

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN - wisconsin.sierraclub.org

Governor's Budget Threatens Natural Resources, Public Safety and Economy

By Shahla Werner PhD, Chapter Director

Governor Walker's proposed state budget (AB 21 / SB 21), released February 3, is bad news for Wisconsin's air, water and wildlife and the many economic engines that depend on maintaining sustainably-managed, intact natural resources. Many of the changes to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) threaten Wisconsin's tourism industry, which supports 185,495 jobs and contributes \$17.5 billion to our economy each year.

The Sierra Club is dismayed to see the proposed cuts to 66 positions at DNR – especially 33 related to science, education and research. It is dangerous to cut science staff at a time when Wisconsin's natural resources face daunting, unprecedented threats, from climate change to the proliferation of frac sand mines to Chronic Wasting Disease and more. Having in-house scientific experts at the DNR is the foundation of sound management and policymaking.

Walker's budget also reduces the authority of the Natural Resources Board (NRB), concentrating even more power in the Executive Branch and further reducing opportunities for citizen participation on natural resource issues affecting their daily lives. This change would also reduce the authority of the Conservation Congress, the statutory body created by Aldo Leopold and others in 1934 in which citizens elect delegates to advise the NRB on managing Wisconsin's natural resources, by making the Congress an advisory board to an advisory board (the NRB). Removing NRB



authority would also make the issue of restoring an independent DNR Secretary impossible. Even more troubling, this change would also give the DNR Secretary, currently Continued on page 4

Factory Farms pose statewide water threats

Proposed factory hog farm in Bayfield County latest threat

By Shahla Werner PhD, Chapter Director

Wisconsin has over 240 permitted confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that collectively produce 47 million gallons of manure each day, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. CAFOs in Kewaunee County are responsible for polluting 30 percent of drinking water wells in that county with nitrates or coliform bacteria. On Sept. 23, 2014, the Kewaunee County Board unanimously passed an ordinance to prohibit the unconfined stockpiling or land application of wastes in karst areas between January 1 and April 15. And on Oct. 31, 2014, Judge Jeffrey Boldt blamed "massive regulatory failure" for Kewaunee County water contamination and ordered the DNR to modify the discharge permit for Kewaunee County's Kinnard Farms, requiring at least six monitoring wells and a cap on the dairy's size. Although these victories are encouraging, it is unfortunate that pollution is allowed to get to such hazardous levels before action is taken.

CAFOs contribute to agricultural runoff and are responsible for phosphorus pollution that leads to toxic algal blooms that diminish swimming, fishing and boating opportunities in many areas of our state. Toxic algal blooms also threaten public health in communities that get their drinking Continued on page 3

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Wisconsin has a rich legacy of stewardship toward our land and water – a legacy that inspires. Each winter I volunteer at Faville Grove Sanctuary near my home east of Madison. Here Madison Audubon is restoring hundreds of acres of native prairie, wetlands and oak savanna in the Crawfish River Valley. We clear and burn invasives, then plant prairie species with deep carbon-sequestering roots. Aldo Leopold and his students worked here with local farmers in the 1930s to preserve prairie habitat for wildlife. My friend Dave Tillotson, a longtime conservation leader, was a grandson of Austin Faville, and grew up on the farm where Leopold’s students boarded. Working on this land restoration and hearing stories from Dave, I feel connect-

FROM THE CHAIR

ed to Professor Leopold, one of Wisconsin’s great visionaries.

Similarly, I’ve connected with Sierra Club’s famous founder during occasional visits to the site of John Muir’s boyhood home in Marquette County. On a couple of occasions I was fortunate to meet Gaylord Nelson and to thank him personally for all he did for Wisconsin and the Earth. I’ve been equally inspired to meet lesser-known Wisconsin citizen-activist leaders and to learn of their legacies – people like the late Lauri Otto or Fred Ott, who started the successful fight to banish DDT. (“What do you want, Mrs. Otto, birds or trees?” the Bayside village manager is said to have asked Lori.) I once met Owen Gromme, the nationally known wildlife artist and a land conservationist who was their contemporary.

Last fall I hiked along the Brunswiler River near Mellen, where Martin Hansen lived. He befriended both wildlife and politicians, guiding John F. Kennedy by helicopter and helping to broker the spectacular Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Sierra Club VP Spencer Black merits a place in these lists, for his legislative leadership on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, the Lower Wisconsin Riverway and other key state initiatives. And I don’t think Spencer is finished creating his legacy yet.

Many others deserve recognition of course, and many are (or were) Sierra Club members. These people have often been, as writer Eric Hansen puts it, “ordinary people doing extraordinary things.”

