

# White Pine Needle, 2022

## 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 42, No. 1 3/16/22



White Pine Hollow, Luxemburg, Iowa

## In this 2022 White Pine Needle: (2022 Overview Dependent on COVID-19 & War developments.)

Events: Program/Meetings & Outings (limited TBD at this date.)

\*2022 Fundraiser Dinner: October 22, Swiss Valley Nature Center

\*2021 Membership Report/Summary;

\*2021 Fundraiser Dinner Report.

\*2022 Backbone Hike & Nature Trivia Bee Reports.

\*2022 Project AWARE, River Clean-Up, July 10-15, 2022.

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

### Needle Publication and Distribution.

The plan at this moment is that this 2022 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/Winter Update will be distributed by mail and/or email.

Distribution of the Needle to all members by mail gives everyone at least one hard copy as a reference. It also informs everyone about our email distribution plan which could be missed if an only 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](mailto:raworm@msn.com). To be added to email delivery, send an email to Dick 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. Due to COVID issues during 2021 at the Club's national and at our own local level, membership and email address updates have been interrupted. Some of you with Expired Memberships MAY still receive this newsletter. Sorry. Some of you who requested email copy only will get a mailed copy. Sorry. Patience!

Participatory Camaraderie inspires and motivates ACTION. See or hear from you soon? It is easier for you to personally reach a few of us than it is for the few of us to reach each and every one of you. Go for it!

## WHITE PINE GROUP EVENTS

### Tuesday, March 22: Meeting/Program:

Regular Group Meeting, 6:30 PM, at the home of Dick and Jane Worm, 3680 Echo Hills Drive, Bellevue, IA. (At 6 miles south of Dubuque on US 52 take St. Catherine Road 2 miles to Echo Hills Drive on the left at the stone sign. Curve to the right on Echo Hills Dr.; 3680 is the first, brown home on the right. Park (first) in driveway parking area or off the edge of the Drive. The **Kekekabic Trail program** will begin at 7 PM after an introductory meeting. (This repeats the Turkey Dinner Fundraiser program due to 3 of the EXCOM having had to be absent then; as were other members. ☺)



Harness Lake camp. Agamok bridge. Kekekabic Lake.

**MEETING EXTRAS!** Come at 5:45 for an **RSVP dinner** of Cheesy Brats, etc. roasted at a backyard fire or indoor fireplace; and at 5:15 for a short, level hike to the Mississippi River view beyond the end of Echo Hills Drive. (Chips, lemonade/soft drinks/ dessert to also be provided.)

[563- 582-2580 [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com) ]

[Enjoy the “birds” and bird houses in D & J’s dining room.]

### Thursday, March 24: Faraway Farm Outing, of sorts. 1 PM.

Meet at 3680 Echo Hills Drive to join Dick Worm and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation’s Tylar Samuels for a Conservation Easement monitoring hike on Dick and Jane’s, 150 acre, Faraway Farm. Learn about Conservation Easements as we explore the Mississippi River bluff, woodland, & prairie settings. Stay after as long as you like.

**April: NO Meeting/Program.** But, in honor of the April 21 John Muir’s birthday and the April 22 Earth Day, everyone is encouraged to attend **environmental documentary** & other films at the **Julien Dubuque International Film Festival:**

**April 20-24. [Julienfilmfest.com and/or Dick Worm, JDIFF attendance veteran, for general information.]**

**Saturday, April 23: “Party for the Planet”** at the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, Dubuque.

**White Pine Group will have a table top display.** If you would care to help promote Sierra Club values, contact Charlie Winterwood. 563-588-2783.

**Saturday, May 14: “World Migratory Bird Day Hikes.”**

Defenders of Wildlife: May 15-21, Bear Awareness Week; May 20, Endangered Species Day; & May 23, World Turtle Day! **9:30 AM.** Stream & **Sny Magill Unit**, Effigy Mounds. Great River Rd., X-56, 4-ish mi. north of Clayton near Key-stone Rd. **Mounds Rd. parking floods!** Dick: 563-590-2557.

