

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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



## JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY A YEAR OF ACTIVISM AND OUTINGS

# 50 THINGS YOU CAN DO!

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, we've come up with 50 Things You Can Do!, a list of actions you can take to help the Sierra Club and the environment. This year, we invite you to do at least five things on our list, from helping out the club to making simple lifestyle changes.

### PRIORITY ISSUES

- 1 | Lead the charge to reduce oil consumption by reducing demand (through mass transit and bicycling) and fighting irresponsible oil drilling, such as offshore drilling and tar sands oil, with the Beyond Oil subcommittee. One of the Sierra Club-John Muir chapter's priority issue committees.
- 2 | Become a member of the Sierra Club-John Muir chapter's Beyond Coal to Clean Energy (BCCE) subcommittee and promote reduced

energy consumption and encourage the transition to renewable energy. Members work to promote the Focus on Energy program and the development of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.

- 3 | Join the political team to help evaluate and endorse candidates at the state level according to their stances on environmental issues.

### OUTINGS

- 4 | Share your spirit of adventure and love of nature's wonders with new friends by paddling, portaging and camping in the pristine wilderness of Ontario Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. The John Muir chapter offers you the opportunity for a Quetico canoe trip with experienced guides for a fraction of an outfitter's price.

- 5 | Enjoy the outdoors with others at a local outing hosted by one of our seven Sierra Club Groups. These groups are located around the state so you can find outings, members and supporters near you.

- 6 | Improve your paddling skills by signing up for one of the River Touring Section's canoe or kayak clinics for quiet-water, moving-water or whitewater instruction. Look for details in this issue of the Muir View or on the chapter website.

- 7 | Take a canoe outing with the River Touring Section. You have many trips to chose from - there about 45

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## WISCONSIN CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN DC CLIMATE RALLY

*By Dick Smith, Sierra Club Member*

I have to pinch myself when I think about what just happened at the Keystone XL pipeline rally in Washington DC in February.

But for me the story actually starts in September 2011, when eight of us from Madison and eight more from Milwaukee joined up to protest the Keystone XL pipeline. We met at President Obama's Milwaukee campaign headquarters to deliver a letter

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# FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair  
John Muir Chapter

## “ONE CLUB” A CORAL REEF?

### From the individual member to organizations within an organization

The Sierra Club has a unique structure, which can seem like a strength and a challenge. One way to think of the club is like a coral reef, in which many individual parts form a cohesive structure. Like a reef, Sierra Club is composed of individual members. These members come together to form groups, chapters, subcommittees and committees. In turn, these parts work together to create a cohesive nation-wide club. The unique structure of the Sierra Club enables the club to organize at the local, grassroots, level with a degree of autonomy. At the same time, the organization as a whole still presents a formidable presence at the state and national level.

The Sierra Club empowers individual members to be activists, outdoor enthusiasts and educators. The Outings program leads many

of us to special places that we treasure and value. For some members, these Outings can even lead to friendships and lifelong partnerships! As activists, we have access to amazing resources like Clubhouse, the Sierra Club’s toolbox for members.

In my 40+ years of environmental activism, I have never experienced another organization like the Sierra Club that provides such easy access to comprehensive and valuable training materials and information. From fundraising to press releases, the Sierra Club has resources for all kinds of events. The breadth and depth of the Sierra Club provides members with the opportunity to learn from experts, and if members choose to get involved, they have a chance to gain frontline experience with environmental activism.

Chapters and groups of the Sierra Club form in areas ripe for conservation work. Structurally, these branches, like the John Muir Chapter, our seven Groups, Inner City Outings and the River Touring Section, operate like independent organizations. They elect their own leaders and encourage grassroots activism from the members to achieve conservation goals and to deliver outdoor experiences to both members and the general public. A few examples of local, Wisconsin, activism and outings include:

- Creating a Wild and Scenic River, like the St. Croix River
- Supporting the creation of proactive energy programs like Focus on Energy (a

statewide resource on energy efficiency and renewable energy)

- Leading amateur and experienced paddlers to explore the Black River
- Establishing the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, created in November 2012
- Engaging amateur naturalists in an effort to tag monarch butterflies and sample water quality on a local stream

Chapters and groups provide the Sierra Club with the ability to cater to local interests. With this local and state-based leadership, we can address local issues, support local environmental champions that run for office, and explore local environments.

Behind the scenes, however, we are still one club. The actions and positions taken by Wisconsin Sierra Club members are consistent with those of the chapter and the national organization. In addition, the national club supports local chapters with funding and insurance coverage (which enables the chapter, groups and River Touring Section to offer Outings), and it provides the process and structure that enables us to endorse environmental candidates from the town and city level to the state and national level. Amazingly, all of this happens with minimal staff and lots of volunteers.

As you can imagine, combining many parts to make a whole can be complicated, and in this way, the club resembles the complex

## 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.

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and fragile structure of a coral colony. In order for the organization to run smoothly, we need to make sure we avoid irreconcilable positions on issues, and we must make sure we are properly documenting financial reports and liability coverage. Anyone who has volunteered for the position of treasurer (Thank you to all who have served!), at the group or chapter level, has quickly been immersed in the realities of being one club.

Although local chapters and groups accomplish so much and make a huge difference in their communities, it is still advantageous to be part of a national group. When the Sierra Club, as whole, takes a position, it is more powerful than if we represent ourselves as individuals. Each individual chapter and group resembles an individual coral in a reef because each is unique and functional, but when these individual corals come together to form a reef, it really makes a statement! Similarly, when like-minded individuals come together to reach a common goal, that is powerful. As a national organization, the Sierra Club is able to field members and conservation advocates across legislative district lines, or even across the country, to push for solutions in areas like clean energy and efficiency.

In addition, being part of a national organization allows us to pass along information concerning the best legislative strategies from all over the country. Also, we can alert each other about ill-conceived, or damaging, proposals like those put forth by the ALEC (American League Exchange Council), and attempt to help each other fight dangerous legislation.

Here are just a few proposed policies that can be attributed to ALEC\*:

- Forbidding local governments from limiting pesticide use
- Prohibiting local efforts to oppose genetically modified (GMO) crops
- Opposing local, state, and federal waste reduction and mandated recycling laws, including regulations on packaging (such as Styrofoam restrictions), in favor of a "voluntary" approach to waste reduction
- Eliminating land use and zoning regulations designed to guide new development, replacing them with private negotiations.
- Privatizing public water and sewer systems and prohibiting local governments

from requiring that contractors meet labor and wage standards

\* For more information and details, visit: <http://alecexposed.org/>

It is very exciting that the John Muir Chapter, on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, can call on Michael Brune, Executive Director of the National Sierra Club, to come and celebrate with us. Michael brings not only the national stature to the event but also the megaphone. When combating the most dangerous and critical issue of the day, climate change, we will need the support of leaders at the individual, national and international level. What better group to stand up and lead on this issue than the Sierra Club? We can make a difference at every level because we are One Club from the National down to the individual member.

To read the "one club" policy or find out more about the Sierra Club and all its resources, visit [www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org](http://www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org) ☞

## **In honor and memory of these founders of the John Muir Chapter:**

**Arthur Norman "Norm" & Catherine O'Neill  
Reuben "Slim" & Helen Roethle  
Julius "Doc" & Pat Werner  
Richard "Dick" & Mabel Low  
Joe & Bernice Mills  
Frank Griffith  
Joe Bradley  
Rich Gordon**

## **and these leaders in the early days of the Chapter:**

**Phil and Jean Wiperman  
Dick Swenson  
Robert Smith  
Bill & Ann Schultheis  
Bill & Kathy Geitner  
Margaret "Gretchen" Seikel  
Harold and Joan Sipperly  
Bill Beverley**

*They inspired and guided me and many others by their dedication, generosity, and exuberant joy in working together to protect special lands and waters in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.*

*-Gary Werner*

# 50 THINGS YOU CAN DO

Continued from Page 1

scheduled in and around Wisconsin for quiet-water and whitewater rivers. These trips start in late March and run through October and are guided by volunteer leaders. Look for the complete trip list on the web site, and in the spring issue of the Muir View.

**8** Become an Outings leader! There are plenty of hikes, bikes, paddles and other types of Outings to have in the beautiful Wisconsin environment, so pick your favorite place and let others know. For more information, contact the Chapter Outings Chair, Eric Uram at [eric.urang@headwater.us](mailto:eric.urang@headwater.us).

**9** Help connect children with nature by volunteering for groups like Inner City Outings. [www.madisonico.org/](http://www.madisonico.org/)

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

**10** Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs to save on lighting.

**11** Use a programmable thermostat that is set to 68 degrees or lower when home and 60 degrees when not home to reduce heating and cooling energy usage.

**12** Get an energy audit to see how you can save energy in your home. Contact Focus on Energy (<http://www.focusonenergy.com/contact-us.aspx>) to find a professional near you to perform the audit.

**13** Seal up leaks and improve your home's insulation with Focus on Energy's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program.

**14** Install solar, wind or geothermal systems on your property to use renewable energy power.

**15** Participate in your utility's load management or green power pricing program.

**16** Replace old appliances, especially refrigerators and clothes washers, with ENERGY STAR models. Get your old refrigerator recycled responsibly with Focus on Energy.

**17** Many of our electronics and appliances continue to draw power when plugged in although not in active use (lights, displays etc.) This continuous power draw is called vampire power. By using a power strip, you can easily turn these items off with a simple flip of the switch.

