



# The *Muir* VIEW

NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN | JOHN MUIR CHAPTER



Attendees of the Wisconsin Youth Network outside of the Farmory, a newly established aquaponics farming system built in a former armory in downtown Green Bay.

fighting destructive mines, stopping oil pipelines, and supporting sustainable, local food systems rather than factory farms.

Attendees developed action steps for two campaigns that they will implement over the coming school year. Some students will be launching localized clean energy advocacy campaigns called “Seize the Grid” at their schools, and others will coordinate a bus from Wisconsin to St. Paul to testify against the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline. Everyone left with action items to take back to their high schools, college campuses and communities.

In addition to the great campaign work, the attendees also had some fun. They camped just north of Green Bay, went to the Green Bay farmers market and took a tour of an aquaponics system. The majority of the food was vegan and provided by local farmers; it was prepared by a University of Wisconsin Green Bay student who is starting a nonprofit that prepares and delivers local food at the lowest possible cost.

The John Muir Chapter and the national Sierra Student Coalition were proud to provide the funding to support this event, so young people of all financial backgrounds were able to attend.

**Cassie Steiner**  
Chapter PR and Outreach Associate

## Wisconsin youth activists convene

From August 25 - 27, more than 30 young environmentalists convened for the Wisconsin Youth Network strategy session in Green Bay. The attendees were ages 13 - 24 and were from all over the state, from Kenosha to Menomonie to Green Bay.

The strategy session was planned and led by youth and included sessions about holding elected officials accountable, advocating for clean energy,

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## Foxconn is not the answer

Hopefully you got out during our fairly temperate Wisconsin summer to explore and enjoy some of Wisconsin's special places. Unfortunately, southeastern and southwestern areas of the state received flooding rains; climatic abnormalities that are becoming more common, especially in the last decade.

Knowing that this will only get worse should encourage strong environmental planning and review. Yet, with the proposed mammoth Foxconn development that could significantly alter environmental conditions both on- and off-site, the state, rather than considering waiving conclusions of an environmental impact statement, proposes not to perform one, period. After all, what could go wrong?

In contrast, most developments must adhere to environmental safeguards to prevent destruction of valuable resources, protect wetlands, manage water so as not to cause on- or off-site problems, and ensure soils and other materials are managed responsibly during construction.

But not Foxconn, despite its problematic worker and environmental record. Needed environmental

protections are being discarded to enrich the billionaire owner of an unsavory foreign corporation. State leaders have also proposed a subsidy of up to \$3 billion to be paid for by Wisconsin taxpayers – you and me. Just how will this benefit citizens in Rhinelander, Eau Claire or La Crosse?

*"What if, for example, our state would invest the \$3 billion in clean energy?"*

We already subsidize businesses. Foxconn wants skilled workers from schools funded by our taxpayer dollars. Likewise roads, the energy and water infrastructure, and police and fire services that development requires are all publicly financed. Foxconn could further burden our state's failing roads and bridges, a problem accentuated by inadequate mass transit

support. With the promised tax breaks, will Foxconn even pay its fair share of local taxes, or will it add to local taxpayer burdens? And who will bear the costs of the unavoidable environmental problems and impacts from the toxic chemicals used in production?

What if, for example, our state would invest the \$3 billion in clean energy. That would provide many thousands of local Wisconsin jobs, drastically reduce dollars leaving our state to pay for fossil fuels, lower health care bills, and provide a secure, low cost energy future, creating a strong, cutting-edge economy we would all benefit from.

How often have you seen large corporations, factory farms and tar sands pipelines locate here with little connection to people and place or concern for Wisconsin's culture and environment? They're here to take, not be part of or give back to the community, or share in the costs as well as the benefits of being here.

That's not the level playing field and fairness that Wisconsinites value.

We know we must trust and depend on each other and share the responsibility for a clean and healthy environment. As part of a community that includes nature, we must protect as well as explore and enjoy it. Our tourism and agriculture depend on environmental stewardship, and we all need safe drinking water.

Foxconn is a poster child for reasons to be concerned for Wisconsin's future. If you feel as I do and are empowered to do something and have your voice heard, the Sierra Club offers that opportunity. Whether it is Foxconn or some other issue, contact your local group or the chapter to join with others to amplify your voice and protect what you value.

**Don Ferber**  
Chapter Chair





# Welcome to the *Muir View's* new look!

As you may notice, our newsletter has gone through a redesign! We are excited to offer the same in-depth updates that you know and love with a modern and engaging full-color design.

Early this year, the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Executive Committee voted to change the design of the *Muir View* newsletter with the hopes of better engaging our readership and to give a personal view of Sierra Club members in action around the state.

"I'm excited for our revamped *Muir View*. A picture can indeed be worth a thousand words, and in today's high-impact graphics world, our color redesign will allow us to communicate more fully not only the threats and damages we see occurring, but the splendor of the natural places we love," said Don Ferber, John Muir Chapter Chair.

