**SPECIAL MEETING EVENT**

May 14th

*Featuring author Jerry Apps from Madison, WI.*

Jerry is an author, storyteller, historian and writes a bi-monthly column for The Country Today. Jerry has written 30 books including his latest (released in Sept 2014), “The Great Sand Fracas of Ames County: A Novel”. He has learned much about sand mining and fracturing, tapping into a highly controversial issue to explore contemporary Midwest values - historical preservation VS forces of changes, environmental protection VS economic opportunity. Join us, as he will talk about his book and what he learned in his research.

$5.00/adult
$12.00/family
Snacks & Refreshements

7:00 PM
Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA)
1000 N. Ballard Road, Appleton

"Once again, Jerry Apps has tapped into a highly controversial issue to explore contemporary Midwestern values — historical preservation versus forces of change, environmental protection versus economic opportunity. And once again, Apps succeeds brilliantly. He is an articulate and forceful voice for the Wisconsin ethos."—Jerry Minnich, author of The Wisconsin Almanac

"Jerry Apps has given us another gift with his latest installment in the fictional Ames County saga. The Great Sand Fracas of Ames County will transport you to Ames County’s community of Link Lake and make you one of the regulars at its cafes and supper clubs. Those familiar with the rural Upper Midwest will feel right at home and newcomers will get a crash course in the rhythms and controversies along the fault lines between economic development, conservation, and historic preservation."—Dennis Boyer, author of Listen to the Land.
FROM THE CHAIR
March 2015, By Alan Lawrence

Several months ago our board of directors began thinking about what we could do to celebrate Earth Day this year. We wanted to do something that would be easy for members of our community to participate in. We know that people look for Earth Day opportunities to participate in.

We thought it would be nice to have a hike for the community. With quite a bit of work, frankly, we have an event planned that we hope will be successful and fun. Events begin and end at Fox River Environmental Educational Alliance (FREEA) helping to show off our meeting facility. There will be a nice scenic hike along the Fox River, using trails that most people will be unaware of. I hope it opens eyes to the natural settings that exist along our river in Appleton.

We have recruited help from several co-sponsors and organizations, so we anticipate that this can be a big event. I hope you will join us. It takes place on April 18, kicking off Earth Day week. Start any time between 9:00 and 10:30. Food and restrooms are available along the 5.15 mile adventure, so you can take your time and relax.

We still need helpers along the trail or at the registration site. And we need volunteers to bake cookies or cupcakes to be handed out free at Peabody Park. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

Our website is changing. Last October I heard that there would be changes, but unfortunately I didn’t really get the news until this month. Although I have been our webmaster since 1999, the new tools are entirely new to me. I’ve had help getting the initial pages published and I’m expecting that I can make our new site useful and attractive.

The new website address is: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley

I want to remind you to use your voices as citizens to influence public policy and government programs. The proposed State Budget includes cuts that many believe are devastating to the outdoors that makes Wisconsin special. State Parks will be expected to support themselves without public funding. The Stewardship Program is in great jeopardy. Please speak up.

Thanks for reading my comments. As leader of our group I welcome your feedback.

Alan Lawrence, 920-730-9515 or alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com

STEWARDSHIP FUND MAY BE CUT

The Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has been providing money to the state, local governments, land trusts and other non-profits to purchase and protect land since 1989. It has helped protect more than 500,000 acres. These lands benefit all of us in Wisconsin by providing jobs, benefiting local economies, protecting our water resources & air quality, promoting tourism & healthy lifestyles, guaranteeing places to hunt, hike, fish and explore close to home.

The general land acquisition component of the Stewardship Program is the backbone of Wisconsin’s public lands program. It provides the funds for all Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources land acquisition not funded specifically by other Stewardship Program components. This mandate is extensive and includes acquisition in 547 existing state parks and trails, flowages, fishery, wildlife, state forest, and rivers projects.

The proposed State Budget intends to severely cut this program. Your legislative representatives need to know how you feel about this. WRITE, CALL OR EMAIL THEM!

ELROY SPARTA TRAIL IN JEOPARDY

Have you ever ridden your bicycle on the Elroy-Sparta Trail? This is a 32 mile long trail, converted from an abandoned railroad bed. Its elevation changes are very gentle. The scenery is fantastic. You even go through three train tunnels, two are 1/4 mile long and the 3/4 mile tunnel is extra fantastic. You ride past several small towns; towns that demonstrate obviously and proudly that the trail and the bicyclists are an important part of their economies. And the trail connects with other area trails.

This is all in jeopardy. A gravel pit threatening the trail and the communities was approved March 16 despite overwhelming opposition to it and despite the facts of the project. In fact, only 4 people spoke in favor of the project at the public hearing while five times that many (20) spoke in opposition. A lawsuit to stop the mine has been filed.
Fox River Earth Day Hike
Saturday, April 18th

A fun event for the whole community.

Activities begin and end at the Fox River Environmental Education Alliance (FREEA) (formerly Monte Alverno). Activities at FREEA will showcase the facility and be a place for parking, food and restrooms.