## WATER

**18** Become a Water Sentinel. The water sentinel team protects clean water by helping to pass legislation, fight concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), monitor water quality and protect the Great Lakes.

**19** Organize a shoreline cleanup at your local lake to enjoy a clean beach and water with your local Sierra Club Group, friends and neighbors.

**20** Use the water from your rain barrel on your gutters to water your lawn and garden.

**21** Install a low-flow or dual-flush toilet and showerhead, and take shorter showers to reduce water use and energy needed to heat water.

**22** Don't rake leaves or chemicals into storm drains.

## OUR SPECIAL PLACES

**23** Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in your lake by washing your boat between visiting lakes and throwing unused bait in the garbage instead of the lake.

**24** Landscape with native plants that attract birds & butterflies for natural pollination.

**25** Pull garlic mustard in spring to prevent this invasive species from shading out native plants.

**26** Don't move firewood between sites because it can introduce invasive insects.

**27** Participate in the National Audubon Society's Christmas bird count.

## MEMBERSHIP

**28** Join the Sierra Club or renew your membership. An active membership is required to receive timely information on endorsements, legislative action alerts or to qualify as a leader or committee member.

**29** Give a gift membership to someone you know. Maybe it's a young activist or your neighbor or your canoe partner. You can give a gift membership at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/join.asp>

## CONSERVATION ACTIVISTS

**30** Sign up for our e-news to stay informed about current environmental issues and upcoming statewide events. Visit the website to subscribe <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/newsletter.asp>

**31** Talk to your local, state, and federal elected representatives about environmental issues by writing a letter or email or by scheduling a meeting with your Legislator.

**32** Attend a public hearing on your county's budget or a proposed development.

**33** Write a letter to the editor on your top environmental issue.

## ACTIVE DEMOCRACY

**34** Look for the Club's endorsements of environmentally friendly candidates.

**35** Vote in the Sierra Club National Board election, which is held in spring and is for members only. The Sierra Club is an active democracy and has a member elected Board. This past year, the Club elected Wisconsin's Spencer Black to the National Board!

**36** Vote in the fall to elect members to the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of both at-large and Group delegates. This is your opportunity to select the leadership you envision for the chapter.

**37** Run for elected office or assist candidates who protect our environment and economy.

## GET CONNECTED

**38** Like the Wisconsin Sierra Club and your local group on Facebook to get updates, stay in touch with members and supporters on issues and find outings and events.

**39** Visit the chapter website and check in on 2013 50th anniversary events, outings and the latest action alerts! [wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org)

## LIFESTYLE

**40** Support family farmers and buy local, organic food at farmers markets. Use

resources like Dane Buy Local to find out where to shop.

- 41 Recycle cans, paper, glass, plastic, and electronics responsibly and buy recycled paper and metal products.
- 42 Carry a reusable water bottle and thermos with you everywhere you go to reduce use of disposable cups.
- 43 Compost food and yard waste and then use it for fertilizer later.
- 44 Avoid using toxic cleaning products, synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- 45 Teach students about Earth Day, John Muir, Gaylord Nelson, and Aldo Leopold to help educate them on the environment.
- 46 Choose mass transit, walking or biking over driving whenever possible. When you need to drive, choose an electric car, hybrid or community car.

## FUNDRAISING/DONORS

- 47 Donate to the Jonathan Ela Activist Fund. The fund supports our state level conservation lobbying, member to member elections work and our efforts to recruit the next generation of Sierra Club activists. The fund was created in 2012 at the behest of Trish Stocking and Jonathan Ela. Jonathan and Trish understood the importance of the chapter's work but also the importance of having the resources to make things happen. We are extremely grateful for their foresight. Jonathan, a conservation icon, passed away in 2012 but his legacy continues. Support the John Muir Chapter's legislative work on environmental issues by making a \$50 donation to the Jonathan Ela Activist Fund. Visit the fund's web page at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/Ela.asp> to donate.
- 48 Attend the John Muir Chapter's 50th anniversary, a chapter-wide celebration held in Madison on April 20, 2013. This is the

perfect opportunity to celebrate the chapter, John Muir and the environment since it will be one day before John Muir's Birthday and two days before Earth Day. Proceeds support the chapter's work in Wisconsin. Purchase tickets online or by calling (608)256-0565.

- 49 Support the chapter's political work to save our state from harmful policies and laws by making a \$50, \$100 or \$150 to the WI Sierra Club Education Fund.
- 50 Donate through your workplace giving campaign or ask your employer to start a workplace campaign. The John Muir Chapter is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.

For more information on how to get involved visit [www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org) or call the chapter office at (608)256-0565. ☞

## FROM FOX VALLEY TO THE MOUNTAINS WI CLUB MEMBERS TO LEAD NATIONAL OUTINGS IN CA

by Emily Jones, Muir View Editor

Outings are a cornerstone of the Sierra Club, giving members and non-members alike a chance to explore the wild places the club exists to cherish and protect. Sierra Club outings are offered locally in Wisconsin, across the U.S. and even internationally. If you're looking for an out-of-state adventure this summer, two Wisconsin club members will be leading the way for two trips in California.

Bill Baurecht and his wife, Helen Bannen-Baurecht, are active in the Fox Valley group but have extensive experience in Outings across the west. This summer they'll lead trips in Marin County, California and Tahoe National Forest. These trips are open to John Muir Chapter members and others who want to explore California's history and natural beauty.

The first trip, in Marin County, California, will incorporate both exploration and service. Just north of San Francisco, Marin County is home to a varied landscape of dairy farms, hiking trails, a 2500-foot mountain, diverse wildlife and a history-rich island

with spectacular panoramic views. The itinerary touches on many aspects of this varied landscape, alternating days of recreation with days of conservation service projects. For recreation, the group will visit two California state parks and enjoy activities like hiking on local trails, swimming in the ocean and visiting a lighthouse. Two days of the trip will focus on conservation service work to help protect and maintain these special places. The work projects will take place in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which is home to rich biodiversity. This trip will run from July 28 to August 3 and will be headquartered at the California Alpine Club Lodge in Mill Valley, California.

The second trip will explore the Tahoe National Forest in the Sierra Range in northern California. During the days, participants will hike through the scenic and historic High Sierras and swim in mountain lakes. In the Tahoe-Donner Basin, the group will learn about the Donner Pass area and its influence on the West. They'll also take a motor launch tour along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. In the evenings, the group will relax at the lodge or enjoy two cultural outings – a starlit Shakespeare play by the shores of the lake and a

dinner in Tahoe City. This trip will run from August 11 to August 17 and will be headquartered at the Clair Tappaan Lodge, Sierra Club's flagship lodge in the Sierra Nevadas.

For more information about these and other trips, visit the national Sierra Club website at [www.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings). You can find individual trips by looking up their reference numbers:

- Family Service and Fun Exploring Marin County, California is trip # 13220A
- Mountain Medley, Tahoe National Forest, is trip # 13244A

Meanwhile, if these trips won't be possible for you, you can always try out something closer to home. The John Muir Chapter and local Sierra Club groups put on many Outings during the year that you're welcome to join. Visit the Outings page of the chapter website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp> for information about upcoming local Outings. Whether in California or in your own county, there are plenty of opportunities to explore with Sierra Club. ☞

# TRANSIT A CRITICAL PIECE TO A THRIVING ECONOMY

by Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

Individually, driving to work or the grocery store doesn't seem like it makes much of an environmental impact. However our collective dependence on oil is a major source of pollution and environmental problems. As oil resources are depleted, the industry is going to extremes to find new sources by drilling deeper and further offshore and in vulnerable natural areas and refuges. They're also turning to carbon intensive processes like the refining of tar sands. All of these methods pose environmental threats. On February 17, 50,000 protesters gathered at the United States Capitol to take a stand against a dangerous threat to our climate, the Keystone XL Pipeline, which would transport petroleum-containing tar sands from Canada to refineries throughout the U.S. to the Gulf Coast.

Aside from the dangers associated with the extraction of oil, the shipment of oil has also created a new set of tragedies. Pipeline disasters are memorable, like the million gallon toxic tar sands spill in Michigan's Kalamazoo River in 2010. This spill caused 36 miles of the river to be closed. Last year, Wisconsin saw its own leak in an Enbridge Pipeline in Grand Marsh (Adams County) that, according to the Wisconsin State Journal, spilled an estimated 50,000 gallons of oil and contaminated 17,000 tons of soil. In addition, although it got a lot less attention, a week earlier, there was a gasoline spill in the town of Jackson in Washington County. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, approximately 55,000 gallons of gasoline leaked from a pipeline in the area and caused a drinking water advisory for those using private wells in the area.

Finally, as we drive our cars, toxic pollutants are emitted. Although the amount of pollution emitted depends on the fuel efficiency of the vehicle, pollutants are still being emitted each time we get behind the wheel. The transportation sector is the second biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution in Wisconsin after our coal-dominated power plants. In addition, transportation emissions are growing

at a more rapid pace than any other sector of greenhouse gas pollutants in the state. Aside from carbon dioxide, cars release harmful air pollution that is linked to asthma and other health conditions.

One major solution to these problems is to reduce the amount of driving we do, or even eliminate personal driving entirely. This is one of the most effective, personal choices we can make to reduce our carbon footprint. This can be done by bicycling or walking on short trips or taking public transit while running errands or for your daily commute to work.



