

# White Pine Needle

## 2021-22 AUTUMN/WINTER

(Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan., & Feb.)

White Pine Group, Northeast Iowa Sierra Club

(Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties.) "Explore, Enjoy and Protect"

[Volume 41, No. 2] 9/22/21



### Newsletter/Membership:

This 2021-22 Autumn/Winter Needle is being mailed to all of our current (8/17/21) roster of 458 memberships. Some of you MAY also receive an emailed version in full color. A change in the national headquarters' Membership reporting system since March has created an added crimp in my lack of technological astuteness so access to email addresses became more limited. If you did not receive this by email and to do so, including occasional email-only updates, is okay with you, please send an email to Dick Worm including your name, mailing address, and complete Zip Code (example: 52031-9557) for helpful, Zip Code membership list identification. ([raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)).

Membership in the Sierra Club and renewal is 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 include a "reminder" regarding when a renewal is due. For example, a "1021" indicates expiration in October of 2021. An "M/A21" on a SIERRA magazine label "reports" a March/April, 2021, final issue. Your membership is vital to helping carry out Sierra Club goals.

### Featured in this 2021-22 Autumn/Winter White Pine Needle Newsletter

- \* Programs and Events
- \* Turkey Dinner Fundraiser: 10/23/21. Swiss Valley Park Nature Center

(Note the week-later change in date from the

previously announced date.) Make a Reservation, Donate &/or Volunteer.

- Backbone Cabin Outing: 2/4-6, 2022.

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### White Pine Group on Facebook

For timely updates and to review past events and outings go to:

[www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup)



## WHITE PINE GROUP

### PROGRAM/MEETINGS:

#### EXPLORE, ENJOY, SHARE

Due to COVID-19, only a couple of in-person meetings were held in 2020 and so far in 2021. Two ZOOM programs were offered; then our only recently added EXCOM member with such technological savvy took a job in Georgia. So even that avenue of attempted provision for member participation and involvement has faded.

Our USUAL, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, in-person, program/meeting schedule MAY pick up again in 2022 but success for that in recent years has been minimal with an average, 2019, attendance of 6 (including program presenters), ranging from 3 (EXCOM members) to 14. [The 14 being at the 11/26/19 showing and panel discussion of the movie "Right to Harm," about Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) with several special panel member guests including a couple from Wisconsin, the wife of which was actually IN the movie.]

We very seldom have had special guest program presenters about environmental/conservation sorts of issues due to poor attendance by members when we HAVE tried such programs. So our programs have usually been of the more general, slide and digital photo sorts of sharing of Explore and Enjoy adventures by our own members.

Some 2022 possibilities include Voyageurs National Park house-boating; karst, castle and caves of the Lake of the Ozarks region; the 2021 base camp backpack and climb of the Colorado Fourteener, Humboldt Peak (14,064 ft.) that included an 11-year-old, soccer playing young lady and a 4-days shy of 79-year-old geezer; the 2020 climbs of 4 Colorado Fourteeners by basically the same team minus a Sierra member from Manchester and the 11-year old; Colorado's Chimney Rock National Monument; Tennessee and North Carolina waterfalls and mountain and valley trails; East Central Arizona's Mogollon Rim, petrified wood, petroglyphs and Puebloan and Anasazi history; and Northeast Oklahoma's Lake O The Cherokees, Pensicola Dam, Har-Ber Village historic collections, and vintage cars. A 2022 Needle newsletter may develop in March for distribution to Memberships. (Born in 1942, Dick and Jane Worm will turn 80 in 2022 so will plan for an early retirement after about 50 years of wheel-spinning duties on behalf of the Sierra Club.)



Dick & Jane, August, 1968, slide photo on way to stay overnight on a sand bar at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Good ole days!

**September 26 (Sunday): 2:00-3:30 PM**

**Iowa Chapter/Sierra Club Webinar “Healthy Soils.”**

**Keynote speaker, Alan Guebert, is an agricultural journalist who writes a syndicated “Farm and Food” column that appears in over 60 newspapers in the U.S. and Canada, including the Dubuque Telegraph Herald.** Past columns and contact information are posted at [farmandfoodfile.com](http://farmandfoodfile.com).

A **Sunday, August 8, 2021, column**, that I happened to clip out, was titled “Not enough energy put into finding real solutions.” It fit well with my views regarding the long-range fate of “a finite planet with limited productive capacity.” The column featured an analysis by William E. Rees (an ecological economics specialist at the University of British Columbia) and Megan K. Seibert (executive director of the REAL Green Deal Project) of the “fatal problems with the so-called renewable energy technologies.” They consider just how much “nature” is required to support a people and an economy. What is the “ecological footprint?”

