

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org

Wisconsin's Clean Energy Future and what YOU can do to make it a reality!

by Zaher Karp

Repowering Wisconsin could be more than a dream – our state has substantial research, agricultural and manufacturing strengths that can fuel a new clean-energy economy if strong policies are put in place. That is why the statewide members of the Sierra Club stand united behind the Clean Energy Jobs Bill for Wisconsin.

However, pushing for strong clean energy policies has not been a priority among most state legislators (with a few notable exceptions – see the “Capitol Conservation” column in this issue). With unemployment climbing, how much longer can they afford to skirt these critical issues?

The Sierra Club and dozens of other groups are working to turn up the heat on the campaign to take statewide action for clean energy by urging legislators to pass a strong Clean Energy Jobs Bill before the end of the year.

This bill, still in the drafting stages as of this writing, includes numerous recommendations by the Governor's Global Warming Task Force (GWTF). The Task Force developed over 60 legislative recommendations for a report released last year, which highlighted the economic viability of, and the basic necessity for, energy conservation and efficiency. The report also centered on the long-term need for clean technologies and innovative low-carbon fuel sources. As a member of the GWTF, the Sierra Club helped create and voted to support these recommendations, along with a diverse

group of stakeholders who devised detailed plans to combat global warming in Wisconsin.

Since the release of the GWTF report, hundreds of Sierra Club members have contacted state legislators urging them to take action on global warming in Wisconsin for the sake of our environment and our economy. Some participated in Conservation Lobby Day, while others have signed postcards, attended events, written editorials, and sent legislators messages urging them to take action on this issue.

The Sierra Club will support a Clean Energy Jobs Bill that includes five key provisions based on the GWTF recommendations: increased targets for renewable energy, statewide energy efficiency targets, increased transportation options, immediate greenhouse gas reductions from large emitters, and authorization for Wisconsin to participate in a national or regional cap-and-trade program.

The first focus is on renewable energy standards that require Wisconsin to obtain 10% of our energy from renewable sources by 2013, 20% by 2020 and ultimately 25% by 2025. Wind, solar, hydroelectric and other clean energy technologies can not only dramatically alter greenhouse-gas emissions, but can also provide the green jobs necessary to improve the state's economic foothold during the current recession.

Strengthening the state's workforce is vital to the success of clean energy, and ensuring the creation of local green jobs should be a

priority. That is why we would like to see a Clean Energy Jobs Bill that requires half of all renewable energy to come from within the state.

Secondly, energy efficiency is promoted by employment of energy efficient appliances (like “Energy Star”), new building codes, and statewide efficiency programming for a 2% annual reduction in energy use. This provision has the potential to save money for energy ratepayers and businesses, put people to work making existing structures more efficient, and avoid the need to build new power plants. Implementing energy efficiency provisions in Wisconsin is, in fact, the most cost-effective way to address global warming.

Promoting and supporting cleaner vehicles and low-carbon fuels will help address transportation's contribution to global warming, in addition to creating more efficient transit networks in our state.

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**Vote for the
John Muir Chapter's
Executive Committee!**

Fill out and mail in the
ballot on page 15.



FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Steffens, Chair
John Muir Chapter

After a record-breaking cool July, you may be wondering what happened to global warming. It's still with us in the form of global "weirding," a spectrum of unusual weather worldwide. My tomato plants are wondering what happened to global warming as well, but it has proven to be perfect weather for beans and broccoli.

If you don't read "The New York Times" regularly, you have missed some great columns on global warming by Tom Friedman, who won a national Sierra Club award a couple of years ago for his reporting on global warming and the economy. The high quality of his reporting continues with coverage of the two-edged threat posed by mainland China.

On the one hand, China continues to build coal-fired power plants at a record pace that will negate what the rest of the world does to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. At the same time China is building a green economy much faster than the United States.

Friedman, and President Obama, hope to renew this country's competitive economic advantage by creating industries that will

compete favorably in the green energy sector. However, we are already being disadvantaged by entrepreneurs in mainland China. It is time that we begin looking at longer-term economic prospects rather than building businesses that rely on the same old premises of the last century.

If you have never attended one of our Autumn Assemblies, I strongly urge you to do so for many reasons. You will learn firsthand what the Chapter and Groups are working on in their conservation programs. You will meet other people in the Sierra Club, share ideas with them, and make new friends. New last year and continuing this year will be a silent auction, offering exciting goods (camping gear, artwork, books) and services (dinner at good restaurants, a stay at a fine bed-and-breakfast) – these proved to be highly popular last year – all to contribute to the Chapter's efforts. Above all, you will have fun and learn new things. For further details and to register, read the Autumn Assembly 2009 article and schedule in this issue of "The Muir View" or go to the Chapter website.

It's been fun serving as your Chapter Chair for the past three years. My sincere thanks to all of you who have contributed spirit, time and money to make our Sierra Club strong and effective.

Jim Steffens, out-going Chair of the John Muir Chapter, is a member of the Four Lakes Group. He lives in Ridgeway.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE MUIR VIEW

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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.

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**DEADLINE FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2010
ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 15.**

CONSERVATION CONCEPTS



by Eric Uram, JMC Conservation Chair

In order to reduce toxic chemical use, policies need to change. We need to start now in order to make the world a safer place for everyone and give children the advantage they need to begin life. There are enough challenges they will face. States can ban use of chemicals such as Wisconsin did forty years ago, and the international treaty known as POPs (persistent organic pollutants) needs full implementation. If you want to help, join the National Toxics Committees PBT (persistent bio-accumulative toxics) Campaign by signing up for the Toxics Forum email list to help us make a difference in Wisconsin and around the World.

The following article provides a timely history lesson about how public policy changes were initiated here in Wisconsin, a case of good science and persistent activism banning a toxic chemical.

DDT Battle 40 Years Ago Is Worth Remembering

The Capital Times, August 4, 2009
Bill Berry

The year 1969 is in the news these days. Retrospectives 40 years later have focused on everything from Woodstock to anti-war demonstrations and the moon landing. That year also marked one of the most important moments of modern-day environmentalism, and Madison was at the epicenter.

The Wisconsin Legislature in 1969 voted to effectively ban the persistent pesticide DDT from use in the state. The action was a first in the nation. The same year also marked the end of remarkable hearings in Madison that put DDT on trial in front of the nation. A small group of concerned state conservationists and an old-school professor from the University of Wisconsin-Madison asked the Department of Natural Resources to rule on whether DDT was a water pollutant under state statutes.

