



The *Muir* VIEW

NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN | JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

The Future is Bright!

Ten years ago, when the Sierra Club called for the end of new coal plants, it was considered an unrealistic goal. Five years ago, when we said the answer was clean energy, it was considered naive. Things have changed quickly. Clean energy is now not only considered viable, but also inevitable. Thus the number of proposals for large-scale solar and wind farms, and community commitments to clean energy have taken off.

Clean energy is so inevitable that in August Governor Tony Evers signed an Executive Order creating an Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy and establishing a goal to get Wisconsin to 100



percent carbon-free electricity. Governor Evers and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes both expressed the need to move beyond fossil fuels in order to stop the worst impacts of climate change.

The Executive Order came on the heels of an unprecedented number of commitments by local governments in the last two years to commit to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner. All of these commitments cover all three energy sectors, including electricity, heating and transportation. This year, we

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It's time to vote for your Sierra Club Chapter leaders!

Your ballot is on page 15.

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Budgets and People

One of many things that rankled me (again) about this year's state budget outcome was that many decisions were more about dollars than people. An underlying rationale for our democracy was to provide a just existence for people, and guarantee rights and well-being. But to our current legislative leaders, people often seem of little relevance when it comes to budgetary decisions.

In Wisconsin, federal funds available to provide more health care, critical funding to support lead water pipe replacement, money for an office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, funds for science and positions at the DNR (raised from higher CAFO permitting fees) to protect our waters, and attempts to restore adequate educational funding, were all scrapped by the legislature from this year's budget. What message does this communicate when it comes to caring about people?

The lack of funding for critical services and protections come as no surprise to people in frontline communities, Communities of Color, and rural communities who are marginalized. But when you are constantly not seen or heard, is it any wonder that people who often are just trying to survive day to day, do not speak up? Those who do speak up are often ignored.

The Sierra Club believes everyone should be heard. As a grassroots organization that began with access to nature, the Sierra Club is now focused on giving people broader access in our democracy by engaging and empowering them. We work to raise the voices of people who often suffer the worst environmental harms perpetrated on our lands, water and air, but whose cries and needs are not heard in the halls of power.

Access to nature, and clean air and water, go hand-in-hand

with access to and participation in our democracy and decision-making. Decisions made in a democracy should include and be about all people – and their well-being.

Supported by the great work of our chapter staff, many dedicated volunteers turned out at the Joint Finance Committee budget hearings to let them know that people and our environment deserve to be top priorities. The JFC got an earful about lead in drinking water, the need for an Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, that we want better permitting and higher fees for CAFOs and a science-based DNR, and renewal of the state Stewardship Fund. Your voices can not be deterred. In fact, we are seeing these issues taken up outside of the budget process, as you can see in our cover story.

Your membership, your donations, and your activism, enable this. This support elevates your voice and that of others. The board, the staff and other leaders are all grateful for that, and your support helps keep us energized. Please know that our decisions will continue to prioritize that budgets are about people and the planet we depend on.

Don Ferber
Chapter Chair

Read our full Wisconsin state budget recap on our blog at tinyurl.com/wibudgetblog.

THE MUIR VIEW

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Please submit articles by mail or email to:
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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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Deadline:

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Change of Address:

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:
Sierra Club – Member Care
2101 Webster St., Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

Remembering Lee Balek

It is with great sadness that we share with you the passing of one of our board members, Lee Balek, in late July. Lee will be missed in so many ways – her cheerful spirit, her sense of humor, and her passion for both people and the environment. She was a very dedicated member of the Forest and Wildlife team and had a passion for protecting wolves.

Lee had encountered many challenges in her life, but always met them with grace and humanity. As a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa, even though she had to navigate living in two cultures, she put people equally at ease in each, sharing her caring and good will, but also calling people out when the situation warranted. She was grounded in an understanding of and concern for nature and people.

Lee sometimes wondered if she belonged on our board since she was not into procedures and strategic plans, but she was a living example of the welcoming outreach that is so inherent in our Sierra Club credo. She always listened and wanted to know people and their concerns, and you always knew you were being heard when she was around.

Lee's presence and spirit will be sorely missed – but not forgotten.



You're invited to our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party & Awards Event!



The John Muir Chapter staff would like to say thank you and honor our volunteers statewide with a special celebration. The Volunteer Appreciation & Awards event will take place on Saturday, October 5 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at WISDOM, 2821 Vel R. Phillips Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

Please join us as we celebrate the many volunteers who generously give of their time and talents. Whether they're helping with mailings, tabling at events, making phone

calls, designing social media content, joining a committee or holding a leadership position in a group or our chapter, our volunteers' energy and enthusiasm move our campaigns forward.

