

# White Pine Needle, 2023

## White Pine Group, Northeast Iowa Sierra Club

(Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, & Jackson Counties.) Needle “prods” us to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect” our Northeast Iowa environment.

Volume 43, No. 1 3/16/23



White Pine Hollow, Luxemburg, Iowa

In this 2023 White Pine Needle:

Events: 2023 Program/Meetings & Outings. JOURNALISM.

- \*2023 Fundraiser Dinner: October 28, Swiss Valley Nature Center
  - \*2023 Party for the Planet, April 22, 2023, River Museum/Aquarium
  - \*2022 Membership Report. (Current, 425 Memberships)
  - \*2023 Project AWARE, River Clean-Up, July 9-14, 2023..
- Record events onto your wall/e-/other calendars.

### Needle Publication and Distribution.

This 2023 Needle will be distributed to **ALL** members via mail. A **full-color** copy will also be emailed. Occasional Updates will be distributed only by email unless a request is made for mail (and I remember that!!) A 2023-24 Autumn/Winter Needle will be emailed but also mailed only to those without email.

Distribution of the Needle to all members by mail gives everyone at least one hard copy as an in-hand reference. It also informs everyone about our email distribution plan. Emailed-only copies could be overlooked. Be certain to not have my email address blocked or be relegated to junk email. Email delivery is via [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com). To be added to email delivery, send an email to Dick with your name and full mailing address including Zip Code as it appears on the mailed label. Many times an email address alone has little or no connection with a person's name. Mailing labels may lag behind membership changes. Some Expired Memberships MAY still receive this.

Participatory Camaraderie inspires and motivates ACTION. It is easier for you to personally reach a few of us than it is for the few of us to reach each and every one of you. But, we'd love to hear from you or meet you at a meeting, an outing, the Fundraiser Dinner, the “Party for the Planet” or at some other event. We'll see what “tomorrow” brings.....

## WHITE PINE GROUP 2023 EVENTS:

March 25 (Saturday): Service Outing.

### **Prairie Maintenance, Faraway Farm:**

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Conservation Easement

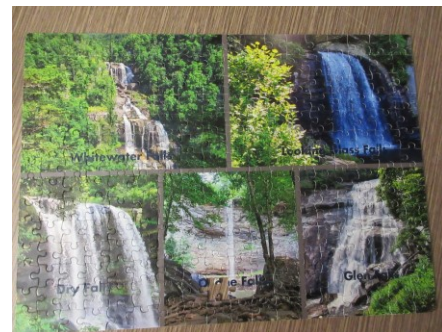
Meet at 9:30 AM at 3680 Echo Hills Drive, Bellevue, IA, to assist as a Volunteer with brush clearing on this INHF Conservation Easement property. (See [www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup)) Autumn Olive (mainly) and Honeysuckle are two invasive species that can easily take-over prairie settings if not controlled. INHF Interns and a Conservation Corps team assisted with such brush clearing on two occasions during 2022. This March 25 outing date was selected in order to provide additional progress prior to the annual INHF Monitor walk on March 30. Some loppers and hand saws will be available, but you may bring your own. Cutting the brush close to ground level will make possible annual mowing needed to help keep the invasion at bay! Bring your own refreshments. An RSVP will be helpful. 563-582-2580. A simple RSVP sandwich lunch will be made available for any die-hards who can continue into the afternoon. An evening bonfire at the Echo Valley Pond is an additional RSVP option with campfire treats to be made available. Photos from the December 5-8, 2022, Conservation Corps work and achievements:



### March 28 (Tuesday): Meeting/Program

7 PM, A&W, 1<sup>st</sup> & Locust, Dubuque. Consider some uses of our funds. Conservation topics in NE Iowa. **Program:** Waterfalls and Parks in Tennessee and North Carolina. Vandalism of sign that included the age of the rocks over which the waterfalls flowed. Earth only 10,000 yrs.old? Some TN/NC waterfalls included as a jigsaw puzzle gift:

### Whitewater, Looking Glass, Dry, Ozone, and Glen Falls



## WHITE PINE GROUP EVENTS (Cont.) (2023) Page 2

**March 30 (Th):** INHF Walk of Faraway Farm.

This **Outing** is with the 2023 Monitoring of the Faraway Farm Conservation Easement. Learn about the Conservation Easement program as Tylar Samuels provides advice and answers questions while checking to assure that the Easement agreement is being followed. Meet at 3680 Echo Hills Drive, Bellevue, at 12:30 PM for the after lunch walk. Main review will be of the invasive clearing progress of prairie areas being reclaimed. The walk will end by following the Mississippi River bluff to the Echo Valley Pond. The focus of this Conservation Easement was River Bluff protection.

2022 Faraway Farm Mississippi River Bluff INHF Monitor Walk:



### **April 15 (Sat): Litter and Invasives Outing**

Dubuque County's Little Maquoketa Mounds and Pohlman Prairie will be the foci of this outing with trash bags and loppers.

Meet at Little Maquoketa Mounds off State Route 3 a short way north of Dubuque at 9:30 AM. Maybe lunch together afterward.

563-582-2580 for details and updates. ("No Hunting" areas!)

### **April 22 (Sat): Earth Day's "Party for the Planet."**

10 AM to 3 PM, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Dubuque. Our White Pine Group will have a table to help celebrate Earth Day. Our Outings and Conservation interests will be displayed. Jigsaws and other activities **for youth** will be featured. Ideas and help will be welcomed! The vibrancy of our planet's future will be in their hands.



### **April 25 (Tues): Group Meeting/Program.**

7 PM, A&W, 1<sup>st</sup> and Locust, Dubuque. Get a Root Beer Float or have dinner before the meeting. Business as usual. Conservation concerns of and initiatives by members are ALWAYS welcome.

**Program** will focus on the **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival** that begins the following day: **April 26-30, 2023.**

**Conservation/Environmental-related** documentaries, feature films, and short films will be identified on the schedule. Filmmakers of such topics should be supported with attendance.

**Julienfilmfest.com** 2022 Samples of JDIFF daily schedules:



## **MORE 2023 WHITE PINE GROUP EVENTS**

**May 19-21 (Fri-Sun ): OUTING Mississippi Palisades State Park, Savanna, IL 61704.**

16327A IL Rt. 84 (815-273-2731)

Hiking and Walk-In Camping are options.

**Two Walk-In, Primitive Campsites (A & B)** have been reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. A backcountry Camp C may also still be available. A toilet (within 1000 feet) and water are located between Sites A and B and between Sites B and C. The campsites (via backpack probably most convenient) have a listed maximum of 4 people each and a tenting pad. Each campsite has a Fire Pit. Campers and hikers will be responsible for their own food, water, and snacks. A camp stove can be used to boil water for freeze-dried foods and beverages. Camping for both nights or for either night are options. Park Office, campground access, and North Trails are via the North Park Entrance. The South Park Entrance connects internally and provides access to the rugged South Trails. Hiking and camping logistics will develop after **RSVP reservations** are received. **15 miles of trails** await. Evening gatherings for everyone around one fire pit at the selected campsite may also be organized. (Pack in a camp stool or chair??!)

Check-In after 3 PM Friday. Check-out by 3 PM Sunday. **RSVP is required** for camping logistics. [563-582-2580; [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)] ***The earlier the better!!*** (1<sup>st</sup> reserve, 1<sup>st</sup> served!)

**Hiking-only** participation is welcome. Hikes on Friday before and/or after camp-set-up; on Saturday; and on Sunday before Camp take-down are options. Meeting times and locations for hikes will develop after RSVP's are received. MANY scenic overlooks are by road or by trail. RSVP's make possible any change notifications and will help provide the ENJOY camaraderie that such outings can provide! Google the park to see map and general details.