Concern about DDT was growing around the country as knowledge grew about its disastrous impacts on wildlife. Joseph Hickey, who headed the Department of Wildlife Management within UW's College of Agriculture, had some of the most important research of all. His studies showed beyond a shadow of a doubt that peregrine falcons were devastated by chronic expo-

sure to DDT. Hickey got researchers from around the world to come to Madison in 1965 for a conference on the status of peregrine falcons and other raptors. Much of the research was so new that it created as many questions as answers, but slowly a scientific consensus emerged: Despite its many benefits to agriculture and in other uses, DDT was causing irreparable harm to the environment. Many avian species near the top of the food chain were failing to reproduce because DDT and its metabolites caused thinning of their eggshells.

Hickey ran into censorship and rebuke from some colleagues in the College of Agriculture, but once he begrudgingly decided to get involved in public policy, he locked arms with the likes of Lorrie Otto, a tireless suburban Milwaukee housewife who had been clamoring for action for years.

The Wisconsin activists raised enough money to bring the upstart Environmental Defense Fund (motto in its early days: "Sue the Bastards") to help at the hearing. DDT proponents vastly underestimated their foes, who tore them apart in testimony. Media coverage was intense, and at the center was a cub reporter for "The Capital Times" named Whitney Gould, who later moved on to "The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel." "The Capital Times" early on decided to cover all of the hearings. They lasted on and off for six months.

Hearing examiner Maurice Van Susteren eventually ruled in favor of the activists, but after the Legislature took action. DDT was

banned at the national level in 1972, and a new era of more careful pesticide use was ushered in.

Are there lessons for today from those bristling times? Thomas Dunlap wrote his doctoral dissertation in history at UW-Madison on the DDT wars. Published as a book, "DDT: Scientists, Citizens and Public Policy" sold well, and propelled Dunlap into a position as a leading environmental historian.

A faculty member at Texas A&M University, Dunlap reflected on the lessons of DDT in a recent conversation. He drew comparisons between the DDT wars and today's often fractious discussions about global warming: "Like DDT, climate change is a problem that we can't see unless we see it through scientists' eyes. It's not obvious. You have to understand the whole system. With DDT, it wasn't robins dead on the lawn from acute exposure. It was this long-term problem. Like climate change, we had to get scientists to show us what the problem was."

As for those days of the DDT wars, Dunlap added, "DDT was the first modern environmental problem."

(Reprinted with permission.)

Bill Berry of Stevens Point writes a semi-monthly column for "The Capital Times."

CAPITOL CONSERVATION

by Representative Spencer Black

When I took over as Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee at the beginning of this legislative session, I told my colleagues on the Committee to fasten their seat belts – we were going to be busy. Many crucial environmental issues had been neglected for more than a decade and we had work to do. We've made a good start on an ambitious agenda approving bills to clean up our lakes, prevent invasive species transport, promote recycling of electronic waste, and restrict the use of mercury.

But one of the most important bills is still ahead of us. Soon, we will introduce the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. This bill will make Wisconsin a leader in fighting global warming and building a greener energy future.

The bill sets a goal of reducing Wisconsin's greenhouse gas emissions 22% by the year 2022 and 75% by 2050. We will require that, by 2025, 25% of the state's electricity come from renewable sources such as wind and solar. Energy conservation will be far better funded in order to reduce electricity and gas consumption by as much as 2% every year.

The bill mandates conservation measures in economic sectors as varied as transportation, building construction, farming, forestry and manufacturing. The bill will encourage more walkable and bikeable communities, more efficient homes and appliances; and will provide help for schools and businesses to do their part. Importantly, state government will lead by example with very strict energy standards for state buildings and vehicles and ambitious goals for renewable energy use.

This bill not only makes sense for our environment – it makes sense for our economy. We send over \$20 billion a year out of

our state's economy to purchase fossil fuels. That's an incredible drain on our prosperity. If we can keep more of that money here through conservation and use of renewable energy, we will create jobs and economic well-being. Already, tens of thousands of Badgers are employed in green jobs. This bill will increase that employment to hundreds of thousands.

There is a clear consensus among scientists that climate change is happening faster and will create greater disruption than previously predicted. Wisconsin scientists have found that changes due to global warming will have dramatic impacts this century on our weather patterns, water resources, forests and wildlife.

Despite the strong environmental and economic case for the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, passing this bill will not be easy. The fossil fuel interests are spending millions to oppose any effort to combat global warming. We can expect a stream of misinformation and intense lobbying from those groups.

Fortunately, a broad coalition of environmentalists, businesses, labor, farmers, religious groups, students and Native Americans has come together to push for this important legislation. This kind of coalition reminds me of many citizens who came together to successfully push for the Mining Moratorium. It's going to be a tough fight, but environmental progress never just happens. And if we're successful, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill will create a much cleaner, more prosperous and sustainable state.

Representative Spencer Black is the Chair of the 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.

(Energy continued from front page)

Mandating early greenhouse gas reductions would force utility companies to reduce emissions now, before targets are ratcheted up and drastic reductions increase costs. Although the GWTF report recommended that early reductions be voluntary, utilities have neglected to address major issues thus far.

Finally, bringing cap-and-trade to Wisconsin would motivate utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a flexible manner. That will achieve targets without imposing inflexible taxes that hurt businesses in times of economic downturn.

Since 1990, Wisconsin's emissions have risen by 25-percent. Evidently short-term solutions are far from the answer. Focusing

on policies that will guide future development, the smart grid-for example, is a long term investment that must be made.

A strong Clean Energy Jobs Bill for Wisconsin must be introduced and passed this year – neither the economy nor the environment can handle further delays.

As a Sierra Club member, you can help our statewide efforts to address climate change by contacting your legislators and local media outlets. Consider writing a short letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

It only takes a minute to make a difference for Wisconsin's clean energy future!

CALL YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS
via the Wisconsin Legislative Hotline
today: 1-800-362-9472

WRITE LEGISLATORS AT:

Senators: P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882;

Representatives whose last names begin with the letters A-L:

P.O. Box 8952, Madison WI 53708-8952;

Representatives whose last names begin with the letters M-Z:

P.O. Box 8953, Madison WI 53708-8953

Zaher Karp is a freelance writer and editor who has covered renewable energy and clean technology. He has worked to promote and pursue sustainability through various means, including editorial support to local nonprofits.

Autumn Assembly- Inspiration, Information, Camaraderie, and Fun!

by Jeff Henry

Plan to attend the John Muir Chapter's 2009 Autumn Assembly hosted by the Chippewa Valley and St. Croix Valley Interstate Groups on October 9-11 at Beaver Creek Reserve near Eau Claire. The diverse weekend activities will inform and inspire you in the company of Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin.

The keynote presentation will feature nationally prominent public health scientist Dr. Michael Osterholm explaining the connection between climate change and the threat of infectious disease outbreak.