**WHITE PINE GROUP EVENTS (Cont.) (2022) Page 2**

**Tuesday, May 24: Meeting/Program. 7 PM.** Program: "Project AWARE River Clean-Ups: 2019 (Boone River) & 2021 (Forks of the Raccoon River.)" Meet at the home of Dick and Jane Worm; but, check 563-582-2580 to be certain. (See March 22 meeting for directions.) An introduction to 2020 Project AWARE, July 10-15, on West Fork of the Des Moines River will be included. See some of the souvenir wonders pulled from Iowa River bottoms and shores. EXTRA: Come at 6:30 (or before) for a brief paddle in Dick and Jane's Echo Valley Pond using Dick's infamous P-11 canoe or the Gary and Butchie Thompson "antique" canoe that was used and portaged during the 2018 connection to the Kekekabic Trail.



Scenes from the Boone River AWARE: 2019 Trailer frame.



Central Iowa bluffs. Meal set-up for the throng of AWARE'ers.



Canoes tied together. Back scratcher. It felt SOOO good!



Grandad (& of tires.) Team work Tug. River & evening programs.



White Pine Group participants included Dick (left) and Rod (right) of our "team." Second from left was Dick's partner, Paul, during the 2018 Kekekabic canoe, portage, and backpack adventure... and he WAS able to converse calmly about it! Whew!!

The End. **[See Page 4-5 for additional program details.]**

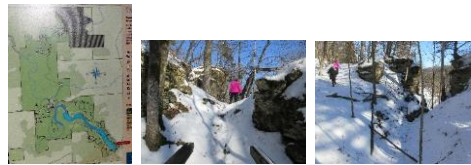
**MORE 2022 WHITE PINE GROUP EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 28: "Backbone State Park Day-Trip."**

To commemorate BOTH the *May 28, 1920, Dedication of Backbone as Iowa's first State Park* AND the *May 28, 1892, Founding of the Sierra Club*. PLAN is to do the crevice slide and explore the park when it is not so cold and snowy!

Meet at the Backbone Trail Parking Area via the East Gate at 9:30 AM. (Check with Dick Worm if need directions and for potential carpooling from Dubuque.) Google Backbone S.P. Bring a picnic lunch. 563-590-2557.

Some scenes from the Fed. 12, 2022 Backbone Day Trip:



Backbone Park Six Pines Trail Along bluff.



Leads down to the main valley (the Flats) Sinkhole crevice.



From where the slide begins. Rocks above the crevice.



End is in sight. To the namesake. Backbone ridge.



Hollow tree. Devil's Oven. Maquoketa River below.



Going back out. Icy pattern in River. Up Six Pines Trail. The Backbone ridge is inside the meander loop of the river.



## **MORE 2022 WHITE PINE GROUP EVENTS Page 3**

**June:** No White Pine Events.

**July:** *Project AWARE, July 10-15.* Probably drive to there on Saturday, July 9. It seems that this AWARE on the West Fork of the Des Moines River may begin a short way north of the Iowa border with Minnesota north of Estherville. Return by Dinner time, Friday, July 15. Google, Iowa Project AWARE.

**SEE Pages 4- 5 for Additional Meeting/Program Details**

**August:** Autumn/Winter Planning Picnic at Echo Valley Pond via 3680 Echo Hills Drive, **Saturday, August 27.** Bring your own morsels to grill and beverage and a small potluck serving to share: salad, vegetable, dessert. If unbearably hot, as in 2021, or quite rainy, gather in the comfort of 3680 Echo Hills Drive. 563-582-2580.

**September:** An Autumn/Winter Needle newsletter of events and news will be distributed, hopefully, by mid-month.

**October:** *Turkey Dinner Fundraiser, Saturday, October 22.*

**November: Critical for the fate of the Environment is**

**ELECTION DAY, November 8. Begin NOW to support candidates who have the best, long-range interests at heart for the environment and humanity. As climate change continues to raise the planet's temperature in general, & of the oceans in particular, storms will increase in intensity. Droughts in some areas and flooding in others will raise havoc and threaten livelihoods. Crowding of the world's population will make pandemics spread more easily and rapidly. And, then, there's Putin and Fox News. Hang on and VOTE with all your heart and might... and HOPE that your vote will be counted and make a difference!**



**SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS 2022.** Landscapes to Protect!

**Four Sierra Club giveaway Wall Calendars are available.**

Discover new wonders to Explore and Enjoy! 563-582-2580.