A&B at top

**May 23 (Tues): Meeting/Program.**

7 PM, A&W, 1<sup>st</sup> and Locust, Dubuque. Review upcoming events and progress on NE Iowa environmental concerns. Input welcome!  
**Program: “Project AWARE Hi-Lites 2019, 2021, 2022,”** and Preview 2023: July 9-14, Iowa River (roughly from Marshalltown to Marengo/Amanas area.) (Group programs educate & motivate!)



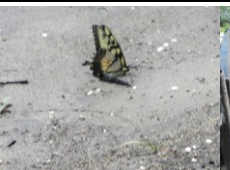
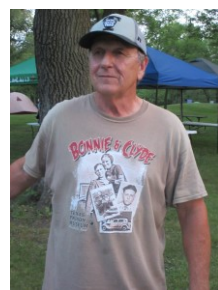
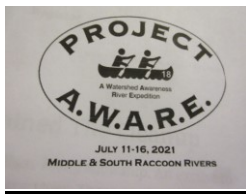
Began at Goldfield... where swamped my canoe.... AWARE kids :-?



Lunch stop

River “Car”

Sunset at Camp



Then had COVID symptoms so left after 2<sup>nd</sup> River Day. (+)

**June 24 (Sat.): White Pine Hollow Outing**

Welcome summer with a visit to our Group’s Namesake!

Meet at 9:30 AM at the South Gate of White Pine Hollow via a lane a short way west of Luxemburg off IA Rt. 3. Watch for the llama farm sign! The area is rugged without much for trails so dress accordingly. A few extra trekking poles will be available. Insect repellent (I often “shower” with Deep Woods OFF!), long-legged pants, and sturdy hiking boots/shoes are vital. PLAN is to go straight north to note the sink-hole cave entrance, then follow the rim of the Hollow eastward curving southward a ways to search for the “Window Crevice” discovered last June 18 near the end of the hike there so had no time nor energy left to check on “window” access. Join this EXPLORE and ENJOY sort of adventure! Bring a lunch and beverage if able to stay into the afternoon for more Hollow exploring. 563-582-2580.

Some “window” and other photos taken last year:



“Window Crevice”, Window, and surroundings.

[NO Meeting/Programs in June, July, August.]

**July 9-14 (Sun-Fri): Project AWARE:**

Iowa River (See May 23 Program.) The usual schedule is for arrival on Sunday, set up camp, attend program options. Canoe full days Monday thru Thursday with a ½ day on Friday to allow time to return home. Start, during, and end shuttles are provided for vehicle access. School busses are used for transport to and from the daily begin and end points. Those details will be available by the May 23 program. Dick Worm plans to attend along with his P-11 canoe so could provide a ride. [www.iowaprojectaware.org](http://www.iowaprojectaware.org)

**August 18-20:** Camping/Campfires at Faraway Farm.

**August 19 (Sat): Noon Picnic** at 3680 Echo Hills/Echo Valley Pond. (Autumn/Winter 2023-24 Planning) Camping (primitive) at the pond or on the river bluff is an option. Potluck picnic may provide a birthday cake and ice cream dessert as this is Dick’s 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. 563-582-2580.

Autumn/Winter 2023-24 Schedule not yet fully developed but listed here are what has been determined thru December. An **Autumn/Winter 2023-24 Needle** should arrive in September by mail or by email. (See the distribution plan on page 1.)

**September 23 (Sat.): Welcome to Autumn Hike.**

**Volga River State Recreation Area.**

**10225 Ivy Rd, Fayette, IA 52142**

Meet at 9:30 AM at the Meyer Shelter/Picnic Area at Frog Hollow Lake. (Ivy Road is off State Rt. 150 about 3 miles north of Fayette. Take Ivy Rd. past the Park Office and turn left at the T-intersection with "I Ave." to reach Frog Hollow Lake.) PLAN there is to hike the Frog Hollow Trail past a "Scenic Overlook" and return via the Prairie Trail (about a 6 mile loop.) [PLANS can always be re-evaluated!!] Bring a lunch if staying into the afternoon is your "cup of tea." A "Ridge Trail" also sounds appealing. Anyone with expertise about the trail system is VERY welcome to help out!!