Other featured speakers include Marybeth Lorbiecki and Mike McCabe. Lorbiecki, author of an Aldo Leopold biography, will spark commitment to conservation ideals through her presentation, "Setting Aflame a Fierce Green Fire: An Ecological Ethic for the 21st Century." McCabe, Executive Director of Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, will focus on the importance of implementing state campaign finance reform to curtail the legislative influence of special interests.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Board member John Welter, Tom Stolp of the League of Conservation Voters, western Wisconsin grassroots mining activists, and John Muir Chapter leaders will address an array of state environmental issues. A three-person panel of educators will discuss the crucial role of green charter schools in the development of a sustainable society. Steve Betchkal, author of "The 50 Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin," will highlight some of Wisconsin's natural treasures, and photographers Patty and Jeff Henry will portray the beauty of our state with their slide show, "Wisconsin, A Gathering of Waters."

In addition, attendees will have opportunities to explore the 360-acre Beaver Creek Reserve with its upland woods, two trout streams, and bottomland forests bordered by the Eau Claire River. There will also be access to Hobbs Observatory, which offers one of the most powerful
(Continued on page 6)

2009 Autumn Assembly Schedule

FRIDAY

- 3:30 - 5:00 Hike at Beaver Creek Reserve (Meet in the Lodge)
- 5:00 - 7:00 Dinner at local eateries with other early arrivals
- 7:00 - 10:30 Registration/Check-in; Snacks, wine & beer in the lodge
- 7:00 - 9:30 Conservation Cabaret - Tom Stolp, League of Conservation Voters; Eric Uram, JMC Conservation Chair; and more!
- 7:00 - 10:30 "The Lorax" and other green flix

SATURDAY

- 7:00 - 9:00 Hike and Breakfast at Big Falls (optional)
- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast in the Lodge
- 8:30 - 11:45 Registration in the Nature Center Auditorium
- 9:00 - 9:30 Welcome and announcements
- 9:30 - 10:30 Keynote Speaker: The Impacts of Climate Change on Public Health - Michael Osterholm, Ph.D., Master of Public Health
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45 - 11:45 Setting Aflame a Fierce Green Fire: An Ecological Ethic for the 21st Century - Marybeth Lorbiecki, author
- 12:00 - 12:45 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:50 Make People Matter More than Money in Politics - Mike McCabe, Executive Director WI Democracy Campaign
- 2:05 - 2:55 Concurrent Sessions I
 - A. Grassroots Activists v. Local Mining Threats - Friends of Rural Communities and Environment of Wisconsin (FORCE Wisconsin) & Friends of Iver's Mountain
 - B. The Fifty Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin - Steve Betchkal, author
- 3:10 - 4:00 Concurrent Sessions II
 - A. WI Natural Resources Board Role & Current Issues - Duke Welter, Secretary Natural Resources Board
 - B. Schooling for Sustainability in a Natural Learning Environment - Senn Brown, Executive Director Green Charter Schools Network; Paul Tweed, Teacher & Founder Wildlands School; Cheryl Schnell, Teacher & Founder Island City Research Academy
- 4:15 - 5:30 Social Hour with wine & beer and Silent Auction bidding
- 5:45 - 7:00 Dinner & awards
- 7:15 - 8:00 Wisconsin, A Gathering of Waters Slide Presentation - Patty & Jeff Henry
- 8:00 - 8:30 Silent Auction wrap-up
- 8:30 - 11:00 Snacks, wine & beer, and conversation
- 9:00 - 10:00 International Folk Dancing for All, led by Paul Wagner
- 9:00 - 11:00 Astronomy Program & Star Gazing with experts at the Observatory
- 9:00 - 12:00 Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstration - Beaver Creek Reserve Volunteers

SUNDAY

- 7:00 - 8:00 Early Bird Hike
- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:35 Cool Cities: How Communities Are Using Stimulus Funding for Clean Energy Solutions - Rosemary Wehnes, Sierra Club Associate Regional Representative
- 9:40 - 10:10 Dry Streambeds and Tapwater Smells of Manure - What the ___! - Jim Kerler, JMC Water Protection Team
- 10:15 - 10:45 Moving Beyond Coal - Jen Feyerherm, John Muir Chapter Climate Change Team
- 10:50 - 11:15 The View from Hamilton Street: JMC Accomplishments & Plans for a Sustainable Future - Shahla Werner, JMC Director
- 11:15 - 11:25 Wrap-up and Preview of 2010 Autumn Assembly
- 1:30 - 2:30 Tour of Leinenkugel's Historic Brewery

V is for Victory!

by Deb Saeger

Imagine for a moment that Green Bay decides to re-route the city's 450 plus miles of sanitary sewers. In this community of 100,000 people, the sewer waste dumps into open lagoons where it sits until it's eventually spread on neighboring farm fields.

It seems absurd to contemplate such a large city without a wastewater treatment plant, and yet the proposed expansion of an industrial dairy north of Rosendale has much in common with this scenario. The Rosendale Dairy is a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO), which could become Wisconsin's largest factory farm, housing 8,300 cows if expansion is completed. Midwest Environmental Advocates has calculated the Rosendale CAFO will ultimately produce and store over 90 million gallons of manure and wastewater each year. In Wisconsin, only Milwaukee and Madison produce more biological waste. Unlike these cities though, Rosendale Dairy will be storing this waste in open lagoons before spreading it, untreated, on area farmland.

The negative environmental impacts of CAFOs such as Rosendale are well-documented. In fall 2008 the Union of Concerned Scientists called out several major environmental pollutants linked to livestock manure: ammonia, nitrates, nitrogen and phosphorus. These environmental hazards are greatly amplified by CAFOs due to the sheer volume of waste produced. Ammonia in the atmosphere can exacerbate respiratory conditions, including asthma. Nitrates are linked to cancer and cause serious illness in infants. They can wind up in drinking water due to improper manure spreading. Areas around Rosendale and a number of northeastern Wisconsin counties are especially at risk for nitrate as well as bacteriological contamination of ground water due to the presence of "karst" terrain. (Karst geology is characterized by thin soils over bedrock that is permeated by fissures, sink holes, caves and underground drainage, making it easy for contaminants to reach underground aquifers.)

Extensive manure spreading produces nitrogen and phosphorus in quantities far greater than crops can absorb. These pollutants run off of farm fields or lagoons and reach surface waters, resulting in algae blooms and fish kills.

Based on these concerns the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club and many other environmental organizations in Wisconsin have been actively monitoring the Rosendale Dairy permitting process. Factory farms like Rosendale Dairy are required by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to apply for a Wastewater Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit, to ensure both surface and ground water are protected from contamination by manure storage and spreading. Sierra Club and other organizations submitted comments to the DNR, detailing numerous shortcomings in Rosendale's proposed operations, yet the DNR approved Rosendale's "Phase I" plan.

