

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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

## JOBS VS. ENVIRONMENT: A FALSE CHOICE

by Will Stahl, Conservation Chair & Shahla Werner, PhD, Chapter Director

“Wisconsin is open for business!” declared Governor Walker on the campaign trail throughout 2010. To show his commitment to this goal, he called two Special Sessions of the state legislature ostensibly aimed at creating jobs. The first session resulted in new laws gutting protections for an isolated wetland near Green Bay and another that gives the Governor increased authority over administrative rules. This fall, few, if any of the bills included in the second Special Session on “jobs” seemed to be truly aimed at employment, including proposals to eliminate medically accurate sex education for teens (SB 237); eliminating smart growth planning (AB 303); eliminating affirmative action-based grants for higher education (AB 142); increasing penalties for impersonating public officials (AB 217); eliminating small class sizes for schools (SB 95); making it a crime to steal a massage or back wax (SB 85). Although some of these proposals are laughable, what is not funny is that Special Session rules allow for fast-tracking bad bills with relaxed requirements for public hearings and notification.

There continues to be an assumption that federal and state policies that gut environmental protections are automatic job creators. However, a February 2011 University of Massachusetts report, *New Jobs—Cleaner Air Employment Effects Under Planned Change to the EPA’s Air Pollution Rules*, shows just the opposite. It finds that investments driven by the EPA’s clean air standards for mercury and ozone would create nearly 1.5 million jobs over the next five years. And another report released by Frank Ackerman of Tufts University, *Employment Affects of Coal Ash Regulation*, found that, contrary to the claims of polluters, EPA regulation of coal ash as hazardous waste would actually result in a net gain of 28,000 jobs. Unfortunately, the Obama Administration ignored this data earlier this year when it bowed to industry pressure to delay ozone standards. We have our fingers crossed that the same delay on cleaning up our air won’t occur with anticipated mercury rules.

Renowned economist Paul Krugman pointed out the false choice between environmental protection and jobs in a recent column, lamenting that “Serious economic analysis actually says that we need more protection, not less.”

He examined numerous peer-reviewed studies showing that:

- The economic cost of air pollution exceeds the value added of coal-fired electric generation by a factor of nearly six to one.
- Environmental compliance costs are less than 2% of business costs, and this is generally not enough to compel businesses to relocate to escape regulation.
- Layoffs that can be attributed to Clean Air Act regulations account for only 1/10 of 1% of all mass layoffs (of over 50 employees) nationwide, or less than 7,000 workers between 1990 and 1997. In contrast, over 10 million layoffs unrelated to environmental regulations occurred over the same period.

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### WISCONSIN’S GOLD STANDARD ON COAL ASH PUT TO THE TEST

by Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decided to create protections against coal combustion wastes, known as CCW or coal ash. Sierra Club took three buses of people from Wisconsin to the hearing in Chicago to support the EPA’s efforts. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives created legislation that would prevent the EPA from being able to regulate coal ash. Representatives including Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Ron Kind (D-WI) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) voted for this legislation, with Baldwin stating that “regulations in Wisconsin are considered the gold standard for handling CCW. Our state has no wet impoundments like the one in TVA Kingston, there are no hazardous waste dumps, and the dry CCW landfills are properly lined and monitored.” However, with the increasing coal ash problems and contamination, ‘gold standard’ seems to be a hyperbole at best.

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# POLITICAL CHAIR UPDATE

# RECALL EFFORT

By Dave Blouin, Political Chair, John Muir Chapter

The John Muir Chapter voted unanimously to support the recalls of Governor Walker and Lt. Gov. Kleefisch in November due to the extremist agenda their administration has pursued since the 2010 election.

As I write this in mid-November, the recall effort has just kicked off and enthusiasm is high. There is a real sense of history being made daily as we work to wrestle control of our state back from politicians bent on gutting our legacy of strong environmental protection. Restoring a pro-conservation majority in our state government is the most important thing we can do to halt the extremist agenda that threatens to throw our economy in reverse by making our environment a wholly-owned subsidiary of industry and poorly planned development.

In February, Governor Walker announced the notorious budget repair bill. Along with attacks on public workers that will lead to a brain drain of public employees who protect our air, water, and habitats, the original bill allowed for no-bid sale of state power plants and jeopardized \$47 million in transit funds. Following the budget repair bill, the biggest attacks came with the biennial budget, which cut transit funding by 10 percent, repealed the Regional Transit Authorities that had been established in

the previous session, repealed increases to Focus on Energy, cut funding for the Gaylord Nelson-Warren Knowles Stewardship Fund by 30 percent, and abolished the state Office of Energy Independence.

The attacks continue with proposed legislation to take away public input, water and wetland protections, weaken our renewable portfolio standards, and more. It is clear that the only way to protect the environment is to remove Governor Scott Walker from office and replace him with a governor who agrees with Wisconsin's long tradition of protecting the environment. For more information on Governor Walker's record see the cover story Jobs vs. Environment or visit the website [wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org).

I hope that every committed John Muir Chapter member continues to gather recall petition signatures until the January 17 deadline. At the time of this article, the JMC had not taken a stand on recalls of additional state senators – check the Chapter political page to get updates: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.htm>. There is still time to help with this historic effort to avert further erosion of Wisconsin's environmental legacy. To get involved contact Elizabeth Ward at (608) 256-0565 or [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org).

## FEDERAL AND STATE ELECTIONS COMING SOON

Races for President, U.S. Senate, our whole Congressional Delegation as well as the full State Assembly and half the State Senate make 2012 a major election year. You should expect to see our endorsements by early spring for federal candidates and by early fall for state candidates.

As with the recall campaigns, the importance of electing strong candidates committed to preserving our environment can't be stressed enough. The Sierra Club is different from other environmental organizations; we are one of only a handful of nationwide environmental and conservation organizations that make candidate endorsements at all levels of political activity. We do this by assessing the records and positions of candidates and incumbents to help members make informed decisions about those who represent us.

But it's not enough to simply endorse candidates and hope for the best. Sierra Club members must become actively involved in helping to elect good candidates by helping to make endorsement decisions and by working on election campaigns. Contact your local Sierra Club group to help out with local and state election work – each group has its own Political Committee and would welcome volunteers. It's easy and rewarding work that has lasting benefits for all of us. Contact me at [burroak15@charter.net](mailto:burroak15@charter.net) for more information. ☺

## THE MUIR VIEW

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# FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair  
John Muir Chapter

## OUTINGS – CONSERVATION WANDERERS AND WARRIORS

In 1940, roughly 150 Sierra Club members, including my father, uncle and grandparents, climbed the rough trails to East Lake below Mount Brewer in what is now Kings Canyon National Park in California. Working together they set up a base camp and became a small community during those weeks shared in the high country. *The History of the Sierra Club: 1892-1970* paints a picture of these remote outings: “In the early days a camp was established in a central location, and meals were prepared at a commissary. Camp equipment was transported first by wagon, later by mule-train, and the participants usually walked alongside.”

