

White Pine Needle, 2021

White Pine Group, Northeast Iowa Sierra Club

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

Volume 41, No. 1 3/18/21



White Pine Hollow, Luxemburg, Iowa

In this 2021 White Pine Needle: (2021 Overview)

Dependent on the nature of COVID-19.

- *White Pine 2021 Events: Zoom Program/Meetings & Outings; Other.
- *2021 Fundraiser Dinner: October 16, Swiss Valley Nature Center
- *2020 Membership Report/Summary;
- *2020 Outings & Program/Meeting Reports/Photos (limited!!)
- *2021 Project AWARE, River Clean-Up, July 11-16, 2021.

Record events onto your wall, electronic, or other calendars.

Needle Publication and Distribution.

The plan at this moment is that only this 2021 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. An Autumn Update MAY be distributed to everyone (by mail or email) depending on how 2021 deals with COVID-19.

Distribution of this 2021 Needle to all members by mail gives everyone at least one hard copy as a reference. It also informs everyone about email distribution that could be overlooked if the emailed copy should not happen to land. Be certain to **not** have my email address blocked ...or check your junk email. Email delivery is via raworm@msn.com. To be added to email delivery, send an email to me with your name and full mailing address including Zip Code. Many times an email address alone has little or no connection at all with a person's name.

Participatory Camaraderie inspires and motivates ACTION. As Sierra Club founder John Muir implored, “The battle we have fought, and are still fighting . . . is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it.” (January, 1896) .

Dubuque County Energy District

“The White Pine Group continues to contribute \$100 yearly to support the Dubuque County Energy District. Its mission is to have the county be 100% sustainable with renewable energy by 2050 and is the 4th Iowa county to set such a goal. **Winneshiek County's District**, founded by Andy and Paul Johnson, was the first and has had its energy district for over 11 years. White Pine EXCOM Chair, Charlie Winterwood, represents Sierra Club interests on the Dubuque County District's Board.”

THE ABOVE BRIEF ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED IN THIS VERY SAME LOCATION IN OUR 2020 WHITE PINE NEEDLE. WHY REPEAT IT? BECAUSE THE TOPIC INSPIRED THE OFFERING OF A ZOOM PROGRAM THIS COMING TUESDAY, MARCH 23, AT 7 PM.

County Energy Districts envision that sustainable and efficient energy will contribute to a vibrant economy, resilient communities, and a stable climate for generations to come. Implementation would be through education, energy planning, market transformation, investment, advocacy and partnerships. Winneshiek and Dubuque County Energy Districts can also catalyze and support the movement throughout Iowa and beyond.

The 7 PM, March 23, Zoom Presentation will be by Michaela Freiburger, Program Coordinator for the Dubuque County Energy District. The Dubuque County Energy District has done onsite seminars on renewable energy, promoted electric vehicles and charging stations, had LED lightbulb swaps and promoted energy audits <https://dubuquecounty.energydistrict.org>

We are excited about the ability to share this program throughout our region (and beyond) via ZOOM technology. Notice went out on March 15 and registrations on March 16 had already reached 12. In-person programs have customarily not done as well and are much more limited in attendance convenience. We encourage your participation as we embark on only our second such program. **To RSVP and register**, go to:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000013FhAAI>

Or contact Ben Biver, biverb@gmail.com for Zoom and registration assistance. Registration details are also posted at www.Facebook.com/whitepinegroup .

By RSVP'ing you'll register for the program and receive additional information about Energy Districts and the link for the Zoom presentation. You will then receive a confirmation email, as well as a reminder email of the event. Time is short, so act now ☺

If you have zoom capability (computer with camera and speakers) but do not have a zoom account (needed to participate), go to <https://zoom.us/signup> for the simplest and FREE membership. You do not have to be on screen as an audio option allows viewing without you having to be dressed for the opera. But, seeing and sharing with participants adds the in-person touch.



WHITE PINE GROUP CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

The White Pine Group Executive Committee election for the three, 2021 positions became complete when a volunteer entered the “race” as a write-in candidate.

Ben Biver is no stranger to Dubuque having graduated from Hempstead High School where he was a member of the Hempstead Sierra Society, an “Out of the Indoors, Into the Outdoors,” adventure club all four years, even joining the “official” Sierra Club in 1993.