Wallawa Lake, Wallawa County, Oregon! Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona! Lumaha'i Beach, Kauai, Hawaii! Fields of Prickly Poppies, Christine, Texas! Salt Marshes, Bernard, Maine! Needle Mountains, Weminuche Wilderness, Colorado! Carson River, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, California! Dixie NF, Utah! Hiawatha NF, Michigan! Mt. Assiniboine, Canada! Wallenpaupack Creek, PA!!!! Fill a wall!!! ☺

## **CONSERVATION CONVERSATION**

**(Article worth repeating due to Ben's return to Dubuque, again. His family moved to Georgia, after this article first appeared. But, a family-related home became available back here, and, to our delight, they decided to return to home turf. Be inspired.)**

**The White Pine Group Executive Committee for 2022 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 in there.)



**That's Ben third from left in back upon return to Dubuque.**

After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa in 2000 with a BA in political science, other education included 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 Louis, 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 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 your own active involvement.

**White Pine Group: 2022 Motivation**      **Page 4**  
**Turkey Dinner Fundraiser 2021 Motivated**

40 attendees were expected. 48 appeared on October 23, 2021, at the Swiss Valley Nature Center. So, an additional table was set up.

Folks who donated and prepared main course items and/or otherwise assisted included Becky Reisch, Linda Schroeder, Kevin Kane, Mike Muir, Cindy Recker, Brenda Wickham, Rev. Mary Green, Tom and Cinda Welu, Jane Worm, and Dick Worm. MANY others contributed a wide array of desserts. (I behaved myself, though, and only had 5. The turkey supply got low so the desserts made up the difference.... with NO complaints).

After \$132 of expenses, Net Income came to \$775 (dinner sales, calendar sales, and donations.) That raised our treasury balance to \$1773.15. However, since then, additional calendar sales, donations, and checking account interest has raised the balance to \$2,146.59. (Suggestions are welcome for projects which we could initiate or to which we could contribute on behalf of conservation and the environment.)

**Nature Trivia Bee 2022 Motivated:**

The White Pine Cones was our full team of four for the postponed, Friday, March 4, 2022, Nature Trivia Bee at the Swiss Valley Nature Center. After tying for the lead, 24-24, with one other team, our Cones pulled off a hotly contested play-off, 15-14! The play-off consisted of writing down as many native plants and animals as possible in 60 seconds. Jon rattled off trees and other plants while R.R.S rapidly wrote them down. Each team had 15, but a technicality let the Cones win, 15-14. ("Oak" alone was deemed insufficient when red oak, white oak, and burr oak were also listed.) Each team member received a bottle of Swiss Valley maple syrup!

**The White Pine Cones:** [\$40 fee went to Friends of DCCB.]



Left to right: Sierra members Terry Stewart and Natalee Berg, parents of Team Members R.R.S. Stewart and Jon Colyer. Sierra member Dick Worm; and Nino Erba rounded out the team. Terry and Natalee, had come simply to be cheer-leaders, but ended up forming the "Underdogs" team of 2 when another scheduled team had to cancel. Newest National Park, Henneberry Dam, Monkshood distribution, Oriental Bittersweet (thanks Nino), Chinkapin, acres in Catfish Creek watershed, number of teeth in a possum (thanks, Jon) were among our correct answers. We missed on such as date of Aldo Leopold's birth (should have listened to R.R.S and Jon, not me!), square miles in the Driftless Area, first spring prairie flower to bloom, number of bugs a brown bat can devour in an hour, and Kentucky Coffee tree. **Jackson County Trivia Bee April 1. Interested? 563-582-2580.**

**2022 White Pine Events Calendar**  
**Additional Details**

**Explore, Enjoy, and Protect with White Pine Group**

Events listed include White Pine Group **Program/Meetings** and **Outings** and other events of Sierra interest. For questions about details or cancellations, or to **RSVP** for an outing, please **CONTACT** Newsletter Editor, Dick Worm, (563-582-2580; Cell: 563-590-2557); [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com); or the **CONTACT** if included with an event description.  
**OUTINGS: Participants sign a liability waiver.**

Program: March 22, 2022.