While our design may be different, our priorities remain the same. Our *Muir View* continues to be printed on recycled paper and our content will continue to highlight the work around the state to explore, enjoy and protect Wisconsin's environment and natural places.



## Graphic Design Volunteer Needed

We're looking for a volunteer with an eye for color and excellent design skills to take over layout of the quarterly *Muir View* newsletter. Experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop software required. Interested? Email Cassie Steiner at [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org) and include samples of your design work by October 20th. For more details call 608-256-0565

*"A picture can indeed be worth a thousand words, and in today's high-impact graphics world, our color redesign will allow us to communicate more fully not only the threats and damages we see occurring, but the splendor of the natural places we love."*

## THE MUIR VIEW

754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

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

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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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[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

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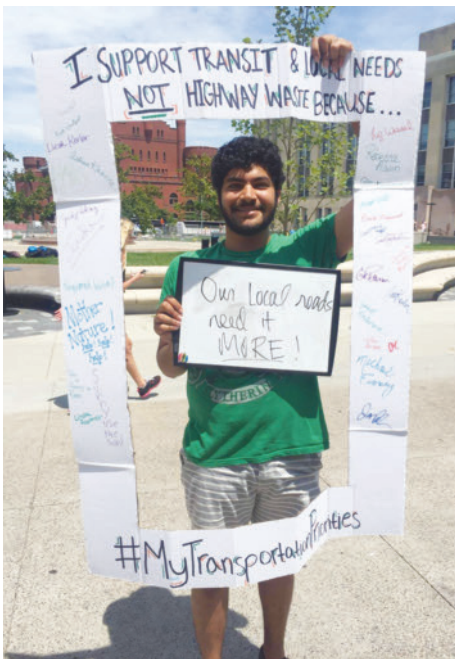
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# Prioritizing people's transportation needs

## Demanding a responsible budget

In July, more than 100 Wisconsin residents submitted photo petitions describing why changing the state's transportation priorities is important to them. From being unable to drive due to a disability to wanting to decrease their carbon footprint, people shared powerful stories with us. Additionally, the Chapter coordinated a transportation day of action that encouraged members to call their legislators, write letters to the editor and raise awareness through Twitter and Facebook. The message is clear: the legislature's transportation priorities do not align with most Wisconsinites, but they could with some financial reprioritization.

At the time this article was written, the transportation budget was still being debated. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Chapter blog at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin).



*I support transit & local needs not highway waste because our local roads need it more!*



*I support transit & local needs not highway waste because bike paths are cool!*



*I support transit & local needs not highway waste because I can't drive.*

## Going Local

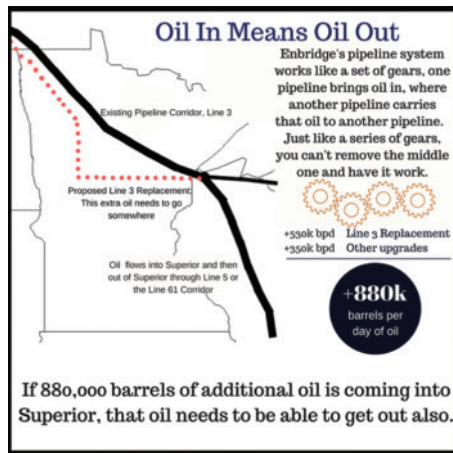
Through advocacy work around the state with the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation in Wisconsin, the John Muir Chapter has learned about the powerful work on transportation happening in all corners of the state. This fall, the Chapter's transportation campaign plans to go local to support and uplift the transit, bike and pedestrian advocacy that has already been happening in cities, towns, municipalities and counties in Wisconsin. Whether it's paving a section of a bike route, improving a rural transit system or securing better covered bus shelters, the Sierra Club is interested in improving transportation for people where they live, work and socialize.



# Pipeline resistance continues

## Line 3 construction begins in Wisconsin

Line 3 is the pipeline that brings oil through Northern Minnesota into Superior, Wisconsin from the tar sands mines in Canada. From Superior, the oil will likely flow through a new Line 61-Twin (or Line 66) into Illinois as it moves south. Another tar sands pipeline in Wisconsin means another threat to Wisconsin's waterways, livelihood and future. The latest Investor Report confirms that Enbridge is planning on bringing an additional 880,000 barrels per day of oil into Superior, which will then have to be routed through Wisconsin.



Despite being in the middle of a long permitting process in Minnesota to get permission to build the Line 3 pipeline, Enbridge has begun constructing the pipeline in Canada. In August, Enbridge began construction on Line 3 in Wisconsin. This activity shows that Enbridge assumes it will get the permits in Minnesota: Enbridge isn't waiting for the State to decide. This is just another example of Enbridge officials thinking they are above the environmental review and permitting process. Luckily, in Wisconsin communities are banding together to stand up and say no to another pipeline.

