

It's Our Nature

Newsletter of the Fox Valley Sierra Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Vol. 16 Issue 4

Fox Valley Sierra Group - Programs

December 8, 2016 - 6:00

Girl Scout Building
Annual Holiday party

Please bring a dish to pass for a pot-luck, your place setting, drinks, any alcohol beverage, and a white elephant gift for the exchange. The party starts at 6PM!! We will also "pass the hat" to collect money to donate to Bubloz for the furthering of their environmental educating. Please join us for good food, good conversation and a "mean" game of exchange. (All in good fun.)

January 12, 2017 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Protecting the Health and Wealth of our Water Resources

Kimberly Wright, Executive Director of the Midwest Environmental Advocates specializes in the Clean Water Act enforcement, collaborates with citizens, environmental and faith based groups to work together as stewards of healthy water.

February 9, 2017 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

How to Care for Plants and Trees

A Master Arborist from Selner Tree and Shrub Care Services will talk to us about trees in Wisconsin. Get you questions answered and prepare for spring. Selner is family owned and operating for 27 years.

March 9, 2017 - 7:00

Girl Scout Building

Everything you wanted to know about Warblers

Mark Benson, US Dept. of Agriculture, in Madison. If you love birds you will enjoy this presentation. You will see a lot of warblers, and you don't even need binoculars.

April 13, 2017 - 7:00

Sugar Shack - Bubolz Nature Center Yardening - Reusing & Recycling

Margaret Gerhard from Fence, WI turns items you may throw away into art for your yard. Learn how to make your own yard art, save the earth and some money too.

Meetings are normally at Bubolz Nature Preserve. 4815 N. Lynndale Dr., Appleton 54915 www.bubolzpreserve.org

Because of construction at Bubolz, some meetings have been moved right next door to the Girl Scout building,
4693 North Lynndale Dr., Appleton, WI.
It is the same driveway as Bubolz. Follow the signs.

From the Chair

November 2016, By Alan Lawrence

Easily the thing most on my mind today, just days after the elections, is my concern for the future. I believe that most Sierra Club members wanted a different outcome, at all levels of the election. Somehow, in recent years, environmental protection and climate change and renewable energy have become political. And these issues get wrapped up with other "single issue" political issues, like abortion rights or gun control, even though those really aren't left or right, either. I dislike dishonest influences that allow just one party to claim "family values" when clearly everyone has family values. The same nonsense allows just one party to claim "pro-life" values, even though protecting the environment is the most pro-life issue we have.

It is too early to see what the election landslide will really mean for the environmental issues that matter to us. There is evidence that cheap natural gas prices will continue to erode the coal industry, regardless of political support. There is evidence that solar energy is as popular with conservatives for the independence it gives them as it is with "greenies". There is evidence that renewable energy will continue to gain traction because it really is cheaper and because other countries will continue growing their independence from fossil fuels.

What I do believe is that my work as an environment protector will be more difficult with our new political environment. Sierra Club's motto and mission to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet" continue to be important, perhaps more-so now with the protection part.

A few years ago my wife told me that "government respects its people by respecting their natural resources." I believe that simple statement will be helpful to us as we communicate to our leaders. And I believe that statement helps to guide our efforts.

... from the chair

Most of you have probably followed the story of the Standing Rock Sioux trying to block a section of the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline. The pipeline was originally planned upstream from the city of Bismarck, but those mostly-white citizens objected that a spill would threaten their water supply. So the route was moved downstream, but still upstream from the Standing Rock Sioux. The U.S. Government has, so far, indicated that protecting their water supply was not a priority. Instead, protecting the profits of the frack oil industry seems to be more important.

This has turned into a "line in the sand" issue for indigenous people across our country and around the world; there needs to be respect for the natural resources of the people. Indeed, as water protectors and as fighters against the frack oil industry, environmentalists are on the side of the Standing Rock Sioux and their supporters.

With the encouragement of the national Sierra Club, our group sponsored a solidarity rally on September 13. This was a nationally orchestrated event, and was supported by events across the country and several international locations. Our event in downtown Appleton was very well reported by our local media. These events helped to raise awareness of the story to our communities. I encourage you to Google for "#NoDAPL" and learn more about what is happening.



I believe Sierra Club joined in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux because government respects its people by respecting their natural resources, and in this case neither the people nor the natural resources are being respected.

