

Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

August 13, 2015 - 5:30

Plamman Park - Chris Brandt Shelter

Picnic

Come share your summer with fellow Sierrans. Grill and lemonade will be provided. Bring a dish to pass, your own meat for grilling, place setting, and beverages (alcoholic if wanting to partake). Plamann Park is located north of Appleton, WI at 1375 E Broadway Dr between N Meade St and N Ballard Rd (County Rd E). The Chris Brandt Shelter is located on the southeast section of the park.

September 10, 2015 - 7:00

Fox River Environmental Education Alliance

Wild Utah:

America's Red Rock Wilderness

It is the largest network of undesignated wilderness lands remaining in the lower 48 states. A multi-media slideshow, narrated by Robert Redford, will motivate us to participate in the movement to protect these unique and threatened public lands.

October 8, 2015 - 7:00

Fox River Environmental Education Alliance

Fire Pit Meeting at FREEA

Bring folding chairs and perhaps a light coat to enjoy an outdoors campfire meeting. We'll enjoy the autumn evening and camaraderie as we talk about the Autumn Assembly, tell stories, enjoy smores and snacks, and perhaps sing a few songs.

Can you teach us a song?

(Indoor meeting if raining)

November 12, 2015 - 7:00

Fox River Environmental Education Alliance

Volunteering in Alaska

Pat Fisher has made many trips to Alaska. She will tell us about her trips and what she did for her volunteering

Most meetings are held at the Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA)

1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton
foxrivereea.org or FREEA.org

Sending out an SOS to the World



Special event hosted by the FVSG

Wed. Sept 30

6:30 pm at the Appleton Public Library

Midwest showing of the film...

PLASTIC PARADISE

THE GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH

Produced by Angela Sun, a native of Hawaii. She received the Community Action Leadership Inspiration award for her documentary which was released April 2015. It has been seen mostly on the west coast, we may be some of the first eyes to preview it in the midwest.

FREE and open to the public

What's even more alarming than the destruction of our environment and the animals that live in it, is the quiet price humans are paying for our rabid disposable consumption. Could animals entangled, with bellies filled with plastic, be indicators of a future for human beings?

Did you know that less than 5% of plastic in the world is actually recycled? According to the Environmental Protection Agency, in 2008 93% of plastic in the US that could have been recycled was thrown away. And those bottles with the redemption value? 62% were not recycled. Even if it does get recycled, most of it gets "down-cycled" and sent to developing countries like China, to create cheaper products. Basically, a single-use disposable plastic like a water bottle never returns as a water bottle again.

Here are small simple steps we can all take as consumers and humans, who share this beautiful environment.

REFUSE disposable plastic. There are actually 4 R's-REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

1) When you go to the coffee shop-bring your own mug, or if you are staying there for some time, ask for it in a "for here" mug. Baristas are so

quick to automatically make your drink in a single disposable plastic cup.

2) Bring your own bag to the market or store. How many times have you got to the check out and they put it in a plastic bag before you even pay for it! We associate grocery bags as something easy to bring, but how about when you go shopping at the mall? If you are like me, I often forget. Solution? Keep a foldable bag in your purse-they are small and compact. and you can to put all those fabulous deals in it instead of adding to your collection of tote bags that are piled up in your closet. oh wait. that's my closet.

3) Carry a reusable stainless steel or aluminum water bottle instead of buying bottled water and install a filter at home. Have you ever tasted bottled water after its been in your car, under the sun? You can practically taste the plastic. Not only is it gross, but if you carry your own bottle, you wont be drinking water with harmful toxins like Bisphenol-A (it leaches out from the plastic into the water). If you dont know what this means, watch the documentary...again.

4) Say no to straws. Plastic straws make up over 33% of trash found on beaches.

From the Chair July 2015, By Alan Lawrence

As I write this column in July it seems so long ago that we organized the Fox River Earth Day Hike. But it went off so nicely that I have to reference it again. The event was April 18, kicking off Earth Day week. It was our first effort in quite a few years to host something special to help our community celebrate Earth Day.