## People on the pipeline

On June 24, Wisconsinites along the Line 61 Pipeline corridor took a day to celebrate. In Janesville along the Rock River, a group marched to bring awareness to the danger of the current pipeline underneath the Rock River. On the Glacial Drumlin



Trail, a group cycled from Cottage Grove to the pipeline crossing near the Lake Mills Wildlife Area, and then on to a picnic. In Columbia County, resident Charles Biddle hosted a picnic on his land, where he had mowed strips along the pipeline corridor. One strip showed land currently used for the pipeline easement (80 feet) and another showed how much land (200



feet) could be taken if Enbridge builds another pipeline. These statewide events brought together landowners, environmentalists, hobbyists and concerned citizens, all of whom share a deep respect and love for Wisconsin land.

## Love water not oil 5th annual spiritual horseback ride

A native-led organization, Honor the Earth, kicked off its fifth annual Love Water, Not Oil Spiritual Horseback Ride in Wisconsin. The 40 or so riders kicked off the tour with a benefit concert in Madison on July 9. The following day, they began the ride in Nekoosa and traveled north along the pipeline. Communities along the ride welcomed them with potlucks and other events and listened to their concerns and stories about the pipeline.

## Wood county board passes no eminent domain resolution

A grassroots organization, 80 Feet is Enough!, led an effort to organize landowners to attend a Wood County Board meeting on August 15. A dozen landowners told stories about their history with Enbridge and shared concerns about their land being taken with eminent domain for the new pipeline. The Wood County Board passed a resolution (10-8) to call on the State Legislature to prohibit using eminent domain for private gain for oil pipelines.

Go to [sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org) to learn more about these great events.

**Elizabeth Ward,**  
Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator

# Waukesha County Transportation Coalition Receives National Sierra Club Award

The Waukesha County Transportation Coalition has been selected to receive the Sierra Club's 2017 Special Achievement Award, which "honors Sierra Club members for a single act of particular importance dedicated to the Club." This award was presented in Washington D.C. on September 15.

The Coalition was formed in early 2016 in response to a Sierra Club statewide "equitable transportation" initiative to encourage public transportation as an alternative to road-building, to better serve people who are unable to drive, and to reduce the pressure on our environment from super highways and suburban sprawl. It consists of members of the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter, Lake Country Unitarian Church (Hartland) Green Sanctuary group, SOPHIA (affiliated with WISDOM) Transit Task Force, Lake Country Cares Cab, Common Ground, Green Muslims, Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities, Unitarian Universalist Church West (Brookfield), WISPRG, 1000 Friends, and other faith-based and environmental organizations from southeast Wisconsin. It has been meeting monthly and is working diligently to reach out to users and supporters of public and subsidized transportation to encourage our state elected representatives to commit more resources



to public transportation rather than highway building.

The Coalition organized two transportation "town halls" in the City of Waukesha, which were attended by public officials, public transportation riders and providers, and businesses benefiting from public transportation to learn about the needs and capabilities for public transportation in our county. These events also provided an opportunity for networking across diverse populations who share a concern for transit issues. We participated in the Sierra Club and other organizations' "Arrive Together" transportation summit in Milwaukee in December 2016 where we received the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter's "2016 New Activist Award," and we participated in WISDOM's Madison Action Day in March, 2017 where we met with state

legislators to appeal for more support for public transportation. We continue to press for action from local as well as state officials to support the transportation needs of an aging population and protect our environment from the harm from more roads and pollution.

**Gerry Flakas**  
Waukesha County Transportation Coalition  
and Sierra Club member

## Five Ways to Take Action Now!

### Explore

1. Attend the River Touring Section annual meeting on January 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St., Baraboo. Advance registration is not required. For details, contact Kevin Olson, 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).

### Enjoy

2. Host an environmental book club this month! Check out the book *Stories from the Leopold Shack: Sand County Revisited*, reviewed in this edition of the Muir View on page 11.

Invite some friends to read it with you and come together to discuss it.

### Protect

3. Vote in the Executive Committee elections! The Sierra Club is a democratic and volunteer-led organization, so our chapter elections are very important. You can find your ballot on page 15 of the Muir View.

4. Become involved with the Sierra Club! The Chapter's PR and Outreach Associate is encouraging members to contact her for a one-on-one conversation about getting involved with Sierra Club work around the state.

Whether you want to join a local transportation advocacy team, organize against the Enbridge tar sands pipelines, write blogs, support fundraising efforts, take action to protect our water and to stop destructive mining, or more, the Sierra Club has a place for you! Email Cassie at [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org) to get involved.

5. The Chapter's most up-to-date action alerts are often



shared on its blog and on social media. Bookmark the blog ([sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-musings](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-musings)), like the Facebook page Sierra Club Wisconsin and follow @sierraclubwi on Twitter to find weekly (and sometimes even daily!) opportunities to help protect the planet.