Thompson's "antique" canoe.  
Portage to the Kekekabic Trail, 2018.

**April 21: John Muir's Birthday**



**April 22: Earth Day.**



Planet Earth is in our hands!

**May 24, 2022 (Tues): Program additional detail: :**

**Re: 2019 Project AWARE on the Boone River, July 7-12,** the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual AWARE, began with Meet & Greet camping in Goldfield's River Park on Sunday, July 7. Afternoon and evening programming included: Rock Collecting & Gold Prospecting in Iowa; Goldfield and Boone River History; "Aunt Bee, Barney Fife, & the Mayberry Jail"; Canoe Skills and Safety; and tubing the rapids (where a dam once stood.)

Monday (7/8): 15.5 miles; concrete rubble rapids; camping at Briggs Woods Park, Webster City (4 nights); Atlatl Throwing (Office of State Archaeologist); Geology of Boone River Watershed; Burial Mounds in Iowa, and the making of waxed sandwich food wraps.

Tuesday (7/9): 12.2 miles; a walk with a botanist; "Reflections on Iowa Rivers and Their Future"; and "Climbing Everest" by Jen Loeb, first Iowa woman to summit Mount Everest. (Concurrent evening programming.)

Wednesday (7/10): 15.5 miles; rock dam portage; Midway river stop programming: stormwater wetland tour and "Doodle Bug Club of America"; Evening programming: Brigg's Woods waterfall hike; Hamilton County History; Watershed Scale Conservation; and Adventure Journaling for Kids.. of all ages.

(May 24, 2022, Program details Continue on page 5.)

**Commented [JW1]:** Catfij Creek watershed

**CONTINUED 2022 Program Details:** Page 5

**May 24 PROGRAM details continued: Boone River AWARE, 2019:**

Thursday (7/11): 16.1 miles; Rock Rapids; on river caution: Barner Wildlife Area ledge; (280<sup>th</sup> St. Bridge Construction had to be skirted due to just too much danger.. which shortened the day's on river mileage); more evening concurrent programs: Boone River Water Trail; Wilson Brewer Park tour; and Native Flower Fridge magnets for Kids... of all ages.

Friday (7/12): 5.3 miles; Morning program: History of Bell Mills Park (from where this day's canoe trip began. Trip ended at noon at Boone Forks Access with yet another school bus shuttle back to Brigg's Woods.

**The July 12-17, 2021, 18th Annual Project AWARE** was on the Middle and South Raccoon Rivers in Guthrie and Dallas Counties.

For insight on Project AWARE, **CONTACT** Dick Worm, who has participated in 15, full week, Project AWARE, Watershed Awareness River Expeditions. Also: [info@iowaprojectaware.org](mailto:info@iowaprojectaware.org)

ALL THE ABOVE DETAIL WAS INCLUDED HERE TO SHOW THAT THERE IS **MUCH MORE TO A PROJECT AWARE EXPEDITION THAN JUST GETTING DIRTY WHILE COLLECTING TRASH FROM WITHIN AND ALONG A RIVER!** (All who are unable to attend White Pine Group program/meetings can get details by going to: [www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup](https://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup))

Dick takes his own infamous P-11 (Private) canoe.



**Added Detail for August 27, 2022 (Sat):**

**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. 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 gate down on black top and then straight on down on gravel through a red gate past Benglari Centre to the pond parking. [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.]

**(Primitive Camping at the pond or on the Mississippi River Bluff, Friday night (8/26/22) and/or Saturday (8/27/22) is an added option.)**

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

**SEPTEMBER:** ALL members will receive an Autumn Update Needle, Volume 42, No. 2. (Via Mail OR Email by mid-September, hopefully.)