About half of our board took on extra duties, planning for the event. This involved figuring out the route, improving the trail through the forest near FREEA, getting a permit from Appleton, renting the Peabody Park shelter, coordinating with other organizations for their help, coordinating volunteers, and a slew of other tasks. I am especially happy that about 20 of our members volunteered to help. Thank you.



I've been interviewed by media a number of times in my role as chairperson for our group, but my media involvement was unique this time as I was invited to the studio of WLUK FOX 11 TV for a live interview with Pete Petoniak on the Good Day Wisconsin show several days before the hike. WLUK had even prepared an animated map of our route.

It is difficult to say how many people participated in our event. We could only count those who signed our liability waiver, around 140, but I know that not everyone signed and not everyone started at FREEA. Students from Lawrence University had a station on campus and helped at two points along the trail. They had a Facebook page for the event with 43 planning to participate. Whatever the numbers were, it was very well received by all who participated. And it was fun and rewarding for our organization.



We haven't made the decision about having a "2nd Annual" event, though we probably will. Our late member, Jan Moldenhauer, always reminded us that we needed to have a project. This certainly qualified.

Last September my wife and I were thrilled to participate in the People's Climate March in New York City. We marched through Manhattan with an estimated 400,000 participants sharing environmental messages that we wanted world leaders to

pay attention to. Thousands more people participated in 2646 other rallies in 162 countries. I'm sure the event has made a difference.

There was a much smaller, but very important, Tar Sands Resistance March on June 6 in the Twin Cities. Sierra Club had a big part in organizing this event and summarized it this way:

"It's not just Keystone XL. Big Oil is trying to build and expand an enormous network of tar sands pipelines -- some even bigger than Keystone XL -- from Canada into the Midwest. These tar sands pipelines, along with crude oil trains and tankers, pose a growing risk to the Great Lakes, our rivers, our communities and our climate.

"That's why on June 6, more than five thousand changemakers gathered in the Twin Cities for the Tar Sands Resistance March -- the largest anti-tar sands march ever in the Midwest. We came together to send a clear message: keep toxic tar sands out of America's Heartland, fight for clean water, clean energy, and a safe climate!"

I presume you are aware that a huge pipeline, with nearly double the capacity of the Keystone XL, is planned to cross Wisconsin. This is the Enbridge Line 61, though XXL is more descriptive. While much larger, it has gained much less attention than the Keystone XL and demands our vigilance. As the Wisconsin Gazette says in their February story, "The Wisconsin pipeline dwarfs Keystone and affects every waterway in the state"

Please see this story for more information. <http://www.wisconsin-gazette.com/wisconsin/xxlbreakwisconsin-pipeline-dwarfs-keystone-and-affects-every-waterway-in-the-state.html>

I want to highlight our upcoming monthly programs. August 13 is our annual picnic social, again held at the Chris Brandt Shelter in Plamann Park in northern Appleton. Sierra Club is a club, after all, and we enjoy social events. It's a potluck event so please bring something to share. We're providing a hot grill in case you want to cook something.

September 10 we will hear from Clayton Daughenbaugh about the Red Rock Wilderness in Southern Utah that needs our protection. The program includes "Wild Utah", a multi-media slideshow. This 15-minute journey through red rock splendor, narrated by Robert Redford invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique and threatened public lands. Clayton Daughenbaugh, conservation organizer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, also serves as the volunteer Chair of the Sierra Club's National Wildlands Committee.

October 8 will be another opportunity to enjoy an outdoor campfire meeting. We've enjoyed doing this the past two years at Bubolz. This year is at FREEA.

November 12 we hear from local member Pat Fisher about Sierra Club work trips she has participated on in Alaska.

Last year I read an article that haunts me when I think about it. I wrote about it then and think the message is important enough to close my column again.

September 1, 2014 marked the anniversary of an event that few people noticed. One hundred years earlier, at about one o'clock in the afternoon, Martha, the world's last passenger pigeon, died in captivity.

It is extraordinary to know the exact moment a species becomes extinct. This was stunning because less than 50 years earlier the passenger pigeon was the most abundant bird in North America numbering in the billions.

