

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org

Autumn Assembly Features Effects of Climate Change on Pandemics

Michael Osterholm, a nationally known specialist in infectious disease and biosecurity, will keynote the 2009 Autumn Assembly on October 9-11, 2009, at Beaver Creek Reserve near Eau Claire. The Autumn Assembly is the annual gathering of Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin to share information on current issues, outdoor activities, and what's new in the Sierra Club. The event is

open to the public. Families are encouraged to come and experience a Wisconsin outdoor weekend.

Dr. Osterholm will explain the connection between environmental change and the threat of infectious disease outbreak. An epidemiologist, his interests lie in biosecurity, whether threatened by bio-terrorists or climate change. He has advised the US Dept. of Health and Human Services on these issues, and is co-author of the book, *Living Terrors, What America Needs To Know to Survive the Coming Bioterrorist Catastrophe*. More recently, he has followed the impact of climate change on the development and transmission of disease. He is currently director of the center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, and is enmeshed in advising public health agencies on their response to the current H1N1 flu outbreak.

Marybeth Lorbiecki, a widely published children's book writer and author of *Aldo Leopold: A Fierce Green Fire*, will also be a featured speaker at the Assembly. She's written about environmental ethics and authored children's books that teach about the environment.

Natural Resources Board member John Welter will be on hand to discuss state environmental policy issues. He is an Eau Claire attorney who has served on the Natural Resources board since 2004. He is the Board's Secretary as well as Chair of the Board's Subcommittee on the Stewardship Fund, which has studied

access requirements under the Stewardship program. In 2003, the River Alliance of Wisconsin named him a "Decade River Champion" for his work over the preceding decade as a volunteer in support of rivers.

In addition to Welter's presentation, Environmental activists will have much to savor, starting off with a Conservation Cabaret on Friday evening with music, food, and drink. Tom Stolp of The League of Conservation Voters will be there along with other conservation leaders.

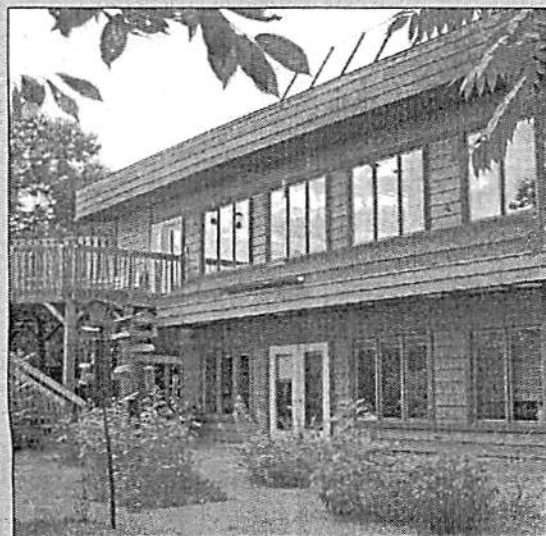
The daily programs will continue the focus on environmental activism with presentations by a dedicated group of St. Croix River advocates and local grassroots organizers who are fighting proposed mines in their communities. On Sunday, Sierra Club Associate Representative Rosemary Wehnes will provide a fresh look at the Sierra Club's Cool Cities program.

Outdoor enthusiasts won't be disappointed, with sessions on the best places to find birds in Wisconsin, the latest wrinkles in geocaching, and opportunities to explore Beaver Creek Reserve. (Continued on page 4)

Beaver Creek Reserve



Hobbs Observatory will be open for stargazing on Saturday night, with night-sky experts on hand to demonstrate the telescopes and explain what's in view.



Nature Center with exhibits and gift shop.

Vol. 47
Number 3

July-Sept.
2009

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Steffens, Chair
John Muir Chapter

I am very excited about our Chapter's new initiatives on conservation. Recently we set up two new teams to deal with energy and water issues. Many of the members of these teams have not been active in Chapter activities prior to this, and they bring new skills and energy to our efforts. The energy team will concentrate on topics such as regional transportation and Cool Cities, while the water team will deal with implementation of the Great Lakes Compact in Wisconsin and the growing issue of factory farms in our state.

Cool Cities is an issue in which I am particularly interested. This program began in 2007 when Seattle's mayor, Greg Nickles, formed an alliance of cities and towns that agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions seven per cent below 1990 by 2012. To date 944 municipalities have signed the Mayors Agreement on Climate Change, 18 in Wisconsin. However, our neighboring states are much more involved—38 in Minnesota, 33 in Iowa, and 38 in Illinois.

Signing the agreement is one thing, and doing something about it is another. The first con-

crete step a community must take is to complete an inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions. This is done using software provided by the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI as it is commonly called). The software costs money with the price depending

on the size of the municipality. This cost has been a barrier to the participation of many communities, \$600 in the case of Fitchburg. However, the consulting services that Fitchburg received at no additional cost vastly outweighed the cost of the software. To my knowledge, only two municipalities in Wisconsin have completed or are working on their greenhouse gas inventory—Fitchburg has completed the study, and Milwaukee is more than halfway.

In April I participated in a symposium in Fitchburg, where the results of its greenhouse gas survey were discussed. The people who led the study were extremely enthusiastic and involved. Their initial difficulty was learning that they could only access data on power usage to the late 1990's. There were many hurdles and false starts, but in working with the ICLEI consultants they were able to complete the study. Fitchburg is a community with a young and committed environmental engineer. How much more difficult would it be in a city where staff do not feel that it has a stake in the result?

Progress is being made in Wisconsin. Milwaukee has ambitious plans to vastly increase its use of solar energy, to increase the

use of alternative fuels in city vehicles by 50%, and to decrease energy use by 15% by 2012. Wauwatosa has formed an energy committee, charged specifically with reducing and greening its energy consumption.

What we need statewide are groups of citizens, concerned about the future their children and grandchildren will inherit, banging on the doors of mayors and city council members to make this an issue of utmost urgency.

Jim Steffens, John Muir Chapter Chair, is a member of the Four Lakes Group. He lives in Ridgeway. jjsteff@mhtc.net

Call for Nominations to the JMC Executive Committee

The Nominations Committee will accept nominations for members wishing to stand for election as At Large Delegates to the Executive Committee of the John Muir Chapter. At Large delegates serve for a term of three (3) years, beginning in January 2009. There are 3 openings for the upcoming election. You may nominate yourself, someone else with their advance consent. Nominations should be sent to Cheri Brisc at cherib@wi.rr.com no later than July 2008 and should include name, address, telephone number, email address, group affiliation, and a short biographical statement suitable for publication in *The Muir View*.

THE MUIR VIEW

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

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

Muir View Committee:

Carol Hardin (Chair), Lacinda Athen, Ron Carlson, Kelly Krupka, Dale Olen, Chuck Patrick, Marilyn Pedretti, Jenny Persha, Jim Rickard, Bob St. Louis, Sarah Streed, Lee Wilcox, Patrea Wilson, Gary Zumach

Contributor Guidelines:

Please submit articles typed, on disk, or email to:
Carol Hardin
1016 4th Street
Hudson, WI 54016
715-386-7032
cchardin8@gmail.com

Author's first and last names, day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission is contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

Advertising Coordinator:

Lacinda Athen
lathen@farin.com

Advertising Rates:

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

Deadline:

The deadline for submission of articles to the October-December 2009 issue is midnight on August 15, 2009.

