

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org

2009 (April-June) 2009

Capitol Conservation

by Wisconsin Representative Spencer Black

Earlier this year, I picked up the gavel and called the Assembly Natural Resources Committee to order for the first time in 14 years. That's how long it's been since I was last Chair of the legislative committee that plays a key role in deciding what our environmental laws will be in Wisconsin.

I previously led the Natural Resources Committee from 1987-94, but lost the position when the Republicans took control of the Assembly in 1994. The political pendulum has now swung back. In my last tenure, Wisconsin enacted groundbreaking environmental legislation including the recycling law, the Stewardship Fund, the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, and the Safe Water Program to clean up toxic waste sites.

Protecting our beautiful Wisconsin outdoors is my passion, and it was through my involvement in the Sierra Club that I first became interested in politics. I was the John Muir Chapter Chair back in 1979, and I am delighted to be joined this legislative session by Representative Penny Bernard

Schaber, another former John Muir Chapter Chair. I don't know for sure, but I would guess that Wisconsin is the only state with two former Club Chapter Chairs serving as legislators.

I plan to write this column, "Capitol Conservation" for *The Muir View* to keep you apprised of what is happening in the Natural Resources Committee, and the Legislature in general, regarding environmental legislation.

We are planning a very ambitious environmental agenda this legislative session. During the last 14 years, many needed environmental bills have been stalled, and we're going to change that. Already, the Committee has passed the Clean Lakes bill to ban unnecessary phosphorus in lawn fertilizers that pollute our lakes, legislation which was blocked during the last legislative session.

The top priorities for the committee will be protecting and improving our water resources and taking action to address global warming. Cleaning up our lakes and rivers by limiting non-point pollution, preserving our wetlands and protecting the

springs that feed our streams will be high on the list, as will efforts to control invasive species.

Also on the agenda will be implementing the Great Lakes Compact and regulating ballast water discharge. We hope to expand our wild rivers system, and we'll address a host of other environmental issues such as restoring the public intervenor and regulating mercury pollution.

We plan to make Wisconsin a leader in fighting global warming. We're drafting comprehensive legislation that seeks to cut greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming by 75% by mid-century. The bill will be comprised of ambitious energy conservation and renewable energy measures, including a requirement that 25% of Wisconsin's energy come from renewable sources by the year 2025.

I joined the Sierra Club 35 years ago because I wanted to join with like-minded citizens to enjoy and protect our outdoors. Wisconsin has a grand tradition of progressive
(Continued on page 11)

ATTENTION Sierra Club Members in the Stevens Point Area

The Stevens Point vicinity is an area where there seems to be fertile ground for an organized local Sierra Club presence, but where no such organization exists at the present time. We ask you to contact us if interested in forming a group. With the presence of the UW Stevens Point campus, a focal point for environmental education in the state, it would be a logical step to begin a Sierra Club group in the local community.

The Stevens Point City mayor has signed the Mayor's Agreement on Climate Change. It would be wonderful if a group of interested community members could work with the city government to make effective changes in reducing the city's carbon footprint. There may be other areas of concern to residents that would benefit from an organized Sierra Club presence.

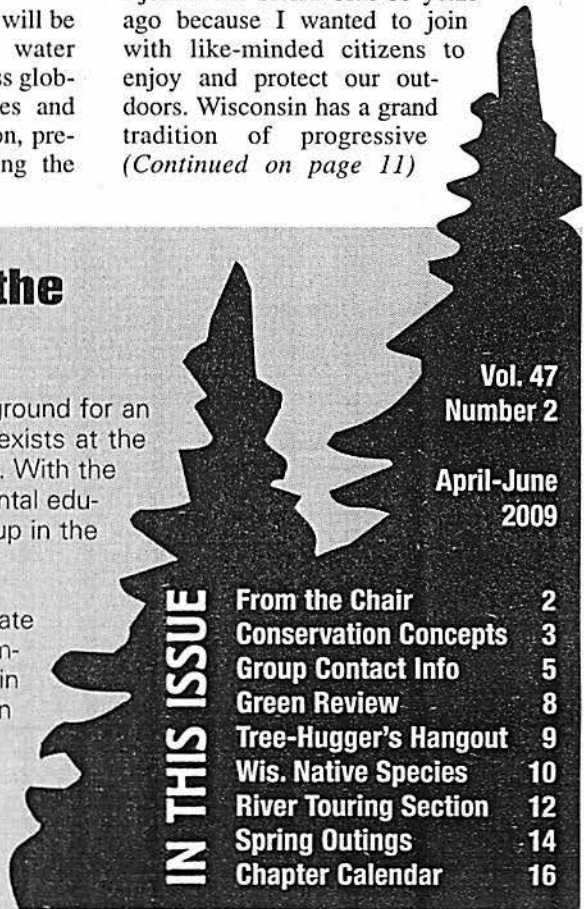
If you have interest in helping form such a group, please contact Jim Steffens (phone 608-924-1413, email jjsteff@mhtc.net). We would welcome hearing from you.

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Steffens, Chair
John Muir Chapter
jjsteff@mhtc.net

During the first week of February, Eric Uram and I were in Washington, DC, for a Good Jobs Green Jobs National Conference, jointly sponsored by the Sierra Club, other environmental organizations, and national labor and trade unions from around the country. This was the second year this conference was held, the first being in Pittsburgh, PA.

This conference originated from discussions Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director, had with labor unions several years ago. There had long been a philosophical divide between the environmental community and the labor movement. Labor viewed the positions of the Sierra Club with

a great deal of suspicion, believing that good environmental practices would put jobs at risk in a number of fields. But through these conversations it was realized by both sides that the environmental ethic does not threaten employment and that we can be much more effective by working together than apart. There is, however, one word the two sides cannot agree on, a four-letter word beginning with C and ending with L.

Needless to say, the atmosphere of the conference was nothing less than jubilant this year after the election of President Obama. Both the environmental and labor movements see good chances for improvement with the new administration. Particularly encouraging is the chance the President will move early on his pledge to re-invent the energy economy by decreasing our dependence on imported oil; investing in and encouraging alternative energy sources, particularly wind and solar; and developing a smart energy grid that can take advantage of distributed energy production. The labor movement sees great opportunities for new job development in these areas, and we

heard wonderful stories about training for production and installation of wind energy facilities that is already happening.

Some of this training is happening in Wisconsin. The Midwest Regional Energy Association, located in Custer near Stevens Point, is one such place. Eric and I met a policeman from Madison who is developing an alternative-energy-installation training program in the city for ex-convicts (The Madison Police Department paid Eric's attendance costs.) We also heard stirring stories from minority groups about how the new opportunities will help break the cycle of poverty in their communities.

The obvious cloud is how the severe economic downturn will affect implementation of these plans in an environment of reduced private and state budgets. Nevertheless, both labor and the environmental movement are working together on a shared agenda.

Jim Steffens, John Muir Chapter Chair, belongs to the Four Lakes Group. He lives in Ridgeway.

Save the Date: 2009 Autumn Assembly

October 9-11, 2009 • Beaver Creek Reserve (near Eau Claire)

Hosted by the Chippewa Valley and St. Croix Valley Interstate Group

THE MUIR VIEW

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

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DEADLINE FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2009 ISSUE IS MAY 15.

CONSERVATION CONCEPTS



With Hope We Will Succeed

by Eric Uram, JMC Conservation Chair

The new buzzword on everyone's lips these days – "Hope." And the Obama administration made sure we have it in our hearts and on our minds. The uncorking of pent-up, post-election energy on the Martin Luther King Day inauguration led to change. After just a few short hours in office, our new President ordered a review of automobile fuel efficiency standards, giving us greater hope that with his leadership we will be able to protect our environment and improve our economy.