Those who use transit can attest to the benefits. Although it may seem inconvenient at first, after taking the bus for a while, it can become more convenient than driving. Transit riders can eat, text, read and work without worrying about driving or being distracted. Some buses, and many trains, even have wireless internet access now! While on the bus, there is no need to be concerned about buying gas, finding and paying for parking, or expensive car repairs. It also saves money—according to transportation consulting firm ICF International, households that use public transportation save over \$6,000 a year. Most importantly, transit is much safer. The National Safety Council estimates that taking a bus is 170 times safer than automobile travel and similar trips result in 200,000 fewer deaths, injuries, and accidents when public transit is used.

For those who do not personally use transit, having public transportation can still provide benefits for the community as a whole. With fewer cars on the road, transit means fewer traffic jams, less wear and tear on our roads, less construction and less demand for parking.

Wisconsin has a lot of room for growth when it comes to access to public transportation. As it stands right now, many residents don't have access to public transportation. However, Wisconsin's transit system still provides statewide benefits. First, public transportation could boost our economy by creating jobs and connecting workers to their jobs. According to the American Public Transportation Association, every \$1 billion invested in public transit supports and creates 36,000 jobs. An analysis by the University of Milwaukee found that since 2001, cutting transportation options has been responsible for the loss of 40,000 jobs in Wisconsin, and more than 13,000 jobs are expected to have been lost in 2012 due to further cuts.

Despite having room to improve, Wisconsin is choosing clean transportation more frequently. A recent Wisconsin Transportation Policy and Finance Commission report, *Keep Wisconsin Moving*, showed Wisconsinites are driving 8.4% less compared to reports in 2007. People are choosing options like biking, walking and taking public transportation, and these alternatives to driving have the potential to reduce our state budget costs. In order to encourage citizens to stay and build in our cities, we need to ensure that our transportation system includes options for those who cannot, or choose not, to drive.

Transportation options also expand commuting options. According to Rick Bliss, the managing partner for Godfrey and Khan, almost 12% of their employees count on the bus to get to work every day. And a recent Public Interest Research Group study found that young professionals are choosing to live in cities with public transit options.

According to a Wisconsin Department of Transportation study, every \$1 spend on public transit provides a \$3.44 economic return

to the state, and a 2.5% increase in transit funding would yield \$3.61 for every \$1 invested because it enables access to retail, healthcare, and other businesses, allowing them to grow and expand. Governor Walker's 2013 Transit Week Proclamation explains, "Public transportation provides access to job opportunities for millions of Americans as well as a transportation option to get to work, get to school, visit friends, or go to the doctor's office."

Governor Walker's proposed budget recommends removing transit from the transportation fund and putting it into the general fund, putting transportation projects in greater competition with other projects. It also provides hundreds of millions of dollars for unnecessary highway projects, while not providing funds for the restoration of transit cut last budget. It also calls for severe cuts to

bicycling aid. This is the second budget that emphasizes highway construction instead of local road maintenance and alternative forms of transportation. For example, Wausau now has a double-decker highway interchange that mirrors the Zoo Interchange located in the heavily populated downtown Milwaukee area. However, Weston, a small city just outside of Wausau, needed to have a referendum during last year's election to provide proper funding for the demands of an increasingly popular, and necessary, bus service.

The Keep Wisconsin Moving report showed shifting demographics will result in senior citizens making up 27% of our population in 17 Wisconsin counties by 2025. We need increased transit funding, not increased highway spending, in order to ensure these aging citizens can live in their homes while still being able to get to doctor's appointments,

grocery shopping and other destinations even if they no longer feel comfortable driving themselves.

Governor Walker's recommendation completely ignores the benefits of transit and the fact that public transportation is a critical part of a 21st century transportation system and a growing need. Putting transit into the general fund is nonsensical because it forces transit to compete with education and other local aid. Someone who takes public transit is choosing to take the bus instead of driving their car—taking transit competes with driving, not public education, and should be funded accordingly. The budget will pass soon, and Sierra Club is working hard to ensure that changes are made to keep transit in the transportation fund. ☞

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# NEW SUBCOMMITTEES TACKLE BIG ISSUES

by Carol Johnson and Erik Pettersen, subcommittee members

In response to the unprecedented environmental attacks of the last legislative session, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter is ramping up efforts to combat big polluters. New volunteer led, grassroots committees have been activated to move Wisconsin beyond fossil fuels. Both the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy and the Beyond Oil committees will work to strengthen the existing Beyond Coal and Beyond Oil campaigns.

## **BEYOND COAL TO CLEAN ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE**

As a Sierra Club member, you already know that coal is still the main source of fuel for generating electricity in Wisconsin and is a major contributor to climate change. You also know that each one of us can make a difference. By coming together to address this important issue, we will make a difference.

On February 9th and 10th, a dedicated group of Sierra Club volunteers gathered in Madison to kick off the Beyond Coal to Clean Energy (BCCE) subcommittee. Shahla Werner, Elizabeth Ward and Jim Steffens helped the group hone in on priorities and strategies. The BCCE

committee will initially focus on two major initiatives in 2013. First they aim to build grassroots support and to network with businesses to help promote legislation that would encourage, finance, and site a pilot wind project in Lake Michigan. The second goal is to educate media, elected officials and the public on the importance of clean energy in the hopes of getting "Clean Energy Choice" legislation passed.

The statewide committee includes Erv Schroeder (Oshkosh), Carol Johnson (Deer Park), Don Ferber (Madison), Michael Burns (Madison), Therese Freiberg (Milwaukee), Jayne Rulseh (Two Rivers), Lisa Slawter Volkening (Madison) and Andrew Knutson (Madison). We have a lot of work to do if we are going to achieve our goals of moving beyond coal and implementing clean energy solutions, and welcome your participation if you want to help steer Wisconsin in a different direction.

## **BEYOND OIL SUBCOMMITTEE**

While the BCCE committee is working to gain support for the passage of legislation to reduce carbon emissions from coal, another Sierra Club subcommittee, The Beyond Oil committee, is also combating carbon emissions, but on the transportation front.

The Beyond Oil Committee kicked-off on Saturday, February 9th with a meeting to discuss goals and activities for 2013. The committee created a vision: allow for local control of transportation funding in order to create a transportation system that provides accessible, sustainable public transportation options for the community. At the kick-off, it was decided that this committee will focus on ensuring that state transit continues to receive funding from the transportation budget. They will also work to re-establish Regional Transit Authorities around the state in order to expand transit options across Wisconsin. Finally, the "Beyond Oil" committee will support the proper implementation of the National Transportation Bill, known as MAP-21.

Founding committee members, Hans Noeldner (Oregon), Erik Pettersen (Madison), Bill Sell (Milwaukee) and Jim Daubert (Waunakee) are actively recruiting more volunteers to be a part of the team. With your help, they hope to expand the committee to include more statewide representation. The Beyond Oil committee aims to help create a future where petroleum no longer powers our transportation sector. In the meantime, we can work to drastically diminish fossil fuel emissions, thus reducing our carbon footprint in the environment.

Contact Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator at (608)-256-0565 or at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) if you are interested in joining either of these new committees. ☞

# OFFSHORE WIND WISCONSIN PROMOTES CLEAN GREAT LAKES ENERGY

Greenhouse gas-spewing coal-fired power plants pose one of the greatest threats to the Great Lakes. Increased evaporation caused by climate change could lead to lake levels dropping 1.5 to 8 feet. These lake level changes could devastate Wisconsin's aquatic habitats and our shipping industry. Other potential impacts of climate change on the Great Lakes include dead zones, algal blooms, the spread of invasive species and the loss of rare species. Climate change is an urgent problem that threatens to reverse all the other work we have done to repair and improve the health of our Lakes. It is imperative to address it now and begin investing in solutions, including power generation with offshore wind.

Burning coal threatens the Great Lakes in other ways too. On the shores of Lake Michigan, soot and smog from coal plants contributes to health advisories. In this area, the smog's yellow haze often taints the view. In addition, coal plants are the largest source of mercury pollution, a nerve toxin that contaminates the fish that we eat. Coal ash, the toxic residue left over after burning coal, is full of heavy metals that do not break down and can build up in our environment. From the coal ash bluff collapse in southeastern Wisconsin last October, to the 3.8 tons per day that are intentionally dumped into the lake by the S.S. Badger car ferry, to the coal ash impoundments on the shores of Lake Michigan, coal ash poses a very real threat to Lake Michigan.

Nuclear power also poses grave risks to the Great Lakes. Wisconsin's three reactors at Kewaunee and Point Beach have generated over 1,345 metric tons of highly radioactive waste, which currently sits in "temporary" storage along the shore of Lake Michigan. Not only do these nuclear reactors produce dangerous waste products, but also, the normal operations of nuclear plants also jeopardize aquatic life because of the release of thermal pollution.

The concerns associated with offshore wind in the Great Lakes are not nearly as devastating as the greenhouse gas pollution and toxic waste generated by our traditional sources of power. Sierra Club is helping support a study measuring the wind resource and potential environmental impacts of offshore wind development in Lake Michigan. The results will help inform siting decisions, and they will also help to en-

sure that a proposed project is both environmentally sustainable and economically viable. The results will be out this year. Sierra Club is also looking forward to working with developers to find solutions to bird and bat migrations, fish well-being, and other ecological concerns.

