



# It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 17 Issue 3

## Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs

**August 10, 2017 - 6:00pm**

*Plamman Park - Chris Brandt Shelter*

*1375 E Broadway Dr., Appleton*

### Summer Picnic

Come share your summer with fellow Sierrans. Grill will be provided. Bring a dish to pass, your own meat for grilling, beverages, and place setting.

**September 14, 2017 - 7:00pm**

*Girl Scout Building*

### CAFO'S Wisconsin's Industrial Farms

Lynn & Nancy Utesch members of Kewaunee CARES (citizens advocating responsible environmental stewardship) will present a program on the effects of CAFO'S in Kewaunee County. The program will include the effects on human health the ground water, Green Bay and Lake Michigan. If you are interested in clean water in North East Wisconsin don't miss this program.

**October 12, 2017 - 6:30pm**

*Girl Scout Building*

### Chili Cook-Off

Wanted! Chili Chefs and Chili Tasters. Cost is \$5.00 which includes tasting and voting for your choice of Best Chili. Help us pick the FVSG Best Chili Award.

Stay afterwards for some inspirational outdoor adventure short films.

(If you want to enter the cook off with your award winning recipe, let us know, [jhjerstedt@hotmail.com](mailto:jhjerstedt@hotmail.com) or 920-479-4900)

**November 9, 2017 - 7:00pm**

*Girl Scout Building*

### Whooping Cranes - The bird that came within a hair's breath of extinction

Dr. Elsbeth McPhee professor of Environmental Studies and Biology at UW Oshkosh will talk to us about Whooping Cranes. The presentation will include the summer nesting sites, fall migration, and southern winter habitat. Dr.

McPhee will also share preliminary information from her recent research project which focuses on the effects of captivity on survival and reproduction in whooping cranes reintroduced into central Wisconsin.

**December 14, 2017 - 6:30**

*Girl Scout Building*

### Annual Holiday party

Meetings are normally at Bubolz Nature Preserve.

Because of construction at Bubolz, meetings have been moved right next door at the Girl Scout building,

4693 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI.

It is the same driveway as Bubolz. Follow the signs.



## From the Chair

### July 2017, By Alan Lawrence

It's easy to be pessimistic when the news all around seems to be bad. When day after day the news is bad it can grow on you. I'm pretty sure many of you feel this is the case. Participation by large numbers of people in the Women's March, the Science March and the Climate March tells me that many of us are frustrated, but don't want to give up hope. I'm going to share some of my gloomy stories, and some of the glimmers of hope.

Climate Change is certainly near the top of my worries for the future. I just don't understand those who deny the science and evidence and refuse to act. And I just don't understand the views of our president on this issue, and the members of Congress who support his views. I was not surprised when he pulled our country out of the Paris Climate Accord, but I found it disillusioning.

The immediate good news was understanding that the actual withdrawal from the Paris agreement will take place on November 4, 2020, four years after the deal went into force. That is one day after the 2020 election on November 3, meaning it's possible it won't happen at all if Trump loses his re-election bid.

Clearly the world and many US citizens and business leaders are not happy with Trump's decision. The president's decision to withdraw over three years allows him the flexibility to change course. The president's recent visit to Germany for the G20 Summit reminded him and the world that most of the world disapproves of Trump's decision. German Chancellor Angela Merkel publicly scolded him and told the world that the other 19 members of the G20 agreed that the Paris climate accord was irreversible and that they remained committed to it.

During Trump's recent visit to France, and the grand reception by the people of France, Trump was eventually asked by a reporter if it was possible for the United States to come back to the Paris accord. Trump conceded that it might be possible, and added, "And if it happens, that'll be wonderful." That's not enough to justify any optimism, but I was glad to hear it.

Allow me to get back to the bad news a bit. I truly believe climate change is more important and serious than many believe. On July 9, the New York Magazine published an article by David Wallace-Wells entitled, "The Uninhabitable Earth". It is an easy, but uncomfortable read. Essentially it is a real doomsday piece. It begins, "It is, I promise, worse than you think. If your anxiety about global warming is dominated by fears of sea-level rise, you are barely scratching the surface of what terrors are possible." Many of us have seen doomsday forecasts, but this article really is scary.

Five days later the New York Magazine published an annotated version and informed us that the article was already the most-

read article in the Magazine's history. Within hours, the article spawned a fleet of commentary across newspapers, magazines, blogs, and Twitter, much of which came from climate scientists and the journalists who cover them. Part of the good news is that people are paying attention to Climate Change.

