

RESOLVE TO GET INVOLVED!

Now is the time to lean in and get involved in exploring, enjoying and protecting Wisconsin and our land and climate. From working on priority issue campaigns to helping the chapter run efficiently, there are a wide range of roles that volunteers can fill to support the mission of the Sierra Club and its John Muir Chapter.

Conservation Issue Teams Tar Sands Pipelines

The tar sands team is busy gearing up to stop Enbridge's next oil pipeline project in Wisconsin: Line 66, the proposed twin of the existing Line 61 pipeline. This team has also been active in showing solidarity for other pipeline fights like the Dakota Access Pipeline (#NoDAPL).

Clean Transportation

The clean transportation team works to increase state funding for transit, bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure. This year, the clean transportation team has been focused on

getting the state budget to reassess transportation priorities. Rather than excessive highway expansion spending, Wisconsin communities need funding to repair local roads and to increase accessibility to transit.

Beyond Coal to Clean Energy

Working closely with the Sierra Club's national Beyond Coal Campaign, the chapter has been advocating for transitioning from coal to clean energy in Wisconsin. The team is currently focused on Madison Gas and Electric. The chapter also opposes mandatory fixed-fee increases from utilities across the state.

Water Sentinels

The Water Sentinels work to protect Wisconsin's freshwater resources by monitoring surface and groundwater. Over the past year, the water team has elevated water issues around the



state through communications and social media, events in key parts of the state and a listening session with the EPA Region V Administrator.

Mining Safeguards

The mining team is focused on frac-sand mining and increasing local and statewide safeguards against destructive mining.

Native Species and Forest Protection

The native species and forest protection team works on protecting the unique habitats, forests and wildlife that make Wisconsin the great state that it is.

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2016 POST-ELECTION POLITICAL WRAP-UP

By Dave Blouin, Chapter Political Chair

Like many of you, I experienced a wide range of negative emotions on November 9 when the implications of the 2016 elections began to sink in. We endorsed and supported strong candidates in state and federal races who understand the ramifications of climate change and who believe a clean environment is a fundamental right. We worked hard on their campaigns yet still fell short, and it definitely hurts. We had some hope of picking up seats in both the state Senate and Assembly but there is no sugar-coating these results.

Instead of filling more seats with environmental champions, we slid backwards in both houses, due to depressed Democratic turnout and the late groundswell of support for Trump and down-ballot GOP candidates. I will remind members once again that the Sierra Club is non-partisan but that state GOP candidates and elected officials are uniformly hostile to our goals, and it has been a number of years since we could confidently endorse a GOP candidate.

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FROM THE CHAIR

“Release and Relax.” This was the advice from my Tai Chi instructor, suggesting how his students might deal with possible outcomes of the November election. I’ve taken this to heart. Perhaps by the time you read this, nature and civilization will have crumbled into oblivion, but I’d bet against that. Nonetheless, the November election results dramatically challenge those of us who harbor strong conservation values related to climate and ecosystems, air, water, public lands and social justice.

No one is waiting with bated breath for my post-election analysis, and I’ll leave it to Political Chair Dave Blouin to assess our electoral wins and losses elsewhere in this issue, but I think we need to keep an open mind when predicting where this takes us as a Sierra Club chapter, as a state and as a nation.



Both major political parties have been rocked by Donald Trump’s ascendance to “Climate Denier in Chief.” While the people who voted for him do include climate deniers, racists, xenophobes and sexists, most of Trump’s supporters are not that at all. Instead, they seem to be people who have focused mainly on economic change, perhaps managing to overlook his more egregious statements. Experts will and should continue to study this. I am confident, though, that many of Donald Trump’s voters want to breathe clean air blowing across a healthy and diverse natural landscape. And they like clean water to drink and recreate in. They may look favorably on social and environmental justice for all and they very likely want big money’s influence out of politics. They have just been focused in a different direction than we are by the economic realities of the last decade or more.

I’ll hand off my responsibilities to a new chapter chair in 2017. In my opinion, we should not compromise our values by one iota, and we certainly should not stop speaking out about threats to our commons – *“The cultural and natural resources accessible to all members of a society, including natural materials such as air, water, and a habitable earth”* (Wikipedia). The stewardship we advocate for is needed, now more than ever. Current setbacks are real and substantial, especially in Wisconsin. But this election and the resulting overreach against a healthy environment may, in the next two to four years, set the stage for the real long-term changes we desperately need.