Local area hiking and camping trips prepared him for Sierra Society summer trips, one that, after his freshman year, included a day of rafting on the Snake River in Idaho; backpacking down 6000 feet from the 6982 ft. Hat Point on the Oregon side to the shore of the Snake River in Hells Canyon for two nights of camping (coming back up in rain on the third day); and then reaching the 9595 foot summit of Eagle Cap peak during a backpack trip in Oregon’s Eagle Cap Wilderness (plus two other peaks while there.)



That’s Ben third from left in back row upon return to Dubuque.

After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa in 2000 with a BA in political science, other education includes National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), study at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (licenses and certifications include EMT National Registry/Iowa licensed; Basic Life Support – CPR & AED; Wilderness First Responder and OSHA Safety – Heavy Industry); and an Environmental Management Master of Science (MS) from Webster University, Saint Lois, MO (a multi-disciplinary degree in natural resources and law centered around compliance of federal conservation acts: Clean Air, Clean Water, RCRA, etc.) . A military career included working at 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and at U.S. Army Special Operations Command leading units in Albania, Guam, Haiti, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Since then work at Sundown Mountain Resort included environmental compliance and stewardship. In between there was even a stint as a Volunteer Park Ranger in Wolf Trap National Park, Virginia.

The “conversation” concludes with his confirmation of strong support for wild spaces and parks. Sustainable use of public lands should be accessible for everyone. We are very fortunate to have Ben as our Conservation Chair -- but he cannot do what needs to be done ALONE. Welcome Ben back to NE Iowa’s out-of-doors with active involvement.

Page 2. **White Pine Group Member Environmental Educator Award Recipient**

“Bev Wagner, education and communication coordinator for Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency, will receive the Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award from the Iowa Association of Naturalists and the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition.

“The award is presented annually for outstanding efforts by an environmental educator...”

“Award namesake Bohumil Shimek (1861 -1937) was a professor of botany at the University of Iowa and the first director of the Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji. He is considered Iowa’s first environmental educator...”

(Dubuque Telegraph Herald, January 17, 2021, page 2A)

It would *seem* that the three units of Shimek State Forest along the Des Moines River in southeast Iowa were likely named after Bohumil Shimek. (Google it!)

Let’s dig deeper to find out what led to Bev deserving this award. Bev grew up on a small farm outside Dubuque spending lots of time hanging out in the pasture and at an archery range that adjoined the farm. The family worked hard together on the farm ... baling and stacking hay, harvesting walnuts, mowing the lawn, cleaning the barn, etc.

Bev was in 4th grade when the first Earth Day came about. She remembers feeling the importance of action and caring for the Earth. Going through school, she learned more specifics about what was happening and the desire to do something about it grew. Hempstead High Earth Science teachers had a huge impact on that. .

Bev’s first passion was Meteorology at Iowa State University but settled for a more general Earth Science major. After 2 years at ISU, Bev moved back to Dubuque where she changed her major to Environmental Science and Geology at the University of Dubuque. She enjoyed learning about the historical connections between what we find today to what happened so long ago.

Her professional career began part time with the Dubuque County Extension office and the 4-H program leading informal education at camps and speaking in classrooms about environmental and waste reduction topics. As a ISUE Youth Development Specialist, Bev worked with young families on nutrition and healthy living as well as with schools on science, environmental and nutrition education.

A third grade curriculum was written that included landfill tours... so that was a natural lead-in for her “dream job” as a DMASWA Educator working at Loras College as a contracted employee with DMASWA. The favorite parts of her job involve working with community members, students, and AmeriCorps members, currently supervising 2 of them and 3 students as they work on “great projects” in the community, at schools and at Loras College. **Inspiration!** See page 3 for some Bev community education projects.

BEV'S CONSERVATION INFLUENCE (page 3)

White Pine Group member, Bev Wagner, is definitely worthy of receiving the Shimek Environmental Educator Award... in so many ways. Here are a few not already covered on page 2.

Check: [Education & Outreach | DMASWA](#) to find out more about what is being offered to schools. Inspiration!

Bev was instrumental in creating the Keep Dubuque County Clean and Green (KDCCG) organization.



