

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

wisconsin.sierraclub.org

2010 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY



A FOCUS ON OUR ENERGY FUTURE

By Maureen Kinney

Bruce Nilles, Deputy Director of Conservation for the National Sierra Club, will keynote the 2010 Autumn Assembly. Hosted by the Coulee Region Group, this year's assembly will take place **October 8-10, 2010 at Camp Ehawee**, north of La Crosse.

The Autumn Assembly is the annual gathering of Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin. It is an opportunity for Sierrans to learn more about environmental issues, find out what's new in the Sierra Club, and enjoy outdoor activities. The event is also open to the public.

Families are encouraged to enjoy this Wisconsin outdoor weekend by joining family-friendly break-out sessions, including nature walks, a live animal presentation, and a class on creating your own backyard wildlife habitat. Babysitting services will also be offered throughout Saturday's events.

During the Saturday morning session, keynote speaker Bruce Nilles will discuss "Building a Better Energy Future." Bruce is on Rolling Stone's list of "100 Agents of Change" and is Grist's Eco-Hero of the Year. He directed the Sierra Club's anti-coal campaign and has been a critical player in shutting down coal plants in the Midwest.



Before joining the Sierra Club in 2002, Bruce worked as a staff attorney for Earthjustice in San Francisco and, during the Clinton administration, served as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division in Washington D.C. He received his J.D. and B.S. degrees from the University of Wisconsin. (*Fun fact: Nilles and Sierra Club founder John Muir both went to the UW-Madison. Go Bucky!*)

On Saturday afternoon, Alan Stankevitz will share his "Eco-Housebuilding Adventures", discussing the trials, tribulations and adventures of building a solar-heated, solar-powered, double-wall cordwood house in southeastern Minnesota. His presentation will focus primarily on cordwood construction and renewable energy, but as an avid bird photographer he will also be sharing a few of his favorite bird photos from the area.

We'll have several experts from statewide agencies helping us keep current on regional issues. From the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office, Project Leader Pam Thiel will share her knowledge of "Asian Carp and their Potential Impacts." From the Upper Mississippi River Program and Nature Conservancy, Assistant Director Gretchen Benjamin will talk on the "Mississippi River - the Challenges of North America's Largest Watershed and What Needs to be Done." And from the Wisconsin DNR's Regional Land Program (and coordinator of the Southern Wings Program) Supervisor Craig Thompson will present "Orioles & Ocelots: Wisconsin's Costa Rica Connection."

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WE CAME, WE SAW, WE MADE PROGRESS: A RECAP OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

As many of you know, the state legislature failed to pass major bills that would have advanced clean energy, clean transportation, and protected our water resources. The Assembly also fell a few of votes short of the 2/3 majority needed to override Governor Doyle's veto of the bill to restore an independent DNR Secretary (AB 138) on February 23.

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Number 3

July -
Sept. 2010

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FROM THE CHAIR

By Eric Uram, Chair
John Muir Chapter

Calling all future leaders! Standing on the sidelines doesn't win games, and we need players to step up and help us win. Please volunteer to participate in the upcoming **chapter leadership team trainings**. If this past year is any indication, we need to become more effective and responsive to addressing and winning environmental issues as they arise.

Rather than focusing on developing individual leaders, because it is difficult for one leader to engage in real problem-solving by themselves without support and buy-in from others, the *Sierra Club is undertaking team leadership training*. The JMC leadership has already committed to participating, but *we need others to participate and be ready to help out as they can*. I feel we can improve the chapter/group dynamics and develop future leadership with additional participation.

While a handful of people can change things, the work becomes easier when many hands share these tasks. By participating, we seek to *work together more effectively as a team -- to assess how we are doing on our conservation priorities, identify what can be done differently to improve our chapter and groups abilities to achieve the conservation outcomes we seek, how to build broader buy-in from our members*

and the public we work with, and how to implement the necessary changes - both internal and external - that we want to make.

In order to provide us with **ongoing, real-time support** and address the real things that will make us more effective at achieving our conservation goals. Greg Casini and his development team will conduct interactive phone trainings over the summer.

Training sessions last 90 minutes, starting in July and recurring every three weeks for five sessions with additional as-needed support offered during and after the sessions.

Each Chapter leadership team will get assigned a *coach* to facilitate discussions, ask questions that need asking, provide an outside perspective - and yes - likely nag us to get our work done and push us to achieve more than we would on our own.

The coaches will continue to work with us for an additional three months after the last training call to support us as we implement our **chapter action plans**, including how we work with everyone in order to achieve our goals.

THEIR COMMITMENT:

- Quality training for all participants
- They will offer training that is relevant and useful to the chapter teams
- They will solicit and accept constructive feedback on the progress of the training sessions and coaching.

OUR COMMITMENT:

- Come to the sessions prepared, and actively participate in all training and coaching calls.
- Complete any pre- or post-session work assignments ---Listen to the recording of any missed calls and work with your coach / teammates to "make up" a missed session.
- Apply the skills and practices learned in the sessions to your work.
- Build a working relationship with your coach.
- Provide honest feedback to the coach and trainers to help shape this and future trainings.

During this process, Greg's team will be using some technologies that are new to the Club and to this group of trainers. It sounds exciting and relevant to the challenges we face and the goals we need to achieve.

In addition, this should help improve our chapter functionality, so we can meet more of our members needs and achieve more of our conservation goals.

Are you ready? Could you commit an average of one hour per week to make the JMC a better organization or your group more effective? Please send along a request to participate in this training to either me or the chapter office! We will be interviewing potential candidates as the July 15 start date approaches. In the mean time, have a great summer and keep exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet! ♻️

Erin Uram, Eric.uram@headwater.us

THE MUIR VIEW

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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.

222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703

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

Advertising Coordinator:

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Advertising Rates:

Current advertising rates may be found on the JMC website:
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

Deadline:

The deadline for submission of articles to the October-December 2010 Issue is midnight on August 15, 2010.

Change of Address:

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

The Muir View (ISSN 199-048, USPS 499-650) is published quarterly by the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, 222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703.

Periodical Postage paid at Madison, WI and at additional mailing offices. Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$5.00 annually for non-members.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

Sierra Club
222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703



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DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2010 ISSUE IS AUGUST 15

CAPITOL CONSERVATION

By Representative Spencer Black

After serving 26 years in the Legislature, I have decided not to seek re-election to the Assembly this fall. I first became involved in politics because of the Sierra Club. I started out as an out-ings leader in the 1970's and, in time, became a member of the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee and then Chapter Chair. I later went on to work for the Chapter as its first Capitol lobbyist and for the National Sierra Club in the Midwest office.

My work for the Sierra Club convinced me that we needed more elected leaders who were willing to make the environment their top priority. I believe as an elected official legislator I've been able to strengthen protection for our environment. I hope other Sierrans will consider running for office as a way to make a difference for our outdoors.