*(As an aside: disappointingly, our outings have historically gotten very poor attendance. It would SEEM that hiking would be an EXPLORE and ENJOY aspect of the Sierra Club that would be more popular. (I need all the exercise I can get, particularly in this natural, outdoor fashion.) But, Earth still spins in spite of it all. Maybe if we had an actual Outings Committee of more than just this old newsletter editor, outings of more appeal might be developed?)*

**September 26 (Tues.): Regular Meeting/Program.**

[Following the unscientifically determined pattern of using the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday as our meeting date, September 26 qualifies. The A&W in Dubuque is free and conveniently located. And the root beer is tasty. Therefore, until something else gets decided by whomever has a desire to get involved, Sept. 26 it is, like it or not. Reluctant EXCOM member, Jane, will have turned 81 on Sept. 24. It IS TIME to get additional members involved before the current EXCOM near majority dies or cripples off!! Just sayin'.]

**7 PM A&W, 1<sup>st</sup> and Locust, Dubuque. Program: Journalism.**

Since Journalism will be given some attention in this newsletter, a variety of conservation/environmental/social justice sorts of magazines and newspaper articles will be available for discussion. Bring some of your own that might also be examples of Enviro-Journalism that average U.S. citizens never see!! Come early and have a root beer float!!



**October 14 (Sat.): Leaf Viewing Hike**

**Effigy Mounds National Monument**

Meet at 9:30 AM at the Visitor Center parking lot off IA Rt. 76 a short way north of McGregor/Marquette. From there hike on a good trail up to and along the wooded, Mississippi River bluff and back. There are a variety of scenic overlooks along the way. For die-hards, after lunch in Marquette (or McGregor), a hike up to the major overlook in the South Unit from along Rt. 76 could wrap-up the day. (When I travel that far, I wanna get my money's worth!) CONTACT: Home 563-582-2580. Cell: 563-590-2557. Conversations along the way add to the ENJOYment.



**October 24 (Tues.): Meeting/Program.**

7 PM, A&W, 1<sup>st</sup> and Locust, Dubuque. Make plans for this Saturday's Fundraiser dinner at Swiss Valley Nature Center. Hopefully, there will be a reservation count to aid with logistical needs. Other business as comes up. Begin thinking about the Upcoming EXCOM election and the viable future of the White Pine Group. Input in always welcome. **Program:** "Photos of Our 2023 Events and Outings." Bring your own stories related to YOUR 2023 activities. Ideas for 2024. Determine where to EXPLORE.

**October 28 (Sat.): Fundraiser Turkey Dinner.**

**Program** by Sandy Walton: "Wildlife and Scenery of Kenya." Her bird photos are outstanding in quality and variety, as presented with praise at a Dubuque Audubon Society meeting. Birders know their birds...& mountains... There MAY be Friday camping and Saturday hike options prior to the dinner. Such details will be developed before distribution of the Autumn/Winter 2023-24 Needle. \$15/Adult; \$8/Students; \$5/age 5-12. Pay at door. Advance Registration before Tuesday evening, October 24 (prior to the EXCOM meeting) is REALLY necessary to aid provision of an adequate and non-wasteful, main course food supply. (Can never have too many donated desserts, however!) **Jane: 563-582-2580.**  
5:30 PM: Social, Apple Juice, Crackers, Calendar Sales, Displays of Kenya/Africa related items.  
6:15 PM: Buffet-Style, Traditional, Turkey Dinner.  
7:00 PM: Welcome and Volunteer Recognition.  
7:15 PM: Program (that you do not want to miss!)  
8:15 PM: Clean-Up. (Volunteers welcome!)  
**Volunteers** (Contact Jane) provide cranberries, desserts, milk and prepare mashed potatoes. Kitchen help at 4:30 prepares yams, vegetables, gravy. Prior roasting of a White Pine provided turkey would be a ☺ option.

