

Sierra



May/Aug 2014

SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

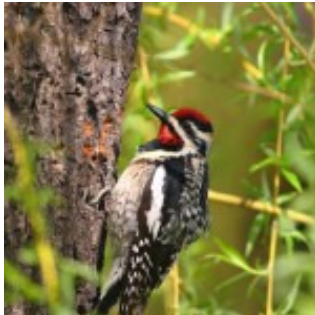
Newsletter of the Chippewa Valley Group

WISCONSIN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CHIPPEWA

May

7 Monthly Meeting
Big Water Bikers

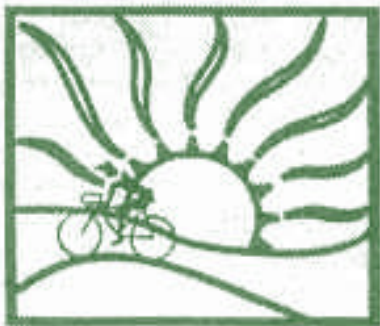
14 Migratory Bird Day



30 Powell Lake Hike

June

1 SIERRA CENTURY



18 Solstice Paddle & Bike

19-28 Blue Hills Trail Building

July

19 Photography Workshop

May Monthly Meeting

Big Water Bikers' Big Tour

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 PM

Room 117 Phillips Science Hall UW-Eau Claire

BIG WATER BIKERS RESCHEDULED TO OUR MAY 7 2014 MEETING

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR THIS MEETING

This program, originally scheduled for our December 2013 monthly meeting, had to be postponed at that time due to impossible weather-related driving conditions for the presenters.

On May 1, 2012 two adventurers, **Kris McNeal** and **Zach Chase**, hit the saddle and began their documented journey around the Great Lakes of North America. Together they spent 97 days bicycling 5,521 miles on a journey that took them through 2 countries, 8 states, and over 20 major cities. As they undertook this epic journey the team filmed with High Definition cameras to document our experiences.

This expedition was born from their discovery of bicycle touring and love for the Great Lakes region. It was their wish to put all of their efforts into getting a first hand and intimate look into discovering the importance of this amazing region. With the experiences they documented, they were planning to create an educational adventure film capturing the importance of the Great Lakes in order to create a bond with those living near and beyond the scope of the Great Lakes, a region holding 1/5 of the world's fresh surface water. This feature documentary will be the first to capture the Great Lakes region by bicycle, showing our interactions with the Great Lakes, its communities, and the incredible landscape that surrounds them. www.bigwaterbike.com

Our Chippewa Valley Group was a co-sponsor of the Big Water Bikers, following up on a suggestion of **Steve Scoll's** at an ExCom meeting. Thanks, Steve, and thanks to **Jeremy Gragert** and **Paul Hoff** for arrangements.



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



Events - Paul Ebel

May 14/Wed 8 am-8 pm **Welcome Back Bird Day**

In celebration of International Migratory Bird Day on Wednesday, May 14, come witness the return of songbirds to Wisconsin from their wintering grounds in the tropics. Join expert birders from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at five sites across the City of Eau Claire to view migrant birds and learn about their incredible northward journey. Binoculars, a spotting scope, and bird guides will be available at each site. Participants will be working toward a citywide goal of spotting 100 species of migrant and resident birds. All ages are welcome! You can visit any or all of the sites which include Braun's Bay at Carson Park, Owen Park near the bandshell, Little Niagara along the Chippewa River on the UWEC Campus, Truax Prairie at Kane Road and 10th Avenue (near Menards HQ), and the Dells Pond Overlook at the end of Ruby Lane (just off Riverview Drive).

The event is part of the First Annual Eau Claire Welcome Back Bird Day, sponsored by the Gaylord Nelson Audubon Society, Bird City Wisconsin, and Wisconsin DNR. You can find additional information at gaylordnelsonaudubon.org. -Jeff Henry



May 30/Fri 8-10 am **Birds and Blooms -Powell Lake**

Hike and explore the Powell Lake property, a parcel within the Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area. We will visit floodplain forest, emergent wetland, and dry mesic prairie. We'll stop to identify bird, plant, and insect species, and hear a discussion of DNR management strategies. The property was the site of an LCRA workday; so volunteers will have a chance to see the fruits of their labor. Location: 1010th St./Fuller Rd. (Dunn - Eau Claire County line). Map: goo.gl/maps/7ZuK7. Meet at the dead end. 8-10 AM. Bring field guides, camera, snacks, water bottle. **Bill Hogseth**, DNR biologist, will lead.