Here are some of my conservation accomplishments as a legislator:

- Establishment of the Stewardship Fund, which has already protected over 1/2 million acres of the natural heritage of our state by expanding state parks, forests, wildlife areas and natural heritage sites.
- Protection of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, which preserves the 92 miles of free flowing river above the confluence with the Mississippi River.
- Passage of our statewide recycling law, which has cut the amount of waste going to landfills by more than half and is the strongest and most comprehensive state law in the country.
- Enactment of the mining moratorium law which halted a proposed Exxon mine in the headwaters of the Wolf River. I am especially proud of the grassroots movement that was mobilized to defeat the biggest and richest corporation in the world.
- Creation of the state trails system, which has enabled millions of Wisconsin citizens and visitors to enjoy our outdoors by biking, skiing and hiking on our trails.
- Funding of the Endangered Species Program which has helped protect many endangered species as well as reestablish populations of extirpated species in Wisconsin including wolves, peregrine falcons, pine martens and trumpeter swans.
- The recent passage of bans on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and detergents to help clean up our lakes.

While I am proud of my role in enacting these laws, the real reason these bills passed was because of the active support of the citizens of Wisconsin who embrace a strong conservation ethic. The Sierra Club has long been the most effective conduit for citizens to express their support for environmental legislation. While I will not be in the Legislature after term concludes in January, I plan to remain an active member of the Sierra Club.

Helping lead the fight for our environment in the Legislature for the past 26 years has been a tremendous privilege. I continue to believe as I did when I first ran for the Assembly that nothing is more important to the long range future of our state and nation than protecting the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we love. ♻️

Representative Spencer Black is Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and a former Chair of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club.

REPORT FROM THE 2010 WISCONSIN WOLF STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

By Laura Keyser Menefee

At the 2010 meeting of the Wolf Stakeholders Committee on April 17, the 2010 WDNR Wolf Management Plan was proposed in light of impending removal of the Endangered Species Act ESA protections. Hunting and trapping regulations listing wolves as game species were included in the "furbearers" category. Here are some highlights:

The 2010 Winter Survey yielded approximately 700 wolves throughout the state. Pack size statewide continues to be an average of 2, while an average of 4 exists in Zones 1 and 2, the prime available habitat in the North and the Central Forest regions.

WDNR Secretary Matt Frank made an "Executive Decision" to reject the recommendations made by the 2009 Stakeholders and Wolf Science Committees for a "5 year Study Period" (WDNR has been instructed to avoid the term "moratorium") before instituting a public hunt and trapping season. Proposed regulations are in place in the 2010 Wolf Management Plan to fast-track through the legislature the moment ESA protections are removed. It was estimated this process would take 9 months. There were complaints that this was too long, since Montana and Idaho were able to institute hunting and trapping within 3 months of removal of ESA status.

Continued on Page 4



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

WOLF STAKEHOLDERS MEETING Continued from Page 3

Zones 3 and 4, roughly all of southern and some of northeastern Wisconsin, will be combined to establish a "depredation control zone" in which "more liberal, lethal control methods" will be implemented to "actively discourage wolves from establishing territories there," regardless of suitable habitat and available prey densities.

People will be able to "remove" wolves either depredating or threatening to depredate in order to protect their property – including livestock and pets – without a permit, in all zones, following both the Michigan and Minnesota proposed management plans. Problem wolves will not be relocated once ESA protections are removed. Instead, people will be able to lethally remove wolves from areas in which depredation has occurred or has threatened to occur for five years following the complaint or incident. "Citizen trappers" will be enlisted to remove "problem wolves" in response to complaints. It is not clear whether they will be compensated here as they will be in Minnesota.

WDNR will define a "minimum population goal needed to protect genetic viability" at 350 for the state; roughly half the present population. There is no established "maximum population goal." This is a source of confusion for people who want to minimize or eradicate the presence of wolves in Wisconsin, as they tend to confuse the "minimum goal" with a "maximum goal" population.

WDNR considers listing the wolf as a game animal as the only means by which to cease payments for bear dogs. Dog compensation has been at \$1000 per dog, while cattle receive payments of \$200 when wolf depredation is established. Out of 8,000 Wisconsin farms, 38 cattle were paid for under the depredation compensation program this year. The dairy areas surrounding the most densely populated wolf habitat – the Central Forest Region – continue to experience very little livestock depredation. Compensation for livestock losses may continue under federal programs, but state compensation for hunting dog losses will cease once ESA protections are removed.

I argued in favor of concerted education efforts to increase public tolerance for predator conservation in Wisconsin. An education component exists in the Michigan Wolf Management Plan, but currently consists of one person from MDNR speaking at a few elementary schools and providing a website for telemetry tracking. WDNR continues to cite "Social Carrying Capacity" – which it perceives at "maximum –" as the rationale for limiting the wolf presence in our state, despite the science which proves the most reliable control of wolf population, density and health is habitat and prey availability. Without concerted and effective implementation of public and hunter education, there is no way of determining what the "Social Carrying Capacity" of our state actually is. ☺

Depredation payouts and incident reports are available through the WDNR website at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov>. An interactive map of Wisconsin wolf pack distribution, and deer and bear damage compared to wolf damage, is available at <http://www.vicksta.com>.

CELEBRATING OUR MAJOR SUPPORTERS WITH OUR LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION, SPENCER BLACK

By Shahla Werner, Chapter Director

On April 17 the John Muir Chapter held a thank you party at Brocagh Irish Pub on the Capitol Square in Madison to thank loyal supporters whose donations helped to make our conservation work possible over the past two years. Fundraising Committee Chair Sarah Streed welcomed and thanked an intimate group of about two dozen dedicated supporters to the event.

Guests sipped champagne out of classic, reusable Sierra cups and enjoyed desserts in honor of Sierra Club founder John Muir's birthday April 21. Just a few of the amazing things you helped us accomplish include defeating Alliant Energy's coal plant in 2008, passing the Great Lakes Compact, supporting the Global Warming Solutions Team's efforts to promote expanded transit options, and supporting the Water Protection Team's efforts to educate the public about the need to support sustainable agriculture in Wisconsin.



Keynote speaker Spencer Black, chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee mingled with guests and discussed his experience as a long time member and former Sierra Club staff member who went on to become our greatest legislative champion, passing scores of groundbreaking environmental laws during his career, from Wisconsin's mandatory recycling law to our mining moratorium to our Stewardship fund. During the past legislative session alone, he helped pass bills to reduce Phosphorus pollution in our lakes and increase protection for the Totogatic and Brunsweller Rivers. Little did guests know that less than a month later he would announce that he had decided not to run for re-election, making this time with him seem even more special in retrospect. Upon learning of Rep. Black's retirement, Rep. Parisi (Madison, Dist 48) said, "Spencer Black is leaving the legislature at the top of his game and with a legacy that most elected officials dream about but rarely achieve. He has earned a place alongside Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson as one of the giants of Wisconsin's environmental movement. You don't replace someone like Spencer Black; rather, you look to him and his career for inspiration."

The Fundraising Committee has decided that because recognizing people's contributions is so important, we will rotate this event around the state in upcoming years. So, if getting to Madison was out of the question this year, know that we plan to come to you and thank you in person for all you do to make a difference for clean air and water wherever you are in our beautiful state. We are so thankful to all of our donors, whose generous donations to the John Muir Chapter help make our conservation vision of clean energy and clean water for Wisconsin a reality. ☺

A NEW VISION FOR HOME PERFORMANCE

By Rosemary Wehnes

In a recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists, Wisconsin was ranked 5th highest among states for importing coal used in electricity production. As we struggle with the impacts of climate change, those concerned with the health of planet Earth can make a difference by stepping up to not only reduce their energy use, but to also use energy more efficiently.