While minimizing air and water pollution, offshore wind also offers vast economic benefits for Wisconsin. Unlike most states in the country, Wisconsin has the ability to manufacture entire turbines, from bolts to blades. Wisconsin already has companies that currently build, or could be retooled to build, wind turbine towers, blades, concrete, generators, and all the other components of the turbine. Wisconsin manufactures the cranes and giant ships that could be made to install the turbines and we have construction companies that know how to do it. Finally, we have boat companies that can build the boats needed for operating and maintaining the turbines, and we also have schools that train the workers who engineer, operate, and maintain them. New North indicates that 300 businesses in Wisconsin already play a role in land-based wind development. Add in the maritime industries that would play a role in offshore wind development, and Wisconsin is poised to reap lots of jobs and profits.

With all of these benefits and more, the Sierra Club has joined a coalition consisting of business, health, faith, and labor allies, known as "Offshore Wind Wisconsin." Offshore Wind Wisconsin is formed around the following principles for offshore wind development:

- Development of Wisconsin's offshore wind resource is a way to boost our economy, create twenty-first century jobs, and build Wisconsin's clean energy future
- Renewable energy from offshore wind must be developed in an environmentally responsible manner
- Planning for offshore wind will include research into the wildlife habitats of the lake and migration patterns so that offshore wind parks will only be located, designed and monitored in a way that safeguards the lake ecosystem
- Deployment of offshore wind technology must involve an extensive community engagement process

- In order to successfully promote responsible offshore wind deployment, environmental, political, faith, labor, educational, and business organizations must work together

Offshore Wind Wisconsin will work to educate and organize communities across Wisconsin about the benefits and possibilities of offshore wind in Lake Michigan through community forums, media campaigns and a petition drive. You can learn more at [www.offshorewind-wisconsin.org](http://www.offshorewind-wisconsin.org). If you'd like to get involved in Offshore Wind Wisconsin, contact Elizabeth Ward at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565. ☐

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# CONSERVATION CONGRESS

## ATTEND YOUR SPRING HEARING: HUNTING IN STATE PARKS AND MORE ON BALLOT

by Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary,  
Madison Audubon Society

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress, an elected advisory group that represents citizens' views on natural resources, will be holding its Spring Hearings in every county of the state on Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m.

While the combined Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)/Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings are attended primarily by hunters – and less than 1% of them attend – it's important that you attend and weigh in on several of the questions because the Congress is the only organization in the state that's legally-sanctioned to advise the Natural Resources Board, which sets statewide natural resource policy.

Attending the Spring Hearings requires only a small time commitment, as you can fill out the ballot and leave if you wish. All citizens can attend and voice their opinions on each wildlife and environmental issue question. The first half of the evening will be fish and wildlife questions proposed by WDNR. The second portion consists of Wisconsin Conservation Congress questions, many of which are forwarded to WDNR for rule consideration.

### HUNTING IN STATE PARKS

Here's your chance to weigh in – once again – on whether or not there should be more hunting opportunities in our state parks. Most citizens didn't find out there would be hunting and trapping in the majority of our state parks starting January 1, 2013 until months after the Sporting Heritage Act was passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor. That's because the hunting provision was slipped in as an amendment to the original

bill, which didn't contain anything about hunting and fishing in our parks.

Now, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is asking again, in **Advisory Question 70**, whether there should be **expanded hunting opportunities in state parks** from what was approved by the Natural Resources Board. After hearing responses from thousands of citizens, the board scaled back the proposal, which originally would have opened the parks to all hunting and trapping from mid-October to late-May. The current proposal will limit hunting and trapping in state parks from November 15 - December 15, and from April 1 through the third spring turkey season, and allow bow hunting from November 15 through the end of the deer archery season in early January.

Many citizens and environmental organizations, support limited hunting in Wisconsin's state parks, especially deer hunting, to foster tree regeneration. Opening parks to all hunting and trapping isn't fair to the majority of park users, however, and is fundamentally at odds with the purposes and enjoyment of our parks. That purpose, according to Wisconsin statute 27.01, is "to provide areas for public recreation and for public education in conservation and nature study. An area may qualify as a state park by reason of its scenery, its plants and wildlife, or its historical, archaeological or geological interest." The Sierra Club contends that there are already over 2 million acres of public land open for hunting. We also feel that local park managers should have the power to decide if, when and where hunting should take place in their areas.

### LEAD FISHING TACKLE

**WDNR Question 8** asks whether anglers should be required to use non-lead sinkers,

weights and jigheads if they are less than 1 inch in length in any dimension and lighter than one ounce in a pilot project on several lakes in Vilas County. These restrictions are designed to protect loons and other water birds. It also serves to increase public awareness of the hazard that small sizes of lead-containing tackle pose to wildlife. Votes on the same question on the 2012 ballot were 1,646 in support and 1,703 opposed. Voting yes for this pilot project would be a small, but important step in the right direction.

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OF INTEREST

**WDNR Advisory Question 68** asks whether there should be "legislation to prohibit the use of dogs to hunt and training dogs to hunt wolves." The John Muir Chapter of Sierra Club has serious concerns regarding the use of dogs in tracking and trailing wolves, which may pose threats to human health and safety, as well as threats to pets, livestock and wildlife. **Congress Advisory Question 82** asks whether all non-motorized boats in Wisconsin should be registered. And **Congress Advisory Question 84** asks whether the state should allow hunting of feral pigs year-round with any hunting license. Currently, unprotected feral pigs, which cause serious agricultural and erosion problems in the state, can be hunted if you hold a small game license.

Please attend your Spring Hearing. To view the entire Spring Hearing questionnaire and list of county hearing locations, visit the WDNR website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>. For information, contact Karen Etter Hale at the Madison Audubon office at (608) 255-BIRD (2473) or [Karen.Etter.Hale@madisonaudubon.org](mailto:Karen.Etter.Hale@madisonaudubon.org).

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# DC CLIMATE RALLY

*Continued from Page 1*

asking him to deny the pipeline permit. We were largely strangers who traded a few e-mails, made a few signs, and worked out a simple plan for each of us to make a brief statement. It only took about 30 minutes, but we received coverage from a Milwaukee TV station.

What a difference 18 months has made. A few weeks ago, we left the Madison Labor Temple at 4 p.m. on a chilly Saturday afternoon with more than 100 protesters on two chartered buses. And, this time, when we stopped in Milwaukee, it was to pick up another busload of 50 people—and piles of Ian's Pizza that the Sierra Club had donated—before our three-bus caravan set out through the night to join upwards of 50,000 people at Sunday's noontime rally in D.C.

We made it with half an hour to spare. Despite a mechanical problem, an unexpected snowstorm in Pennsylvania, and a mass exodus every 3 or 4 hours at those bathroom stops, we even had time to stop for breakfast.

There were some obvious differences between that 2011 Milwaukee protest and this year's D.C. rally. Despite a ten-fold increase in time and distance, the Wisconsin turnout was ten times greater on the buses alone (give or take those two Iowans who somehow snuck on board). And, when we arrived in D.C., it was hard to miss the helicopter circling overhead. Of course, all the networks were there too. It was a front-page story in the New York Times.

Less obvious, but equally significant for the long-term, was the incredible coalition of roughly 150 citizen groups that the principle rally sponsors—350.org and the Sierra Club—pulled together. We need a lot more of that.

But, perhaps, the biggest difference was the mood.

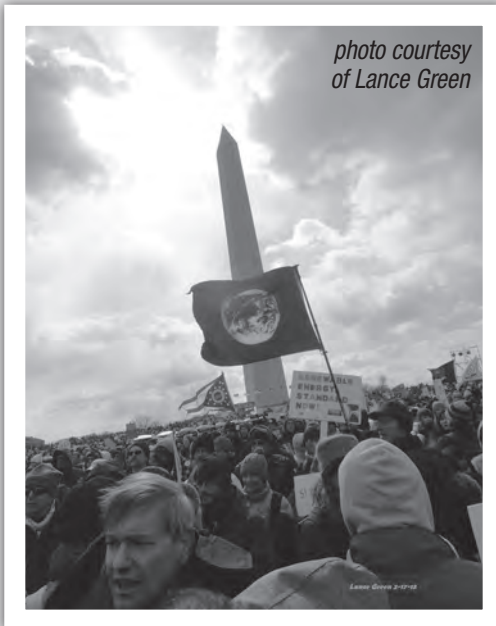
That 2011 Milwaukee protest felt like the movie, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." A small group of people who shared the same—unfortunately, rather apocalyptic—vision were drawn to President Obama's Milwaukee campaign headquarters (OK, it's not Devils Tower, like in the movie). As NASA's Dr. James Hansen put it, we saw this "game-over" scenario if the Canadian tar sands were fully developed.

Back then, if you had an obsession with tar-sands goo, there was a good chance that—just like in the movie—a lot of your family, friends and neighbors worried that you were acting a wee bit oddly. So, for most of us, it was just nice to hang around with 15 other people who thought that obsession was perfectly normal.

Fortunately, the country's mood is changing. Americans and our

media are waking up. 2012 was the hottest year in U.S. history, and Superstorm Sandy devastated the east coast.

But, if there's one straw that broke through the media's willful ignorance and inexcusably poor coverage of climate change, it had to be when New York Mayor, Michael Bloomberg, endorsed Barack Obama for president because of climate change. That just flipped a switch for media and political elites. And, at last, even President Obama has broken his silence.



As a result, the Keystone XL rally in Washington was really a whole different experience than anything we've seen before. Despite a very cold, very windy day, that crowd was raucous, festive and confident.

There was a sense of imminent victory. You felt it on the bus. You felt it at the Washington Monument where we heard some amazing speakers. You felt it marching to the White House (especially when a Wisconsin group started a rousing and nostalgic round of, "Tell me what democracy looks like... This is what democracy looks like.")