Martha's death haunts us because there is no better cautionary tale to the proposition that no matter how abundant something is – be it fuel, water, or an organism – we can lose it if we are not good stewards.

Martha's story teaches us that we need to be vigilant and proceed with caution. If the passenger pigeon can disappear in decades, so can so many other of the planet's riches, be they biological or not – even if they now seem abundant. And those that are rare can vanish in a heartbeat.

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

**Please join us for the
Wisconsin Chapter
(John Muir Chapter)
statewide Autumn Assembly
October 2-4 at Lake Delton.**

The Wisconsin Sierra Club Autumn Assembly is a fun, family-friendly event featuring indoor and outdoor environmental activities for people of all ages. Hosted by the Four Lakes Group, Autumn Assembly 2015 offers hands-on activist workshops with 3 great keynotes, breakout sessions, our annual Awards dinner, outings, and 3 optional tours of the International Crane Foundation, the Aldo Leopold Center, and the geology of the Upper Dells by boat. Register for the whole weekend or just our action-packed Saturday sessions.

For more information and registration.
<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2015-autumn-assembly>

Fox Cities Greenways Hosts Photo Contest

Fox Cities Greenways "Together for Trails" photo contest is an opportunity to put your photography skills to work on behalf of an organization dedicated to fostering the development and preservation of trails and greenways in the Fox Cities region.

Submit your photos and help promote the Fox Cities trail system by raising awareness of the natural beauty of our greenways, exploring and sharing trail experiences with family and friends, and enjoying the many benefits of our trails.

The photo contest begins May 6th and ends 5 p.m. October 31, 2015. All residents and visitors of the Fox Cities region who are 13 years and older are eligible to enter. Each photo must be submitted with an entry form, demonstrate one of the three categories listed in the contest rules, and include trails or greenways in the fox Cities region.

Further information about the entry form and contest rules may be found at foxcitiesgreenways.org.

First place winners in all three categories are eligible to win \$50, second place winners \$25 gift certificates and third place winners \$10 gift certificates. Contest winners in all three categories will be given memberships to Fox Cities Greenways Inc. Contest winners will be recognized on Fox Cities Greenways Inc.'s Website, Facebook page, and at the Annual Dinner.

Remembering Bob Feavel

Long time Fox Valley Sierra Club member and friend, Bob Feavel, died unexpectedly in June. Bob had been ill with cancer for a couple of years, but seemed to be holding steady until this June. Bob attended many Fox Valley Sierra Club meetings over the last 30 years or so. He would listen attentively and ask pointed questions on occasion. He was always eager to learn more about the environment and would willingly lend a helping hand whenever one was needed. He would help with service activities and would come on hikes, river trips or bike trips.

I would see Bob around Appleton on his bike or in his van with his kayak or canoe or both strapped on top. Bob enjoyed being outside as much as anyone I've known. He was really excited when he was able to go on a trip to the Carolina's and Florida earlier this spring. He was a hard worker and a friend. I will miss seeing him at meetings, around town on his bike and on the water.

Penny Bernard Schaber

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**Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials
- November 15th for December thru March Issue.**

August 29-30, Saturday-Sunday

Canoe the Flambeau River

This is a canoe camping trip that includes some class II rapids. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. Contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com

September 19, Saturday

Bike the Green Circle Trail, Stevens Point

The Green Circle trail (www.greencircletrail.org) connects parks and quiet neighborhoods around the outskirts of Stevens Point. We will bike approx. 16 miles of the western side of the loop. Must be comfortable riding on boardwalk, dirt trails and a few busy roads. We'll stop for ice cream about 3/4 of the way into our ride. • Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

