



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 16 Issue 2

## Fox Valley Sierra Group Programs

**April 14, 2016 - 7:00**

Bubolz Nature Preserve

### Turtles and Other Reptiles

Robert Hay, a Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Specialist and retired DNR Herpetologist will tell us about the "Turtles for Tomorrow" project in WI and about the state of turtles and other reptiles.

**May 12, 2016 - 6:30**

Bubolz Nature Preserve

### Star Gazing Basics

Getting Started in Recreational Astronomy Details.

**June 9, 2016 - 7:00**

Bubolz Nature Preserve

### Rocky Mountain National Park

John Engel a fellow FVSG member will present hiking, and camping in Rocky Mountain National Park. Numerous photos will be shown depicting the mountain scenery, and some of the hikes. A second portion of the presentation will show the effects of climate change on the western pine forests. John will also share the information that he received during a meeting with the head forester of Rocky Mountain National Park.



**July, 2016**

No meeting

**August 11, 2016 - 6:00**

Annual Picnic at Plamann Park

Watch for details in the next issue or check our website.

Most meetings are at Bubolz Nature Preserve.  
4815 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton 54915  
[www.bubolzpreserve.org](http://www.bubolzpreserve.org)

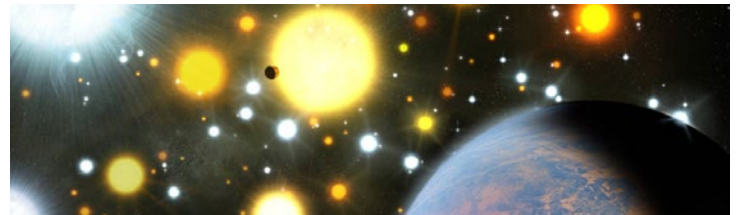
## KICK OFF EARTH DAY WEEK WITH A HIKE ON APRIL 16TH

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

COME AND HIKE, VOLUNTEER OR BOTH



Volunteers contact John Engel at [johnwengel@earthlink.net](mailto:johnwengel@earthlink.net) or 475-1472.

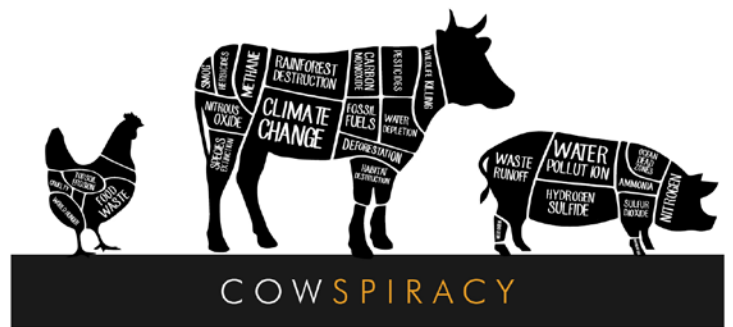


### Star Gazing Basics: Getting Started in Recreational Astronomy

Presented by Paul Kinzer, who has many years of experience as an amateur astronomer, an educator and author of the book "Stargazing Basics: Getting Started in Recreational Astronomy". He currently runs his own small business, traveling to schools and other venues with his knowledge of the night sky. He has been on the Public radio show with Larry Meiller several times.

Telescopes available to view the skies, if the night sky cooperates.

May 12, 2016 • 6:30 pm • Doors open at 6:00 pm  
Bubolz Nature Preserve • 4815 N. Lynndale Dr. • Appleton  
\$5 per person/ \$12 per family



Special showing of the film "COWSPIRACY: The Sustainability Secret"

A groundbreaking feature-length environmental documentary following an intrepid filmmaker as he uncovers the most destructive industry facing the planet today – and investigates why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it. As eye-opening as Blackfish and as inspiring as An Inconvenient Truth, this shocking yet humorous documentary reveals the absolutely devastating environmental impact large-scale factory farming has on our planet.

Hosted by the Fox Valley Sierra Group  
6:30 PM • Wednesday • May 4, 2016  
Appleton Public Library  
Free and Open to the Public

## From the Chair

### March 2016, By Alan Lawrence

Our group is helping our communities celebrate Earth Day by again sponsoring a fun hike on April 16, kicking off Earth Day week. The Fox River Earth Day Hike was a success last year, and we hope to build on that success. The route will be the same, and we will try to make some improvements. We're also starting earlier in the morning because we learned many people want to begin early. The extra hour means we can have two shifts of volunteers, which allows volunteers to also enjoy hiking the route. If you are willing to work a shift please write to volunteer coordinator John Engel or myself. John can be reached at [johnwengel@earthlink.net](mailto:johnwengel@earthlink.net) or 475-1472.