Just after the inauguration, I was fortunate enough to travel to Washington, DC to participate in the Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference (www.greenjobsconference.org). There we heard about all the potentials – building and installing home-grown solutions to generate and conserve energy; improving transportation infrastructure, including mass transit; producing and using cleaner and safer chemicals for industry and in our homes; greening our schools and government infrastructure; and eliminating

landfills in favor of recycling. All of this was bookended and mixed with speakers who instilled pride and energy in everyone there.

As most of you know if you're in the Sierra Club, a visit to Washington means a visit to Congress. After hearing about good jobs, safe energy solutions, less toxic chemistry, greener infrastructure, and sustainable economics, an elevated level of enthusiasm went with us as we headed to the hill. As we entered the Congressional office buildings, environmentalists walked with steelworkers and teamsters. It was green and blue marching together to take back the halls and offices of Congress where the Bush administration's policies had denied us meaningful access for so long. We were on a mission to promote good jobs that protect the environment – making the USA economically stable, less polluted and more self-reliant.

But as we met in those Congressional offices, we heard that creating a sustainable future for our country happens outside of Washington as well. To get there, we need to start making things happen by getting active at home. So, in order to make sure the economic stimulus funding works here in Wisconsin, we all need to follow it as it

works itself into the economy through state and municipal governments. We need to let our elected officials know we're watching and we understand what it takes to make the transition to a cleaner, safer, more sustainable future.

Working to solve our economic and environmental problems will take everyone's help. We need to start by talking among ourselves, with labor and other allies, and with government. We need to talk about working in our communities to address the deep-seated problems we face – with real-world solutions, not trickle-down economics. So lace up your boots, sharpen your pencils and get active. You need to help finish what has started. If we don't all work together, the problems of the past will once again become those of the future. Remember, with your hope and your help we can all succeed.

Eric Uram lives in Madison is a member of the Four Lakes Group. He operates Headwater Consulting, a firm committed to improving water quality and controlling pollution.

Vote for Sierra Club Directors

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional info on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for

election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2009election>. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment

by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the paper ballot(s) straightforward and easy to mark and mail. Voting ends April 21.

The candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the 2009 ballot:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • Laurence Gibson (TX) | N |
| • Chris Warshaw (CA) | N |
| • Frank Morris (NY) | P |
| • David A. Scott (OH) | N |
| • Robin Mann (PA) | N |
| • Rafael K. Reyes (CA) | N |
| • Lane E. Boldman (KY) | N |
| • Phil Wheeler (CA) | N |

N = Nominating Committee candidate
P = Petition candidate

Learn to Lead: We'll teach you how!

SSC Youth Leadership Training Opportunities

by Jon Barrows, SSC Trainings Director

Students at high schools and on college campuses around the country have been busy. Last fall they collected 350,000 pledges from their peers, committing to civic engagement around building a clean energy economy. On February 27-March 2, they gathered in record numbers in our nation's capitol for Power Shift '09 (www.power-shift09.org) to deliver a message to our leaders: we need bold climate action now!

Youth are also active at the local level, passing green fees to purchase renewable energy and retrofit old buildings, passing policies that require new buildings to meet LEED certification standards, converting vehicle fleets to bio-diesel, getting their schools to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero over the next couple decades, and demanding national leaders follow their lead. And that's just the beginning. It's like the '60s without the drugs.

How did they do it? Many of these students attended one of the Sierra Student Coalition's Summer Environmental Leadership Training programs. In 2009, the SSC will run nine programs across the country (see www.ssc.org/sprog for dates and locations). The demand for these training programs has grown tremendously in recent years. We trained twice as many youth in 2008 as in 2007.

"While the demand is intense, we need as much help as we can

get to spread the word about the programs," said Jon Barrows, Trainings Director for the SSC, "if you are a high school or college-aged youth, or know any; if you are a teacher or know one, please pass the word along about these programs."

Participants learn from some of the top youth organizers in the nation in these peer-to-peer training programs. Over the course of the week participants learn how to start or sustain a group, recruit and develop new leaders, engage in strategic campaign planning, plan effective events, work with the media, engage their leaders, and much, much more. Additionally, participants will enjoy playing games, hiking, and meeting other like-minded students.



Every year the programs change lives! Participants leave inspired and empowered to be leaders and bring out leadership in others. This is the way we build a movement. Past participants have gone on to become the National Director of the SSC, sit on the Sierra Club's National Board of Directors, land jobs working for

the Sierra Club, the SSC and other environmental groups and dozens of other prominent leadership positions on national and local levels.

According to past participants, the program "bridges the gap between wanting to make a difference, and actually being able to make one." Students really do leave being a FORCE for CHANGE!

If you'd like to make a donation in support of these programs, send a check to Sierra Student Coalition, 408 C St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, payable to "Sierra Student Coalition."

Global Warming is Here

by Peter Muto

We discussed global warming at our group's last monthly meeting of 2008. During the give and take, we realized that some facts of global warming have arrived in our St. Croix Valley. We came to a conclusion that birds and insects, being very mobile, would be very susceptible to changes in the phenology of their various species.

I recalled that in the winter of 2006-2007 I saw an opossum in our valley for the very first time. This is a southern animal. I asked some of my friends about this. Two of them

considered Robins as a winter bird now! Remember the old image of a robin eating an earthworm? I thought, "How would a robin get an earthworm during a Wisconsin winter?" No more! They are eating fruits off our flowering crab trees.

I wonder what the impact of global warming is on our trees. We missed the Eastern Hemlocks of the North Woods. We don't have the American Beech of Eastern Wisconsin.

I have experimented with Shagbark Hickory, Shellbark Hickory and Yellowwood in my old tree lot; until now these experiments have been failures, mostly. One of the experiments was successful. The Mountain Ash is a northern tree with a

range to a southern limit in the middle of the St. Croix Valley. These have been producing fruits for the birds in my old woods.



As we study sites for tree species, we recognize other features of the environment. Among these are the amount of moisture available, the species of soils that are present and the slope of the land with respect to the sun. Let us look for new kinds of trees that are finding their niche in your favorite woods.

Peter Muto, retired chemistry teacher, is a lifelong educator and the Environmental Chair, St. Croix Valley Interstate Group. He resides in River Falls.

Call for JMC Sierra Club Award Nominees

by Lacinda Athen, JMC Awards Chair

One of the challenges of coordinating a grassroots organization like ours is finding, keeping, and honoring our volunteers. One great way to motivate and maintain members is through public recognition of their efforts. As the Awards Chair, I'm writing to remind you of the John Muir Chapter's awards program. **Nominations for 2009 are due August 1st.**

The Chapter offers a range of awards for Sierra Club volunteers, members of the business or political community, or other local heroes. We strongly encourage you to honor your volunteers in this way, whether they are excited new activists or long-term workhorses. We want to let them know how much their commitment means!

View the chart on the right for a list of the awards categories. Additional nominating information and forms are on our website at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/awards.htm>

Please select what you feel is the most appropriate honor for your nominee and submit the forms to me by August 1st. The Awards Committee will review all nominees and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, who must approve winners. This timeline is designed to offer enough notice to recipients so they can plan to attend the Awards ceremony, held in conjunction with our Autumn Assembly in October.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or via telephone at 608-274-7870.

Lacinda Athen is a member of the Four Lakes Group where she is Chair of both the Recycling Away from Home and the Awards Committees. She's also The Muir View Advertising Coordinator.

John Muir Chapter Awards Categories and Details	
Category	Qualifications
Good Citizen Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations and individuals external to the club. Championing innovative programs or processes that protect the environment.
JJ & Pat Werner Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter. An undying commitment to the goals and missions of the chapter. A spiritual leader and facilitator promoting the health of the groups and chapters.
Merit Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter. Issues champion that has effectively battled environmental challenges. Consistent leader in the environmental movement (i.e. organization leadership roles, organization builder.) Actively carries the Sierra Club message to decision-makers and the concerned publics.
New Activist Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Sierra Club activist (John Muir Chapter member for fewer than two years.) Enthusiast participant in issues and the organization. Willingness to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues.
Torchbearer Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations and individuals external to the club. Decision-makers that consistently promote legislation or regulations that protect the environment.
Wildflower Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter. An individual who exemplifies all that is wonderful in the environment and the club. A mentor for new and existing activists. An educator who promotes a positive image for the club.