October 3, Saturday

Ice Age Trail Hike-a-Thon

Put on your hiking boots and let's hike together in the annual fundraiser for the Portage and Waupaca County chapters of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. This will be the 29th anniversary of the hike. The hike-a-thon will be held at the Iola Winter Sports Club facility north of Iola on County Hwy. MM just west of Hwy. 49. The fee to hike is \$5. However, one can donate more or acquire pledges if desired. Hike the entire 10 miles or any portion. Water, apples, and snacks will be provided. I am planning to hike the entire 10 miles that day and would love to have other Sierra Club members join me for all or a portion of the hike. I would anticipate beginning my hike at about 9:00 but would be willing to accommodate as to time. One can begin the hike any time between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. If you wish to hike on your own or with friends at a different time, that would also be fine. • Contact: Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, R7dairl@yahoo.com

October 10, Saturday

Hike in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest

A fall hike on the Ice Age Trail that will follow moraines and eskers past kettles and kames. This hike is almost ten miles and will take about six hours. We will be hiking to our lunch spot at Parnell Tower where there are toilets, water and picnic tables. We'll have plenty of time to explore Parnell Tower, a 60-foot wooden observation tower. All cars will need a Wisconsin State Park sticker (varies from \$3 a day to \$25 annual, depending on age). • Contact: Phil Snyder, 920-740-4338, jsnyder2@new.rr.com or Margaret Klose, 920-585-1948, margaretklose@gmail.com

October 24-25, Saturday & Sunday

Whitewater canoeing on the Wolf River

(Sections II & III)

This is the River Touring Section's annual Halloween trip. It includes some class II and class III rapids. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. • Contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net



Hartman Creek - We hiked 9.2 miles, saw some great wild flowers, many butterflies, and ran into a pair of sandhill cranes a couple times.



April bike outing to Vines & Rushes Winery

Ice Age Trail Work in Waushara County

Outings: Get outside and join us on one of our outings! 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. Time and meeting locations of outings can change. Some trips are weather dependent. Times are not listed in these descriptions to ensure participants will check with trip leaders before proceeding.