The personal transformation that happens when one is out in nature was not lost on John Muir. Photographed in that iconic 1903 scene with President Roosevelt, Muir was able to convince Roosevelt, on their three day camping trip, that Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove needed to be under federal protection. But Muir also understood the “significance of numbers in politics” and became a booster of tourism. He reasoned that “if people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish.”

These early Sierra Club outings opened the door for Americans to access the inner peaks, big trees and lakes of the Sierra mountain range. As temporary residents of the mountains, they developed a keen appreciation of the natural beauty, wonders and resources of the mountains. The trips were, as David Brower, former Sierra Club Executive Director, environmental leader and activist, remembers, “the best source of the conservation warrior.”

The Sierra Club continues to understand the inherent benefits of time spent outdoors capturing this in the motto “explore, enjoy and protect.” This formula of connecting people to natural areas around them combined with

education on conservation issues has led to passionate members who are willing to do battle for the special places they have come to enjoy. Aspiring to a vision of “no person left inside”, Wisconsin’s John Muir Chapter (JMC) hopes to activate and energize our members not only to care for Wisconsin’s outstanding forests, lakes and rivers but also its farmland, urban centers, parks and trail systems.

Today, within the JMC, a range of outings are offered. Recent offerings have included walks to witness the fall migration of the monarch butterflies and a road trip to Viro-

### INTERNET RESOURCES FOR SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS:

#### NATIONAL OUTINGS

[www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/)

#### JOHN MUIR CHAPTER & GROUP OUTINGS

[wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp)

#### MADISON INNER CITY OUTINGS

[www.madisonico.org/](http://www.madisonico.org/)

#### WI RIVER TOURING SECTION

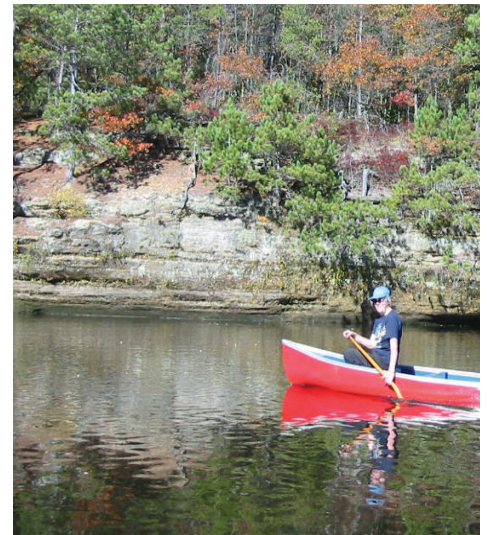
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qua to see the Newenhouse Kit House that meets LEED and passive solar standards.

The River Touring Section (RTS) offers paddling trips across the state and beyond from flat water to whitewater. Day and overnight trips are offered. Some focus on instruction; reviewing the basic strokes and maneuvers, safety on the water and reading the water. Others include trash pickup or conservation education programs.

For adventurers, the Chapter offers multiday canoe trips to the Boundary Waters/Quetico Provincial Park, Ontario Canada. This region is known for its pristine wilderness setting, great canoeing, fishing and wildlife. Sierra Club leaders offer a variety of trips – some highlight the great fishing others the wildlife and scenery. For all that go, these trips renew the spirit and refresh the soul.

Inner City Outings Group in Madison is part of the national Sierra Club Inner City Outings (ICO) outreach program. ICO partners with Madison-area youth agencies to offer hiking and camping trips, boating and skiing outings, and other outdoor adventures to children who would not have access to these opportunities elsewhere.



## WONDERING HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- 1) **Become a wanderer.** Go on a Sierra Club Outing with a friend in the next 12 months! Outings are generally open to the public and Club members. Visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp> to find the outing that’s right for you.
- 2) **Become an Outings leader.** Trainings are offered both at the national and state level within the Club. Comprehensive training is scheduled in Wisconsin for 2012. Contact Eric Uram, 608.233.9022, email [eric.uram@headwater.us](mailto:eric.uram@headwater.us)
- 3) **Already a trained outings leader?** We want to identify and recognize all of you who make it happen! Please email Eric Uram at [eric.uram@headwater.us](mailto:eric.uram@headwater.us)
- 4) **Become a conservation warrior.** Stay up-to-date on current environmental issues by sharing your email with us. You’ll get our monthly e-news and find out about actions you can take (contacting elected officials, writing a letter to the editor, etc.) to advocate for a healthy environment!

Go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/newsletter.asp> to subscribe.

- 5) **Celebrate Sierra Club Outings.** Nominate your favorite Wisconsin outing for inclusion in our top 50 list of outings. The list will become part of the JMC’s 50th anniversary celebration in 2013. Visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp> to download the nomination form.

And last, but not least....don’t forget to get outside! 🍃

# COAL ASH

Continued from Page 1

Coal ash is the remaining waste left in an air control product or 'scrubber' after coal combustion. These scrubbers collect the elements that we don't want to go into the air, such as mercury, arsenic, selenium, and particulate matter. Unfortunately, what doesn't go into our air can end up in our water. Residents in Caledonia, a rural town near the Oak Creek Power Plant operated by We Energies, have been unable to drink their well water for over a year. In September of 2010, dozens of wells in the area were found to have excess levels of molybdenum and the Department of Natural Resources advised the residents not to use their water for cooking or drinking. Molybdenum is a heavy metal found naturally in many foods; however, excess molybdenum can lead to gout, slow growth and anemia. Although the link between the excess levels of molybdenum and the three coal ash landfills from the Oak Creek power plant nearby has not been confirmed, We Energies has been supplying bottled water to the residents with tainted wells. Residents are left with decreased property values, an inability to sell their homes and concern. Some residents were not part of the agreement to buy bottled water and need to supply their own.

Meanwhile, the people of the Town of Wilson in Sheboygan County have not been able to get answers about their drinking water. Edgewater coal plant located on the shores of Lake Michigan has been creating coal ash landfills in Wilson for decades. After rising cancer rates, illness, and citizen testing for heavy metals, the residents began questioning whether their water may be contaminated. When renewing the permit for Edgewater's coal ash landfills, the Town of Wilson asked that Alliant Energy begin testing for boron and cadmium. In response to their request, Alliant Energy sued the town, challenging their testing requirements. The DNR has not taken any action.

In November, we saw a much bigger cause for concern over water quality. On October 31, a coal ash ravine that was created in the 1950's on the shore of Lake Michigan at the Oak Creek Power Plant spilled over when the bluff containing the ravine collapsed. Preliminary thoughts were that a storm water retention pond leaked into the landfill. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of coal ash spilled out of the containment; it's estimated that ¼ of that spilled into Lake Michigan.

Unfortunately, at the time this article was written, there were more questions than answers. The complete effects of the coal ash spill will probably never be known: It could mean contaminated ground water and beaches, it could mean drinking water containing selenium, molybdenum, or other poisonous heavy metals, or it could mean our national treasure, Lake Michigan, polluted with mercury.