Change of Address:

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

The Muir View (ISSN 199-048, USPS 499-650) is published quarterly by the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, 222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703. Periodical Postage paid at Madison, WI and at additional mailing offices. Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$5.00 annually for non-members.

Postmaster:

Please send address changes to:
Sierra Club
222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703



The Muir View is printed on process chlorine free recycled paper with soy-based ink. Please recycle or pass on this newsletter when you're done.

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2009 ISSUE IS AUGUST 15.

CONSERVATION CONCEPTS



Willing Participants?

by Eric Uram, JMC Conservation Chair

In about four decades, Wisconsin's wolf population has rebounded from zero wolves to over 600. Will they retain adequate protections to secure the necessary genetic and social characteristics a wolf population needs during their recovery and beyond? We once again face a huge dilemma after another potential delisting of the wolf by the US Fish and Wildlife Service recently. So the big question is: "What does the future hold for the survival of the wolf in the Western Great Lakes?"

The subpopulation of interest, the Western Great Lakes population, is the combined numbers of wolves from Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. The Wisconsin wolf population grew to over 600 wolves just this past winter. Michigan's Upper Peninsula has similar numbers of wolves while Minnesota is home to more wolves than both Wisconsin and Michigan combined (over 1400).

As we know, political boundaries mean nothing to wildlife. Currently, natural boundaries limit the wolf from moving east into Michigan's Lower Peninsula and west into the Dakotas where additional suitable habitat would allow for further expansion. In Wisconsin and Minnesota the populations are growing and expanding their habi-

tat south into areas that haven't seen wolves in many, many decades.

Dispersers, or young wolves from areas with limited food and habitat, are moving into and out of Wisconsin and to or from Minnesota and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It all depends on what food and habitat dynamics are present at the time. The wolves that move within these states are part of a distinct population segment that will have a unique pedigree and continue to interact.

What's up in the air are the upcoming individual state decisions about the larger three-state wolf population. These will ultimately decide the capacity for these wolves to sustain sufficient numbers to remain genetically and socially robust. This must be done while maintaining a balance with all of the other wildlife management that's going on – including elk, cranes, turkey, geese, deer, bear and even coyote. It's also important that overpopulation doesn't occur and wolves vulnerable to other pressures such as disease or potentially even those that led to the extirpation of the wolf in Wisconsin in the first place.

Some wildlife migrates. Some rely on specific habitat. Some are hunted. Some trapped. Still others are left unmanaged. Some populations compete. Some populations are symbiotic. Others are predators or prey. Some populations are kept at artificially high numbers. Others struggle to maintain their presence.

What is the right prescription for managing the wolf in Wisconsin? And the Upper Peninsula? And Minnesota?

How do we ensure that these states all do what's needed to ensure the entire population remains viable? How can the wildlife management agencies in all three states be expected to understand everything that's happening among all populations (including humans) and manage accordingly? And further, how can they manage effectively in light of a changing climate and growing and shifting human populations?

There are no easy answers to these questions. Balance in the absence of humans is a natural process. With humans, well, that's another story. But one thing's for certain, Wisconsin manages their natural resources by allowing and encouraging public participation in their decisions. If you value Wisconsin's wildlife heritage, it's time to become a participant in the decisions being made regarding the wolf in Wisconsin.

Stay tuned to the John Muir Chapter website for more information about when and where you, the public, can weigh-in on this important issue.

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

2009 John Muir Chapter Awards

by Lacinda Athen, JMC Awards Chair

One of the challenges of coordinating a grassroots organization like ours is finding, keeping, and honoring our volunteers. One great way to motivate and maintain members is through public recognition of their efforts. As the Awards Chair, I'm writing to remind you of the John Muir Chapter's awards program. Nominations for 2009 are open until August 15th.

The Chapter offers a range of awards for Sierra Club volunteers, members of the business and political communities, and other local heroes. We strongly encourage

you to honor your volunteers in this way, whether they are excited new activists or long-term workhorses. We want to let them know how much their commitment means!

Award nomination forms, a description of the various award categories and a list of past winners are on our website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/awards.htm>. If you wish to nominate someone, just follow the directions on the web page. Please select what you feel is the most appropriate honor for your nominee and submit the form by August 15th. The Awards Committee will review all nominations and make recommendations to the Executive Committee, which must approve the winners. Recipients will be given enough notice so they can plan to attend the awards ceremony.

Awards will be presented at our Autumn Assembly Saturday evening dinner on October 10th. The 2009 Autumn Assembly will be held at Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek, near Eau Claire. If someone from your group is available, we would love to have you offer a personal introduction of the winner, giving some background about the work they've done to earn the recognition. If the honoree cannot attend, we will make alternate arrangements to get the award to them.

If you have questions about the awards program, please contact me. Thank you!

Lacinda Athen
4909 Sherwood Road, Madison, WI 53711
608-274-7870
lathen@farin.com

CAPITOL CONSERVATION

by Representative Spencer Black

The elections last November brought change not just to the Capitol in Washington D.C., but to our state Capitol as well. Already, we have seen what this change means when it comes to environmental legislation. The Clean Lakes Bill to ban phosphorus in lawn fertilizer was signed into law in April along with legislation to designate the first additions to our state's Wild River system in 44 years. Now the Totogatic and Brunsweler Rivers will be protected from harmful development that could impair their wild character.

These early victories are just a start. Already in the works are bills to require recycling of electronic waste, stop the spread of invasive species and expand environmental education. But one of the most important battles lies ahead – the effort to return the DNR to an independent agency free from day-to-day political pressure.

I have introduced legislation (Assembly Bill 138) to return the Department of Natural Resources Secretary to a position appointed by the Natural Resources Board. Up until 1995, the Secretary was appointed by this seven-member citizen board. It successfully kept the DNR separate from constant political influence and made Wisconsin a model for strong environmental protection. In 1995, Governor Thompson eliminated the non-partisan status of the DNR. Now the DNR Secretary is a political appointee who is hired and fired by the Governor.

The system of an independent conservation agency was originally established by famed Wisconsin conservationist Aldo Leopold. Leopold wrote that the 1927 law was needed because "Conservation must have continuity of purpose and policy and freedom from interference by political control or manipulation."

Decisions about our environment should be future-oriented, but in the political arena decisions are all too often made only

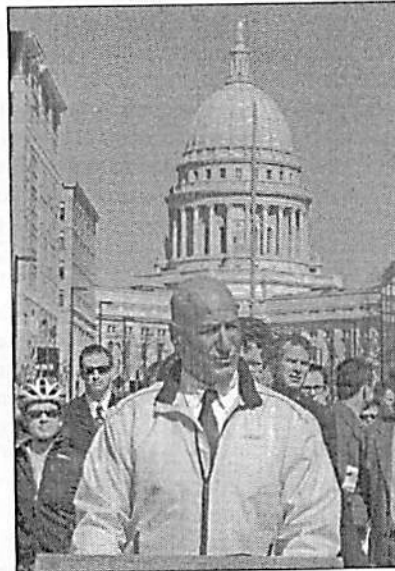
looking at the short term. A DNR with "freedom from interference by political control" gives our conservation agency more ability to look long-term.