In February our group helped co-sponsor an environmental event in Menasha called "The Conversation". Leaders from a number of local organizations concerned with the environment or climate change were invited to discuss how we might work together. We hope to leverage our efforts by involving other like-minded organizations.

In February the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters screened "Oil and Water: Sunken Hazards of North America's Pipeline Industry" at the Brown County Central Library. The documentary is about the Enbridge tar sands pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac, and is alarming. We will try to arrange a showing at the Appleton Public Library for the community.

We have already arranged for a documentary called "Cowspiracy" to be shown on May 4 at the Appleton Public Library (6:30pm). It is a fun video to watch, but deals with a very serious subject. A tremendous amount of resources goes into food production. Whether or not you agree with the concepts introduced by the documentary it should provoke some good discussion.

I awoke in early March to the radio report of the murder of yet another environmental activist. Berta Cáceres, the Honduran indigenous and environmental rights campaigner, had been murdered, barely a week after she was threatened for opposing a hydroelectric project. Cáceres had long complained of death threats from police, the army and landowners' groups over her opposition to one of Central America's biggest hydropower projects. She won the 2015 Goldman environmental prize, regarded as the world's top award for grassroots environmental activism.

I'd encourage you to research this woman or read the following blog. <http://www.goldmanprize.org/blog/program-officer-ryan-remembers-berta-caceres/>

While pondering the crime I thought about the numerous stories I have heard of other environmental activists being murdered. It seems that activists get killed, while the corporations they protest survive unscathed.

I discovered a website, [www.globalwitness.org](http://www.globalwitness.org), that writes about environmental activists.

It has never been more important to protect the environment, and it has never been more deadly. The battle for the environment is emerging as a new battleground for human rights. According to the website, on average, two people are killed every week defending their land, forests and waterways against the expansion of large-scale agriculture, dams, mining, logging and other threats. Often they have been forced from their homes or seen their livelihoods harmed by environmental devastation. Some victims were environmental protesters killed in crackdowns, others murdered by hired assassins because they lived on a desirable plot of land.

Global Witness says, many of the world's worst environmental and human rights abuses are driven by the exploitation of natural resources and corruption in the global political and economic system. Global Witness seeks a better world where corruption is challenged and accountability prevails, all can thrive within the planet's boundaries, and governments act in the public interest.

It is unfortunate that environmental activism sometimes puts us at risk. Our ability to elect government leaders helps to reduce corruption within our country or harm to activists. But this depends on how engaged our citizens are. We need to know our candidates and we need to vote responsibly.

I have great respect for people around our planet who are willing to risk their personal well-being as they try to protect our environment for future generations or work for environmental justice of marginalized peoples. I believe we have the responsibility to participate when we are able. There are and will be issues, local and global, that need our help.

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

Alan Lawrence, 920-730-9515  
or [alan\\_lawrence99@yahoo.com](mailto:alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com)