June 1/Sun 7-10 am **Sierra Century Bicycle Tour**

Sierra Century Bicycle Tour • Sunday, June 1, 7-10 AM. Fully supported, 12, 30, 60, 80, or 100 miles bike ride. Start and end at Beaver Creek Reserve's Wise Nature Center. Choose your own pace; sag wagon support. Four rest stops with food and beverage. Meal available on return to Beaver Creek. Registration \$20 by May 24, or \$25 up to the day of the ride. Age 16 and below \$8. Commemorative T-shirts will be available for \$12. See registration form and info at wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/century.htm. The proceeds from the event go toward environmental education grants to area schools. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact: Steve Scoll: stevescoll@gmail.com 715-556-1891.



June 18/Wed **Solstice Paddle & Bike Ride**

(Rain Date Thursday, June 19) Meeting location and time to be determined. For information, contact: **Renee Ebel**: 715-379-0933 or reneespfe@gmail.com (paddle) **Scott Kmetz**: 715-864-5440 or mjskmetz@charter.net (bike)

June 19-28/Thur-Sat **Rejuvenate Ice Age Trail in the Blue Hills**

A mix of trail building and rejuvenation is ongoing during this extended period in the Blue Hills: bridges, boardwalks, signage, mowing, tread work. Come for a day, or come as long as you want; camp at Murphy Flowage. Register at <http://mobileskills.iceagetrail.org/blue-hills-hemlock-creek-segments>.

July 19/Saturday 10 am **Photographic Workshop**

Lake Wissota State Park. Meet at the entry parking lot at 10 AM. We will explore nature and landscape photography in film and digital methods. Additional activities can include a hike and a bike ride. Paul Ebel: 651-335-8759 or paulebel44@yahoo.com; Caryn Treiber: 715-684-9374 or ctreiber@discover-net.net

Beaver Creek Reserve Events www.beavercreekreserve.org Click [View all events](#)

Bird Hikes May 3, 10, 17 6:30 AM
Phenology for Elders May 15, June 6 9:30 AM
Wildflower Walk May 8 9 AM
All About Dragonflies June 11 9 AM

Ice Age Trail Events iatchippewa.org

Chippewa Moraine Sunday Hikes
May 4, Jun 1, Aug 3
Trail Improvement Days
May 17, June 14, Aug 23-
Richard Smith
Email: chapter@iatchippewa.org
Phone: 715-967-2164

Do You EXCEL??
Be our Group Treasurer!

We **still** need a volunteer to replace Eleanor Wolf. Some computer skill with spreadsheets such as Excel will be helpful for you as her successor, but if you are a computer user, help will be available for you in learning the current Sierra report format which is Excel. This can be both a valuable learning and a service experience for you! You do not have to be one of the seven ExCom members to be Treasurer! Contact Eleanor at **715-835-4829** for more information about this vital job within Sierra Club! Become more active in our great Club!

We Need You!



Welcome, New Members!
February & March 2014

Augusta David Watson, Martin Loftsgordon **Chetek** Dale Lehner **Chippewa Falls** Vivian Dahl, Greta Anderson, Terrence Halfen, Helena Irene Pruzek, Jackie Schult, Jonnie Turner **Conrath** Gary Tepler **Cornell** David F and Bonnie S Barry **Durand** Mr/Mrs Harold C Bauer, Kathy Brunner **Eau Claire** Tim Coburn, Ruth Waller, Bonnie Golden, Margaret Bielecki, Carol Patterson, Thomas Kernan, Kathleen Nelson, Erin Brantner, Bhenni Johnson, Dean Johnson, R E Mitchell, Joanne Stange **Fairchild** Esther Henzl **Fall Creek** Kevin and Rosemary Lynch, Mark H and Karen G Wise **Hawkins** Kathy Kudu **Knapp** Cynthia Brinkman **Ladysmith** Nancy Bricco **Menomonie** Jerry Wickman, Paula Feigal, James Daine **Mondovi** Mike Koch, Morden Randen **New Auburn** Jackie Moos **Osseo** Katherine Smith **Pepin** Gary Johnson, Lynn Peterso **Prairie Farm** Katherine Seidell **Rice Lake** Ruth Weber, Ronald G Berg, Dale and Carole Crisler, Debbie Johnson **Turtle Lake** Matthew Widell, James Perala

Local Birding

A "West Side with Rich Kremer" program on WPR's 88.3 FM, which aired 4/14/2014, dealt with current birder activities in our area and featured interviews with **Bill Hogseth** and author **Steve Betchkal**. A local affiliation with Audubon is in the making. There is a birding club at BCR. The demise of the Chippewa Wildlife Society was mentioned. The audio of this program can be obtained in the audio archives on the WPR website **wpr.org**. (One way to find it is to type **betchkal** in the search box.)