The DNR's response downplayed the seriousness of the spill. Concerned residents were not able to find out from the DNR if the water was being tested, where it was being tested, or other important answers. In the papers the DNR claimed that there was not cause for concern, without any details or explanation. It quickly became clear that the utilities and DNR were much too cavalier about toxic coal ash.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin has other ongoing coal ash issues. The S.S. Badger is a ferry that takes passengers over Lake Michigan from Manitowoc to Ludington, Michigan. It is the last coal-fired ferry in Wisconsin and as a result, produces coal ash. Every day it's in operation, it dumps 3.8 tons of coal ash into Lake Michigan. That is 310 tons of mercury, lead and arsenic containing coal ash that intentionally goes into Lake Michigan every year.

In 2008, the EPA finally decided to do something about the S.S. Badger and asked them to comply with the Clean Water Act. The EPA gave the ferry four years to upgrade the boilers to a cleaner fuel source. Instead of complying, the S.S. Badger applied to be declared as a national landmark by the U.S. Park Service in order to be exempted from the Clean Water Act. In November, U.S. reps. Bill Huizenga and Dan Benishek from Michigan and Tom Petri from Wisconsin added an amendment to the Coast Guard budget that would prohibit the EPA from forcing compliance from any ship "on, or nominated for inclusion on" the list of historic landmarks to allow it to escape compliance. If the S.S. Badger does not get cleaned up, the ferry will continue to dump coal ash into Lake Michigan, and this could have lasting consequences for the safety and beauty of the lake.

The examples continue:

- Test results have shown that the section of the Wisconsin River in the Pardeeville area lacks key aquatic insects, indicating poor water quality. This has been linked to coal ash from the Columbia power plant.
- In La Crosse, Dairyland Power Cooperative planned upgrades that would have led

to additional coal ash. Their solution was to create a landfill in the Village of La Farge, the heart of organic farming in Wisconsin. Residents understood the potential destruction and fought the landfill and were able to persevere; Dairyland continued to use the previously existing coal ash ponds near their Genoa Generating Station. Of course, the people living near these ponds have their own health concerns.

- In Green Bay, they are in the process building sledding hills for the community out of toxic coal ash.

The list of tragedies and potential tragedies goes on, but the point is clear. It doesn't matter where it is, who owns it, or the cause of the accident. Coal ash is toxic and dangerous and Wisconsin residents have not been properly protected. What else needs to happen before we're convinced to put the health of our neighbors and environment before the profits of the fossil fuel industry?

The solution is simple: We need to move beyond coal. If we moved beyond coal, we would not have coal ash, we would not have tons of carbon dioxide coming from coal stacks, we would not have mercury, soot and smog (the primary cause of environmentally-linked asthma), and the other pollutants that come from the stacks, and we would be moving towards clean energy solutions that will help the local economy. ☺

If you would like to get involved with the Beyond Coal campaign, please contact Elizabeth Ward at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565.



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# DON'T LET WISCONSIN LOSE OUR ENERGY EFFICIENCY EDGE

by Alexa Edinburgh, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter intern

According to a recent report by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), Wisconsin has recently slipped in the energy efficiency ranks to number 16 after repeatedly showing up in the nation's top 10. Although a number of factors contributed to this decline, one possible contributor is a lack of an energy efficiency resource standard, or goal to reduce electricity and natural gas use by 2 percent and 1.5 percent per year respectively. Another factor is a lack of funding for our Focus on Energy program, which provides incentives for homeowners and businesses to invest in energy efficiency and renewables.

Despite the lack of funding or enforceable standard, energy efficiency programs in Wisconsin have still managed to yield impressive results. Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) has administered and implemented Focus on Energy for the past decade. Under their leadership, Focus on Energy has created over 24,000 jobs (mostly small business, private sector), saved homeowners and businesses nearly \$2 billion on energy bills, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 5 billion pounds. Annual independent evaluations found that for every dollar invested in this program, over \$2.50 in energy savings have been realized.

Although Wisconsin has made some additional progress in funding energy efficiency improvements for public buildings through state budget funding and economic stimulus funds, we have also taken some backward steps. For example, lawmakers have eliminated programs like Green to Gold that offered low interest loans to small businesses for energy efficiency upgrades. The Joint Finance Committee also rolled back Focus on Energy funding during the 2011 state budget process, capping it at 1.2 percent of utility revenues per year, or around \$100 million, contrary to Public Service Commission (PSC) recommendations to dramatically increase investments in the program.

What's even more troubling is that our energy efficiency programs are currently facing a new set of challenges. Despite WECC's demonstrated effectiveness, agency staff have recent-

ly decided to shift Focus on Energy contracts to a number of mostly out-of-state companies. This contract change has already resulted in layoffs for workers formerly employed by WECC, contradicting Governor Walker's campaign pledge to create over 250,000 jobs in our state. The new Focus on Energy administrator is Shaw Environmental, a company based in Louisiana. It will take time for this company and the new implementation contractors to build relationships with companies who do everything from improving insulation to installing heating, lighting and cooling systems for Wisconsin customers.

Sen. Robert Cowles also requested a legislative audit of Focus on Energy whose results were released in December 2011. Unfortunately, it is not a foregone conclusion that the new program administrator will follow recommendations for improvements that came from this taxpayer-funded audit. The concern is that through these contracting changes, we might be fixing a system that was not broken to begin with.

Our state will continue to fall further behind if we fail to invest in energy efficiency. The state legislature's Special Jobs Session should have included bills to increase support for energy efficiency programs. This would have not only improved our national energy efficiency ranking, but it would have created real jobs and built a cleaner future for Wisconsin.

As a Sierra Club intern, I have urged legislators to support an Energy Star® Tax Holiday bill during the current legislative session that was formerly supported by a diverse group of stakeholders, including former Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton and Wisconsin Manufacturer's & Commerce. This bill would give consumers a weeklong sales tax break on Energy Star® appliances during Earth week. Rep. Pat Strachota, who introduced the bill in 2007, is reluctant to introduce it in the current session, citing concerns about budget impacts. Given all the tax breaks going to spur economic development, any costs associated with this bill are a small price to pay relative to the benefits that would be realized. It's disappointing to see this and other bills that are a win-win

for our environment and jobs fail, as these are policies that would move our state forward and offer hope for bipartisanship. Fortunately, Senator Julie Lassa and other legislators are considering introducing the bill during the current session.

Energy efficiency and renewables like wind and solar are critical to Wisconsin's future, and we have the technology now to develop these solutions on a much broader scale. But we need to increase our investments today in order to reap the benefits down the road. Wisconsin currently allocates the majority of its energy budget, over \$12 billion a year, towards fossil fuels. And continuing to rely on fossil fuels harms our health, our local job prospects, and our environment. That is why, despite recent setbacks, we will continue to provide education and information on clean energy solutions and the great potential they offer to our state. But we'll need your help to stand up to powerful fossil fuel interests who want to maintain the status quo. Contact us to get involved! ♻️

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# MINING ISSUES HEAT UP



The Penokee Range

By Dave Blouin, Mining Committee Chair,  
Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter

There have been multiple important mining issue developments this fall, with the Gogebic Taconite proposal at the top of the list. Mining companies and their proponents have renewed efforts to gut state protections to advance mine proposals, and exploration of smaller but no less important metallic sulfide projects in Wisconsin and Michigan has begun again as companies perceive the political winds to be in their favor.