# Fox River Earth Day Hike

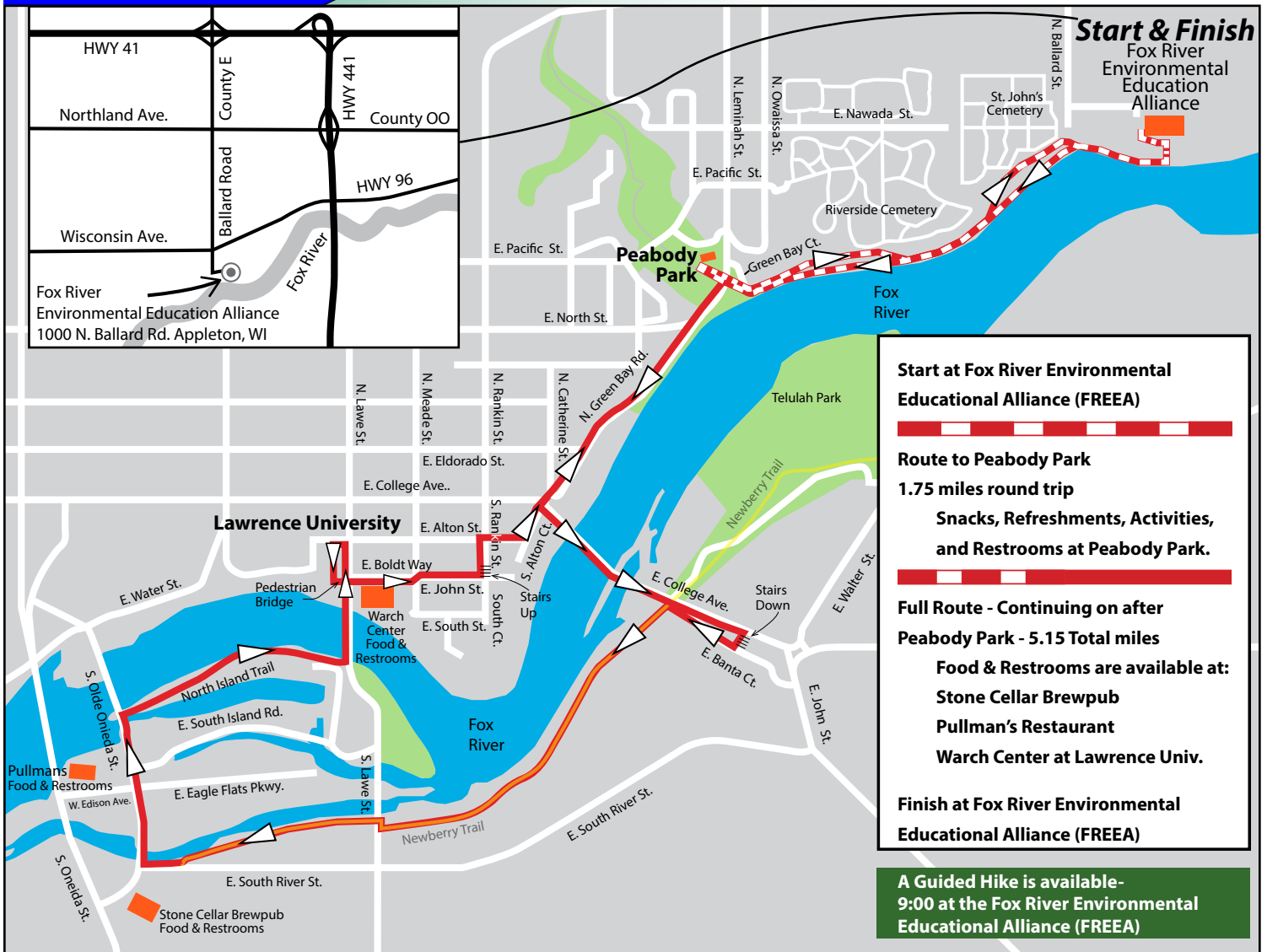
Saturday, April 16th

Hike 1.75 or 5.15 miles

Kick Off Earth Day Week with a Hike along the Fox River in Appleton

Refreshments, Snacks and Activities at Peabody Park

Start anytime between 8:00 - 10:30 at Fox River Environmental Educational Alliance (FREEA) 1000 N. Ballard Street, Appleton



Sponsored by the Fox Valley Sierra Group  
[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley)



# OUTINGS

## April 16, Saturday

### 2nd Annual Fox River Earth Day Hike

Our group is again organizing an Earth Day event for the community. It will take place April 16, kicking off the Earth Day week. Activities begin and end at FREEA, 1000 N. Ballard Ave., Appleton, home of the Fox River Environmental Education Alliance and The Refuge. The hike is planned along the Fox River right from FREEA and going to Peabody Park. We'll have refreshments and activities there. People can turn back and enjoy a short hike, or they can continue on for the 5.5 mile adventure. We'll continue to College Avenue, cross the bridge and hike along the southern shore on the Newberry Trail to Olde Oneida Street. Then cross back to the northern shore utilizing trails on the Eagle Flats. Rest rooms and food can be found at Stone Cellar Brewpub, Pullmans at Trolley Square, Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University, or at locations not far off the walk.

Put this on your calendar and plan to be there either as a helper, a participant or both.