**November 4 (Sat.): HIKE to Wear OFF the Turkey Dinner DESSERTS! Also, may be last night of DST. Eden Valley Refuge, Baldwin, Iowa.**

*(Tried this at same time last year, but RAIN intervened.)*

Baldwin, Iowa, is located about 8 miles west of Maquoketa on IA Rt. 64. Eden Valley is about 1.5 miles south of Baldwin on Y 34 (50<sup>th</sup> Ave.) Trailhead parking is on the west side of the road. An observation tower, a swinging bridge, and a variety of trails (one to a scenic overlook) have been the major attractions. (Primitive, walk-in camping and cozy cabins are also available.) Clinton County Conservation supervises this area.

Meet at the trailhead at 9:30 AM. Possible lunch in Maquoketa afterward. CONTACT 563-582-2580 (H); 563-590-2557 (Cell). Who knows? May RAIN again!! ☹

**November 28 (Tues): Meeting/Program**

7 PM, A&W, Dubuque. **Program:** Push-ups and sit-ups to wear off Thanksgiving Turkey!! (Should, anyway!) TBD program ideas are welcome. Check [www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup) at any time to check for details, new events, environmental and political harangues, etc. Sierra Club is NON-Tax Deductible.

**December 16 (Sat.): Welcome-to-Winter Walk.**

**Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens**

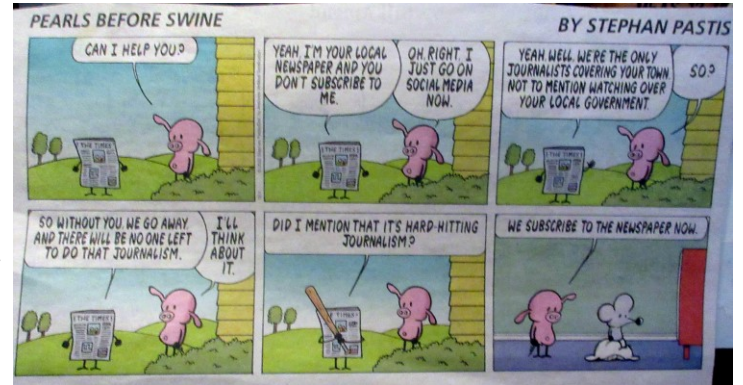
**3800 Arboretum Drive, via JFK Road & West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Open Year-Round, 7 AM to dusk. Free. Venturing on the snow-covered grounds is a popular winter activity. Bird feeders behind the Heinemann Visitor Center are regularly stocked. Many trails weave through the grounds.

Meet at the Visitor Center at 10 AM. Snowshoes or cross-country skis, besides just hiking, are welcome. Que Sera.



Being the editor of an environmental newsletter might be like preaching to the choir, IF the choir even follows the waving around by the director! MUCH environmental news never reaches MUCH of the general public, let alone even LOTS of the environmentally astute readers. The rest of this newsletter will be devoted to samples of what is out there and the dilemmas that confront journalism. At times you may need a magnifying glass or enlarge the print if you are reading this via email. Some of the photo transfer also got a bit blurry. But, as is often said, it's the effort that counts!



Another take on the state of newspaper journalism:



The above headline was in Mother Jones, March – April, 2023. The article pointed out that advertisers brought us local newspapers and TV's; underwrote the alternative weeklies; sent reporters to your local city council meetings or state Capitol; and brought us fat magazines with deeply reported stories. "But, as anyone who's picked up their skinny hometown newspaper lately can tell, that's over. The vast majority of advertising has moved to tech platforms..." "Sure, mattresses and wool sneakers are still keeping podcasts afloat, and sponsored viral content has been good for digital-native publishers like *BuzzFeed* and *Vice*. But everyone knows that relying on advertising to pay for the news is ultimately a house of cards. The math just doesn't work... for investigating reporting --- or simply covering local politics for that matter..." ... "Layoffs in the news business were up 20 percent as of December, with more coming..." Lots of examples were then listed. "Even National Public Radio has announced a near total hiring freeze and paused its internship program because of a downturn in corporate sponsorships."

One TV show has even gotten into the fray.