## JMC OPPOSES GOGEBIC TACONITE MINE PROPOSAL

In October, the John Muir Chapter became the first statewide conservation group to oppose the open-pit strip mine proposed by Florida-based mining company Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) in the Penokee Hills of northern Wisconsin. Here's why we took this stand:

We concluded that the largest mine ever proposed in Wisconsin would permanently degrade the exceptional Bad River Watershed, which includes the Bad River-Kakagon Sloughs, the largest freshwater estuary on Lake Superior. The massive open pit of more than two square miles, plus mine waste dumps hundreds of feet deep covering an additional four square miles) of forest, wetlands and streams, would alter water flows in the area. Wetlands would be destroyed and streams and rivers rerouted.

Air and water quality in northern Wisconsin would be harmed by mining waste dust, ore transportation, and ore processing, which produce contaminants such as mercury, arsenic, sulfates, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and other heavy metals.

The mine would be a new major source of mercury that will contaminate and poison our fish and wildlife and threaten public and worker health. A Minnesota DNR report in 2003 found that taconite mining is the second largest source of mercury emissions after coal power plants. The study also reported that no suitable technology has been found to curtail taconite mercury emissions. (“Mercury and Mining in Minnesota”, Minerals Coordinating Committee Final Report, MN DNR, 2003).

A further public health threat with taconite mining is waste dust exposure. Taconite dust from processing and fugitive dust from tailings is under scrutiny in Minnesota for links to illness and deaths from mesothelioma, a rare lung cancer that has incidence rates 70 percent higher in parts of Minnesota than in the rest of the U.S.

The GTAC operation also threatens irreplaceable cultural and food resources of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, such as wild rice that is extremely sensitive to water fluctuations and small amounts of contamination from sulfates produced by mine wastes.

Taconite mining, like all resource extraction, creates a “boom and bust” economy but does not create long-term prosperity, especially in rural areas without diverse economies. Market volatility threatens mining jobs constantly. Only two years ago, all Minnesota taconite mines closed and laid off their workers due to price drops. These stoppages cause an economic roller coaster of disruption and distress for dependent workers and communities. The taconite ore in Wisconsin is lower in iron quantity than Minnesota ores meaning that a mining-based economy is at greater risk.

## TACONITE MINING TRACK RECORD

The primary claim made by GTAC and its supporters to justify changes to state mining laws is that taconite mining is cleaner and safer than metallic sulfide mining such as at Flambeau, which was permitted under the current mining law. This claim doesn't hold up under scrutiny.

In October, we published a compliance track record of taconite mining in Minnesota and Michigan. Our research found that all major taconite mining companies in Minnesota have recent air and/or water quality violations. These violations have resulted in nearly \$10 million in fines, stipulations and cleanup orders since 2004. The fact is that taconite mines produce huge amounts of waste that are difficult and expensive to dispose of responsibly. The track record of the industry shows that pollution controls under so-called modern mining laws in Michigan and Minnesota aren't working.

Moreover, if GTAC and supporters really believe their own rhetoric, then GTAC should have no problem proving its case under the current rules. Yet GTAC's actions to undermine Wisconsin laws demonstrate that it either can't or won't meet these requirements. The obvious flaw in GTAC's argument is that taconite mining is neither safe nor clean and they need regulatory obstacles removed to allow them to more efficiently destroy thousands of acres of land with their wastes. Go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/PenokeeMine.asp> to view the track record.

## MINING LEGISLATION

GTAC suspended its permit work earlier this year and demanded new laws be written before they would move forward – effectively holding their own proposal hostage while expecting Gov. Walker and the legislature to rescue them. The governor and some legislators were happy to oblige and have begun gutting environmental safeguards, rushing to help this out-of-state mining company with no experience mining taconite that hasn't even submitted an application to mine yet.

The company's “gun to its own head” strategy has had mixed results. Efforts to gut environmental protections, limit public participation, remove local controls and limit scientific and technical review to fast track the proposal are on the table or coming soon.

The good news is that nearly 100 concerned citizens, including many Sierra Club members, showed up for a Wisconsin League of Conversation Voter's citizen lobby day on mining, held October 28. Then, more than 200 people registered and/or spoke at the hearing on the bill with only a handful of individuals or corporate lobbyists in favor. Testimony at the hearing that the bill would result in legal challenges may have forced positive amendments though we have not seen an amended bill as of press time.

## MINING CONTINUED...

Conservative think-tank and polling group Wisconsin Policy Research Institute polled 605 random residents in October on a number of questions and asked whether environmental regulations should be streamlined for mining jobs. 51 percent of those polled said no. This is a good indication that with more education and outreach, we can defeat special interest legislation for mining.

### METALLIC SULFIDE EXPLORATION GROWS

As if the GTAC proposal weren't enough, other mining companies have renewed efforts to get permits to explore or are now drilling exploration holes at known metallic sulfide deposits both here and in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Just over the Wisconsin border next to the Menominee River, the Back Forty project, controlled by HudBay Minerals and Aquila Resources, is an open pit-massive sulfide proposal where an application for mining permits is expected next year. The Front Forty group is the lead organization fighting the proposal – see [www.menomineeriver.com](http://www.menomineeriver.com) for more information.

Three massive sulfide deposits in Wisconsin are receiving renewed attention: Lynne in Oneida County, Reef in Marathon County and Bend in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Taylor County. Three companies are attempting to get permission from Oneida County to explore the Lynne deposit. Exploration is underway at the Reef site, which is expected to be an open pit if permitted, while exploration drilling is expected at Bend this winter.

The John Muir Chapter remains a steady watchdog of mining developments in Wisconsin but your help is needed both to help track and study these projects and to help oppose damaging changes to public policy. You can learn more at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/PenokeeMine.asp> or contact me directly at [burroak15@charter.net](mailto:burroak15@charter.net) with questions or concerns. ☞

# JOBS VS. ENVIRONMENT

*Continued from Page 1*

A prime example of this flawed thinking at the state level is embodied in Special Session AB/SB 24, dubbed the “Polluters over People” bill. This bill reduces requirements for public hearings and newspaper notifications on proposed development permits, it implements an aggressive 30 day timeline for DNR to approve many types permits, it only allows DNR to ask an applicant for additional permit information once, it prohibits staff from denying a permit on the basis of incompleteness, and it grants automatic approval for everything from high-capacity wells to shoreland development to mining prospecting.

There has also been discussion of passing a bill that directly weakens Wisconsin's mining safeguards, under the assumption that current regulations inhibit jobs. Chris Cline, a wealthy Florida developer and owner of Gogebic Taconite (GTAC) has requested these changes before the company will even submit a permit for the vast taconite mine proposed near the headwaters of the Bad River and the shores of Lake Superior. He's ready, he says, to create thousands of jobs and flood the area with wealth, but only if Wisconsin changes its laws to suit him. Very little discussion has occurred as to why GTAC is reluctant to submit a mining application that would create jobs under our current regulations.

