***Northwest Iowa Group of Sierra Club events and announcements 2016***

**January 2016**

January 27: at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center: Landowner and  Fire Ecology workshop hosted by Scott Moats and Nature Conservancy. Contact : smoats@tnc.org

January 27: Attended an online webinar: Urban Environments: Conservation Practices in Developed Area hosted by USDA. Thank you, Kristin Shaw, for the heads up!

January 25 & 26: Briar Cliff University, Sustainability: Alternative Sources of Energy Seminar and Exposition.  All are welcome.

January 23: Legislative forum hosted by the League of Women Voters and SIMPCO at the Sioux City Public Museum.

January 21: Bakken Oil Pipeline rally at the Des Moines Capital (see "get involved tab")

January 19: Friends of Stone Park meeting at Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center

January 7: Executive Committee planning meeting held.

January 7: Water Team meeting held

January 2: A meal prepared and shared in the spirit of friendship is something which can result in a long term bond. That bond was realized today when participants of many walks of life came together at the Four Directions center in Sioux City. Strong Women of the Four Directions and Northwest Iowa Group Sierra Club cooked and served some pretty tasty food. Mike O'Connor- Htanipi Owas (Working Together) prayed our pre-meal blessing.

January 1: The Friends of Stone Park hosted a "1st Day Hike" this morning. This is an event that is held in state parks throughout the country every January 1st. It was a balmy 28 degrees when we started, with no wind and lots of sun! This set the stage for a leisurely and very satisfying 2.5 mile walk. The park seemed abandoned at first sight, but we spotted a few deer and tracks of various critters. The mice are a bit cagey in tunneling under the snow.

***March 2016***

March 10 - Carolyn Carlson, Eileen Kenyon, and Jim Redmond drove to Rock Rapids to join a planning process for the Blood Run/Good Earth bi-state park. Blood Run National Historic Landmark is located in Lyon County and encompasses a culturally significant landscape, providing links to the people and traditions associated with the past use of the site. This area between the Big Sioux River and Blood Run Creek was home to people practicing the Oneota tradition between 1300 and 1720 A.D. The area will eventually be a first-of-its-kind state park shared between South Dakota and Iowa. Some familiar faces greeted us.  Jim Henning, formerly with the Woodbury County Conservation, is now a ranger at the South Dakota side of the park.  Iowa will eventually share management of this park with our neighbors in South Dakota.  For more than a decade, the two states have been trying to find the resources to expand on the National Historical Monument that has been up at Gitchie Manitou (the very northwest tip of our state). The Master Plan should be available in electronic form in the coming week.  If you would like a copy, email jim.redmond@briarcliff.edu . Twenty five staff and members of the public attended the all-day session.  Staff included Kevin Pape, our veteran Park Ranger at Stone State Park.  Our Sierra Club contingent added their two cents, focusing on respect for sacred sites, water quality, and prairie restoration.   Several versions of the plan can be found at [http://goodearthbloodrun.com/](http://goodearthbloodrun.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) .

***April 2016***

April 17 - League of Women Voters hosts: ”Incredible Wetlands” movie and discussion led by Jacqueline Comito, writer and director and Matt Helmers. Sioux City Public Museum

April 23 - Sioux City Environmental Advisory Board: electronics recycling Re-Event. Details: <http://siouxcityrecycles.org/>

April 23 - Htanipi Owas volunteer group hosts: Earth Day Spring Clean-up at War Eagle Park. Details: Htanipi Owas on Facebook

April 23 - Sioux City Art Center hosts: Artist reception “River Wings and Sky” mosaic and companion poetry.

April 29-30 - Schleswig, IA. Visit our table during the Izaak Walton League Convention featuring the Loess Hills. (Call Eileen for details: 712-253-3887)

***August 2016***

August 15: The South Dakota Clay County Commission held a Public Hearing in the courthouse basement, Vermilion, South Dakota regarding the county’s Ordinance regulating concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). See the ordinance with proposed changes on the Clay County Commissioners website:

[http://www.claycountysd.org/userfiles/files/Commissioner%20Minutes/Proposed%20Clay%20County%20CAFO%20Ord\_%205\_23\_16.pdf](http://www.claycountysd.org/userfiles/files/Commissioner%20Minutes/Proposed%20Clay%20County%20CAFO%20Ord_%205_23_16.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