I don’t know if I’m willing to bet on that, but I’m certainly going to work for it. I hope you will too.

Jim Kerler

THE MUIR VIEW

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A Quarterly Publication of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

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Please submit articles by mail or email to:

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Please include the author’s first and last names and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

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Internal Committees

Fundraising Committee

If you want to help put the “fun” in fundraising, join this committee! Members work together to plan and host engaging and unique fundraising events, assist with direct mail appeals, online fundraising and donor visits, all to generate vital support for the chapter’s work.

Membership Committee

Help us grow! Engaged members are the foundation of the Sierra Club. The membership committee is dedicated to building a strong club by finding innovative ways to increase our membership and to support the activities of our current members, volunteers and leaders. Serving on the membership committee might include developing the annual membership campaign, creating print and online promotional materials, planning volunteer recognition events and tabling outreach.

Communications Committee

The communications committee works to communicate the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter’s mission, priority issues, outings and events to members and supporters. They strategize online campaigns and run the chapter’s Facebook and Twitter pages. A member from each issue team and committee sits on this committee to best represent the different work and events in which the chapter is involved.

Outings Committee

The outings committee works to get people of all backgrounds outdoors, whether into the wilderness, on the lakes and streams, into state and national forests or into our local parks and green spaces. The Chapter’s outings committee works to elevate Sierra Club to be the go-to source for outdoor recreation opportunities and leadership training and skill development.

Wisconsin Youth Network (WiYN)

The mission of Wisconsin Youth Network is to create collaborative, intersectional and communicative spaces for young environmental justice advocates in Wisconsin. The network will take strategic action to build youth power and fight climate change. WiYN is currently made up of representatives from student and youth environmental groups throughout the state. Each semester, WiYN members come together to prioritize issues and campaigns that can be led throughout the state.

Local Groups

To address local or regional conservation issues, the Sierra Club has Volunteer-led local groups. In Wisconsin there are six local groups that have their own priority issues, outings and volunteer opportunities. Visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/local-groups to find out if there is a group in your region of the state.

One-Off Volunteer Events

Occasionally, the chapter needs volunteers to support administrative activities, events or mailings. If you are unable to join an issue team or a committee, you can always volunteer at these one-off opportunities!

If you are interested in serving on any of these teams, email John.Muir.Chapter@sierraclub.org with your name and the committees in which you are interested. The Sierra Club is committed to the elimination of discrimination and inequity based on race, ethnicity, gender, class and sexual orientation. We seek to reflect this commitment through programming and leadership structure. We encourage all who are interested to apply to join one of our committees.



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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 **or visit our website** www.sierraclub.org

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OUTINGS

2017 PADDLING ADVENTURES IN QUETICO AND WISCONSIN

Explore the wild Northwoods on a John Muir Chapter outing. Options include paddling adventures in Quetico Provincial Park, a women's paddling trip on the Namekagon River and a camping/hiking exploration of the Apostle Islands. Details for each adventure are listed below.

Our leaders are experienced veterans with Wilderness First Aid training and Sierra Club's Outings Leadership Training approvals, as well as significant life and leadership experience. For candidate participants, no experience is required, but a friendly personality, positive attitude and good physical fitness are invaluable assets.

Fees often include all group supplies, equipment, food and lodging — including park permits and taxes. Not included are personal travel costs, passports, permits and fishing licenses. You supply your personal camping gear and clothing. Contact outings leaders for additional information about registration, including where to send your refundable deposit to reserve your spot.

All outing fees allow participants to offer support for the John Muir Chapter Outings Program and its ability to continue offering these outings annually. Additional contributions to this fund are always welcome.

Quetico Provincial Park Offerings

Spanning the international border between Northeast Minnesota and

Southwest Ontario, Quetico Provincial Park offers the largest expanse of wild, public access lands in the region. This gem in the heart of North America, with more than 2,000 lakes and almost 1.2 million acres of remote wilderness, offers travelers a visual and personal encounter as they navigate the rugged beauty of its towering rock cliffs, majestic waterfalls, and virgin pine and spruce forests. The John Muir Chapter has sponsored outings in this magnificent area annually since 2004.

Quetico Outing 1 – Christianson, Clear and McDermott July 28-August 6, 2017 (8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp)

- Co-Leaders: Vicki Christianson, 715-827-0379, vicki.christianson@yahoo.com, Janet Clear, 608-833-1339, janetclear@gmail.com and Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com
- Outing Departure Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.
- Outing Cost: \$600 including \$100 deposit
- Join our chapter's inaugural women's trip to Quetico with three seasoned Quetico leaders. A shorter route is planned to allow participants plenty of time to relax and enjoy the unparalleled scenery. Two layover days are planned. Limited to seven participants.