That sounded like a kick in the face of all the talk about how renewable energy will save the day once fossil fuels are replaced – “a tall order...’since 81% of global energy consumption is in the form of liquid fuel, carbon.” All the various other energy alternatives won’t do the job due to factors such as “too many people and too much unsustainable growth.” (I keep saying that far too many people did not pay attention to Paul Ehrlich’s “Population Bomb.”)

“...solar panels and wind turbines have an average lifespan of 15 to 30 years.” Then what? More nonrenewable resources will be needed to replace them. “An entire year of production from the world’s largest lithium ion manufacturing facility --- Tesla’s \$5 billion Gigafactory in Nevada --- could store only three minutes’ worth of annual U.S. electricity demand.”

“Failure to implement a planned, relatively painless population reduction strategy,” say Rees and Seibert, “would guarantee a traumatic population crash imposed by Nature in a climate-ravage, fossil-energy-devoid world.” Guebert writes, “...the fencerow-to-fencerow agbiz advocates...” will not then NEED to “feed 8 billion-plus people.” He goes on to say that returning to how life on the farm was lived two generations ago is about NOW the amount of time we have left to change our ways before Nature regains control. “And it will because, in fact, it already is.” (COVID? Climate change’s hurricanes and fires and droughts? Will we ever face up to the “REAL Green Deal.”)

[I look forward to hearing Alan in virtual person! R.W., Ed.]

**September 28 (Tuesday): 7:00 -8:30 PM.**

**Iowa Chapter/Sierra Club Webinar “CO2 Pipelines.”**

**Big Ag and Big Energy are scheming to keep their profits rolling in at the expense of safety to citizens impacted by pipelines – that would be susceptible to internal corrosion.**

Learn about one such pipeline disaster in Satartia, Mississippi and the relationship of such pipelines to overall Climate change. Two such pipelines are in the works to cross Iowa.

**CONTACT ME IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A MEMO ON HOW TO RSVP FOR ONE OF BOTH OF THESE WEBINARS. I CAN FORWARD THE LINKS TO YOU.**

[raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)

## October Legislative Redistricting

The Iowa Legislature apparently will be called into special session to vote on the independent Legislative Services Agency’s plan for setting new boundaries for Congressional and Iowa legislative districts. The plan, by law, must have districts with equal populations...lesser without consideration of political party registrations. This method of setting new districts without political gerrymandering sets the bar for how it should be done in ALL states. Keep Iowa pure by telling our legislators to not monkey with what is not broken! There should be NO legislative amendments made to the LSA determined boundaries.

## TURKEY DINNER FUNDRAISER

### WHITE PINE GROUP



### Northeast Iowa Sierra Club

### Traditional Turkey Dinner

**Saturday, October 23, 2021**

**Swiss Valley Nature Center**

**13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Peosta, IA 52068**

**563-556-6745**

General Public Is Welcome

### **\*Advance Reservations Required\***

- 5:30 PM: Social, Cider, Calendar Sales.
- 6:15 PM: Buffet-Style Turkey Dinner
- 7:00 PM: Welcome.
- 7:15 PM: **Program “Kekakabic Trail”**

### **Boundary Waters Wilderness, MN**

- 8:15 PM: Clean-Up/Take Down
- **VOLUNTEERS and DONATIONS** make this event the fundraiser it is intended to be.
- **Make reservations and/or report or seek volunteer or donation plans no later than**

**Monday, October 18, 2021.**

- Jane Worm, 3680 Echo Hills Dr.,
- Bellevue, IA 52031; 563-582-2580;
- [jworm924@msn.com](mailto:jworm924@msn.com). (May pay at door.)
- Checks payable to White Pine Group, Sierra Club.
- **Volunteer & Donate:** \_Cranberries, \_Milk,
- \$\_; \_Set-up 2 PM; \_Kitchen help 4:30 P.M.
- \_Parking 5:00 P.M. \_\_Clean-up/Take-down.
- Turkey and gravy are catered so need #'s.
- Reservation: Name, Address, Phone number.
- # \_Adults \$12; \_Students \$8; \_Age 5-12 \$5.

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (See details next page)**



**Turkey Dinner Fundraiser, October 23, 2021  
DINNER DETAILS:**

To save room for spaced tables, there will be no table top displays. Also, no Door Prizes nor table. Seating MAY be assigned to accommodate distancing. Social time will require masks and appropriate spacing. Food items at the buffet will be served by masked and gloved volunteers. Be vaccinated!