KDCCG has lost much of it originally intended zing as a widespread, community organizer and coordinator of clean-up and

and 3 R's initiatives, not necessarily the 3 R's of education but the 3 R's of conservation: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

But, she helps organize events such as the following, with T-shirts, even, to recycle those pesky electronic devices.



And still coordinates the Swiss Valley Road clean-ups as an ongoing outlet for KDCCG's most loyal members.

In fact, she has the survey out now to determine the best day and time for this Spring's, KDCCG, Swiss Valley Road Clean-Up. (Such events were what were to be KDCCG's goal for county-wide,

projects -- maybe by residents in a particular neighborhood or by other civic and conservation organizations -- which DO occur at various levels so KDCCG's goals are being met to some degree.)



Bev, 2nd from left, provides vests, picker-uppers, and bags for a crew gathering at Swiss Valley. Sorting out recyclables.

Friends of Dubuque County Conservation Board sponsors projects in county parks. And, our White Pine Group has hosted, for example, Catfish Creek, Finley's Landing, and Little Maquoketa Mounds Clean-ups. **Inspiration.**

Bev currently is providing outreach and personal volunteer time for a Habitat for Humanity reuse project at Mt Carmel salvaging cupboards, plumbing fixtures, etc. from a building to soon be demolished. Keep it out of the landfill. Contact: Rachel Daack rkdaack@gmail.com. Also <https://www.dmaswa.org/>

POPULATION / QUALITY OF LIFE "TO THE MOON"

Many, general environmental and conservation organizations include population growth as a concern facing the sustainability of the world's, natural life-support systems. The Population Connection (formerly ZPG) and Negative Population Growth (NPG) flat-out put the pressures of population growth and the related sprawl at the top of their list as the major influence impacting all other environmental concerns. Loss of wildlife habitat results in extinctions. Use of pesticides to increase production impacts monarch butterflies and honey bees and their pollination capabilities so important for many plants, including important food sources. Loss of wildlife, food, safe water, clean air, wilderness, etc. definitely impacts the quality of life. (Or, SHOULD, anyway.)

It was interesting to note a full page ad, paid for by Accountable Iowa, a project of the Iowa Association for Justice, in the Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021, Dubuque [Telegraph Herald](#), page 16A, taking one of our region's State Representatives, Shannon Lundgren, to task for wanting "to force a government-mandated dollar value on life." As a strong, anti-abortion advocate and bar owner, Rep, Lundgren, however, seeks, more specifically, with a bill she introduced, to place "a cap on the value of life if your loved one is killed by a drunk driver." "It is a government overreach that takes power away from a local, citizen jury..." It also tends to support the hypocrisy of being against abortion but then having less concern for the living babies and adults breathing fresh air on their own. Is a "life" that "lives" in poverty and squalor, due to circumstances, on a crowded planet truly living...or merely existing? The Right to EXIST?



Stop at one or two and be happier ... for the planet.

Would going "to the moon" solve this dilemma? Some "families" (large or small) have poor living conditions that may have nothing to do with the quality of their surrounding environment. But, their inability to live life happily and freely could influence how they impact and respect that surrounding, natural environment.

Creede (Colorado) Repertory Theater recently broadcast on-line a "live" and powerful production of "To the Moon", about domestic violence. (Remember Ralph's threats to Alice in the "Honeymooners" TV series of yesteryear?) The play features seven composite examples of lives impacted by domestic violence.

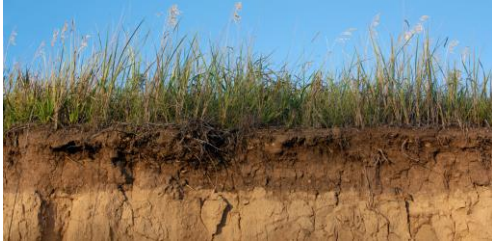
Based on 20 interviews and 200 or so surveys, the play describes the wide range of abuse that impacts a true quality of life (rich or poor.) From a "Planned Parenthood" sort of perspective, one of the seven stood out as it involved the abuse by an ultra-religious, domineering husband who demanded obedience. The wife, finally, against their religion, began to discreetly use contraception due to not wanting to bring another child into such a situation. That can relate to not wanting to bring a child into a polluted and crowded, unnatural world. Some "strong language" occurs at times.