Not a volunteer yet? This is a great opportunity to find out how to get involved and socialize with other volunteers and chapter leaders!

Please RSVP today: <http://bit.ly/JMCvolunteers>

Wisconsin's 2019-21 Budget: We Fought for the Environment

Wisconsin's legislature passed the 2019-21 budget at the end of June, with Governor Evers signing it into law in early July. The version of the budget that was signed does not protect our air, water or health with the vigor we were hoping for – but there were some bright spots. And, for the first time in a long time, Wisconsinites received a budget that makes some progress on some environmental issues, unlike the massive rollbacks that have occurred the past two budget cycles.

WE TOOK ACTION

Thanks to the hard work of our members and supporters, the environment and climate were central to the budget debate. Activists did an immense amount of work! Throughout the budget process, we engaged at every angle we were able: holding public events, lobbying from our members, leveraging our digital tools, providing fact sheets and background on the policies our members were testifying about, and more!

- Before the budget process kicked off, members hosted 15 in-district meetings with legislators across the state to proactively advocate for public lands, public transportation, clean water and clean air through clean energy.
- In one week alone, 30 Sierra Club members met with legislators in the Capitol by attending our partners' lobby days.
- Our Parks team hosted a statewide event called Wisconsin Loves Parks, during which we built on Sierra Club's already successful outings program and Sierra Club's local groups around the state, to draw attention to state parks and why they should be funded. Events were held in seven parks.
- Sierra Club had a presence at all four of the budget hearings. We know the legislators noticed us and heard our message because several of them tweeted about our testimony.
- 667 members contacted legislators through email and more than 100 people made calls about the budget.

lands. Under a new administration, we saw our governor propose a budget with strong environmental commitments. Most notably, Governor Evers proposed a 100% carbon-free goal and wanted to develop an Office of Clean Energy and Climate Change, significant investments in public transportation, and several water programs. The Joint Finance Committee's (JFC) budget came up short in each of these areas, leaving the governor with limited options when it came to his desk. While many of those did not make it into the final budget that was passed into law, the conversation about environmental issues has gained traction and this budget included some steps forward – as opposed to the steps back in the last two budgets. And, as you can see from our cover story, we are already seeing victories in these areas outside of the budget!



You can see a full recap of the good, the bad and the ugly of the state budget on our blog at tinyurl.com/wibudgetblog.

Cassie Steiner
John Muir Chapter Campaign Coordinator

The Sierra Club was primarily concerned with four areas in the budget: **transportation, clean energy, water, and public**

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saw commitments from Fitchburg, La Crosse and Monona (Madison and Middleton passed resolutions last year). In March, Eau Claire became the first county in the state to make a county-wide commitment.

In La Crosse, the Coulee Region Group has led the campaign to get commitments for 100 percent clean energy for more than a year. The City Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for 100 percent clean energy and carbon neutrality by 2050. The Group held a press conference with the mayor to announce the victory!

In Milwaukee, our work took it a step further and added economic equity goals to the commitment. Milwaukee City and County passed a resolution that creates a taskforce that will create the plan for getting greenhouse gas emission-free energy and will use the benefits to mitigate the inequities in marginalized communities in the County.

The resolution charges the Task Force with making recommendations on how to:

- reduce community-wide net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45 percent by the year 2030 and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner
- mitigate racial and income inequity through green jobs; and,
- dramatically reduce racial inequality by assuring that greenhouse gas reduction investments and policies will create the maximum number of permanent living wage jobs for people who live in the most impoverished Milwaukee neighborhoods and are currently shut out of economic opportunity.

For all of these commitments, the passage of the resolution is just the first step. Sierra Club leaders are working with the task forces, mayors, city council members, sustainability committees, and other leadership to make sure these commitments are upheld and implemented.

Utilities are also recognizing that clean energy is the future. This year, we saw an unprecedented amount of solar and clean energy be approved

by the Public Service Commission (PSC), including the 300 mw Badger Hollow solar farm. Once completed, the project will be the largest solar farm in the Midwest. The spring also brought the approvals of the Two Creeks Solar Farm in Manitowoc and Kewaunee Counties and a solar project approval in Richland County. All of these projects total almost 500 mw of solar, five times the amount of solar that was installed at the end of 2018 (103 mw), according to Renew Wisconsin. We anticipate a handful of other solar and wind projects getting approved this year, solidifying 2019 as the year of clean energy.

Unfortunately, We Energies decided it only supports clean energy if it owns it. In May, it filed a proposal that would have imposed a major extra fee on solar panel owners, including both residential homes and businesses. This proposal is a revival of a similar 2014 proposal by We Energies that was ultimately rejected by the courts, partly due to its unfairness and lack of justification. This outrageous proposal was met with much public outcry. We worked with a number of other organizations including Renew Wisconsin, elected officials, businesses, and others to demand We Energies drop this short-sighted, harmful plan. Two months later, We Energies announced that it had reached a deal with Renew Wisconsin and would be dropping the proposal.