The hike is planned along the Fox River right from FREEA and going to Peabody Park. We will have refreshments and activities there. You can turn back and enjoy a short hike, or you can continue on for the full 5.15 mile adventure. We will continue to College Avenue, cross the bridge and hike along the southern shore on the Newberry Trail to Olde Oneida Street. Then cross back to the northern shore utilizing trails on the Eagle Flats. Hike through Lawrence University and back to FREEA.

Restrooms and food can be found at Peabody Park, Stone Cellar Brewpub, Pullman’s Trolley Square, Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University, or at locations not far off the walk.

Hikers can begin walking anytime between 9:00am and 10:30am and should plan to be back by 1:30pm. This is plenty of time to enjoy the route and discover what’s on the way, or even have an early lunch.

Put this on your calendar and plan to be there either as a helper or as a participant. We believe this will be big. We believe you will enjoy the experience.

This event gives people the opportunity to participate in a fun organized Earth Day event where they can experience nature and our Fox River in a unique hike kicking off spring and the Earth Day week.

The event is free, no charge, without cost.

Please check our web page for updates sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley
Questions to alan_lawrence99@yahoo.com.
April or May
Garlic Mustard Pulling
Pull garlic mustard at High Cliff State Park and at Memorial Park in Combined Locks, Wisconsin. All depends on the weather and how fast the garlic mustard grows. Call early to be put on the garlic mustard pullers list and to be contacted about specific dates and times. • Contact Dale Schaber, 920-739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net

April 11, Saturday
Bike the Mascoutin Valley Trail to a Winery
The western segment of the Mascoutin Valley State Trail connects the small towns of Berlin and Ripon. The rail-trail goes past farms, prairies and wetlands. We’ll start our afternoon in Berlin and bike about 9 miles to Vines & Rushes Winery where we’ll enjoy a free tasting of their wines. The winery also has soda, cheese, crackers and other locally made items available for purchase. We’ll enjoy a snack before biking back to Berlin. *NOTE: Must be 21 to come on this outing! For details contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

April 18, Saturday
Earth Day River Hike
Kick off Earth Day week with a hike along the Fox River in Appleton. See details on page 3.

MAY 9 – Saturday
Ice Age Trail Work in Waushara County
The Fox Valley Sierra Group will be assisting the Waushara County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance within the Chaffee Creek State Fishery area. Approximately one mile of the Ice Age Trail had a timber sale this winter, so the main focus will be to replace or upgrade signage through that area. New sign posts will be installed and there will be some painting and installing of signs on the posts. This area is not overly accessible, so supplies will need to be carried in a fair distance. To my knowledge, this will be the first time that our Sierra Club chapter has ever worked on any of the Waushara County’s Ice Age trails. Tools will be provided. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, sturdy work shoes, and mosquito and tick repellent. We will work in the morning until early to mid afternoon and then stop for ice cream. • Contact Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7Dairl@yahoo.com.

May 16, Saturday
Canoe the Little Wolf River near Manawa
Paddle a slow and scenic section of the Little Wolf River that is abundant in waterfowl. After a short shuttle, we’ll put-in near Symco and paddle to the Little Wolf Boat Launch on the Manawa Mill Pond. Optional cookout at the Ramstack Farm afterwards. • Contact: Kelly Ramstack, 920-540-9139

May 30, Saturday
Ice Age Trail Hike - N. Kettle Moriane
A rolling, easy, spring hike in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest will follow ridges past kettles and kames to Butler Lake and back. Bring your own lunch. Total hiking distance: eight miles. Total hiking time, including lunch and breaks: six hours. Total ascent: 1,148 feet. Total Descent: 1,020 feet. Trailhead is about an hour from Appleton. Hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather so everyone must be registered with either leader, who will provide details for trailhead and starting time. • Phil Snyder, jsnyder2@new.rr.com or Margaret Klose, margaretklose@gmail.com

June 27, Saturday
Ice Age Trail Hike - Waupaca Area
Hike a premier section of the Ice Age Trail, starting at Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca and looping south through the Emmons Creek State Fishery and Wildlife Area. Bring your own lunch. Total hiking distance: about nine miles. Hike stats, including distance, time, ascent and descent will be shared with registered hikers. Hike will be cancelled in case of bad weather so everyone must be registered with either leader, who will provide details for trailhead and starting time. • Phil Snyder, jsnyder2@new.rr.com or Margaret Klose, margaretklose@gmail.com

July 11, Saturday
Ice Age Trail Work in Waupaca County
The Fox Valley Sierra Group will be assisting the Waupaca County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance within Hartman Creek State Park west of Waupaca. This October the Ice Age Trail Mobile Skills Crew will spearhead a multi-day project to relocate the Ice Age Trail within the park so it will no longer be on the cross country ski trail. Lots of preparatory trail work will need to be done before this fall, so these two dates will give us an opportunity to assist with preliminary work on the new trail. Tools will be provided. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, sturdy work shoes, and mosquito and tick repellent. We will work those mornings until early to mid afternoon each day and will then stop for ice cream. • Contact Darrel Ruechel, FVSG IATA coordinator, 920-993-0903, r7Dairl@yahoo.com.