Our current Governor has a generally good environmental record, but conservation should not depend only on the occupant of the Governor's mansion. The next Governor may have a less favorable approach to the environment. When environmental protection does not have "continuity of purpose and policy," our outdoors suffers. The damage done to our resources by one Governor cannot be readily cleaned up or repaired by the next, no matter how well intentioned. Once we pollute an aquifer, destroy a natural area or wipe out a species, repairing the damage is difficult and expensive at best and often just impossible.

The independent DNR Bill is co-sponsored by 51 members of the Assembly and 17 Senators – a majority of legislators in each house of the Legislature. It is virtually unheard of for a contested bill to be sponsored by a majority of the Legislature. This unprecedented strong and bipartisan support shows how important restoring the independence of the DNR is to the citizens of the state.

It is time we return to the Aldo Leopold system of conservation that served our state so well for almost 70 years. Our environment is too important to our state and our future to allow political control over conservation to continue. Decisions about our outdoors should be based on what is best for our environment – not on what is best for politicians.

Representative Spencer Black is Chair of the Wisconsin Assembly Natural Resources Committee and has served in the state Legislature for 25 years. He is a former Chair of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club.



Rep. Spencer Black speaks to a rally of bicyclists who came to the Capitol to ask for more support for environmentally friendly transportation.

(Assembly continued from front page)
Waters of Wisconsin, a presentation by photographers Patty and Jeff Henry, will remind us what we work so hard to protect.

There will be plenty of time for relaxing and enjoying Sierra friends from around the state. A silent auction will provide many intriguing opportunities to get good deals while benefiting the John Muir Chapter.

Beaver Creek Reserve features a nature

center with exhibits and gift shop, lodge, and cabin or tent accommodations, as well as 360 acres of upland woods, roadside prairies, and floodplain forests surrounding the Eau Claire River and Beaver Creek. The Reserve is located 9 miles east of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 3.5 miles north of Fall Creek.

Register early to enjoy a price break. Use the registration form that appears in this issue, or online at [http://wisconsin.sierra-](http://wisconsin.sierra-club.org/chippewa/)

[club.org/chippewa/](http://wisconsin.sierra-club.org/chippewa/); you'll find maps and pictures there as well, including additional information about the weekend events.

The Chippewa Valley Group and the S Croix Interstate Group are working together to organize this year's Assembly. For further information contact Chippewa Valley Group Chair Barb Thomas, 715-235-9777 thomash@uwstout.edu, or St. Croix Interstate Group Chair Carol Hardin cchardin8@gmail.com.

Autumn Assembly 2009 - John Muir Chapter

October 9-11, 2009 • Beaver Creek Reserve • Fall Creek, Wisconsin

Registration Form

Name: _____

Additional Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ mobile: (____) _____

Email: _____

Registration fee (before September 26)

_____ No. of Adults (14 and over) x \$ 20 = \$ _____

_____ No. of Children (age 4-13) x \$ 10 = \$ _____

Late Registration (After September 25)

_____ No of Adults (14 and over) x \$ 30 = \$ _____

_____ No of Children (age 4-13) x \$ 15 = \$ _____

Overnight Accommodations:

Friday, Oct. 9

_____ No of Persons x \$ 12 = \$ _____ Dorm Tent

Saturday, Oct. 10

_____ No of Persons x \$ 12 = \$ _____ Dorm Tent

Meals:

Saturday Breakfast, Oct. 9

_____ No of Adults x \$ 6 = \$ _____ At Big Falls In Lodge

_____ No of Children x \$ 4 = \$ _____ At Big Falls In Lodge

Saturday Lunch, Oct. 9

_____ No of Adults x \$ 9 = \$ _____

_____ No of Children x \$ 6 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner, Oct. 9

_____ No of Adults x \$ 10 = \$ _____

_____ No of Children x \$ 8 = \$ _____

Sunday Breakfast, Oct. 10

_____ No of Adults x \$ 6 = \$ _____

_____ No of Children x \$ 4 = \$ _____

Grand Total Enclosed: = \$ _____

Make checks payable to: Chippewa Valley Sierra Club

Mail to: Sierra Club CVG, P.O. Box 375, Eau Claire WI 54702-0375

Number of persons wanting vegetarian meals: _____

Number of persons attending Observatory Star Gazing Saturday evening: _____

Please indicate above if you plan to hike to Big Falls for a light breakfast on Saturday morning.

Please register early. Note late registration fee after 9/25/09.

Refunds will be given to any cancellations received by 9/25/09.

Visit our website: wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/ for more details & site photos.

Questions: Barb Thomas at (715) 235-9771 or thomash@uwstout.edu

Environmental Education Via Amtrak

by Peter Muto

Amtrak is an institution that provides railroad transportation of our people in 46 states of the nation. It is to a large extent supported financially by our federal government. Some trains are subsidized by state governments, for example, the "Hiawatha Service" financed by the States of Wisconsin and Illinois, seven trains per day, both ways, between Milwaukee and Chicago.

Amtrak operates buses, too. For example: buses run round trip five times per day between Madison and Chicago through Janesville; and in another case, one trip per day each way between Milwaukee and Houghton, Michigan, through Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Green Bay, Oconto, Marinette and five Michigan cities. The remaining bus route, one trip per day each way, connects Milwaukee with Wausau by way of Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Appleton and New London. Amtrak buses must yield priority to trains with transferring passengers - the bus may be late even before it begins its journey!

Wisconsin is served by one "long distance" train. It's the "Empire Builder" "Train 7" westward from Chicago to Seattle, a distance of 2,206 miles with one-half of its cars splitting off at Spokane, Washington, to complete a trip to Portland, Oregon; and "Train 8" on the return trip east. The Empire Builder crosses the Mississippi River to enter Wisconsin for stops in La Crosse, Tomah, Wisconsin Dells, Portage, Columbus and Milwaukee. These six cities are visited by the Empire Builder once per day each way. The tracks are owned by the Canadian Pacific Railroad, so the Empire Builder often rests on a side track while a freight train goes by. This can cause the passenger train to be late in making its stops in many towns ahead. But the train crew often makes up time and completes the trip on schedule. People, however, do not take Amtrak to get anywhere on time!

There are two trains that run only three days per week. "The Cardinal", trains numbered 50 and 51, connects Chicago with Washington, DC, by way of Cincinnati. The other is the "Texas Eagle", trains numbered 21 and 22, which connects Chicago and Los

Angeles by way of St. Louis, San Antonio, and Tucson.