VICTORIES BEYOND THE ELECTRIC SECTOR!

Excitingly, we have had many victories

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beyond these strides toward clean energy.

In the fight to stop tar sands oil pipelines, we have gotten creative. We partnered with 10 artists who researched, rendered and reflected upon the cradle-to-grave story of tar sands oil in Wisconsin. The 10-panel art exhibit depicts different aspects of tar sands oil and pipeline infrastructure in the context of the global climate crisis. The exhibit went on tour to nine different communities. It was so well received that events are booking the exhibit into next year already! If you didn't get a chance to see it, watch our Facebook page and website for upcoming showings.

The Tar Sands Storytelling Project made something really clear—tar sands oil is dirty, dangerous, and should be kept in the ground. Fortunately, the two biggest oil pipeline threats to Wisconsin received huge set-backs earlier this year.

delays and rejections, we showed up in force to support our friends in Minnesota who are resisting the Line 3 pipeline expansion. We filled buses and carpools and traveled to Duluth for the Gichi-gami Gathering to Stop Line 3! You can learn more on our blog at sierraclub.org/wisconsin.

The Line 5 pipeline also poses a significant threat to Wisconsin. The pipeline is almost 60 years old and transports oil under the Straits of Mackinac, where Lake Michigan and Lake Huron meet. A spill there would be catastrophic to the Great Lakes. Subsequently, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel jumped into action upon entering office this year, immediately calling for studies and analyses of the dangers of the pipeline and what could be done. In June, Nessel sued Enbridge calling on them to immediately shut down Line 5. In July, the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Ojibwe sued Enbridge and ordered them to remove the pipeline from their



The Line 3 Pipeline, the pipeline that transports oil from Alberta to Superior, has hit a number of obstacles. First, due to a delay in some of their permits, Enbridge announced construction would be delayed at least a year. Then, in June, the Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was approved was inadequate and did not properly study the potential impacts of an oil spill in Lake Superior. The EIS was a critical piece of information that led to other permits and approvals, including the overall permit, the Certificate of Need, that granted Enbridge the ability to move forward with the project. As a result, the EIS will need to be modified and approved before the other pieces of the permitting process and other court appeals move forward. As we've seen with the other pipeline victories, these slow and steady hurdles mark the beginning of the end for a pipeline.

In order to support these moves forward and continue to push

land in Northern Wisconsin.

We have worked hard in other ways to *protect our water*. Since the Livestock Siting Law went into effect in 2003, Wisconsinites have been concerned about the potential impacts. The Livestock Siting Law creates the rules around where Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs) or factory farms, can be located. In the past decade, it has been used to stop local governments from prohibiting CAFOs in the area, regardless of potential impacts or community concerns. The rule is up for revision this year and we saw big improvements in the proposal, including changes in safeguards local governments can enact and the way siting would be determined, but we did want the rule to go further. These stronger rules were put forward even though big agricultural lobby groups like the Dairy Alliance, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos all sent letters 'encouraging' them not to move forward on proposals.

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The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection held six hearings throughout Wisconsin to hear from the public. Sierra Club members attended every hearing and spoke in favor of some of the initiatives and for stronger safeguards.

Additionally, Sierra Club members and leaders have worked hard to *protect endangered species* like the gray wolf. Earlier this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species Act. There was a tremendous amount of opposition to the delisting from Sierra Club and many other wildlife organizations, including our very own wildlife team. When the public comment period closed on July 15, there were more than 1.8 million comments submitted, a record for the most comments submitted involving an endangered species!

We have also been continuing to fight the *Back 40 mine* project. Our mining committee pushed for comments opposing the project because of its impact on cultural sites and waterways including the Menominee River.

The week after the budget was passed, we held a Transit Week of Action where we partnered with 12 organizations to hold events in nine cities in Wisconsin and collected almost 100 stories from transit riders that we will be elevating throughout the year so that transit remains a top priority. Legislators have written us letting us know that they have been watching the stories and enjoying them, and a few legislators even joined in events in Wisconsin. And our work doesn't stop there. We continue our work on transit advocacy.

Internally, we continue to grow and learn together, too! We hosted our first *equity and justice training* for volunteer leaders and staff. It was incredibly well-received, powerful and important. We are pursuing opportunities to host more in the future.