Quetico Outing 2 – Brands and Karaskiewicz August 11-20, 2017 (8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp)

- Outing type: paddle/portage/camp
- Co-leaders: Peter Brands, 262-888-3516, pbrands@gmail.com and Tim Karaskiewicz, 414-397-8768, tkaraskiewicz@mitchellairport.com
- Outing departure point: Gunflint Trail, MN
- Outing cost: \$600 including \$100 deposit
- This trip will embark from the Gunflint Trail into the southeastern edge of Quetico. Warm days and starry nights will make this an adventure to remember as our dates coincide with the Perseid meteor shower. Two lay-over days are planned. Limited to nine participants.

Quetico Outing 3 – McDermott and Stahl

August 18-27, 2017 (8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp)

- Co-Leaders: Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com and Will Stahl, 920-725-9185, wrsy55@sbcglobal.net
- Outing Departure Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.
- Outing Cost: \$600 including \$100 deposit
- Designed for the fishing enthusiast. Enjoy a five-night base camp on Agnes Lake sandwiched between canoe travel days in and out of the park to maximize fishing and cooking delicious fresh fish meals. Limited to seven participants.

Other Wisconsin Outings

Women's Namekagon River Trip July 13-16, 2017 (4 days, 3 nights; women's paddling trip)

- Leader: Vicki Christianson, 715-827-0379, vicki.christianson@yahoo.com
- Outing Departure Point: Trego, WI
- Outing Cost: \$150 including \$50 deposit
- Enjoy warm summer days on a women-only leisurely



TAR SANDS UPDATE

By Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

Enbridge Continues to Contradict Itself

Enbridge, the Canadian energy distribution corporation building pipelines across the continent, sent a letter to all Wisconsin landowners along the line claiming that it was not moving forward with the Line 61 twin pipeline. In fact, Enbridge accused environmental groups of trying to make money off of the claim that a new pipeline was coming. Yet a month prior to mailing that letter, Enbridge gave a presentation to shareholders called Positioning for Growth Beyond 2019: The Line 61 Twin in which they discussed their plans for the pipeline.

This latest contradiction can be added to the long list of evidence that Enbridge continues to work toward the pipeline:

- It announced plans to move forward on the pipeline to investors in the spring of 2015.
- It announced these plans to the Canadian media in the fall of 2015.
- It has applied for and received some permits to bring additional oil into Superior, Wisconsin via the Line 3 Replacement project. This oil has to get south through other pipelines.
- It worked with the Wisconsin legislature to change the eminent domain laws, making it possible for Enbridge, a foreign company, to take a Wisconsinite's land for its private gain. It seems unlikely it would spend time and resources in this effort unless it planned to exercise this new right at some point.
- In preparation for permitting, it has surveyed additional property along the entire pipeline route through Wisconsin, which included gathering archaeological and biological data on landowners' properties.

Additionally, it has spent most of 2016 doing things that would buy it goodwill in the community. This included donations to fire stations, food pantries, and emergency responders. In Marshfield, it even partnered with Kwik Trip to give \$20 gas cards out to the public one morning. Though these donations may benefit community members, they do not compensate for the risks that are placed on these communities.

Landowners Launch Billboard Campaign

The landowner group, 80 Feet is Enough, launched an Indiegogo crowdsourcing campaign to raise \$25,000 to buy billboards throughout Wisconsin. If purchased, the billboards would draw attention to the potential for En-

bridge to use eminent domain, as made possible by the State Legislature last year. These billboards might be the first time many hear about the threat of the new pipeline.

The campaign was the first opportunity to come together in a show-of-force, with an enormous message to Enbridge: We have the people, the support, and the passion to stop the pipeline. The campaign raised 25 percent of its goal in the first three days.