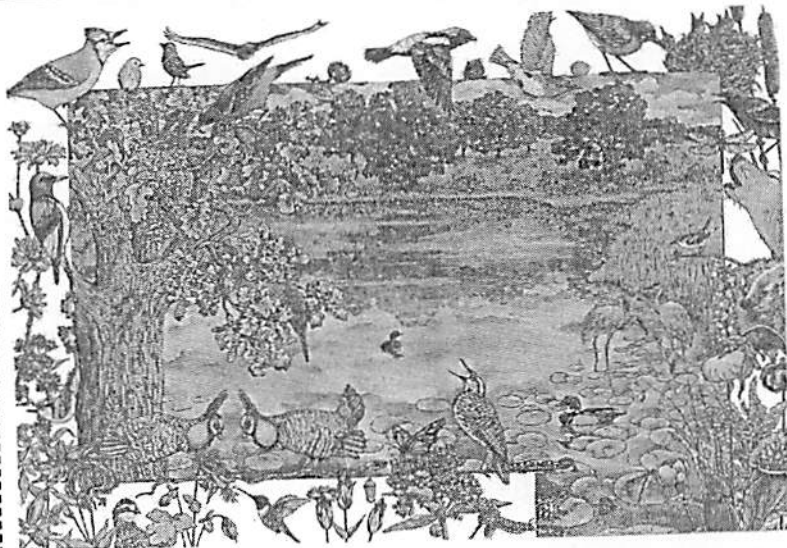
One may ask how Amtrak is related to the environment. The answer is energy conservation. When the steel of a train wheel meets the steel of the rail, there is much less friction than when the rubber of a tire meets the pavement of the highway. Friction is the phenomenon that robs a moving vehicle of its energy efficiency. Therefore, when we travel by Amtrak, we are saving energy.

If you have the time to travel without tension, to see a multitude of landscapes, and to see the beauty of America - go Amtrak!

Peter Muto, lifelong educator, lives in River Falls and is the Environmental Education Chair, St. Croix Valley Interstate Group. He is a former JMC Chair.



"Through the Eyes of John Muir"



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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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_____ 24" x 36" (\$300 each) = \$ _____
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Full Color, High Quality Poster

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

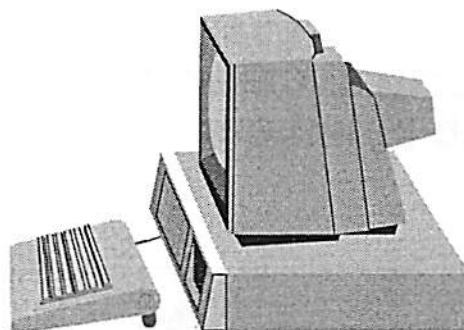
Make out check to Endangered Resources Program, and mail to:
 Heisley Lewison
 Wisconsin DNR - ER/6
 PO Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707-7921

***The Muir View* needs a few good volunteers!**

⇒ **Newsletter Editor**

⇒ **Newsletter Layout Specialist**

⇒ **Advertising Manager**



The Muir View will be losing our **Editor** and our **Layout Specialist**, after years of dedicated service. They will be greatly missed, but we know there are others among our readers who would like to continue the tradition of excellence established by our past newsletter leaders.

Although training specific to Sierra Club publications will be provided, familiarity with newsletter editing fundamentals and/or publishing layout process and software is crucial. Successful volunteers will be able to work cooperatively with others, know how and when to delegate tasks, and be comfortable setting and following timelines.

We are also seeking someone to fill a new position as **Advertising Manager** to solicit advertising for each issue. This position coordinates with our ad layout artist, the Chapter Fundraising Committee, and the Chapter office.

We are calling on members who would like to donate their skills to the John Muir Chapter to contact Patrea Wilson at the Chapter office for an application form. Please specify which position or positions interest you. Application deadline is August 1, 2009.

We intend to fill these three positions before September 1, 2009, so volunteers can work with the present newsletter committee to learn the ropes.

Patrea Wilson – Chapter Coordinator
patrea.wilson@sierraclub.org
(608) 256-0565

Contact Information for John Muir Chapter Groups

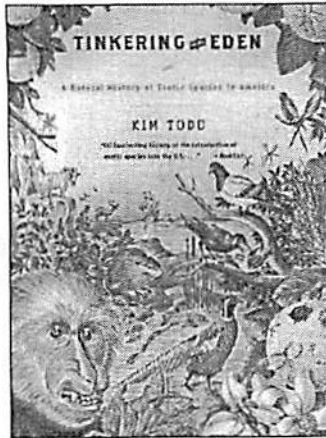
| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Chippewa Valley | http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/ |
| Coulee Region | http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/index.htm |
| Four Lakes | www.4lakes.org |
| Fox Valley | http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/ |
| Great Waters | http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/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


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

GREEN REVIEW

Books Relevant to Wisconsin Sierra Club Members

by Amy Lou Jenkins



 **Tinkering with Eden: A Natural History of Exotic Species in America**, by Kim Todd, 255 pages, Norton.

Before it was published, Kim Todd's *Tinkering with Eden* was thought to be in queue to enter the lineage of writers such as Stephan Jay Gould and David Quammen. The *New York Times*, William Kittredge, *Discover Magazine* and more heaped praises upon Todd's story-telling chops. But this book never hit big. It met the unfortunate fate of being published in 2001 when the nation's interests were otherwise focused. Todd was never invited to Good Morning America; the Discovery Channel never developed a television series based on her narrative as they wisely did for Allen Weissman's *The World Without Us*; Oprah never provided her with a success-guaranteed guest spot punctuated with a trademark introduction: "and now here's Kiiim

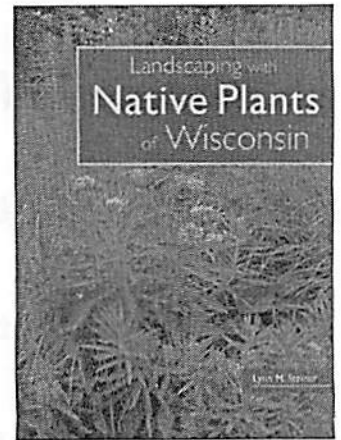
Toooooood." All that should have happened.


While Todd is an esteemed writer (She has since published *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis*), her first book is not as well known as it should be. This series of stories tells the tale of ecosystems adulterated by purposeful and accidental exotic introductions. Todd's illuminating narrative illustrates challenges as well as motives of explorers and pioneers seeking to improve a world they don't understand. In some cases, they are just trying to find a way to stay alive.

These are not just tales of silkworms, European grapes, honey bees, and ring-neck pheasants. No, these are as much stories of the history of the people who settled our land and their motivations as they are a primer on short-sighted good intentions. Understanding the context of these exotic introductions by willful and inadvertent means is a salient part of American history, a history that changed the physical, biologic, and cultural characteristics of our country.

Todd sometimes supposes an event or scene to portray historical events in story form. Her supposings are always explicit and entertaining. Can you imagine the Great Plains hopping with kangaroos in the place of bison? Todd's yarn of Robert Auld's late 1800s attempt to establish a wild population of Grey Kangaroos evokes questions about why we don't see established exotics as foreign. Perhaps it is because we have so little understanding of our native species.

It's doubtful that today's American would have done any better had we changed places with the struggling pioneers. We wouldn't have foreseen the results of exotic introductions given the scientific understanding in the 15th through 18th centuries. Now we are much wiser, right?