# Protecting Mining Safeguards

State Senator Tom Tiffany, author of the laws that eliminated environmental protections for iron mines and severely weakened shore protections, is again representing foreign corporations that want to exploit Wisconsin's resources irresponsibly. This time Tiffany is attempting to encourage sulfide mines by suggesting the repeal of Wisconsin's Prove It First mining law and attacking other legislative protections against mining's potential damages to the environment.

Tiffany's target is the Prove It First law that has protected Wisconsin from unsafe sulfide mining since 1998. The Flambeau Mine, which Tiffany often points to as an example of how things should be done, was a sulfide mine and is polluting a tributary stream of the Flambeau River with copper and zinc to the point that both the Wisconsin DNR and the EPA declared the stream impaired. Since 1998, the owners of the mine have been working unsuccessfully to halt pollution of this stream, as is documented in a briefing paper on [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin).

New research is revealing that the Flambeau mine is essentially a toxic hot spot where groundwater is significantly contaminated, despite years of mining

the data clearly show the site is contaminated and any treatment would be extremely costly.

The Flambeau mine's poor performance demonstrates the clear need for extreme care in permitting any mining operation and the necessity of diligent monitoring of any mine both during its operation and after it is closed. This is why Wisconsin has safeguards in place

like the Prove it First law that requires a mine developer to give examples of similar operating and closed mines that have not caused pollution, as well as laws protecting wetlands and water quality standards.

In addition, local governments have been able to weigh in to craft provisions to take into account site-specific issues and to ensure they will not be left holding the "financial bag" should something go wrong. Until recently the Wisconsin DNR had sufficient expertise and political support to evaluate and monitor mining activities. At the time this article was written, Tiffany's new bill had not been introduced, but the Chapter's Mining Committee expected that in addition to proposing repeal of the Prove It First requirements, the bill would in-

Senator Tiffany's bill threatens the existing, established and sustainable tourism and agriculture economies of northern Wisconsin so that foreign corporations like Aquila Resources (developer of the Back 40 mine, which threatens

the Menominee River and the cultural heritage of the Menominee people) can mine in Wisconsin without proper and sufficient safeguards.

Recent polling commissioned by the River Alliance of Wisconsin confirms that 72 percent of state residents polled want the Prove It First law preserved.

Strong majorities also oppose more sulfide mining in the state (66 percent), especially if mining developments come at the expense of businesses and agriculture that require clean water (69 percent). Those polled also strongly agreed that weakening water protections will threaten public health (64 percent) and that protecting drinking water is more important than mining developments (70 percent). Those polled were evenly split between voters of the major political parties.

The John Muir Chapter was at the forefront of the effort to pass the landmark Prove It First law when members and supporters turned out in huge numbers to support it in the 1990s. Sierra Club members understood then and now that it's only common sense that the mining industry be required to prove its claims, and this law must be defended from industry lies and misinformation.

*"The Flambeau mine's poor performance demonstrates the clear need for extreme care in permitting any mining operation."*

industry statements touting its success. Water quality data show contaminants that greatly exceed baseline quality and aquatic life criteria. The mine may have satisfied shoddy state requirements, but

clude additional giveaways to the mining industry that endanger wetlands and groundwater, threaten public involvement in the permitting process and roll back other important protections.

**Bill Davis, Chapter Director, and  
Dave Blouin, Mining Committee Chair**



## Sierra Club Commits to Fighting Environmental Injustice

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter is committed to pursuing environmental justice in the state of Wisconsin: the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. If you feel that you or your community are experiencing environmental injustice and are interested in connecting with the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter, please send an email to our Equity Committee Chair Kendl at [kobbervig@wisc.edu](mailto:kobbervig@wisc.edu).

## Sierra Club Member Creates Environmental Ethics Litmus Test

Peter Slaby, long-time Sierra Club member and self-described “80-year-old seasoned citizen,” created an environmental ethics litmus test to help enhance a person’s awareness and acceptance of a personal environmental ethic. The litmus test and Slaby’s corresponding memo will be made available on our blog on Monday, October 2. Hop online and take the test: [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin) under the “blog” section.



Peter Slaby (left) with our other Sierra Club members at the 2016 Arrive Together transportation summit in Milwaukee.

## Beyond Coal Campaign Expanding Across Wisconsin

The Beyond Coal Campaign in Oak Creek, Wisconsin is off to a great start! Sierra Club volunteers and partners from a broad spectrum of organizations have begun meeting regularly to tackle the challenge of retiring the coal-burning Oak Creek Power Plant once and for all. This coal plant has been a big-time polluter for decades. Residents have complained of coal dust coming into their yards and homes, wells in the area have been contaminated, and several years ago the plant made national news when a bluff on the property collapsed, sending thousands of tons of soil and coal ash into Lake Michigan. While the plant primarily generates electricity for the utility We Energies, the newest units at the plant also provide electricity to Madison Gas & Electric and WPPI. Interested in joining the cause? Contact Miranda Ehrlich at [miranda.ehrlich@sierraclub.org](mailto:miranda.ehrlich@sierraclub.org).