My email feed today included a message from The Climate Mobilization that referenced the article. They said the article has caused a major controversy in the climate community, in part because of some minor factual errors in the piece. But, by far, the most significant criticism the piece received was that it was too frightening. The letter justifies this fear, saying, "Our job is not to protect people from the truth or the feelings that accompany it — it's to protect them from the climate crisis!"

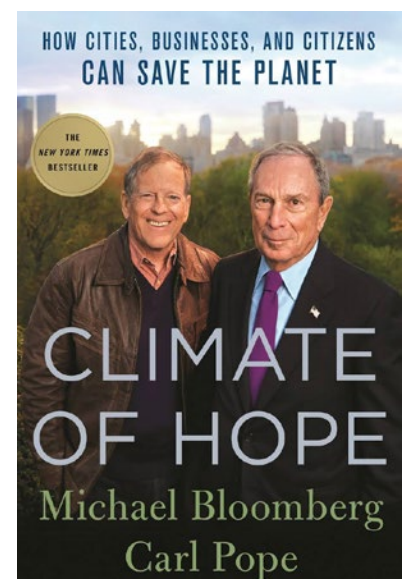
Frankly, I believe, as Bill McKibben says in his book, "Eaarth", that we have already caused climate change. Preventing it is already too late. Our mission now is to minimize it and learn how to live in our new world.

Some good news was found in a recent Wisconsin Public Radio program on the Kathleen Dunn show. The guest experts informed us about great strides in solar and wind power, and new models for the electrical utility. We were informed that solar and wind power is now cheaper than fossil fuel.

Some good news was found with the recent U.S. Conference of Mayors. More than 250 mayors at the event signed nonbinding resolutions including a cities-driven plan to slow climate change, bucking Trump and committing their cities to the Paris Accord. That letter now has 359 mayoral signatures, including nine from Wisconsin.

And some inspiring news comes from a book published in April. Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope co-authored "Climate of Hope". Bloomberg is, of course, the former Mayor of New York City and Pope is a former Executive Director of Sierra Club. I'm only a few chapters into the book, but it is giving me reason to be optimistic that we can survive.

In the first chapter Carl Pope tells the story of Bruce Nilles and the "Beyond Coal" campaign. Perhaps the fact that I actually sort of know Nilles compelled me to read details I had only vaguely known. Bruce is from Wisconsin and I've met him several times through Sierra Club, including an award banquet that he spoke at. It was his idea to block every single



coal-fired power plant that the George W. Bush administration had been backing. His goal was to prevent our country from locking itself into another generation of coal-fired power. It was an interesting read, and learning how coal and power executives squirmed under Sierra Club pressure.

And, how did the “Beyond Coal” campaign end up? Of the 150 coal plants that had been queued up, only 30 were built. And of those 30 plants that were built, almost all of them turned into economic white elephants, driving up utility rates, bankrupting companies and communities, and in some cases sitting idle because no one could afford to operate them. Coal power was an idea whose time had come and gone. That’s good news.

By the way I wondered whether Climate Change should be capitalized, so I Googled and discovered that that’s also a great controversy. But I liked the argument made in Frank Regan’s article, “Why this Climate Change should be capitalized”. He said, “In order to prevent confusion between past climate changes and this Climate Change, I humbly suggest that we capitalize this one. There’s something special about today’s Climate Change. It’s not like the other major climate changes, which have occurred throughout our planet’s history.”

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

Alan Lawrence, 920-730-9515 or alan\_lawrence99@yahoo.com



References for my column:

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans.html>

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans-annotated.html>

(The cartoon above came from here)

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/why-climate-change-should-capitalized-frank-regan>

<https://medium.com/@ClimateMayors/climate-mayors-commit-to-adopt-honor-and-uphold-paris-climate-agreement-goals-ba566e260097>

## Special showing of the film “The Messenger”

**THE MESSENGER is an artful investigation into the causes of songbird mass depletion and the compassionate people who are working to turn the tide. The film takes viewers on a visually stunning journey revealing how the problems facing birds also pose daunting implications for our planet and ourselves.**

For more information: <http://songbirdsos.com/>

**Co-hosted by the Fox Valley Sierra Group and the Appleton Public Library**

**6:30 PM • Wednesday • Oct 18, 2017**

**Appleton Public Library**

**Free and Open to the Public**



SONGBIRDSOS PRODUCTIONS + FILMS À CINQ PRESENT

# THE MESSENGER

Imagine a world without birdsong

Sierra Club membership has been growing this year. The Club now has 3 million members and supporters.

