

# White Pine Needle

## AUTUMN/WINTER 2023-24

(September – February)

White Pine Group, Northeast Iowa Sierra Club

(8 Counties: Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson)

“Explore, Enjoy and Protect”

[Volume 43, No. 2] 10/6/23



## WHITE PINE GROUP

### PROGRAM/MEETINGS & OUTINGS:

**Time and Location (Meetings):** 7:00 PM Meet/Greet; 7:15 Meeting; 7:30 Program. 8:30 Adjourn. (4<sup>th</sup> Tues.) Upstairs at A&W, 1<sup>st</sup> and Locust, Dubuque. Arrive at 6 PM for dinner and a root beer!! Like minded camaraderie is pleasant!! 2024 faces challenges.

**(No December Program/Meeting.)**

**Outings include the signing of a liability waiver.**

### Sierra Club Calendars

As an additional fundraising effort, the White Pine Group orders 25 Wall and 5 Engagement Sierra Club Calendars. List prices: \$18.95 and \$19.95.

Fundraiser Prices: **\$16.00** and **\$17.00**. Phone 563-582-2580 to purchase and arrange free delivery.

### In this 2023/24 AUTUMN/WINTER NEEDLE:

- **Program/Meetings and Outings.**
  - **Turkey Dinner Fundraiser: 10/28/23, Swiss Valley. Attend, Donate &/or Volunteer. See page 2.**
- \*\* **Fate of EXCOM & Group: Jan. 23 Meeting. Visit our Facebook Page for enviro news, event reports, updates. [www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup).**

### Newsletter and Membership

This 2023-24 Autumn/Winter Needle is being emailed to memberships and friends and mailed only to other memberships and friends of interest. The September, 2023, Member Report used for this Needle distribution listed around 460 Memberships (some were duplicates or invalid and some had different email addresses for Joint Memberships. Not all had email addresses. 78 were identified as NEW Memberships since March (with about an equal number of dropped Memberships.) If you receive this newsletter only by regular mail but are willing to receive it and occasional email-only updates, **in full color**, by email please send an email to Dick Worm including your **name, mailing address, and complete Zip Code** (ex: 52031-9557) for easier membership list identification. ([raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)). Saves paper and \$\$'s. (Any such earlier request may need to be refreshed. :-/ )

Membership in the Sierra Club and **renewals** are made through the **national** office. Our White Pine Group receives monthly updates listing new and expiring memberships for our 8 county region. Membership is to be **renewed** on a **yearly** basis. Some mailing labels may include a “reminder” regarding when a renewal is due. For example, a “10/23” indicates expiration in October of 2023. An “M/A23” on a SIERRA magazine label “reports” a March/April, 2023, final issue. **Your membership is vital to helping carry out Sierra Club goals.... in competition with the corporate \$\$\$ and other less friendly interests.**

Our White Pine Group publishes and distributes to ALL members (by mail AND email) just 1 newsletter/year. We therefore encourage our members to record on a Sierra Wall or Engagement (or other handy) Calendar our meeting/programs and outing opportunities. This Volume 43, No. 2 Needle is only emailed with limited mailings, upon request, or of special interest.

Groups receive no funding from Membership dues so fund projects and communication locally, if such is desired. We have tried but with little active participation from members. So, fate??



**October 14 (Sat.):** Effigy Mounds National Monument Fall **Colors Outing.** Meet at **9:30 AM** at the Visitor Center Parking Lot off Rt. 76 a short way north of McGregor/Marquette. Hike the trail from there up to the Mississippi River bluff and continue along the trail as far as we wish to check the view from some of the overlooks. Bring a lunch or support a local eatery in McGregor if you wish to stay into the PM. Die-hards could hike up the South Unit Trail to its superb overlook. CONTACT: Dick Worm, 563-582-2580 HOME or 563-590-2557 CELL.

**October 24 (Tues.):** **Meeting/Program.** Fundraise Dinner reservations are due today (even at this meeting) so final **arrangements** will be made. Dinner volunteers are welcome to attend! Program: Review of 2023 Outings: Faraway Farm Conservation Service and INHF eagle nest discovery; Party for the Planet; Mississippi Palisades; White Pine Hollow; Volga River SRA; Effigy Mounds. ALL Explored and Enjoyed.