Jane Schley, who is on our ExCom seems to know good birding spots around our area, as do **Jeff and Patty Henry**.

Eau Claire Yard Waste Disposal

Below is from the EC County website: Good tidings and great joy!

Yard Waste Directory
NEW FOR 2014! Yard Waste is now accepted at the Jeffers Road site during normal hours of operation on Tuesdays (from 7 am to 10:30 am) and on Saturdays (from 1 pm to 5 pm). Yard waste consisting of leaves, grass clippings, pine needles, and other grassy vegetation will be accepted at the site. A roll-off drop box will be provided to place the items either in paper bags or as loose material. No plastic bags of any kind, pumpkins, gourds, garden produce or other household food waste is being accepted as part of this program. Please be aware that this waste stream is being used in a local composting program and we would like to keep any contamination out.

Eau Claire County Clean Sweep

This year's Clean Sweep dates are **May 10 July 12 Sept 13 Nov 8** 8 am to 12 noon at WRR Environmental Services, 5200 Ryder Rd in Eau Claire. Details are in the "Beaver Creek Reserve Recycler" publication for 2014, which was mailed to residents and is online on the EC County website.

The Prairie Enthusiasts,
Chippewa Savannas Chapter
theprairieenthusiasts.csc@gmail.com

The following is part of an e-mail from **Kathy Stahl**, Chapter Chair.

Hello Prairie Enthusiasts, Prairies thrive on prescribed burns and our chapter wants to be ready to accomplish that as skillfully as possible. We depend upon volunteers for conducting the prescribed fires and we need qualified, trained people. That leads to two requests:

- (1) For all of you who have experience/training with prescribed burns, TPE Central is asking that we submit names, training, and experience of those who will be on our burn crews. If you are willing to volunteer to help us with prescribed burns, we would appreciate your sending your name, email address, and phone number to Kathy Ruggles (kathyaruggles@gmail.com) or Mark Leach (mkleach@merr.com). They will contact you to complete the information needed by TPE Central. Please send your name to Kathy or Mark by May 1st.
- (2) To develop more burn crew members, Kathy Ruggles, Mark Leach and John Thomas will be conducting a **Basic Crew Member Training on May 10th starting at 9 and going to 5.** The training will be held at Simply Dunn in Downsview and there will be a charge of \$10 for TPE members and \$20 for non-members. You need to be 18 years of age to take the course or 16 years old with parental authorization. In the classroom, they will cover the basics of fire behavior and management. There will be hands-on experience with tools. If the weather conditions are suitable, you will also have experience with using those tools to ignite and extinguish a grass fire. It is important that you wear suitable clothing and footwear for burning: natural fiber clothing (cotton, or wool, not polyester) and leather boots. A bandana can be helpful for smoke control. And bring a bag lunch for the noon break. To register for the basic crew member training, please contact Kathy Ruggles at kathyaruggles@gmail.com by May 1st.

Chippewa Valley Paddlers

(The following is from the CVPaddlers webpage, found at groups.yahoo.com. Also note the River Touring Section of our John Muir Chapter offers tours and instruction —see their current schedule in your April-June 2014 issue of *The Muir View*)

“Chippewa Valley Paddlers is a group that originated in 1985. Members have changed over the years, but several original members are still paddling with the group. Many members also enjoy other outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, and skiing. We are a very active group and enjoy the outdoors. We invite you to join us.”

May 17 Yellow River paddle Donna & Steve

May 31 Jump River paddle Jim & Sue

June 7 Totogatic River paddle Jim C.