**Autumn program/meetings: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, 2022.**

**AUTUMN SEPT, OCT, NOV, DEC, 2022**

The Autumn/Winter Update may include these 2020 cancelled, but now likely **2022 Autumn events**, so mark your calendar now to save these dates:

**Sept. 24 (Sat.): OUTING Plum Creek Park (Earlville) and Indian Hills Wildlife Area near Earlville.** Meet at Plum Creek Park at 9:30 AM.

Use Exit (uhm) 268? From the west on US 20, it is the first exit east of the overpass exit into Earlville. From the east, first exit to the north past the X-47 Exit to Petersburg. Or, RSVP for a carpool shuttle from Menard's Parking Lot between the two frontage road entrances into Menard's, 9 AM.

Plum Creek Park has a picnic shelter so bring a Picnic Lunch for after the hikes. **CONTACT:** Dick Worm (for assured Exit number, if needed, from US 20!) 563- 582-2580 Cell: 563-590-2557.

**Sept. 27 (Tues.): Program/Meeting. Location TBD.**

**Program: Colorado Fourteener climbs in August 2020 & 2021.**

**October 22 (Sat.): Fundraiser Dinner.** Swiss Valley Nature Center. Program: TBD.

Mississippi Trails Hiking Club often hosts a Swiss Valley hike before the Dinner.

**Volunteers Make It Work!** The official RESERVATION FORM will be in the Autumn Update, but reservations and volunteers are welcome to step up ANYTIME! Vegetable casseroles and desserts are the main food options to contribute. Some regular helpers may still take care of the mashed potatoes and dressing. Roasted turkey is purchased. Kitchen and set-up/take-down/clean-up help is always very welcome.

**October 25 (Tues) Program/Meeting: Program: ELECTION PREPARATIONS. Work to be UNIFIED!** Election Day needs may be reviewed. Meeting Location, TBD.

**November 8 (Tues): ELECTION DAY.** Can we be certain that every vote in the nation will get counted? Will gerrymandering and voter suppression influence results? Democracy is wavering. Do all you can to help GET OUT THE VOTE.



**Nov. 9 (Wed.):** Take a deep breath! Can we safely exhale?

**Nov. 5 (Sat.): Eden Valley Refuge Hike.** We still can DREAM about an Eden! 1.5 mile south of Baldwin on 50<sup>th</sup> Ave. (Y 34) Baldwin is about 8 miles west of Maquoketa on IA Rt. 64. Enjoy a swinging bridge, an Observation Tower, and a variety of trails. Carpool from Banworth Udelhoven at 9:15 AM. Or, be at the trail-head parking by around 10 AM. Maybe lunch in Maquoketa.

**Dec. 17 (Sat.):** Nearly Winter Solstice Sunset Stroll. Mines of Spain/EB Lyons' Avenue of Trees. 4:05 PM Sunset. Be at the parking area by 3:15 PM. View is from the end of the Avenue of Trees. Dinner after the sun has disappeared. Maybe a Dairy Queen Pineapple Sundae to enjoy the yellow SUNdae going down again?

**2021 Membership: January – December (White Pine)**

\*Total Adds: 116 Memberships / 129 members. ☺

Total Drops: 236 Memberships / 264 members. ☹

Year End Total: 463 Memberships/557 Members.

Net change: Memberships (-120) Members (-135).

\*Many Adds are Reinstated "Drops" who later renewed. Thanks! Not a good sign, in general, of what is likely in the offing.

**PLANET EARTH THANKS ALL LONG-TIME & CURRENT MEMBERS.** We do what we can with what we have.

## The Sound of Silence: Speak Up! Needle! Page 6

Verses 3 and 4 of the Simon and Garfunkel song, “The Sound of Silence” have a message that is loud and clear. If we disagree with a politician, do what our newsletter professes. NEEDLE them.

Lyrics of verses 3 and 4 of “The Sound of Silence”:

And in the naked light, I saw  
Ten thousand people, maybe more  
People talking without speaking  
People hearing without listening  
People writing songs that voices never share  
And no one dared  
Disturb the sound of silence

“Fools”, said I, “You do not know  
Silence like a cancer grows  
Hear my words that I might teach you  
Take my arms that I might reach you”  
But my words, like silent rain drops fell  
And echoed  
In the wells of silence

So, on February 16, 2022, I attended a **“Town Hall” hosted by U.S. Representative. Ashley Hinson.** After her “campaign speech” and several fluffy questions, the Chair of our White Pine Group, Charlie Winterwood, was able to ask a question .. What was she doing about climate change?.