So what's the Victory? Despite this initial setback, a grassroots group - "People Empowered Protect the Land (PEPL) of Rosendale" - obtained legal assistance from Midwest Environmental Advocates to request a contested case hearing on Rosendale's permit. Our newly formed John Muir Chapter Water Team submitted a letter of support to the DNR on behalf of MEA and PEPL's request. Now, in a rare action, the DNR has granted the contested case hearing. This is truly good news, although the DNR has not yet scheduled a date for this hearing, and there could be considerable delays.

In the meantime public hearings on expanding the Rosendale operation to Phase II will take place this fall. The JMC Water Team will continue to monitor the permitting process and provide formal comments to the DNR reiterating the serious environmental consequences posed by further expansion of Rosendale Dairy.

Sierra Club members will play a critical role in preserving Wisconsin's clean and abundant water supply. You can help today by taking any of these actions:

- Contact our John Muir Chapter office to (1) share your own experiences with agricultural water pollution, (2) sign up for the Water Team email list, and/or (3) become a citizen water monitor. Sierra Club John Muir Chapter, 222 South Hamilton Street, Suite #1, Madison, WI 53703, Phone: (608) 256-0565, john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org
- Attend the Autumn Assembly and exchange ideas with Water Team members.
- Let decisionmakers know of your concerns about waste spreading, especially in karst regions, and its impacts on our drinking water and aquatic habitats.

Deb Saeger is a member of the John Muir Chapter Water Team. She resides in Middleton where she is also active in the City's sustainability efforts.

(Assembly continued from page 5)
telescopes available for public use in Wisconsin. Folk dancing led by Eau Claire Sierran Paul Wagner and a saw-whet owl banding demonstration will round out Saturday night. And, as always, count on plenty of fun and socializing with fellow Sierrans.

Go to the John Muir Chapter website for more information and to register online or obtain a registration form. Register by September 25 for a reduced fee.
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>

You may also contact Barb Thomas, Chippewa Valley Group Chair (715-235-

9771 or thomash@uwstout.edu) or Carol Hardin, St. Croix Valley Group Chair (cchardin8@gmail.com).

Jeff Henry was a founding member of the Chippewa Valley Group 27 years ago and has been involved in each of the preceding four Autumn Assemblies the group has hosted.

Hudson Middle School Forest Revisited

by Peter Muto

We introduced the Hudson Middle School (HMS) Forest in this year's January-March issue of *The Muir View*, when I announced that the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board awarded a grant to help develop this school forest project.

I was able to learn how the grant of money from the state created an opportunity to bring in experts to guide numerous in-service programs for teachers through modification of the HMS curriculum. My role was as liaison between our St. Croix Valley Interstate Group and the HMS Forest Committee, which was mainly made up of local faculty members.

We had a tree-planting day on May 27 that I consider the highlight of the school year. It rained lightly just before the event; and the weather was mild – who could ask for more? Our inspiring leader was Cynthia Landers, a science teacher at HMS, who brought out the youngsters from two HMS clubs, the Young Naturalists and the Garden Club. The students volunteered to gather at the site from 3:30 to 7:30 on the after-school date. Several adults, three of us from Sierra Club, came along to give them advice and encouragement.

The tree-planting project was an amazing success. The smiling, wet and muddy students had a positive learning experience. I was able to keep up with the students for two hours, finishing wet, muddy, and smiling in spite of fatigue and diverse aches. It was a memorable and happy day!



The tree-planting crew at the Hudson Middle School Forest.

The students planted a total of 82 trees and shrubs, among them 23 tree species such as birch, ash, oak and various evergreens, and ten species of shrubs including hawthorn, plum, serviceberry, dogwood and hazelnut. All are native to our area. This nursery stock was planted inside the bowl-shaped forest plot. Buckthorn, an invasive species, was removed the previous year, so this is now a vastly improved forest.

The students who visit the HMS Forest in future classes will learn about the features of vegetative diversity, the impact of various soil types and the effects of differing

slopes of the land relative to the sun's path. We can imagine classes of pupils taking advantage of a snowfall on a mild winter day to find tracks of wild animals who thrive in such a diversified forest.

We need to recognize some individuals for their contributions to the story we share with you. Thanks to teacher Cynthia Landers and to Randy Hanson, reporter from the *Hudson Star-Observer* newspaper. Our three Sierra Club members who shared the youngsters' fun were Cathy Witte, Cheryl Karnes, and yours truly.

Please mark your calendars for April 30, 2010, Wisconsin's next Arbor Day. You, too, can join us kids at heart! Wherever your tree lot may be.

Peter Muto, lifelong educator, lives in River Falls and is the St. Croix Valley Interstate Group's secretary pro tempore. He is a former JMC Chair.

Contact Information for John Muir Chapter Groups

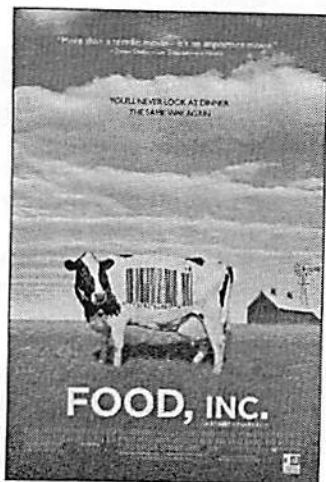
Chippewa Valley	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/
Coulee Region	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/index.htm
Four Lakes	www.4lakes.org
Fox Valley	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/
Great Waters	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/
Southeast Gateway	http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/
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 and Movies Relevant to Wisconsin Sierra Club Members

by Amy Lou Jenkins



 *Food, Inc.*, (the movie), Magnolia Pictures, 93 minutes. Available on DVD November, 2009.

In *Food, Inc.*, producer-director Robert Kenner and investigative authors Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*) and Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*) lift the shroud from the U.S. food industry. The filmmakers expose the Orwellian underbelly that's been calculatedly hidden from the American consumer.

Though food companies try with their advertisements and packaging to maintain the myth that our food still comes from farms with red barns and white picket fences, most groceries come from massive factory farms and are processed in mega-industrial plants. The system is highly productive, and Americans have access to some inexpensive food: milk is often sold below production costs; burgers are found on dollar menus; and some melt-in-your-mouth white bread (Yuk!) can be found for under a buck a loaf. *Food, Inc.* explores the price we pay for our highly industrialized food system.