Conservation Congress Resolution Moves Forward

Kevin Stoddard, landowner in Columbia County, submitted a citizen resolution asking that the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) oppose the Line 61 twin pipeline at the annual spring hearing last April. Many similar resolutions were introduced around Wisconsin. The citizen resolution process provides an opportunity for citizens to bring issues to the attention of the WCC who advises the Natural Resources Board and DNR. The resolution was moved forward and passed the Environmental Committee of the Conservation Congress unanimously. If it passes one more committee early this year, it will be put on the questionnaire for the hearing in April next year. That means people in every county will vote on whether to oppose the pipeline. **Please put April 10, 2017 on your calendar and let us know if you want to introduce a resolution in your county.**

County Board Resolution Push Begins

Organizing continues along the pipeline route. Groups continue to raise awareness, reach out to their county boards, and spread the word. An effort is underway to introduce a similar resolution passed by County Boards along the pipeline. The resolution asks that the Public Service Commission and Department of Natural Resources not give permits or grant eminent domain authority until hearings have been held across Wisconsin. To help introduce a resolution in your county contact Elizabeth Ward.

No Dakota Access Solidarity

Pipeline fights are impacting many states, not just Wisconsin. To demonstrate our solidarity with the fight against the Dakota Access pipeline, we held a food drive at our office. In four days, the Madison area donated over 10,000 pounds of food - so much that we had to rent a U-Haul to take it to the Standing Rock camp! In addition to the food drive, we worked with other groups in Madison to plan a week

ISSUES AT A GLANCE

The Time is Now

By Devin Martin, Organizing Representative, Sierra Club
Beyond Coal Campaign

It's no secret that the results of November's election don't bode well for national environmental policy, especially regarding climate issues. The next administration has promised to scrap the Clean Power Plan and to refuse to uphold our country's end of the Paris Climate Treaty. But this does not mean we should give up on our shared vision of a future with a stable climate, clean air and water and space for wild things.

Now, more than ever, we need to stand up, reach out and inspire others to join us to fight for the world we believe in. We need to recognize and affirm our own leadership. We must remember to think globally and act locally. The Sierra Club was built for this moment, and with your help we will continue this fight, and we will win. To get involved with Wisconsin's Beyond Coal Campaign, contact Devin at devin.martin@sierraclub.org.

John Muir Chapter Co-Hosts EPA Listening Session about Wisconsin Water

Water quality and quantity are serious concerns across the state. Discharges from industry and sewage treatment plants, runoff from Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and contaminants in municipal drinking water supplies and private wells impact many people. The

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' ability to manage our water resources has been severely hampered. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has oversight



responsibilities for the implementation of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act in Wisconsin. Because of this, the Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Midwest Environmental Advocates, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Lakes Association, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and Clean Wisconsin invited EPA Region V Administrator Robert Kaplan to come and hear the concerns of Wisconsinites regarding water issues.

The November 15 event drew more than 200 people from across the state and included county supervisors from three different counties. The testimony was compelling and sometimes heartbreaking as people talked about not being able to use the water at their homes and farms, and not being able to open the windows in their houses because of the odor from algae mats on their lakes.

DNR 2017-2019 budget submission

There is an old saying: *"When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging."* Unfortunately, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) did not take this advice in terms of their budget submission to the Governor for the 2017-2019 biennial budget. The proposed budget would decrease the DNR's spending over the biennium by 2.5 percent and would cut 9.5 positions from the agency.

This is despite the Legislative Audit Bureau's report on the DNR's implementation of the Clean Water Act that showed that the DNR was understaffed, had a high level of turnover, did not conduct inspections of facilities it was supposed to (particularly for CAFOs) and had lax enforcement. Nor does it take into account the drinking water emergencies in Kewaunee County and elsewhere in the state where drinking water wells are being contaminated by CAFOs and other sources of pollution until they are unusable. It also fails to address lead contamination issues in the state. Between 2012 and 2014, approximately 15,000 Wisconsin children under the age of six were found to have been exposed to lead. Forty-seven counties reported a significant number of homes and buildings with lead service lines.

It is time to stop digging the hole and give the DNR the resources it needs to protect Wisconsin's residents.

Social Issues Journalist Publishes Fracking America

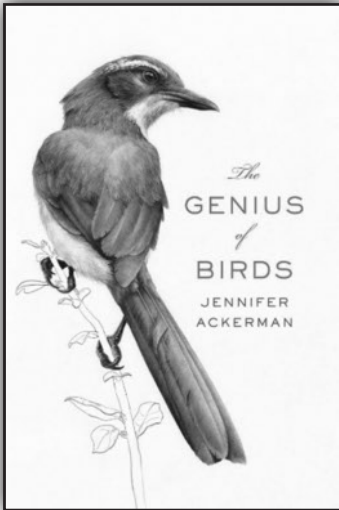
Environmentalist Bill McKibben says it *"belongs on the bookshelf of everyone in the vast movement fighting the fracking scourge."* EcoShock says, *"When future generations look back in confounded horror at the sordid history that led to the*

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GREEN REVIEW - Books of interest to Sierra Club Members

By Amy Lou Jenkins

The Genius of Birds by Jennifer Ackerman, Penguin Press, 2016, 266 pages.