Her extended answer dealt mainly with what Alan Guebert (farmandfoodfile.com) identified, in his January 2, 2022, column in the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, “You can only postpone reality so long,” as **“governmental aid—after disaster strikes** for farmers, ranchers and eaters..” After the fact aid instead of preemptive initiatives. Somewhere in there she said how whatever she was suggesting would result in cleaner water. That seemed to fly in the face of the Supreme Beef plan for a huge Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in the headwaters of Bloody Run Creek, a premier trout fishery in northeast Iowa, that also sits above that region’s Swiss Cheese, sinkhole infested, karst geology.

Guebert wrote that “Currently, 109 House members and 30 Senators ... have cast ‘doubt on the clear, established scientific consensus that the world is warming.’ (Center of American Progress) “...bad news is that the majority of congressional climate deniers represent rural America, arguably the economic sector with the most to lose in today’s climate upheaval.” This, Guebert wrote, in spite of 22 “extreme weather events” in 2020 with damages exceeding \$1 billion each.

One wonders how such as those levels of loss might have an impact on inflation, that Hinson, in her 2/9/22 “The Bottom Line” newsletter, believes she will get to the bottom of with her new bill: “Bipartisan Informed Lawmaking to Combat Inflation Act.” It is designed to make public the inflationary effects of pending legislation. Like government aid after the fact disasters?

Hinson has a limited view on a variety of issues. When I got to ask a question, after I told her she had not answered the Climate Change question, she answered my question about banning mask wearing for school kids by saying it caused mental health problems, not due to shootings, vaping, bullying, war, book banning, etc. End.

## Needling Legislators and Their Minions.

Most Federal Legislators cannot be reached by simple emails. Most require use of a website form to submit questions or comments. Such go to just that legislator’s office staff without much indication of the nature of a response. On a few occasions, now that “needling” has gotten under my skin (no pun intended as that is what I get asked about every time I donate blood), I have gotten some pleasure on the Facebook front. (Since I can get wordy and have little tech knowledge anyway, I’d never make it on Twitter, as I believe it limits the length of commentary.)

I have, not often, remember, as I do have a real life to lead, have had some “fun” on Facebook. Sen. Joni Ernst and Rep. Hinson are good targets. I do not get formal responses from the legislator in such cases, but do get to interact with some of the other posters of comments. (It’s scary as there are a lot of nut cases out there. But preach only to the choir?)

Here is MOST of my FB post to out-of-state & local lovers of Gov. Reynold’s reply to State of the Union speech:

Reynolds did not mention that her tax cuts for the wealthy (her 3.9% flat tax) benefits them much more than the middle and lower class – and a sales tax will have to pick up the slack. Her state surplus was aided by Federal dollars – and she is under investigation for misusing a chunk of those dollars – for staff salaries. The DNR is not being adequately funded in the areas of public lands and inadequate staffing to properly enforce and renew environmentally related permits for such as Confined Animal Feeding Operations. She also wants to evict rangers from state park homes that she does not want to spend money on for upkeep. The ranger association is protesting that move and states that local law enforcement would have to pick up the policing slack in the impacted parks. Enforcement issues along the Heritage Trail were concerns expressed at a recent “Bordering Landowners” workshop sponsored by the Dubuque County Conservation Board as an example of how the “Iowa Nice” public misuses and exploits public lands. The DNR also could not properly manage the Mines of Spain State Recreation Area so the City of Dubuque, the County Conservation Board, and Friends of Mines of Spain (to which I contribute) agreed to take over a good deal of the operation including funding a ranger at the EB Lyons Interpretive Center. It is now open on a regular basis, little thanks to the underfunded DNR. (It has been recently learned that \$20,000 is to be cut from the DNR’s share.) The outright attack on public education concerns educators. Vouchers take \$\$\$ away from public schools; and private schools are not as carefully scrutinized. Regarding mask and vaccine mandates, there would be no NEED for mandates if parents and everyone would do their civic duty and follow recommendations from health experts. .... Bragging about sending Iowa Law Enforcement Officers to the border with Mexico is pretty shallow and does nothing to get to the root cause of why desperate mothers/families are trying escape the drug cartels and other gangs. Central America needs Family Planning aid, an understanding of the impact of climate change on its agriculture, and fewer buyers of sex trafficking and illegal drugs here in the United States. Reynolds speech was written before Biden described his actions at the border. VP Harris went to Central America to get to the root cause instead of just wagging a finger at the border. How many people know the Tar Sands source of oil for the Keystone XL pipeline? That source devastates CO2 absorbing boreal forests. Is the total cost of Ethanol understood? The ethanol tax incentive outwardly keeps it cheaper. Finis.