And, what an eclectic group of speakers. Reverend Yearwood from the Hip Hop Caucus was fired up and ready to go. Yearwood's cheerleading skills seemed to rub off on 350.org's normally reserved Bill McKibben who let his passion show more than usual. Sierra Club President, Michael Brune, spoke eloquently about his 4-month old child—probably the youngest person there. Some other memorable speakers were the Native American women from Canada, Oklahoma, and elsewhere who emphasized their priority of place, time and endurance in this fight. We even heard from a billionaire hedge-fund manager who, according to the Washington Post, was a dark-horse candidate for Energy Secretary.

After the rally, we ate dinner, and by 7 p.m., we were heading home.

What was the takeaway message? I think it's simple. "This is our time!" But, to make it reality, we'll need more people to get involved. Next time, we need another 10-fold increase in turnout.

I highly recommend blogger Joe Romm's two-step process for becoming a climate hawk. "Get educated...and get political." For most folks, learning is fun. Politics is harder. Politics means getting off your computer and out the door.

Fortunately, 350.org's Bill McKibben hinted that plans are underway to turn up the heat on climate change with more grassroots action this summer. Stay tuned for more information.

To get involved in fighting climate change at the state level contact the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter office at (608)256-0565. ☞

# IRON MINING UPDATE

by Dave Blouin, John Muir Chapter-Mining Committee Chair

As expected, the destructive mining bill (AB 426) that was narrowly defeated last year came roaring back to life as AB 1/SB 1, the very first bill introduced in January for the 2013 session. Though a series of amendments passed in committee made minor changes to the original bill, many of the attacks on environmental protections remain.

The bill was the subject of a single public joint committee hearing in Madison on January 23. The chairs of the respective Senate and Assembly committees to which the bill was introduced, Rep. Mary Williams and Sen. Tom Tiffany, refused to hold additional hearings in northern Wisconsin. Instead, they held the hearing six hours away from the proposed mine site and only four days after the bill was reintroduced over the Martin Luther King national holiday weekend. (Sen. Tim Cullen later organized a hearing in Ashland that drew 200 attendees, most of whom were against the mine.)

Despite these transparent efforts to limit public participation, two busloads of opponents

attended the hearing in Madison. The hearing was closed at 9 PM with more than 100 people still left signed up to speak on the bill and yet the committee chairs still refused to hold an additional hearing. More than 85% of nearly 1000 people registered against the bill that day.

The John Muir Chapter has fought the bill at every step by organizing a new network of local, state, regional and even national organizations in opposition to AB 1/SB 1. More than 90 organizations, including virtually every statewide environmental and conservation group, signed on to a letter urging the legislature to reject the bill and to preserve the Mining Moratorium law, which requires mining companies to give an example of a metallic sulfide mine that hasn't polluted water before being granted permission to mine. The bill exempts iron mining from the moratorium but leaves the moratorium intact for mines in metallic sulfide minerals... at least for now.

Ultimately, the mining bill is a legislative fix for a problem that doesn't exist. Current state law was designed with iron mining in mind and gives state regulators the flexibility on both permitting timelines and environmental protections to limit regulation for iron min-

ing if proved necessary. The legislative fix ties the hands of regulators by arbitrarily imposing deadlines and creating broad exemptions from regulations for one single iron mining proposal and was written by the company itself.

Unfortunately, this bill was fast-tracked and passed Senate on February 27 with at 17-16 vote, (Sen. Dale Schultz being the only Republican to vote against the destructive bill) and the Assembly on March 7 on a party-line vote of 58-39. Governor Walker signed the bill on March 11.

The John Muir Chapter, along with organizations including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, will be reviewing the legislation for possible legal challenges. In the meantime, we oppose the proposal itself, which, if approved, would be the largest open pit taconite mine on the planet. We will continue to work to educate the public on the risks from this extremely destructive proposal that threatens the Bad River Watershed and Lake Superior. Please visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/mining.asp> regularly for updates on this issue. ☞

## SPEAK OUT FOR SAFE WATER WITH KEWAUNEE CARES!

by Judy Hartl, Sierra Club – Water Sentinels member

Wisconsin residents live with an abundance of fresh water in lakes, streams, and underground aquifers, and we often take clean, drinkable, swimmable water for granted. But many residents in Kewaunee County, which lies just south of Door County on the shores of Lake Michigan, don't take clean water for granted. In the spring, or during heavy rains and runoff, they cannot trust their wells to provide safe drinking water. Parts of the Ahnapee and Kewaunee rivers have frequently been found to contain a thousand times more coliform bacteria than is safe for swimming.

Why? Many believe it is due to the runoff from the increasing number of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), or factory farms, populating the landscape around Luxemburg, Casco, Algoma and Kewaunee. Kewaunee County currently has 15 dairy CAFOs and at least 42,000 mature dairy cows, which is over twice as many animals as humans living there. The group

Kewaunee CARES, or Citizens Advocating for Responsible Environmental Stewardship, is working to raise awareness about the risks CAFOs pose to their area. Members of the group don't oppose farming. In fact, some of them depend on sustainable, organic farming as their livelihood. And they can't just pick up and move if a neighboring CAFO pollutes their private well.



Kewaunee CARES members:  
Lynn and Nancy Utesch, Jim Olson, Bill Iwen

The millions of gallons of waste produced by CAFOs in their area each year are jeopardizing their drinking water with unsafe levels of dangerous contaminants, including E. coli (bacteria), viruses and nitrates that pose serious threats to public health according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Wisconsin Department of Health. Excessive amounts of manure spread on the land runs off into creeks, rivers and Lake Michigan, where it contaminates wells and causes toxic blue-green algae blooms that make waters unsafe for summer swimming. Just this past January, manure spreading on frozen ground caused vast amounts of runoff into streams and rivers that lead straight into our Great Lake Michigan. Although citizens have repeatedly reported these types of waste spreading violations, agencies have failed to take action to protect public health and aquatic resources.

Last fall, I attended a CAFO bus tour organized by Kewaunee CARES, and I was shocked by what I saw, including unlicensed CAFOs and areas where too much manure was being spread way too close to sensitive waterways. And there are proposals on the books to increase



This farm has unsafe water whenever it rains due to the run off that comes from the 'mountain' of old manure across the road from their home.



A calf ranch, operating without a permit, has thousands of calf huts within eyesight of a stream. EPA tested the water near this operation and found it seriously polluted.

the number of cows in the county to almost 60,000, increasing the amount of manure that must be disposed of in the area. Robert Martin, Director of the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, states, "The present system of producing food animals in the United States is not sustainable and presents an unprecedented level of risk to public health and damage to the environment, as well as unnecessary harm to the animals we raise as food." ☞

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# A CALL TO ACTION:

## CAST YOUR VOTE IN THE SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL ELECTIONS

As a member of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, you will be receiving your ballot for the National Sierra Club Board of Directors. It's important you vote in the national election because the Sierra Club Board of Directors, unlike the leadership of several other organizations, is a working board that's directly involved in club activities. Board members take on important duties: deciding policy, conducting governance, and keeping the club effective in pursuing our mission to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet." This includes involvement in conservation policy development, financial oversight, fundraising and serving on committees that directly address the needs of volunteers at all levels of the club.

For this reason, it is critical that we elect individuals who are knowledgeable about the workings of the Sierra Club. The board will

be challenged to make critical decisions about the club's conservation priorities, the hiring of national staff and funding decisions that affect all the programs. It is up to us to choose and elect those who are most qualified – those we believe will provide the best leadership and guidance for the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country.

Just as important is that we cast enough votes so that we have a valid election. Club bylaws state that an election is valid only if a significant, specified percentage of the entire membership votes. If the club as a whole does not vote in sufficient numbers, the election must be repeated. Holding one election is expensive. Holding two elections in one year would mean spending dollars that could and should be used for programs and activities that develop, promote and advance conservation.

Before voting, there are a number of ways you can review the candidates' credentials. Brief bios will be provided in the mailing you receive. You can find online questionnaires the candidates completed at [www.sierraclub.org/bod/2013election/candidateforum](http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2013election/candidateforum). We strongly urge you to take the time to look at the information provided on each of the candidates and evaluate the candidates' credentials. Once you've made your selections, you can cast your vote online or return your ballot by mail. Only one vote by each member of your household is valid.

This decision and election is a critical responsibility for you as a member. Please take the time to mark a ballot and vote for members to represent us on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for taking the time to vote. ☞

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Sierra Club-Executive Director & Author

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# JOHN MUIR CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS VISIT THE STATE CAPITOL

by Alexa Edinburgh, John Muir Chapter Legislative Committee

On February 4th volunteers from the Sierra Club John-Muir Chapter's Legislative Committee held a drop-in style lobby day at the Wisconsin State Capitol. The nine participants, Claire Cameron, Alexa Edinburgh, Don Ferber, Mary Maradik, Hans Noeldner, Erik Pettersen, Will Stahl, Liz Wessel, and Shahla Werner, first gathered at the chapter office for a brief training led by Shahla Werner, the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter Director and Alexa Edinburgh, Legislative Committee Co-Chair. The training covered the current makeup of the legislature, in which anti-conservation majorities in the 33-member state Senate and the 99-member state Assembly present a challenge. The training also provided background on the legislators each participant was assigned to visit, a little bit about the legislative districts, an overview of the committees of interest to the Sierra Club (from Mining to Natural Resources to Transportation and Agriculture) and the lobbying process. The group also discussed keys to effective lobbying, such as showing enthusiasm, acting professional, having a normal conversation as much as possible, and following former chapter director Caryl Terrell's cardinal rule: know what you want to accomplish.