As you can see, there is a lot of work being done and a lot to celebrate! It takes great volunteers to make all of this work happen, so to support all of this, consider these three actions:

1. Vote in this year's Executive Committee elections for the Chapter! Visit page 15 for the ballot and the pages prior for candidate bios.
2. Attend our volunteer appreciation and awards event on October 5. Visit page 3 for more information.
3. Sign up to volunteer! Email our volunteer coordinator, Katie Hogan, at kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org to set up a time to talk about different volunteer roles that we have available and to find the best fit for you!

Elizabeth Ward, John Muir Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator
Cassie Steiner, John Muir Chapter Campaign Coordinator



Put the FUN in Fundraising!

Team Sierra is an easy to use, peer-to-peer fundraising tool that allows you to host a fundraiser. Will you be hiking, biking or running a marathon this fall? Set up a fundraiser. Celebrating a special occasion? In lieu of asking for gifts, ask for donations to the Sierra Club and our work for birthdays or anniversaries. In a few easy steps, your fundraiser can be off and running. And you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that every penny you raise will be put to work right here in Wisconsin to protect our water, land and wildlife. Check it out at: <https://www.teamsierra.org/wisconsin>

Remaining 2019 River Touring Section Trip & Annual Meeting

Oct. 26-27: Wolf R. Class II+ Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section 3 of this wild, scenic river on Saturday and Section 2 on Sunday. Wet/dry suit required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

RTS Annual Meeting: January 11, 2020, 11 a.m. to ~3 p.m.
Location: First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St, Baraboo.
Potluck at noon, followed by business meeting, trip list formation and slideshow/videos of 2019 trips. Advance registration not required. For details, contact: Carol Olson: 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.





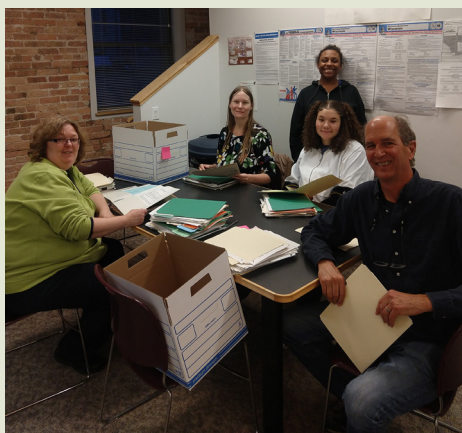
Zero-Waste Around the State

Sierra Club's local groups have been working hard to reduce waste going to landfills! In La Crosse, the Coulee Region Group helped to spread the word about Plastic Free July and encouraged residents and their state legislators to go plastic-free for the month. In Madison, the Four Lakes Group has continued to run its Recycling Away from Home program, which assures higher rates of recycling at Madison-area fairs and festivals. In Wauwatosa, Great Waters Group participates in the 'Tosa Bag It campaign to decrease single-use plastic bags. And Sierra Club volunteers are not the only ones taking strong leadership. The City of Racine passed a resolution committing to a Waste-Free Initiative, making it the first city in Wisconsin to move toward this goal!

Volunteer Spotlight: Abby Ross

Abby has been volunteering with Sierra Club and other climate organizations for five years and has recently won the national Sierra Club's Joseph Barbosa Award, which recognizes club members under the age of 30 who have a demonstrated record of service to the environment, for her extensive work, especially on the Tar Sands Storytelling Tour. She enjoys that Sierra Club is centered "around the people, the causes, the volunteers and the leadership."

She would like new volunteers to know that "with volunteering, it doesn't matter what you do, but that it builds community and builds relationships and helps our causes grow stronger. It's people who want to give their time, and there's something special about that." Thank you, Abby, for all of your work!



Successful Volunteer Parties

Since May, there has been a monthly volunteer work party in Madison the second Wednesday of every month! Volunteers come from all around the area to take action on issues ranging from clean water to clean energy, and have helped phone bank, create social media content, and much more! Their work has contributed towards all of our events, including stopping the We Energies solar fee plan, helping turn supporters out to countless hearings, and encouraging our utilities to move off of coal for good. We will be launching a series of volunteer parties in other parts of the state throughout the rest of the year. To learn more, email kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org.

THE LOST WORDS: A SPELL BOOK

BY ROBERT MACFARLANE AND JACKIE MORRIS, ANANSI, 2018, 120 PAGES.

There is a growing schism between people and the natural world. Robert Macfarlane has sought to close this gap with his works, which include *Landmarks* and *Underland*. Jackie Morris has sought to narrow similar gulfs in her acclaimed children's books, which include *The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow* and *The Wild Swans*. Their impulses were triggered when the Oxford Junior Dictionary, used in schools around the world, dropped approximately 40 common nature terms from their edition. These words included: *acorn, adder, bluebell, dandelion, fern, heron, kingfisher, newt, otter, heather, fern and willow*. The replacements were words like *broadband, blog* and *voice-mail*.