Prepare to be annoying. Have you ever experienced a friend or family member who kept looking up over a book with did-you-know facts? I was that person when I read the first chapter of *Michael Pollan's the Botany of Desire*; I had to stop myself from lobbing factoids about apples at my eye-rolling husband. Ackerman evoked the same know-it-all tendencies as I began reading *Genius of Birds*: A New Caledonian crow can use tools to solve an eight-step puzzle;

jays don't pick their own favorite foods to feed their sweetie, but rather choose according to the mate's preference; crows read traffic lights to place nuts in the path of rolling tires. Things change, and the proclamations diminish as Ackerman pulls you in.

The Genius of Birds is surely for bird-lovers, but it's also for those who wish to consider thinking and perceptions. Some good books pull you into their world and you escape. Some good books enter your way of thinking and shift your perceptions as you trace the ideas of a beautiful mind. Trace Ackerman's thoughts and a shift begins. This is highly-readable science, presented upon a foundation of wonder.

The context of the post-2016 election season seems to increase the gravitas of the book. The multiple layers about thinking birds and ornithologists' studies presented by a gifted author constitute a celebration of critical thinking. Scientists consider that humans' understanding of intelligence is based on human and cultural values, and they wonder how their bias impacts their study. It's difficult to remove the cultural and ego-oriented lens that all scientists carry with them. It's not difficult

to see how much purposeful effort is needed to understand those who think differently from the way we experience the world. If we can understand another species, and even individual birds (*"uniformity of action is in proportion to paucity of observation..."*), perhaps we will have the tools to understand each other. And this understanding doesn't spring only from the time we have given attention to those we seek to understand, but also because we have considered our own motivators.

Join our Facebook Book Discussion: Environment and Equity Book Club (Sierra Club John Muir Chapter).

Starter questions for discussion:
What facts about birds did you enjoy?
Did you discover any new ways of looking at intelligence?
Do people care enough about birds to consider the implication of climate change and mass extinctions?
Did you miss a storied narrative that might have pulled through this book?
The *Genius of Birds* is currently #1 on Amazon's ornithology and zoology lists. Who else might appreciate this book?
Did you learn anything about the way you think?



Issues at a Glance continued from page 6

devastating effects fracking has had on their country, [it] will surely provide them with a detailed compendium to help them understand." The Midwest Book Review says it "is highly recommended for anyone studying the subject at any level."

It is Fracking America: Sacrificing Health and the Environment for Short-Term Economic Benefit, by Dr. Walter M. Brasch. The book includes significant information about Wisconsin's silica sands mining, as well as numerous issues not covered by other media, including the theological base for the anti-fracking movement and the ethics of researchers who take industry money to produce industry-friendly research. It is available from www.greeleyandstone.com (20% discount), amazon.com or your local bookstore.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Preface by Muir View Editor and Chapter PR and Outreach Associate Cassie Steiner. Letter by Ellis Felker.

Before Election Day, I received this letter to the President, written by a member of the John Muir Chapter with a request to publish it in the next Muir View. While the letter below was crafted with President Obama in mind, we must remember our vision of a sustainable future without extractive industry. Now more than ever, we must continue to advocate for a clean energy economy and to articulate a hopeful dream for our future.

Dear Mr. President,

I had a dream about you last night. I saw you standing on stage and your soul was shining. You had just concluded a weeklong conference on climate change at the White House. To your left and to your right were people from all over the planet. One by one, they each stepped forward. A spokeswoman from the oil industry announced that they were cutting back on oil drilling and would now be putting their billions toward solar, wind and wave energy.

Sweet Pope Francis stood up in his pauper's clothes saying that he would start encouraging everyone to have one child — or none at all. A man in a blue suit representing the auto industry announced that all the car makers in the world would be moving toward electric vehicles. A fracking industry spokeswoman stepped forward to announce an end to fracking. Her eight-year-old daughter had told her that pumping chemical poisons into the ground was not a smart idea. A man from China said that they would be shutting down their coal-fired power plants and would be slowing their growth. And on and on it went. Everyone was smiling

and shaking hands. They had all looked deeply into their souls and done the right thing.