June 18 Solstice paddle & bike Renee & Rosemary

June 28 Chippewa River paddle Odielia

July 10 Brat Feed Kris & Penny

July 12 Three rivers paddle Anne St. Croix, Totogatic, Namekagon

July 26 Hay River paddle Jenny

Aug 2 Namekagon River paddle Kris

Aug 17 Flambeau River paddle John & Marilyn

Sept 6 Bois Brule River paddle ??? OR 13 Looking for volunteer



Chair's Notes

Caryn Treiber, CV Group Chair

Conservation Congress

A press release from the WI Sierra Club with the final voting tabulations on resolutions introduced at the statewide Conservation Congress April 14th showed overwhelming majorities opposing the proposed taconite mine in northern WI, supporting the repeal of the 2013 Act 1 new mining, and directing the DNR to establish stronger air standards for frac sand mining to protect public health. Each of these resolutions was approved by nearly or greater than a 2 to 1 margin. The DNR tabulation of results can be found at

dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html

Earth Green Award Dinner

The April 15th annual Gaylord Nelson Memorial Earthgreen Award dinner was a great gathering of community conservationists enjoying lively dialogues and an excellent presentation on food production given by our awardee Andrew Werthmann, an Eau Claire city councilman and environmental activist. Thanks to Eleanor Wolf for organizing the event and to her and all the others who cooked and served the food and wine, and to Bob St.Louis for setting up the visual technology!

Beehive Collective

April 29th was the Beehive Collective's presentation on the formation and extraordinary uniqueness of local ecology, and hopeful protections of it from destruction from frac sand mining and sulfide mining. The group's visuals were amazing wall-sized graphics that took years in their making. Thanks to Jeremy Gragert for organizing their appearance here and having our CV Group co-sponsor their presentation.



James Hanke from Xcel Energy gave our March program at North Star Middle School

Photo: Jeremy Gragert

Earth Green Award Dinner 2014



Andrew Werthmann and Caryn Treiber



Andrew discussed farming practices in his presentation

The Sierra Century

12, 30, 60, 80 or 100 miles

Sponsored by Chippewa Valley Sierra Club
Sunday, June 1, 2014

Sierra Century Registration Form

(one registration per form)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Registration Fees

Early Bird Rate @ \$20 _____
(postmarked by Sat. May 24)

Regular Rate @ \$25 _____
(after May 24 and day of event)

Riders 16 & under @ \$8 ea _____

T-shirt (check size below) @ \$12 ea _____

S M L XL

Total fee enclosed: _____

By signing below, I am agreeing to the Liability Waiver printed at right. Riders under 18 must include a parent or guardian co-signature.

Participant's signature _____ Date _____

Make Checks payable and mail to:
Chippewa Valley Sierra Club
PO Box 375
Eau Claire WI 54702-0375

Registration Fee Includes

- Bean burritos, lemonade, and ice cream at the the Nature Center until 5 p.m.
- Detailed map and cue sheet
- Food and drink at 4 rest-stops
- Support vehicles throughout the ride to ensure that all riders return by 5 p.m.

Liability Waiver

Before beginning the ride, each participant must sign the liability waiver below.

Safety

Protective headgear is required for all participants. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult over 21. All traffic regulations must be observed.

For More Information

Call: 715 556-1891

Email: stevescoll@gmail.com

Web: wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/century.htm

Liability Waiver

I, the undersigned, know that bicycling is a sport carrying significant risk of personal injury. I know there are obstacles, hazards, environmental conditions, and risks which in combination with my actions can cause me severe injury. I agree to take an active role in understanding and accepting these risks. I also agree that I, not the Sierra Club and/or its staff, volunteers, and sponsors, am responsible for my safety while I participate or train for the Sierra Century. I hereby waive, release, and dismiss all claims for damage and personal injury which I may incur before, during, or after the above named event, against any and all ride officials, persons, or organizations involved with the Sierra Century. While bicycling in this event, I agree to wear a helmet and obey all traffic laws.

Sierra Club

c/o Bob St. Louis
3352 Fear St
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Eau Claire, WI
Permit No. 1459

Mini-Directory – Chippewa Valley Group

Chair	Caryn Treiber*	N9021 590th St Colfax WI 54730	684-9374
Vice Chair	Margo Miller*	221 Washington St Eau Claire WI 54701	835-4549
Treasurer	Eleanor Wolf	1810 Birch St Eau Claire WI 54703	835-4829
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	834-5418
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	3352 Fear St Eau Claire WI 54701	834-3774
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
Calendar Sales	Dave Rice	1415 Highland Ave Eau Claire WI 54701	835-3490
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