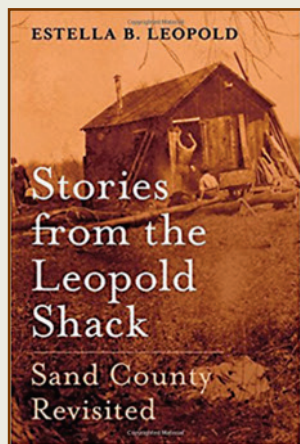


## Wisconsin State Budget: An Overview

As of writing this, the budget had still not passed, but here is what we know to date. Overall, the budget the governor submitted this year was not as damaging as his past budgets. For example, he did not cut the Stewardship Fund. Some of the more concerning elements of the budget have been reversed; the Joint Finance Committee reversed the County Conservation funding cut. However, they did not restore funding for State Parks. An additional concern is that the governor eliminated the forestry tax and replaced it with general tax dollars, and Joint Finance has accepted this. The Forestry tax has been a certain source of funding for forest fire protection, among other things. While this is not a cut, it means the legislature must approve this money now every budget, which makes it far less stable moving forward. For more on the budget and the latest information, please visit our blog at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin).

## Water Team Educates on Water Impact of Energy Sector

In early September, the Chapter Water Team released its fifth and final white paper about the pressing water issues across Wisconsin. This paper focused on the threats that Wisconsin's energy sector poses to water resources. The full paper is available at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin).



### GREEN REVIEW

**STORIES FROM THE LEOPOLD SHACK: SAND COUNTY REVISITED BY ESTELLA B. LEOPOLD OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016, 297 PP.**

Estella B. Leopold, the youngest daughter of Aldo and Estella Leopold, has been studying and enjoying the outdoors for just about all of her 90 years. Each of her siblings lived the same way. Many Wisconsinites and other lovers of conservation and literature know something of Estella's shack by way of the beloved *Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* (1949) by Aldo Leopold. Estella doesn't repeat the same stories, but rather fills in from the point of view of the youngest child, the one with the most shack years. Her anecdotes and family stories sound both quaint and important. What does it mean to live on a piece of land with your family and your community? What if you begin to see the land as part of your community? The accumulated stories of fun and work to restore worn out land into a diverse wilderness address these questions with charm.

All the Leopold siblings, Starker, Luna, Nina, Carl and Estella, loved their shack years so much that they followed in the footsteps of their father. They became scientists, activists and outdoor people. Each created a "shack" of their own, working to restore once wild lands.

Mother Estella Leopold and her Spanish heritage from New Mexico looms large in this memoir. She brought the hospitality, the fun and the grace to the wild times. These Leopold parents loved each other and loved working with their family to learn from and to restore wild lands. Their loves, their scientific interest and their sense of community created an alchemy that nurtured each of the Leopold siblings. This family ethic was essential to the foundation of American and international conservation and rewilding.

Much like *Sand County Almanac*, *Stories from the Leopold Shack* moves from fun observation to more serious analysis. Included in her analysis is an implicit invitation to the life of science, community, nature, conservation and outdoor fun. Go alone, and get to know yourself. Go with family and friends. Go again and take the kids or risk a generation that does not know nature, doesn't love it, and therefore will not preserve it. Get to know a piece of land and live richly.

*Stories from the Leopold Shack* may not ring with the same eloquent prose for which her father is famous. For some who see Aldo's eloquence as old-fashioned (I don't), these stories may seem more accessible. For most, both books can be appreciated and both books should be read, for this continuum of stories explores the history of conservation in the U.S. This is bedrock. Yet, don't rush right out and buy the book. Instead, go to the Leopold Center ([www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org) /15 minutes northeast of Baraboo, WI) and learn more about the family and experience the shack. Buy your books there.

**Amy Lou Jenkins BSN, MS, MFA** is the award-winning author of *"Every Natural Fact."* She is writing a book of essays about the Leopolds.

If you have a book you'd like considered for review, contact her through [JackWalkerPress.com](http://JackWalkerPress.com).

## Reflecting on Outings

The following pictures were taken during the Apostle Islands Adventure and were submitted by David Thomas.



Sierra Club members explored the mainland sea caves as part of a seven-day Apostle Islands adventure. The trip also included an historic lighthouse tour and camping on two islands.



Sierrans pitched tents on a platform on Stockton Island to protect sensitive beach vegetation. Practicing “Leave-No-Trace” is an important aspect of Sierra Club outings, and this was no exception.

## River Touring Section

### 2017 Paddling Trips and Instructional Clinics

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section>

Interested in paddling some wild and beautiful rivers with fun and skilled paddlers? Sierra Club’s River Touring Section (RTS) has just what you’re looking for. RTS leads trips and instructional clinics on whitewater and quietwater that are open to Sierra Club members and the general public. Join us to perfect your skills, explore new waterways, meet other paddlers, learn from skilled volunteer leaders and have fun on the water. Trips are free, unless otherwise indicated.