	Our Group	Wisconsin	Organization
January	1,531	15,454	695,289
Feb	1,586	16,212	731,431
March	1,621	16,571	744,345
April	1,689	17,316	774,250
May	1,702	17,396	777,102
June	1,790	18,303	814,097
July	1,801	18,492	819,346

## Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

### August 26-27, Saturday-Sunday

#### Canoe Camp Flambeau River, Class II

Refresh your soul on the Flambeau R. 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

### September 23, Saturday

#### Hike Plover River Segment of IAT, Aniwa

Follow the Ice Age Trail through hilly forests and along a Class I trout stream in the Plover River State Fishery Area. Pack a lunch to eat on the trail. We will hike approx. 6 miles. Optional stop at nearby Dells of the Eau Claire after our hike to view the waterfalls. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139.

### September 30, Saturday

#### Enjoy The Fall Colors On A Bike

We will be riding on the rural roads on the southern side of Lake Poygan in Winnebago County. The terrain is very flat and the distance of the ride will be approximately 20 miles. Sue and I have enjoyed fall riding quite a few times in this area. On Saturday Sep. 30 we will meet on the West side of Winneconne to start the ride. The cars will be left in a gravel parking lot on the North West corner of West Main St. and North 7th St while we enjoy the ride.

For additional details contact: John Engel (902)475-1472 johnwengel@earthlink.net



### October 7, Saturday

#### Ice Age Trail Hike-a-thon

This year it will be held at the Iola Winter Sport Club. More details to come. If you would like to hike together as a group contact Monny Hjerstedt: phone or text (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt@twc.com.

### October 14, Saturday

#### Hike Point Beach State Forest Segment of IAT

Hike about 6.5 miles through Point Beach State Forest and Rahr Memorial School Forest. We will travel over ancient beach ridges and swales, creeks and wetlands, mixed forests and a possible side trip to Rawley Point Lighthouse. Hopefully the colors will be good. Contact Monny Hjerstedt: phone or text (920) 558-0013 or mhjerstedt@twc.com.

### November 4, Saturday

#### Wausau Hike and Highlights Day

Hike in Rib Mountain State Park for about 2 hours. State Park sticker or fee required. Steep trail. Walking stick recommended. Lunch at local restaurant - bowling alley has really good food! Followed by a visit to the Birds in Art exhibit (donation.) Since 1976, the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum has organized Birds in Art annually, seeking to present the very best contemporary artistic interpretations of birds and related subject matter. Approximately 100 painters' and sculptors' artworks are selected by a jury for the Museum's flagship exhibition. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller: 715 853-6258, nbkappleton@gmail.com

**Check out our webpage or facebook frequently for updates or additional outings.**

**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.*

Vol. 17 Issue 3: August 2017 - December 2017  
*It's Our Nature* is published three times a year  
by the Fox Valley Sierra Group,  
P.O. Box 264, Appleton, WI 54912-0264.

Subscription included with  
Sierra Club membership dues.

**Next Newsletter Deadline  
for submitting materials  
November 4th  
for December thru March Issue.**



# We have been Busy! Exploring, Enjoying and Protecting



Snacking and hiking on the Ice Age Trail Mekan River Segment.

Enjoying a perfect day for the Third Annual Fox River Earth Day Hike in Appleton sponsored by the Fox Valley Sierra Group.



Eighteen people took part in a Summer Solstice hike at High Cliff.



We rallied for Science at the Science March in Appleton



Building a new section of the North Country Trail between Stricker Road and Hwy 169 near Mellen, WI.



The Fox Valley Sierra Group celebrated our 35th year at the Pullmans Restaurant in Appleton.



"OMG, on a club bike ride no pictures were taken except for this one of Alan picking black raspberries near the Wiouwash Trail parking lot at Medina."

14 people, 5 from the Fox Valley Sierra Group endured some pretty miserable heat and storms to make some nice progress on the trail.