Cattle are fed a government-subsidized corn-based diet that their bodies are not biologically designed to digest, resulting in new E. coli strains that sicken roughly

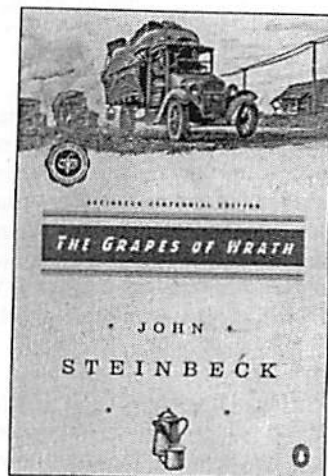
73,000 Americans annually. The actual cost of food is hidden in a complicated maze of food subsidies. And the proliferation of processed foods derived from corn and corn sweeteners contributes to an epidemic level of diabetes among adults and an alarming increase in obesity, especially among children. Farms based on petroleum and chemical agriculture pollute our streams and food supply. Kenner points out that it's all happening in full view of the USDA and the FDA, which begs the question: whom do they serve?


In the nation's heartland, farmers have been silenced – afraid to talk about what's happening to the nation's food supply for fear of retaliation and lawsuits from giant corporations. Monsanto, the former chemical company that manufactured Agent Orange and DDT, landed its patented gene in 90% of the nation's soybean seeds. They've done this in a span of only 10 years. Farmers are now forbidden to save and reuse these seeds, but must instead buy new seed from Monsanto each season. The farmers break the law if they use a non-Monsanto seed and a bee pollinates from a Monsanto plant, because the patented genetic material has been passed on. Supreme Court Justice Thomas, a former Monsanto lawyer, wrote the patent decision. The film exposes a revolving door of executives from giant food corporations in and out of executive government positions.

Rather than disgusting the viewer with slasher-film-type footage about the treatment of animals and land, *Food, Inc.* points a finger at some muscular industrial companies who shove small farmers around. Armed with a team of employees dedicated to enforcing their seed patents, Monsanto spends millions every year to investigate, intimidate and sue farmers, many of whom are financially unable to fight the corporation, but would rather not use genetically modified seed and the required chemicals to grow an industrial crop. *Food, Inc.* also introduces us to real mavericks. The stories of chicken farmer Carole Morison, seed cleaner Moe Parr and food safety advocate Barbara Kowalczyk demonstrate the level of humanity and commitment required to fight the corporations that control the food industry.

Food, Inc. illustrates the dangers of a food system controlled by powerful corporations that don't want you to consider how your food is made. In fact, the film tells us that

criticism and unauthorized photography of food production is often illegal. The film reveals in a credible and compelling way how complicated, compromised, and corrupt the once-simple process of farming has become. It also reminds us that, despite what appears to be a hopeless situation, each of us retains the ability to vote on this issue every day – at breakfast, lunch and dinner.



 *The Grapes of Wrath: Centennial Edition*, John Steinbeck, Penguin books, 455 pages

Written in the middle of Dust Bowl and Depression of the 1930's, it might be easy to imagine a text that is no longer relevant. Consider that this book is about environmental devastation, corporate greed, economic collapse, a proliferation of propaganda aimed at controlling and scaring those living at the economic margins, and the resultant human suffering.

The truth in Steinbeck's art shines through the dust and the decades. It is just as germane as it was when first published in 1939. That relevance speaks not only to Steinbeck's skill in portraying the human quest for dignity and survival, but also to the vitality of greed and short-term thinking in places of power.

Amy Lou Jenkins writes from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Her book "Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting" will be released in June of 2010. AmyLouJenkins.com

Tree-Hugger's Hangout

Stillwater Islands, St. Croix River

by Jean Hoffman

To me, favorite spots are best kept secret, but this spot could always use more nature lovers and history buffs. The Stillwater Islands area is the St. Croix River stretch from the Soo-Line High Bridge downriver to the Boomsite Wayside.

The Soo Line High Bridge (also called the Arcola High Bridge) is where the stretch begins. For years this bridge was said to be the largest bridge of its kind in the world after it was built in 1911. At first it appears to be an abandoned relic, ready to topple into the river. Surprisingly, very long trains cross the bridge three times a day, very slowly and with a pleasant rumble that fills the valley—a treat to watch from the river.

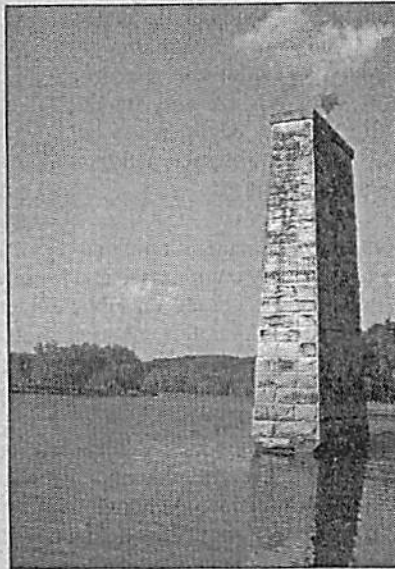
Just south of the High Bridge on the Minnesota side is the Arcola Day Use

Area, a nice place to walk down to the river. In the early spring you can watch the sheets of ice float downriver, and if you are lucky you'll see a turtle hitching a ride on one of the huge trees floating down during high water.

But don't plan on watching the floodwaters from any of the islands on the stretch because they are completely underwater for at least a month in the spring. In the winter you might see the otters slide across the snow and ice, or peek their heads out from one of their air holes. Beware of going on the ice; the strong current changes the ice depth daily, and you might just fall through one of those partially frozen otter holes.

If you travel downriver from there by boat, take note of the beautiful view as you head down High Bridge Bend. (Watch out for the wing dam off of Turtle Island that sits perilously just inches below the surface.) Magnificent high bluffs are on both sides of the river and here is when you get the first glimpse of the abandoned Wisconsin Central Railway Bridge.

The old limestone piers run from Minnesota to Landing Hill where the Village of Somerset was originally going to be established. Several piers stand on Foster and Pillar Islands, pleasant sandy islands to stop for a picnic and swim. The sites farther down on South Pillar Island offer outstanding views of the Wisconsin bluffs up and down the river.