(Dick Worm, White Pine Needle editor.)



**BOTTLE BILL Needle 2022 page 7**

Excerpts from an email to IA State Rep. Shannon Lundgren:

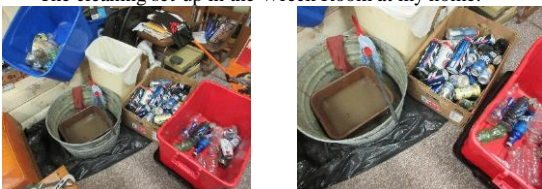
“Since it was noted in a newspaper story that you would rather do away with the ‘bottle bill’ altogether, it was also noted that you might be willing to raise the Redemption Center return to 2 cents and prefer that the DNR enforce any bottle bill laws rather than the Alcoholic Beverages Division, your forte. Have you checked with any redemption center about your 2 cents worth regarding your 2 cents worth reimbursement? Regarding having the DNR enforcement, what with the Governor’s and your failure to adequately fund the DNR, how would that work?”

You also said that curbside collection alone could handle recycling of aluminum and plastic beverage containers. Even WITH the current ‘bottle bill,’ ditches still accumulate lots of beverage containers and other trash. Besides, not everyone living along county roads has curbside collection. I live outside of a town so hire such pick-up. Not everyone does that. They MAY take their recyclables to one of the county recycle bins. Or, maybe just dump it with the trash in a gully or ditch somewhere nearby. Or, burn it all and dump the ashes. As a member of the House Environmental Protection Committee, you should be concerned about such dumping.



Join our little KDCCG (Keep Dubuque County Clean and Green) group EACH YEAR as we pick up recyclables and other debris just from US 20 to the entrance to Swiss Valley Nature Center. **(Ed. update: Next Swiss Valley Rd. Clean-up: March 31, 1-3 PM.)** Or, better yet, come to my home & help clean the huge backlog of bags of returnable & recyclable containers stashed under the shelter by my pond.

The cleaning set-up in the Wreck Room at my home:



The blue tub had one bag’s worth of containers. Redeemable aluminum cans are in the box; the red recycle tub has the damaged containers that can still be recycled. Rags and an old tooth brush clean the cans and bottles. Pliers help remove lids of plastic bottles. Screw driver reaches into crumpled cans to bring them back into stand-alone shape and helps remove debris from inside some cans and bottles. Such stuff can get pretty nasty (chewed tobacco!)

Have you gotten input from the likes of Alcoa aluminum and from groups such as the Veterans Freedom Center that would have a source of income and a contribution to the community curtailed? Plastic manufacturers/big oil like disposal. Just drill more wells.

**Rep. Lundgren replied!** “Thank you for your email. I will respectfully disagree with all of your comments.”

**UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS, 2/10/22**

“In the past year, we’ve gone from an administration that actively attacked science---with nearly 200 documented attacks---to one that promised to ‘listen to science.’ President Biden has taken some key steps toward fulfilling that promise, but a lot remains to not just restore but increase the role of science in public policymaking. We need government science to tackle issues we face: pandemics, climate change, environmental justice, and more. And while many federal agencies have created scientific integrity to ensure the science they use is free from political interference, we need to lock in those protections so they extend beyond this administration. If we want science to be used to make our communities safer, healthier, fairer, and better prepared for a challenging future, we need to pass legislation that protects science-based policymaking over the long term.”