Climate change is not getting the respect it demands. I'm afraid I haven't finished the book, but I have started reading Bill McKibben's "Eaarth". It is clear that climate change has not improved since the book was published in 2010. The spelling error for our planet's name is intentional, emphasizing that our planet has changed. Earth, with one "a" no longer exists, according to McKibben.

McKibben takes us back to December 1968 when the astronauts of Apollo 8 took the famous "Earthrise" picture of the earth rising from the horizon of the moon. It was

a blue-and-white marble floating amid the vast and barren backdrop of space; the only thing that had any color to it and the only thing that supported life. McKibben says we no longer live on that planet. In the four decades since, the earth has changed in profound ways that have already taken us out of the sweet spot where humans have thrived. The planet is still recognizable but fundamentally different. We may as well call it Eaarth. Here are a couple of disturbing notes.



Humans may do themselves in, but the "planet" will survive. That's true in some sense, but it won't be anything like the planet we've known. We're hard at work transforming it and sabotaging its biology and draining its diversity. We are running Genesis backward, de-creating.

The planet on which our civilization evolved no longer exists. We may be able to maintain a planet that will sustain some kind of civilization. But it won't be the same planet and hence it cannot be the same civilization.

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

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

Mark your calendars for May 11th. It is going to be our 35th Anniversary and Fundraising Event.

Catered dinner and presentation by Reggie McColud from "Big River Magazine". Stay tuned for more details.

It doesn't get any better than this...

Thurs., Oct 13 was our fire-pit meeting. It was a beautiful night; cool, crisp and filled with the smell of autumn. It took some extra effort to get the fire started as the pit was very wet from all the rain, but once it got going, it was a splendid campfire, if I say so myself. Wine and cider were flowing, popcorn was popped, there were smores and the smell of burnt marshmallows.



The distant hoot of an owl, the clear night sky with stars twinkling and the moon as bright as a thousand candles all added to the ambiance of the night. Our guest Barbara Hoffman from the Green Apple Society played her guitar and sang some great old songs. Those of us who were "brave" joined in. For those of you who joined us, I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did. I find a glass of wine by a roaring fire to be one of the most relaxing things I can do to unwind. A few of us stayed till after 10 pm lost in conversation and the dying embers of the fire. I didn't want to go home, but reality set in. I look forward to another campfire next year.

Cindy Carter

Want to spread holiday cheer while sharing Sierra Club news with shoppers?

Come join us for gift wrapping on December 21st at Appleton's Barnes and Noble store. We'll be gift wrapping customers' presents as well as sharing a little bit about the Club. This is a lot of fun and stirs up the Holiday Spirit!

No experience or expertise needed. If you can hold a ribbon with your finger for someone to tie, we can use your help! Sign up for a three hour shift in the morning, afternoon or evening. Wrapping paper, scissors, tape, bows and ribbon will be provided. We just need YOU to help! If interested, please contact Diane at dperschbacher1@new.rr.com or 920-216-2159.

The 3rd Annual Fox River Earth Day Hike is going to take place this April. Volunteers will be needed to keep this a successful community hike. Help will be needed on the day of the hike and if anyone has ideas or wants to help out in the planning, let us know. Contact either John Engel, Alan Lawrence or Monny Hjerstedt. Let's make this the best Earth Day Hike ever!

Mount Rainier

By Diana Lawrence

At 14,409 feet, Mt Rainier is the highest mountain in the Cascade Range. It is estimated to be about 500,000 years old. Considered to be an active volcano, the largest eruption was about 2,200 years ago. This event was certainly witnessed by indigenous peoples in the area at the time. It still has potential, the last earthquake registered as of my writing was November 10, 2016, a 1.07 magnitude.

Alan and I made a trek to the mountain in August of this year. It was truly a highlight of my life with its majesty and numerous trails. It is naturally very heavily used. Of the 236,381 acres, 97% is wilderness designated. It felt like that on the trails we were on even though we were certainly not alone. The vistas of non-development are striking. Driving through the park area was another matter and a huge amount of vehicle traffic on the winding mountain roads proves the park's popularity. It is a small enough park to get around the entire mountain, do some day hikes and enjoy some beautiful scenery along the way that I think fuels its popularity with travelers. Alan and I discovered that one must get up early and get an early start. In the height of the summer, there are lines to get in the park by 11:00 AM and cars parked in holding areas waiting for other vehicles to come down off the mountain.