There is one trip left this year, so reserve your spot as soon as possible!

Final Paddling Trip of the Season: *Oct. 28-29 Wolf R. Class II+ Car Camp. Annual Halloween trip. We’ll paddle Section 3 of this wild, scenic river on Saturday and Section 2 on Sunday. Wet/dry suit required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net).*



RTS Annual Meeting. *January 6, 2018, 11 a.m. to ~3 p.m. LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St., Baraboo. Potluck at noon, followed by business meeting, trip list formation and slideshow/videos of 2017 trips. Advance registration not required. For details, contact Kevin Olson, 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).*

Questions/Comments? Please visit our website or contact Kevin Olson, RTS Chair, 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



# Women's Quetico trip a fun challenge

Over the past several years, a group of three trip leaders have been hatching a plan to lead the John Muir chapter's first ever women's Quetico trip. This year, the dream became a reality. Vicki Christianson, Janet Clear and Nancy McDermott led an eight-day trip with six women out of Ely, Minnesota to Quetico Provincial Park, Canada. When combined, the three leaders have been on more than 25 Quetico trips and a dozen shorter women's paddling trips to northern Wisconsin. We wanted to plan a more ambitious Quetico trip that was just for women.

We began planning the trip in earnest last fall. We discussed routes and trip length, finally settling on an eight-day trip with a route through North Bay to Lake Agnes and the S-Chain that gave the group a great introduction to the beauty and challenges of the Quetico. On paddling days we averaged five to six portages per day, and we had two layover days when we fished, swam, baked and enjoyed the scenic beauty. Four participants fished with great success; we enjoyed multiple delicious meals of wall-eye and lake trout.

Our adventures included paddling through calm lakes and twisting streams covered in water lilies, watching wildlife, spotting pictographs, finding a hidden waterfall, and pulling our canoes over several beaver dams, including one that was as tall as some of our participants!

Our group of women, aged 53 to 67, developed an immediate camaraderie. Though many of us had been on co-ed Quetico trips before, we discovered that we needed to support each other to manage the heavy lifting of portaging and camp chores. During our times in camp we shared lots of laughter and stories around the campfire. By the end of the trip, the group was working together like a well-oiled machine, each person finding ways to make the group function better.

Quetico Park receives around 75,000 visitors per year; fewer than a quarter are female. Those who signed up for this inaugural Quetico women's trip did so for a variety of reasons. Some were more comfortable taking the "Quetico leap" on a trip that they felt would test them but not be too much to handle. Some had never considered going to the Quetico at all before. As leaders, we love helping others to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. The original Sierra Club seal contains the motto *Altiora Peto*, "I Seek High Places." The Quetico may not be high in altitude, but a visit there certainly compares – in challenge to body and soul – to conquering mountain peaks in the west. Our group of self-proclaimed "Quetico Loonies" had our own motto: We Can Do It!

**Nancy McDermott and Janet Clear, Sierra Club Outings Leaders**



*All smiles after the trip.*



*Vicki Christianson and Nancy Hawkins show off a bucketful of "blue treasure."*



*Shellie Freisinger holds a prized lake trout at Shade Lake.*

## Vote Today

Yes, it is time for YOU to elect new John Muir Chapter leadership. Each year, members are asked to choose three volunteer leaders from a slate of candidates. These three leaders will serve as at-large delegates to the Executive Committee for a three year term starting in 2018 and finishing in 2020. These next three years are critical for the Chapter as we move forward to elect a governor and a president, redistrict the state, and mobilize to address climate change.

The John Muir Chapter Executive Committee is your volunteer leadership team, made up of nine at-large members and six appointed local group delegates. The Executive Committee provides direction to the Chapter on fiscal matters, policy, fundraising, and prioritizing issue work, and ensures that the Chapter evolves with the times and remains an effective organization.

After reading the candidates' statements, use the ballot on page 15.

Each member can VOTE FOR UP TO 3 CANDIDATES!

Candidates for the Executive Committee were asked the following questions:

- 1) Discuss when and why you joined the Sierra Club, and describe any leadership or volunteer activities with the Club or other non-profit groups that will help you fulfill your role.
- 2) What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background (fundraising, legal, accounting, communications, Board, political) will you bring to the Chapter Executive Committee?
- 3) Looking forward over the next two to five years, how do you think the Chapter needs to grow and change to be effective on our issues?
- 4) The Chapter's current priority issues are: Protecting Our Water Resources, Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy, Moving Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation, Protecting Habitats from Destructive Mining, Protecting Native Forests and Wildlife. Of the Chapter's priority issues, which one are you most passionate about and why?

Thank you for your interest in the future success of the John Muir Chapter!

The Nominating and Election Team

Vote Today! Fill out the ballot on page 15 and mail your ballot to Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter., Madison, WI 53711-1429.