One might imagine a celebration of these nature words would take the form of a children's book, but a few seconds with the coffee-table tome reveal an artistry appropriate for all ages. The influences of the author for adults and the author of works for children permeate the pages in tandem. This book doesn't just celebrate, it conjures the essences. Poems capture the nature of life in the natural world. Illustrations evoke wonder and underlying melancholy for what is missing from our lives and our references.

These words and illustrations do cast a spell that animate the lost words. Poems begin their lines from each letter in a lost word. One poem summons a woodland groundcover of **bluebells**. It ends with the lines:

*Blue flows at the blue hour: color is current, undertow/
Enter the wood with care, my love/
Lest you are pulled down by the hue/
Lost in the depths, drowned in blue.*

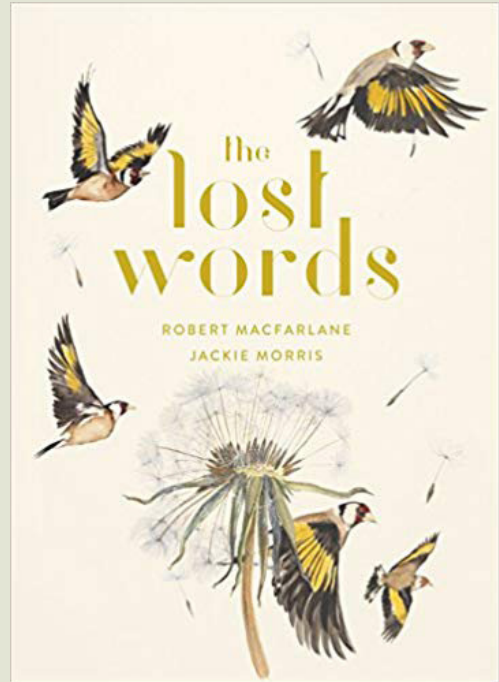
The spell cast for the heron riffs off each letter evoking the strength and agility of the heron and ends with the N.

Now heron hauls himself into flight-early aviator, heavy freighter-and with steady wingbeats boosts his way through evening light to roost.

The *Lost Words* has been honored by The CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal, for distinguished illustration in a book for children, BAMB Beautiful Book Award, Hay Festival Book of the Year, and as a Sunday Times Top Ten Best Seller.

Published first in the UK, every page has resonance for a US audience. Macfarlane and Morris succeed at conjuring back these lost words with haunting illustrations, word play, and narrative. It's up to us to take it from there.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. Contact her through JackWalkerPress.com if you have a book for possible review.



You can submit content to the Muir View newsletter.
The deadline for the January issue is November 15, 2019.

Say “NO!” to Dirty Fracked gas

Two utilities, Minnesota Power in Minnesota and Dairyland Power in Wisconsin, are asking regulators for permission to build a new fracked gas power plant, the Nemadji Trail Energy Center, in Superior, Wisconsin. Minnesota regulators have already approved the plant pending appeals and now it's up to us to stop it at Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC).

Fracked gas is just as bad for the climate as coal! The climate-harming impacts from methane and carbon dioxide emitted by fracking, transport, and burning clearly point to the urgent need of keeping fossil fuels in the ground. In fact, the methane released through fracking and transport is 86 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO2 over a 20-year time frame!

We cannot address the climate crisis by investing in fossil fuels like fracked gas. Building expensive gas projects delays investments in renewable energy and costs customers more. Instead, we should be moving down a path to 100%

renewable energy for all by investing in wind, solar, storage, and energy savings projects.

Minnesota Power and Dairyland have not proven that this gas plant is needed to meet customers' electricity needs, and have not thoroughly looked at alternatives, like renewable energy or low-cost energy storage. Customers would be on the hook to build a \$700 million plant that is not needed, plus all the future costs, including paying for the fracked gas to run the plant.

Submit your comments to the PSC by October 29 and attend public hearings in Superior, Wisconsin, on October 28 at 6 p.m. or October 29th at 2 p.m. at the Belgian Club, 3931 East 2nd Street, Superior, WI. Please visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin for more details.

Vote for Our Chapter's Leadership!

Yes, it is time for YOU to elect new John Muir Chapter leadership. And your vote is exceedingly important, especially because we have a competitive election!

Each year, members are asked to choose three volunteer leaders from a slate of candidates. These three leaders will serve as at-large delegates to the Executive Committee for a three-year term starting in January 2020 and finishing in December 2022.

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

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

Each member can VOTE FOR UP TO THREE CANDIDATES!

Candidates for the Executive Committee were asked these questions:

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

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.