The biggest pressures on the park then are the sheer number of visitors and the heavy use of wilderness areas for day hikes and short backpacking trips as a lot of campsites are readily available. According to The Olympian Newspaper in an article from November of 2015, there had not been a wilderness management plan since 1992. To magnify what that means to the park here is an example. In 2013 the number of permits sought for camping along the Wonderland Trail, which goes entirely around the park, was around 800; by late March of 2015 there were around 2,600 requests and the permitting process was closed for the year. A new wilderness management plan is being implemented and contains options to reduce the pressures on existing trails and park. Measures include opening more of the park for new trail and picnic areas and adding a shuttle service, like the one in the Grand Canyon south rim, for the west side of the mountain.

I believe the heavy use can be a leveraging tool when it comes to protecting the park but must be balanced with managing the use. Fees have gone up in recent years in response to federal government funding issues. I would not like to see the fees become unmanageable so that those with less economic means are shut out of the park. Some with low economic means may be more vulnerable to grand promises made by political candidates and if they cannot enjoy our national parks as easily, it will be more difficult to protect those parks. The best way to protect is to enjoy. One does not need to have been to a place to protect it, but it sure does help.

Fox Valley Sierra Group OUTINGS

January 7, SaturdaySnowshoe at Skunk & Foster Lakes State Natural Area, Amherst

Burn off those extra holiday calories by joining us on a snowshoe hike! We'll combine a section of the Ice Age Trail with the trails at Skunk Lake to make two nice loops

through the woods. Learn how this hilly area was shaped by glaciers. If there's not enough snow, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. Optional: Head into nearby Amherst for lunch. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

January 21, Saturday Cross-country ski at Reforestation Camp

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

February 4, Saturday Snowshoeing at Mosquito Hill Nature Center.

10:30 am. Venture outside and explore the trails adjacent the Wolf River, near New London. Snowshoe rentals available. If you bring a lunch, we can eat it afterwards in the warm Nature Center. Contact: Monny Hjerstedt, 920-558-0013, mhjerstedt@twc.com.

February 11, Saturday Kelly and Christian's Excellent Adventures and Snowshoeing.

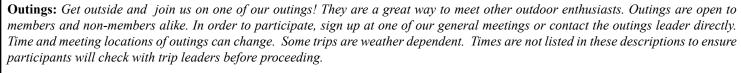
In case you did not see Kelly's beautiful photographs and hear her tales of adventure in the National Parks at a FVSG meeting, you will have another chance on Saturday,

Feb. 11 at Navarino Nature Center. Presentation from 1-2:00, with cookies and hot chocolate. Guided snowshoe hike on the Navarino trails from 2:00 - 4:00. Snowshoe rental available. This is a good time to try snowshoeing if you haven't been out before. This event is a jointly sponsored by Navarino Nature Center and Shawano Pathways. Contact: Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715 853-6258, nbkappleton@gmail.com



Follow the Ice Age Trail through hilly hardwood and cedar forests and along

a Class I trout stream. Learn how to spot porcupine dens in the wintertime. If there's not enough snow, we'll just hike instead. BYO snowshoes. Optional: Stop at Nueske's in Birnamwood to refuel after our hike. Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139



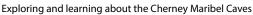
Our Own Alan Lawrence Received the John Muir Chapter JJ & Pat Warner Award.

This award is given to a Sierra Club leader in the John Muir Chapter who has shown an undying commitment to the goals and missions of the chapter. A spiritual leader and facilitator promoting the health of the groups and chapters.

Much deserved award was given to Alan (right) by Monny Hjerstedt (left) on November 19, 2016 in Madison, WI.









Hiking the trails at Dells of Eau Claire







Hiking the New Hope Segment of the Ice Age Trail near Iola



Handing out treats and hot chocolate at the Bubolz Romp in the Swamp event

Welcome New Members

Appleton Steven & Suzanne Anderson John & Marlessa Benson Gwendolyn R Bruchsaler

Chuck Demler

Sheryl Stidham-Gebert

David Haas Lois Hilger Barbara Hoffman Michael W Kile Cosette Lang Frank Lynch

Mardelle Mathewson Joanne Meier Betty Moore

Annette Raby Mr Fred W Reseburg

Jeanne Sahli Kevin Schwanke

Kevin Schwanke John Strebe Denise Suarez Mr Jack A Todaro Pat Tollefson Tom Umnus