August 11-12: Iowa Organic Association: NEW PRAIRIE LAKES CONFERENCE: OKOBOJI - Conservation professionals, farmers, and the general public were invited to attend this premier conference that focused on a variety of topics surrounding water quality, from the science of lakes and watersheds to the connection between soil and water health.  Conference keynote was David Thoreson, who shared about the inter-connectivity amongst people, land and water, both at the local and global levels. The $100 registration cost for the conference included the two-day conference, meals, and an evening social. [www.plciowa.com](http://www.iowaorganic.org/r?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.plciowa.com&e=b949f8848a6da432a6de26b621218645&utm_source=iowaorganic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=july16enews&n=22" \t "_blank).

Mary Skopec and Lynette Seigley expertly led 37 participants through the process of responsible water monitoring at an all-day class held at the [Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center](https://www.facebook.com/DorothyPecautNatureCenter/). The morning class was held indoors. The afternoon class was held on the east bank of the nearby Big Sioux River. More information: [iowadnr.gov/iowater](http://iowadnr.gov/iowater%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

***September 2016***

September 1: Loess Hills Audubon Society program: Heather Sanders talked about “Following Flammulated Owls of the Western United States.”  Heather participated in an Earthwatch Expedition in Utah this summer.September 3, 10 AM - 4:30 PM: No Dakota Access Pipeline peaceful gathering: Sergeant Floyd River Museum, 1000 Larsen Park Rd, Sioux City.

September 5: The Sierra Club National Outings group paddled from Fort Randall on the Missouri River. Barbara and Dr. Charles Yelverton hosted the group overnight at the Yelverton/Reinschmit ranch south of Wagner at 31042 County Road #2, Wagner, SD.  Call or Text Barbara at 605-670-0655

September 6, 7 PM: The Morningside Committee for Environmental Sustainability invited [Sandra Steingraber](http://steingraber.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) to campus for this year’s Sustainability Lecture in the Weikert Auditorium (park near Grace UMC and enter through Buhler-Rolfs Hall) to discuss The Hazards of Environmental Runoff from Chemicals Used in Agriculture, Home Lawn Care and Industry. The event was followed by a book signing and opportunity to meet Dr. Steingraber.

September 8, 4 PM: Sioux City Environmental Advisory Board meeting. 4th Floor Clocktower Conference Room, City Hall, Sioux City.

September 8, 3 PM: Turtle harvest meeting, Des Moines capitol.

September 10, 6-10 PM, Nature Calls: Sioux City Convention Center 712-258-0838September 10: Interpretive paddle on Missouri River traveling from Clay County Park to Mulberry Bend. Free, but you must supply your own kayak or canoe. Contact  james.robertson@usd.edu to register. Hosted by Missouri National Recreational River Trail.

September 11: Grand Meadows Heritage Center 40th Anniversary Celebration - 10:30 AM Non-denominational church service, events start at 11:30 AM. Celebrate until the cows come home! 6306 D Ave 51061, near Washta, IA.

September 11, 1-4 PM: Elk Talks and Monarch Tagging during Hillview Recreational Area 50th Anniversary Open House. Sponsored by Plymouth County Conservation Board. 712-947-4270

September 13, 6-7 PM: Monarch Tagging at Sioux City Prairie (Talbot Road entrance) - learn about the importance of prairie to these butterflies - sponsored by the Woodbury County Conservation Board - 712-258-0838

September 15, 6:45 - 8 PM: Fifth Annual “A Little Reading on the Prairie” at Sioux City Prairie (Briar Cliff entrance) - a shared readings event - sponsored by the Center for Prairie Studies at Briar Cliff University - 712-279-5495

September 16, 10 AM-2 PM: Park(ing) Day - Downtown Sioux City. Reclaiming vehicular space for social change, recreation, and artist expression, Parking Day is free of commercial interests and instead focuses on meaningful interaction with citizens. Stop by our park. We're at 7th and Water St next to the children's museum.

September 17, 1:30 PM: Htanipi Owas (working together) volunteer group will be meeting at Cook Park, Sioux City to pick up litter in the park. Please feel free to join in. They will provide garbage bags and promise that you will find this shared experience rewarding. We will meet on the southside of the swimming pool and hope to see you there.