Christopher Beaver

1) I am passionate about protecting our environment for future generations. In fact, after a decade in the outdoor recreation industry, I returned to UW-Madison, where I earned an M.S. in environmental conservation. My professional life as a naturalist educator can be directly tied back to joining the Sierra Club, an organization that speaks for the Land, in the Aldo Leopold sense of the word. That ethos appeals to my

sense of purpose in life. Within the Sierra Club, I have written for the Muir View and have contributed to blog posts. Other experience includes the Boy Scouts of America, where my responsibilities include training volunteers in outdoor skills, conflict management, and people-to-people engagement.

2) I have many years of cross-cultural communication experience, having worked closely with bicycle retailers in Canada and multi-million-dollar distributors in Europe and Africa. As a National Park Ranger, I developed communication skills needed to convey important environmental messages to varying perspectives. In essence, I have proven successful in reaching a diverse audience, sharing the importance of protecting our natural world through recreation and stewardship.

3) We must promote diversity, opening wide the doors to people of color and fostering a culture of inclusion and belonging. There must also be an effort to engage people of all economic backgrounds. Breaking down walls and spreading our arms to all Wisconsinites will help us make a greater impact, locally and globally.

4) Water resource protection is one of my greatest passions. In fact, my chosen concentration in returning to graduate school was limnology and aquatic ecology. Additionally, as a volunteer stream monitor on Madison's Starkweather Creek, I understand the impact we make on our Nation's streams and waterways. By taking a watershed approach, I believe we can have a greater impact on clean water protection. Water is life and everyone deserves access to it.



James Davies

1) Hello and thanks for taking the time to read my responses and being active in the Sierra Club. I am currently involved in the Sierra Club Legislative Committee and Transportation Equity Team. I'm interested in increasing my involvement with the Sierra Club because I believe it is a highly effective organization at advocating for our shared environment. I also believe that unfortunately the numerous environmental issues we

are currently facing are at crisis points and bold action and leadership are necessary.

In my day job I serve as the Executive Director of Bublr Bikes, Milwaukee's nonprofit bikeshare operator. In this role, and prior roles at Bublr, I've had the opportunity to spend lots of time interacting with Bublr's board and believe I could put this experience to good use being on the board of the Sierra Club.

2) Working for a nonprofit gives me a good perspective to help serve on a nonprofit board. At Bublr I've been responsible for budgeting and led the organization through independent audits. I'm also an attorney admitted to the Wisconsin Bar and would look forward to using those skills in service of the Sierra Club. Finally, I ran for political office once, and despite losing I learned a lot about building campaigns that would serve me well on the Sierra Club Executive Committee.

3) The John Muir Chapter is most successful when it builds broad coalitions to move our issues forward. I think continuing these efforts to maximize the breadth of our coalitions on each issue we confront is the key to long-term success.

4) Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy and Moving beyond Oil to Clean Transportation are my top priorities. Together, the transportation and power generation sectors account for 57% of US greenhouse gas emissions. If we can't get the climate crisis under control, all the other areas the Sierra Club works on will be made exponentially more difficult.



Linda Frank

1) My deep concern about climate change and rapid species extinction has prompted me to engage on these issues as a community activist. As a core member of the Milwaukee Equity & Climate Alliance, my colleagues and I have successfully advocated for the newly passed resolution committing the city and county to 100% carbon neutrality, along with strong action on racial economic disparity.

In this effort, I have seen the value of persistent local advocacy and collaboration. In addition to this community work, I serve as president of the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy, ensuring the preservation and restoration of precious natural landscapes acquired through fee title or conservation easement.

2) As a lawyer and member of the American Bar Association, I have acquired and applied research and writing expertise to the crafting of documents for our climate and equity advocacy, coordinated our meetings, and acted as a spokesperson before the local press and legislative leaders. In work for the land conservancy, I ensure proper board development through effective planning, conducting and documentation of our meetings and activities, skills which are transferable to the effectiveness of all nonprofit organizations. I bring the qualities of thoroughness, consistency and good follow-through to my commitments.

3) The Chapter should build on and expand its successful efforts to achieve 100% renewables commitments and economic equity plans by local governments, by stepping up state level action under the new administration, and by branching out to local governments across the state. On a more visionary level, the Chapter should begin to explore opportunities for transformational change in the human relationship with nature through adopting rights of nature principles.

4) Protecting native forests and wildlife is my first priority because respect for nature and commitment to responsible land use practices are central to reversing climate change and rapid species extinctions and to reestablishing our place within Earth's ecosystem, Gaia. That said, a thorough look at all aspects and sectors that play a part in restoring a healthy planet is critical for any comprehensive plan.