Contact Information for John Muir Chapter Groups

Chippewa Valley	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/
Coulee Region	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/index.htm
Four Lakes	www.4lakes.org
Fox Valley	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/
Great Waters	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/
Southeast Gateway	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/
St. Croix Valley Interstate	http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix
Wisconsin River Country	Contact Rich Wentzel: (715) 687-4391 or rwent52@yahoo.com

Even if there is not a Sierra Club group located near your home, you can still take meaningful action. Contact the John Muir Chapter office at john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565 to find out how.

One and the Same

Environmentalists and Sierra Sportsmen Share Common Goals

by Beau Dobson, UW-Madison student

Hunting and fishing are pastimes I share with thousands of Sierra Sportsmen around the United States and here at home in Wisconsin. We also share interests in clean water, ethical treatment of native wild animals, and the conservation of natural habitats. A widespread misconception is that avid sportsmen cannot also be active environmentalists. In reality, gun and pole have been and continue to be important tools in the fight for clean water, air, and protected public lands.

The Sierra Club's hunting and fishing policy revolves around "...maintenance and restoration of healthy, viable native plant and animal populations, their habitats, and ecological processes." This policy acknowledges that hunting and fishing can be more

than just sports. Responsible hunters and anglers help manage both plant and animal populations that are essential not only for the survival of a particular species but also to the well-being of many others.

Few activities connect humans with nature better than hunting and fishing. I believe that the strongest conservation values are those created from getting in touch with nature first-hand. Those who hunt and fish share a heritage that is essential to the longevity of conservation efforts.

It bothers me that interest in hunting and fishing is declining across the U.S. Related, I believe, is the decrease of unspoiled hunting and fishing spots. Wisconsin outdoorsmen are fortunate because public lands here offer accessible and high-quality hunting and fishing. In Dane County alone there are 18,885 acres of public land available for hunting.

Nationwide there are 118,184 conserva-

tion-minded Sierra Sportsmen. Wisconsin with 6,441 Sierra Sportsmen, ranks behind only California and Florida in membership numbers. Members and non-members alike know the interwoven connection between protecting our natural wealth and enjoying this way of life. The 65-million-plus Americans who hunt and fish recognize that this is a great way to get in touch with nature. Imagine if they were all Sierra Club members, too.

As hunter, fisherman, and environmentalist, Ted Williams, wrote over 10 years ago, "If only hunters, anglers, and environmentalists would stop taking potshots at each other, they'd be an invincible force for wildlands protection." Together, environmentalists and sportsmen can help protect our precious natural world.

To learn more about Sierra Sportsmen and join the *Sierra Sportsmen Network*, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierrasportsmen>

Zero Waste and Producer Responsibility: New Paradigm for Waste and Recycling (Part 1)

by Helen Spiegelman and Lynne Pledger, Zero Waste Committee

The Sierra Club board of directors adopted a new policy, Zero Waste: Cradle-to-Cradle principles for the 21st Century, on February 23, 2008. This article is one of a series from the Zero Waste Committee to introduce new concepts and practices that will get our society moving toward Zero Waste.

Let's look at the prevailing theory and practice of waste: *Waste is inevitable. It is the job of our cities, towns, and counties to clean it up. Local governments try to minimize waste by providing recycling services. Waste that cannot be recycled is managed as safely as possible in modern landfills and incinerators.*

But in fact, local government recycling efforts can't keep up with our ever-growing waste that has continued to increase in the last twenty years.

Across the nation, hundreds of thousands of tons of valuable resources, processed with great expenditure of energy, are being systematically destroyed each year in landfills and incinerators, driving climate change as we produce new products to replace the ones we destroy. In addition, the mining, cutting and drilling involved in all this production is ruining habitat and vital ecosystems.

Designed for the dump

But fortunately, a careful examination of our discards offers a new theory and suggests new practices that can finally bring us

ever closer to the end of wasting. *Waste is not inevitable, but is in part an outcome of products designed to be discarded.*

Most of the products we buy are designed for the dump because *the companies making the products have no incentive to prevent waste.* It's advantageous for them to make single-use products and appliances that can't be repaired. Further, tax-funded waste management actually encourages throw-away products and packages by cleaning up after the producers who made them.

The cradle-to-cradle concept

When producers are held responsible for channeling their discarded products safely back into useful service, they have an incentive to design products for reuse, disassembly, repair, and recycling. The shorthand term for this concept is 'producer take-back,' or EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility).

An example of EPR is returnable bottles and cans. Eleven states, not including Wisconsin, have bottle bills. The deposit return system, invented by the beverage industry itself, gets containers out of the waste stream and back into use much more efficiently than municipal programs can. Refillable bottles are even better for the environment than one-way bottles and cans.

Another example is producer take-back of discarded electronic products, ensuring that these will be safely recycled, repaired, or

disassembled so that parts can be reused. Seventeen states have passed e-waste legislation, all but California's law based on producer responsibility, not including Wisconsin.

In Canada, there are producer take-back programs for a whole range of consumer products. Here, several states are considering Framework EPR, which would establish the principle that brand owners are responsible for their products "cradle to cradle"

You can help us take EPR coast to coast

- Visit the Zero Waste page of the Sierra Club Web Site <http://www.sierraclub.org/committees/zerowaste/>
- Join or start a ZW committee in your Chapter or Group.
- Write a letter to your newspaper about Extended Producer Responsibility.
- Ask your elected officials for EPR legislation; enclose this article.
- Call 800 numbers to ask if the company will accept discarded products.
- Ask retailers if they will send the discarded product back to the manufacturer.
- Request repairable, recyclable products and products made of recycled materials from retailers.
- Remove excessive packaging at the store and ask Customer Service to recycle it.

Coming soon: more news and info from the Zero Waste and Producer Responsibility movement—and how you can help.

Portraits in Creative Giving

Scampers Support Sierra Club

Kids attending summer camp at the Highlander Elite Fitness and Racquet Club in Brookfield are nicknamed "Scampers." In 2008, Scamp Camp director Keith Becher decided that he wanted to help his kids do more than enjoy nature study. He donated one dollar in the name of each Scamper to the Sierra Club.

To support Keith's project, a John Muir Chapter office volunteer designed a colorful certificate for each child and the Sierra Club's Midwest Regional Office donated color printing. Keith reported that "...the certificates... were great and the kids loved them."

Thanks to Keith Becher and all the Scampers whose generosity helps keep Wisconsin's air and water clean.



Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame 2009 Annual Meeting

The Wisconsin Hall of Fame will hold its annual meeting and Induction Ceremony on April 18, 2009, at the Sentry Theater in the Sentry Insurance Headquarters Building, 1800 North Point Dr., Stevens Point. Refreshments will be served at 9 a.m. and the formal activities begin at 10 a.m. when inductees will be announced and honored. A noon banquet follows.

The 2009 inductees, Herbert F. Behnke, Martin Hanson, and Charles H. Stoddard, will join 60 other distinguished inductees. Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame inductees have significantly contributed to conservation programs, projects, public understanding, and conservation ethics within the state of Wisconsin and the nation.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation was established to encourage the growth and practice of

a conservation ethic as a legacy for the people of the state. It's a non-profit organization composed of 24 Wisconsin conservation-related organizations. (Dale Schaber and Peter Muto represent the John Muir Chapter of Sierra Club.)


Housed in the Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit the website: www.wchf.org.

For reservations for the annual meeting and banquet call Schmeckle Reserve: 715-346-4992.