**Ballots must be mailed or postmarked by November 15 to be counted.**



John Engel

1) Approximately 5 years ago we joined the Sierra Club. When I retired in the spring of 2014, I wanted to give back to society and support a non-profit organization that aligned with my personal beliefs and values. The Sierra Club Fox Valley Group looked like good fit for me. Currently, I am

serving the Fox Valley Group as the Vice-Chairman. During the two previous years, I served as the Conservation Chairman. In the winter of 2015, I completed a random survey of our Fox Valley Group members and helped organize the group's first Earth Day Hike. Unbeknownst to me at the 2015 autumn assembly, I was honored with the New Activist of the Year Award! We had realized a financial sponsor was required to support our 2017 Earth Day Hike. I found a donor which the Chapter Gift Committee approved. The financial gift paid for the 2017 Earth Day Hike expenses.

2) Having worked for a Consulting Engineering firm for 30 years as an Electrical Project Manager and Engineer; I specialized in engineering and installing Electrical Power Distribution and Paper Machine Drive Systems. Leading a team of engineer's designers and draftsmen we completed the electrical scope of work on numerous projects. My occupation required technical engineering skill and the ability to prioritize, organize, schedule, and complete the work on time within budget.

3) Our strength is the number and diversity of our members. Since the 2016 general election, the John Muir Chapter has had an influx of new members. I believe it is imperative to reach out and provide opportunities for our members to become engaged in the Sierra Club's mission To Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet. In our part of the state, NE WI environmental groups are viewed thru an anti-business and jobs loss lens. I believe it is critical for us to find common ground with business and republicans to work on our environmental issues.

4) Protecting our planet's water resources is my greatest concern. Within the last 10 years, the industrial farms and non-point pollution have dramatically affected the water



quality in Lake Winnebago, Lower Green Bay, Lake Michigan, and numerous inland lakes. Agricultural policies need to be changed and enforced to address the health risks associated with CAFO's and industrial pollution throughout the state. Our DNR has been lax in protecting our water resources. We need to be ever vigilant and have the legal resources to challenge the polluters.



### Kendl Kobbervig

1) I first became involved with the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter (JMC) as an intern on their Water & CAFO Campaign team in May of 2016. Never before have I connected so deeply with a mission, organization, or group of people in a professional

capacity. Throughout the past year, I have continually sought out ways to deepen my connection to the Sierra Club's mission and members. I had the honor of joining the JMC Executive Committee as an at-large member in September 2016 and subsequently led efforts to found the JMC Equity, Inclusion and Justice Committee in February 2017. During this time, I also joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison Sierra Student Coalition and was elected Chair in May 2017.

2) I would make an excellent addition to the Sierra Club Board because of my experiences at all levels of the Sierra Club, my dedication to environmental conservation, and my abilities as an organizer, public speaker, and leader. I have spent much of my life studying and tackling environmental challenges and am currently pursuing dual undergraduate degrees in Environmental Studies and Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Over the past year, I have viewed Wisconsin's environmental challenges from the perspective of an intern, Water Sentinels Committee member, at-large Executive Committee member, Equity Committee Chair, and student activist. As a result, I bring a deep personal connection to the Sierra Club and its mission as well as a nuanced understanding of the organization's inner workings.

3) We can all learn from the efforts of current and past community organizers to improve the condition of human lives. Great organizers, such as Dolores Huerta, Ella Baker, and Saul Alinsky all had one thing in common: they listened. They spent a lot of time speaking, of course, but even more of their

time was spent listening to the people whose lives they were attempting to improve. This is grassroots organizing at its core, and it is what we, as an organization, must return to if we are to remain relevant in the 21st century.

Such an assertion is based on more than simply community organizing theory. As an intern with the Sierra Club Water & CAFO campaign, I watched the fight for clean water unite Wisconsinites of all backgrounds – from conservative dairy farmers to tribal reservation communities to citizens in the urban center of Milwaukee. That campaign, and outpouring of support, were awe-inspiring and demonstrated clearly the power and potential of civic engagement and collective actions. Fortunately, the Sierra Club is perfectly poised to return to its grassroots, with a broad member base, well-established Chapters, and a nation in uproar at environmental atrocities of all kinds. In this era of widespread environmental injustice, grassroots organizers and communities can — and will — lead the way forward. It will be up to us to stand beside them.

4) Although there are many serious environmental challenges we face in the 21st century, there are none that pose so urgent a threat, nor present so exciting an opportunity, as climate change. Like so many environmental challenges, climate change cannot be understood as an isolated problem. It is deeply connected to and driven by social, political and economic processes and cannot be blamed on any one group of people or nation. In order to tackle such a challenge, it will require implementing a vision of “Big S” sustainability (a concept introduced to me by Sustain Dane). Big ‘S’ Sustainability goes far beyond energy efficient light bulbs; it asks us to question whether our communities, economy, and relationships with each other operate justly and are, therefore, viable in the long-term. It is long-term community-oriented solutions such as this, which incorporate principles of fairness and equity as well as sustainability that the Sierra Club Board should support and encourage in the coming years.