A reporter, due to politics impacting her truthful reporting, left New York City and took a job in Alaska offered to her by a former boss. Her investigative prowess has been focused on the plight of indigenous women. But, other matters are also coming to the fore. How long will she and the shrunken Alaska Daily survive? Tune in!

The local Dubuque Telegraph Herald carries an Agribusiness column, "Farm and Food" by Alan Guebert. (farmandfood.com) His column appears regularly each Sunday on page 10, Section C, it seems. The Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club had Alan as the featured speaker at a recent Annual Meeting. He speaks the truth! An example was his column on February 19, 2023. (How many people, one wonders, sees his journalism that appears weekly in dozens of publications.) This column took on Iowa's U.S. Senator, Joni Ernst.

**The headline read, "Biggest foreign owner of 'ag land' in U.S. not who you might think."**

**Biggest foreign owner of 'ag land' in U.S. not who you might think.**

BY ALAN GUEBERT  
For the Telegraph Herald

*2/19/23*



If an editor used standard punctuation to relate the emotion expressed by Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst in a recent Capitol Hill discussion of foreign ownership of U.S. land, it would look something like this:

"... foreign persons hold an interest in approximately 40! Million! Acres! Of U.S. ag! Land! That's more total acres than make up my entire home state! Of Iowa!"

The alarm by Ernst was purely intentional. Foreign ownership of U.S. land has always been a hot poker to fire up farm-state politicians whenever a perceived threat, like the "Chinese spy balloon" Ernst soon referenced, comes into view.

Ernst also mentioned her "concern" of the Chinese-owned Fufeng Group's intent to build a corn processing plant near the Grand Forks, N.D., Air Force Base. Two days before the Feb. 9 Senate hearing where she expressed those worries, however, the Grand Forks City Council voted, 5-0, to deny Fufeng any "infrastructure ... permits" for the \$700 million plant.

**Guebert farm and Food column (Continued).**

After downplaying Ernst's Chinese invasion "hysteria," Guebert pointed out after other detail that "... five of America's strongest allies --- Canada, Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands --- own 62%, or 62 times more than China, of all foreign-owned U.S. 'ag land.'" Texas, Maine and Colorado are the states with the largest amounts of foreign owned "ag land." And, it is called "ag land", NOT "farm land" because "Foreign owners seem twice as interested in the natural resources already on the land – principally timber and pasture – than any potential crop, like corn or soybeans." Guebert concluded with:



**Yup! Facts are rarely used when there are so many political points to score! Sound familiar in so many arenas? REAL journalism is the backbone for truth.**

Note hair-do of the fellow below telling the BIG LIE.

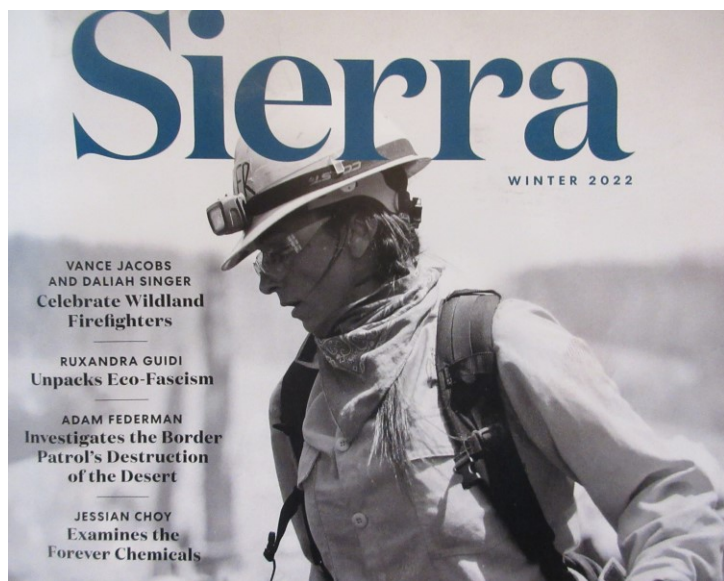


**Alternatives to REALITY?**

**Nature Conservancy Magazine  
Mailer Cover, Spring, 2023.**

**"Long Live Your Values."**

"Conservation Trailblazers" featured "six women who are changing and improving how conservation gets done." "Who Is Conservation?": removing barriers for women working in the environmental field. Ethical!