Mr. President, we need a whole new way of thinking and a whole new way of being. We need to move away from expansion and toward sustainability. We must come to believe that more is not better and that small is better than big. The earth will not sustain us much longer at our current rate of consumption. The elephants, monarch butterflies, polar bears, bees, frogs, forests and coral reefs won't be around much longer. And we humans will not be far behind.

Some of us are going through the worst drought in history. And some of us have gone through the worst floods, the most powerful hurricanes, the strongest tornados, the biggest forest fires, the coldest winters and the hottest summers. All of this after just one degree of temperature rise. Scientists are predicting many more if we don't heed the warnings of Mother Earth.

I remain an optimist but, I must confess, some days it is hard to get out of bed. What's the use? With no action on our part, we are probably all doomed. The predictions of the world's scientists are upon us.

This was my dream, Mr. President. Will you help make it come true? Mother Earth is waiting to hear from you. I will be by your side.

Sincerely,

Ellis Felker,
Red Oak Publishers



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

At-Large Seats

The chapter elects three at-large Executive Committee members every year. While we always strive to have a competitive election (more candidates than seats), this is not always possible. This year, we had three great candidates for the three seats.

The John Muir Chapter welcomes back Liza Peck-

ham. Liza was re-elected to the Executive Committee to serve another three-year term. Liza became involved with the Sierra Club as an intern in the chapter office her senior year of college. She has served as secretary, documenting the Executive Committee's conversations and actions for those who were unable to attend. She looks forward to building

alliances with other movements and is particularly excited about the chapter's transportation work.

Carol Lee Balek joins the Executive Committee for the first time. Carol brings a northwoods activist's perspective to the Executive Committee. She has experience with political campaigns and social media,

including the chapter's Lake Superior Facebook group. She hopes to help mobilize young people and build our networks, and she places a high priority on protecting water resources.

Devin Martin, unfortunately, will not be joining the Executive Committee. Devin writes "*While I regret not being able to serve on the*

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Arrive Together: Building a 21st Century Transportation System for Wisconsin

By Ashwat Narayanan, Director of Transportation Policy, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and Cassie Steiner, Chapter PR and Outreach Associate.

On December 3, 2016, hundreds of Wisconsinites gathered in Milwaukee to discuss transportation needs throughout the state and which community priorities the state's transportation budget should reflect. The event included workshops and trainings, a panel discussion about what a 21st century transportation system could look like in Wisconsin and talks from Sierra Club President Aaron Mair and the U.S. Department of Transportation Director of Civil Rights Leslie Proll. For a full reflection, visit our blog at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-musings

Local Transportation Forums Cover the State

Throughout the fall, ten different communities in Wisconsin hosted transportation forums organized by Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter and coalition partners. These forums included discussion of the out-of-balance priorities in Wisconsin's transportation system. Many of the attendees expressed desire for more transit access and repairs to local roads. Others discussed the importance of bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Still others shared personal stories that illustrated the importance of buses. One individual spoke of a

time when his car broke down and he was unable to afford another; the city bus became his connection to work and recreation.

I-94 Update

Milwaukee and Wauwatosa, along with Milwaukee County have recently approved a plan to build a bus rapid transit (BRT) system between the two cities. The proposed route would provide an improved transit connection to major employment centers, including the Milwaukee regional medical center. The BRT has the potential to reduce congestion and improve safety on I-94 and is a major victory in our campaign to preventing its expansion. We plan to continue working throughout this budget session to ensure that no funds are allocated for the widening project.

Beltline Update

Sierra Club and our partners have been building a coalition of environmental groups, community advocates and others to ensure that we are participating early on in the process to rehabilitate US 12/18, Madison's "Beltline." The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has already indicated that they plan to expand the freeway, citing safety and congestion concerns. The expansion would further degrade quality of life along the corridor, in addition to threatening protected wetlands and natural habitats. Our coalition plans to push the DOT to implement a non-expansion option, that uses mass transit, technological advances and bike/pedes-

trian infrastructure to modernize the highway corridor.



State Transportation Budget

We are working to ensure that the state's transportation budget reduces wasteful highway spending, decreases borrowing for unnecessary megaprojects and retains support for transit and local road infrastructure. The Governor's recently released transportation budget proposal looks promising — with large cuts to the major highways program and a substantial increase in funding to local governments to fix their crumbling infrastructure. We are gearing up for a contentious budget season and plan to mobilize support at upcoming budget hearings.