**October 28 (Sat.):** Fundraiser Dinner (**SEE PAGE 2**). Sandy's similar program, “Watchable Wildlife in Kenya” was presented on Dec. 8, 2022, at the Audubon meeting. The bird photos in particular were GREAT so here is a repeat for our crowd (and we over-lappers.) A bit more scenery may get included. ENJOY!

# TURKEY DINNER FUNDRAISER, OCTOBER 28, 2023

## ADVANCE RESERVATION FORM

White Pine Group – Northeast Iowa Sierra Club  
Swiss Valley Nature Center

13606 Swiss Valley Road, Peosta, IA 52068  
563-556-6745

>>Traditional Turkey Dinner<< General Public is Welcome.

**Advance Reservations Required** for \*Adequate Food Provisions.

**5:30 PM:** Social Time. Crackers/Cider, Sierra Calendar Sales; Outing & Kenya/Africa Displays.

**6:00 PM:** Welcome. Introductions. White Pine Group orientation. Door Prize Lay-out.

**6:15 PM:** Buffet-Style, Traditional Turkey Dinner. (Food contributions help the fundraising cause.)

**7:00 PM:** Volunteer Recognition. Door Prizes: by the number; Donations welcome.

**7:15 PM: Program: "Kenya Birds, Wildlife, Scenery" Sandy Walton**

**Sandy's Program: photo examples (zoom in for detail.)**



**"A safari in the wilds of Kenya gives an unparalleled and breathtaking opportunity to view birds and mammals. Highlights from visiting key wildlife reserves in the spring of 2022."**

**8:15 PM:** Thank you's, Calendar Sales, Break down/Clean Up (Volunteers are welcome!! ☺)

**Your attendance, meal contributions, and donations are what make this Fundraiser a success. THANK YOU!**

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**Phone, Email, or Tear here to Mail: Reservations, due Tuesday, October 24, 2023. (\*Sooner, better ☺.)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Adults: #** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$15.00 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Students #** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$8.00 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Age 5-10 #** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$5.00 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **for reservation/contribution verification. TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to White Pine Group/Iowa Sierra Club. May pay at door with verified reservation.**

**Mail, Phone, or Email reservations to Jane Worm, 3680 Echo Hills Dr., Bellevue, IA 52031.**

**563-582-2580. [jworm924@msn.com](mailto:jworm924@msn.com) Contributions acknowledged by Jane may include:**

**#** \_\_\_\_\_ **pie(s); #** \_\_\_\_\_ **cake(s);** \_\_\_\_\_ **cranberries;** \_\_\_\_\_ **½ gallon milk;** \_\_\_\_\_ **snack crackers;** \_\_\_\_\_ **vegetable casserole**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Door Prize(s); \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **cash; (Potatoes, apple juice, dressing are donated. Turkey is to be catered.)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Set-Up 4:00 PM;** \_\_\_\_\_ **Saturday Kitchen Help 4:00 PM (gravy, sweet potatoes, vegetables)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Clean-Up/Dish Washing.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Take Down Tables/Chairs. Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **5 PM: Car Pool Driver from Banworth/Udelhoven Furniture.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Would like a car pool ride.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **5:15 – 6:00 PM: Swiss Valley Nature Center Parking Lot Supervision**

**White Pine Group hosted OUTINGS** are open to the general public, friends, and family.

**An RSVP to an Outing's CONTACT person or Needle editor** facilitates outing details and any change updates. An outing may be cancelled or altered due to a variety of reasons (weather, conflicts.)

Outing participants are to sign a **Liability Waiver**: "Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability."



November 23, 2023

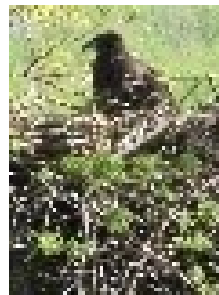


**November 4 (Sat.): OUTING: Eden Valley Refuge, Baldwin, IA.** 8 miles west of Maquoketa on IA Rt. 64, turn south on Y34 (50th Ave.) Reach Eden Valley Trailhead Parking lot in about 1.5 miles on west side of road. A sign board there describes the area. An observation tower comes up first. A swinging bridge reaches a loop trail. Another branch provides access to a scenic overlook and to a primitive, walk-in campsite. Cozy cabins and another loop trail are across the road from the parking area. Clinton County Conservation supervises this area.