GREEN REVIEW

Books relevant to Wisconsin Sierra Club Members


by Amy L. Jenkins

 **Grave Matters: a Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural way of Burial**, by Mark Harris. Scribner Press.

The old adage, ashes to ashes and dust to dust, is no longer the natural course of human demise. Mark Harris explores the details of the standard toxic funeral with visual imagery of the anaerobic, fuzzy-mold purification of embalmed remains sealed in a coffin in an earnest intent to *protect* the body. After Harris shatters the illusion of the preserved dead body, he presents greener and perhaps more comforting options.

It would be easy to image a book promoting green burials as an expose on the terrors and toxicity of embalming. Harris, however, is sympathetic to the sentiment and historical context that led to today's funeral industry. The country was astounded and comforted by the two-week funeral tour of Lincoln's embalmed body. Military officials honored fallen soldiers by sending preserved bodies home to their families. Many believe embalming allows mourners to see the deceased in the most peaceful and restful pose possible, yet refrigeration can serve the same purpose. Harris does not call for outlawing all embalming; rather he shares a view of the truth to shift perspectives on how we view the implications of funeral decisions.

Harris leads the reader through the uncomfortable details of a specific embalming and burial: blood drained, organs pierced, fluid replaced with chemicals that do leach into groundwater when the expensive casket fails as an eternal vessel (all caskets do). In contrast, Harris explores the scenarios of cremation, burial at sea, memorial reefs, home funerals, simple pine boxes and backyard burials, as well as various types of natural cemeteries. Many of these natural cemeteries do double-duty in terms of environmental good as they also preserve or restore wild places. Each type of funeral is explored in story form. A person died and this is what happened. The subject of death and decay could be difficult and morose, but the structure, tone and content of *Grave Matters* illuminate difficult realities. With lists of resources and a paucity of judgment, the consequences of our final decisions are brought into the light. And in the clarity of light, information, and multiple options, death and decay seem to resemble natural and normal processes – as they should.

 **Finding Beauty in a Broken World**, by Terry Tempest Williams, Pantheon.

Terry Tempest Williams has always been comfortable with mosaics. In her most renowned book to date, *Refuge* (Pantheon, 1991), she frequently changes the subject: one line break and she confidently moves on to a different topic. The narrative flow between her discussions of the Great Salt Lake, bird sanctuaries, her family history, and her dying mother hangs not on linear progression but is supported on taut underlying threads.

This time Williams tells us from the get-go

that she is consumed by the subject of mosaics, by building something beautiful from something broken. She delivers a single meditation in three acts. The work of finding and building beauty imbues each act. Although she does not say it, her definition of beauty is flooded with images and ideas about acting and working in love.

She begins in Ravenna, Italy, learning the act and art of mosaic creation. The lessons of working with broken elements bring resonance to her second act where she works with a research-oriented prairie dog habitat-restoration team in Utah. The pages and pages of journal entries on prairie dog observation might seem excessive, except that we know mosaics are made of small pieces. Williams uses the pieces of information to create the living image of a fractured biota and devoted conservation team. She deftly establishes the prairie dog as a keystone species in a landscape broken by fields, fences and development. She makes us love the dusty little rodents, their home and their protectors.

In the final act, Williams travels to a place fractured on a human scale painful to consider. She travels to a small village of survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda to participate in an act aimed to spark social change and healing. In a country that is "struggling with peace one person at a time," one would not be surprised to find ferocity of anger that cannot be diminished. Yet, despite the many challenges and graves, the village hums with grace. Hopeful acts do build change – change for Rwanda and an unexpected change for Williams.

Amy L. Jenkins writes from Wauwatosa, WI. Her essay "Real Packers Fans," appears in the current issue of "Sport Literate."

Congratulations, Kevin Hite and Harriet Iwamoto

Congratulations to newly elected JMC Executive Committee Members Kevin Hite and Harriet Iwamoto. Kevin, a senior at UW Stevens Point, has been involved in local city environmental issues and is also active in Sustain Central Wisconsin.

Harriet has served as JMC Treasurer for two years. As the Youth Education Chair of the Great Waters Group, she has been a leading force in the successful A+ Kids program. She's the recipient of Sierra Club's National Special Achievement Award for creating and having published the book, *Kids' Guide to the Outdoors*.

Raj Shukla was also elected, however he has recently resigned. In the event of vacancies the Executive Committee will make an appointment for replacement.

If you have an interest in this important volunteer opportunity to help explore, enjoy and protect the planet and wish to know more about serving Sierra Club at the state-wide level contact Jim Steffens: jjsteff@mhtc.net or any of the Executive Committee Members by April 15.

Tree-Hugger's Hangout

Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area

by Don Ferber

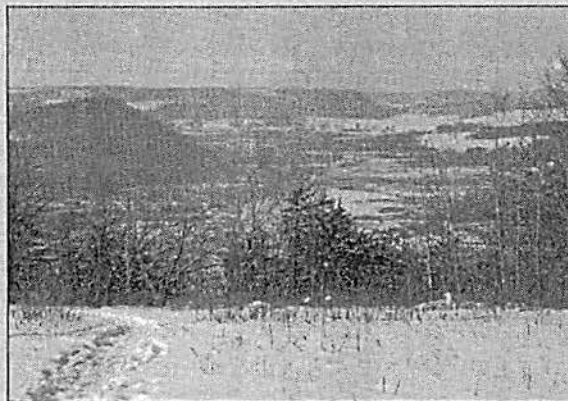
Writing about tree-hugging may seem strange when part of what makes the Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area special is that all the trees have been cut. But indeed, that is the case.

Once covered with oak-hickory savannas and prairies, this area changed over time due to successional species such as cherry, hackberry, and especially eastern red cedar. Invasive woody species such as honeysuckle and buckthorn also flourished. These not only crowded out native plants and reduced native wildlife habitat, they blocked views and altered the character of this area.

Dedicated volunteers from the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation (some of whom are also Sierra Club members), with support from the DNR, have helped transform this area back to its natural state. Over four miles of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail traverse this fine state wildlife area, an area with extensive past and current ongoing restoration efforts. It seems appropriate given the geological history and the native wildlife, to restore some of this area to its pre-settlement character.

Spring Creek meanders through the lower reaches of Lodi Marsh on its way north and eastward through the City of Lodi – home to Susie the Duck. In the wildlife area, extensive low, wet marshy areas are surrounded by upland hills that show the classic U-shaped valley effect characteristic of glacial passage. Springs keep this area well fed with water year around. Hikers will see marsh

marigold, skunk cabbage and watercress, as well as cat-tails and sedges.

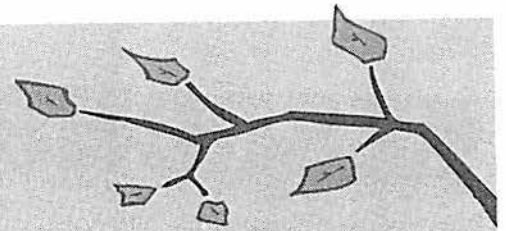


From Dave's View on the eastern segment, hikers can see Gibraltar Rock some miles in the distance as well the marsh with its U-shaped valley. The western loop is notable for areas of savannas, prairies and woodlands restored by volunteers. Once covered with red cedar, the top of the goat prairie now provides evidence of the dry short grass species such as little bluestem and the short native shrubs such as lead plant that originally covered this hill.

The Lodi Marsh is also a great place for wildlife viewing. Often in late February, the return of Sandhill cranes marks the coming of spring. Many other birds including hawks, Great-blue Heron, wrens, warblers and black-birds make this a home and feeding ground. Deer and turkeys are prime targets of hunters in the fall.

You can access Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area by walking south from the City of Lodi along Highway 113. There are also two main parking areas for trail access along Lodi-Springfield Road in Dane County. With a great hiking trail and a wide diversity of landscapes, views, and wildlife, Lodi Marsh is a fine area to hike any time of the year or to ski or snowshoe in winter.

