

This just in! Fantastic news about the "Wisconsin Ledge American Viticultural Area" (AVA)

A few days ago, Steve De Baker from Trout Springs Winery informed me that his e-mail inbox contained a message from the federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) that said our "Wisconsin Ledge AVA Application" has met all of the technical requirements of the program and that the Bureau will now begin the (long) process of writing up the federal rules for creation of the AVA which will need to be published in the Federal Register. There will be some critical opportunities for public comment through this process and, according to Steve, we need to be prepared to submit positive comment from a variety of stakeholder perspectives in order to ensure that this effort becomes a reality. I will keep the NERN group posted as to the AVA's progress and will notify everyone at an appropriate time to encourage that public and private groups and individuals submit their words of support! Achieving the goal of receiving the AVA designation could have significant economic impacts for the escarpment region. Great work and effort by Steve in leading this effort - thank him next time you see him! - E. Fowle

P.S. - below is a bit more info about AVAs in case you don't know what they are:

FROM WIKIPEDIA: An American Viticultural Area is a designated [wine grape](#)-growing region in the [United States](#) distinguishable by [geographic](#) features, with boundaries defined by the [Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau](#) (TTB), [United States Department of the Treasury](#). The TTB defines AVAs at the request of [wineries](#) and other [petitioners](#). There were 193 AVAs as of February, 2009.^[1] Prior to the installation of the AVA system, wine [appellations](#) of origin in the United States were designated based on [state](#) or [county](#) boundaries. All of these appellations were [grandfathered](#) into federal law and may appear on wine labels as designated places of origin, but these appellations are distinct from AVAs.

American Viticultural Areas range in size from the [Ohio River Valley AVA](#) at 26,000 square miles (67,000 km²) across four states, to the [Cole Ranch AVA](#) in [Mendocino County, California](#), at only 62 acres (25 ha). The [Augusta AVA](#) near the town of [Augusta, Missouri](#) was the first recognized AVA, gaining the status on June 20, 1980.^[2] Unlike most [European](#) wine appellations of origin, an AVA specifies only a geographical location from which at least 85% of the grapes used to make a wine must have been grown. AVAs are more similar to the [Italian Indicazione Geografica Tipica](#) than other European appellation of origin systems. American Viticultural Area designations do not limit the type of grapes grown, the method of [vinification](#), or the crop yield. Some of those factors may, however, be used by the petitioner to justify uniqueness of place when proposing a new AVA.

2010 Natural Resource Foundation Tours Released!

Winter winds may be a' howlin- but as all Wisconsinites know, spring is just around the corner. Amidst the hint of budding trees and thawing icicles comes one of our favorite seasons... Field Trip Season! 2010 promises to be another fantastic year - we're offering more than 100 affordable outdoor adventures across the state!

Led by expert naturalist and DNR professionals, trips run April through October and include an exciting diversity of outdoor experiences. Have a hands-on experience with Wisconsin's wildlife. Explore Wisconsin's hidden wilderness areas. And work side-by-side in the field with the scientists who study and protect these treasures. Discover something new about your home state or re-discover favorite places. If you are curious about nature, we have a field trip experience you will remember for years to come.

This year's highlights include: 38 birding adventures, 18 family friendly trips, 30 field trips to State Natural Areas- gems of Wisconsin's natural diversity, 37 opportunities to learn about Citizen Science and how you can help collect vital scientific data.

Check your mailboxes in early March! Foundation members will receive booklets with trip listings and registration in early March. Registration opens at 10am on Wednesday, March 17th for NRF members, and April 1st for non-members.

Only members are eligible for early registration in March, and special "members only" field trip opportunities. So, if you are not already a member of the Natural Resources Foundation- now is a great time to join!

Go to: <http://www.wisconservation.org> to join or renew your membership or mail your donation to Natural

Resources Foundation, PO Box 2317, Madison WI 53701. Please write "Membership-2010-Field Trips" in the memo line of your check. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to participate in these amazing trips. We look forward to seeing you out in the field in 2010!

Cheers,

Christine Tanzer
Field Trip Coordinator, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

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February 9, 2010

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20100209/GPG0101/2090562/1207/gpg0101>

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Published: February 9, 2010

<http://dailyreporter.com/blog/2010/02/09/holland-backs-hollow-wind-farm-moratorium/>

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