## April 27 - June 15, Wednesday Evenings

### After work Paddle

Weekly Sierra Club canoe and kayak outings are beginning this spring on Little Lake Butte des Morts. The put in and takeout will be at Fritse Park on the west side of the lake in the town of Menasha. We will be putting in at 6 PM starting April 27 for an evening paddle on the lake. The outing will provide an opportunity to unwind and allow participants to observe local waterfowl. The Pelican nesting sites on the east side of the lake are pretty neat to observe from a self-powered water craft. The outings will be led by John Engel. John has been canoeing and white water kayaking for over 40 years. John and his wife Sue have completed many wilderness canoe trips in Canada and in 1989 a 258 mile trip in Alaska finishing 100 miles from the Arctic Ocean at Umiat. John still is an avid kayaker and this summer will be paddling the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Participants are encouraged to arrive at Fritse Park by 5:45 PM to unload boats and sign in. The outings will begin April 27 and end June 15 (the lake will turn green). All participants will be required to wear life jackets and provide their own canoes or kayaks. For additional information contact John Engel (920)475-1472

## April 30, Saturday

### Walk Shawano Park to Park Loop

An in-town (no ticks!) route developed by Shawano Pathways. The 4 mile Blue Loop starts downtown at Mt. Bay Outfitters and goes through several parks including Sturgeon Park on the Wolf River where, if the temperature is right, we will see the sturgeon congregate at the Shawano dam.

Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller 715 853-6625

## May 13, Friday

### Sunset canoe / kayak paddle on Navarino Wildlife Area Flowage

This DNR land contains natural flowages to the Wolf River. See an area rich in wildlife that is only navigable in spring. Bring a sandwich to have a floating supper.

Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller 715 853-6625

## May 14, Saturday

### Bike the Newton Blackmour State Trail

We'll bike from Shiocton to Black Creek and back on this newly completed rail trail. As we travel through the Mack Wildlife Area imagine the glacial lakebed that once covered the area. Approx. 19 miles round trip.

Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

## May 21-22, Saturday & Sunday

### Pike River, Class II-III, Car Camp

Paddle a designated 'Wild River' while viewing wildlife and picking up trash found on the river. Bring wet/dry suit for cool spring temperatures. Take out near Yellow Bridge first day. Paddle from below Yellow Bridge to the Menominee R. the second day.

Contact: Jim Servais: 920-434-0740 or 920-217-6284



**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.*

## **June 20 , Monday Evening**

### **Summer Solstice Hike at High Cliff State Park**

We will meet at the Red Bird Statue and decide which trails to take to celebrate the sun. Approximately 3 miles of easy to moderate terrain. We plan on starting the hike at 6:30 but plan on coming early if you want to have a picnic. (Bring your own food and drinks) Stay afterwards and watch the sunset over Lake Winnebago at 8:40. A park sticker will be required.

Contact: Monny Hjerstedt (920) 725-5775,  
cell (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt@tds.net

## **July 19 , Tuesday Evening**

### **Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve Hike**

We will explore this relatively new preserve unique with wooded hills and ravines, open fields, restored prairie, ponds and wetlands, and pine plantations. Approximately 2 miles with some steep terrain and uneven surfaces. Located next to the Apple Creek YMCA in Northern Appleton.

Contact: Monny Hjerstedt (920) 725-5775,  
cell (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt@tds.net

## **~July 22 - August 3**

### **Montana Whitewater Class II-III Car Camp.**

Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in northwest Montana. The trip will be flexible to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip.

Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-445-4777,  
johnsrudp@tds.net

## **Aug. 20-21, Saturday & Sunday**

### **Flambeau River, Class II, Canoe Camp**

Refresh your soul on the Flambeau River by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. Learn how healthy state forests are important for protecting water quality.

Contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com

## **Sept 30 - Oct 2, Friday - Sunday**

### **Hartman Creek State Park Camping & Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon**

Enjoy the scenery and fresh air at a group campsite. Saturday morning we will participate in the Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon fund raiser. Family friendly outing.

For more information contact: Monny Hjerstedt (920) 725-5775, cell (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt@tds.net

## **BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

This year the Fox Valley Sierra Group decided to provide additional opportunities for our members to participate in local Sierra Club sponsored outings. To provide the outings the outing leaders need to be certified Sierra Club Outdoor Leaders. Three of the Fox Valley Sierra Groups Executive Committee attended a weekend Outdoor Leadership Training program. The Outdoor Leadership training program was sponsored by our John Muir State Chapter of the Sierra Club. The attendee's completed Basic First Aid, Outdoor Leadership Training (OLT) 101, and OLT 201. OLT 101 focuses on what is required to lead a successful day hike or canoe trip. The focus on OLT 201 is overnight or longer hiking, and canoe trips where participants may be days away from civilization. Approximately 25-30 Sierra Club members from all parts of the state attended the training.