Equity Report: Soon To Be Released

The Chapter has been working diligently on a transportation equity report that analyzes transit access in ten different cities across Wisconsin. The report will be released mid-January. Check sierraclub.org/wisconsin or the Sierra Club Wisconsin Facebook page for more information.

Tar Sands continued from page 5

of No Dakota Access solidarity events with rallies and educational events. In October, 51 students throughout the University of Wisconsin system all traveled together to Standing Rock, delivering food and offering to volunteer in the camp's kitchens.

In case you missed it: on December 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied the permit for Dakota Access to be built under the Missouri River. This means that there will be an Environmental Impact Statement conducted to compare possible routes for the pipeline. At the time this article was written, this was still developing news.

To get involved with any of these efforts, please contact Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.



Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter staff, leadership and our sponsors say

THANK YOU

to the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents in 2016.

Volunteers are the foundation that the club is built on and we are grateful for your efforts on behalf of our water, air and climate.



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AND THE AWARD GOES TO....

Each year the John Muir Chapter honors volunteers, elected officials or organizations that champion environmental protections. This year's recipients were honored at a Volunteer Appreciation & Awards celebration on November 19th. Photos from this inspirational event can be found on the Sierra Club Wisconsin Facebook page.

The 2016 John Muir Chapter award recipients are:

Alan Lawrence, Chair of the Sierra Club — Fox Valley Group was the recipient of the JJ & Pat Werner award given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter who show an undying commitment to the goals and missions of the chapter.

Marilyn Pedretti, long-time leader of the Sierra Club — Coulee Region Group was awarded the 2016 Merit Award for her consistent and valuable leadership within the environmental movement.

Cailie Kafura, one of the founders of Wisconsin Youth Network, received the Wildflower Award given to leaders who exemplify all that is wonderful in the environment and the club and is a mentor for new and existing activists.

State Representatives Evan Goyke and Daniel Riemer were each awarded a Torchbearer Award for their tireless work on transportation and transit issues in Milwaukee and in the state budget.

Caryl Terrell, long time Sierra Club activist and legislative chair, was the first recipient of the LD Rockwell award for her years of exceptional political and legislative work.

Members of the Waukesha County Transportation Coalition were awarded the New Activist award for their involvement in forming a coalition to work on transportation and equity issues in their region.



Political Wrap-Up continued from page 1

Still, I want to thank every member who turned out to help with races around the state. We heard thanks and appreciation from many candidates who treasure our endorsement and the help we provided for their races. We've built relationships with candidates who may wish to run again and know they can count on Sierra Club support.

An emerging and important factor to help explain these results is that rural and blue collar voters increasingly distrust establishment-elected officials to represent their concerns. Gerrymandered districts continue to strongly favor incumbents and new voter identification laws that amounted to voter suppression were also factors. Leaving aside these last two, it is perplexing that many voters in Wisconsin continue to vote against their own self interests. They continue to vote for officials who attack local control and gut regulations

that protect habitat, wildlife, clean air and water from industrial farming and mining.

Despite all of that, there are encouraging trends in the John Muir Chapter's work on several issues. Recent organizing on tar sands pipeline opposition, factory farms and transportation equity issues has demonstrated that residents of all political stripes can work together. The success of this work demonstrates that activism at the local level — counties, towns, villages and cities — can unite people with divergent views to work together to make common cause.

Climate scientist and meteorologist Eric Holthaus (find him on *Twitter @EricHolthaus*) wrote the day after the election: "*While defeatism may feel like the only option right now, with something as important as the planet,*

you can never give up. For the next four years, we must constantly remember that a small number of victories are better than none. And now, if we give up, we'll have none."

We can and will conduct more voter education and outreach to disaffected voters to make common cause. We can and will do more to hold elected officials accountable for votes that harm wildlife, air, water and public health. Eric Holthaus also wrote: "*It is impossible to Make America Great Again if we do not have a habitable Earth.*"

This is no time to give up and I'm convinced that we will bounce back with better results in 2018. Please contact me at burroak15@gmail.com if you're interested in future political work through the Sierra Club.

Chapter ExCom, I'm looking forward to serving the Club in another way — as a community organizer for the Beyond Coal Campaign in Madison. Together we can ensure that Madison and Wisconsin move beyond coal and fossil fuels and into a clean energy economy that works for all people.” Devin was offered and accepted the organizing job too late to change the ballot. While we lose his experience on the Executive Committee, we are glad that it will be applied to the Beyond Coal Campaign both in Wisconsin and other states. You can read Devin's welcome statement "The Time is Now" in Issues At A Glance.