August 1, Saturday
Ice Age Trail Work in Waupaca County
See July 11th for description
Outings: Get outside and join us on one of our outings! They are a great way to meet other outdoor enthusiasts. Outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate, sign up at one of our general meetings or contact the outings leader directly. Time and meeting locations of outings can change. Some trips are weather dependent. Times are not listed in these descriptions to ensure participants will check with trip leaders before proceeding.
THE AQUATIC WEED EATER ASIAN CARP

Introduced in the southeast to help control weeds and parasites in cat fish aquaculture operations, these fish soon spread up the Mississippi River system where they have been crowding out native fish populations not used to competing with such aggressive invaders. The carps’ presence in such numbers is also compromising water quality and killing off sensitive species such as freshwater mussels.

Asian carp are hardy, lay hundreds of thousands of eggs at a time and spread into new habitat quickly and easily. They can jump over barriers such as low head dams, also, flooding has helped the fish expand into previously unattainable water bodies. And fishers using young carp as live bait have also facilitated the fish’s spread, as have boats going through locks up and down the Mississippi.

Some 40 years after the carp first appeared in the southern Mississippi River the best that experts can hope for is to slow the spread, to keep the invader from overtaking the Wabash, Illinois and other Midwest rivers, and crossing into the Great Lakes.

Scientists, engineers and government officials have theorized a range of potential weapons against the Asian carp. Some favor using predator fish (Long Nose Gar); others wonder if poisons or natural toxins might help. Electrical barriers are deployed in Chicago, and even sport fishermen wielding powerful crossbows are doing their part. In the Illinois river commercial fishermen are allowed to harvest as many Asian Carp as they can. So far no state or federal agency can boast of a successful pilot program to stem the relentless migration.

In 2014 the various types of Asian carp barriers were evaluated in a Great Lakes Study by the University of Notre Dame and US Forrest Service. Previous studies compared the pros and cons of different Asian carp control strategies the latest study went into greater depth assessing the likely hood of success using the various control methods. The Illinois River has a series of three electric barriers in place to prevent the spread of Asian carp to the great lakes. (see graphic on next page) The study found that a single electrical barrier has a 85 – 95% success rate of halting the infestation. Three barriers in series would significantly increase the success rate however their major weakness is if a there is a power disruption the fish can swim up river to Lake Michigan at will. So far numerous DNA samples of Asian Carp, one dead Asian Carp and no living Asian Carp have been found on the Lake Michigan side of the electric barriers. A mechanical barrier can be 100% effective in preventing the spread of Asian Carp.

On Feb. 26 2015 Michigan Lawmakers Debbie Stabenow & Candice Miller introduced legislation in congress to enable the federal agencies to fast track the implementation of barriers to help prevent the spread of Asian Carp.

Please contact our Senators Tammy Baldwin, Ron Johnson, Representatives Reid Ribble, Glenn Grothman and urge them to support the legislation proposed by the Michigan lawmakers and urge them to have the Corps of Engineers erect mechanical barriers to prevent the spread of Asian Carp.

John Engel Conservation Chairman
(sources - Scientific American & US Forrest Service)
Wild Ones Fox Valley
INVASIVE PLANTS AND WORMS
IN THE FOX VALLEY AREA
Thursday, April 23, 6:30 pm
WILD Center, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Rd
Neenah, WI 749-7807

Kelly Kearnes, Invasive Plant Coordinator with the Wisconsin DNR, will be discussing identification, control and disposal of invasives. She has worked with a team since 2004 to develop and implement the comprehensive invasive species rule, NR 40 which is currently being revised. foxvalleyarea.wildones.org

Also Wild Ones Fox Valley area will have a native plant sale for pick up May 9th. However, if people want specific plants, they have to be pre-ordered by April 22nd. The order form is available on our website at foxvalleyarea.wildones.org. They have an extensive list of plants including trilliums, royal catchfly and monarch magnets. Plants will also be available to buy on May 9 at the Wild Center.

RECYCLE GENTLY USED T-SHIRTS AND PILLOWCASES FOR A GOOD CAUSE
“The Sewing Bees” from St. Martin Church in Cecil make diapers for children in Haiti from unwanted T-Shirts. The group started in the fall of 2011 and has also made pillow case dresses (over 200!). The clothes and diapers are delivered through a group from Green Bay, Friends of Haiti. The gently used T-Shirts can be printed or plain; colored or white; cotton or cotton blend.

A friend of mine started “The Sewing Bees” and I would be happy to pick up donated T-shirts at Fox Valley Sierra Club meetings or another drop off spot. Nancy Brown-Koeller. If questions, call 715 853-6625

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
100 YEARS OLD
In the lead up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, the President’s Every Kid in a Park initiative is a call to action to get all children to visit and enjoy America’s unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, kids are spending more time than ever in front of screens instead of outside.

To inspire the next generation to discover all that America’s public lands and waters have to offer, the Obama Administration will provide all 4th grade students and their families free admission to all National Parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. The initiative will also:

- Make it easy for schools and families to plan trips
- Provide transportation support to schools with the most need
- Provide educational materials

Stay up-to-date on the latest environmental news, outings, programs and events by checking out our website at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/foxvalley or find us on Facebook.