The Sierra Club sponsors outings where all the participants will have an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, and learn something about the local environment. The Sierra Club outings are held to the highest moral and ethical standards, all are welcome. In our training it was stressed that it is important to be inclusive and spend extra time with participants who may be new to the activity. From our group the OLT attendees were Rich Krieg, Monny Hjerstedt, and John Engel.

Rich Krieg was the past Chairman for the Sierra Club River Touring Section. Rich has been leading and assisting with leading trips for many years. Rich is an active Whitewater canoeist and participates in regional and national white water slalom races. This year Rich will be leading an overnight canoe camping trip on the Flambeau River.

Monny Hjerstedt is a hiker who stays in shape walking to work thru out the year (about 4 miles round trip). Monny has participated in many trail maintenance service trips and he and his wife Jo have hiked out west. Monny will be leading some local hikes in the evenings after work. Who knows he may even free up a weekend to lead a hike further from home.

John Engel is the newest board member and is at home either in his white water kayak or paddling a tripping canoe with his wife Sue. John has kayaked on numerous white water rivers. John and Sue completed numerous wilderness trips in the Boundary waters, and Canada. John will be leading a Wednesday evening paddling trip on Little Lake Butte des Mort's.

Additional details on Fox Valley Sierra Group outings and activities will be listed in the quarterly newsletter and on the Fox Valley Sierra Group web site. If any questions occur please don't hesitate to contact Rich, Monny or John.

May you enjoy blue skies and a following wind.  
John Engel Conservation Chair



Photo by Wisconsin DNR

## Needed: Someone To Take Over Fox Valley Sierra Group Garlic Mustard Pulling Project in 2016

This past May we have noticed a significant decrease in the amount of garlic mustard growing along the Indians Mounds Trail while pulling garlic mustard at High Cliff State Park. We have seen an increase in the amount of native wild flowers growing where garlic mustard once existed along the Indian Mounds Trail because of our work.

In addition, we have started pulling garlic mustard at Memorial Park in Combined Locks.

I am looking for someone to take over the FVSG Garlic Mustard Pulling Project so we don't lose what we have accomplished during the past 8-10 years.

If you are interested, please contact me. I will work with you this coming spring in 2016. Contact me: 920-739-6041 or email: dschaber@athenet.net.

Not Sierra Club Outings but some interesting and worthwhile outdoor activities in nearby scenic areas:

### Steven's Point WALK WISCONSIN - Sat. June 5

Held annually the first Saturday in June each year, Walk Wisconsin is the premier walking event in the Midwest. This is a non-competitive event, encouraging walkers of all ages and ability levels. The full (26.2 miles), 3/4 (19.6 miles), 1/2 (13.1 miles) and 1/4 (6.5 miles) events utilize the Green Circle Trail which passes the Wisconsin River, Plover River, several lakes, and unique ecosystems. The trail base for all routes include a combination of wood chips, crushed granite, road surface and wood boardwalk.

Event check-in will take place at the Piffner Park building, 501 Franklin Street, along Stevens Point's downtown riverfront.. Please be at the Piffner Park bandshell 1/2 hour before transportation starts for your event.

Finish line and picnic at Piffner Park Bandshell: 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm.

Event Cost: \$25.00 (through May 1, 2015, \$35 thereafter). The registration fee helps cover the cost of the sports sack, t-shirt, refreshments and food stops along the route, the finish celebration, medallion and more. A portion of the proceeds for Walk Wisconsin will go to the Wellness Fund at the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin. The remaining funds are used to fuel new and on-going wellness orientated activities and events to promote healthy people and lifestyles such as Kids Walk Wisconsin, Real Wisconsin-Bike Tour and Moon Walk Wisconsin.

### Wolf River PADDLE AND PEDAL - Sat. June 25, Shawano

Drop off your bicycle at CCC boat landing, drop off canoe or kayak at MM/Lieg St. boat landing. (If renting equipment from Mt. Bay Outfitters, it will be dropped off for you.) Park and register at Mt Bay Outfitters by 9:00am. Take shuttle or walk to MM boat landing. Paddle down Wolf River, all flat water, through natural areas, to CCC - about 2-1 1/2 hours. Ride your bike back 8, 12 or 17 miles to Mt. Bay. Your boat will be there waiting for you. Live music and brat fry too. Spend more time playing and less time shuttling!