Welcome New Members

Appleton	Pam & Randall Davidson	Janet Lawniczak	Oneida	Suamico
Mr Stephen Erb	Ellen De Marco	Dan Mitchell	Sarah Collins	Ms Linda Jaworski Pecht
Allen Davis	Jane Dennis	Charles Nordell	Richard Elm	Valerie Peeters
John Davis	Mr Jerald P Donohue	Ciana Olson	Oshkosh	Pamela Wyss
Patricia Filzen	William E Ellison	Michelle Pritchard	Ms Burleigh Blust	Van Dyne
Marie Halmstad	Debrah Ewerdt	Ms Kristen S Rodeheaver	Mr John Bodnar	Jennifer Borski
Kim Han	Bruce Fauska	Karen Sathoff	Margot Brand	Douglas Lewellyn
John & Eilene Hoft-March	Karen Fischer	Patrick Smith	Linda Bullock	Waupaca
Sharon Kortenhof	& Liam Flatley	Jane E Stannard	Peter Carlson	George P Drivas
Karen Kranzusch	Paula Freund	Kristine Trudell	Dr Stewart Cole	John Kunzman
Kathleen Lhost	R Freund	Green Lake	Joel Dowhen	Merlin Lang
Laurie Mccoy	Melinda Gedye	Ms Terrie Burrell	Thomas D Hanan	Lisa Lawrence
Carol A McIntyre	Donald Grainger	Greenville	Chelsy Herring	Sue Melter
Maureen Norman	Ms Jackie Hanewall	Steven Pawlowski	William Hower	Don
Bart Rabas	John Morris & Paisley Harris	Susan Vander Velden	Nancy Jahnke	& Mary Richgels
Suzanne Swanson	Eunice Heaney	Iola	John Juedes	Susan Townsend
Cathy Thompson	Laurie Hubert	Kaukauna	Janice Keck	Waupun
Darran Tilghman	Jake Jakubiak	Brian Burns	Loene Krebs	Kimberly Pultz
Mrs Karen Wendt	Barbara Kahlhamer	Jillian Camara-Foss	Margaret J Mahoney	April & Nicholas Quarne
Jack Worthen	Lawerence Kent	Kimberly	Ms Jennifer Norden	B arbara Teletzke
Laurie Yingling	Michael Ketterhagen	Leo Van Drasek	Mr Timothy M Raupp	Patricia Vandenberg
Bear Creek	Tom Kirchhoff	Larsen	Maureen Reifer	Wautoma
Paul Balthazor	Beverly T Kindschuh	John Olson	Richard Rutz	Nancy Lueddecke
Black Creek	Maria N Lambert	Marinette	Tammy Romme	Weyauwega
Tara Huebner	Linda R Lowry	Greg Dougovito	Miss Katherine Saemann	Jean Kaluzny
Campbellsport	Ken Maciejewski	Josh Lemay	Robert Steinke	Winnebago
Robert & Mary Adamski	James Martin	Beth Moriva	Pickett	Wayne Rouillard
Rose Brandl	Jeanne S and J D McDowell	Ted Rauch	Helen Parker	Winneconne
J Scharfenberg and R JD	P McGowan	Markesan	Micah Sommer	Mick Alderson
Clark	John And Patricia Maurer	Ms Diane K Peachey	Ripon	Theodore Kreuzer
David Lamp	Dolores Mick	Menasha	Amy Blashe	Caley Powell
Doug Schacht	Ann Miller	Julieann Bushman	Margaret Klapperich	Darius and Sami Leavens
James and Russell Theisen	D Mills	Judith Gill	Vydunas Tumas	
Mr Daniel Weidert	Michael K Morning	Dave Hawley	Saint Cloud	
Dr David A Wright	Matt Newton	John Joseph	Patricia Grose	
Diane Vollmer	Dwane O Lund	Karen Lesch	Jerome Steffes	
Chilton	Brian Paar	Mr Gabriel Michaels	Lieselotte Straus	
Ruth Bolz	Maurice Plummer	Mount Clavary	Scandinavia	
Brad Cullen	Jerome Pollom	Karen Kuhn	Kay Anderson	
Eugene Federwitz	Cheri Rabe	N. Fond du Lac	Kenneth Koch	
Mrs Kim Holze	Jonathan Rasmussen	Royce Edwards		
Tom Murphy	Dr Maryruth Salazar-tier	Neenah		
Deb Rollmann	Thomas & Karen Schuppe	Rose Blair		
Carol And Martin Rudy	Rita Schuldt	Diana Carver		
Diane Schneider	Amy Sheldon	Nancy M Charlesworth		
Patricia Wettstein	Renee Soles	Thomas Flatley		
C Mack	Lorraine Sonnenberg	Jeff Hillis		
& Rebecca Whitmore	L Stubbe	Brian Holinbeck		
Christopher Witt	Mr Imants Strautmanis	Robert Lieber		
Dale	Connie Thome	Jeanne Potratz		
Chris Bellis	Mary Thompson	Marleen Tanzer		
DePere	Marie L Trebec	Pamela Verhagen		
Julie Bartels	Mr Brandon Ullrich	New Holstein		
Tom A Boyd	Stephen Victor	Geraldine Hollenbeck		
Jm Hansen	Margaret Vinz	Mel Jacobson		
John Kastenholz	Kathleen Walz	Elroy Mauer		
Heidi Marquez	Mary Williams	Jacqueline Popp		
Daniel Murray	Jean Wing	Andrea Rhoades		
Jim Seroogy	Freedom	Charles Zarnoth		
Josef Stubler	Gerald Hedtke	North Fond du Lac		
Ms Jennnifer Trupke	Fremont	Dawn Arendt-Nawrot		
D E Wolfe	Linda Garrett	Gerald Butzler		
Fond du Lac	Green Bay	Oakfield		
Mark R Abler	Eleanore Bleick	James Ford		
Ms Erica Albrecht	U. Cofrin Library	Omro		
Barbara Barton	Elaine Conway	Rita Kostrzak		
David E Beaster	Christy Faymonville			
Mr Herman Bender	Joseph Fredrickson			
Paul Birkholz	Mr Gregory Fredrickson			
Babe Bornhofer	N Gaworek			
John Brown	Leonard Goodrich			
J Burns	Dennis & Linda Grignon			
	Friedrich Harsch			
	Gregory Hitch			
	Robert Johnson			
	Michael J O'Neill,M.D.			