Governor Walker and his supporters claim that their policies are all about jobs, but if they are so concerned about jobs, why have they kicked away so many real opportunities for sustainable-family supporting jobs? So far they have:

- Rejected \$810 million in high-speed rail money, which would have created at least 2,300 jobs, connected communities, and reduced oil dependence.
- Suspended uniform wind-siting rules, causing the cancellation of \$398 million in planned projects and loss of hundreds of potential jobs.
- Cut the Focus on Energy state budget funding and capped it at 1.2 percent of utility revenues, or about \$100 million annually. This prevents future increased clean energy investments that would have reduced our dependence on fossil fuels, saved consumers money on energy bills, and created thousands of jobs for workers who insulate

our homes, make and install furnaces and water heaters, and install renewable energy systems.

- Eliminated \$100 million in Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail (KRM) bonding authority, which cost Wisconsin \$6 million in federal funds. These monies would have created jobs in Kenosha and Racine, cities especially hard-hit by unemployment.
- Cut the recycling budget by \$26 million. Job losses from this cannot yet be predicted, but we know that recycling has created 97,000 jobs in Wisconsin, as well as markets for recycled materials and products. It has also reduced the volume of what goes into landfills and the potential for leaking toxins into groundwater.

Governor Walker has said that the idea is to save the taxpayers' money, but he knew the federal funds he rejected would be accepted by more far-sighted states. And virtually all of the projects he has eliminated would have benefited the environment.

Governor Walker's moves seem contradictory unless you understand the code. “Open for Business” really means greasing the regulatory rails for corporate polluters. “Jobs” is code for tax breaks for “job creators,” wealthy, powerful corporations. Have these job creators responded by gratefully hiring the unemployed of Wisconsin? Not so much. Even the administration admits it won't meet its own job creation goal for 2011. And the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that while unemployment rates fell in 36 states, Wisconsin experienced the highest job losses in the nation, with employment falling by 9,700 between September and October 2011.

Governor Walker's supporters think we can create jobs by sacrificing our environment. In reality this sacrifice will just put more money in the pockets of the wealthiest 1 percent and leave the rest of us with the bill. We could have had thousands of jobs that would have pumped money into the Wisconsin's economy and done some long-term good for the environment. Instead some of the governor's cronies get a free pass to make money at the expense of our common air, land and water. ☞



## CELEBRATING JOHN MUIR CHAPTER HERITAGE: **GARY WERNER**

By Jenny Peek, *Muir View* Editor

Gary Werner first became a Sierra Club member when he was eleven years old. His parents bought the membership that would begin a life devoted to conserving the land he cared about most.

Werner's parents took him to the first meeting of Sierra Club members in Wisconsin. In 1963, Wisconsin Sierra Club members petitioned the board of directors in San Francisco to become a separate Chapter. Gary's father was the first chair of the new Chapter and his mother served on the Executive Committee. In the late 1960s Werner followed in his parent's footsteps and joined the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee. He rejoined in the early 90s and remains on the committee today.

Throughout his time as a Sierra Club – JMC

member, Werner has been actively involved in the outings program. "In the early days the JMC had a really active statewide outing program including a rock climbing section, river touring section, and a general outing section," Werner says "I was pretty active in all three of those."


In addition to going on outings, Werner served as the conservation chair in the 1990s. In recent years, he has served on the finance, personnel and fundraising committees.

Since the beginning of his involvement, Werner has witnessed some major milestones in Wisconsin conservation. He helped with the preservation of the Ice Age Trail, helped to keep the Kickapoo River free flowing and saw several state wild river programs

through, programs that helped establish the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

With so much to be proud of, the Sierra Club – JMC still has a lot of conservation work to do. According to Werner one of the biggest conservation issues Wisconsin faces is land use. "We are a state that has a laissez-faire approach to land use and planning, it allows municipalities to do whatever they want with very little regional oversight or control." This approach impacts the entire state, especially rich agricultural lands in the Southern parts of the state.

"We have the gift of the glaciers and the ice age" Werner says, "We should be doing everything we can to protect that resource. It really comes back to the John Muir saying 'Tug on anything at all and you'll find it connected to everything else in the universe'."

"The John Muir Chapter has had its ups and downs over the last 50 years, but it has been a major force for protecting the environment in Wisconsin, I would only hope that the next 50 years will be even more successful." 



# OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY LEADERS

## RECOGNIZED AT AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Sierra Club members came together to meet, share ideas and discuss common environmental concerns at the 2011 Autumn Assembly hosted by the Fox Valley Group. The presenters, programs, musical entertainment and location combined to provide a relaxing experience and unique learning opportunities. The unusually warm weather and clear starry skies allowed Sierra Club members to take early morning hikes and to view the moon, Jupiter and other celestial objects in the evening.

Saturday featured keynote speaker and long-time Sierra Club member, Representative Penny Bernard Schaber, who shared her experiences as an environmental activist. "Being an active member of the Sierra Club has been a part of my life since 1981. It has changed my life in more ways than I can say," said Schaber. "All for the good!"



Seeking macroinvertebrates in Pickeral Lake (an indication of water quality).

Saturday evening featured the chapter's annual awards ceremony recognizing outstanding volunteers and community members. This year's recipients included:

- Tom Boldt, Chief Executive Officer of The Boldt Company. Boldt was presented with the John Muir Chapter Torchbearer Award to honor his companies environmentally sustainable construction methods. The Boldt Company is a leader in constructing environmentally sustainable facilities. Boldt was also a featured speaker and gave a presentation on "The Future of Green Buildings."
- Joy Hagen was honored with the John Muir Chapter Good Citizen Award. Hagen and her North Stars group were honored



The Crystal River Trio entertains us with music.

- for their work making a section of City Road JJ a safe place for students to walk and bike to and from North High School and Fox Valley Lutheran High School.
- Susan Williams was the recipient of the New Activist Award for being one of the most active and reliable volunteers within the John Muir Chapter. Her participation on the Coal Team and hard-work phone banking and canvassing has inspired others to get involved with electoral work, and helped emphasize



the importance of connecting this work to conservation issues.

► Jeremy Gragert received the Wildflower Award for his efforts at protecting and preserving the environment. "It seems that everything Jeremy does is with thoughts for the protection of the environment and its inhabitants in the forefront of his actions," stated Chippewa Valley Group Chair, Barb Thomas. "He eats carefully, treads thoughtfully and deliberately and lightly on the Earth, treating every one and every place respectfully."



Getting ready to enjoy a view of the night sky.

► Kelly (Krupka) Ramstack was recognized for her many years of volunteerism within the Fox Valley Group and the Chapter with the Merit Award. A consistent leader over the years, Kelly has stepped up over and

over again to help both chapter and group with the newsletter, fundraising, creating educational programs and planning and leading outings.