**MEET at the Trailhead at 9:30 AM. CONTACT:**  
Dick Worm: (H) 563-582-2580; (Cell) 563-590-2557.



**FOR**



**Eaglet Faraway Farm 6.5 lb/bass Birthday Mango**

**NOVEMBER 7, VOTE**

**Every election keeps us in the habit of voting! School Boards and City/County Officials influence education and policies that impact the environment's future.**

**Prepare for 2024**



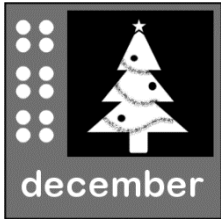
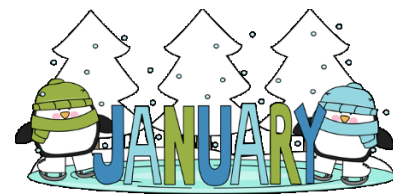
**November 28 (Tuesday): White Pine Group Meeting/Program. "Environmental Politics."**

Sierra Club is NON-Tax deductible due to its political lobbying and endorsements, etc. What are other environmentally astute organizations saying and doing about the political atmosphere as the 2024 election approaches?



US House Representatives

Incarnate



**December 2 (Sat.): Keep Dubuque County Clean and Green clean-up of Swiss Valley Road ditches.** 9-11 AM. Gather at Swiss Valley Nature Center with sturdy shoes, and long-legged pants. Safety gloves and vests, bags, and picker-uppers will be provided. **The White Pine Group has taken KDCCG under its wing as a “sub-committee” in order to maintain KDCCG’s clean-up identity along the stretch of Swiss Valley Road from US 20 to the Nature Center entrance.** The above photo is of bags filled with trash and recyclables during one such day. Added effort is taken to separate the wheat from the chaff, so to speak. Help for doing that afterward would be welcomed! The more the merrier for the clean-up “crews” that can be spaced along the roadway. Die-hards may continue into the afternoon if “crews” are meagerly staffed. :-/ Snow- or rain-date, Sat., December 9. **CONTACT:** Dick Worm, 563-582-2580 to sign-up in advance for your participation. (This is our first try at being the host for this clean-up so will appreciate support! The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency and the Dubuque County Road Department provide the behind-the-scene impetus for the twice a year clean-ups such as this. **We wish to be a respected and reliable sponsor.)**

**December 16 (Sat.): OUTING: “WELCOME TO WINTER WALK.”** Dubuque Arboretum and 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 and cross-country skis, besides plain hiking, are welcome. Que Sera, Sera. **CONTACT:** Dick Worm.



**NO Program/Meeting in December.**

**January 13-14 (most likely): The Ice Fest** at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium provides ample activity to qualify as an **OUTING!** Outdoors there are sledding, snowshoeing (even for adult beginners), ice fishing, and an Ice Rescue demonstration. A variety of crafts, face painting, and games are indoors. There usually is a special film showing. Check media and/or our Facebook page for details. Dick Worm volunteers.

**January 23 (Tues.):** White Pine Group Meeting. Program: **“DECISIONS.”** The *fate of our Group* may relate to how well the Fundraiser Dinner went and EXCOM candidate availability. The terms of Jane Worm and Dave Hansen expire. Will any replacement interest appear? This is the date **for determining composition of the 2024 EXCOM.** (Candidates for election or selection are welcome at this meeting!) **If an EXCOM IS established,** it can begin making **plans for 2024.** Things like meeting frequency/location; program ideas, outing ideas and dates. **Member suggestions and offers are always welcome.** Could a personal Explore / Enjoy experience be shared? Are there natural areas in our region that some members have not yet explored or some that could yet be “discovered?” Is there an environmental / conservation topic about which we could get actively involved? Is a Group newsletter worth the effort and expense or should we just leave it to the Chapter newsletter to cover our area interests and activities? Might someone in the know activate our website and/or use a more efficient newsletter and membership list format? Should we communicate with members only by email? Should we drop fundraising activity? Lots of these questions will be answered if our White Pine Group of current leaders disband and let the nearly 50 year past of our Group go with them.