A good place to start is changing behavior. There are a lot of things you can do to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions that don't cost money. Examples include taking shorter showers and carpooling, biking or taking the bus to work. There are many low cost changes you can make. Take the "Green Neighbor" assessment developed by our Wisconsin "Cool Cities" project that can be found on the Great Waters Group website at www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg

The next step is to make your home more energy efficient. Start with installing low-flow shower heads and compact fluorescent light bulbs. Costly improvements may be more of a challenge. According to a report done for the John Muir Chapter by the Mathis Consulting Company, "Performing basic weatherization on homes built before 1990 in Wisconsin could reduce average home energy consumption by 27 percent, using currently available techniques and materials. This level of efficiency can be achieved for under a maximum expenditure of \$6,500 per home, granted the program uses a comprehensive strategy incorporating technical best practices geared to maximize energy savings."

Of course, most of us don't have \$6,500 dollars lying around waiting to be spent. To get around this problem, a new program is being rolled out in some areas around Wisconsin and the nation. This financing framework is known as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE.)

With PACE, a qualified homeowner takes out a loan through the program for the energy improvements (like insulation or air sealing.) The obligation to repay the cost of improvements is attached to the property, not the individual borrower, creating a way to pay for the improvements if the property is sold. The program is designed to essentially match the cost of repayment to the energy savings, so that the property owner does not bear additional out-of-pocket costs. Loan payments are made either to the municipality or the utility.

Milwaukee and Madison will be some of the first communities to make this program available to homeowners. Initial start-up costs, quality assurance, and a loan-loss reserve will be covered by the recently awarded "Ramp-up" grant received from the US Department of Energy. Other locations setting up PACE programs for homeowners include Racine and River Falls. In some cases, these loans can also be used for renewable energy systems, if the property is already energy efficient or includes energy efficiency upgrades as part of the work. Milwaukee is currently seeking applicants for a renewable energy PACE pilot program (<http://www.ci.mil.wi.us/milwaukeeeshines>) and their energy efficiency program is likely to be available this fall.

Other incentives to invest in energy efficiency improvements include rebates through Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program and federal tax incentives set to expire at the end of 2010.

Wisconsin's economy exports \$11 billion each year to pay for imported fuels including coal, natural gas and petroleum. Retrofitting the nearly two million homes in Wisconsin built prior to 1990 would save homeowners over \$1 billion per year in 2006 dollars, while also saving almost 10 million barrels of oil annually and reducing the global warming emissions equivalent to 1.4 coal-fired power plants.



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A RECAP OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION Continued from Page 1

It's fair to say that many of us were not feeling like celebrating when the session ended on the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22.

That said, there is still plenty of good news to go around. Because thousands of you spoke out for conservation- fifteen new laws were enacted during the 2009-10 legislative session that will move us forward for cleaner water and cleaner energy in Wisconsin.

After you made the difference by sending 1,792 messages to Joint Finance Committee members and attending public hearings, we passed a State Budget (2009 Act 28) that enabled the creation of Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in Dane County, Chippewa Valley, and Chequamegon Bay; enabled the creation of a special RTA for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail project; required road projects to have complete streets with bicycle and pedestrian access; increased waste tipping fees to \$13/ton, restored the clean sweep program for hazardous waste collection; and provided crucial staff to implement the Great Lakes Compact.



We passed two bills to protect Wisconsin's waters from toxic algal blooms and reduced recreational opportunities caused by excess nutrients with the Clean Lakes Bill to restrict Phosphorus lawn fertilizer (2009 Act 9) and another bill to restrict this element in household detergents (2009 Act 63). Sierra Club members and supporters made the difference by sending 507 emails to your legislators urging them to clean up our waterways.

We passed three bills to stop harmful toxins from entering landfills and polluting our water supplies by requiring recycling of electronic waste (2009 Act 50) and motor oil filters (2009 Act 86) and prohibiting the sale of household products containing the neurotoxin Mercury (2009 Act 44).

We designated the first additions to our state's Wild River system in 44 years when we passed bills to protect the Totogatic and Brunsweller Rivers (2009 Acts 32 and 7).

We helped protect children and babies from exposure to the harmful plastic additive bisphenol-A (BPA) in cups and bottles when we passed the BPA-free Kids Act (2009 Act 145), championed by Rep. Kelda Helen Roys and Sen. Julie Lassa. Special thanks to Dr. Warren Porter (UW Zoology Professor) for his work on this bill.

We took an astounding step forward for campaign finance reform when Governor Doyle signed the Impartial Justice Act (2009 Act 89) on December 1, 2009, which requires public financing for our state's Supreme Court elections.

We passed three clean energy bills, one that will enable the Public Service Commission to bring stakeholders together to create fair, uniform, statewide siting standards for wind turbines (2009 Act 40) and two Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) bills (2009 Acts 11 and 272) to increase people's access to low-interest loans for residential, commercial, and industrial investments in energy efficiency and water conservation.

We supported a law that will protect rail workers and property owners by requiring notification of recent applications of pesticides along right-of-ways (2009 Act 286). And finally, we supported a law that expands the DNR's ability to enforce laws against ATV trespassers on public lands (2009 Act 252).

The Sierra Club strongly supported the Clean Energy Jobs Act (SB 450 / AB 649) because it enhanced goals to get 25% of our energy from renewable sources by 2025, created goal-based investments in energy efficiency, and included key clean transportation policies. If passed, it would have protected our environment even as it saved ratepayers money and created thousands of new much-needed jobs. After being introduced in early January, dedicated volunteers and staff testified at five public hearings between January 27 and February 15 (special thanks to Will Stahl and Don Ferber who pro-

vided excellent hearing testimony). In April, the Clean Energy Jobs Act was amended, mainly to allay the concerns of utilities and other industries. We were sorry to see many meaningful transportation and distributed generation provisions lost, and we were very concerned about language that relaxed protections on nuclear energy and allowed waste combustion to count as renewable in the new bill. However, we remained supportive because CEJA would have represented a critical first step to addressing the imminent threat of climate change to Wisconsin's farms, fields, and forests. CEJA later passed out of the Assembly Clean Energy Jobs Committee, but it failed to receive a vote on the full Assembly or Senate floor. Thanks to all of you who urged their legislators to support the Clean Energy Jobs Act with your phone calls, clean energy videos, postcards, and 1,875 emails sent to legislators in response to our action alerts over the past two years. A special thanks to the hundreds of clean energy businesses, labor representatives, faith groups, and tribes who supported this bill, especially the Forest County Potawatomi, who tenaciously worked to pass CEJA and supported grassroots outreach efforts for many groups.