► The JJ & Pat Werner Award was presented to Don Ferber for his leadership and commitment to the goals and mission of the Sierra Club. As a member of the chapter Executive Committee, Coal Team and fundraising committee in addition to his

leadership within the Four Lakes Group, Don works tirelessly to explore, enjoy, and protect Wisconsin's wild places for future generations.

The 2012 John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly will be hosted by the Southeast Gateway Group located in the Racine/Kenosha Area. We hope to see you there! ☕

## A NOTE OF THANKS....

Thanks to everyone who made the 2011 Autumn Assembly a success.

Special thanks to Matt Baumler at Lawrence University for making arrangements for us to tour the Warch Campus Center, to Pastor Mark Geisthardt, Emmanuel United Methodist Church, for allowing us to use the Church's parking lot and to the Fox Communities Credit Union in Appleton for providing pens placed in Autumn Assembly folders.

Thanks to Sally Freckmann, Portage County Ice Age Trail Chapter, and Debbie Krogwold and Butch Siegel, Waupaca County Ice Age Trail Chapter, for providing Ice Age Trail pamphlets, brochures and Ice Age Trail maintenance in the Skunk and Foster Lakes State Natural Area.

Thanks to Fox Valley Sierra Group members who were especially involved in planning and organizing the Autumn Assembly: Maureen Birk, Lodging and Registration; Nancy Brown-Koeller, Special FVSG Cake, Meals and Snacks; Kelly Ramstack, Logo, Program Schedule, Presenter Biographies and Evaluation Form; Alan Lawrence, FVSG Website and technical support; Sally Peck, FVSG Treasurer; Monny Hjerstedt, FVSG Newsletter editor; Darrel Ruechel, organizing folders; Penny Bernard Schaber, tour guide at the Warch Campus Center; and the Fox Valley Sierra Group Executive Board members.

The following people at the John Muir Chapter also helped us with the 2011 Autumn Assembly, promotion and organization: Shahla Werner, Chapter Director, who organized the Silent Auction with Jacinda Tessmann and Kelly Ramstack; Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator; Jacinda Tessmann, Chapter Coordinator, who created the 2011 Autumn Assembly Brochure; Liz Wessel, JMC Chair; and Lacinda Athen, Awards Committee.

Thanks to the staff at Camp Helen Brachman: Darryl Woods, Camp Director, Jill Morgan, Associate Camp Director, and Phil Barker, Property Manager.

*Dale Schaber-Autumn Assembly 2011*

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Your generous contributions – above and beyond your membership dues – provided crucial support for our local grass-roots campaigns to protect Wisconsin's air, water, and wild places for future generations.

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## SIERRA CLUB AWARDS

# \$11,000 TO SAVE COPPER CREEK

By Shahla Werner, PhD, Director, Sierra Club  
– John Muir Chapter

About 70 percent of Wisconsin's population relies on abundant clean groundwater for drinking water. Groundwater is a precious, limited resource that is stored in underground aquifers after rain and snow melt seeps into the soil. Unfortunately, precipitation can't always make up for increased pressure on groundwater resulting from industry, irrigation, and other uses. Only about 10% of water from irrigation and a third of our rainfall soaks back into the soil to replenish groundwater supplies.

Excessive groundwater withdrawals impact local communities by drawing down water levels in municipal and private wells. This not only reduces drinking water supply, but it can also expose populations to unhealthy levels of toxins, such as arsenic and radionuclides that have affected people in southeastern Wisconsin. Groundwater extraction can also lower water levels in lakes, wetlands, and streams, destroying habitat, reducing property values, and diminishing recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating.

There are over 11,000 high-capacity wells in Wisconsin, each pumping over 100,000 gallons of water per day. Wisconsin current groundwater protection law authorizes the DNR to review high-capacity wells proposed within 1200 feet of a Class I, II or III trout stream, or an Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Water. If a proposed well would draw down public water supply or cause significant environmental impacts, the DNR can't approve it unless they put measures in place to address these problems.

Earlier this year, Crawford County citizens were alarmed to read in the newspaper about a high-capacity well that had been proposed for the Town of Utica, less than 550 feet of a Class I trout stream. The owner of the proposed well, Dr. Darrell Long of Ohio, claimed in his application that the well would be used for "emergency" purposes, although his websites and public statements suggested that he intended to sell extracted water for profit. In response, local residents quickly formed a group called Save Copper Creek to voice their concerns and educate the media and the public about the potential negative impacts of this project.

The Sierra Club has noticed and appreciated Save Copper Creek's effective grassroots organizing work that has brought attention to this critical issue. This has prompted us to provide them with an \$11,000 grant to support their legal efforts and ongoing needs for public outreach and volunteer support. Since their formation, Save Copper Creek has gathered over 1,100 signatures on a petition voicing concerns about this proposal, garnered extensive media attention, questioned the DNR's Environmental Assessment's ability to protect natural resources, and highlighted the fact that Dr. Long's property is not zoned for a commercial high-capacity well with the town of Utica. They have been working closely with Midwest Environmental Advocates who provide them with legal and technical support.

Their campaign has brought together a diverse, bipartisan set of stakeholders, from farmers to environmentalists to anglers to local landowners.

Although Save Copper Creek has momentum for their cause, it is apparent that the regulatory climate in Wisconsin is becoming increasingly difficult, and this has compounded their need for outside support. Recently, the state legislature introduced a proposal environmentalists are calling the Polluters over People bill (SS AB / SB 24), supported by the DNR, that would grant nearly automatic approval for high-capacity wells after a 30 day period and eliminate the requirement for some public hearings and newspaper notifications of permit applications. Members of Save Copper Creek and a newspaper staffer from the Crawford County Independent attended the public hearing on this bill to tell their story about how this policy affected their situation. Their work made a difference when the bill was amended and reintroduced as AB421. The amended bill removes automatic permits for high capacity wells and inserts provisions requiring newspaper notice

for online permits.

The Sierra Club looks forward to working with Save Copper Creek in the future as we continue to highlight how gutting our state's water and air protections does nothing to create jobs and everything to jeopardize public participation and the precious local natural resources on which local communities depend.

For more information on this issue, contact [savcoppercreek@gmail.com](mailto:savcoppercreek@gmail.com) or Bob Van Hoesen, 18641 Gays View Road, Gays Mills, WI 54631, or at 735-4117. ☐



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by Gary Casper, PhD

Halloween is just past as I write about the cannibals in our midst. At first I thought they were all child cannibals, then I realized some were adults that just looked like children. Not all were cannibals, but all were fierce predators. So tough that they mate submerged in ice water. I am talking about tiger salamanders and they are not called “tigers” for nothing! They are a fascinating survival machine.

Something identifiable as a salamander crawled through the Jurassic swamps about 170 million years ago in what was to become China, Britain and North America. At this time dinosaurs ruled, the super-continent Pangaea was breaking apart and humans were nothing but a probability in the DNA code of early mammals. In Wisconsin, tiger salamanders today are found sandwiched between the southwestern Driftless Area and the forested northern third of the state, a seemingly odd distribution probably reflecting their preference for grasslands with richer soils and avoidance of dry prairies in the southwest. They are fairly tolerant of disturbance and often found in urban settings.