Don Ferber, Sierra Club Life Member since 1982, lives in Madison where he is the Four Lakes Chair and Volunteer Coordinator. His special interests are energy and conservation issues, and he's a long-time volunteer with the Ice Age Trail.



Save the Date: 2009 Autumn Assembly

October 9-11, 2009 • Beaver Creek Reserve (near Eau Claire)

Hosted by the Chippewa Valley and St. Croix Valley Interstate Group

WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

Poweshiek Skipperling: Endangered Butterfly

by Ann B. Swengel

This little butterfly of the family Hesperidae (skippers), order Lepidoptera, with a wingspan of 0.9-1.1 in., gets its popular name from its identifying locale, Poweshiek County, Iowa, named after a Fox Indian Chief who was involved in the Black Hawk Indian War of 1832. They are sometimes called "skippers" for their darting flight, and smaller relatives are called skipperlings.

Poweshiek wings are predominately dark above, except for orange on the leading edge of the front wing, pale gray below with white vein scalping, and relatively elongate and rounded. It often flies relatively slowly (for a skipper), low in the grass, in a whirring or shimmering flight of black and silver-gray.

Poweshieks complete one life cycle per year, passing winter in their prairie habitat as mid-stage caterpillars. The main adult "flight period" is brief, sometimes a week or two, typically late June to mid-July. When Poweshieks are hard to find it's easy to blame the weather, but I have recorded dense numbers in sprinkles with a temperature in the low 70s. Warmth and calm definitely increase observations, and cloudiness seems irrelevant.

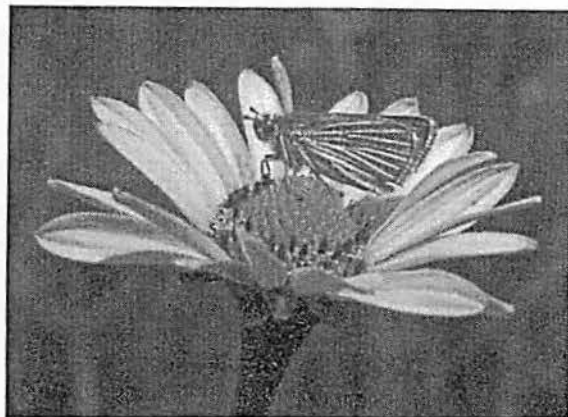
The Poweshiek range approximates the transition from tallgrass to mixed-grass prairie in the eastern Dakotas to the border between tallgrass prairie and eastern/northern forest in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Manitoba. A pocket of population occurs in lower Michigan. Poweshieks inhabit the full range of prairie vegetation from wet lowland to dry upland, often near wetlands and often in rolling topography, and possibly more restricted to moister prairie vegetation

at the western edge of its range. At the eastern extreme, this skipper is found in sedge meadows and fen wetlands. By far the highest Poweshiek densities are in upland prairie, typically adjacent to lowland prairie and even wetlands.

Documentation of egg-laying sites and caterpillar food-plants is scarce, but Poweshiek preferences are wetland species like spike-rush (Michigan), sedges (Dakotas), dominant prairie grasses, Indian grass, big bluestem, and little bluestem (Wisconsin). The Poweshiek is found most easily in its primary prairie range, suggesting that its caterpillar food was widely-occurring native prairie grasses. Adults feed on the nectar of various flowers but favor pale spike lobelia, black-eyed Susan, ox eye, and, further west than Wisconsin, pale purple coneflower.

Poweshiek Skipper has experienced tremendous decline in the last two centuries. The vast destruction of tallgrass prairie for agriculture (99% or more in most states) was catastrophic for skippers. Plowing, prolonged heavy grazing, frequent mowing, quarrying, and urban sprawl threaten the habitat. In the last half-century, thousands of acres of

never-tilled prairie with wonderful flora supporting large Poweshiek populations have been protected, yet stunning Poweshiek declines continue on these preserves even many years after the habitat was protected. The species is no longer found in many regions, even at sites where it still occurred in good numbers a decade ago. At the few sites where the species is still reliably detectable abundance is often much lower than in the 1990's. The species will survive only if preserve design and management specifically accommodates its limitations and requirements. All Poweshiek life stages occur above ground in the grassy vegetation, so the most bene-



Poweshiek Skipperling

ficial management appears to be the most localized, only rehabilitating problem areas of weeds and brush and leaving less-degraded spots, where the Poweshieks mostly are, untouched.

Fire management has complex results for Poweshiek; it may have a tipping point that divides favorable and unfavorable outcomes. Fires burn immature Poweshiek in the leaf litter, resulting in very low numbers the following year. How many survived within recolonization distance? How many of those surviving immatures reached adulthood? How will future fires affect the progress of recovery?

Ann B. Swengel has counted and observed Poweshiek butterflies in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba. A longer version of her article appeared in American Butterflies, Winter, 2008, "Poweshiek Paradise Lost."



Prairie Dropseed

Earth Day

2009

Check page 14 for outings that help our Earth!

Painting Benefits John Muir's Boyhood Home

by Susan Foote-Martin

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to the body and soul." The words of John Muir remind us that our childhood connections to nature can last a lifetime.

For nearly three decades, the Wisconsin DNR Endangered Resources Program has been managing the boyhood home of John Muir as a State Natural Area. State Natural Areas represent significant and long-lasting commitments by the state to preserve our best habitats for future generations of people and wildlife. Located within John Muir Memorial County Park in Marquette County, the property stands as testament to Muir, who went on to found the Sierra Club.

Now you can support the management and restoration of Muir's boyhood home through the purchase of items that are part of an exclusive line of signed, limited-edition prints, note cards and a fine-art poster.

The Endangered Resources Program has received an original watercolor painting of the boyhood home of John Muir, titled "Through the Eyes of John Muir," as a gift from Reedsburg artist Janet Flynn (see accompanying advertisement). Flynn's intention is that the painting be used to raise funds for and awareness of the Endangered Resources Program to preserve imperiled species and the habitats they depend on. Flynn chose the Muir site as her favorite of the 590 state natural areas located throughout Wisconsin.

Muir's family settled on the land in 1849, and John's life was shaped by the beautiful and diverse landscape. The painting reflects an oak savanna, Ennis Lake and many colorful species of plants and animals found at the property at the time Muir lived there. Included in the painting is the now extinct Passenger Pigeon and the threatened Prairie Chicken.

This property is a place for us to enjoy now, and is preserved for future generations to walk in Muir's footsteps. Proceeds from sales of the artwork will help the Endangered Resources Program manage Muir Park and Observatory Hill State Natural Areas.

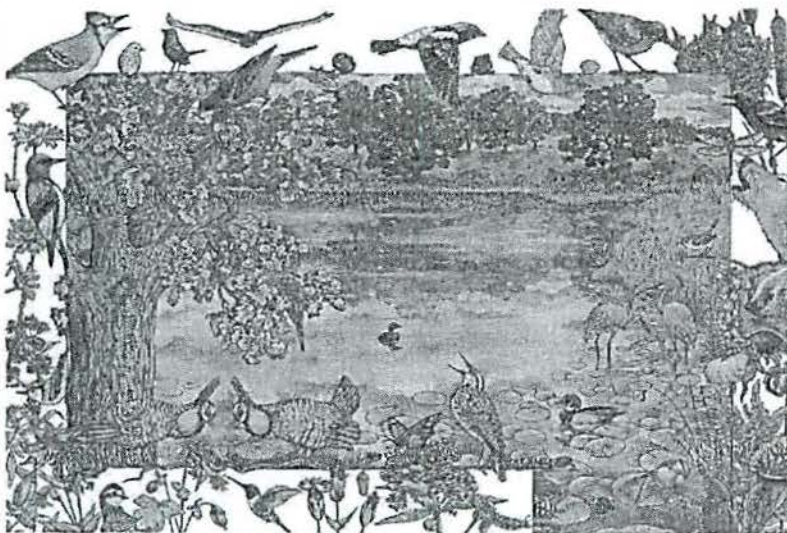
Susan Foote-Martin, Wisconsin DNR Conservation Biologist, lives in Madison. She is the coordinator of the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail program for DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources and coauthor of its "Checklist of Wisconsin Birds."