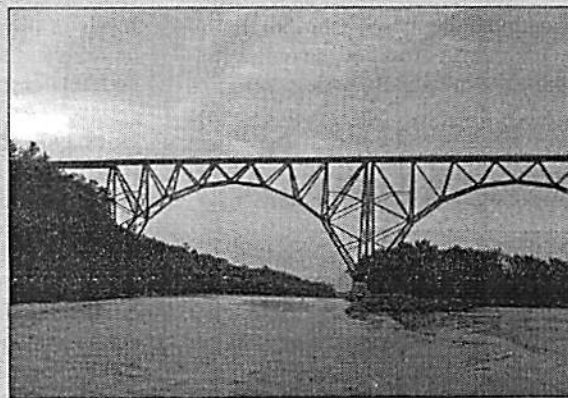
One of the piers from the
Wisconsin Central Railroad built in 1884.
River Mile 28.5 (approximately)

Listen for the whistle of an eagle; many can be seen and heard here along with squawking herons and egrets, slapping beavers, skimming muskrats, large and loud pileated woodpeckers, and darting kingfishers, just to name a few of the wild inhabitants. At a shallow and clear spot off an island or the shore, look down and you might see the mussels for which the St. Croix River is known; mussels that are found nowhere else in the world. To help protect these rare mussels, removing live mussels or their abandoned shells from the riverway is prohibited because they can die if they are returned to the river in the wrong position.

The journey ends at the historic St. Croix Boomsite where the lumber that once floated downriver was sorted and passed on to the sawmills in Stillwater. Here you might see a professional

photographer or two since the beautiful site is popular for graduation and family photos. In between there are many sandbars, islands, and backwaters to explore. Given its close proximity to the Twin Cities, you'll be pleasantly surprised at how wild, scenic, and historical this stretch is.

Jean Hoffman, a member of the St. Croix Valley Interstate Group, lives in Somerset Township, WI. She is on the Board of Directors of the St. Croix River Association. The St. Croix River is an important part of her life.



Soo Line High Bridge (Arcola High Bridge) River Mile 29.5

WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

GOLDEN CHANTERELLE

(*Cantharellus cibarius*)

Family: Cantharellaceae

Other Names: Chanterelle, Yellow Chanterelle, Pfifferling

By Daniel Lindner

Habitat: Golden chanterelles can be found growing from the forest floor throughout most regions of Wisconsin. In southern Wisconsin, golden chanterelles are typically associated with hardwoods such as oak (*Quercus* spp), although they can also be found with conifers. In northern Wisconsin, this species is usually found growing under conifers, especially in jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*) stands. The largest populations of golden chanterelles are found in mature forests, although golden chanterelles can sometimes be found in younger stands. Golden chanterelles appear in late July and can be found until the end of September and sometimes into October. Heavy rains and warm weather produce large flushes of golden chanterelles.

Ecology: Golden chanterelles, as well as all true chanterelles (species in the genus *Cantharellus*) are mycorrhizal fungi, which means they form a beneficial relationship with plant roots. (To learn more about mycorrhizal fungi, read the section at the end of this article entitled "What are mycorrhizal fungi?") Mycorrhizal fungi spend most of their lives below ground, living as a network of filamentous cells. The above-ground portion seen growing from the forest floor is the reproductive structure of the fungus. This structure, known as a fruiting body or colloquially as a mushroom, represents only a small portion of the entire fungal organism, most of which remains unseen below the soil. Fungi, being neither plants nor animals (they are in their own kingdom) have lifecycles that are very different from both plants and animals.

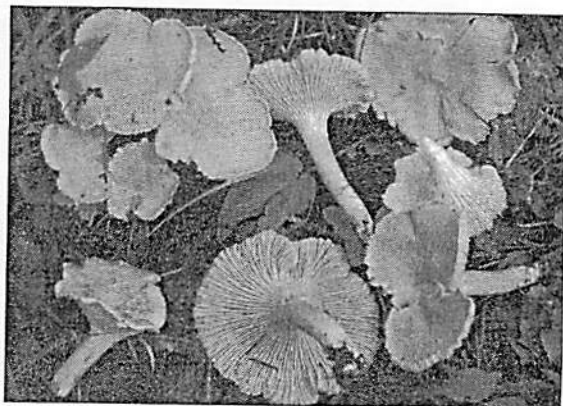
Appearance and size: Chanterelles are known for their bright orange coloration, their "fruity" smell, often described as apricot-like, and their slightly peppery taste, although not all strains are peppery. They grow singly or in scattered clumps from the forest floor, with each mushroom approximately 3-10 cm (1- 4 in.) across the cap. Large specimens measuring more than 15

cm (6 in.) can sometimes be found. Chanterelles have a substantial, solid stem, which differentiates them from tube chanterelles, which have a hollow stem. Chanterelles have what look like gills on the underside of the cap, although they are actually gill folds rather than true gills. True gills are very regular with blade-like edges, while gill folds are more irregular and tend to join and split.

Comments: Chanterelle taxonomy is extremely complicated and is currently being revised based on DNA evidence. The name *Cantharellus cibarius* probably applies only to a European species, although this name has been widely used in North America, Europe and Asia. It is likely that the species in Wisconsin currently known as *C. cibarius* does not yet have a formal Latin name. Although almost all yellow chanterelles in North America have gone under the name *C. cibarius*, this will most likely change in the next ten years. Two chanterelle species, *C. cascadenis* and *C. californicus*, have recently been described from western North America, and preliminary DNA evidence indicates the eastern species are also distinct from European *C. cibarius*.

Human Uses: Chanterelles are choice edible fungi that have been consumed and enjoyed for hundreds of years in many parts of the world. However, caution should be used whenever eating any wild-collected fungus, and one must be absolutely sure of its identification. Chanterelles are prized for their subtle flavors and texture, and are often used to complement vegetable or chicken dishes. Chanterelles contain high levels of protein and very little fat, and are an excellent source of vitamin C, vitamin D and beta-carotene.

Does collecting fungi harm them? The short answer is no one knows, but a limited amount of collecting is probably not harmful to chanterelle populations. Because only the reproductive structure is collected, the majority of the fungus remains below ground. Chanterelles are relatively abundant throughout their range, and can be legally collected on various public lands (check local regulations before harvesting). Chanterelles are harvested commercially in the western United States, and there has been a great deal of debate regarding the



sustainability of intensive chanterelle harvesting. The few studies that have been conducted have demonstrated little effect or a slightly stimulatory effect of harvesting on future crops of chanterelles, and there does not appear to be a large difference if the mushrooms are cut or plucked from the ground. However, no long-term studies have been conducted, although data are currently being collected for such studies. Undoubtedly, the most serious threat to chanterelle populations is habitat degradation and destruction.

What are mycorrhizal fungi? Almost all plants, including most tree species, form long-term, beneficial associations with below-ground fungi known as mycorrhizal fungi. The term "mycorrhizal" means fungus root, and refers to the ability of these fungi to form a living sheath around plant roots. These associations are necessary for both the plant and the fungus, and plants deprived of these fungi often display reduced growth and signs of nutrient deficiencies. Mycorrhizal fungi grow around and through living plant roots and contribute to water absorption and uptake of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus. In certain cases, mycorrhizal fungi also protect roots from pathogens, and can make plants more resistant to droughts. In return for these benefits, plants transfer carbohydrates and sugars produced in the leaves to the below-ground fungus.