After all of the lobbying questions were answered, everyone walked from the chapter conference room to the Capitol, where each participant was assigned to visit six legislative offices. As representatives of the Sierra Club, it was important to give each office our two handouts for this session. One of the handouts covered environmental jobs and all of the possibilities for clean energy, transportation, mining, wind power, and conservation. This great handout demonstrates economic opportunities we could develop without jeopardizing our environment.

The other handout was a list of the Sierra Club's legislative priorities for this session. These priorities cover the club's stances on issues like clean transportation, clean energy, mining safeguards and hunting in state parks. Depending on the office, some of the handouts were just dropped off to staff, but in other offices, there were meetings between Sierra Club volunteers and legislators or their staff. In these meetings, the volunteer gained information about where the representative stood on a number of different issues to gauge how they would react to these issues in the coming session. These initial meetings will help us to use our time with these representatives wisely. We'll follow up with further communication about our top priorities to effectively communicate our points of view and hopefully find common ground on environmentally conscious legislation.

Overall, this was a very effective lobby day, allowing us to introduce ourselves to new legislators and touch base with known conservation champions. The handouts will help the legislators keep our environmental positions and ideas in mind throughout the 2013-14 session. We were not able to go to all 132 offices on February 4, so we hope to recruit more volunteers to help us reach out to remaining State Senators and Representatives. If you are interested in learning how to lobby on environmental issues please contact Shahla Werner at (608) 256- 0565 or Alexa Edinburgh at [edinburgh@wisc.edu](mailto:edinburgh@wisc.edu). We would love to have more volunteers to help us communicate with legislators and encourage them to strive towards effective environmental legislation during this session. ✍

## Congratulations

on your 50th Anniversary, thank you for all of your great work!  
- Dane County Executive Joe Parisi



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## WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

# WISCONSIN HAZELS

by Alexander Bilgri

If you were like me when I was a kid, there was a time or two when you managed to get yourself trapped in a hazel thicket, which are common in northern Wisconsin. These scrubby little trees or large bushes grow readily in the rich forest soils. The hazels will grow in the sun at the margins of forests or anywhere the canopy breaks. Every fall the bushes become magnets to wildlife that will come to eat the tasty and nutritious nut. I once had the heart-racing experience while backpacking of spooking up a bear from within a hazel patch!

The hazelnuts we find here in Wisconsin are from the Eastern and Beaked Hazels (*Corylus Americana* and *Corylus cornuta*). However, the hazelnuts you buy at the store or consume as an ingredient are likely from a different species. The European Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) supplies nearly all of the world's commercial supply of hazelnuts. This species is a substantial tree native to Turkey and neighboring regions of Europe. This species, which has higher yields with larger nuts than the wild Wisconsin species, has been spread to create nut growing industries the world over. Unfortunately for people, wildlife and trees in Wisconsin, our winters are much too cold to host this species of tree. Additionally, there is a fungal disease of hazels in our state called the Eastern Filbert Blight (caused by *Anisogramma anomala*). This disease can cause major problems on the European Hazel because the tree has little resistance to the native pathogen.

That's where our native species of hazels have an advantage. These bushes are vastly more adapted to the cold than the European tree. There is also a high degree of resistance to Eastern Filbert Blight since they have co-evolved with the pathogen. Given these traits, there has recently been increased in-

terest in cultivating the Wisconsin varieties for commercial use. In addition to being another source of agricultural revenue, hazel orchards would also have other benefits to the land that any perennial crop possesses such as higher drought tolerance, lower nitrogen leaching, and less soil erosion through no-till management.

Starting in 2009, The Hazelnut Improvement Program was founded by a cooperation between the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. Seed suppliers like Badgersett in Minnesota have been making



Seeds of *Corylus cornuta*  
Steve Hurst USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

crosses (via plant breeding, not genetic engineering) between the two native hazels and the European hazel with the hope of generating plants that are the best of both worlds. The program seeks to empower hazelnut growers by having them record data about their crop to find the next best plants adapted to Wisconsin's environment. These plants can then be used for the next set of crosses or used to develop a named variety. As the project progresses, growers can look forward to plants with increasing yields along with more uniform heights, widths and ripening times.

Meanwhile, you can still find native hazelnuts in the wild. Hazels flower in the spring,

while the nuts mature in the fall. If you happen upon a patch of wild hazels in the fall, you might be lucky enough to forage a few nuts. In reality, you may only get a chance if you are early and harvest the nuts while they are still unripe, otherwise the squirrels and deer will beat you to them. The nuts are contained in a greenish-yellow husk covered in tiny hairs. These hairs act like tiny cactus spines and can irritate the skin. The solution to foraging this nut is to go out with a scissors or garden sheers and a pillow case. Cut the husks with the nut off straight into the pillow case. When your pillow case is about half-full, hold the end and swing the bag repeatedly into a rock or onto the concrete. This will help knock off the little hairs. Then they can be set out for ripening. Once dry, they can be peeled and eaten raw or roasted.

Keep an eye out for hazels the next time you find yourself walking in the woods. If you find some maybe make a note to return in late September. Consider planting one in your yard; the squirrels and birds won't mind. Who knows, maybe you will even strike gold and stumble into the next great hazel variety and name it after yourself.



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# THE GREEN REVIEW

## BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

by Amy Lou Jenkins. Amy Lou Jenkins is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. She writes from Wauwatosa, WI. Contact her at [www.AmyLouJenkins.com](http://www.AmyLouJenkins.com) if you would like to send a review copy for possible coverage in The Green Review.



### **SAVED IN TIME: THE FIGHT TO ESTABLISH FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT, COLORADO**

by Estella B. Leopold & Herbert W. Meyer, 139 pages, *University of New Mexico Press, 2012.*

Wisconsinites and conservationists from around the world revere the words of Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*. His words and works have influenced millions, but the living person most directly influenced by our beloved Leopold is his youngest daughter, Estella. She has been working out the joys and sorrows of living a life connected to the natural world and to scientific environmentalism. All of her siblings, now deceased, shared these passions. Dr. Estella B. Leopold is a world renowned paleobotanist and professor emerita of biology at the University of Washington. She's joined forces with National Park Service paleontologist Herbert W. Meyer, author of *The Fossils of the Florissant*, to provide an account of the history and the roller-coaster ride of activism that led to the creation of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado. While developers attempted to profiteer away the scientific treasure trove, Leopold and a crew of lawyers, conservation groups and a few sympathetic politicians plotted and responded to a volley of complications to save the scientific cache. This 1960s adventure took place via court battle, PR campaigns and activist groups before we'd even had our first Earth Day. For Aldo Leopold fans, it's impossible to read this book without feeling the alchemy of Leopold's "land ethic" at work.

Meyer begins the first chapter with a history of the Florissant region. While many Americans have never heard of the Florissant, scientists from around the world have been heading to the region since the 1870s for the scientifically rich fossil deposits for a one-of-a-kind paleontological experience. The Ute nation revered this land for centuries.

Between 34 and 35 million years ago, a forest of large redwood trees grew near a stream in the region. Rock outcroppings and drier regions provided a range of ecosystems which existed under the influence of the Guffey Volcano. In a fashion similar to the destruction of Pompeii by Mount Vesuvius, the region was buried and preserved by volcanic slurry. The abundant vestiges represent one of the richest finds of fossils on the planet in terms of density, uniqueness and variety. Many of the fossil species identified at the Florissant Beds have never been found anywhere else on the planet. Tourists are amazed at the huge fossilized redwood stumps as well as the insect and plant preserva-

tions. Pollen fossils tell a tale of climatic events that Leopold and others read to help us to understand our changing planet.

Leopold spins the tale of the fight to save the beds with a scientist's penchant for accuracy. She credits the vast numbers of contributors to the cause and offers an insider view to the nearly unbelievable drama of saving the Florissant. Her tale includes women in pearls and high heels ready to hold off bulldozers with their outstretched palms, a judge who wrote his decision against the cause before he even heard testimony, another judge who helped the cause by holding an appeal in a forgotten drawer in his desk, desperate fund-raising while bills died in committee, screaming, red-faced lawyers and more. When she shares some of her 1969 testimony in the Senate field hearing, we hear the Aldo Leopold influence in her eloquent words:

"Today when the new society is tossing out remnants of past cultural patterns, it may seem unpopular to bother with saving a priceless scientific field library like the Florissant paper shales with all of their fine print. But I ask you, how can a man keep a perspective on his direction and life's path if he loses track of the routes that life has followed before him? How can man evaluate his planetary environment and finalize his historic place in it if he does not keep and cherish a few touchstones with the past? When we have studied the moon, will we throw it away?"

Leopold and Meyer have offered a gracious look into the difficulties and necessities of saving precious undeveloped places—even when defeat looms around every corner. This tale of bravery, foolish hope and hard work serves as an inspiration for the conservation challenges of today.

**50 Years of Great Environmental  
Advocacy in Wisconsin!**

**We're proud to be JMC members!**

- Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber and Dale Schaber





# RIVER TOUR 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.

### QUIETWATER CLINIC FOR SOLO OR TANDEM CANOES MAY 18 LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

Quietwater; Car Camp. Clinic fee \$15 per person. This clinic will be held at Lake Columbia near Portage or Starkweather Creek in Madison, depending on winds and the weather forecast. For details and

### WHITEWATER CLINIC FOR SOLO OR TANDEM CANOES JUNE 8-9 WOLF RIVER

Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person; Camping Fee, \$5 per 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 the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort for camping Friday and Saturday nights. If you prefer other lodging arrangements, there are many options available. See [www.wolfriverterritory.com](http://www.wolfriverterritory.com) for information.