At-Large Vacancy appointment

Kendl Kobbervig was appointed to fill a vacant seat

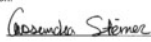
on the Executive Committee, the term ends December 2017. Kendl has impressed us all with her commitment to the Club. She jumped in as an intern working on water and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and has not looked back. She has used her skills to design education materials and write content for the Muir View and chapter social media. Kendl looks forward to being a part of the chapter's journey to embrace diversity.

By Law Change Approved

The By Law Change which limits consecutive Executive committee terms to two was approved with the “aye” votes getting more than two thirds vote of all mail votes cast in the fall election.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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		Avg. no. copies each issue during the preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
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15b1	Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	12,783	12,900
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15g	Copies not distributed	20	10
15h	Total	13,145	13,005
15i	Percent paid	97%	99.27%
16a	Paid Electronic Copies	145	145
16b	Total Paid Print Copies + Paid Electronic cop	12,928	
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x	I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic & print) are paid above a nominal price.		
16	Statement of Ownership will be printed in the January/February/March issue of this publication.		
17	Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner  Cassandra Steiner, Muir View Editor		

paddle covering 35 miles on the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers (from County K Landing to Riverside Landing on the St. Croix) which is part of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway in Northern Wisconsin. This section of the river offers a combination of gentle rapids and smooth flowing current on the Namekagon, followed on the last day with several small rapids near the confluence of the St. Croix. Some paddling experience recommended. Limited to eight participants.

Apostle Islands Adventure

- Date TBD (4-8 days, 3-7 nights; island camp/hike; optional sea-kayaking)
- Leader: David Thomas, 414-344-1044, thomasdp@thomerwald.net
- Outing Location: Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

- Outing Cost: TBD contact trip leader for details
- This trip was first offered in 2016 to celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service. Based on the success of that outing, plans are underway for a 2017 trip. Anyone interested in participating should email the trip leader. Trip will include 3-7 nights of camping (depending on your preferences). The full seven-night trip includes visits to four of the islands, two lighthouse tours and a day kayak trip to the sea caves or inland estuary. Estimated cost: \$200 (3 days) to \$500 (7 days).

Check the chapter website sierraclub.org/wisconsin for additional outings. Please visit our booth at Canoecopia (March 10-12, 2017 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison) and find out about all the other ways to get outdoors with the Sierra Club.

Liability Waiver & Carpooling

While no experience is required, all participants must complete a medical history and canoe experience form, and then be approved by their outing leader before participating on any outing. The Sierra Club provides liability insurance coverage for all participants. All forms are available for viewing by any prospective participant upon request. In the interest of facilitating logistics for some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements to the outing's starting point. Sierra Club outings insurance does not cover the time prior to, or following, the outing when crew may still travel together. Therefore, carpooling, ride-sharing or similar activities are a private arrangement made among participants and not part of the offering.

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These donations were made from November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2016. Thanks also go out to our many contributors who prefer to remain anonymous. We try to acknowledge every donor; if your name is not listed, please know that we greatly appreciate your support.

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2017 JOHN MUIR CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDER

Events, Outings and Executive Committee Meeting Calendar

January: Resolve to Get Involved: Volunteer teams are restructuring. Call the office at (608) 256-0565 to join a team

Mid-January: Release of the transportation equity report. Check our blog at sierraclub.org/wisconsin

January 7: River Touring Section Annual Team Meeting, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St, Baraboo. Contact Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678 or olsonfam44@centurytel.net

January 14: Executive Committee Meeting, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Location TBD, sierraclub.org/wisconsin

January 19: Renew Energy Policy Summit, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monona Terrace, 1 John Nolen Dr., Madison, http://www.renewwisconsin.org/2017_Summit/index.html

February 2: World Wetlands Day

February 10-12: Garden Expo, Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison <http://www.wigardenexpo.com/>
Visit the Sierra Club-Four Lakes Group booth

February 21: Wisconsin Spring Primary Election, elections.wi.gov

March 10-12: Canoecopia, Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison canoecopia.com
Visit the John Muir Chapter booth

March 22: World Water Day

April 10: Conservation Congress Spring Hearings. dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/

April 29: People's Climate Movement March in D.C., peoplesclimate.org

Algunos artículos de *Muir View* están disponibles en español.

Se sitúan en la red: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter.

Select articles from the Muir View are available in Spanish. They are found online: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter.

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