## THE BASIC SURVIVAL PLAN

Tiger salamanders enter breeding ponds just after ice out and form breeding congregations. An intricate dance culminates in the deposit of spermatophores which are picked up by the females for internal fertilization. Eggs are then laid, encased in jelly and attached to twigs, leaves and stems. The adults then leave the pond and the eggs remain until hatching some 3-4 weeks later. Salamander larvae then occupy the pond as top level predators, eating anything that can fit in their mouths, hence “tigers”, normally transforming to adult form in late summer followed by leaving the pond. Adults spend most of their time foraging nocturnally and living in burrows in grasslands and woodlots, even gardens. They are fairly long lived, 15 years, and thus are adapted to wait out droughts, missing reproduction for several years before trying

## WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

# EASTERN TIGER SALAMANDER

again when rains return, a handy adaptation in drought prone areas.

## IMPROVISATION

Upon this basic survival plan are overlain some very interesting strategies. In 1993 tiger salamander larvae were discovered in a raw water reservoir at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant in Sauk County. In 1995 I collected some of these gilled larvae, trapped in the huge 3 million gallon open tank, for examination. By the time I got them to my lab they were already laying eggs. Huh? Larvae are not supposed to have functional reproductive systems! As it turns out, the phenomenon of retaining juvenile physical characteristics into maturity, known as “neoteny,” was already known from western populations of tiger salamanders but never reported east of the Mississippi River. The salamanders trapped in the reservoir had found a way to survive. If they transformed and lost their gills they would drown. As neotenic, they can survive and reproduce. Somehow this ability was expressed from the genetic code in this unique situation, and hundreds of neotenic salamanders now occupy the reservoir, feeding on anything else that falls in, and each other. Cannibalism is well known in larval salamanders, whose ability to consume is limited only by their gape size. Cannibals have large heads, wide gapes and enlarged teeth, the better to eat their neighbors with. My colleagues and I have been examining more of these trapped salamanders, and while we haven’t seen all of the typical cannibal characters, some are present. We have also followed up on reports of overwintering larvae from natural ponds which also appear to be neotenic, and possibly cannibalistic.

Why do salamanders sometimes refuse to grow up, and sometimes eat each other? It’s all about survival. When ponds dry up or freeze out, larvae will die and only normal terrestrial adults will survive to breed again, protected in their underground burrows. When ponds do not dry up, neotenic have the advantage, being bigger and able to dominate the aquatic system. When deep freezes occur without snow cover, many normal adults die in their burrows without the insulating snow, but the neotenic survive in

their ice covered ponds to breed again. Using these mixed strategies allows the salamanders to cover all the bases, ensuring that no matter what the weather, some portion of the population will survive to breed again.

## CONSERVATION

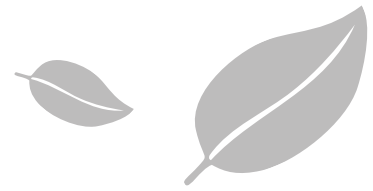
Despite these amazing adaptations, tiger salamanders do have some conservation requirements - mainly, a suitable breeding pond surrounded by suitable upland habitat. They are also sensitive to chemical pollution, such as nitrogen based fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, herbicides, salt and runoff from roadways. Studies have shown that salamanders typically need up to a 1,000 foot buffer of suitable habitat around their breeding pond. If this requirement isn’t met, or if the buffer/core habitat is too fragmented by roads or other non-habitat, then the salamanders often disappear. So salamander conservation is mainly about landscape planning. Communities can retain their salamanders by ensuring adequate buffers of natural habitat remain around temporary ponds, permanent ponds, lakeshores and marshes and managing pollution. Do this and you may see this marvelously adapted animal appear in your neighborhood.

## SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

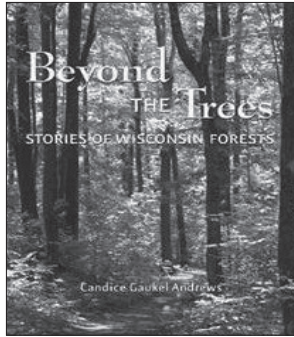
The raw water reservoir harboring the neotenic salamanders is scheduled to be drained and decommissioned in 2013. The salamanders will not survive without assistance. Plans are needed to move them to new wetlands where it is likely their unique stable neoteny will be lost, but its potential will continue in their genes. ♪

*Gary Casper has been studying Wisconsin amphibians and reptiles for over 35 years, mostly at the Milwaukee Public Museum where he built the collections and developed collection databases. He has published over 90 articles and scientific papers and manages the Wisconsin Herp Atlas through the UWM Field Station (google Awi herp atlas@). When not playing his guitar, Gary spends most of his time on research and habitat restoration projects, and is currently forming a state chapter of Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.*

# THE GREEN REVIEW



By Amy Lou Jenkins



## NATIVE AMERICAN MARKER TREES: MARKING PATHS THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

by Dennis Downes with Neal Samors, Chicago's Book Press, 2011.

One of the oldest story traditions in human history celebrates the concept of the tree of life. With the tallest branches reaching toward heaven, and the deepest roots approaching the under-

world, the middle of the tree stands in the here and now. In many parts of world, in most of North America and in all of Wisconsin, our lives are intertwined with trees. The connection is physical: shelter, warmth, food, oxygen and more. The connection is mystical: we enter reality when we enter the woods. The authenticity of that space incubates feelings and thoughts that flee from more civilized settings. If you are lucky enough to come across a trail marker tree, you find a human history superimposed on an already remarkable form of life. These trees captivate.

There was a time that trail marker trees could be authenticated because they belonged to a discoverable network, but that time is long gone. Now these trees, bent and tied down as saplings to serve as trail signs, persist only in singles or small groupings of aging giants. The scope of the network is lost. They might have all passed into relative obscurity, but Dennis Downes has been cataloging and celebrating these trees for nearly three decades. Downes, more widely known as an artist and sculptor, captures images, histories and stories of these trees in his new release, *Native American Marker Trees*.

I met Downes when writing *Every Natural Fact*. I wanted him to authenticate some trail marker trees, so I could write about them factually. In researching trail marker trees, the inquisitor comes across a paucity of experts. Perhaps that is why so many of Downes' introductions to marker trees begin with a curious arborphiliac finding Downes through the organization he founded: The Great Lakes Trail Marker Tree Society. It wasn't so easy to contact him a few years ago; he's only recently acquiesced to using email and a cell phone. But we

did meet: he met me in the woods, explored the trees with me and even included a few details of our introduction via trail marker tree in this book. If there is a conflict of interest in writing this review, it resides in a common love for natural antiquities.

Downes defines and explains various shapes of marker trees and shares his personal connections to the natural world, rooted in family experiences and adult wanderings. He leads a chapter by chapter expedition throughout the Midwest, Ontario, East, Southeast, Mid-South and as far west as Colorado. He's gathered hundreds of photographs, stories of tree protectors and tree mutilators, scattered research and current information. The sum of this information communicates a reverence for marked trails that led through deep stretches of unbroken forests. The making of these trails existed within an assumption that the forest and markers would last many generations. It didn't matter if the sapling would take a few decades to turn into a signpost because future generations would be able to find their way. Downes has approached this project with the same long-term care. He's spent decades working to trace the general history of marking trails with pointing trees and the specific history of individual trees.