For information and registration, contact:

Registration (Solo or Tandem): Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net)

Solo Clinic Leader: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239

Tandem Clinic Leader: Pat Wilson, 608-788-8831

### WHITEWATER CLINIC FOR WHITEWATER KAYAKS JUNE 8-9 WOLF RIVER

Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person; Camping location and fees to be determined.

Kayak clinic is limited to 10-12 participants. 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. Paddlers must provide their own properly equipped whitewater kayak, which means a bulkhead OR air bags behind the seat AND a properly fitted neoprene spray skirt. (And of course life jacket and helmet.) Except for some joint canoe/kayak classroom sessions, separate instruction will be provided for kayakers. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night for clinic participants, instructors, and RTS paddlers. Please bring a dish to share. We will have a reserved group campsite for camping Friday and Saturday nights. If you prefer other lodging/camping arrangements, there are many options available. See the Wolf River Territory website ([www.wolfriverterritory.com](http://www.wolfriverterritory.com)) for information. For information and registration, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-576-4226, [kasy99@gmail.com](mailto:kasy99@gmail.com)

### MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC JUNE 22 BADFISH CREEK NEAR MADISON

Class I. Clinic Fee: \$25 per 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 Badfish Creek. To register or get more details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, [beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com](mailto:beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com)

### RIVER SAFETY AND RESCUE CLINIC AUGUST 3-4 RED RIVER

Class I-II; Car Camp. Fee: \$30/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. To register or get more details, contact: Walt Ruben,

920-946-1440, [walt.ruben@kohler.com](mailto:walt.ruben@kohler.com) or Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com)

## PADDLING TRIPS

### LATE FEBRUARY – EARLY MARCH PADDLE AND DAY HIKE THE SOUTHEASTERN U.S.

Class II-III; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic Southern rivers. Car camp, paddle, and day hike on the Cumberland Plateau. The trip will be flexible in order to meet the needs of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. For details, contact: Judd Lefebber, 608-412-1631.

### APRIL 6-7 ROBINSON AND MORRISON CREEKS NEAR BLACK RIVER FALLS

Class II; Car Camp. When the water is up in the spring, these two small, scenic creeks 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. For details, contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, [johnsrud@tds.net](mailto:johnsrud@tds.net).

### APRIL 13-14 LITTLE RIVERS EXPLORATORY

Class III; Car Camp. Based on water levels, we'll select two or more small rivers in central or 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. For details, contact: Dale Dean 608-302-5744, [daleink55@gmail.com](mailto:daleink55@gmail.com) or Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com)

### APRIL 21 BARK RIVER

Class 1+; Day trip. Join us for an early spring paddle on a clear stream made so by restored wetlands. As there are 7 bridges, portaging may be needed. Weather and water level dependent. Limited to 8 participants. For details contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-576-4226, [kasy99@gmail.com](mailto:kasy99@gmail.com)

### APRIL 20-21 POPPLE RIVER

Class II-III; Car Camp. Join us on one of Wisconsin's 5 state-designated "Wild Rivers." This is a river which has fantastic whitewater opportunities but generally has sufficient water levels only on a limited basis. We will also attempt a hike to Jennings Falls on Saturday. Learn of the history and challenges facing the Wisconsin's Wild Rivers. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. For details, contact: Larr Zibell 715-546-2131.

### APRIL 27-28 SOUTH FORK FLAMBEAU RIVER

Class III; Car Camp. If water levels cooperate, we'll run the South Fork of the Flambeau or the Upper Jump River. We'll move to a later date if the water is too low. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. We'll discuss mining proposals, regulations, and related issues in the area. For details, contact: Dale Dean 608-302-5744, [daleink55@gmail.com](mailto:daleink55@gmail.com)

### MAY 4-5 PINE RIVER

Class II; Canoe Camp. Join us for the 37th 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. For details contact: Larr Zibell, 715-546-2131.

### MAY 6 PINE RIVER

Class III; Car Camp. Continue down the Pine! We will camp at Chipmunk Rapids Sunday night and then paddle the next stretch. Mostly quietwater except for Snaketail Rapids, Meyers Falls, and Bull Falls. Wet/dry suit, helmet,

flotation required, unless you plan on portaging the rapids. For details contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, [eddyout@gmail.com](mailto:eddyout@gmail.com)

#### **MAY 4-5 WHITEWATER RIVERS OF CENTRAL WI**

Class II-III; Car Camp. Rivers to be determined by water levels. Possibilities include Little Wolf, Eau Claire, Big Rib, etc. We'll discuss storm water runoff and how to control it as we paddle these exciting wild rivers. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. For details contact: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com).

#### **MAY 18-19 BRULE RIVER (WI/MI BORDER)**

Class II; Canoe Camp. The Border Brule, as it's sometimes called, features a few class I-II rapids, wooded shorelines, and a true sense of wilderness. You can expect to see eagles and other wildlife and practically no houses. We will cover 12-14 miles per day and space might be limited due to campsite size. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. For details contact: Leo Hummel, 608-322-7014, [dhummel@centurytel.net](mailto:dhummel@centurytel.net)

#### **MAY 25 - 27 BOIS BRULE**

Class I-II; 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 paddle from Pine Tree Landing to Highway 13—this section includes a series of Class II rapids. On Monday, we'll paddle from Highway 13 to Lake Superior. We'll learn about the work to protect this trout stream. Helmets required for rapids. 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. For details contact: Pat & Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, 608-397-2531 (cell), [pbwilson@centurytel.net](mailto:pbwilson@centurytel.net)

#### **MAY 28 WHITE RIVER**

Class I-II; Car Camp. Extend your Memorial Day weekend trip. Join us on Tuesday after paddling the Bois Brule. This a delightful river with a true northwoods feel. We will take time to clear any debris found. We will gather Tuesday AM at the DNR campground south of Brule in Douglas County. For details contact: Mary Blandino, 414-546-0375 or Katy Golden, 414-378-1053, [katyrenny@yahoo.com](mailto:katyrenny@yahoo.com)

#### **JUNE 1-2 PIKE RIVER/RED RIVER**

Class II; Car Camp. The Pike is a beautiful small whitewater river and a designated WI Wild River with numerous small drops. The Red has something for all whitewater paddlers. Helmets required. For details contact: Jim Servais, 920-434-0740.

#### **JUNE 14-18 SYLVANIA SERVICE PROJECT**

Quietwater; Car and Canoe Camp. The pristine Sylvania Wilderness is being invaded by non-native thistles. Help the Friends of Sylvania remove these invasives and enjoy the beauty of this special place. You can also practice portaging and canoe camping to prepare for your other summer expeditions. We will begin Friday, June 14, 2013 with a pizza dinner, introductions, orientation, and a movie. We will finish on Tuesday June 18. The first evening will be car camping and the remainder will be backcountry canoe camping. Meals will be coordinated cooperatively to minimize expense and maximize quality. Fees are \$50/ person. We have 11 places open. If interested, we need your response by May 30, 2013. Canoes are available for discounted rental. Contact Ms. Wally Brinkman for registration at [wabrinkm@wisc.edu](mailto:wabrinkm@wisc.edu). For questions and details contact: Dan Wallace, 608-835-5144, [dwallace@src.wisc.edu](mailto:dwallace@src.wisc.edu)

#### **JUNE 15-16 MECAN RIVER**

Class I; Car Camp. This trip is for those that like to paddle small rivers. We will paddle a section above Germania Marsh on Saturday and a section below the marsh on Sunday. The Mekan is a premium trout stream with crystal clear water. It maintains a steady current and at times requires precise maneuvering around tight bends or dead fall. This river is not recommended for beginners struggling with boat control. Come learn about the threats and

impacts of irrigation and proposed bottled water facilities. For details contact: Leo Hummel, 608-322-7014, [dhummel@centurytel.net](mailto:dhummel@centurytel.net)

#### **JUNE 22-23 PIKE RIVER/WOLF RIVER**

Class II+; Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills from the WW clinics before they get rusty. The Pike on Saturday. Section II of the Wolf on Sunday. For details contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net)

#### **JUNE 23-25 SYLVANIA WILDERNESS AREA**

Quietwater; Canoe Camping with portages. Explore some of the 34 clean, clear lakes in a wilderness setting. Learn about what others have done before us to make this a special place for plant, animal, and human interaction. Moonlit/dawn paddles. Family-oriented trip. 5 paddlers maximum. \$15 non-refundable deposit due by June 6th. This includes 3 night camping fee. For details contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-576-4226, [kasy99@gmail.com](mailto:kasy99@gmail.com)

#### **LATE JULY - AUGUST MONTANA WHITEWATER**

Class II-IV; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in northwest Montana. The trip will be flexible in order to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. For details contact co-leaders: Phil Johnsrud (class III whitewater leader), 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net) or Judd Lefeber (class IV whitewater leader), 608-412-1631.

