

# Sierra



## Jan/Feb 2015

SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

Newsletter of the Chippewa Valley Group

WISCONSIN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CHIPPEWA

### January

7 Monthly Meeting  
*The American Kestrel*

### February

4 Monthly Meeting  
*Nonmetallic-mine Reclamation in Chippewa County*

**January Monthly Meeting**  
*The American Kestrel*  
Wednesday, Jan 7, 7:30 PM  
Eau Claire Room  
Eau Claire Public Library  
400 Eau Claire St

**February Monthly Meeting**  
*Nonmetallic-mine Reclamation in Chippewa County*  
Wednesday, Feb 4, 7:30 PM  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
421 S Farwell St, Eau Claire

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the high cost of mail service and our funds being very limited, this will be the last newsletter sent via the postal service. If you wish to switch from paper to e-mail delivery please send an e-mail address to Bob St Louis at [STLOUIR2002@YAHOO.COM](mailto:STLOUIR2002@YAHOO.COM).

If you need our paper newsletter and e-mail is not available to you please contact Caryn, 715-684-9374, or Margo, 715-835-4549 and we will get a newsletter to you.

### **Welcome, New Members!** **September and October 2014**

**Almena** Mary Rowe **Altoona** Linda Petersen **Arkansaw** Deanna Rippley **Bay City** Lorraine Nelson **Bloomer** Dawne McElroy, Robert & Donna Wolniak **Bruce** Mary Walker **Chetek** Linda Puig **Chippewa Falls** Lisa Horak, Roger Horton, Gene Decker, Henty Schneider **Cornell** V Christianson, Terry Germai **Cumberland** Ted Schoenhals **Durand** Jeff & Betty Lou Imler, Jo Ann Rucker **Eau Claire** Steve Baumgardner, James Cahow, Craig Felton, Charles Flatland, William & Elizabeth Giese, Gloria Schley, Mary Tusing, Diane Zurbucken **Elk Mound** Jon & Judy Dirks **Fall Creek** Lawrence Heagle **Jim Falls** Paula Probst **Ladysmith** Brian Melendez **Menomonie** Janelle Kadlec, Daniel & Jessica Kuske, Jean Keck, Maria Baier, Martin Erdman, John & Lynn See, Carol Sorsoleil **New Auburn** Dee Minto **Rice Lake** Jacqueline S Covey **Sheldon** Jan Hulbert **Stockholm** Anne Anderson, Joanna Jahn **Thorp** Kim Lewan -from Patty Henry (Current Group memberships = 630 -ed)

January we will take a journey with **Alice Droske** as she presents slides of kestrel distribution, diet, habitat, courtship, egg laying, rearing of young and more importantly, how you can maintain a kestrel nest box with the right habitat. Alice has been an avid bird watcher all her life,

The American Kestrel is the smallest falcon in North America. This bird was formerly know as the "Sparrow Hawk." American Kestrels are widely distributed across North America. Kestrels are observed in open country perched on wires or hovering in mid-air. Being cavity nesters, they readily use nest boxes.



Alice Droske has been an avid bird watcher since age 8 when she saw her "spark bird," a male Scarlet Tanager. She has been involved in bird banding projects at Beaver Creek Reserve, in Fall Creek, WI for the past nine years. One of the projects she participates in is "The American Kestrel Nest Box Program."

We'll again gather before each meeting at **Stella Blue's** at 5:30 for a quick meal and chat with our speakers!

In February **Dan Masterpole** will give us an update on the current mine reclamation situation in Chippewa County. Dan is the Chippewa County Conservationist and Director of the Chippewa Co. Dept of Land Conservation and Forest Management. In that capacity he is responsible for administering the state requirements for non-metallic mine reclamation as established in State Administrative Rule NR135. In carrying out these responsibilities he has worked closely with representatives of the aggregate and industrial sand mining industries, public agencies, and citizen stakeholders to develop and administer a county based non metallic mine reclamation program to meet state rule requirements and local environmental objectives. He will present overviews of:

-Non-metallic mining and mine expansion in West Central Wisconsin

-State reclamation planning and permit requirements.

-A Mine Reclamation Demonstration and Research Study being conducted in Chippewa County

-Experiences and lessons learned to date.

Dan Masterpole is no stranger to our Group, having received our annual Earth Green award at the Spring banquet in 2010.

## Sierra Club Partnering with UW-Eau Claire Students and Alumni

Jeremy Gragert, Conservation Chair

As conservation chair I'm excited to announce an organization that Sierrans can partner with to connect to University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus resources that can help us protect and sustain our environment. I'm involved with Progressive Students & Alumni (PSA), a new student organization where UW-Eau Claire students work alongside alumni (I graduated in 2005) to become more engaged in the important issues of the day, both on campus and in the broader community.

The May 6th program of the Sierra Club will be co-hosted by PSA, and held at UW-Eau Claire, and in that way we hope to connect more students to the club and more Sierrans to students. We hope that the subject of the program, about a couple's canoeing adventure to Saskatchewan, will inspire students to take similar adventures of exploration this summer, as did our program last May about a bicycle adventure around the Great Lakes.