“Send a message to your representatives urging them to support and pass the **Scientific Integrity Act.**”



**INSPIRATION: COFFEE CREEK**

Member David Krapfl, New Vienna, a semi-retired farmer, wanted to preserve streams and trees. So about 10 years ago he got tired of seeing Coffee Creek that runs through his farm for ½ mile get dirtier and filthy. So he organized the Coffee Creek Watershed Organization. 13 farmers joined and got a small grant to educate farmers about soil conservation and less fertilizer use.

Our ideas spread like wild-fire. Soon, our neighbors to the east, who farmed along the North Fork of the Maquoketa River, joined us. We soon had 13,000 acres enrolled in our plan. An unbelievable difference in water quality occurred in the creek. Within a year, 12-14” fish were again in the creek, until a manure spill killed them all. DNR talked to the culprit and the family cleaned up and joined our organization and now has every acre contoured, stripped, or terraced.

Farmers joined from New Vienna to Holy Cross. David personally has a wetlands restoration project of 23 acres. His whole farm is contoured and terraced. His son-in-law is taking over and no-tills most crops. Rotational grazing has been going for 20 years. He will welcome a tour any time.

The White Pine Group will soon follow-up on that.

Such an inspiration!

“The astronomer looks high, the geologist low. Who looks between on the surface of the earth? The farmer, I suppose...” (John Muir, 1870 or 1871.)

**White Pine Group Treasurer:** Due to a medical situation, Mike Muir asked to be replaced as active treasurer. Jane Worm, who is treasurer for two other organizations, agreed to take on the duty until..... Anyone out there interested? Some here now are getting way past our prime!

Jane at work balancing two checkbooks-- Ooops! Two jigsaw puzzles! **Email Zoom changes size.**



**2021 Turkey Dinner Fundraiser:**



**Dining Hall Awaits    Kekekabic Maps    Greeting the Guests**



**White Pine donated Turtle. Kek Camping. Desserts Rule!!**



**Dinner was served.    NOT John Muir!    SUCCESS**

Commented [JW2]:

White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa Sierra Club  
 "The Needle" Newsletter Editor    2022 Needle  
 Richard Worm    January - August  
 3680 Echo Hills Dr.    Volume 42, #1  
 Bellevue, IA 52031-9557

2022 Calendar of Program/Meetings & Outings  
 Membership and Nature Trivia Bee reports.  
 2021 Fundraiser Dinner Report  
 2022 Fundraiser Dinner, Oct. 22, 2022, Swiss Valley



Mark Your    2022 Scheduling Calendar



**EXPLORE    ENJOY    PROTECT**

**White Pine Group, N.E. Iowa  
 EXCOM \*Expires Jan. 2023.**

\*Chair: Charlie Winterwood, 563-588-2783 [cwinterwood@yahoo.com](mailto:cwinterwood@yahoo.com)  
 Vice Chair: Dave Hansen, Masonville. [dhansen187@gmail.com](mailto:dhansen187@gmail.com)  
 \*Member/Newsletter: Dick Worm, 563-582-2580 [raworm@msn.com](mailto:raworm@msn.com)  
 \*Ben Biver: [biverb@gmail.com](mailto:biverb@gmail.com)  
 Jane Worm, 563-582-2580 [jworm924@msn.com](mailto:jworm924@msn.com)

**Appointed:**  
 Fundraiser/Sec: Jane Worm  
 Treasurer: Jane Worm/Mike Muir  
 Conservation: Ben Biver    Publicity and more: (open)  
 WEBSITE: [www.sierraclub.org/iowa/white-pine-group](http://www.sierraclub.org/iowa/white-pine-group) (seldom used)

**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).

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: 1022 (Oct., 2022).

On magazine labels: J/A22 = final issue July/August, 2022. 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](http://www.facebook.com/whitepinegroup)

Action: [www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider](http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra-club-email/insider)

**Your membership is vital to carrying out Sierra Club goals... for the benefit of all humanity and wildlife everywhere.**