Daniel Lindner has been a research mycologist at the USDA FS Northern Research Center for Forest Mycology Research in Madison since 2003. Daniel received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Plant Pathology in 2001. Daniel loves collecting and identifying forest fungi and teaches workshops on the edible and poisonous mushrooms of Wisconsin.

St. Croix River Clean-Up

On July 18 and 19, 2009 the St. Croix River Association partnering with the St. Croix Valley Interstate Group of Sierra Club, Community Earth Councils, Wisconsin State Parks, Minnesota State Parks, and the National Park Service held its annual River Clean-Up. Hudson, Wisconsin's River Crest Elementary School donated cleanup bags. In its 10th year, this volunteer project had about 80 people cleaning up along the River from Afton to St. Croix Falls.

The following photos were taken by Sally Leider along the St. Croix River from Osceola to William O'Brien State Park. There was an intergenerational group of 30 river stewards involved at this site ranging in age from 6 to 66.



"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.

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_____ 26" x 22" (\$10.00 each) = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____
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Make out check to Endangered Resources Program, and mail to:
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 PO Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707-7921

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 WI.

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

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

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

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

CLASSES OF WATER: We want your RTS experience to be fun. We also want it to be safe. The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a guide for assessing the

difficulty of a stretch of water and will help you decide if a trip is appropriate for you and your skill level. Many of these trips are suitable for paddlers with solid flatwater canoe skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

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

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

OTHER: We do not allow non-paddlers, pets, glass containers, or alcoholic beverages

on our trips while we are on the water.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? See our web site at: wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

'09 PADDLING TRIPS

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 by picking up trash as we go. Wet/dry-suit & helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Contact: Phil Johnsrud, johnsrudp@iola.k12.wi.us, 715-445-4777.

January 9, 2010. RTS Annual Meeting. Plan the 2010 trips. Meet in Oconomowoc at the Summit Town Hall. We'll start at 11 am, have a pot-luck lunch, see old and new friends, discuss river issues, and see slides of past trips. A great way to beat those "the water's too hard to paddle in" blues.

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.milwaukeeshares.org



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

FALL AND WINTER 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.

October 3, Saturday: Hike at the Lodi Segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Unlock the lessons of the Ice Age as we hike 6-7 miles along the Lodi Segment of the Ice Age Trail. This will be a moderate difficult hike. We'll meet at the south trailhead along Riddle Road (the one with the kiosk) off of SR 60 just west of Lodi. Carpooling from Madison will meet at 9:00 AM at the Hill Farm State Office Building (DOT) on Sheboygan Avenue. Bring a lunch, water, bug repellent, sunscreen and weather-appropriate clothing. *For more info, directions or to RSVP contact David Smith (Madison) at 608-233-1210. [4L]*

October 6, Tuesday: Just Past Full Moon Hike at Lake Elmo Park Reserve. 6-7:30 PM. Watch the moon rise and learn about the prairie's nighttime life at Lake Elmo Park Reserve as we make a four-mile loop around Eagle Point Lake. If skies are clear, we should get a good view of the moon rising after the sun sets. Meet at the trailhead parking lot (on the left just after the entrance). Bring hiking shoes, a water bottle and bug spray. Dogs are allowed on leash. *Angie Hong 952-261-9599 or algo-dri@hotmail.com [SCVI]*

October 13, Tuesday: Cruisin' for Cuisine. 6:30 PM. Cruisin' is an informal social dinner and environmental discussion group that has been a popular outing over the past few years. Location: Paisans Italian Restaurant, 131 West Wilson. www.paisansrestaurant.biz. Note that they do have free underground parking right off Wilson. *Please RSVP to Lacinda Athen if you plan to attend: phone 608-274-7870 or lacinda.athen@gmail.com. [4L]*

October 17, Saturday: Candlelight Hike at Lake Kegonsa State Park. Heighten your senses and explore nature at night on a beautiful fall evening hike along 2 miles of trails lit with hundreds of glowing luminaries. For carpooling from Madison we'll meet at 5:45 PM at Dutch Mill Park & Ride

(Hwy 51 and Broadway Rd). If you'd like to meet at the trailhead, please RSVP so we know to look for you. Concessions are available by the Friends of Lake Kegonsa. *For directions, more information or to RSVP contact Kathy at knulb@charter.net or 608-848-5076. [4L]*

October 24, Saturday: Explore a New Addition to the Ice Age Trail. 9 AM. Join Craig Sanford of the Ice Age Trail Alliance to explore Polk Kames, an interesting new addition to the Ice Age Trail. See why glacial geologists call this area "one of the best examples of kames in the world." Learn how glaciers shaped our landscape and the Ice Age Trail itself. Once the hikers are present (please be prompt), we will proceed to the trailhead on Arthur Road to begin our 5.6 mile hike on a moderate terrain. After the hike, we will have lunch at a nearby restaurant. Meet at the parking lot located off Kettle Moraine Drive between State Hwy 60 and Cty Road E between Hartford and Slinger. Because parking near the trail is limited, plan on meeting at the beachside parking lot in Pike Lake State Park. A State Park vehicle admission sticker is required. Please RSVP soon; participation for this event is limited! *Harriet Iwamoto 262-786-6624 or hsiwamoto@hotmail.com [GW]*

October 24, Saturday: Weed Out! at Colonial Park in Racine. 9-Noon. Join us as we remove invasive, alien plant species. Bring sturdy clothing, work gloves, eye protection, drinking water and, if available, clippers, weed diggers, saws, etc. More tools and instruction will be provided at the site. *Melissa Warner 262-639-0918 or melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net [SEG]*

November 10, Tuesday: Cruisin' for Cuisine. 6:30 PM. Cruisin' is an informal social dinner and environmental discussion group that has been a popular outing over the past few years. Location: TBA. *Contact Lacinda Athen for more info: 608-274-7870 or lacinda.athen@gmail.com. [4L]*

November 14, Saturday: Explore Growing Power. 10-noon. Join us to see how 2 acres of land can hold 20,000 plants and vegetables, thousands of fish, and tens of farm animals. What is the hardest working animal at Growing Power? Tour this truly unique place and learn the answers to these and many more questions. See for yourself why the Ford, MacArthur, Kellogg and countless other Foundations have recognized Growing Power and founder Will Allen for their cutting edge vision of urban agriculture. Meet at Growing Power, 5500 West Silver Spring Dr., Milwaukee (see pg 62 of the Kids' Guide to the Outdoors). RSVP so Harriet can arrange to pay your event fee. Children will be given priority; unaccompanied adults are welcome but will be admitted as space permits. *Harriet Iwamoto 262-786-6624 or hsiwamoto@hotmail.com [GW]*

December 8, Tuesday: Cruisin' for Cuisine. 6:30 PM. Cruisin' is an informal social dinner and environmental discussion group. Location: TBA. *Contact Lacinda Athen for more info: 608-274-7870 or lacinda.athen@gmail.com. [4L]*

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.