The recorded production is FREE until April 11. Reservations are required. A Vimeo link and password will be in a confirmation email. Viewing can then occur anytime until April 11. Actors performed live from their homes, one from London, at 1 AM there! Staging was exquisite. <https://creederep.org/show/to-the-moon/>

IS IT BETTER TO BE DIRTY OR SOILED? p 4 "KISS THE GROUND"

The Sierra Club made available a free showing of the movie "Kiss the Earth" for a few days in early March followed by a discussion with the filmmakers on March 11. You are not alone if you happened to miss it. But, anyone can at any time google "Kiss the Earth" and obtain access to the movie. A 30 day, free, trial membership with VimeoPlus+ provided access to the movie for just \$1. (A basic membership costs \$7/month, billed annually.) Or, another avenue may be possible by simply going to kissthegroundmovie.com. **Why bother, you ask?**

Alarming news about the planet is all around us (except very likely in Retrumplican circles.) This movie reports that we should not give up because a simple solution is under our feet: **SOIL**.



The movie describes how regenerative agriculture can maintain or produce a healthy soil that can help combat the climate crisis. Soil can sequester greenhouse gases. A race to save our soil is a race to save US. We should farm more like how Nature has been creating and protecting soil since the beginning of time.

The Dust Bowl was a result of soil being turned into dirt. The plow and related tillage had left the soil exposed. Soil is alive, but if it dries out it dies and becomes lifeless dirt. Chemicals (fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides) also kill the microorganisms that can sequester carbon. Too many producers (sometimes absentee landowners who simply see the money rolling in) do not know how soil works.

Microorganisms and carbon are like a glue that holds soil together. President Franklin D Roosevelt created the Soil Conservation Service with the task of educating landowners to cooperate and work WITH nature.

German scientists created toxic chemicals as weapons of war that morphed into pesticides to kill the "enemies" on the farm. For a while the "War on Bugs" increased production. Glyphosate (Round Up) was over-sprayed on corn; gets into water and breast milk. ADD, cancers, and birth defects can be a result.

Soil, when damaged, releases CO₂ and water. Desertification (changing soil into a desert) results in hotter ground that pushes rain and clouds away. By 2050, 2/3 of the world's land surface could be desertifying. Soil turns to dust. More than 20 civilizations have failed due to a deteriorating environment and rising populations. Poor land produces poor people. Social breakdown, mass emigration into cities and across borders (our border with Mexico), recruitment for terrorism, floods on some paces, and droughts in other place increase. Read a newspaper - do not just rely on social media. NASA monitoring shows plumes of CO₂ in April (released by tilling) and CO₂ reduction in July as plants absorb CO₂.

A GREEN PLANET IS HEALTHY

Save the Rainforests / Adopt Cover Crops

One lowan in northeast Iowa found a solution!

(A glitch has lost the DMR article)

A soybean farmer near Osage reported that, after being unable to do fall tillage due to an early freeze of the ground, the untilled ground the next spring reduced erosion and additional factors led him to adopt regenerative (no till) farming practices—and he reported that it was to his economic benefit. The reading of that article was like watching a portion of the last half or so of "Kiss the Ground."

However, a T-H "farm and food" article, Jan. 31, 2021, page 12C (that HAS been found) raised questions as to the effectiveness of sequestration. What plants do stimulate soil microbes to store carbon, they also "digest" at least as much carbon as they store. But, agreeing with the Osage farmer, cover drops do lead to significant gains in water quality.

So, while the jury may still be out on the economic end of regenerative/sequestration farming in corn and soybean country, supporters still argue that sequestration is necessary if the world is to avoid a climate – and food – catastrophe. More research, farm testing, and adaptation could provide other ways to achieve storage successes ... and profits. .



"Kiss the Ground" (as happening here?) went on to describe ways that grazing could also aid soil quality if done in the best of ways. Like the roaming buffalo once did.. Hooves pushed carbon into the soil. Feedlots on the other hand, release CO₂. (So much for CAFO's.) Examples showed how proper grazing could reverse desertification. Hooves and urine help grass to grow. Grasslands sequester C and release O₂ and stabilize soil. Examples were from Africa, but a California example used holistic grazing with the farm divided into sectors. NO overgrazing. Cows were seen as mobile microbe tanks, pooping microbes.