#### **AUGUST 3-4 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 Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, [pbwilson@centurytel.net](mailto:pbwilson@centurytel.net)

#### **AUGUST 10 - 11 CHIPPEWA RIVER**

Moving Water; 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. We will start on the Red Cedar River (Irvington) to the confluence of the Red Cedar and Chippewa (Camp) then continue on to Durand. Optionally, those wanting to spend another night on the river can continue on to camp below Durand and complete the trip on Monday at 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: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, [carl.wisler@att.net](mailto:carl.wisler@att.net)

#### **AUGUST 17-18 UPPER IOWA (IOWA)**

Class I; Car Camp. This spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest - beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about the unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. Dogs are allowed on this trip. For details contact: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com)

#### **AUGUST 24-25 FLAMBEAU RIVER**

Class II; Canoe Camp. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. For details contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, [eddyout@gmail.com](mailto:eddyout@gmail.com) or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, [daleink55@gmail.com](mailto:daleink55@gmail.com)

#### **SEPTEMBER 7-8 MISSISSIPPI BACKWATERS**

Moving Water; Car Camp. This trip is great for rec kayaks 12' and longer, sea kayaks and tandemcanoes. We'll paddle the backwaters of the Mississippi near Winona, MN and Fountain City, WI. Paddlers should be comfortable with big water and crossing the main channel. Enjoy the scenic bluffs, vegetation and bird watching along this major migratory bird route. For details contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-452-3164, [sueob1@gmail.com](mailto:sueob1@gmail.com)

#### **SEPTEMBER 14-15 WISCONSIN WHITEWATER**

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, Red, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers, and to see bald eagles and kingfishers along the way. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details contact: Bruce Nelson, 608-244-6397, [b1bnelson@att.net](mailto:b1bnelson@att.net) or Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, [kasy99@gmail.com](mailto:kasy99@gmail.com)

#### **SEPTEMBER 14-15 ROOT RIVER (MINNESOTA)**

Class I; Car Camp. Enjoy a fall weekend paddling the Root River in unglaciated SE Minnesota near Lanesboro. Dolorite cliffs overlook the valley which has many spring fed tributaries and abundant wildlife. For details contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-452-3164, [sueob1@gmail.com](mailto:sueob1@gmail.com)

#### **SEPTEMBER 19-22 NAMEKAGON RIVER FOR WOMEN**

Moving Water; Canoe Camping. Join five other women for a scenic 30 mile canoe paddle on the Namekagon River, part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. The Namekagon is a quiet and narrow river that meanders through varied landscape and abundant wildlife in Wisconsin's northwoods. Cost: \$125, including canoes, meals, and first night's lodging. \$25 registration deposit required. For details contact: Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, [njmcderm@gmail.com](mailto:njmcderm@gmail.com)

#### **SEPTEMBER 21 - 22 OCONTO RIVER**

Quietwater; Car Camp. We'll paddle quietwater stretches from Suring to Hintz on Saturday and from Hintz to Pulcifer on Sunday. Learn how Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law impacts the state's forests. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net)

#### **SEPTEMBER 21-22 KICKAPOO AND WI RIVER**

Moving Water; Canoe Camp. We'll put in at Plumb Creek Landing on the Kickapoo, camp on a sand bar on the Wisconsin, and take out at the Highway 18 bridge. The camping is primitive—no facilities. This quiet water trip is a great way to study the early fall bird migration in the Plumb Creek unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. For details contact: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, [carl.wisler@att.net](mailto:carl.wisler@att.net)

#### **SEPTEMBER 29 BARABOO RIVER**

Class I; Day trip. This stretch of river is shallow and rocky with a nice current. Good for plastic and Royalex canoes or kayaks. Shallow gravel sections would be hard on nice kevlar or fiberglass boats. Helmets required for kayakers and solo canoes. This section used to be blocked by three dams, which have been recently removed, allowing boaters and wildlife to return. Come see how this now free-flowing river makes a fine centerpiece to historic downtown Baraboo. For details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, [beampowered-tetode@yahoo.com](mailto:beampowered-tetode@yahoo.com)

#### **OCTOBER 12 - 13 MECAN RIVER AND NEENAH CREEK**

Moving Water; Car Camp. Although there are no rapids, both of these small central Wisconsin streams maintain a steady current and at times require precise maneuvering around tight bends. Fall colors and waterfowl. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net)

#### **OCTOBER 26-27 WOLF RIVER**

Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net)

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2014 RIVER TOURING SECTION ANNUAL MEETING**

Summit Village Hall, outside of Oconomowoc at 11 am. For details, contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, [eddyout@gmail.com](mailto:eddyout@gmail.com)

# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2011 QUETICO/BOUNDARY WATERS PADDLING ADVENTURES

Hearing the loon's cry while watching the sunset from a remote lakeshore invites the wilderness into your heart and soul. Just as the salmon and swallows return, people need to connect with the wild. Since 2004, when Sierras were first invited by Bill Moore to join on a wilderness paddle in Ontario's incomparable Quetico Provincial Park, dozens have shared the joy of Quetico wilderness travel by joining one of the annual John Muir Chapter outings into the area. This year is no exception as trips are being announced for the following dates.



Travelers enjoy plenty of opportunities for swimming, fishing, stargazing, photography, day-hiking, berry picking, cooking or just meditation. In the tradition of the first trip, these are designed to minimize costs and include canoes, group equipment, meals, necessary lodging, and park usage fees. Associated costs for individual permits and licenses (as well as passports) are not included. Costs are generally half of what outfitters charge. Travel to the base/starting point is not considered part of the trip, though carpooling is encouraged.

All trip leaders have completed Sierra Club outings leadership training emphasizing group safety, as well as Wilderness First Aid courses. While experience is not a requirement, good physical fitness and a good attitude are essential. Interested Sierra Club members should contact trip leaders directly about registering. All trips are limited to 9 participants. A required \$100 deposit begins the process. Travel arrangements to/from the starting point, passports, personal permits and licenses are the participant's responsibility. Call trip leaders for more information.

## JULY 20 - 28: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

**Leaders:** Mike McQuilkin, 253-219-9208, [sumcqu@comcast.net](mailto:sumcqu@comcast.net)  
Scott McQuilkin, 253-988-4394, [lo86blazer@aol.com](mailto:lo86blazer@aol.com)

**D. Point:** Camp Quetico, Atikokan, Ontario  
**Cost:** \$600

Participants will traverse the park from North to South emphasizing Quetico's world-class fishing for bass, walleye, and northern pike, and the spectacular scenery of the area's lakes.

## AUGUST 2-11: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

**Leader:** Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421, [njmcderm@gmail.com](mailto:njmcderm@gmail.com)

**D. Point:** Moose Lake - Ely, MN  
**Cost:** \$600

Participants will cover a shorter distance and incorporates double portaging to keep pack weights down. Trip features include multi-day base camps with ample fishing opportunities and delicious home-cooked, lightweight meals including camp-baked treats.

## AUGUST 9-18: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

**Leader:** Jane McMillan, 815-543-2756, [janellmcmillan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janellmcmillan@sbcglobal.net)

**D. Point:** Moose Lake - Ely, Minnesota  
**Cost:** \$600

Participants will enjoy pictographs, waterfalls, two layover camps, voyageur history, laser-lit stargazing, and excellent fishing opportunities.

## AUG 24 - SEPT 2: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

**Leader:** Bill Moore 262-785-9022, [enviro1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:enviro1@sbcglobal.net)

**D. Point:** Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.  
**Cost:** \$600

Participants get to choose from a variety of routes that will include Bill's famous fire-baked bannock bread but vary in the lakes, streams, wildlife, waterfalls, Ojibway pictographs, fishing opportunities and lengths. All have unparalleled scenery and two restful layover days at gorgeous wilderness campsites.

## SEPTEMBER 19-22

**Leader:** Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421, [njmcderm@gmail.com](mailto:njmcderm@gmail.com)

**D. Point:** Trego, WI  
**Cost:** \$125

Enjoy the autumn colors on a leisurely float on a women-only trip covering 35 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Namekagon River in Northern WI. Limited to 6 participants.

**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. You are responsible for providing all of your camping equipment, tents, sleeping bag, food, etc.

**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.

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

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?** Visit [wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rtts/](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rtts/) or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: [prainesmoke2@gmail.com](mailto:prainesmoke2@gmail.com), 608-242-8633.

# JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

## 2013 EXCOM MEETINGS

- May 11** Executive Committee Meeting  
Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo, 10:00 AM
- June 22** Executive Committee Meeting  
Schmeckle Reserve Visitor Center  
2419 North Point Drive, Stevens Point, 9:30 AM

## 2013 EVENTS

- April 8** Spring Hearings Conservation Congress, 7 PM (*see page 9*)  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>
- April 9** Waters of Wisconsin Day, 12 PM- 4 PM, Pyle Center, UW-Madison  
Lecture with Sandra Postel, 7 PM, Overture Center.  
Contact Sarah Larsen at 608-263-1692 x10 for details
- April 15** Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference with keynote Jane Goodall  
Monona Terrace Convention & Community Center, Madison.
- April 20** Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration  
Exec Director Michael Brune and Former State Rep Spencer Black  
Buy tickets at <http://www.SierraWI50.org>
- Oct 11-13** Autumn Assembly, Green Lake Conference Center.  
Featuring Navigating Environmental Attitudes author Tom Heberlein  
[www.SierraWI50.org](http://www.SierraWI50.org)

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](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org)



**Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd by helping the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club in protecting Wisconsin's air, water, and wild places.** Your donation really does make a difference to the Sierra Club, and is a key part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the sustainability of our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you can; and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood. You can also donate online at [wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org) or by sending a contribution to us to the address below. Thanks in advance for your support of the Sierra Club and for all you do for Wisconsin's natural resources.

**Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter**  
222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1  
Madison, WI 53703