Volunteers already signed up: Mississippi Trails Hiking Club desserts and dinner rolls; Cindy Recker provide potatoes; Mike Muir peel, cook and mash potatoes and handle check-in; Linda Schroeder prepare sweet potatoes, provide pan of corn bread & loaf of wheat bread; Becky Reisch prepare the mixed vegetables, and provide a carrot cake; Jane Worm provide and set-up place mats, napkins, apple juice, cups, crackers and take dinner reservations. Dick Worm, program. Mary & Fritz Kruger help with set-up. Any items left-over can be taken for a donation!

**PROGRAM DETAILS:**

**“Kekekabic Trail” Boundary Waters: 2016, 2017, 2018.**

Sample: PLANNED (but totally changed) 2017 itinerary as printed in the 2017 Needle newsletter to seek companions. Duh! Sept. 27: Drive to Ely, MN. (That part went okay!)

Sept. 28 - Oct. 1 (4 days): Pick up Permit and Backpack from Snowbank Lake TH about 24.6 miles to Harness Lake. Oct. 2: Day-hike 8.4 mile round trip to Agamok Gorge.

Oct. 3-5 (3 days): Return to Snowbank Lake Rd. trailhead.

Oct. 6: Drive back to Dubuque. **(Come & See the actuality!)**

“In 2016, the Kek was backpacked from the east end and the below map description seemed pretty accurate as only 10.4 miles were backpacked and an additional 2.6 miles to Agamok Gorge was day-hiked--- as trail clearing (with only a Swiss Army Knife saw blade, which eventually broke off), trail marking rock cairn rebuilding, and general trail demarcation, plus a rain storm, caused slow going! The west end of the trail has, apparently, been cleared of the July, 2016, wind storm down-fall that had more severely blocked that end of the trail. A bigger saw will be taken this year, just in case!”

**The order form for the trail maps described the trail this way: (Yiminy!)**

**“It is one of the toughest, meanest rabbit tracks in North America. The Trail struggles its way through swamps, around cliffs, up the sides of bluffs, and across rocky ridges. It is choked with night-marish patches of clinging brush. It is blocked with tangles of windfalls and standing timber. It is pressed, in places, on all sides by outcroppings of rock; sometimes it snakes its way over riverbeds, slippery, rocky and treacherous. In other areas, it is a peaceful path loping through open stands of timber with a soft, mossy carpet underfoot. It is the kind of trail that would break the heart of a person who didn’t have what it takes to go into the wilderness and try to ‘smooth it’.”**

The 2018 Kek trip included crossing two lakes by canoe and a portage over a rocky hill – to make up for the BIG change in the 2017 plan! It kept getting better and better = SNOW.

In spite of no dinner in 2020, Calendar sales and donations totaled a profit of \$379.65. Current balance, \$1589.90.

**Keep the habit going and VOTE!**

The White Pine Group EXCOM on August 28 approved joining 15 other organizations endorsing the Dubuque County Conservation Bond referendum. On Sept. 7, after several years of community meetings, forums, and surveys, and the publication of a 282 page plan, the Dubuque County Conservation Board unanimously petitioned the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors to place the Conservation Bond on the November 2 ballot. A YES vote will help assure clean water, sustainable parklands, and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Issuance of up to \$40 million in bonds will help showcase the natural beauty of this very special county and add to the quality of life for its residents. Trail improvements, wildlife habitat restoration, and initiatives to protect sources of drinking water and improve the quality of water in rivers and streams such as the Little Maquoketa River and Catfish Creek are among the purposes written into the referendum. Paying the bond back with property tax revenue would cost just \$36/year for a property valued at \$150,000.

On July 13, 2021, the Des Moines Register reported that the Polk County supervisors will ask voters to approve a \$65 million bond referendum on top of the \$50 million Water and Land Legacy bond approved in 2012. The chair of the Polk County (City of Des Moines) Conservation Board said, “If we learned anything during COVID, it’s that people love to be outside.”

The Dubuque County Land and Water Legacy can be visited at [www.DbqLandAndWater.org](http://www.DbqLandAndWater.org) and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DbqLandAndWater](https://www.facebook.com/DbqLandAndWater). Donations payable to Dubuque County land and Water Legacy, P.O. Box 3096. Dubuque IA 52004-3096 will assist with campaign expenses needed for achieving a 60% voter approval.

Vote YES on November 2.