September 20, 6-8 PM: Hitch Hike at Hitchcock Nature Center near Honey Creek - a vigorous hike to a scenic Missouri River Valley overlook sponsored by Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation - 712-242-1197

September 22, 1-7 PM: Seed ‘n Feed at Prairie Hills in Plymouth County - collect seed during the afternoon and then get treated to a light dinner - sponsored by IPN Region 1 - 712-540-0952

September 24, 9-noon: Turin Prairie Dedication - birding, hiking, seed collection - sponsored by INHF and Iowa DNR - RSVP 515-288-1846, ext. 11 For more details visit the calendar at <http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/> or call the numbers provided.

September 25, 1-5 PM: Herbs in the Hills Festival - Peters Park, Rodney Iowa. Contact Monona County Conservation Board at 712-423-2175.

September 27, 6:30-7:45 PM: Fourth Tuesdays - Celebrating Ugly Food! Gerald (Jerry) Iversen will describe a month-long project he coordinated recently which explored the intersection of faith, food, and water in a time of drought, and included speakers, film, music, worship and fun, culminating in an Ugly Food Banquet. Come as early as 5:30 PM for potluck and conversation.  2508 Jackson Street in Sioux City.

***October 2016***

October 25, 6:30 p.m. "4th Tuesdays" community program - “I am a Climate Voter!” This year the planet is on the ballot; an important consideration as you prepare to vote.
Discussion will follow the screening of “Do the Math”, by Kelly Nyks and Jared P Scott, which features Bill McKibben (350.org) and Michael Brune (Sierra Club). 2508 Jackson St, Sioux City, IA. Come as early as 5:30 for potluck and conversation.

On Wed., Oct. 12, we hosted a community conversation about climate change with [LowCarbon Crossings](https://www.facebook.com/lowcarboncrossings/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) riders Mindy Ahler and Ryan Hall along with Paul and Donna. They left Oregon on Aug. 27 and plan to arrive in Washington, DC, on Nov. 13 to deliver to our nation's leadership the concerns and solutions shared by individuals along the way. Visit [https://lowcarboncrossings.wordpress.com/](https://lowcarboncrossings.wordpress.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) for more information about their undertaking, goals, and experiences.

October 1, 11:30 AM-1 PM: Siouxland Standing with Standing Rock/No Dakota Access Pipeline! Wells Fargo Bank- 2220 Hamilton Blvd, Sioux City, IA. This event is to draw attention to Wells Fargo Bank's finance of almost 1/2 billion dollars for Dakota Access Pipeline.

October 3, 6PM: Northwest Iowa Group Executive Committee meeting- 2508 Jackson St. Sioux City, IA

October 4, evening: Friends of the Big Sioux River is having a social mixer at Monk's House of Ales (back meeting room), 420 East 8th St, Sioux Falls, SD. This event is a chance to celebrate some progress, share comments and is a good time to renew membership. FBSR will provide some food. Beer will be for sale. Find FBSR on Facebook.

October 6, 7:30 PM: Loess Hills Audubon Society presents Dianne Marten-Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, IA  http://lhas.tripod.com/index.html

October 8: Reese Cabin sleepover. Carpool from Sioux City-2 PM (ish), check out Andrea Porter's new digs in Onawa, then drive to Reese Cabin site for cookout and campfire. Andrea's treating us to a special campfire presentation... hint: Halloween is on its way!!!!! Limited space available.

October 9, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM: Alexander Farms tour and lunch. We need a head count, please. Suggested donation for a meal is $15 per person.

October 11, 5-7 PM: Stone State Park-5001 Talbot Rd, Sioux City, IA.  Help collect native wildflower see. Meet at the parking lot across from the park office. Call Kevin Pape for details: 712-255-4698

October 12, 7 PM: LowCarbon Riders- 2508 Jackson St, Sioux City, IA. Hosted by NW IA Group Sierra Club. nwiasierragroup@gmail.com

October 13, 4 PM: Sioux City Environmental Advisory Board meeting. City Hall, 4th floor Clocktower meeting room. 712-279-6222  http://siouxcityrecycles.org/

October 14, 6 PM: Perry Creek Path fall clean up. Meet at the Four Direction Center 612 Water St, Sioux City. This is a joint effort of the members and friends of Strong Women of the Four Directions, Htanipi Owas and Northwest Iowa Group Sierra Club.