### **Celebrated, Unpacked, Investigated and Examined!**

That's what JOURNALISTS do! "Two Tales of a City" unpacked Eco-Fascism, being touted by the likes of Tucker Carlson of FOX News. Eco-Fascism is white supremacist jargon that says immigrants are who threaten the environment. So, therefore, environmentalists ought to be joining the White Supremacist movement in order to save the environment. "Tucker Carlson went off on one of his trademark monologues that blend together fact and fiction to promote the idea that the United States is –or should be – a white nation." ... "What makes Carlson's white nationalism noteworthy is how explicitly he ties anti-immigration views to conservation ideals. In a November 20, 2019, broadcast he said, "One of the greatest blessings we have as Americans is the amazing pristine beauty of our country." There should be "lower immigration levels --- because crowded countries are never beautiful countries."

"In 1998, (Josiah) Heyman (a scholar at the University of Texas at El Paso) published a monograph ... which was intended as a response to border vigilantism and anti-immigrant policies..." He asked, "How about seeing immigrants with compassion? ... What if we drafted policies that recognized the drivers of migration?" (Ed. Underlining for emphasis was MY addition.)

Central America has been hit by crop failures due to drought. Drug cartels and extortionists make life miserable there for most everyone. Americans keep purchasing illegal drugs that keep the cartels busy. Family planning seems invisible. Drug-carrying drones can fly over walls. Tunnels can go under walls. Compassion MIGHT encourage us to get to the root causes of the evil.

Jane Goodall is quoted on the cover of the December, 2021, issue of the **Population Connection** (formerly Zero Population Growth – ZPG) magazine. "We cannot hide away from human population growth." (An issue that politicians do not face.)

In "The Book of Hope" that she wrote with Douglas Abrams, she said that in places in East Africa (and we might add Central America) "More people were living there than the land could

support..." Now with over 8 billion people on this planet, she wrote that "in many places, we have used up nature's finite natural resources faster than nature can replenish them." Goodall said, "I think wisdom involves using our powerful intellect to recognize the consequences of our actions..." ... "...we have lost the long-term perspective, and are suffering from an absurd and very unwise belief that there can be unlimited economic development on a planet of finite natural resources, focusing on short-term results or profits at the expense of long-term interests."

She took those words right out of my mouth!

To President Biden's credit, he IS working on assisting with the provision of contraceptives. And in spite of what Governor Reynolds and other un-woke politicians want to enforce, there will ALWAYS be abortion. Women all around the world want to have control of their bodies. How many struggling, single men do you see with 2-6 little kids clinging to their pant legs?

Anyway, how many un-woke politicians and corporate CEO's (and average citizens) read conservation oriented magazines such as even **Ducks Unlimited** that in its March/April, 2023, issue in an article "Pintails on the Brink" reported that the pintail plunge in population seems to relate to factors of "nesting ecology, farming practices, and even climate change ..."

### **HEADLINES for very short articles in the Newspaper: 2 examples of less obvious Associated Press stories that even small town newspapers include:**

#### **"EPA outlines \$27B 'green bank' for energy projects"**

"The Biden administration ... outlined how states and nonprofit groups can apply for \$27 billion in funding for projects that cut greenhouse gas emissions." ... (2/15/23)

#### **"Battery recycling firm wins \$2 billion loan"**

"A Nevada company that recycles batteries for electric vehicles has won a \$2 billion green energy loan from the Biden administration." ... (2/10/23 T-H)

### **Iowa CO2 Pipelines**

Iowa State Representative Shannon Lundgren (R) is a member of both the Environmental Protection and Health and Human Services Committees. In her journalistic Issue 5, "From the Desk..." newsletter she thoroughly covered, under her **Environmental Protection** heading, two presentations on Carbon Sequestration for Iowa Ethanol Production. One spoke of the "life or death" factor that carbon capture could have on "Iowa's nation leading ethanol industry. The other included DNR (Iowa Geological Survey) geologists who described a deep, non-drinkable, saline water aquifer in southwest Iowa that could sequester CO2. Our Iowa Sierra Club Conservation Coordinator said the presentation "made her blood boil" because it seemed that they really wanted more state funding and this detail might help with that!