Composting was given a boost. San Francisco sends compost to farms where it acts as a natural nutritive sponge. Residents can be fined if food scraps are not placed into the green bins beside the blue recycle bins. The black bins for waste have a must heavier cost applied.

In Haiti, after hurricanes and earthquakes, sanitation is a major concern. Composting toilets (good latrines) mix human waste with saw dust, wood chips, etc. to create soil fertilizer. Eggs from free-range chickens are more nutritious. Since only 5% of the farms are managed for soil health, the Nature Conservancy has partnered with the National Corn Growers Association to work at improving, not depleting the soil. (Ever wonder about the removal of spongy, organic, fibrous cornstalks from fields in bales?) Soil vs. Dirt.

Heal the land. Balance the Planet. Return biodiversity.

Mother Earth would prefer being soiled over being dirty. Good film.

Conversation with ISU Extension & Outreach (Ray Kruse: Food Systems/Master Gardener)

Opportunities for Conservation Involvement

White Pine Conservation Chair, Ben Biver, met with Ray Kruse. Here are some Takeaways.

Master Conservationist Program. This 7 week program teaches local residents about natural resources in Dubuque County and efforts to preserve them. Participants are exposed to organizations with which volunteers can help with conservation. Last year's canceled program was to meet on Tuesday evenings at 6 PM for 1-3 hours, April 28-June 9. Weekly on-line lessons, in-person discussions, and field trips constitute the class work. Cost is \$20. Class max is 30. So far 18 have expressed interest for a class this year which is still in limbo depending on the state of COVID. Ben plans to participate. A survey was distributed to evaluate program operation. Contact Ray: 563-583-6496.

If the course is a "GO: for this year, White Pine Group will sponsor the \$20/person fee for a conservationally focused person or couple, young or old. Know of anyone like that?? Application is open anyone from organizations, schools, colleges.

White Pine Hollow Regeneration Program. The Iowa DNR is Planning to conduct a "regeneration" program at White Pine Hollow. Ray asked if our White Pine Group would be interested in helping with this program since the Hollow is our namesake. Dave Bridges is the DNR Forester involved with this project. Last year was the first attempt to get the project going on a larger scale. Lots of eyes will be needed in August to identify seed bearing trees. Shortly after volunteers will collect cones. Pine cone maturity happens quickly depending on weather, so a limited staff is pressured with lots of area to cover. Better maps now can help point volunteers on where to look. If enough interest is expressed from within our Group, a short training could be set up this spring or early summer. If interested contact Ben Biver: biverb@gmail.com. 563-587-9821.



Master Forester Program. The extension office plans to create and offer Master Forester Program to educate on sustainability and Management of our local woods and forests (invasive species, timber removal/sales, maintaining healthy forests.) The course is planned for 2022 depending on how the Master Conservationist Program is conducted and feedback/success. If have any semblance of general interest at all, contact Ben as listed above.

Page 5: Good Dirt on Sinsinawa Mound

[Sinsinawa Mound Center Events]

The March 3 and March 10 ZOOM programs presented by Sinsinawa Mound Center were an introduction to the Zoom programming of regional ecological, indigenous, and agricultural significance available via Mound Center Events. (See below here for reports on those two programs.

But first, two more upcoming Zoom programs are of interest to Sierra Club priorities. (Think soil as discussed here on page 4 and environmental stewardship in general.)

March 30, Tuesday, 7-8 PM: "Cover Crops for Soil Health & Increased Profits." (Compare with what "Kiss the Ground" had to say!) This presentation will focus on practical implementation in production that benefit both the farmer and the land: cover crops, variable rate technology, and extended rotation. Rooted (☺) in scientific principles published through the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services, USDA), strategies will be discussed that help bridge the gap between technical applications and practices in the field. Adam Kramer will be joined by area farmers.

April 7, Wednesday, 7-8 PM: "Black and Green: Spiritual Ecology & Ecowomanism (Via Zoom.)"

This presentation by Ecowomanist theologian and practitioner Veronica Kyle will explore the intersections of ecospirituality, environmental stewardship, racial justice, womanist theology, and movement-building.

www.sinsinawa.org/moundcenter/events

(Eric Anglada, Ecological Programming Coordinator)

Eric.anglada@gmail.com

Report: "Driftless Oaks" Zoom, October 3, 2021.