Another key bill, Assembly Bill 282, would have enabled local communities to form regional transit authorities (RTAs) throughout Wisconsin and allowed them to raise dedicated funds for transit. The Assembly Committee on Transportation, chaired by Rep. Steinbrink, passed AB 282 by a bipartisan vote of 8-1 after amending it to include key provisions for southeastern Wisconsin and the Fox Cities. The Sierra Club joined with business, labor,



faith and community groups to support this bill, which was vitally needed to protect bus drivers' jobs in Milwaukee and imperiled transit operating funds in Appleton and other areas. Dedicated Sierra Club volunteer leader Liz Wessel stood with Transit NOW's Kerry Thomas and others all night long as the Assembly debated the RTA bill on April 20. Although we didn't pass AB 282, we are proud of the tremendous progress we made for transit. We will keep working to expand options for people who want freedom from fossil fuel-intensive transportation in Wisconsin

Volunteer leader Jim Kerler worked hard to testify on bills to protect our groundwater (SB 620 / AB 844) and reduce improper waste spreading (SB 632) in March. Thanks to all of you who called and sent 172 emails

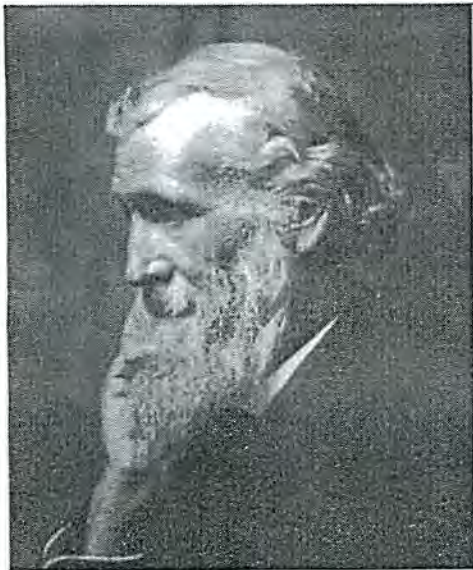
to your legislators to urge them to protect our water resources. With all the media attention lately on contaminated drinking water resulting from drawdowns and manure contamination, it is a shame that action will be delayed on these critical issues. But, public awareness is increasing, and so is our Water Protection Team's knowledge and capacity to work on these issues in the future.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the huge progress that we made during the past legislative session and to let you know that the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is committed to continuing the fight for clean water, clean transportation and clean energy- effective immediately. Over the next few months, our Political Committee will evaluate which legislators were our true champions and which ones disappointed

us with their legislative scorecard and endorsements. We will be participating in new coalitions that will participate in administrative, Executive, legislative and judicial actions to advance our agenda. And we will continue our educational work to connect friends and neighbors in Wisconsin with our natural resources through our outings program. Thanks again for all you did to make our progress possible during the last legislative session. We can't wait to build upon these gains next January.

For details, Visit our Legislative Tracker at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker/>

Shahla M. Werner, PhD is the Director of the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter. An entomologist by training, she lives in Madison with her husband, Andy, and son, Darwin.



By Patrea Wilson, Chapter Coordinator

The candidate nomination process for the 2011 John Muir Chapter Executive Committee has begun. I'm calling on all Wisconsin Sierra Club members to look within yourselves – *is this the year that you will serve?*

As a past-chair of the John Muir Chapter, Penny Bernard Schaber, once explained: "John Muir started the Sierra Club in 1892 because he felt that he needed to get people involved and active in protecting the Yosemite Valley. We, as the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee, are following in his footsteps by seeking to continue the tradition of getting people involved and interested in protecting the great state of Wisconsin. The chapter Executive Committee is made up of very dedicated persons who have decided that they can make a difference for Wisconsin."

FOLLOW IN JOHN MUIR'S FOOTSTEPS JOIN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the Sierra Club, decisions on policies, resource allocations, conservation priorities, and just about everything else are made by elected volunteer leaders. The Club empowers everyday people to take on core tasks in the nation's oldest, largest, and most-effective grassroots environmental group.

Executive Committees (ExComs) are the teams of people that keep the Sierra Club ticking. They meet regularly to make decisions and work behind the scenes to see that actions based on those decisions are carried out.

The John Muir Chapter is the Sierra Club organization that takes the lead on statewide environmental projects in Wisconsin. The chapter ExCom is made up of sixteen members – nine elected by all chapter members plus one representative from each of our seven local groups. Strong candidates for the chapter Executive Committee are enthusiastic about working to protect and improve our state's natural resources, are willing to meet and work effectively with other ExCom members and committees, understand the need to financially support the organization they believe in, and have some prior Sierra Club volunteer experience.

Our Nominating Committee will consider all applications and select those whose names will appear on the ballot. If an applicant is not chosen by the committee, a petition on the applicant's behalf, signed by fifteen chapter members and presented to the committee, will place that person's name on the ballot. The ballot is included in the fourth quarter Muir View newsletter, which goes out to all chapter members the first week of October.

The Sierra Club is the premier grassroots, democratic, environmental group in Wisconsin because people like you put in time and energy to make it that way. If you want to get more involved, or think that we should tackle an issue we're not yet active in, you can work for that change by joining the ExCom.

Now is the time to make your decision about becoming a candidate for the chapter ExCom. Those members who run for election to the 2011 Executive Committee must file nomination papers before July 15, 2010. For more information and to obtain the necessary paperwork, call the chapter office at (608) 256-0565 or e-mail the Chapter Director at shahla.werner@sierraclub.org. ☺

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

HEY JMC GROUPS, HERE'S HELP FOR YOU!

Does your Group have a special activity or project waiting in the wings, but no financing to get it off the ground? There may be help for your group in the form of funding from a John Muir Chapter grant. Funds are available from the Ron Mann Memorial Fund and the Arthur Hanat Memorial fund. These grants are specifically for our JMC groups. Requests may be made at any time - there are no deadlines. However, the process takes several months as approval is needed from the Group Executive Committee, the Chapter Grants Committee and the Chapter ExCom.

Applications follow this process: Group approval is followed by documentation and description of the request to a Chapter Executive Committee member, who then directs the request to the JMC Grants Committee. The committee checks that the request meets governmental requirements for 501(c)(3) regulations (meaning that funds can't be used for direct legislative lobbying and some other prohibited purposes). If this is unclear, the Grants Committee directs the request to the Club for compliance review. Upon this confirmation, the Grants Committee confirms

with the Treasurer that funds are available for the Group in its c3 allocation. Final approval of Hanat and Mann grants comes from the JMC Executive Committee. The Chapter Treasurer releases funds to the Group after the Group submits receipts to the Treasurer.

To help groups realize the possibilities for projects that may receive funding from a grant, here are two recent recipients: The Fox Valley Group sponsored a one day conference on "Building A Sustainable Fox Valley"; The Great Waters Group created, printed and distributed the second edition of The Kids Guide to the Outdoors.

Your group project may qualify for a grant.

*For information or an application, contact:
Barbara Thomas, Grants Committee Chair
715-235-9771, thomash@uwstout.edu*

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

By Will Stahl

The old gentleman paused before our local group table at the Earth Day event. For a few moments he studied the displayed literature.

"Sierra Club," he finally said. "You're the ones who want to keep everyone out of the woods."

No, we assured him, we encourage people to go into the woods. We run outings and trips to get people into the woods. After a moment he wandered off, shaking his head and muttering.

Only later did it occur to me that by "everyone" he may have meant loggers and ATV riders.

In this nation we are surrounded by people who do not share the values we Sierrans hold. The forest is to some merely, or mainly, a source of saleable raw materials or an obstacle course for thrill-riding on fast machines. We find it difficult to empathize with that mindset. Isn't it obvious that the natural world is a web of interwoven relationships of air, soil, water and living things, and we need to disturb it with some care when we must? Many don't see that at all and find our concerns ridiculous and oppressive.