We also hope that PSA can be a resource for the Chippewa Valley Sierra Club to grow membership and awareness among young people, connect student activists to environmental justice issues that the Sierra Club is working on, and connect with faculty who are experts on these issues.

While PSA is focused on a wide variety of issues, including social and economic justice, the environment is a key area of interest. PSA has started up a monthly Green Drinks social event for sustainability-minded folks to get together over a beer or coffee every month for informal discussion at The Cabin in the UW-Eau Claire Davies Student Center. The upcoming Green Drinks dates are Jan. 27, Feb. 24, March 31, April 28, always at 6pm and on the last Tuesday of the month during the school year. All are welcome!



PSA also plans to continue the Social Cinema Series, which kicked off to an overflow crowd in September 2014 with the showing of the film "Wisconsin's Mining Standoff." While the films for Spring 2015 are not yet finalized, save the dates of the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm during the school year for Social Cinema: Feb. 18, March 18, April 15.

I'm happy to work with anyone from the Sierra Club wishing to partner with Progressive Students & Alumni (PSA) in the new year! To learn more about Progressive Students & Alumni (PSA) feel free to contact me ([jgragert@gmail.com](mailto:jgragert@gmail.com)), or go to the PSA website: [www.progressivestudentsandalumni.com](http://www.progressivestudentsandalumni.com)

## PETCOKE - Part Two

by Bill Bean

In Part One I described the plans to convert a coal-burning power plant on Lake Michigan into a storage facility for petcoke, a solid residue from oil refining, especially from tar sands oil from Canada. The company making those plans already had another such facility and it was under so much pressure to clean up that operation that they have now decided to shut it down completely. The fate of the power plant site is unknown at this time. Another company in the petcoke business is creating a new larger site on the south side of Chicago which will meet regulations such as storing and handling the petcoke inside of a structure to prevent wind-blown pollution. They will also install water cannons to suppress dust. This information comes from a November 27, 2014, article in The Hammond Times newspaper. While better control is certainly desirable, it would be better yet if less tar sand oil was being refined. Enbridge Oil wants to triple the amount of tar sands oil pumped in its Line 61 passing through Rusk, Chippewa, and Clark counties on its way to the Chicago area and the BP refinery in northwest Indiana. Approval by the Wisconsin DNR is likely, given the recent elections, but some counties and local groups are still trying to get

the DNR to require a full Environmental Impact Study.

Line 61 is a relatively new pipeline but has already had spills in Rusk and Clark counties. An Enbridge pipeline spill in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan has cost a billion dollars and the clean up has taken four years so far. To achieve the higher capacity proposed for Line 61 Enbridge is planning for more pumping stations and will probably have to dilute the tar sands oil even more with light weight, volatile chemicals.

INTERNET NEWS, December 18, 2014: An Enbridge plant in Canada has had an internal oil spill and had to shut off Line 4 which goes through Wisconsin.

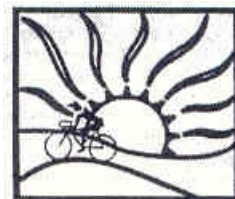
## Sierra Century Bike Ride -HELP

by Steve Scoll

This is a call out to anyone who would like to become involved with the Sierra Century bicycle ride. Eleanor Wolf started this ride about a million years ago and has passed it on to others over time. It's a fun event as well as a source of revenue that's permitted our group to underwrite some interesting Sierra sponsored initiatives.

Volunteerism is the lynch pin that holds the thing together. We're in need of new recruits.

Those of you who have contributed to making past rides successful are enormously appreciated, that goes without saying.



We need a new infusion of volunteerism. It certainly wouldn't hurt if the weather cooperated again either.

Mostly needed are people willing to staff the three rest stops along the route. This amounts to a commitment to spend several hours of a Sunday in late May or early June at a scenic park in Chippewa or Trempealeau County feeding and visiting with people on bicycles. Also needed are a couple of folks willing to prepare and serve food at Beaver Creek Reserve.

Contact me at [stevescoll@gmail.com](mailto:stevescoll@gmail.com) with a simple "sure I'll help", or call me at **715-556-1891** and leave me a message, cell phones don't work at my house. I need a head count so don't delay. You'll have a good time, I guarantee it.

## Miscellaneous Notes

1. Our annual election for Executive Committee (ExCom) for 2015 will be held during the January monthly meeting, to be held at the EC Public Library. The nominating committee of Caryn and Margo has nominated

- **Paul Hoff**
- **Emily Lind**
- **Steve Scoll**

We will pass out ballots at the meeting and nominations may come from the floor. Paul and Steve are running for re-election. Emily would be a new Excom member; her statement is given below.

2. Our Group regrets the passing of longtime member **Charlotte Hubert** this past year. And we also appreciated her 2013 generous financial contribution to our Sierra Club!