**SPEAKING of VOTING and \$\$\$**

There is no 2022 EXCOM Election ballot included with this Needle. The 2021 election received only two ballots, from an EXCOM member and his wife, prior to the January 26 date for EXCOM determination. The two candidates were elected and the third open spot was filled by the EXCOM Selection of the volunteer, who has since moved to Georgia. Two positions and that vacated position for one year are up for election or selection for 2022. The fate of the White Pine Group is at stake without candidates—and at least one of the 2 current EXCOM members up for re-election will NOT run. A quorum NEEDS three EXCOM members. Anyone interested by January 25, 2022, in keeping the White Pine Group viable and active? Maybe a Decorah area contingent would like to activate a Sierra Club presence in that region?

**Turkey Dinner Fundraiser \$\$\$ spent most recently:**

November, 2020: \$125 to renew membership with Dubuque County Energy District; January, 2021: \$100 for solar array & brick at Hurstville Interpretive Center, Jackson County; January, 2020, \$50 for display table at Dubuque’s Eagle Watch; May, 2021, \$75 to Iowa Chapter for Supreme Beef CAFO fight in Clayton County; March, 2021, \$486.94 for 2021 Needle print & distribute. \$50 Daniel Ernst memorial.

# White Pine Group Issues: 2021-22

**Pattison Sand:** This fracking sand company has proposed to sell and profit from water it would pump from the Jordan Aquifer, a widely regarded aquifer across Iowa. Iowa City, I believe, gets water from the Jordan Sandstone as it dips from where it outcrops in areas of northeast Iowa down toward central Iowa. The DNR has NO to a Pattison permit to drill a well into the Jordan aquifer but Pattison is relentless and is continuing to push the proposal. The water would be shipped by rail to locations in the Far West. Guatemala might not be on the list. (10/2/2020)

**Supreme Beef:** The Iowa Chapter has been organizing to Save Bloody Run Creek from an 11,600 cattle operation (Supreme Beef) that has been approved by the DNR to build at headwaters of Bloody Run. Litigation is now being pursued. [www.facebook.com/SaveBloodyRun](http://www.facebook.com/SaveBloodyRun).

## 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BACKBONE State Park CABIN OUTING: FEB. 4-6, 2022.

Cedar-Wapsie Group (Cedar Rapids) and the Iowa City Area Group also host this Outing open to all Iowa Chapter members. Deluxe, 2-story Cabins # 11 and #12 have been reserved. Each Cabin has 2 bedrooms (1 upstairs, 1 down) each with a double bed; 2 futons; one single bed; and floor! First come, first served. Day-Use includes Sat. Potluck Dinner. Overnight capacity for each Cabin is 11. We have lately NOT reached capacity.

Cabins have kitchen/dining area; one bathroom with shower upstairs and 2<sup>nd</sup> bathroom down. Bedding is by participants: sheets, pillow, sleeping bag. BYO food. Share snacks.

Hikes, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, and crevice slide fill the daytime. Table games and chatter fill the evenings. Cabin available 4 PM, Friday, to 11 AM Sunday.

Cost range: Bedroom \$60/night. Other \$20-\$25/night/person. \$10 for day-use. More details/register: Phone/Email Dick Worm.

### White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa Sierra Club

“The Needle” Newsletter Editor 2021-22 Autumn/Winter Needle  
Richard Worm September - February  
3680 Echo Hills Dr. Volume 41, #2  
Bellevue, IA 52031 – 9557 9/22/21

### 2021-22 Autumn/Winter Events

2021 Turkey Dinner Fundraiser, October 23

Backbone Cabin Outing, Feb. 4-6, 2022.



Record Events on Your Personal Calendars.



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

## White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa EXCOM (\*Expires 2022)

Chair: Charlie Winterwood, Dubuque, 563-588-2783  
[cwinterwood@yahoo.com](mailto:cwinterwood@yahoo.com)

Member/Newsletter: Dick Worm, Bellevue, 563-582-2580  
563-590-2557 [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)

\*Dave Hansen, Masonville, [dhansen@iowatelecom.net](mailto:dhansen@iowatelecom.net)

\*Jane Worm, Bellevue, 563-582-2580 [jworm924@msn.com](mailto:jworm924@msn.com)

Open (1 year)

Appointed: Fund Raiser/Secretary: Jane Worm  
Treasurer: Mike Muir  
Conservation: Charlie Winterwood  
Publicity: (available)  
More: (available)

### 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) Our Group's Code # is 3707.

Membership renewals are made through national headquarters. No funds from national dues come to our Local Group.  
A “Wilderness Guardian” membership reduces mail.

[www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup)

[www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider](http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider) for action news. In general, [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) has a plethora of information for your reading enjoyment, from John Muir and Club history to environmental initiatives.