Pulling Garlic Mustard at High Cliff State Park. We did a tremendous job in clearing Garlic Mustard from the Indian Mounds Trail. We are very happy to see the reduced amount of Garlic Mustard along the Indian Mounds Trail. Our work over the past years has been successful!

Phosphate Meeting With Congressman Reid Ribble

On May 26 a meeting was held with Congressman Reid Ribble and numerous environmental groups at the Paper Valley hotel in Appleton WI. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss methods of reducing the amount of phosphates polluting the land and waters of North Eastern Wisconsin. The effects of elevated phosphates and ground water pollution in our water system are quite obvious. A few of the examples are toxic algae blooms in Lake Winnebago, an oxygen deprived dead zone in the lower Green Bay, beach closings in Door County after heavy rain falls, and polluted wells in Kewaunee County. The following organizations had people in attendance: The Nature Conservancy, Clean Wisconsin River Alliance, Outagamie County Land Conservation Dept., Clean Water Action Council, UWGB, Fox-Wolf Basin Watershed, Bud Harris (retired professor), Kewaunee CARES, and the Fox Valley Sierra Club Group (Penny Bernard Schaber, Rich Kreig, and John Engel).

Congressman Ribble opened the meeting then turned it over to the environmental group representatives to discuss phosphate and ground water pollution and remediation methods. There are numerous sources of phosphate pollution, residential, commercial (golf courses, parks etc.), industrial, and agricultural. The group identified agricultural runoff as the greatest point source of uncontrolled phosphate and ground water pollution. Specifically the concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) had large numbers of dairy cows and produced a large amount of liquid and solid manure to spread on the fields. The group spent considerable time discussing ways to help prevent ground water pollution. Some of the simplest biological methods were to plant a winter cover crop (wheat or rye), leave more debris in the fields (corn stalks etc.), and increase the size of barriers adjacent to feeder streams and rivers. Increasing the barriers would take a small percentage of land out of agricultural production farmers could be compensated for the loss of acreage. The use of prairie grasses in low lying areas susceptible to flooding and adjacent to streams will help reduce phosphate pollution. The group was updated on the Plum Creek Main and West branch restoration project. Currently the West Branch of Plum Creek is being monitored for Phosphates and total suspended solids. The Outagamie County Land Conservation Dept. has applied for State and Federal grants totaling almost 5.2 million dollars to fund the West Plum Creek watershed remediation project. Currently the Main Branch Plum Creek watershed will not have any remediation work done. The main Branch of Plum Creek will be used as a base line as an additional monitor to measure the effectiveness of the remediation work on the West Branch of Plum Creek.

At numerous times during the discussions the attention was directed to Kewaunee County. Kewaunee County has Karst geology which means they have a very thin level of topsoil and a layer of fractured limestone on top of the

ground water table. This type of geology allows surface water pollutants easy access to the ground water table hence the wells are more susceptible to phosphates and coliform bacteria contamination. Kewaunee County has 2 full time and 2 part time conservation agents to educate and monitor agricultural operations (Outagamie has 10 full time agents) needless to say they are understaffed. There are currently rules and regulations set forth by the federal government in the Clean Water Act to which industries and agriculture are required to adhere. In 2012, the Federal EPA published the CAFOs final regulations which provide detailed information on feeding, waste gathering and liquid manure spreading on fields. The attendees who live in Kewaunee County told of numerous instances where the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) had liquid manure spills and were not fined. The State DNR is responsible for enforcing violations of the Clean Water Act. As identified by the Kewaunee CARES attendees the DNR has been lax in prosecuting the pollution violators. The current head of the DNR is a political appointee by Governor Scott Walker. The dairy and agricultural business lobby is very strong in Madison. I wonder if the DNR would have been taking a more active role in prosecution of the violators if the DNR head was not a political appointee.