**Short Takes... That Matter. KEEP READING.**

**\*\* Bible:** John 4: 23 “But the hour cometh, and now is when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.” Underlined emphasis added for the far-right pseudo-Christians who have lost their way. (Woman at the Well Sunday sermon reference.)

**\*\* State of the World, 1997,** World Watch Institute. Nature ensures “that ecosystems and the entire biosphere are relatively stable and resilient.” “Unfortunately, much of the economy is based on practices that convert natural systems into something simpler for ease of management or to maximize the production of a desired commodity.” “Simplified systems lack the resilience that allows them to survive short-term adversities or long-term alterations such as climate change.” (25 years ago!)

**\*\*Population Connection.** “Biden Administration Proposes New Rule to Expand Access to Contraceptives.”

**\*\*High Country News.** Thanks readers for tax-deductible contributions that make their pages possible. Nov., 2022, quoted Aldo Leopold, June, 1934: An indignant minority of conservationists “are beginning to realize that their task involves the reorganization of society, rather than passage of some fish and game laws.” “Futures of Conservation” are described. Such as: Focus on habitat, not species.

**\*\* Maybe Liz Mathis** should run again against Ashley Hinson. THIRD time was the charm, by 6 votes, for Miller-Meeks. A Hinson donor request included that Biden was “chronically-inept” Also, the “Biden radical agenda” is “Turning our schools into indoctrination centers while unleashing a sick attack on girls’ sports.” (FACTS?)

White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa Sierra Club  
“The Needle” Newsletter Editor      2023 Needle  
Richard Worm      January - December  
3680 Echo Hills Dr.      Volume 43, #1  
Bellevue, IA 52031-9557

2023 Calendar of Program/Meetings & Outings  
2023 Fundraiser Dinner, Oct. 28, Swiss Valley  
2023 Party for the Planet, Earth Day, April 22  
Journalism’s Limitations as Truth Matters



Mark Your **2023 Scheduling Calendar**



**EXPLORE ENJOY**

**PROTECT**

**White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa**

**EXCOM \*Expires Jan. 2024.**  
Chair: Charlie Winterwood, 563-588-2783 [cwinterwood@yahoo.com](mailto:cwinterwood@yahoo.com)  
Vice Chair: \*Dave Hansen, Masonville. [dhansen187@gmail.com](mailto:dhansen187@gmail.com)  
Member/Newsletter: Dick Worm, 563-582-2580 [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)  
Conservation: Ben Biver: 563-587-9821 [biverb@gmail.com](mailto:biverb@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: \*Jane Worm, 563-582-2580 [jworm924@msn.com](mailto:jworm924@msn.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.sierraclub.org/iowa/white-pine-group](http://www.sierraclub.org/iowa/white-pine-group) (past Needles)

**Sierra Club Membership**

For a New Member brochure contact Dick Worm; or membership brochures are in the SIERRA magazine; or go to: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

Membership renewal notices come from the national headquarters. No \$\$ from national dues go to Local Groups. Mailing labels on Sierra Club mailings may include membership expiration date reminders: 1023 (Oct., 2023)

On magazine labels: J/A23 = final issue July/August, 2023. S = Single; J = Joint memberships. “3707” is the Identification Code for our White Pine Group “Wilderness Guardian” membership of at least \$10/month reduces the amount of the Sierra Club, \$ seeking, junk mail. Like us at: [www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup)

Action: [www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider](http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider) Your membership is vital to carrying out Sierra Club goals... for the benefit of all humanity and wildlife everywhere.