Fortunately, we have in this country a body of law that supports conservation of the forest. It's not perfect, not even very good in some ways, but it forces the managers to at least listen to

public concerns and provides legal avenues to fight poor decisions. This isn't true everywhere.

On the evening of April 28, in Green Bay, I heard people who are fighting to save the forests of Southeast Asia against forces more powerful and unchecked than any in our land. Khoiral Anam and Rulita Wijayanindya represent Kahutindo, the forest workers union of Indonesia. They are fighting for a sustainable logging industry in their country, which would use managed forests to provide a continuing source of jobs for their workers while sparing old growth forests. These rich habitats are best known here for their megafauna - the tiger, orangutan, rhinoceros and elephant - but they also support thousands of other species.

Anne Kajir is a lawyer working in her native Papua New Guinea against the logging companies that are ravaging the island's forests. The mostly foreign-owned companies coerce indigenous people into selling the rights to log the forest that have sustained them for thousands of years. Winner of a 2006 Goldman Environmental Prize, Anne has been threatened, physically assaulted and robbed by logging company thugs. She's been arguing the same court case for four years, trying to force companies to at least have proper permits to begin logging. They operate with government collusion; if a law interferes with their business, the law is changed or simply not enforced. Yet she, a true

environmental hero, persists - coming all the way here under the auspices of the Sierra Club and the Blue-Green Alliance to tell her story.

Why here? The illegal logging in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and other places is not only destroying habitat and contributing to global warming, but its cheap products, particularly paper and pulp, are undercutting American companies and stealing the jobs of our workers. The people who run these logging companies are greedy and ruthless beyond anyone trying to get a piece of the Nicolet-Chequamegon. They destroy the forests, abuse the local people, exploit their workers and corrupt government officials in order to make their huge profits.

The Lacey Act, originally passed to prohibit the importation of endangered animals, has been expanded to cover illegal forest products. It's been underfunded and enforcement has been phased in over time, but the enforcement of the ban on illegally sourced paper and pulp products has been put off into the indefinite future. Senator Kohl sits on the committee in charge of funding this enforcement. You could give him a call and say you want full funding of the Lacey Act and enforcement expanded to include highly processed wood products such as pulp and paper. Some endangered species, some indigenous people and some Wisconsin paper workers would thank you. ☺

Will Stahl is Conservation Chair of the John Muir Chapter and a Fox Valley Group Delegate.

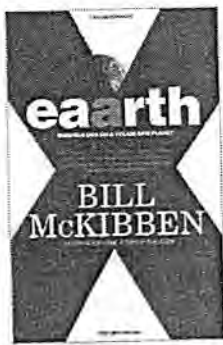
THE GREEN REVIEW

BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

By Amy Lou Jenkins

EAARTH: MAKING A LIFE ON A TOUGH NEW PLANET

by Bill McKibben, *Times Books*, 2010, 210 pages.



Twenty years ago, Bill McKibben declared in *The End of Nature*, that nature had been forever altered by human acts. He was right. He foretold of a dangerous tide of change that was likely to follow. Although his book was well-received, sold a lot of copies, and remains a popular environmental standard, McKibben admits: it did no good. fossil fuels burned; forests obliterated; oceans over fished; stuff manufactured to replace last year's model, CO2 levels rose, climate changed.

McKibben now tells us our old Earth has morphed. We have a new planet, a new version: eearth, formed within a "crescendo of cascading consequences." Over a billion people are hungry or at risk of hunger (more than 1 in 6). Massive swarms of jellyfish bloom in warmer acidic oceans devouring native species. Extensive blobs of *E. coli* filled mucus, up to two-hundred kilometers long, float on the warmed seas, aggregate on piles of garbage or open ocean, and suffocate sea life by clogging their gills. Droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, insect swarms, and pathogenic viruses and bacteria all on the increase. Species extinctions mount on daily basis. The diatribe of devastation is lengthy. However elegant his prose, this is uncomfortable to face, so many don't.

Climate change skeptics are unlikely to pick up this book. If you read his book—or even this review—you are under recruitment. We've changed our light bulbs, ridden our bikes, and limited our beef intake. We now need system changes, better thinking. The theme "bigger is not better" seems antithetical to capitalistic thought, but McKibben makes it seem plausible.

McKibben joins the voices calling for smarter high and low tech solutions and a laying down of our obsession with growth. Time to retool. Time for each community to find solutions best for their circumstances, while supported and integrated into the small and big governmental plans. McKibben calls us to re-imagine our life on this new eearth. He asks us to halt our vision of an ever-expanding economy, to support small farms, which as it turns out have higher yields and use less fossil fuel even before we take the food transport cost into effect, to retool our economies, to end our addiction to the fossil fuels that destroyed the Earth we knew, and to use the abundant renewable energy sources at hand.

Eaarth calls for a new vision. Citizen activists and voters must drive change, because mega corporations entangled in fossil fuel business will continue to use their dollars and power to obstruct the required retooling. Eaarth has given us factual ammunition, insight, and hope. Eaarth is a recruitment brochure. Find current action plans and get started at his site: www.350.org. McKibben has not just thrown his hands in the air, he's thrown them out to us. ☻

Our Green Review columnist Amy Lou Jenkins' debut book has been released with an impressive list of endorsements.



EVERY NATURAL FACT: FIVE SEASONS OF OPEN- AIR PARENTING

by Amy Lou Jenkins, *Holy Cow! Press*,
2010, 184 pages.

"Any reader drawn to the outdoors will cherish *Every Natural Fact* and its author's sensual intelligence potted in the fertile soil of a boundless curiosity for the

world. Amy Lou Jenkins is the Anna Quindlen of the north woods, the Rachel Carson of the good land of Wisconsin, bequeathing to her son and to all of us an indestructible sense of wonder." — Bob Shacochis, National Book Award-winning author of *Easy in The Islands* and *The Immaculate Invasion*

Braiding together history, memoir, gentle parenting guidance, and superb nature writing, Jenkins' prose illuminates the details of ordinary life."—Susan Cheever, author of *American Bloomsbury*

"If you combined the lyricism of Annie Dillard, the vision of Aldo Leopold, and the gentle but tough-minded optimism of Frank McCourt, you might come close to Amy Lou Jenkins, a writer who obliterates the distinction between regional writing and actual, honest-to-god writing. I, for one, would follow her anywhere."—Tom Bissell, author of *The Father of All Things*

"What makes this book such a marvel is the way the human and the non-human are kept in perfect balance: the psychological dance of a mother and son, with all its funny, touching, realistic two-steps, intersects with the desire to be opened up to the mystery and rapture of the natural sublime. It is a splendid fusion, as much about parenting and education and generation gaps as it is about patient observation of landscapes in flux. Jenkins' polished literary style makes it, sentence by sentence, a joy to read."—Phillip Lopate, author of *Waterfront*

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*, May 2010. Her Essay "Close to Home" appears in the April 2010 release *Wild with Child*.

WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES “SAGE ADVICE”

A Note on Wild Gathering:

Be sure to follow all state and federal laws. This native plant is not listed as threatened or endangered in Wisconsin, but is a threatened and protected plant in Michigan.