What can dendro-chronology (analysis of tree rings) tell us about climate variations over the past 300 years in the Driftless (glacier free) Area of southwest Wisconsin and northeast Iowa? Of the 46 sites studied, ONE was in Iowa ☺. 402 oaks were cored and 100,576 rings were counted by a University of Wisconsin Platteville professor and students. Each ring represents a year of growth. Narrow rings indicate dry, tough conditions, wide rings represent wet, health growing conditions. Narrow rings in the 1700's correlated with historical records of a severe drought then, as did narrow rings of the Dust Bowl years. Of interest was that descriptive writings by Aldo Leopold correlated with tree rings. On the average, southwest Wisconsin is getting wetter.

Report: "Effigy Mounds" Zoom, October 10, 2021.

Fire pit points on the 3 Marching Bear mounds seem to align with the stars in the Big Dipper (Ursa Major: Big Bear.). A linear dune lines up with sunrise on the Autumnal Equinox. One major burial mound had bones removed from it by a park administrator. Those bones have been returned. Stories galore including how a trail of death passed through the area.

A VISIT TO THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER, DUBUQUE

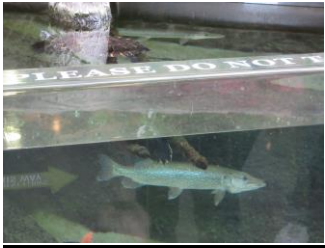


See the Sea Serpent



Bird Pitcher Picture

Two movies with admission. My, What Red Ears You Have



1 or 2 Northern Pikes



Toy Museum



A Garthering



Bowfins Bite



Got Nosed Out



Solar Collectors



Half a Duck Magic



Learn the Ropes



Raptors do Roost



See the Fishies



Blowing in the Wind



Turtle Island

2021 White Pine Group ACTIVITY Calendar:

Pretty much in limbo. Check our Facebook page www.Facebook/whitepinegroup for any developments. Updates of value will be emailed. .

Program Meetings are usually on the 4th Tuesday. No plans have been made yet for April 27 and May 24. Program suggestions are welcome. We may try some sort of ZOOM “gathering” on those dates. The Sinsinawa programs are recorded and can be made available to individuals for a fee of \$10/person. A group rate may be able to be negotiated in case we wished to use a Sinsinawa program as one of our own programs. Just a brainstorm at this time.

April 18-25 (Sun –Sun): Julien Dubuque International Film Festival.” Julienfilmfest.com

The festival will be extended this year to allow showings of some of the films scheduled for last year’s postponed Festival – that went on-line later.

The festival brings to downtown Dubuque the finest in independent features, documentaries, and short films from across the country and around the world. Check web-site to preview film scheduling, logistics, and categories. Discover, HOPEFULLY, environmental examples. Festival “headquarters” is in Hotel Julien, 200 Main Street. For some orientation by a past, active, movie attendee, contact Dick Worm,

563-582-2580. There were several, great conservation oriented documentaries last year and years before. Make time for a few of this year’s films – morning, afternoon, evening!

April 21: John Muir’s Birthday



April 22: Earth Day.



Planet Earth is in our hands!

June 20, 2021 Will the pandemic have subsided??



NO June, July, Aug., Dec. Program/Meetings.

White Pine Needle 2021

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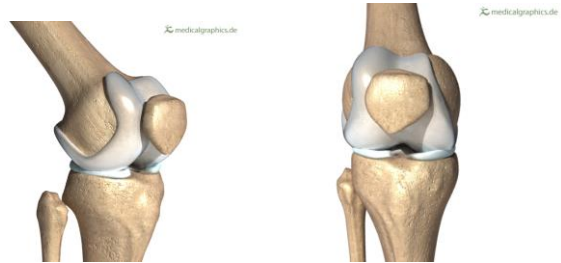
The 2020 Project AWARE was canceled. The 2021 AWARE appears to be the same plan as 2020. So, here is the same deal:



July 11-16, 2021: 18th Annual Project AWARE on the Middle and South Raccoon Rivers in Guthrie and Dallas Counties. For insight, **CONTACT** Dick Worm, who plans to participate in this, his 15th, full week, Project AWARE., info@iowaprojectaware.org . Dick takes his own infamous P-11 (Private) canoe. The photo of the 4 guys above here includes Dick, on the left, with his three canoe partners during the week in 2019. The fellow next to Dick accompanied Dick during the third trip to complete the Kekekabic Trail, the Fundraiser Dinner program, October 16. He had the fortune (or misfortune) to be Dick’s canoe and backpacking partner during that final “Kek trek” in 2018. The fellow on the far right is a White Pine Group member from Manchester.