 **Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin**, by Lynn M. Steiner, 192 pages Voyageur Press.

Lynn Steiner, who also published books about native plants of Minnesota and Michigan, wants you to fall in love with a neglected and maligned aspect of the real America. Wisconsin is like the rest of the country and continent in that exotic and invasive plants dominate many of our landscapes. When landowners choose plants and trees for their landscape, they often give little thought to inviting in native plants. That's a shame.

Steiner seeks to dispel the myths that native are "weedy, hard to grow, difficult to purchase and generally inappropriate for landscape situations." Quite the contrary, she provides color pictures and information about plants that are most comfortable in a given Midwestern landscape and perfectly suited for the soil, sunlight, and available water in each specific situation. These are the plants that don't generally require fertilizer and insecticides. They invite butterflies, birds, beneficial insects, and more. They begin to restore our fractured ecosystems.

Inviting these plants begins a relationship that is much richer than the standard mulch garden. You know the scene – a bed of mulch with a selection of perfectly spaced exotic annuals that could be mistaken for plastic. Nothing happens in these gardens. Planting with natives celebrates the ecosystem to which you belong.

Find the perfect plants for your culture front yard, the trees to build your hardscape and understory, the best grasses, best bulbs, lovely ferns, and more. The Native Plant Profile section serves as an encyclopedia with comprehensive descriptions for 50 native species. Here's a reference book with a beautiful soul.

Amy Lou Jenkins writes from Wauwatosa
www.amyljenkins.com



Nature Buffs - Enjoy a Unique Vacation

No place like it. Haven for nature lovers - look to the outdoors to see or study nature. Very private, lush forest. Virgin pines over 275 years old. Crystal clear lake. Hike, swim, fish. 3 cabins furnished for 4 persons each. 270 miles north of Chicago. Available by the week, Sat. to Sat., Memorial to Labor Day. For details and reservations, write or call private owner: R.R. Roth, 531 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068; 847-823-4785.

Tree-Hugger's Hangout

Iver's Mountain

by Holly Bergstrom, St. Croix Valley Interstate Group

Located in Laketown Township in Polk County, Iver's Mountain is known for its scenic beauty, and geologic and ecological significance. It is part of the ridge that runs in an arc from the Town of Farmington north through St Croix Falls, Frederic, and Clam Falls. The ridge is marked with Precambrian basalt knobs that have been in place for more than a billion years. This site sits at the confluence of the Superior Lobe and the Grantsburg Sub-Lobe of the glaciers that retreated from Wisconsin. Glacial striations and grooves can be observed on Iver's Mountain.

Iver's Mountain area gives protection and habitat to a wide variety of animals and plants. The mountain is a bedrock glade that provides the environment necessary for the survival of species like the threatened Brittle Prickly Pear Cactus. It is also habitat for the Northern Prairie Skink, a species listed as rare in Wisconsin. In addition, the mountain's habitat has been a sanctuary for threatened species such as the Karner Blue Butterfly, the Trumpeter Swan, osprey, bullfrog and the Blanding's Turtle. The eagles and osprey have thrived in this area, nesting on the mountain and by the surrounding bodies of water.

In the shadows of the mountain are the Trade River, Forsythe Lake, and the wetlands that surround them. These springs nourish the wetlands that protect the Trade River and Forsythe Lake. The Trade River, a cold-water community, runs through the property and along the south side of the mountain. The Trade River is part of the threatened Lower St Croix River watershed.

For the past year our community has been in a battle to save Iver's Mountain from the plague of non-metallic mining that seems to be sweeping across the state of Wisconsin. Since our township is working on its comprehensive planning with no zoning yet in place, Mathy Corporation swooped in, purchasing approximately 378

acres of land and began plans for a large-scale mining operation.

This operation will include high-powered wells and blasting that could contaminate and deplete the ground water.

If the proposed mining takes place it will leave two giant holes in the landscape, approximately 2000 feet long, 800 feet wide, and 100 feet deep. Along with being an ugly blight on the landscape it will destroy the natural habitat for many species of animal and plant life.

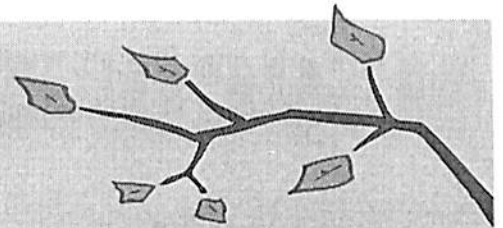
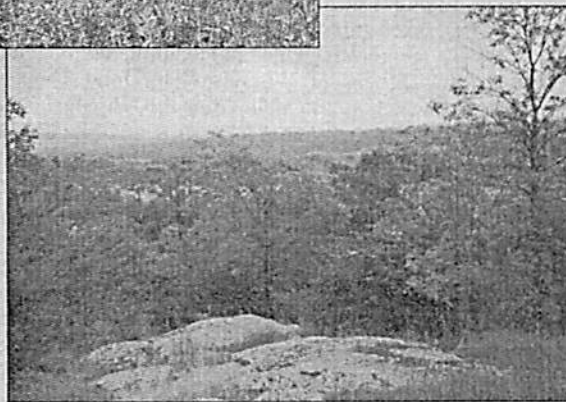
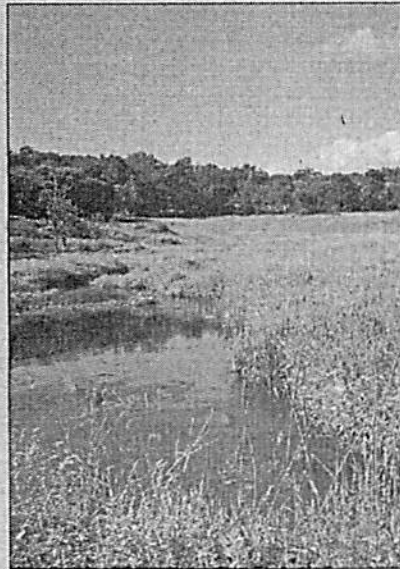
With the proposed mining at least six springs will be destroyed. The elimination of these springs will have a negative impact on the wetlands that are part of the Lower St Croix River watershed. In addition, any mining contamination will have an impact on the entire region.

The St. Croix Valley Interstate Group is opposed to non-metallic mining at Iver's Mountain. In an effort to save the mountain and stop the mining from damaging the large ecosystem and families of the area, Citizens for Planned Development was formed and has begun working to stop the mining. When Mathy's plans were made public the Laketown Township adopted a moratorium that prohibits large-scale development and mining. There are currently three circuit court cases pending and an injunction stopping Mathy from any development at the site through October 2009. For more information please contact

the St. Croix Valley Interstate Group's Conservation Chair, Ron Carlson at (651) 436-3390 or carlsons@q.com or the Citizens for Planned Development at iversmountain@hotmail.com.

Holly Bergstrom lives in Luck with her 7-year-old son Rob. She grew up within a mile of Iver's Mountain and now lives 2 miles from there. She's a medical assistant and she and her son enjoy being outdoors, walking in the woods, and horseback riding.

Editor's note: The Citizens for Planned Development will present a program on mining at the 2009 Autumn Assembly on October 10.



WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

LUNG LICHEN

(*Lobaria pulmonaria*)

Family: Lobariaceae

Other Names: Lungwort

Habitat: Moist deciduous and mixed conifer-deciduous forests more than 80 years old that are well away from sources of air pollution, in temperate to cool-temperate climates. The older and the more extensive the forest, the more likely is it to be home to the lung lichen. NOTE: If you don't know what lichens are, first read **What are Lichens??**, then come back here and go on.

Substrate: Lung lichen is most often found on tree trunks, but is also found on mossy rocks and wood, usually in the shade. It is especially fond of maple trees, but is found on a wide variety of other trees, including arbor vitae, hemlock, and white pine.

Appearance and Size: Lung lichen is a large leafy (foliose) lichen often more than 1' (30 cm) wide, with individual lobes 1/2" to over 1" wide (8-30mm) and up to 3" (7 cm) long. Its surface is strongly pitted with continuous interlocking criss-crossing ridges, and it has small white powdery to granular clumps scattered along the ridges. The powdery clumps are soredia, and those fine granules consist of little packets of the fungus and algae – perfect for dispersing both members of the lichen symbiosis to start a new lichen. When it is dry the lichen's upper surface is mostly medium yellowish brown, but when it is moist it is startling apple-green to grayish green, one of the few lichens almost as bright green as plant leaves. If you encounter it in the woods, drip a little water on its surface and watch it change color. Its lower surface is pale tan to pale brown with lighter patches, with a matted felt-like texture.

Comments: Lung lichen is one of a relatively small number of lichens that regularly have two photosynthesizing partners. The most abundant one is a green alga, the other is a cyanobacterium located in tiny brownish warts that sometimes show on the lower surface. Cyanobacteria, in addition to making carbohydrates from sunlight and nutrients, also fix nitrogen from the air into a form that plants can use. So lung lichen is one of a group of lichens that can help fertilize the forests they live in.

Lung lichen is found around the globe, and it prefers old-growth forest everywhere and is a flagship indicator of the health of those forests. Worldwide it is declining in abundance due to air pollution, loss of forest habitat, and fragmentation of forests. It may be declining as a result of nitrogen blown in from overfertiliza-

tion of agricultural lands, in addition to the effects of standard industrial air pollutants.

Wisconsin Lore: Lung lichen is one of a few lichens easily identifiable by sight in Wisconsin, though in western North America there are several look-alike species. If you find it here or elsewhere in eastern North America, DON'T pick it – take a picture. It is declining in the state, though it is still moderately widespread in northern Wisconsin. It was last recorded in the vicinity of Madison about 1900, and in the Baraboo Hills in the 1940s; it has not been recorded from anywhere in southern Wisconsin since then. If you find it anywhere in southern Wisconsin, please take a picture and send it along with notes about location and habitat to the Wisconsin State Herbarium (see web address below). The photo on this page was taken in northern Wisconsin on a foray commemorating the publication of the book "Lichens of Wisconsin" by John Thomson, which is available from the Wisconsin State Herbarium (more for skilled amateurs and professionals than for beginners).

Human Uses: Following the medieval "doctrine of signatures" it was recommended by herbalists as a remedy for asthma, lung congestion, and tuberculosis because of its resemblance to lung tissue (no evidence it is effective!). It has traditionally been used to dye wool yarn beige to orange-brown colors; such use continues and is probably contributing to its decline. Historically it has been boiled or sautéed for food, and it and its close relatives continue to be sold for food in the markets of southwestern China even though all are declining in abundance there. Fungal carbohydrates are mostly not digestible by humans, so it is not a good source of calories, but it does provide vitamins and minerals as well as a small amount of protein.

What are Lichens?? Lichens are "honorary plants" that are actually a close association (symbiosis) between a fungus and photosynthesizing green algae and/or cyanobacteria (aka blue-green algae), neither of which is a plant. Fungi are actually more closely related to animals! Lichens take their names from the fungus and there are more than 13,500 species known worldwide. Many more may yet be described,

especially in the tropics. Most of the lichenized fungi are members of the Ascomycota, the sac fungi, which includes yeasts, morels, and *Penicillium*. There are also some lichen-forming members of the Basidiomycota including some that form mushrooms or club-shaped fruiting bodies. The algae and cyanobacteria have their own separate names, but fewer than 200 species are known to participate in lichen symbioses.

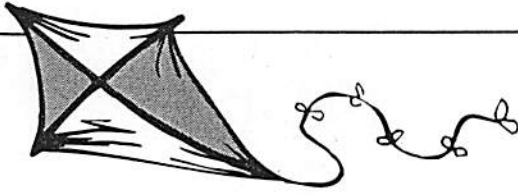
Lichens act like individual plants, but most of them grow much more slowly than vascular plants. They are found growing on tree bark and wood, on bare rock, on soil that is very thin or nutrient-poor, and on similar human-made structures such as sides and roofs of buildings, fences, even cars – anywhere that vascular plants can't grow well. Often they grow with mosses.



A moist lung lichen in northern Wisconsin.
Photo by Marie Trest

Lichens come in many colors: white, gray to greenish or bluish gray, yellow to orange to red, brown to black, and even yellowish to brownish green – but seldom the bright green of mosses and plant leaves. They can be flat and leafy with distinct upper and lower sides (foliose), upright stalks or shrubby (like miniature 1" to 4" bare trees) or stringy and hanging (fruticose), flat and tightly stuck to or embedded in their substrate (crustose), or somewhere in between. For pictures of lichens, see the gorgeous book "Lichens of North America" (by Brodo, Sharnoff, and Sharnoff, 2001. Yale University Press or visit the Wisconsin State Herbarium Lichen web site <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wislichens/>. For links to many lichen web sites visit <https://mywebpace.wisc.edu/jpbennet/web/abls/> and <http://home.comcast.net/~nwlichens/nwl.htm>. An especially fun web site for beginners is <http://ocid.nacse.org/lichenland/>

Susan Will-Wolf is a Senior Scientist and Faculty Associate, and Marie Trest is a Laboratory Coordinator, both in the Department of Botany at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Susan caught the lichen bug while receiving a PhD in Botany and Zoology. Marie received a MA in Botany for a lichen taxonomy project. They learned lichenology from the late Professor John Thomson (UW-Madison Botany.) Susan Will-Wolf, swwolf@wisc.edu. Marie Trest, mttrest@wisc.edu.



Kite Flying Wisconsin

by Antler

Flying a kite
 the shape of Wisconsin
 in Wisconsin—
 Perfect replica of Wisconsin in miniature
 with all its cities and towns,
 all its rivers and lakes,
 all its forests and farms—
 Seeing it soar up and up
 smaller and smaller
 till just a dot in the blue
 tugging the end of my line.
 Up there almost lost from sight
 amid clouds and hovering hawks
 is Milwaukee where I live
 and Northwoods' haunts I love—
 Is no one else in my state
 flying their state
 in kite shape
 high above
 Thinking Wisconsin sails through space
 as much as the kite
 shaped like Wisconsin does
 For the Earth is a kite the Sun flies
 and gravity
 its invisible string?
 Should I let go? No,
 reel it in
 like a fish,
 Wisconsin, come down from the sky!
 with all your cities and towns,
 all your rivers and lakes,
 all your forests and farms,
 Closer, closer, Wisconsin—
 Back home again!