Ruth Weber Ms Lynne Wilhelm

Ms Lynne Will Black Creek

D Rettler Chassel

Erik B Enters

Chilton

Jamie Buechel Clintonville Triena Letts

DePere Gloira Deaton

Mr Steven Kurth Cindy & Alan Finesilver

Mr Bob Lorig Christopher Matzke Sarah Peters Stu and Bev Smith

Denmark

Jane M Hertel Fond du Lac

Dorothy Anderson Diana Beck Dawn Brown

Patricia Daly Donna Draves

Eugene Hayes Jean Kedinger St Bellant Elaine Stogsdill Margaret Vinz

Margaret Vinz Ellen Zinniel

Fremont

Ronald Bauers Elizabeth Fox Green Bay

en Bay Chris Allen Susan J Andersen Mr Kevin Archiquette Marsha De Beukelar

Kenneth Roucher

Cheryl Cartier Wayne Chaney Arland Delvaux Linda Dittmann Matthias Fuchs Jessica Gilbert Patricia Hicks

Mr Larry Holtien Geraldine And Robert Johnson

Kathy Keeney Rosemary Kuntz Barbara Lahey Lawrence Larscheid Richard Larsen Richard Lavey Kay Lefevre Lesa Marquardt James Metzler William Molzahn

Kurt Pagel Qi Das Jeannette Raddatz

Hilarie J Rath Maureen O'Shea & Matt Rounio

Michael and Sharon Scanlan

Michael Simon Barbara Staudenmaier Eric Strebel Mr Joseph Sule Nancy Terry Janice Vanboxel Linda Vanlanen Donald Wikgren David Wittlinger

Hobart

Ruth Rynish Hortonville

Betty Leonhard

Iola

Jude Milano Kaukauna Beth Nytes Kaylin Werth

Joanne Schumann Karen Siebers

King

Ronald Mitchell

Little Chute

Rosalie & Luke Hietpas

Manawa Geralyn Retzke

C Traynor Menasha Charlotte Foth

Charlotte Foth Mrs Debra Kamps Thomas Lange

Harry & Barbara Olszewski Mr John Sauter Nancy Schumacher Mr Mark Waldoch

Mount Calvary
Gary Mccaughtry

Neenah

Ada Hall, M.D. Cindy Harding Mary Jane Irene Schaper New Franken

Linda Marcusen

Everette and Janice Strahl

Robert Wenger New Holstein Jan Mentink

New London Mr John Weber

Oakfield

Lorie Yantz Omro

> Brian Hayes Mr Edwin Nesbit

Onieda

Sarah Collins Loretta Metoxen

Oshkosh

Mr and Mrs Thomas Artz

Tink Callan Charles Dahlke Sharon Gallagher Cheryl Foster-herzberg Michael W Hackbarth

Carla Hansen Mr Robert Horton Tammy Romme Brian Schaefer

Princeton

C Alexander & R Lawler

Ripon

Bethany Erickson Nancy Hill Vydunas Tumas Scandinavia Cara Dowssett Seymour

Jane Webster Van Dyne Mike Thorp

Mike Thorp Waupaca

Nancy Fredrickson Lois Manasterski Phyllis Mcsherry Jenny Solberg

Waupun

Mr James Laird Weyauwega Peter Peters Winneconne Victoria J Bahr Lana Biely Jim Malek

Rosemary O Shade

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Next Newsletter Deadline for submitting materials January 13th for February thru April Issue.



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.

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Special Offer	□ \$ 15	N/A
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Contributing	\$ 150	\$ 175
Life	\$ 1000	\$ 1250
Senior	\$ 25	\$ 35
Student	\$ 25	\$ 35
Limited Income	□ \$ 25	☐ \$ 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

or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org



Fox Valley Sierra Group - 2017 Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for up to four positons. Multiple boxes for joint members.

Mail to - Fox Valley Sierra Group, P.O. Box 264, Appleton, WI 54912-0264 or Bring to the December Meeting