[Ed.: **Some nostalgia, here!!** But at age 81, the yearning is weakening. But I did say I’d give the KDCCG roadside clean-up another five years of my attention, should I live so long. But it all HAS been a rather lonely run—here now at my old computer in my little, cluttered “office.” My regret is having not been able or taken the time to develop a local following for the Sierra Club as sillyly devoted to it as I have been..... And I sit here on days when the weather outside is delightful! My tech skills are lacking. RW]

**21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL BACKBONE State Park OUTING: SAT., FEB. 3, 2024.**

For years this was a weekend Cabin outing, but, lower attendance makes cabin rental unfeasible—a doubling of the fee didn’t help. **CONTACT:** Dick Worm plans to be at the Beach House parking lot by 9:30 AM for hopefully a snowy hike and, definitely, his annual crevice slide. ☺

Financial 2022-2023:

Checking Account Balance 10/1/ 22: \$1385.98

INCOME: Oct. 15, 2022, Dinner Fundraiser:

Dinner and Calendar Sales: \$1138.

Individual donations since the Dinner: \$130

Account Interest: \$0.25

EXPENSES since Oct. 15, 2022, Fundraiser:

Dinner: \$163.18; Stop payment bank fee (?): \$12.

2023 Calendars (30): \$192.25

2023 Needle: 445 Bulk mail/processing: \$210.37.

550 printed: \$351.40.

20 Stamps (+ leftovers used): \$12.60

(Over 70 New Members since March.)

11/01/22: \$150 Iowa Chapter CO2 Pipeline campaign.

12/26/22: \$50 Living Lands and Waters.

03/28/23: \$100 Oneota Historic Alliance, Decorah.

[East Side School demolition/reclamation film.]

04/18/23: \$250 Friends of Jackson County Cons. Bd.

["**Hudson Bay Bound**"] presentation, Sept. 14 at Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain, by Natalie Warren, of the paddle from the Mississippi River: "Two Women, One Dog, 2000 Miles to the Arctic." **Book available** for loan from Dick Worm. University of Minnesota Press.]

06/29/23: \$51.80 "Party for the Planet" prizes/ mailing.

Account Balance prior to this Needle: \$1093.46.

**February 27 (Tues): Program/Meeting:** This date completes the 2023-24, Autumn/Winter run. **Program** might be about the final two Fourteeners that Dick Worm hiked up late this past August: Culebra on a private ranch and the Barr Trail up Pike's Peak. 40 of them by age 80.

**March** will begin the 2024 run. Things "White Pine" may or may not be different then. A 2024 Needle may or may not be created. Email and limited mailing of announcements and updates may become the communication system. Mailing to ALL members a full year calendar of events has not been of much, money-spent, noticeable value.

In the meantime:

COFFEE CREEK WATERSHED ORGANIZATION

The 2022 Needle printed the letter from White Pine member, David Krapfl, describing the development of the Coffee Creek Watershed district and the improvements made in farming practices that really cleaned up Coffee Creek, near New Vienna.

EXCOM members Dick Worm and Ben Biver visited the Krapfl farm on October 19, 2022.

Among farming practices observed were grazing rotation and creek stabilization, shown here:



David has reached out again offering visits to his farm and/or presentations about his ag initiatives. 32421 Klosterman Rd., New Vienna. 563-921-4255.

**RELATED INFORMATION:**

The Sierra Club's Iowa Chapter at its 9/16 annual meeting featured Neil D. Hamilton as the morning speaker. He, as a soil commissioner, has authored 2 books: "The Land Remains – A Midwestern Perspective On Our Past and Future" and "The River Knows – How Water and Land Will Shape Our Future." ([www.IceCubePress.com](http://www.IceCubePress.com)) Dick Worm has each book available to loan, "The River Knows" has this "revelation" on pages 202-203:

Neil, speaking at the 2022 annual meeting of the Conservation Districts of Iowa, explained to the elected commissioners that under Iowa Code section 161A.61 that they DO have the legal authority to investigate any land believed to be losing soil above established loss limits. Some commissioners did not seem to know that! He told them, "This is not a meeting of the Corn Growers – ...Iowa Law... trusts us to help protect the soil" and power to do so. "Politics" and controversy aside, statutory responsibility exists! We must live up to the expectation of the law.