John Muir Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Statements



Brian Ewing

My name is Brian Ewing and I would like to introduce myself. I am a member of the Sierra Coulee Group and look forward to having an opportunity to

serve as a member at large of the JMC of the Executive Committee.

I have always been interested in contributing to the Sierra Club organization in a way greater than membership alone. I support

conservation and environmental issues in principal and practice, having worked for years as a Conservation Technician with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and with the Ag Research Services of the USDA. I was involved in many nonpoint pollution abatement projects for the USDA and also worked for the Army Corp of Engineers. I contributed a great deal of time and effort promoting the Upper Willow River Project in St Croix County in the mid 1980's.

I have a desire to continue serving the community and environment in a meaningful and rewarding way. I have always been an

advocate for sustainable agriculture and I am aware of many other areas needing promotion for sustainability. I am presently a senior at Upper Iowa University Majoring in Public Administration. I am researching my senior thesis project titled: "Issues and Evaluations in Conservation and Ecology."

I would like to be in contact with people that can make a difference in the environment and lend a hand where possible. I have also researched and written a great deal on environmental subjects and look forward to assisting the Sierra Club organization in any way I can. Thank You.



Jim Kerler

We live in a time of great environmental and social upheaval. After several years hiatus I am honored to be a candidate for re-election to the John Muir Chapter

Executive Committee. I retired recently, giving me more time for activism and enjoyment of nature as a hiker/backpacker,

bird watcher, native gardener, fisherman and hunter.

A little over two years ago, Liesa and I moved from the urban area of Wauwatosa to the a small town of Lake Mills, which has given me new perspective on the environmental challenges we face across the state.

This spring I was chosen to lead the talented group of Sierra Club members who compose the Club's Wisconsin "Water Team."

We are charged with planning and leading the Club's efforts to protect the remarkable water resources of our state.

As a past vice-chair and conservation chair for the Great Waters Group, I believe we should partner with those citizens, farmers and business people who lead by example in protecting our environment – and we should have fun doing it! Your vote will enable me to carry this philosophy forward in Club leadership and decision-making at the state level.



Elizabeth Wessel

I am running for the Executive Committee of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club because the Sierra Club, its members and its work are vitally important to

finding and implementing the solutions of our day. Since 2005, I have been the owner of Green Concierge Travel. I started Green Concierge Travel to create change in the travel industry based on travelers' potential to make a difference. I merged two passions – both of which are fundamental to the Sierra Club – travel and outdoor recreation with environmental activism.

As a pollution prevention specialist for Citizens for a Better Environment (CBE - based in Milwaukee), I worked on consumer driven programs to clean up the lithographic printing, dry cleaning and auto

industries, leveraging the power of consumers with regulations. I also served as a lobbyist for state environmental policies, working to protect and expand a consumer's right to know about goods and services. And I served as the Executive Director for Clean Wisconsin with responsibilities for fundraising and developing organizational budgets.

My community service includes:

- Serving on the Board of Community Shares of Wisconsin
- Being appointed to and chairing the City of Madison's Commission on the Environment
- Judging the Wisconsin Governor's Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Reduction in the 1990s
- Being elected to and serving on the Board of Green America (previously Co-op America), a national organization whose mission is to harness economic power to create a socially just and environmentally sustainable society

- Serving on the board of the State Environmental Leadership Program based in Madison, an organization that works to make state-based environmental groups smarter, more powerful and better run so they can be stronger advocates for the environment.

My husband, Bill Wessel, and I live in Madison and are Sierra Club life members. I have continued to support the Chapter, its staff and the Club's legacy over the years and I am currently part of the Chapter's Global Warming Action Team. I have promoted the Outings program and plan to complete Outings leader trainings over the next two years. Bill and I enjoy berry picking, fly-fishing, picnicking and hiking together when we get the chance. Please vote for me to serve on your Executive Committee.

John Muir Chapter 2009 Executive Committee Election Ballot

Please read the candidate statements for election to the Executive Committee as At-Large Delegates. Select your choices by marking the appropriate box. Select up to three candidates. Only ballots from mailed copies of *The Muir View* with legible membership numbers are valid.

Voter 1: Brian Ewing Jim Kerler Elizabeth Wessel Write In: _____

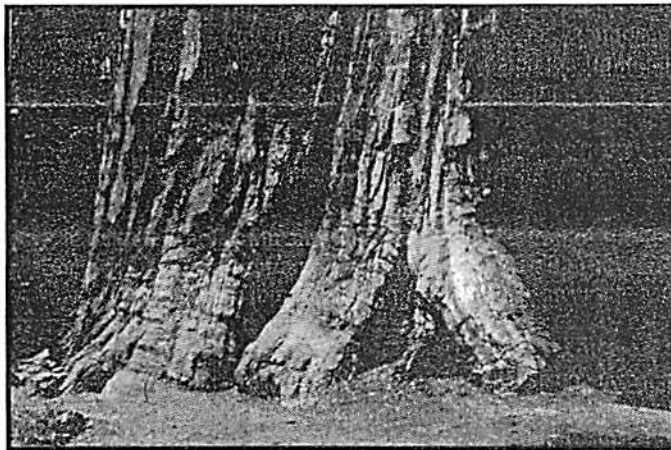
Voter 2: Brian Ewing Jim Kerler Elizabeth Wessel Write In: _____

**Ballots must be postmarked
by November 6, 2009**

Mail to:
Cheri Briscoe
2016 E. Windsor Pl.
Milwaukee, WI 53202



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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AUTUMN ASSEMBLY '09 - JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

October 9-11, 2009 • Beaver Creek Reserve • Fall Creek, WI
Hosted by the Chippewa Valley and St. Croix Valley Interstate Group
(See Inside for Complete Details)

John Muir Chapter Calendar

2009-2010 EXCOM MEETINGS

- October 6 Conference Call
November 21 Methodist Church, Baraboo (Singer Fellowship Hall)
January 9 Methodist Church, Baraboo (Singer Fellowship Hall)

2009 EVENTS

- October 9-11 **Autumn Assembly at Beaver Creek Reserve** hosted by the St. Croix Valley Interstate & Chippewa Valley Group. Contact Barbara Thomas at thomash@uwstout.edu with questions or check <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>
November 7 **Free Planned Giving Seminar**, First Unitarian Society, Madison. Contact shahla.werner@sierraclub.org to register.

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



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