John Engel I am asking for your support to serve as your Conservation Chairman for the next three years. My how time flies it seems as if I was elected by your Ex-com to serve yesterday however it has been approximately 2 1/2 years. Since my election to the Ex-Com our group has organized two (2) Earth Day Hikes, Two (2) environmental rallies, numerous local outings, and our monthly meetings. It has been gratifying to assist our group in its mission. The future has its challenges Global Warming, Habitat Destruction on land and water, Water and Air Quality issues, Global over Population, and a general lack of understanding by the general public about our environment. I retired from Baisch Engineering having worked as an Electrical Engineer and Project Manager for 30+ years. My role in the Sierra Club is service oriented it's not about what I want to do but what is best for the Earth and Sierra Club. Jennifer Reschke Growing up in the Fox Cities, a distinct childhood memory was my parents' involvement with Sierra Club. They were seemingly always off to a meeting or outing—often taking me along with them. At the time, I didn't fully appreciate what Sierra Club meant to my parents. Now that I'm older, I can fully appreciate all that Sierra Club does for our country and our community. I would appreciate having the opportunity to be on the board to contribute my skills to the chapter. Tom Hanks I'm an engineer, a backpacker, and I have a special passion for preserving our outdoor spaces and the climate. I moved to Wisconsin fifteen years ago from lowa and fell in love with the natural areas, the forests, and Lake Superior. Visiting places again and again I noticed the impact of humans and committed myself to doing what I could to minimize that. I believe that political action is necessary on state, federal, and world levels to address the causes of global climate change. If elected, I will work to raise awareness in Northeast Wisconsin and to get people excited about the possibilities of supporting nature. I look forward to working with you! Rich Kreig I have been a member of the Sierra Club for the last 25 years and have been very active in the Chapter's River Touring Section. My interest in the environment comes from childhood family camping and canoeing trips. In recent years, I have been the "Outings Chair" for the Fox Valley Group and would like to continue in that role. Today, I think it is imperative that all Sierra Club members become politically involved in working to protect the places we love. I teach Biology and Environmental Science at Green Bay East High School and am the advisor for the environmental club at that school.



Evergreen NATURALLY, A BETTER FINANCIAL WE ARE MAKING REAL CHANGES TO REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:



Projected Water Use Reduction in 2016 Compared To 2015



Electricity Demand Met with On-site Solar Energy



Waste Diverted from Landfills



Carbon Emissions Reduction in 2016 Compared to 2015

UW Fox Valley is offering a course taught by local sustainability expert, Jeanine Knapp, who is passionate about the environment and we are fortunate to have someone with her credentials to help educate folks on this important subject.

Introduction to Green Living at Home

Date: Wednesday, February 22

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Fee: \$49

This course will introduce participants to ideas and specific practices to help with green living choice in four focus areas: waste management, energy efficiency, water quality and water conservation. You will learn how to reduce household waste, be energy efficient at home, calculate your personal carbon footprint, save water and improve water quality.

Instructor: Jeanine Knapp has worked as the Sustainability Manager at Evergreen Credit Union for the past two years. She has 19 years of experience in the environmental industry. She holds a Master of Public Affairs degree from the La Follette Institute at UW-Madison with certification in Energy Analysis and Policy from the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies.

To register, go online at http://uwfox.uwc.edu/community/ continuing-education/registration or call our office at 920-832-2636.

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Registration will open for this class in late December or early January.

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FOX VALLEY SIERRA GROUP CONTACTS

Chairperson & Webmaster

Alan Lawrence • 920-730-9515 153 Northbreeze Dr, Appleton 54911-1224 alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Diane Perschbacher • 920-216-2159 2531 Bruce Ct, Neenah 54956-6108 DPerschbacher1@new.rr.com

Newsletter Editor

Monny Hjerstedt • 920-558-0013 567 Oak St, Neenah 54956 mhjerstedt@twc.com

Programs Political Issues

Cindy Carter • 920-840-6362 1102 N. Superior St, Appleton 54911 cindycat1@sbcglobal.net

John Muir Chapter Conservation Chair & FVSG Delegate

Will Stahl • 920-725-9185 216 Stevens St, Neenah 54956 wrsy55@sbcglobal.net

Membership & Hospitality Assistant

Jo Hjerstedt • 920-479-4900 567 Oak St., Neenah 54956 jhjerstedt@hotmail.com

Outings, Forestry & Land Mgt

Rich Krieg • 920-660-3557 118 S. Washington, 318B, Green Bay 54301 richkrieg@new.rr.com

Environmental Education

Diana Lawrence • 920-730-9515 153 Northbreeze Dr, Appleton 54911-1224 law_di03@yahoo.com

Conservation Chair

John Engel • 920-475-1472 325 Parkwood Drive, Neenah, WI 54956 johnwengel@earthlink.net

Hospitality

Nancy Brown-Koeller • 920-830-6625 nbkappleton@gmail.com

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

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley or find us on Facebook



FVSG web site