Meeting/PROGRAMS 2023:

**March 28:** Tennessee and North Carolina waterfalls flowed with VERY few viewers. But, photos consolidated.

**April 22:** Julien Dubuque International Film Festival was previewed. Documentarie of particular Environmental/ Conservation/ Societal interest: "Devil Put the Coal in the Ground"; "Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island"; "Adapting to Dive"; "Anxious Nation"; "Affirmation Generation"; "Garden City Kansas"; "Greener Pastures"; "The Artist and the Astronaut"; "Untreated and Unheard: The Addiction Crisis in America"; and "Women Behind the Wheel" -- among MANY other documentaries, feature films, and short films blocks. **Next up: April 24-28, 2024.**

**May 23:** Project AWARE river clean-ups 2019, '21. '22 attracted no attention. '23 on Iowa River went fine. **2024 may be July 7-12 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> full week is common.**

**August 19:** Planning/preview Autumn/Winter. Charlie and Gretel joined Dick and Jane inside: HOT out.

**Sept. 26:** Newspaper journalism, like White Pine Group, is at risk. Charlie joined Dick and Jane for dinner at the A&W first. Good breaded tenderloin & Root Beer Float! .



**White Pine 2023 Activity Reports (Cont.)**

**March 25 and 30: Faraway Farm Service & Eagle Nest:**



4/15 Litter Heritage Tr. 4/22 Planet Party 5/19-21 Miss. Palisades



6/24 Wh. Pine Hollow 8/19 "picnic" 8/19: 81<sup>st</sup> BD



9/28 Volga R. SRA

9/28 Brush Creek Canyon, S. Pres.



White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa Sierra Club  
"The Needle" Newsletter Editor 2023-24 Autumn/Winter Needle  
Richard Worm September - February  
3680 Echo Hills Dr. Volume 43, #2  
Bellevue, IA 52031 - 9557 10/06/23

2019 Autumn Calendar of Events  
2019 Turkey Dinner Fundraiser, November 9  
Backbone Cabin Outing, Feb. 7-9, 2020



Record Events on Your Personal Calendars

**EXPLORE** **ENJOY**  
**PROTECT**

**White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa**  
**EXCOM (\*Expires January, 2024)**

Chair: Charlie Winterwood, Dubuque, 563-348-0581  
[cwinterwood71@gmail.com](mailto:cwinterwood71@gmail.com)  
Vice Chair: \*Dave Hansen, Masonville, [dhansen187@gmail.com](mailto:dhansen187@gmail.com)  
Member/Newsletter: Dick Worm, Bellevue, 563-582-2580  
563-590-2557 [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)  
Treasurer: \*Jane Worm, Bellevue. 563-582-2580  
[jworm924@msn.com](mailto:jworm924@msn.com)  
Conservation: Ben Biver, Dubuque, [biverb@gmail.com](mailto:biverb@gmail.com)  
(More committees are available, but unoccupied. ☺)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup)  
Website: [www.sierraclub.org/iowa/whitepinegroup](http://www.sierraclub.org/iowa/whitepinegroup)  
(Unstaffed but has back-issues of previous newsletters.)

**Founder: John Muir**

"...civilization is strained and unnatural. It required centuries to tame men as we find them, but if turned loose they would return to killing and bloody barbarism in as many years." (November, 1874)  
"...Every soil-atom seems to yield enthusiastic obedience to law—boulders and mud-grains moving to music as harmoniously as the far whirling planets."  
(“Studies in the Sierra—Formation of Soils”, Dec., 1874.)

**Sierra Club Resources:**

To receive environmental news and green living tips twice monthly, you can subscribe to the Sierra Club Insider at [www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider](http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider).  
In general, [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) has a plethora of John Muir and other information for your reading enjoyment.