Before I can Fly and Sing

by Antler

Ornithologist discovered
 each baby robin in the nest requires
 14 feet of earthworms a day
 to survive
 So if there are 6 baby robins in the nest
 it means 84 feet of earthworms a day
 are required
 and figuring
 Each earthworm is 4 inches
 give or take an inch
 that means each baby robin needs
 42 earthworms a day.
 Hmm... and when you learn
 earthworm experts discovered
 each worm has 10 hearts
 and is both male and female
 That means each baby robin consumes
 420 earthworm hearts a day
 and 42 times the earthworm know-how
 how to be both male and female.
 Hmm... no wonder
 robin song
 is so
 heartfelt!
 How many worms
 do I need to eat
 every day
 before I can fly and sing?

Antler, who resides in Milwaukee, is a former poet laureate of Milwaukee. He is the author of "Selected Poems," "Every-Expanding Wilderness, Subterranean Rivulet," and "Exclamation points ad Infinitum!" He also has poems in the recent anthologies, "Poets Against the War," "Wild Song: Poems from Wilderness," "Comeback Wolf: Welcoming the Wolf Home," "Poetic Voices Without Borders," "Great Poems for Grandchildren." Antler currently teaches Literature of Ecological Vision at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

John Muir Chapter 2009 Calendar

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

John Muir Chapter

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

2009 ExCom Meetings

| | |
|-------------|---|
| August 25 | Conference Call |
| October 6 | Conference Call |
| November 21 | Methodist Church, Baraboo (Singer Fellowship Hall) |

2009 Events

| | |
|--------------|--|
| August 10 | Green Jobs for Clean Water Milwaukee County War Memorial Center RSVP to Shahla.Werner@sierraclub.org |
| October 9-11 | Autumn Assembly at Beaver Creek Reserve Hosted by the St. Croix Valley Interstate & Chippewa Valley Groups |

RIVER TOURING SECTION OF THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIABILITY WAIVER and REQUIREMENTS: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip or clinic and abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. If you would like to read the liability waiver form before you sign up for a trip or clinic, please see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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

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

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

[club.org/rts/](http://wisconsin.sierra-club.org/rts/) or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

'09 PADDLING TRIPS

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

July 3-5. Lower Wisconsin River. Class I; Canoe Camping (on sandbars). This three day, two night camping trip on a remote, peaceful section of the Wisconsin River features inviting sandbars, sandy beaches, towering bluffs, and craggy rock outcroppings. We'll put in at Peck's Lands just south of Spring Green and take out at Port Andrew just west of Muscodia. We'll paddle through the Avoca State Wildlife Area which contains the largest tallgrass prairie east of the Mississippi and through WI Department of (Continued on next page)

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

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

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

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

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

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

From the American Canoe Association Web Site.

(Continued from previous page)

Resources wildlife areas and learn about the importance of these habitats. Contact Carl Wisler, cwisler@wi.rr.com, 262-542-9593.

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

July 11-12. Little Manistee (Michigan). Class I; Car Camp. This is a surpassingly beautiful river in lower Michigan not yet (and maybe never) in the Wild and Scenic River program (between the Pere Marquette and Pine Rivers off highway MI 37); crystal clear water, more wildlife than people. The first day is a beginner trip; the second day is an advanced beginner of fast water (no rapids) and tight bends. Paddlers will need ability to back paddle, ferry, draw, pry and eddy to do the second day. Contact Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net.

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

August 1-2. Black River. Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbar). Life's a beach on this section of the Black River! We'll canoe camp on a sandbar in this beautiful quiet-water section of the river downstream from Black River Falls. Children are welcome on this family-oriented trip. Learn how to canoe camp with children. Contact: Kasy Culbertson, kasy99@gmail.com, 608-222-0746.

August 8-9. Chippewa River. Class I; Canoe Camping (on sandbars). The Chippewa River features sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines, and a wild appearance. You can expect to see eagles, osprey and other wildlife while paddling on the stretch from Dunnville on the Red Cedar River to the Mississippi. We will cover 10 to 15 miles a day and paddle through both the Dunnville and Tiffany State Wildlife Areas. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. Contact Carl Wisler, cwisler@wi.rr.com, 262-542-9593.

August 22-23. Flambeau River. Class II; Canoe Camping. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has

become one of our finest traditions. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. Contact Rich Krieg, eddyout@gmail.com, 920-497-8004 OR Dale Dean, daleink@jvl.net, 608-879-9280.

September 12-13. Pine River (Michigan) Class I; Car Camp. We will paddle two days on the Pine River (Elm Flats to Low Bridge), returning to camp after the first day. The Pine is a beautiful river with moderate to quick current and one stretch of Class I rapids. Tight bends and chutes, especially on the second day, require basic paddling skills. The Pine is part of the wild and scenic river program. However, because we have moved this trip beyond the permit expiration date, we will not be required to obtain permits; the parking fee will be in effect, however (\$5 for the weekend). Contact Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net, 708-386-1371.

September 19-20. Blackjack Creek and Deerskin River. Class I; Canoe Camp. Explore the Blackjack Springs wilderness in Nicolet National Forest via Blackjack Creek. We'll camp in a wilderness area and return via the Deerskin River. We'll observe

and learn about the effects of the 2001 removal of the dam on the Deerskin. Contact Ron Rosner or Ronnie Hess, 608-238-1828, rosner7@charter.net.

September 26-27. Wisconsin Whitewater (rivers to be determined). Class II-III; Car Camp. Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Depending on water levels, paddlers' interest, and weather, we could paddle the Pike, Peshtigo, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Contact Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net.

October 31 & November 1. Wolf River (Sections II & III). Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Let's leave the river looking good for winter by picking up trash as we go. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Contact Phil Johnsrud, johnsrudp@iola.k12.wi.us, 715-445-4777.

January 9, 2010. River Touring Section Annual Meeting. Save the date. More details to come!

Support the Sierra Club Foundation through Community Shares' Workplace Giving Campaign this Year



- Working to protect Wisconsin's clean air, clean water and special places
- Proud member of Community Shares of Wisconsin and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee
- Make secure, online, tax-deductible donations by going to the websites below.

The Sierra Club Foundation is a charitable organization. Your tax-deductible contributions support Sierra Club's clean air, clean water and special places campaigns.



Workplace giving programs at 414-342-0883
www.milwaukeekeeshares.org



Workplace giving programs at 608-256-1066
www.communityshares.com

Call for Nominations for Directors for 2010 Election by David Sievers

The Nominating Committee is seeking Sierra Club leaders to run for the Board of Directors in the 2010 National Sierra Club election. In support of the Sierra Club's Diversity Plan, the committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates that is inclusive of geography, ethnicity, and urban and rural interests. We encourage interested Club members to apply.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 15 elected volunteers, has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Sierra Club, to establish the Club's conservation priorities, internal policies, and to develop and implement a multi-million dollar budget. The Sierra Club's current budget is over \$70 million and includes a staff of over 300.

The Sierra Club must adapt and respond to the great challenges of our era with vision, innovation and action. The ideal candidate is an experienced, effective leader who has a proven capacity to work with a diverse group of members, organizations, and communities to resolve problems and achieve goals. All candidates are required to have been Sierra Club members continuously for one year prior to the close of nominations on January 13, 2010.