(Conservation continued from page 1)
action to defend the environment. I plan to serve as Chair with that proud legacy in mind.

Representative Spencer Black (D-Madison) has represented the 77th Assembly District since 1984. He is the Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. He previously served as Assembly Minority Leader and Assistant Minority Leader.

"Through the Eyes of John Muir"



Now you can own a beautiful limited edition print of this original watercolor painting of the boyhood home of John Muir! The signed limited-edition prints will make a great gift for any occasion. In addition, a beautiful poster and note cards complete the line. Proceeds from this select line of products helps the Endangered Resources Program continue its work to preserve species for future generations through its State Natural Area Program which includes John Muir Memorial County Park and Observatory Hill. The Endangered Resources Program protects native plant and animal species and the ecosystems on which they depend.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Limited Edition Prints on Acid Free Paper
(numbered and signed by artist!)

_____ 24" x 36" (\$300 each) = \$ _____
_____ 16" x 24" (\$150 each) = \$ _____

Notecards & Envelopes

_____ 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" cards (\$8.00 / 5 cards) = \$ _____

Full Color, High Quality Poster

_____ 26" x 22" (\$10.00 each) = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____
Check Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Make out check to Endangered Resources Program, and mail to:
Heisley Lewison
Wisconsin DNR - ER/6
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

RIVER TOURING SECTION OF THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

Interested in paddling some great water with fun and skilled paddlers? If so, the River Touring Section (RTS) is the group for you. Every year, our members lead paddling adventures on both quiet water and *whitewater*. We also lead instructional clinics to teach you paddling and safety skills.

RTS is affiliated with the Sierra Club, but our trips are open to everyone. We want to get you on rivers. We hope that you grow to enjoy paddling and to love rivers and support groups that work to protect them such as the Sierra Club and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Each trip and clinic includes the name and contact information of the trip leaders. You must call the leaders prior to the trip to register and to get the logistics of the trip (when and where it departs.) Trip leaders can provide information about the trip or clinic and help you assess your abilities to participate. Trip leaders reserve the right to limit participation based on the number of people registered, participant skill levels, trip difficulty, and other reasons.

GEAR: You are responsible for providing all of your gear—boat, paddles, life jacket, bail bucket, and so on. You'll also need to provide weather-appropriate clothing. This means a wet or dry suit for early and late season runs and for whitewater as well as gear to minimize sun exposure, such as a hat and sunglasses.

All participants **MUST** wear a properly fitted and securely fastened life jacket on all the trips and in the clinics. For Class II and higher whitewater, participants should wear a life jacket designed for whitewater, a whitewater helmet, and have a boat that is properly outfitted with floatation and thigh straps. These items may be required for some Class II trips (see trip description and talk to the trip leader) and are absolutely required for Class III and higher water.

You are responsible for providing all of your camping equipment—tents, sleeping bag, food, etc. Trips marked "Car Camp" means you'll return to a camping site for the evening. "Canoe Camp" means you need to carry all your equipment with you in your canoe. "Canoe Camp with Portage" means you'll have an opportunity to carry all of your gear at some point on the trip.

CLASSES OF WATER: We want your RTS experience to be fun. We also want it

to be safe. The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty (see box) is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water and will help you decide if a trip is appropriate for you and your skill level. Except for the occasional flatwater/quietwater lake trips, all of our trips are on rivers. Many of these trips are suitable for paddlers with solid flatwater canoe skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

LIABILITY WAIVER and REQUIREMENTS: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip or clinic and abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. If you would like to read the liability waiver form before you sign up for a trip or clinic, please see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>.

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

TRANSPORTATION: You are responsible for providing your own transportation to and from the river. We can identify people who have space in their car and people who need rides, but we do not make transportation arrangements.

OTHER: We do not allow non-paddlers, pets, glass containers, or alcoholic beverages on our trips while we are on the water.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Please see our web site at: [http://wisconsin.sierra-](http://wisconsin.sierra-club.org/rt/)

club.org/rt/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS members offer several instructional clinics for a nominal fee. These clinics are a great way to gain skills and confidence. Because we strive to maintain a low student to teacher ratio—typically 4 to 1 or less—we can offer highly individualized instruction. The clinics fill up early. To avoid missing out on the clinic you want to take, reserve your spot now by calling the clinic instructor and sending in your fee (non-refundable). All of the clinic teachers volunteer their time. Fees cover supplies and refreshments. RTS donates the remaining funds to conservation and river protection groups.

RED CROSS WILDERNESS FIRST AID BASICS CLINIC. 2 day, 16 hour course. April 4-5, 8 AM – 5 PM. Lapham Peak Park west of Milwaukee. Clinic Fee: \$40/Sierra Club member, \$65/non-Sierra Club member; fee includes 2 booklets, textbook, and a Red Cross certification valid for 3 years. The course will cover patient assessment skills, decision-making skills, and the treatment of environmental, traumatic, and medical illness and injury in the backcountry when advanced care is delayed. CPR (Continued on next page)

The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water. Some rivers will not clearly fall into a neat system. Temperatures below 50°F should change a rating to be one class more difficult than normal.

Class I - Moving water with few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.

Class II - Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels that are obvious.

Class III - Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require some scouting from shore.

Class IV - Long, difficult rapids and constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scout from shore often necessary and conditions make rescue difficult. Canoeists and kayakers should have the ability to roll.

(Note: The scale includes two additional Classes - V and VI - but since RTS is not offering trips at that level, we didn't include that information.)

From the American Canoe Association Web Site.

(Clinics continued from previous page) will be discussed, but CPR will NOT be taught. The class will run from 8a.m.-5p.m. Saturday and Sunday with a one-hour lunch break. Cars will need a yearly state park sticker or a daily parking pass. Please bring your own lunch. Participants must pre-register. Class size is limited to 12 people. Minimum age is 15. To register or get more details contact: Wendy Watson, wwjww2@wi.rr.com or 262-782-1484. Also, if people certified at the April 2006 class wish to re-certify, contact Wendy.

WHITEWATER CLINIC, SOLO AND TANDEM CANOES. June 6-7, Wolf River/Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30/person; Camping Fee, \$5/person per night.* RTS whitewater clinics are for reasonably experienced moving water (river) paddlers who want to learn whitewater skills and novice whitewater paddlers who want to improve their skills. This is for open canoes, not kayaks. Paddlers must provide their own properly equipped canoe. Except for some classroom sessions, separate instruction will be provided for solo and tandem participants. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night for clinic participants, instructors, and RTS paddlers. Please bring a dish to share.

(*We have reserved the group campsite at Bear Paw for camping Friday and Saturday nights.) If you prefer other lodging arrangements, there are many options available. For more info see the Wolf River Territory website: www.wolfriverterritory.com.

Also, new this year, RTS is offering a paddling trip concurrent with the clinics. Please see the trip schedule for more information.

For info and registration, contact: Registration (Solo and Tandem): Doug Robinson, dougknu@charter.net, 608-334-8026. Solo Clinic Leaders: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026; Dale Dean, 608-879-9280. Tandem Clinic Leaders: Kevin Olson, 608-963-2678; Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777.

MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC. June 13, Kickapoo River. Class I. Clinic Fee: \$25/person. Confident and competent on lakes, but not ready for rivers? Then this canoe clinic is for you. We'll review the basic strokes—draws, prys, sweeps, forward, back and J. We'll discuss safety, reading water, and maneuvers—ferries, side slips, and eddy turns. Then we'll practice these skills as we canoe the Kickapoo. To register or get more details, contact: Meg Nelson, priariesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

'09 PADDLING TRIPS

April 4-5. Robinson and Morrison Creeks near Black River Falls. Class II; Car Camp. When the water is up in the spring, these two small, scenic rivers are a lot of fun. Although the Robinson has a couple of drops, they can be portaged. Trees often need to be portaged as well. As always, we'll pick up spring thaw trash as we go, leaving the streams in better shape for those who follow. Wet/dry suit required for this early season trip. Contact: Phil Johnsrud, johnsrudp@iola.k12.wi.us, 715-445-4777.

April 11-12. Little Rivers Exploratory. Class III; Car Camp. Based on water levels, we'll select two or more small rivers in northern Wisconsin that can only be paddled in spring. Learn about river restoration and preservation. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. Note: Depending on water levels, we may change the date of this trip. Contact: Dale Dean, 608-879-9280, daleink@jvlnet.com.

April 25-26. Popple, Upper Peshtigo. Class II-III; Car Camp. April is a good time for water levels on these wild and historic rivers. We plan to run sections of both rivers but could end up running two sections of the Popple. Learn about the historic values and user issues associated with these smaller rivers. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. Contact: Larry Zibell, 715-546-2131.

May 2-3. Pine River. Class II; Canoe Camp. Join us for the 34rd annual Pine River weekend! We plan to paddle from Highway 55 to Chipmunk Rapids in Forest and Florence Counties. This is a terrific opportunity to canoe and camp on one of Wisconsin's designated "wild rivers." There will be time to reflect and discuss the challenges and changes facing this river. Contact: Larry Zibell, 715-546-2131 OR Leo Hummel, 608-868-1654.

May 2-3. South Fork of the Flambeau and/or the Jump River. Class III; Car Camp. Depending on water levels, we will paddle two sections of the South Fork of the Flambeau and/or the Jump River. We'll discuss storm water runoff and how to control it as we paddle these exciting wild rivers. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Note: Depending on water levels, we may change the date of this trip. Contact: Dale Dean, 608-879-9280, daleink@jvlnet.com or Doug Robinson, dougknu@charter.net, 608-334-8026.

May 9-10. Wolf River (Sections II & III), plus one other whitewater run. Class II-III; Car Camp. We'll spend one day on the Wolf. The other choice will be determined

by water levels. Possibilities include the Peshtigo, Pike, and Red. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. This is a chance to refine your paddling skills with experienced paddlers. Our goals are safety and fun. Contact: Paul Janda, 608-839-5831, pauljanda@mail.com.

May 16-17. Wisconsin Whitewater. Class II-III; Car Camp. Trip leaders will decide which river(s) to paddle based on water levels. Possible rivers include the: Oconto, Pike, Wolf, and Red. Whitewater paddlers will hone their skills, learning from two experienced leaders. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Contact: Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net, 708-386-1371.

May 23-25. Bois Brule/Class I-II. Kettle/Class III-IV; Car Camp. Join us for three day-trips on the Bois Brule. On Saturday, we'll paddle from County S to Highway 2. On Sunday, we'll go from Pine Tree Landing to Highway 13—this section includes a series of Class II rapids. On Monday, we'll go from Highway 13 to Lake Superior. We'll learn about the work to protect this trout stream. Helmets required for rapids on the Brule and for the Kettle. Camping is available at the DNR Campground south of Brule WI in Douglas County. The trip leader will reserve as many sites as possible. This is a busy weekend so please share your site with fellow Sierrans. Contact: Phil Olson at 715-682-3434, 715-292-4449 (cell), philole@centurytel.net.

June 6-7. Peshtigo and Wolf River. Class II-II+. Car-Camp. We'll paddle the upper Peshtigo on Saturday and a section of the Wolf on Sunday. These two day-trips were intentionally designed to coincide with the whitewater clinics so that paddlers who don't need the clinic, but aren't ready (or willing, or needed) to teach at one of the clinics can join the weekend festivities, camp with the group, and paddle area rivers with experienced trip leaders. This is a great opportunity to build skills and confidence. Contact: Gary Leander, 570-401-6335, glander@charter.net.

June 20. Badfish Creek. Class I. We'll spend a half-day winding our way through a lightly populated area South of Madison. The surprising Badfish features Class I rifles and reliable water thanks to the Madison Sewerage District. Learn about how a fairly high quality sewage treatment impacts Badfish Creek. Contact Carl Zimm, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com, 608-246-0485.

(Trips continued on page 15)

SPRING OUTINGS

The Sierra Club, as an organization, serves a dual purpose. John Muir's vision for an environmental group was not just one of education and legislation. He felt very strongly that the best way to empower people to want to protect the wild places of the earth was to get them out to enjoy them. Therefore the Sierra Club has always fostered a strong outings program to go along with our conservation ethic. To that end, there are many local events available to hike, bike, camp, ski etc., as well as national and international outings which are listed in "Sierra," the magazine of the Sierra Club or on the website: www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/

Outings are open to all members of the John Muir chapter and to the general public. Note that all outings are subject to change. PLEASE contact trip leaders ahead of time so they know you are coming and can contact you in case of cancellation or other changes.

April 4, Saturday: New Glarus Woods State Park Hike. Join us for a hike as we learn about prairies and oak/hickory woodlands. The hike is moderate: about 4 miles with a few hills. To carpool from Madison meet at the west parking lot, Hill Farms DOT, Sheboygan Ave., at 9 AM. The hike starts at 10:00. Afterward we will dine near the park. Wear weather appropriate clothing and bring water and a snack. A Wisconsin State Park sticker is required. *Contact David C. Smith, 608-233-1210. [4L]*

April 26, Sunday: Roughneck Bike Ride. This is an early 22-mile bicycle ride in the hills southeast of Mondovi. Learn about the terrain on this challenging route that has a couple of long hills and many short gnarlies on township roads with some gravel. Mountain bikes work best. Meet at 9:30 AM at Western Dairyland Community Action Center (formerly Naples School, east of Mondovi on Hwy 10, 1 mile south on Hwy BB.) *Contact Libby & John Stupak, stupakls@hotmail.com, 715-833-1941. [CV]*

May 3, Sunday: New Ice Age Bike Ride. Join the Pie Riders for a 40-mile bike ride and learn about ice-age terrain. Spring flowers? Maybe. Snowstorm? Possible. Fun? You bet! Start in Cornell at 10 AM, parking lot across from John Henry's Café. Rest stop with refreshments at the Ice Age Visitor Center on CTH M. *Contact Eleanor, 715-835-4829, ellewolf1@hotmail.com. [CV]*

May 9, Saturday: Monches Park Hike. Join Cheri for a gem of a hike on the Ice Age Trail in the Monches Park segment. Learn about the local flora and fauna. We might see trillium, trout lilies, marsh marigolds, mushrooms, and spring warblers. This trail climbs the bank remnants of a glacial meltwater spillway, then there's a view of a meadow before we descend to the magic of the Oconomowoc River. Moderate hike of approx. 6 mi. Bring binoculars for bird watching. Afterwards we might stop at a local restaurant for lunch. Hike starts at 9 AM. Meet at the intersection of Co. Hwy Q and K. *Contact Cheri Briscoe 414-390-0159 or cherib@wi.rr.com. [GW]*

May 17, Sunday: Sierra Century Bike Tour. The eleventh annual Sierra Century Bicycle Tour takes place rain or shine, with distance options of 12, 30, 60, or 100 miles. Proceeds from this fundraiser go toward environmental education grants to area schools. Register (*Continued on next page*)

Canoe Trips into Quetico Provincial Park, Canada

Join us for special adventures into a timeless and pristine wilderness on lakes seldom visited even by regular Quetico canoeists. For eight days and seven nights, learn about and experience the life and land of French voyageurs, Ojibway Indians, and British trappers in Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park, just north of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. You'll explore these ancient pathways and waterways with eight other modern-day voyageurs, viewing wildlife and historic rock art with opportunities to fish in pristine lakes far removed from the noise and distractions of modern life; all during times usually undisturbed by mosquitoes.