# Welcome New Members

Appleton	Fond du Lac	Hilbert	Robert Wons
Greg Anderson	Mr Ross Bannasch	Hailey and Kathy Gatza	Ogdensburg
Jon Awe	Corrin & Steve Cornelius	Elaine Kramarczyk	Christina Bonczek
Patrick Casey	Lisa And Michael Drees	John Stauffacher	Omro
Lisa Bell	Jim Fox	Hortonville	Jim Harron
Betsy Benoit	Doug & Stacy Hammack	Robert Boughton	Brian Hayes
Marsha Brewer	S Kolstad	Adam Gorski	Karen Kuhr
Claire Brezonick	Laurel M Nett	Susan Perpich	Nancie Potratz
Karen Clarke	Robert Neuman	Iola	Onieda
Tom and Kim Cody	Claire Olig	Gayle Trzebiatowski	Roger Radley
Norman Colson	Fran Raymer	Kaukauna	Oshkosh
Linda Crowley	Jason Roberts	Mr Eric Andersen	Nancy Benkoske
Loris Damerow	Nancy Schmitz	Chris Brittnacher	Jean Collier
Robert Dreier	Elizabeth Schneider	Lin Collins	Susan Reimer Cox
B Beach and C Driessen	Helen Stenz	Tim Heinzen	Holly D Eckroth
Tami and Peter Elliker	Dr Donald C Steward	Jean Spietz	Rita Faust
Kate Ewing	Barbara J Surwillo	Bradley Sprangers	Abby Frucht
Susan Farrar	Joan Weller	Kimberly	William Geary
Kris Petersen-Gauthier	Betty Wellnitz	Gary Lesperance	Kim Green
Mr Dan G Gauslin	John D Whelan	Larsen	Katherine Holliday
Michael Gerwe	Christine Wolff	James Mcleod	Sharon Janty
Nadine Groff	Freedom	Manawa	Gerald Johnson
Jon Hudson	Gerald Hedtke	Carol Trantow	Ms Linda Kope
Carol And Ken Jacobs	Josh Mischler	Tania Wadzinski	Brittany Lutz
Elizabeth Kimbrough	Fremont	Marion	Drew Mueske
Sue Melcher	Ms Carol Grambsch	Michael Meyer	Adele Ohlin
Robert Mosher	Green Bay	Menasha	Mary Reynolds
Rebecca Perry	Carrie Arnold	Elena Aidun	John Sandberg
Mark Nelsen	David Baranczyk	Jeanne Allen	Lisa Schwochert
Dave Nelton	Amparo Baudhuin	Roy Buss	Carol Seibold
Sheila Rose	G Clark	Sharon and Gary Geurts	Jamison Shriver
Florence Parker	Evelyn Cuene	Carrie Johnson	James Simmons
John Paul	Mary Fairbanks	Kathy Murphy	Lois Steinhilber
Carol Patton	Mike Filipenko	T Rohde	Robert Steinke
Mr Thomas H Rick	M Fleming	Mount Calvary	John Talin
Amy Ryerson	T M Geronimi & E M Geronimi	Jane Gamble	Jeri Zelke
Paula Skitch	Erin Hahl	Neenah	Pickett
Rob R Sunstrom	Mr Richard Haywood	Kathryn Babbitz	Tanya Hielke
Susan Townsend	Melissa Hidde	Raye Chandler	Princeton
Tammy Treichel	Karen Janke	Nancy & Michael Charlesworth	Mary Belfeuil
Lynn Van Vreede	Sara Karcz	Ms Susan Demler	Ripon
Brandon	Ms Susan Jackson	Laurie Erickson	Diane Beres
Sue Koch	Evelyn M Jefferson	Maureen Gebhard	Jonathan Swanson
David Olstad	Steven Johnson	Orphie Hamilton	Scandinavia
Brillion	Victor Kapinos	Eugene Harrand	Linda Alfuth
Donna Meulemans	Barbara Kelly	Brian Holinbeck	Kevin Hamm
Marie Snider	Zak LaCrosse	Shannon Hurlbut	Megan Wolberg
Campbellsport	Ross R LaHaye	Kim Kneepkens	Seymour
Patty Hausner	Elaine McMahon	Sue Kneepkens	Lori Schumacher
Mr Daniel Weidert	Jason Mencheski	Betty Kuen	Suamico
Clintonville	Kelli Mincheski	James Lantz	Carol Dill
Deanna Hannigen	Ms Jane Morse	Karen Lesch	Cathy Donlevy
Ms Vicki R Nicholson	Tim O'Brien	Tom Mchugh	Darren Van Drael
Terry Zierys	Richard Oliver	Dean Michels	Two Rivers
Combined Locks	Nancy Paul	Ms Sally Podoski	Ms Mary Ann Parie
Jeanne Dixon	Ms Caryl Peters	Irene Schaper	Waupaca
Dalton	Janice Peterson	Melody Schmidt	Brad Bailie
Lita Reif	Linda Plog	Jeri Schmitz	Wayne Becker
De Pere	Dale Plzak	Wayne Schmude	Bruce Bushweiler
Sarah Gottfredsen	Walter Rickert	Cleo Smoot	Christine Jacoby
Larry Heath	N E Vojtech and R Reuter	Kathleen M Sylvester	Bonni Miller
Dale Hutjens	Nancy Schmeling	Brian Walter	T Minehart and R Welch
Ms Jo Leet	Chris Seidl	Luann Westenberger	Donald Planz Sr
Kathleen Masse	Kenneth L & Pearl C Schlies	Lynn White	C Sensenbrenner & K Larson
Bernard Peterson	Kathleen Schuette	New Franklin	Waupun
James Reinkober	Marilyn Schmidt	Jeanne And Curtis P Heuer	Florence Ebert
Ms Dawn Tennant	David and Shirley A Servais	New Holstein	Richard A Kooi
Tina Timmerman	Angela and Maia Smet	Jan Mentink	Ms Julianne Umentum
Cheryl Van Den Berg	Scott Wochos	New London	Waupun
Catherine Van Domelen	Green Lake	Lynne Coenen	Carole Cronin
Mr Michael Weisnicht	Nancy Finn	Nancy Collins	Ann Henderson
Denmark	Marion Sobieski	Ms Margaret Hutchison	Weyauwega
Brian Christman	Greenleaf	Michael Jackson	Sheri Reindl
Eldorado	Jerry Merx	Mr John Lutter	Winneconne
Diane Schroeder	Mike Olejniczak	Charles Peetz	Caley Powell