The Nominating Committee seeks members who are dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club, able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a Director, to dedicate sufficient personal time to Board duties, and able to think and plan strategically and politically. Nominees should be knowledgeable about a range of critical environmental issues, familiar with the structure and operations of the Club, and able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Board.

Each Director is elected for a term of three years. A Director may serve an unlimited number of terms, providing that a minimum one-year absence from the Board occurs after any two consecutive full three-year terms. Board members receive reimbursement for travel and lodging, and can claim a per diem of \$30 during Board meetings and while on Club business.

View a brief overview of Club organization, the Board's basic goals and objectives, standards and responsibilities expected of each Director, and brief sketches of the Current Directors at:

<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/committees/nominating/bod-overview.pdf>

Applicants are expected to complete a candidate questionnaire, which is available at the Clubhouse section of the Sierra Club website:

<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/committees/nominating/board-candidate-questionnaire.doc>

Or you may contact David Sievers of the Nominating Committee for a copy of the candidate questionnaire (e-mail address below).

In addition to the nomination process, the Sierra Club allows candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the Bylaws & Standing Rules. These may be found at:

<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/committees/board/10election/default.aspx>

The Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews, scheduled from September 24-26, 2009. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the November 20-21, 2009, Board meeting.

Completed Questionnaires should be returned by July 15, 2009, to David Sievers davidnsievers@gmail.com

Save A Tree! Sign up to get *The Muir View* online!

The Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter is offering you the chance to opt-out of your paper subscription to your quarterly *Muir View* newsletter. You can also let us know if you would like to receive our monthly e-News and other timely electronic communications from the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter.

Subscribing to the online-only *Muir View* and periodic Chapter emails will:

- ⇒ Save trees.
- ⇒ Save the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter funds during this difficult economic time.
- ⇒ Keep you informed about the latest conservation Action Alerts, local event invitations, and Sierra Club news.

Fun Facts:

- If all of our members signed up to receive and read their quarterly *Muir View* online, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter members would save 400,000 (double-sided) sheets, or two tons of paper per year.
- In 2004 the United States used 8 million tons of office paper, the equivalent of 178 million trees!
- The production of 1 ton of copy paper uses 11,134 kWh of electricity and 19,075 gallons of water.

We plan to kick-off this program with the January 2010 edition of *The Muir View*. Although we know that not all of our members have internet access (and that's OK!), those who do are invited to participate in this green program.

If you are able and willing to participate in this program, please send your preferred email along with your request to receive *The Muir View* online and/or other email communications to: Patrea Wilson, Chapter Coordinator at patrea.wilson@sierraclub.org or call us at (608) 256-0565.

SUMMER OUTINGS

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

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

July 5, Sunday: Bike the Badger State Trail. Riding options will be for either 25 or 38 mile round trip. For the long route, meet at the Dawley Conservancy Park lot on Seminole Highway (half way between the Capital City Trail and County PD-McKee Rd) at 9 AM. We will then ride to the trail-head (by way of Seminole Hwy, Fitchburg Rd, Borchert Rd) at Purcell and Sayles Trail where we will meet those opting for the shorter route at 10 AM. We will ride the trail south through Belleville to the Stewart Tunnel (bring a bike light or flashlight). After going through the tunnel, we will turn around and ride back to Belleville for lunch. Bring your own lunch, or there is a cafe in town. We will then ride back to our spec-

ific starting locations. There will be a brief talk about trail riding etiquette and safety at each starting point. Contact Bill Fenske, duh.guru@att.net or 608-852-7241. [4L]

July 16-19, Th-Su: Sylvania Wilderness, Watersmeet, MI, Canoe Trip. Class I; canoe with portage. Early Friday morning we'll embark to Birch campsite on Clark Lake, and in the afternoon explore Whitefish Lake. Saturday is a loop through Loon Lake to explore Sylvania's clean, clear lakes in a wilderness-like setting. The trip includes dawn and moonlight paddles. Learn about what others have done before us to make this a special place of plant, animal, and human interaction. Limited to 12

paddlers. \$25 non-refundable deposit for the 3 night camping fee. Contact Kasy Culbertson, kasy9@juno.com or 608-222-0746. [4L]

July 18, Saturday: Glacial Drumlin Bike Ride. Join Cheri and Tom Briscoe at 9:30 a.m. for an easy leisurely Glacial Drumlin bike ride. We'll start at the parking lot at the intersection of Switzke Rd. and Hwy 18 near Helenville in Jefferson County. We'll bike about 13 miles to Cambridge, where we'll stop off for an early lunch at Ripley's Bakery and Eatery. We'll return for a total round trip of 26 miles. On this lovely ride we will learn about prairies, wetlands and the Mills Wildlife Area. Include your phone number with email reservations in case of stormy weather. State Trail Passes required: \$4 daily or \$20 annual. (For information about getting State Trail Passes, go to: http://www.fwsp.org/stickers_passes) Contact Cheri Briscoe, 414-390-0159, cherib@wi.rr.com. [GW]

August 29, Saturday: Ice Age Trail Workday, Portage County. We'll check out the New Hope segment and do minor maintenance for the Parade of Colors Fall Hike. Meet at the Iola Winter Sports Club just west of Hwy 49, north of Iola at E398 Cty Trunk MM. Tools will be provided or you may bring your own pruning tools. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and mosquito and tick repellent. Afterwards we will stop for ice cream in Iola. Contact Darrell Ruechel, dairl@waupacaonline.net or 715-258-5226. [FV]



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve The Future

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

Gift Planning Program
85 Second St, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(800) 932 - 4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Outing host group is indicated in brackets:

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

Liability Waiver & Carpooling:

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

Outings Coordinator:

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

Sierra Club Online Communities

Sierra Club has just recently launched its new suite of online communities. The network currently includes three focused communities with two more communities (Activist Network and Sportsmen) set to come on board in the coming months.

Climate Crossroads is a new Sierra Club Online Community for people eager to share ideas, information, opinions, and opportunities to make real and urgent progress on climate change. (climatecrossroads.org)

Sierra Club Trails is a free and open online community that features a wiki-powered collection of trails, and is dedicated to those who enjoy hiking, boating, biking, skiing, and other outdoor activities. (sierraclubtrails.org)

Sierra Student Coalition is the virtual home of the Sierra Club's national youth chapter. It's a place to connect, engage and organize around the most pressing environmental and climate issues of our time. (ssc.sierraclub.org)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



You're only as old as you feel.

Giant Sequoias are the largest living things on the planet, some dating back over 3,000 years. Sierra Club has worked for the protection of these gentle giants for over 100 years. Sequoias can grow up to 1 to 2 feet tall per year until they are between 200 to 300 feet high, and then like people, they grow out. Sequoias have withstood the test of time - and by now, their only true enemy is us. Currently, Sequoias are in grave danger of being destroyed by commercial logging. We have the power to preserve or destroy these majestic trees.

Live it up and JOIN Sierra Club to help keep our 100 year tradition of preservation alive.

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| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org