July 29 or 30 - August 8: Two crews will traverse the park one-way, one crew beginning at an Ely base and the other at Atikokan, Ontario, meeting in a grand rendezvous. (The north-bound crew begins on July 29.) Your crew will paddle and portage 6 or 7 days with up to two separate layover days spent exploring, fishing, swimming, or just relaxing. Expect to see pictographs, learn about Quetico's natural and cultural history, and stargaze. *Trip leaders: Mike Prausa and Bill Moore.*

August 29 - September 7: Meeting at the Ely base, this classic Quetico adventure roams for eight days (including 6 days paddling and two separate layover days) through the best of Quetico's granite wilderness, including the routes of the voyageurs. Highlights include stargazing, history, and spectacular waterfalls and campsites. *Trip leader: Bill Moore.*

September 25 - October 4: Autumn's colorful beauty rewards paddlers who travel when the air is crisp. We'll be covering a shorter distance over eight days and have more time to fish, explore, relax, and reflect. *Trip leader: Eric Uram.*

TRIP COSTS: \$100 reservation fee (except for \$25, paid fees are refundable if a replacement is found); \$275 due May 1; \$100 due July 1 for those not bringing their own canoe. Total: \$475, not including \$30 Canadian for the Border Crossing Permit, transportation, and fishing license fees. Included are park fees, food, and equipment rental. Leaders do not organize transportation but crewmembers can arrange for carpooling at the meeting held after the trip has filled.

REQUIREMENTS: You should be in good physical health, able to withstand continuous exertion and be able to carry a minimum of 42-54 lbs. for a distance of up to 1 mi. Experience not required, but a good attitude is. Must have appropriate footwear. Max. personal weight 240 lbs. Passports may be required.

FOR RESERVATIONS & INFO: Contact the trip leaders listed below. Make checks out to Sierra Club and send to the trip leader of your preferred trip with your possible availability for other trips. Bill Moore: environ1@sbcglobal.net or 262-785-9022, Mike Prausa: 414-305-0052 or mprausa@wi.rr.com, Eric Uram: 608-233-4120 or eric.urang@headwater.us. These trips are sponsored by the John Muir Chapter, Great Waters and Four Lakes Groups of the Sierra Club.

(Outings continued from previous page)
early for cheaper rates. Contact Dick Johnston, djrunner124@hotmail.com, 715-726-1446. [CV]

May 17-22: Women's Northwoods Service Week, Boulder Junction. Join other outdoorswomen in the beautiful Northern Highland State Forest to assist with research projects, plant native trees, prepare canoe camp sites for summer, and/or quash alien invasive in native forest ecosystems. Stay at a lakeside cabin near Boulder Junction with canoes, showers, and screen porch. Work 4 days and have one afternoon off to explore the area's hiking trails, lakes, and rivers. Each participant will bring ingredients and recipes for one meal. Limit 8; cost of \$50-65, (depending on number of participants) which includes accommodations, group supplies, and meals. Sponsored by the Central U.P., MI group. Contact Sherry Zoars, thezoars@excite.com, 906-358-1110, or Kate Cunningham, 502-339-1381, katecunningham@juno.com. Include in the email your name, address, telephone number, and where you read about the trip.

May 22-24, Fri-Sun: Camp & Canoe at Gov. Knowles State Forest. A quiet campsite in a quiet woods near the St. Croix River provides a base for paddling on the Yellow, Namekagon, or St. Croix Rivers. On an early morning trip to Crex Meadows, you can observe and learn about cranes, loons, bald eagles, and trumpeter swans. Families welcome. Contact Patty & Jeff Henry, grayjay8@charter.net, 715-832-1387. [CV]

June 17, Wednesday: Chippewa River Solstice Canoe/Kayak. Contact Renee Ebel, 715-726-1615, reneefe@charter.net. [CV]

Outing host group is indicated in brackets:

[CV] Chippewa Valley Group
[4L] Four Lakes Group
[GW] Great Waters Group

Liability Waiver & Carpooling:

In order to participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Outings Coordinator:

Charles Paine
N8172 Firelane 13
Menasha, WI 54952-9650
920-739-1900
Email: chasp0@peoplepc.com



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(RTS trips continued from page 13)

June 4-5. Wisconsin Whitewater (for Beginners). Class II-II+; Car Camp. This trip is designed for paddlers learning the art of whitewater paddling—there won't be any rapids rated above Class II+ on this trip. We'll paddle rivers in northern Wisconsin, with the choice of rivers dependent upon water levels and the groups' interest/experience. Likely candidates include the Pike, Oconto, Wolf (Sections I and/or II) and Peshtigo (Section II). This is a great opportunity to build skills and confidence with the support of other paddlers. Contact Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net, 708-386-1371.

July 3-5. Lower Wisconsin River. Class I; Canoe Camping (on sandbars). This three day, two night camping trip on a remote, peaceful section of the Wisconsin River features inviting sandbars, sandy beaches, towering bluffs, and craggy rock outcroppings. We'll put in at Peck's Lands just south of Spring Green and take out at Port Andrew just west of Muscoda. We'll paddle through the Avoca State Wildlife Area which contains the largest tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi and through WI Department of Resources wildlife areas and learn about the importance of these habitats. Contact Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, cwisler@wi.rr.com.

July 11-12. Wolf and Red Rivers. Class II; Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills from the WW clinics before they get rusty. Paddle the Red River, a favorite of many paddlers. Contact Pat or Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.

July 11-12. Little Manistee (Michigan). Class I; Car Camp. This is a surpassingly beautiful river in lower Michigan not yet (and maybe never) in the Wild and Scenic River program (between the Pere Marquette and Pine Rivers off highway MI 37); crystal clear water, more wildlife than people. The first day is a beginner trip; the

second day is an advanced beginner of fast water (no rapids) and tight bends. Paddlers will need ability to back paddle, ferry, draw, pry and eddy to do the second day. Contact Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net.

July 25-26. Upper Iowa River (Iowa). Class I; Car camp. The spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest—beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about this unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. Contact Doug Robinson, dougknu@charter.net, 608-334-8026.



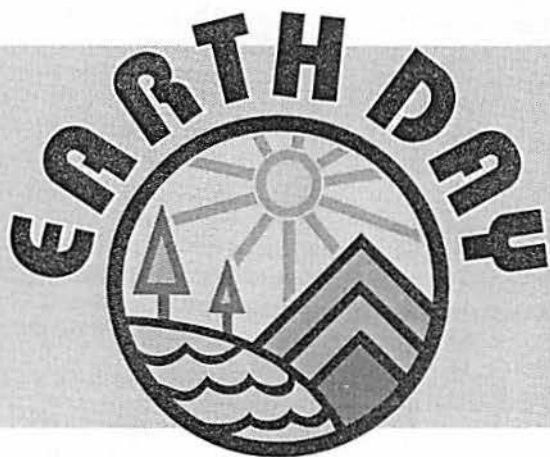
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Earth Day

April 22, 2009

**Check page 14 for outings
that help our Earth!**

John Muir Chapter Calendar

2009 EXCOM MEETINGS

- May 5 Conference Call
 June 20 Methodist Church, Baraboo
 (Singer Fellowship Hall)
 August 25 Conference Call
 October 6 Conference Call
 November 21 Methodist Church, Baraboo
 (Singer Fellowship Hall)

2009 EVENTS

- April 7 Spring General Elections
 April 22 Earth Day
 October 9-11 Autumn Assembly at Beaver Creek Reserve
 Hosted by the St. Croix Valley Interstate &
 Chippewa Valley Groups

Check the John Muir Chapter website, or e-mail or call the
 Chapter office for updated information.

John Muir Chapter

Website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>
 Phone: (608) 256-0565
 E-mail: john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org



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