By LeslieJo Meyerhoff

Frequently, when I mention Sage people think of the garden Sage used in cooking which is a *Salvia*. The Sage of which I speak is an *Artemesia*, a plant family long associated with healing and named after the Goddess Artemis who is

the protector of women, children and animals. She is an Earth Goddess associated with wild animals, wild places, and the Moon. Other members of the family include Mugwort (*A. vulgare*), Wormwood (*A. absinthium*), Sweet Annie (*A. annua*), and Russian Tarragon (*A. dracunculus*). These and others of the family were used by Native Americans both internally and externally as medicines. There is record of their use medicinally in the Celtic cultures as well.

My introduction to the *Artemesias* came in the form of smudgesticks which are bundles of dried Sage traditionally used by Native Americans to purify an area of aberrant energy prior to ritual or ceremony. Most of those available commercially are made with *Artemesia tridentata* which grows west of the Dakotas. *Artemesia ludoviciana* is the Sage that grows in this area. It has a wider leaf than the needle like leaves of *A. tridentata* which grows in the drier habitat of the Great Plains. *A. ludoviciana* is a woodland plant found in disturbed areas with sandy soil from Michigan west to the Dakotas. It was used by the Ojibway who are native to the area around the Great Lakes up into Canada. It is a perennial with silvery foliage and a bushy habitat. It flowers in the fall which is the time to harvest.

I start my harvest in late September and can harvest until the snow falls. When harvesting, I use a pruning sheers to cut the stem, taking no more than two-thirds of any one plant and no more than one-third of any group of plants. Care is taken not to harm the mother plant. Due to the nature of the foliage it works better to dry the herbs before tying them. After they are dry, I strip the leaves from the stem. I then take a small handful of the leaves and form them into a loose clump by gently

squeezing them together in my hand. The plant has a fuzzy-felty nature so the leaves have a tendency to stay together. I then wrap the bundle with cotton thread. So now what...

Originally, smudgesticks were used before important rituals and ceremonies but there is not a right or wrong time to smudge. Many burn Sage in honor of the seasons, the Moon or when inhabiting a new space. Burning Sage can be a way to help decompress after a long day at work. Simply light the smudgestick, allow it to burn a bit, then smudge it out like a cigar in a fire proof container such as an ashtray or more traditionally a shell. As in Aromatherapy, when combined with deep breathing it can help you adjust your energy and let go of issues that may be troubling you. You can smudge another person by circling with the lit smudgestick so that the smoke surrounds the other person like a cocoon providing protection and purification. If you are having a gathering, passing a smudgestick around the circle while each focuses on their blessings can be a great unifying experience. It need not be dramatic.

In this time of high technology, artificial ingredients, and a general disconnect from nature, smudging can be a link to our natural rhythms and a way to honor the Earth and all she provides. Peace... 🌿



Sage (*A. ludoviciana*) hanging in bunches to dry.

LeslieJo started selling Sage in 1988 and smudgesticks in 1992. “Driving around looking for silvery green patches among the grasses and other foliage is a favorite fall activity. I burn Sage before I pick to give thanks and acknowledge that I am “taking” and will do so in a respectful way. I carry bags with me to pick-up garbage as I harvest. Coming back to my truck with my arms full of fresh Sage is a splendid olfactory experience. I pick about 1/3 of what I find trying to leave the area looking untouched since areas used for wildcrafting (the harvesting of wild herbs) in other parts of the country have suffered from over-harvesting. Burning Sage helped ease the tension when I quit cigarettes and has added an element of intention to many things in my life from gatherings to study.”

LeslieJo lives in Polk County, WI and also teaches classes in Identifying Edible Mushrooms.

SUMMER 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. To see the latest information, visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp>

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.



TUESDAY, JULY 6: SUMMER HIGHWAY CLEANUP

The Coulee Region Group's adopted highway is River Valley Drive in the La Crosse River marsh. The 2nd cleanup of the year will be Tuesday, July 6 at 6 p.m. Meet at the city water well building near the intersection of County Highway B and River Valley Drive on the north side of La Crosse. Wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Orange vests and garbage bags are provided. We'll work for about an hour. There's an optional stop at Rudy's Drive-in after the cleanup. For more information, contact Pat or Bobbie Wilson at 788-8831. [CR]

SATURDAY, JULY 17: PHOTOGRAPHY EXCURSION

Join us at Nugget Lake County Park in Pierce County (south of Spring Valley, off of County Hwy CC). We will explore using traditional film and digital cameras. Also, we'll have the opportunity to photograph Rock Elm Impact geological structures, and learn about the mysterious Rock Elm discontinuity. Hiking trails and canoe rental are available in the park. Meet at the park office parking lot at 10 AM. More info or to RSVP: Paul Ebel: 651 335-8759 or paulebel44@yahoo.com; Caryn Treiber: 715 632-2055 or ctreiber@discover-net.net [CV]

SATURDAY, JULY 17 AT 10:00 A.M - OUTING TO THE PROPOSED HACKMATAK NATIONAL WLDLIFE REFUGE

Meet in the parking lot of the Home Depot in Lake Geneva. Wear weather-appropriate clothing, hiking boots/shoes, bring sufficient water, sunscreen and the insect repellent of your choice. Learn more about HackMaTak at <http://www.hackmataknwr.org>. Contact L. D. Rockwell at ld.jarockwell@elknet.net for more information or to sign up. When: Saturday, July 17 at 10:00 a.m Where: The Home Depot 550 Edwards Boulevard Lake Geneva, WI 53147 [SE]

FRIDAY, JULY 23 EVENING TO SUNDAY, JULY 25: SYLVANIA WILDERNESS CANOE CAMP

Join Kasy for a Class I canoe camp weekend with portages in the Sylvania Wilderness (High Lake), Michigan UP. Travel back in time to a rare protected wilderness where eagles, loons, and bears (rarely) could be encountered. Beyond beginning skills will be used in canoe camping, cooking, and exploring. There will be time to fish, hike, swim - and enjoy a moon-lit paddle. \$25 covers 3 nights camping. Limit 6. For details, contact Kasy at 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com [4L]

JULY 31 TO AUGUST 1: CANOE THE BLACK RIVER

Life's a beach on this section of the Black River! We'll canoe camp on a sandbar in this beautiful quietwater section of the Black River on the northern border of La Crosse County. We'll paddle at a leisurely pace and stop at sites along the way like Lost Falls on Roaring Creek. Children are welcome on this family-oriented trip. For details, contact: Pat or Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, bwilson@centurytel.net [CR]

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 7 PM: ICE AGE TRAIL FULL MOON AUTUMN EQUINOX HIKE

Learn about the attributes of the driftless area and what makes it different from the glaciated areas of Wisconsin. You'll also learn about fall prairie flowers and habitat and learn about restoration efforts on the Table Bluff segment of the Ice Age Trail that was built in part with help from fellow Sierrans. Meet at 7 PM. From Madison, take Hwy 14 just west of Cross Plains to Cty KP. Turn north for ~ 2 miles to Table Bluff Rd. Turn left for ~ 1/3 mile and park in the area on the left. Wear good walking footwear, dress for conditions, and bring water and bug spray. For more information, contact Kathy Mulbrandon at kmulb@charter.net or 608-848-5076.[4L]

OUTING INFORMATION

Host group is indicated in brackets

[CV] Chippewa Valley Group	[GW] Great Waters Group
[CR] Coulee Region Group	[SEG] Southeast Gateway Group
[4L] Four Lakes Group	[SCVI] St. Croix Valley Interstate Group
[FV] Fox Valley Group	[JM] John Muir Chapter

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.