Laura Lane

1) I started volunteering with the Sierra Club because I'm extremely concerned about environmental issues, especially climate change, and want to advocate for things I care about, including clean energy, mass transit, full funding for our state parks, and clean water. Currently, I have been working on the Wisconsin Loves Parks campaign. I helped organize events and assisted with the social media campaign this spring.

2) I studied environmental law at the University of Colorado and passed the Wisconsin Bar in 1999. Although I am not currently practicing law, I have experience identifying, researching and analyzing complex issues. After law school, I worked in the non-profit sector and have experience with fundraising, managing volunteers, working with other staff and board members, and grant writing. After my first child was born, I became a full-time mom and freelance writer. I have written three books for children with a fourth one due out this fall. I specialize in writing about science, nature and social studies.

3) I think keeping a laser-like focus on exactly what the Chapter wants to accomplish is key. It's easy to become overwhelmed and distracted when thinking about the number of environmental problems facing us today. I would like to recruit and train more volunteers statewide to speak with their elected representatives about environmental issues. The Chapter also has a very talented and dedicated staff, so I think it's crucial we listen to and value our staff members' input as we work toward our goals.

4) All of these issues are important to me, but the one I'm most passionate about is moving beyond coal to clean energy. As a parent, climate change is my top concern. Most recently, I was at the Columbia Icefield in Canada, and it was staggering to compare photos of the glacier over time and see how much it has receded. Human activities are drastically altering our climate, and it's past time to act.



Heather Wittrock

1) I joined the Sierra Club in 2016 as an intern working with the Chapter Coordinator and remain active as a weekly volunteer. I've always been interested in people; wildlife; and the environment, and the Sierra Club has been a great place to put my skills and interests to work.

On a regular basis, I perform a number of administrative duties including mailings, processing data and donations; providing support to

the treasurer and fundraising committee. In 2017, I worked with organizers and volunteers planning and coordinating the Madison Climate March where I was responsible for helping lead volunteers the day of the event.

2) I graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Community & Environmental Sociology. The perspective I gained understands the necessity of building inclusive communities; a sustainable economy; and that together they allow people and place to thrive. While most of my time with the Sierra Club is spent "behind the scenes," I've become familiar with many operational aspects of the club. At the same time, I know how important people are to the process and organizing campaigns that utilize their power.

3) We are more effective when we work together. I believe the Sierra Club is actively taking steps toward change by focusing on diversity and inclusion through issues of social and environmental injustice.

Looking forward, I think the Sierra Club could benefit by reaching out in areas where there is not an active Sierra Club presence and reaching out on issues extending across politics. Water and Land protection, for example, are not only environmental issues but also issues affecting health, fishing/hunting cultures, and often crossing political lines.

4) I believe climate change is the single greatest threat we face. Priority issues relating to Clean Energy and Clean Transportation are extremely important in this regard. In addition, protecting Wisconsin's water is a critical issue. Growing up in Northern Wisconsin I have a love for our water. The quality and abundance of freshwater in Wisconsin is something to cherish. Protecting our water means protecting a strong tourism economy, culture, wildlife, and it means protecting our health.

Vote Today! Fill out the ballot on page 15 and mail your ballot to Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter., Madison, WI 53711-1429. Ballots must be mailed or postmarked by November 15 to be counted.

Working hard for water protection across Wisconsin!

This summer there were public hearings for both the proposed revisions to the Livestock Siting Rule, and the Speaker's Water Quality Task Force. In total, there were 19 hearings this summer, giving us 19 opportunities to speak up for clean water! A lot was covered in both hearings, with the proposed livestock siting rule changes helping change how CAFO's (concentrated animal feeding operations otherwise known as factory farms) are regulated and the Water Quality Task Force travelling the entire state listening to citizen concerns about clean water issues.

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) held six of the 19 hearings across the state to discuss the revisions to the rule and to listen to public feedback. Each hearing included two sessions, one in the afternoon and one during the evening. This format expanded the opportunity for those working traditional hours to attend.

Personal testimonies shine a strong light on how everyday people are impacted by policies such as the Livestock Siting Rule. KW, who attended one of the Madison sessions, spoke publicly about her personal experience with CAFOs:

"Living in Springfield Corners near a disgusting factory farm for cows, I spoke about the importance of protecting clean water and air. The smells from animal manure permeate our home. We often can't open windows. I shared this and

my experience driving past the farm with cows squished together in absolutely inhumane conditions. It made me cry."

Another attendee shared during a hearing session in Onalaska:

"There was an alarming headline a few weeks back – Wisconsin leads the nation in family farm bankruptcies. There are many reasons for this, but one is that those farm families who have made Wisconsin what it is cannot compete with the confinement agriculture that we are talking about today."