The group believed that additional regulations were not required the existing regulations need to be protected from politicians and special interest groups. Unfortunately, state funding for agricultural nutrient monitoring and enforcement at the county level has been cut and the current budget has additional budget cuts. The group believed the current Federal EPA rules should be fully enforced and the farms that repeatedly pollute be held responsible for their neglect. At times the discussion was quite lively; it was a very good meeting. The congressman stated interest in the groups' ideas and recommendations. The Congressman did not commit to any direct action. He stated that he may meet with some of the local state assemblymen and senators to discuss this issue.

In closing, I did a bit of research and gathered the following information. In October of 2014, The Wisconsin Land and Conservation Association annual meeting had a breakout session specifically for the Kewaunee County CAFOs. At that time Kewaunee County had 15 large CAFOs and one large beef lot. Kewaunee County's CAFO permit cover 51,379 animal units and an additional 45,604 units are in the pipeline. The waste provided by one animal unit is equal to 18 people. The 51,379 animal units in the permitted CAFOs are equivalent to 924,882 humans. The animal waste is 340 million gallons of liquid waste and 81,332 tons of solid manure which is spread on 36,239 acres of managed crop land per year! These numbers for Kewaunee County are quite staggering to say the least. Remember what happened to Toledo Ohio last summer? Toxic algae blooms formed off shore over their water intake pipes and

contaminated the city's water system. Thousands of people could not drink the city water and they had to use bottled water! This problem is becoming a serious local pollution issue, in a matter of time our water may not be drinkable. Currently, the political will is lacking to address this issue and enforce the regulations. If you feel strongly about this form of pollution I would urge you to write a letter to your state assemblyman and senator expressing your concern about the DNR not enforcing violations of the EPA clean water regulations protecting our water supply.

John Engel Conservation Chair.

Why phosphorus is a problem

Phosphorus has long been recognized as the controlling factor in plant and algae growth in Wisconsin lakes and streams. Small increases in phosphorus can fuel substantial increases in aquatic plant and algae growth, which in turn can reduce recreational use, property values, and public health:

- » One-quarter of the more than 700 waterbodies on Wisconsin's impaired waters list fail to meet water quality standards due to phosphorus pollution.
- » Dozens of waters statewide experience harmful algal blooms fueled by the nutrient, posing a health threat to people, pets and livestock. Over the past 3 years, 98 people have reported health complaints related to such blooms.
- » Smelly cladophora fueled by phosphorus washes ashore Lake Michigan beaches. Nuisance Algae (Cladophora) In Lake Michigan
- » Recent statewide stream assessment data suggests that thousands of streams may have excess phosphorus levels. In addition to decreasing the dissolved oxygen that fish and other aquatic creatures need to survive, such excess phosphorus causes major changes in lake and stream food webs, which ultimately result in fewer fish and fish predators.

Where phosphorus comes from

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient that occurs naturally, mainly as phosphate, and has been mined for use in fertilizer, detergent and animal feed. It's in our food, in our waste, and in that of other animals.

Phosphorus entering our lakes and streams comes from "nonpoint" or "runoff" pollution. Such pollution occurs when heavy rains and melting snow wash over farm fields and feedlots and carry fertilizer, manure and soil into lakes and streams, or carry phosphorus-containing contaminants from urban streets and parking lots.

Phosphorus also comes from the "point sources" - piped wastes such as municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants that release liquid effluent to lakes and rivers or spread sludge on fields; and from natural sources, including past phosphorus loads that build up in lake bottom sediments.

How much these sources contribute to phosphorus problems in a lake or river varies widely based on land use in a watershed and the number of point sources discharging into that lake or river. There are situations where runoff contributes more than 80 percent of the phosphorus, and situations where point sources contribute more than 80 percent. Most commonly, both point sources and nonpoint sources contribute phosphorus.

From the Wisconsin DNR website
http://dnr.wi.gov/news/mediakits/mk_phosphorus.asp



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help we can protect the wolf

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Lead the pack and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:

Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

F94Q **W1607** 1

or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Fox Valley Sierra Group
Of The John Muir Chapter Of The Sierra Club

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It's Our Nature

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