October 15, 9 AM-2 PM: Semi-Annual Electronics "Re-Event". Long Lines parking lot. Sioux City, IA. 712-279-6222 http://siouxcityrecycles.org

October 18, 7 PM: "The Effect of Agriculture on Wetlands in the Prairie Pothole Region", Jillian Farkas. This is hosted by the Living River Group, Sierra Club. Event held at the Vermillion Public Library. Contact Clarence Pederson for more details: clarence.pederson@gmail.com

October 25, 6:30-7:45 PM: "4th Tuesdays" program/discussion hosted by Northwest Iowa Group, Sierra Club. 2508 Jackson St, Sioux City. Free and open to the public. Come as early as 5:30 PM for potluck and conversation.

***November 2016***

November 3, 7:30 PM: Birds of Summer, 2016: Good Habitat is Key-Presented by Joe Jungers and Lee Schoenewe. “Summer is often considered the slow season for bird watching but given the right habitat, the birds will be there.”  Hosted by Loess Hills Audubon Society Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, IA.

***"4th Tuesdays" 2016***

***Every Fourth Tuesday of the month, we host a presentation and discussion from 6:30 to 7:45 at 2508 Jackson St, Sioux City. It is always free and we encourage all members of the community to participate!***

December 27-"Stone-the Park in Our Backyard". People often travel the country to see new sites, but may overlook what is in their own backyard. Park Ranger, Kevin Pape, has worked at the park for 25 years. In his presentation, he featured the natural resources, cultural resources and recreational opportunities that many may not know.November 22, families shared in a special “4thTuesdays” talking circle. “Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet”-What does this phrase mean for you? As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let's share our thoughts and stories of nature. October 25, 2016- “I am a Climate Voter!”-This year the planet is on the ballot. Discussion followed the screening of “Do the + Math”, by Kelly Nyks and Jared P Scott, which featured Bill McKibbons, [350.org.](http://350.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) Michael Brune, Sierra Club, and other activists.

September 27, 2016-"Celebrating Ugly Food!" Gerald (Jerry) Iversen described a month-long project he recently coordinated which explored the intersection of faith, food and water in a time of drought in which he included speakers, film, music, worship and fun, culminating in an "ugly food" banquet.

August 23, 2016 - David Zahrt - "Ruminations on The Great March for Climate Action." The Great March for climate action took place in 2014 and was the longest march in US history, beginning in Los Angeles and ending in Washington DC.

July 26, 2016:  Back to the Future – A farm celebrating the Loess Hills – Kim Alexander

Clean, healthy, local food farms are making a comeback across the fruited plains! Alexander Farm orchestrates cattle with rotational grazing, sheep, broilers, on–farm poultry processing, composting, aquaculture, field crops, vegetables, orchard, native prairies, cool-season pastures, and woodlots on 160 acres. Food from the farm was featured on our potluck table!

June 28, 2016: Healthy Minds, Healthy Planet: Exploring Eco and Other Resources @ Your Library - "On loan" from the [Sioux City Public Library](https://www.facebook.com/SiouxCityPublicLibrary/), Adrienne Jansen led us on a virtual tour of library resources during the recent "4th Tuesdays" program. She featured eco-focused children's books for the kids in the audience.

May 24, 2016: Speaking of Mother Earth and Sacred Water - Elrae Mazakahomni

April 26, 2016: EARTH MONTH CELEBRATION TREKKING THE WILDERNESS: Hiking the John Muir Trail - Leslie Goss Erickson - WITCC English instructor and avid hiker, Leslie Erickson, spent a month of her summer backpacking and hiking the John Muir Trail. This well-known trail, named for one of the most instrumental individuals in preserving our western wilderness, is 220 miles long and runs through the Sierra Nevada from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney, the highest point in the contiguous United States. Leslie discussed the trail and its namesake in general, and her experience hiking it specifically.

March 22, 2016: What Can We Say About Rachael Carson? How About "Luminary", for One? One definition of the word "luminary": "One who enlightens men or makes clear any subject."  Inspired by a visit to Rachael Carson's stomping grounds, Jane Hey shared her experience and remind us of this luminary's contribution to the environmental movement.

February 23, 2016: I Heart Water - Iowa's Clean Water Activism and You! - Iowa consisted of approximately 99% more native prairie and vastly cleaner waterways than exist today. What happened and how can we fix it?  Weigh in on the discussion following a presentation by Jess Mazour, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement.

January 26, 2016: Highlights from 2015 and Plans for 2016 - Jim Redmond