The Water Quality Task Force held the other 13 hearings this summer. Water should be a fundamental right in Wisconsin, and we turned out to make sure our legislators heard that message. From lead pipes throughout the state to coal piles that not only decrease water quality but also air quality in surrounding communities, Wisconsinites have been present and vocal about many issues that impact our health and our water. Sierra Club Wisconsin members were present at each water quality hearing. Over 100 concerned Wisconsinites attended on behalf of the Sierra Club!

We pushed for the task force to take deliberate actions about lead, coal, PFAS and other water issues. Over 6% of Wisconsin children have high lead levels -- which can lead to mental and physical development for children under the age of 6. In response, we asked the task

force the restore Governor's Ever's restore funding of \$40 million dollars to replace lead pipes and to repeal the funding limits on SB 48, legislation that would achieve this.

We also expressed the negative impacts of every part of coal powered plants. Coal powered plants throughout Wisconsin use water for the cooling process, harming the aquatic ecosystem when it is returned at a warmer temperature. Coal also travels by train and its dust blows into nearby communities and contributes to increased cases of asthma and respiratory problems. The burning of coal in Wisconsin is also the primary source of mercury in our lakes and rivers -- that accumulates in our food chain and makes fish unsafe to eat.

Everyone deserves clean water — from our communities to our environment. Thank you for the constituents who joined us at the task force hearings! Your presence helped protect clean water for all in Wisconsin!

Sarah Kear and Sarah Cameron
Project Aides for the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter

Wisconsin Youth Network Annual Meeting

From Friday, October 18 to Sunday, October 20, youth activists across Wisconsin will get together at the Clark County Cultural Arts Center (CART Center) in Neillsville and will collaborate on their environmental causes in order to expand their skill sets and meet new people! The event, geared toward activists ages 13 - 30, is free, and transportation stipends are available upon request. Feel free to reach out to Cassie at cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org if you have questions or RSVP directly at <https://tinyurl.com/wiyn2019>.

John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee
ELECTION BALLOT 2019

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

Voter #1:	Voter #2:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Beaver	<input type="checkbox"/> Christopher Beaver	
<input type="checkbox"/> James Davies	<input type="checkbox"/> James Davies	
<input type="checkbox"/> Linda Frank	<input type="checkbox"/> Linda Frank	
<input type="checkbox"/> Laura Lane	<input type="checkbox"/> Laura Lane	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Wittrock	<input type="checkbox"/> Heather Wittrock	
<input type="checkbox"/> Write In: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Write In: _____	

Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2019
 Mail to: Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter, Madison, WI 53711-1429



Support the John Muir Chapter

When you make a donation to the John Muir Chapter you allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Please be as generous as you are able. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter's budget.

\$50
 \$100
 \$250
 \$500
 other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email _____

Credit Card _____ Exp. _____

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



**SIERRA
CLUB**

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 5

Volunteer appreciation & Awards Celebration

3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at WISDOM, 2821 Vel R. Phillips Ave,
Milwaukee, WI 53212.

OCTOBER 18 - 20

Wisconsin Youth Network Fall Gathering

Neillsville, WI. Find out more on the Youth Network's Facebook page:
facebook.com/WisconsinYouthNetwork

OCTOBER 26-27

Annual Halloween River Touring Section Paddling Trip

Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884,
johnsrud@tds.net.

OCTOBER 28

Nemadji Trail Energy Center Fracked Gas Plant Public Hearing

6:00 p.m. at the Belgian Club, 3931 East 2nd Street, Superior

OCTOBER 29

Nemadji Trail Energy Center Fracked Gas Plant Public Hearing

2:00 p.m. at the Belgian Club, 3931 East 2nd Street, Superior

NOVEMBER 1

Climate Action Family Fun Night

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. in Madison. Visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin

NOVEMBER 9 - 10

Midwest Academy Training

More info coming soon! Contact: cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org.

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Algunos artículos del Muir View están disponibles en español.

Se sitúan en la red:

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter

Select articles from The Muir View are available in
Spanish. They are found online:

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter

NOVEMBER 15

Executive Committee Election Ballots Due

See page 15 of this Muir View to vote!

JANUARY 11

River Touring Section Annual Meeting

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church,
615 Broadway St, Baraboo, WI.

Contact: Carol Olson: 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.



OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION



Progress on clean energy is taking off at both the state and local level! Milwaukee City Council President Ashanti Hamilton and County Supervisor Moore Omokunde joined our coalition at a press conference to celebrate the signing of a resolution that creates a taskforce for getting carbon-free energy and will use the benefits to mitigate the inequities in marginalized communities in the County (right). Coulee Region Group hosted a press conference with Mayor Tim Kabat as he signed the City of La Crosse 100 percent clean energy resolution (left).

