

Eco Fest 2015: Good Green Fun in NewBo Saturday, April 25th 10 am-4 pm

Cedar Rapids 6th Annual EcoFest is Good Green Fun and promises to be bigger and greener this year. The Earth Day celebration, coordinated by Prairiewoods, Sierra Club, Trees Forever, Linn County Conservation and others, will be held in the NewBo district of Cedar Rapids on Saturday, April 25. The event offers a smorgasbord of education and fun with themes in sustainability, alternative energy, and local food. Visitors can expect kid-friendly interactive displays, a film fest hosted by CSPS, a live music lineup, exclusive tours of Mt. Trashmore, and much more.

This is a free public event. For a more detailed schedule of activities, films, musical performances and classes offered visit www.ecofester.org. Most displays and activities will be located at the NewBo City Market.

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Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Ecofester or
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Cedar Lake Overview

By Felicia Wyrick

Cedar Lake is an urban lake adjacent to downtown Cedar Rapids. The Cedar Trail that circles the lake is one of the busiest hubs in the community's entire trail system. But the lake has a longstanding reputation for being a contaminated body of water.

True: The DNR has instituted a fish consumption advisory at Cedar Lake since 1986. The reason for the advisory was the presence of PCB's and chlordane in tissue sampling of bottom feeding fish. The good news is, the harmful chemicals have been steadily breaking down. DNR experts are optimistic that they will be able to lift the fish advisory in 2015.

Friends of Cedar Lake is a coalition of stakeholders committed to creating community support to improve and protect the lake, the adjacent area, and its watershed by developing and implementing a plan to improve the lake's water quality, enhance the fishery and provide additional recreational opportunities. The group is working to qualify for the DNR's Lake Restoration Program as well as other funding sources to assist with revitalization efforts.

Find monthly meeting times and more detailed information at friendsofcedarlake.com.

Former Vice President Gore Brings Climate Reality Training to Cedar Rapids May 5-7

By Rob Hogg

The Climate Reality Project, founded by former Vice President Al Gore, will be conducting its next international training on climate change in Cedar Rapids May 5-7. Applications for people to attend are due April 13. For details, or to apply, visit this web site: www.climate reality training.org/iowa

This is one of only four trainings offered by the Climate Reality Project in 2015. One was held in February in New Delhi, India. Others will be held later this year in Toronto, Canada (July 9-10) and Miami, Florida (September 28-30).

This is a unique opportunity for people in Iowa to attend the training. It is also a unique opportunity to showcase what Iowa is doing to promote sustainability for Vice President Gore and other national and international visitors who attend the training. In addition to applying yourself, think about other people (conservationists, faith leaders, labor leaders, business owners, educational experts, civic leaders, etc.) who might be interested in learning more and getting more involved in the fight against climate change.

This program can be an essential part of a year of action aimed at elevating climate change in our national dialogue leading up to international climate negotiations in Paris and the 2016 election process. Other upcoming events include the expected encyclical on climate change from Pope Francis (June or July), the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina (Aug. 29), and the third anniversary of Hurricane Sandy (Oct. 29).

You can also get involved in advocacy directed at Congress through Citizens Climate Lobby or Climate Action Across America. For more details, email Rob Hogg at robhogg@earthlink.net.

Mark it down! 2015

April 25: Ecofest in New Bo. Please see article to the left for details on the event.

May 3: Roadside Clean-up from 2-4p. Meet at the corner of County Home Rd. and North Center Point Rd.

June 20: Bike ride to Solon Salt Creek restaurant.

July 11-12: Manchester Park Picnic/campout. The new white water feature will be available if people want to kayak or do some tubing.

For more information on Sierra Club events, look for us on www.sierraclub.org or call/write Connie Lehman /319-533-5946 / connie.lehman29@gmail.com

Ocean Heat

By Harold Hensel

Oceanographer John Church has updated his 2011 paper in Geophysical Research Letters. What he found is that on the average, climate change has been adding about 125 trillion Joules of heat energy to the oceans per second. New sophisticated instruments and increased sampling at different levels has made these measurements possible.

In laymen's terms, an analogy would be the equivalent of adding the heat energy of about 12 Hiroshima bombs per second. The oceans have been taking a beating. Not only has there not been a pause in global warming, there has been an intensification and acceleration.

The oceans can take just so much before they release heat into the atmosphere. According to Church, we can expect the release of excessive heat from the oceans to occur in earnest in the next five years.

http://motherboard.vice.com/en_uk/read/we-may-see-a-supercharged-surge-in-warming



Sierra Club Hike Back Bone State Park February 2015

Mike Wyrick,
Marlene and Rick Julich



Sheri Albrecht and Steve Carriger

Cedar Wapsie Group Officers

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Vice Chair – Mike Wyrick
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For more information on additional Sierra Club events, please look for us on www.sierraclub.org.