Event cost \$15. \$10 if renting equipment or member of Shawano Pathways. The registration fee covers the cost of shuttling boats back to Shawano, water, snacks and sag wagon. Bikes are secured while you are paddling. Fundraiser to support new and improved biking and walking trails. Register and reserve equipment by calling Tim at (715) 526-8823. Mt. Bay is located in an historic train depot at 620 S. Main St Shawano, WI 54166. FVSG member Nancy Brown-Koeller (715) 853-6625 is one of the organizers of this event.

## Union Sand Mine Permit Advances to County Level

On March 14, 2016 the Town of Union board voted to approve a conditional use permit (CUP) filed by A.F. Gelhar Co. to expand their sand mining operation from 160 acres to 240 acres. This CUP application will now go before the Waupaca County Planning & Zoning Committee. The tentative public hearing date and time is Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Please check Waupaca County's website to confirm once the date gets closer. Go to: <http://www.co.waupaca.wi.us/> and click on "Meeting Agendas & Minutes." Under "Agendas" click the arrow next to "Planning & Zoning Committee" to expand the list of agendas.

Questions/Comments?

Email Kelly Ramstack at [kjramstack@yahoo.com](mailto:kjramstack@yahoo.com) or call 920-540-9139.

## Family Trips in the Sierras

Two former members of FVSG and current members of the Great Waters Group, Bill Baurecht and Helen Bannan-Baurecht, are leading two Sierra Club National outings that may be of interest if you'd like to vacation with your children or grandchildren in the Sierras near Lake Tahoe. These lodge outings are based at Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Pass.

Sierra Vistas and Family Fun in Tahoe Nat. Forest, California  
July 24-29 - Trip #16214A

Just for Grandparents and Grandkids, Tahoe Nat. Forest, CA -  
July 17-22 - Trip # 1612A

View details at <http://content.sierraclu.org/outings/>  
Search by trip number

Bill Baurecht and Helen Bannan-Baurecht  
(414) 882-7218 Bill Cell (920) 279-9594 and (920) 420-0661



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## With your help we can clean up our water

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.

**Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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



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Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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

F940 **W1607** 1

or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



Enjoying a winter snowshoe outing along the Little Wolf River near Manawa. Plus we ventured downtown Manawa for wine tasting at the Winemakers Daughter.



## Welcome New Members

### Appleton

David And Lillian Brice  
Ms Sarah Edmonds  
Elizabeth Grogan  
Robert Hausserman  
Cassandra Hemmen  
Dave Kolosso  
Thomas Perras  
Jon M. Peterson  
Laurel Ann & Mike Pierquet  
Mary Powell  
Ms Norma Rammer

### Campbellsport

Y Jia-Reid and H Reid

### Chilton

Patricia Wettstein

### Eden

Sandy Hardie

### DePere

Donald Drewiske  
Melissa Tesoro

### Fond du Lac

Mr Pete Baertschy Sharon and  
Arthur Maratos

### Freedom

Nelly Scalet & Pete Eernisse

### Green Bay

Mr Eugene Crass  
James Duescher  
Martin Fisher  
Elizabeth Heiser  
Janet Irwin  
Cletus Kaster  
Frank Kraft  
Jim & Dee Perkins  
Ray P Scanlan

### Hortonville

Nathan Kocnecke

### Kaukauna

Marcia Weber

### Malone

Nathan Slinde  
Richard Wheatley

### Marion

Charles W Zietlow

### Menasha

Daniel Blake  
Stephanie Strzalka

### Neenah

Kate Hancock-Cooke  
Junko Schifferl

### New London

Ronald & Jean Johnson

### Oakfield

Michael Hayes

### Omro

Susan Santana

### Oshkosh

Tricia Burg  
Dede Cummings  
K Wismer & K Klanderma

Mr Steve Krawiec

Shirley Mattox

Juliet and Kenneth McCorkle

Aimee Niendorf

### Sherwood

Gilmore

### Waupaca

Linda & Rex Pope

### Waupun

Janet Bloedow  
Wayne Strehlow

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

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[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley)

## FOX VALLEY SIERRA GROUP CONTACTS

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#### **Chair & FVSG Delegate**

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Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at

**[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley) or find us on Facebook**



FVSG web site