No early to mid-August Colorado Fourteener climbing trip Pan is yet to be developed. Creede Repertory Theater schedule usually determines the best dates. Outdoor plays are planned for this summer... A knee is another issue.



August 28 (Sat): (Primitive Camp Friday night (8/27) option,)

Autumn Calendar Planning Potluck/Bonfire Picnic” at Dick & Jane Worm’s Echo Valley Pond. Hike Faraway Farm’s Mississippi River bluff, woodland, and prairie trails. Pond swims, canoeing, and fishing are options. Meet: 11:30 AM for noon potluck picnic with a bonfire and charcoal grill available.

An RSVP will help with logistic arrangements.

Program & Outing suggestions are always welcome. Location: Down the hill from 3680 Echo Hills Dr., Bellevue, IA, 52031. Drive through the upper green gate down on black top and then straight on down on gravel through a red gate past Benglari Centre to park to the right. [Echo Hills Drive is off St. Catherine Road 2 miles from US 52, 6 miles south of the US 151/61 and US 52 intersection at south edge of Dubuque.]

CONTACT: Dick and Jane: 563-582-2580 or 563-590-2557.

Catfish Creek Clean-Up

We host this Spring event that runs upstream from the mouth of the Creek at the Mississippi River upstream. Once the Mississippi River level has settled. Participants canoe or kayak, others walk the shoreline. Meet at 9 AM in the parking lot at the north end of the bridge. Supply your own gear.

Membership Report.

2021 Membership through February:

Net Change: -11 Memberships / -14 Members

506 Memberships / 599 Members .

Biden vs. Trump effect?

2020 Membership: January – December: (White Pine Group.)

*Total Adds: 225 Memberships / 252 members. ☺

Total **Drops**: 189 Memberships / 220 members. ☹

Year Total: 522 Memberships / 617 Members.

Net Change: +36 Memberships / +32 Members

*Many Adds are Reinstated Drops who renewed. THANKS! ☺

PLANET EARTH THANKS ALL LONG-TIME & CURRENT MEMBERS.

Kekekabic Trail Program Oct. 16 Fundaiser Dinner

All but 7 miles of the 40 mile long Kekekabic Trail (“The Kek”) are located within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in northern Minnesota’s Superior National Forest. Its name is derived from Kekekabic Lake located near the center of the trail. Kekequabic is the Ojibway word meaning “hawk’s nest on the rocks” and refers to the tall cliffs on the south side of Kekekabic Lake.

The trail is hilly with some steep places and marshy wet in other places. It crosses along the top of a few beaver dams. Campsites are located on the shores of lakes. It was constructed in the 1930’s as an access trail for fire fighting. Remains of the Gunflint Fire Tower are near the east end of the trail off Gunflint Trail. .

White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa Sierra Club

“The Needle” Newsletter Editor 2021 Needle

Richard Worm

3680 Echo Hills Dr.

Volume 41, #1

Bellevue, IA 52031-9557

2021 Events.

COVID-19 irregularities.

2021 Fundraiser Dinner, Oct. 16, 2021, Swiss Valley



Mark Your 2021 Scheduling Calendar



EXPLORE **ENJOY**
PROTECT

White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa

EXCOM *Expires Jan., 2022.

Chair: Charlie Winterwood, 563-588-2783

cwinterwood@yahoo.com

Vice Chair: *Dave Hansen: Masonville, dhansen187@gmail.com

Member/Newsletter: Dick Worm, 563-582-2580

raworm@msn.com

Conservation: Ben Biver, 563-587-9821 biverb@gmail.com

*Secretary: Jane Worm, 563-582-2580 jworm924@msn.com

Appointed:

Treasurer: Mike Muir

Publicity and more: (open) Have an interest and its yours!

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.

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: 1021 (Oct., 2021).

On magazine labels: J/A21 = final issue July/August, 2021.

S = Single; J = Joint memberships.

“3707” is the Identification Code for our White Pine Group. A “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

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