RIVER TOURING CALENDAR

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 WI. For more information, please visit our website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>



INSTRUCTION CLINICS

RTS members offer several instructional clinics for a nominal fee. These clinics are a great way to gain skills and confidence. As 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, so to avoid missing out, reserve your spot now by calling the clinic instructor and sending in your fee (non-refundable). Fees cover supplies and refreshments - all of the clinic teachers volunteer their time. The remaining funds are then donated by the River Touring Section to conservation and river protection groups.

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1: RIVER SAFETY & RESCUE

Class I-II; Car Camp. Fee: \$20/person, plus camping fees. Limited to 10 people. Through active, hands-on instruction, you will learn many river rescue techniques, including how to throw and receive a rope, swim a rapid, release pinned boats, and manage rescue scenarios. Note that swimming in the river and intense activity are part of this clinic. We will paddle the Red River on both days, continuing our rescue instruction and offering informal paddling instruction to those who are interested. To register or get more details, contact Judd Lefeber and Jen Kiecker at 608-412-1631 or jenkiecker@hotmail.com. DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 10.

PADDLING TRIPS

JULY 10 - 11: WOLF & RED RIVERS

Class II; Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills before they get rusty while paddling the Red River. For details, contact: Pat Wilson, 608-788-8831 pbwilson@centurytel.net.

July 17 - 18: Lower Wisconsin River

Class I; Canoe Camping (on sandbars). This two day, one night camping trip on a remote, peaceful section of the Wisconsin River features inviting sandbars, sandy beaches, towering bluffs, and rock outcroppings. We'll put in at Muscoda and take out at Woodman. We'll learn about the importance of these habitats. Contact Mark Sethne, 608-642-0080, sethne@uwplatt.edu, co-leader: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, cwisler@wi.rr.com.

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1: BLACK RIVER

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbar). Life's a beach on this section of the Black River! We'll canoe camp on a sandbar in this beautiful quietwater section of the river downstream from Black River Falls. Children are welcome on this family-oriented trip. Learn how to canoe camp with children. For details, contact: Pat and Bobbi Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.

AUGUST 7 - 8: CHIPPEWA RIVER

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbars). The Chippewa River features sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines, and a wild appearance. You can expect to see eagles, osprey and other wildlife while paddling on the stretch from Dunnville on the Red Cedar River to the Mississippi. We will cover 10 to 15 miles a day and paddle through both the Dunnville and Tiffany State Wildlife Areas. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. For details, contact Mark Sethne, 608-642-0080, sethne@uwplatt.edu. Co-leader: Carl Wisler at 262-542-9593, cwisler@wi.rr.com

AUGUST 14 - 15: QUIET RIVERS OF SOUTHERN/ CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Class I; Car Camp. Explore one or two quiet water rivers in southern or central Wisconsin. River choice will depend on water levels, possibilities include: Lower Wisconsin, Sugar, Mecan, Lemonweir, or Platte. Plan to pick up trash along the way and explore the varied geography in southern Wisconsin. For details, contact Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@charter.net

AUGUST 21 - 22: FLAMBEAU RIVER

Class II; Canoe Camping. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. For details, contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, daleink@jvl.net

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Each trip 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 and help you assess your abilities to participate. 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 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. 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 & REQUIREMENTS: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip 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 CA.

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.

INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER RATING DIFFICULTY

Your 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 capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require 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.

From the American Canoe Associate Web Site.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Visit wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rt/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

SEPTEMBER 18 - 19: WOLF RIVER (SECTION IV) PLUS SECOND RIVER

Class III+; Car Camp. Fall color and good whitewater. We'll canoe the Wolf and another river based on water levels. Learn about the challenges of autumn whitewater. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details, contact: Judd Lefeber, 608-412-1631, lefeberj@watertown.k12.wi.us. Co-leader: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

SEPTEMBER 25 - 26: WISCONSIN WHITEWATER (RIVERS TO BE DETERMINED)

Class II-III; Car Camp. Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Depending on water levels, paddlers' interest, and weather, we could paddle the Pike, Peshtigo, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com. Co-leader: Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 2 - 3: WHITE RIVER & NEENAH CREEK

Quietwater; Car Camp. This is another trip for those that like to paddle small rivers. Although there are no rapids, both of these central Wisconsin streams maintain a steady current and at times require precise maneuvering around tight bends. Come observe fall colors and migrating waterfowl. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 30 - 31: WOLF RIVER (SECTION II & III)

Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Let's leave the river looking good for winter by picking up trash as we go. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details, contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@iola.k12.wi.us
Saturday, January 8, 2011: River Touring Section Annual Meeting Summit Town Hall, outside of Oconomowoc at 11 am. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

2010 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Continued from Page 1

Will Fantle, cofounder of the Cornucopia Institute, will discuss how we can partner with local and organic farmers to make a difference on "How We Eat: Being an Environmental Steward for the Planet." Seeking economic justice for the family-scale farming community through research, advocacy and economic development, Cornucopia's goal is to empower farmers and partner with consumers to support ecologically produced local, organic and authentic food.

Taking advantage of a moonless October night, Lennie Lichter will provide several telescopes and his impressive knowledge of our night sky. You can learn some new constellations, tell the stars from the planets, and check out Jupiter's moons. Early October brings some of the best and brightest viewing of Jupiter in its entire 11.8-year orbit. Cross your fingers for a clear, crisp sky!

The Assembly will host Synister Dane & the Kickapoo Disco Cosmonuts as they play music "by farmers, for farmers and the folks who eat

the food they raise." They've been invited back to the Midwest Organic Farming Conference year after year - composing a new song each time. Poking fun at not-so-funny subjects such as genetically engineered organisms, their parodies include "Purple Hay" and "Everybody Must Get Cloned." Check out their music at <http://www.synisterdane.com>

Whether it's over a catered meal, sitting around a campfire, or during one of the sessions, there will be countless opportunities to learn from environmental activists and fellow Sierrans. We'll also provide an outlet for those outdoor enthusiasts, including an early morning bike ride, bird watching, evening campfires and a canoe trip down the Black River.

We hope to see you at the 2010 Autumn Assembly! ☺

For information visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>
Send questions to Maureen Kinney: maureen@johnsfaherty.com, (608) 784-9324

AUTUMN ASSEMBLY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Hope Lodge [HL], Stry Nature Center [SNC]

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

Early - late afternoon: Hike on your own at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and Perrot State Park. View bluffs, rivers & nature.

6:00pm - 10:00pm: Registration & check-in [HL]

6:00pm - 10:00pm: Snacks & conversation by the fireplace in [HL]

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

Babysitting available throughout the day on Saturday. Contact Sharon at: 906-362-1003. Reservations are required!