As an individual board member, I will champion environmental justice, grassroots connections, and intergenerational equity, recognizing that protection of the planet cannot come at the expense of fair treatment of all people. My ultimate goal will be to foster the organization and empowerment of communities across the nation to mitigate climate change in a manner that promotes human rights and dignity amongst those most vulnerable in our nation.



### Abby Lois

1) As a member of the Student Sustainability Council and an environmental student organization leader on the UW campus, I have been working side by side to co-facilitate events with the Sierra Student Coalition for four years. However, I didn't fully

get involved with National Sierra Club until the Madison People's

Climate March. Throughout the planning process, I grew close to the Sierra Club staff as we bounced ideas off each other regarding logistics, press, volunteers, and art. I played a large role in campus and community involvement through contacting student leaders and professors, flyering, chalking sidewalks, and speaking in classes, and I eventually became one of the Super Heros on the podium. The passion and commodity I saw in the Sierra Club community surrounding the march is what inspired me to join.

In the past I have held a variety of leaderships that gave me experience with membership, fundraising, and decision mak-

ing, such as President of Ecology Club, President of SAGA, a soccer coach of two teams, and the Student Artistic Director for Musicals. Over the last four years, I expanded these skills through serving as the Co-chair of REthink Wisconsin, the Co-chair Students for Social Welfare, and volunteering in the community as a Big Sister.

2) I have skills in website production, cartography, and graphic design for communication and outreach. I also believe my voice as a younger community member can help bring new ideas and perspectives to the board.

3) Given that 2-5 year predictions are difficult in our current political environment, I believe our chapter needs to work hardest on fluidity and diversity within itself in order to remain effective. When I started working alongside the Sierra Club as a volunteer, I experienced some sexist and ageist comments. If the chapter wants to be resilient in the face of new political difficulties, it needs to first turn the eye inward and make sure it is creating an atmosphere where individuals are empowered.

4) This is a difficult choice since I believe all of these priorities are interconnected, for example mining practices largely affect the health of our water resource. However, I am most passionate about Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy because I focused my studies at the University of Wisconsin and Iceland on the complex social, political and environmental effects of climate change, and I know that our Earth's systems simply can't tolerate a slow transition.

## Support the Sierra Club Foundation through Workplace Giving



Does your employer offer a Community Shares workplace giving campaign? Designate your gift to the Sierra Club Foundation and you'll be supporting our work to protect Wisconsin's clean air, water and special places.

For a list of workplace campaigns or information on starting a campaign, visit the websites below.





## John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee

### ELECTION BALLOT 2016

**Instructions:** Read the candidate statements on the preceding page. Select up to three candidates. Indicate your choices by marking the appropriate box. Only ballots from mailed copies of *The Muir View* with legible membership numbers on the back are valid. One vote per member. "Voter 2" column for use in households with a "joint membership."

#### Voter #1:

- John Engel
- Kendl Kobbervig
- Abby Lois
- Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Voter #2:

- John Engel
- Kendl Kobbervig
- Abby Lois
- Write In: \_\_\_\_\_



Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2017

Mail to: Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter, Madison, WI 53711-1429

## Support the John Muir Chapter

When you make a donation to the John Muir Chapter you allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter's budget.

- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703



754 Williamson Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 7

#### Chapter Awards & Volunteer Appreciation event

3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Threshold

2717 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

RSVP online or call 608-256-0565

### OCTOBER 28-29

#### Wolf River Paddling trip

[sierraclub.org/river-touring-section](http://sierraclub.org/river-touring-section)

or contact Phillip Johnsrud at [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net)

### NOVEMBER 2

#### Locally Grown, Nationally Known

Chapter fundraiser

Milwaukee, WI

For details and to RSVP visit the chapter website or call

608-256-0565

### NOVEMBER 15

#### Executive Committee

Ballots must be postmarked by this date

### JANUARY 6

#### River Touring Section Annual Meeting

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

615 Broadway St., Baraboo

Advance registration not required.

For details, contact Kevin

Olson, 608-963-2678,

[olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net)

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### Algunos artículos De Muir View están disponibles en español.

Se sitúan en la red:

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter](http://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](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter)

## Graphic Design Volunteer Needed

We're looking for a volunteer with an eye for color and excellent design skills to take over layout of the quarterly Muir View newsletter. Experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop software required. Interested? Email Cassie Steiner at [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org) and include samples of your design work by October 20th.

For more details call 608-256-0565



## OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION

Bill Moore and Diane Steigerwald walk the shoreline on Stockton Island during the 2017 Apostle Islands adventure.

Sierra Club members participate in All Hands on Deck, a region-wide event to protect the Great Lakes.