# CAFO's - A Local Concern to our Water Supply

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) have grown recently in Wisconsin since 2004. According to the EPA a CAFO is any animal feeding operation with more than 1000 animal units. A typical dairy farm with 2,500 cows generates as much waste as a city of 410,000 residents but they do not have to treat the sewage they produce as cities do. Typically manure is liquefied with water and used as fertilizer. This can be done safely if done properly with the right conditions.

Timing, quantity and land conditions are a concern to be effective. Problems of bacteria, excessive nutrients, water quality, air quality, and traffic and community effects are big concerns, especially in our area. Kewaunee County's terrain is a problem because the soil is not very deep and manure is seeping into the groundwater. There have been many reports of manure contaminated wells recently. Kewaunee County has 20,000 residents and 100,000 cattle.

Many would rather have small family owned farms but that may not be happening. More regulations, rules and better practices need to be in place. 2004 regulations made it easier for CAFO's to start up, now we must manage them better. There is talk of legislation to take care of these concerns. We need to persuade our legislators to follow up on this and keep the standards strong.

For more information check out - <http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/protecting-water-resources>

**Come to Our September 14th meeting with Kewaunee CARES speakers**

## Back 40 Proposed Mine

Our June meeting was about the Back 40 Proposed Mine Project. This is an issue we will continue to work on. The huge sulfide mine would be only 150 feet from the Menominee River which forms the boundary between Wisconsin and Michigan. It is almost guaranteed to be a disaster.



Learn more on our website. <https://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley> or <https://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley/back-40-proposed-mine-project>

## September 30, Saturday - Bike the Barn Quilts

(Not a Sierra Trip - but an event for a good cause)

Bike through the rolling countryside of the "barn quilt capitol of Wisconsin" that is Shawano County. Five mapped ride options, 5 - 70 miles starting from Memorial Athletic Park in Shawano. Guided tour available also for more explanation of barn quilts and farms. See beautiful fall colors and the folk-art barn quilts. SAG wagon, refreshment stands, continental breakfast and lunch provided. Fundraiser for Shawano Pathways, an organization dedicated to improving trail connections and pedestrian and bicyclists' safety. Fee \$25 if registered by 9/15. Free bike socks for the 5th anniversary! More info online at [ShawanoPathways.com](http://ShawanoPathways.com). Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller: 715 853-6258, [nbkappleton@gmail.com](mailto:nbkappleton@gmail.com)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



# Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

**Giving's a Breeze. JOIN Sierra Club.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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<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

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

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)

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### **Membership & Hospitality**

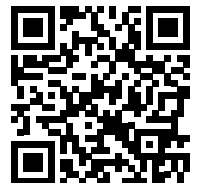
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Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at

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



FVSG web site