Downes has also helped others to emulate the Native American practice of bending saplings to make trail marker trees. It's an act that relies on the belief that the tree, and a resource intact enough to deserve being pointed at, will be around for several hundred years. Pointing trees are not made for short-term gain. Downes hopes that the practice of creating trail marker trees will be thoughtfully resurrected. He's already helped the Winnetka Illinois historical society to shape trees in their village. Those who shape the living signposts have an understanding that the trunk of a tree can send a message to the future. It's an act of hope. ♡

*A review copy was provided for this review by Chicago Books Press.*

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Amy Lou Jenkins BSN MFA is the author of *Every Natural Fact*, the winner of the USA Book Award for Environmental Writing. Her article "The Leopold Exponent" is published in the current issue of "The Outlook Magazine." If you have a book of interest to Sierra Club Members that you would like considered for "The Green Review," contact Amy Lou at [www.AmyLouJenkins.com](http://www.AmyLouJenkins.com).

### SATURDAY , JANUARY 7: RIVER TOURING SECTION ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Whether you're a long time member or you paddled with us the for first time this year, we hope to see you at the River Touring Section's Annual Meeting and Potluck on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at the Village of Summit Village Hall near Oconomowoc.

The visiting starts at 11 a.m. We'll have a potluck lunch at noon, followed by our annual business meeting. We'll briefly discuss the 2011 financial report, the 2012 budget, plan the next meeting, and elect a 2012 chair.

We end with slides and entertaining stories from our members' trips this year. Our main goal is filling the 2012 calendar with paddling adventures. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, cups and utensils. RTS will provide beverages.

Be sure to bring any paddling gear you'd like to sell or trade. Please call Gregg Riemer for further details or to get on the program, 608-257-5239 or [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net).

# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2012 QUETICO/BOUNDARY WATERS PADDLING ADVENTURES

Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada offers truly a most unique and leading canoe experience. You've heard, read and dreamed about these Boundary Waters and now you can experience them for a fraction of the price under expert guidance. Paddle, portage and camp in this pristine wilderness with new friends who share your spirit of adventure and love of nature's wonders. Expect to see some of the same wildlife that voyageurs, trappers and ancient Ojibway saw as you travel the same waterways. Learn the history of this storied land as you revel in its clear, drinkable waters, star-lit skies and deafening silence. A minimum of two layover days are planned for swimming, photography, fishing, hiking, exploring or just plain relaxing. These are trips you will talk about for many years to come.



All Quetico trip leaders are experienced veterans of the area with requisite Wilderness First Aid training. For participants\*, experience is not a requirement, but a good attitude and physical fitness are essential. Crews are limited by the permit system to nine participants. All trips are 8 days, 7 nights, from put-in through take-out with travel time to and from the area in addition. Travel to and from the base/starting point is not considered part of the trip although carpooling is encouraged and generally coordinated by participants. Fees include canoes, group equipment, meals, necessary lodging and park permits and taxes. Not included are personal equipment (including clothing, tents and sleeping gear), pre/post trip travel, passports, personal permits and fishing licenses. Contact trip leaders for additional information, including registration, which will include a \$100 deposit. ☺

AUGUST 10 – 18	AUGUST 17 – 26	AUGUST 25 – SEPT 3
<p><b>TRIP LEADERS</b> Mike McQuilkin 253-219-9208 <a href="mailto:sumcqu@comcast.net">sumcqu@comcast.net</a></p> <p>Scott McQuilkin 253-988-4394 <a href="mailto:lo86blazer@aol.com">lo86blazer@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>DEPARTURE POINT</b> Camp Quetico, Atikokan, Ontario</p> <p><b>OPTIONAL MEETING POINT</b> International Falls, MN</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$600</p> <p><b>CHAPTER SPONSOR</b> Cascade Chapter, with a hearty welcome to John Muir members.</p> <p>Mike and Scott's trip emphasizes Quetico's world-class fishing for bass, walleye and northern pike, spectacular scenery through 20 of the area's lakes and 3 layover days.</p>	<p><b>TRIP LEADER</b> Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421 <a href="mailto:njmcderm@gmail.com">njmcderm@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>DEPARTURE POINT</b> Canoe Canada, Atikokan, Ontario</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$525</p> <p>Nancy's trip covers a shorter distance and features ancient Ojibway pictographs, excellent scenery, two base camps with ample fishing opportunities and delicious home-cooked, light-weight meals including camp-baked treats.</p>	<p><b>TRIP LEADERS</b> Jane McMillan 815-543-2756 <a href="mailto:janelmcmillan@sbcglobal.net">janelmcmillan@sbcglobal.net</a></p> <p>Bill Moore 262-785-9022 <a href="mailto:environ1@sbcglobal.net">environ1@sbcglobal.net</a></p> <p><b>DEPARTURE POINT</b> Sommers Canoe Base, Moose Lake, Ely, Minnesota</p> <p><b>COST:</b> \$495</p> <p>Jane and Bill's adventure features pictographs, waterfalls, two layover camps, voyageur history, laser-lit stargazing, fishing opportunities and Bill's famous fire-baked bannock bread.</p>

**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

\*In order to participate in a Sierra Club Outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?** Visit [wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/) or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: [prairiesmoke2@gmail.com](mailto:prairiesmoke2@gmail.com), 608-242-8633.

# JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

## 2012 EXCOM MEETINGS

**January 14** First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo

## 2012 EVENTS

**January 7** River Touring Section Annual Meeting and Potluck  
Village of Summit Village Hall near Oconomowoc  
Begins at 11am, *see page 14 for details*

**January 13** Renewable Energy Summit, UW – Madison Pyle Center,  
details at: <http://www.renewwisconsin.org/>

**February 18** Concert For Social Change with Folk Singer Tom Nielson.  
A fundraiser promoting responsible mining.  
Bartell Theatre, Madison – 3pm.  
Hosted by the Four Lakes Group [www.4lakes.org](http://www.4lakes.org)

**February 21** Spring Primary

**April 3** Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary

**October 12-14** 2012 Sierra Club Autumn Assembly  
Holiday Home Camp, Williams Bay WI  
Hosted by the Southeast Gateway Group

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15b1	Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	12,203	12,608
15b2	Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	0	0
15b3	Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS	0	0
15b4	Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	5	5
15c	Total paid distribution	12,208	12,613
15d1	Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d2	Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d3	Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	3	3
15d4	Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail	335	335
15e	Total free or nominal rate distribution	338	338
15f	Total distribution	12,546	12,951
15g	Copies not distributed	93	34
15h	Total	12,639	12,985
15i	Percent paid	97.31%	97.39%

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17 Signature and title of editor, publisher,  
business manager, or owner

*Jacinda Tessmann*

Jacinda Tessmann  
Chapter Coordinator



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