6:45am - 8:00am: Morning bird watching/hike with Pat & Bobbie Wilson [HL]

6:45am - 8:00am: Morning bike ride with Don McCrery (bring your bikes) [HL]

8:00am - 8:45am: BREAKFAST [HL]

8:00am - 9:00am: Registration continues

9:00am - 9:15am: Welcome & announcements, Marilyn Pedretti, Chair - Coulee Region

9:15am - 10:15am: Breakout Session I

(A) Pam Thiel, Project Leader with Fish & Wildlife & Wildlife Conservation Office: "Asian Carp & Their Potential Impacts" [HL]

(B) Nature walk & Found Object Art: Young and old are welcome to join us for a walk to look for

some of nature's treasures, and find crafty ways to display and preserve special finds. [SNC]

10:15am - 10:30am: BREAK

10:30am - 11:45am: Keynote Bruce Nilles, Deputy Director of Conservation for the National Sierra Club: "Building a Better Energy Future" [HL]

11:50am - 12:55pm: LUNCH [HL]

1:00pm - 2:00pm: Breakout Session II

(A) Gretchen Benjamin, Assistant Director, Upper Mississippi River Program The Nature Conservancy: "Mississippi River: Challenges of North America's Largest Watershed & What Needs to be Done" [HL]

(B) Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitat: Learn to make your yard a home to wildlife, create a bird house/feeder to take home. [SNC]

2:00pm - 2:15pm: BREAK

2:15pm - 3:15pm: Breakout Session III

(A) Craig Thompson, Regional Land Program Supervisor & Southern Wings Program, Wisconsin DNR: "Orioles & Ocelots: Wisconsin Costa Rica Connection" [HL]

(B) Will Fantle, Co-Founder of the Cornucopia Institute: "How We Eat: Being an Environmental Steward for the Planet" Bertha Lodge

(C) Live Animal Presentation: Join Suzanne Broten of the Coulee Wildlife Rehab Center and meet her real animal friends! [SNC]

3:15pm - 3:30pm: BREAK

3:30pm - 4:30pm: Afternoon keynote Alan Stankevitz: "Eco-Housebuilding Adventures" [HL]

4:30pm - 6:30pm: Social time: shop the silent auction, enjoy adult beverages. [HL]

6:30pm - 7:30pm: DINNER

7:15pm - 7:45pm: Chapter Awards Presentation

8:00pm - 9:30pm: Entertainment: Synister Dane & The Kickapoo Disco Cosmonuts [HL]

8:30pm: Close of the Silent Auction

8:00pm - 11:00pm: Campfire

9:30pm - 10:30pm: Explore the Night Sky, with Lennie Lichter, Minihaha Outdoor amphitheater

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

7:00am - 8:00am: Early morning walks (on your own) Coffee available. (Lodge/cabin clean-up)

8:00am - 8:45am: BREAKFAST

9:00am - 9:30am: Group updates

9:30am - 11:00am: Chapter & State issues: TBA [HL] (*Kids: Recycled Project Class [SNC]*)

11:00am - 11:10am: Wrap up & door prize

11:15am+: Meet at [HL] for canoe trip down the Black River (approx. 4 hour trip, quiet water - rental canoes will be available)

11:15am: Sack lunches

2010 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Additional Names (for name tags) _____

Address _____

Telephone (____) _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

REGISTRATION FEE:

- ____ # of adults & children 14+ (Before Sept. 24th) X \$20 = \$ _____
- ____ # of adults & children 14+ (After Sept. 24th) X \$25 = \$ _____
- ____ # of children (4 - 13 years old) X \$5 = \$ _____

REGISTRATION TOTAL = \$ _____

LODGING:

Tent sites: Showers available, bring your own towels

- ____ # tent site(s) for Friday, Oct. 8 X \$5 = \$ _____
- ____ # tent site(s) for Saturday, Oct. 9 X \$5 = \$ _____

Camp Lodge Buildings

Two buildings available, all open w/bunks, showers, electricity, sinks/mirrors, fireplace. Bring towels & bedding and/or sleeping bag. One building for family lodging and the other divided into female/male wings. Please circle your building preference.

- ____ # people for Friday, Oct. 8 (family/single) X \$15 = \$ _____
- ____ # people for Saturday, Oct. 9 (family/single) X \$15 = \$ _____

Lodging in Heated Cabins

Each cabin sleeps 10 w/bunks & electricity. Outdoor bathrooms & sink. Bring towels & twin sheets. Whole cabin rental is available for \$85 a night.

- ____ # people for Friday, Oct. 8 (family/single) X \$15 = \$ _____
- ____ # people for Saturday, Oct. 9 (family/single) X \$15 = \$ _____

LODGINGS TOTAL = \$ _____

Do you plan to canoe on Sunday afternoon? Yes / No

- ____ Will provide own canoe
- ____ Will require canoe rental (\$30 to be paid on Sunday)

MEALS:

Catered by the Blue Cup: All meals include coffee, tea and assorted drinks. Snacks for registered guests: fresh cookies, fruit, coffee, tea, hot cocoa.

- Saturday Breakfast: Egg bake, egg omelets, croissants, fruit bowl
- ____ # Adults Regular / ____ # Adults Vegetarian X \$5.50 = \$ _____
 - ____ # Child Regular / ____ # Child Vegetarian X \$3.50 = \$ _____

- Saturday Lunch: Assorted wraps, kettle chips, potato salad, drinks
- ____ # Adults Regular / ____ # Adults Vegetarian X \$8.00 = \$ _____
 - ____ # Child Regular / ____ # Child Vegetarian X \$6.00 = \$ _____

- Saturday Dinner: Lemon Chicken Piccata with Homemade sauce (meat or eggplant), portabella & mozzarella stacked/grilled, pasta, salad, rolls
- ____ # Adults Regular / ____ # Adults Vegetarian X \$12.00 = \$ _____
 - ____ # Child Regular / ____ # Child Vegetarian X \$9.00 = \$ _____

- Sunday Breakfast: Assorted muffins, bagels, pound cakes, whole fruit
- ____ # Adults Regular / ____ # Adults Vegetarian X \$4.50 = \$ _____
 - ____ # Child Regular / ____ # Child Vegetarian X \$3.00 = \$ _____

- Sunday Sack Lunch: Mini yeast roll sandwiches, chips, whole fruit, cookie
- ____ # Regular / ____ # Vegetarian X \$6.50 = \$ _____

MEAL TOTAL = \$ _____

Please add up your registration, lodging, and meal totals:

GRAND TOTAL (ENCLOSED) = \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
Coulee Region Group Sierra Club

Mail this form and payment to:
Danny Foote, W14233 Bear Creek Road, Blair, WI 54616

Refunds issued if request received by 9/24/10

Join us for the John Muir Chapter's

2010 Autumn Assembly

October 8-10 @ Camp Ehawee, north of La Crosse | Early-bird registration ends September 24, 2010!

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2010 EXCOM MEETINGS

- August 3 Conference Call
September 18 Executive Committee Meeting
10am at the First Congregational Church, Baraboo

2010 EVENTS

- September 14 Primary Election
October 8-10 Autumn Assembly
Camp Ehawee, La Crosse
See page 1 for details



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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR JOHN MUIR CHAPTER GROUPS

- Chippewa Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/>
Coulee Region <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/>
Four Lakes <http://www.4lakes.org>
Fox Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>
Great Waters <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/>
SE Gateway <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>
St. Croix Valley Interstate
<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix/>

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 to find out how.
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