3. Newsletter. Your editor hopes that our going now to the electronic distribution of these newsletters will end the expensive, resource-wasting, and somewhat tedious and time-consuming business of providing mailed black-and-white paper copies to all members who haven't given Sierra Club an e-mail address. Also, if you did give the Club your email and haven't been receiving this newsletter, you are probably among the e-mail "bounces" we get when e-mailing them. Please provide us a correct up-to-date e-mail address. We'll continue e-mailing the newsletters as pdf attachments, or provide a link in the e-mail to the online newsletter. You can zoom into these!

## **Emily Lind's Statement**

I grew up in Eau Claire and received a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and a certificate in environmental studies from UW-Madison. Now I am the Citizen Science Technician for Beaver Creek Reserve Citizen Science Center. I wear many hats in this position and will be involved in many projects next year including grassland bird surveys, a bat project, terrestrial and aquatic invasive species projects, and I'm the new Citizen Lake Monitoring Network contact for the West Central Region of Wisconsin. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Sierra Club board and meeting you all!

**ELEANOR** Kudos to **Eleanor Wolf** for her recent honor receiving the **2014 Achievement Award by Citizen Action of Wisconsin!**

Though we know her well for her countless efforts within our CV Group of Sierra Club, the Action group cited other activities of hers such as establishing Moral Mondays and fighting for Badger Care and Minimum Wage.



**Eleanor**

## **Selected Events for Jan/Feb 2015**

Most Beaver Creek Reserve (BCR) events require pre-registration and a nominal fee. See their website or call 715-877-2212 for info.

Abstracted from *Volume One*, Dec 23, 2014

### **Cross Country Skiing**

Jan 3 11am BCR, Intro xx-skiing

Jan 24 1pm BCR, Henke Farm

Jan 30 6pm, Candlelit Menomonie Trails. 715-235-9087, 235-1242, 232-5625

Jan 31 5pm Lake Wissota State Park. Need park permit

### **Snowshoeing**

Jan 2 6 & 7:30pm BCR. Candlelight

Jan 8 & Feb 12 9:30am BCR, For ages 55+

Jan 17 9:30 & 12:30 BCR Intro Snowshoeing

Feb 1 & 8 1pm Lowes Creek Co Park 836-8460

Jan 23 6 & 7:30pm BCR. Crescent Moon

Jan 31 5pm Lake Wissota State Park. Need park permit

### **Nature Classes**

Jan 31 9am/Feb 1 8:30am BCR. \$Wolf ecology

Feb 11 9am/Feb 21 9:30 BCR. Tree/Shrub ID

## **CV Group Programs in 2014**

Donna Martin and Paul Hoff  
Program Co-Chairs

**Jan 8** *Political Will for a Livable World*. Kate Hale Wilson

**Feb 5** *Conservation in Wisconsin. Where are we Headed?*

Duke Welter

**March 5** *Evaluating Our Energy Future*. James Hanke, Xcel Energy

**April 15** *Earth Green Award Dinner*. Andrew Werthmann,

**May 7** *Big Water Bikers' Big Tour of all the Great Lakes*.

Kris McNeal, Zach Chase

**Sept 3** *Annual Potluck Picnic*

**Oct 1** *Utah Redrock Wilderness Update*. Clayton Daughenbaugh

**Nov 5** *Land Trusts 101—Who, What, Where, and How*.

Bob Fitzwilliam, Richard Smith

**Dec 3** *Airborne Particulates Around Frac Sand Plants*.

Crispin Pierce, UWEC



**Ice Age Trail Hike—Nov 1, 2014** -photo by Arlene Radtke

# Sierra Club

c/o Bob St. Louis  
3427 McElroy Ct  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

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## Mini-Directory – Chippewa Valley Group

Chair	Caryn Treiber*	N9021 590th St Colfax WI 54730	684-9374
Vice Chair/Treasurer	Margo Miller*	221 Washington St Eau Claire WI 54701	835-4549
Political/JMC Del.	Caryn Treiber*	N9021 590th St Colfax WI 54730	632-2055
Events/Earthgreen	Paul Ebel*	P.O. Box 141 Menomonie WI 54751	651-335-8759
Programs	Paul Hoff*	2519 Keith St Eau Claire WI 54701	834-5419
Conservation/Sec'y	Jeremy Gragert*	451 Lincoln Ave Eau Claire WI 54701	612-220-1970
JMC ExCom at-large	Jane Schley*	1414 Emery St, Eau Claire, WI 54701	834-2864
Programs	Donna Martin	20279 77th Ave Chippewa Falls WI 54729	720-8890
Newsletter/Web Pg	Bob St Louis	3427 McElroy Ct Eau Claire WI 54701	835-4863
John Muir Chapter	Shahla Werner	222 S Hamilton St, Suite 1 Madison WI 53703	608-256-0565
Membership	Patty Henry	2014 Ruby Ln Eau Claire WI 54703	832-1387
Ice Age Tr/Publicity	Richard Smith	27200 145th St New Auburn WI 54757	967-2164
Population	Paul Ebel*	P.O. Box 141 Menomonie WI 54751	651-335-8759
Sierra Century Ride	Steve Scoll*	N12096 730th St Wheeler WI 54772	556-1891

\* Member of CV Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

Except as otherwise noted, all area codes are 715