Colby Greta Rasmussen Ms Judith Weber Green Leaf Heather Wesner Iola Lora Hagen Kaukauna Mary Derus Carole Hamilton Lynn Kiefer Kimberly Constance Kuehn Larsen Larry Brummund	Neenah Jerry and Irene Schaper Ms Joanne Spoehr Neshkoro John Ritschke New London Rosalie Cummings Carol Mc Ilraith Mr Lowell Dean Sauers		



It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 13 Issue 4

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Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

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Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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