My point: I take much inspiration from encounters with the spirit of great Wisconsin conservation leaders and the places they’ve

walked. And I’m similarly motivated by my everyday Sierra Club friends who give their time to chair local groups, serve on committees, manage finances, lead outings or organize fundraisers. When Wisconsin resources need protection many of our members contribute by attending hearings or writing legislators or newspapers. Their activism is a sacrifice, but I think each finds it morally satisfying to work toward his or her own Wisconsin resource legacy.

Today, under an onslaught of self-serving and regressive lawmaking, much demands the activism of Wisconsin Sierra Club members. As an organization we don’t have resources to take the lead on every local environmental issue, but we’ve carefully chosen our priority issues -- centered on climate stability, water and healthy ecosystems essential for life’s sustenance. (You’ll read about water concerns posed by tar sands pipelines and a massive, proposed hog farm in Bayfield County.) If your local issue aligns with Sierra Club values we can often connect you to a local Sierra Club group, or to our members in your area. Where there’s a willing nucleus of leaders we may even help you organize a local group.

In Wisconsin we can look back upon wonderful role models for inspiration. We have present and future leaders in our midst. The challenges seem daunting, but history tells us an awakening will come and the pendulum will swing. Meanwhile, we continue to follow the footsteps of great Wisconsin people, “exploring, enjoying and protecting” our state and our planet. I invite you to find a role -- and build your legacy.

Jim Kerler

Chair, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

THE MUIR VIEW

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Save the Date: 2015 Autumn Assembly

By Don Ferber, Sierra Club-Four Lakes Group

The 2015 Autumn Assembly from October 2-4 is not only centrally located, it will also focus on core parts of our mission to explore, enjoy and protect our state through local action. Situated at the Perlstein Resort on secluded Lake Blass in the Wisconsin Dells, it provides ready access to a number of special Wisconsin natural areas and environmental centers.

Central to many of the challenges facing Sierra Club members is how to connect people with nature and bring awareness not only to threats we face, but opportunities we can embrace. Autumn Assembly will address those issues with featured speaker James Edward Mills, an author whose book, *The Adventure Gap: Changing the Face of the Outdoors*, was featured on the front of the January/February 2014 Sierra Magazine. His book uses an all-black climbing expedition to Mt. Denali in Alaska to focus on the minority gap in outdoor recreation. Mills was the spark behind The Joy Trip Project, a media project that focuses on connecting people to the natural world and living in balance with nature and humanity. He will offer insights from his explorations that can help guide our activities.

Critical to our success is not only engendering grassroots activism, but effecting change in our elected leaders. Our other featured speaker, Mike McCabe, wrote *Blue Jeans in High Places* about the ills of our political system and how to change it. Formerly executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, McCabe will offer his perspective on current challenges and how the Sierra Club can effect change.



CA Factory Farms *Continued from page 1*

water from surface water. Lake Erie's water quality has been declining, with toxic algal dead zones that can span 2,000 square miles due to problems with agricultural runoff. In August 2014 Toledo, Ohio officials warned 400,000 citizens not to drink the water for two days due to high levels of blue-green algae, or microcystin, which can cause "abnormal liver function, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, numbness or dizziness." This crisis provides a cautionary tale for Wisconsin's future if we fail to address this problem.

Increasing numbers of CAFOs have led to escalating numbers of large manure spills that put our water at risk. Livestock operations have spilled at least 4.8 million gallons of manure since 2009, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Gannett Media. This includes a manure spill in Door County near Jacksonport last year that contaminated 14 wells and sickened 16 people, including a three-month-old baby. High concentrations of CAFOs and manure spills in northeastern Wisconsin threaten Lake Michigan. Lake Superior has been mostly immune to these types of threats, until now.

That's why the Sierra Club was alarmed to learn about a massive proposed hog factory farm, which, if sited, would be the first CAFO in Bayfield County. Iowa-based Reicks View farm filed for a preliminary Water Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit with the DNR in December 2014 and paid \$1.23 million for 560.6 acres of land in the town of Eileen. Their proposed operation would house up to 25,000

hogs (including 7,500 sows, 14,000 piglets and 4,000 gilts or unbred sows) in three large barns equipped with below-ground manure storage. They are seeking to remove piglets from Iowa to protect them from Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea. However, the operation could also risk exposing livestock in Wisconsin to this incurable virus. It could threaten Lake Superior, Bayfield County's 966 inland lakes, 400 miles of streams, and tourist mainstays including Bayfield County's apple orchards, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, the North Country National Scenic Trail and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Local citizens, business owners and family farmers have voiced serious concerns about this proposal to local elected officials. During the January 27, 2015 Bayfield County Board meeting, supervisors approved a model Livestock Siting Ordinance for Bayfield County (2015-05) as well as an ordinance banning aerial manure irrigation (2015-04). The county also appointed a livestock facility-siting administrator. In February, the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors passed a one-year moratorium on CAFOs while environmental and economic impacts of this proposal are considered. Citizens held a panel discussion on the proposal February 28 at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland. If you live in Bayfield, please educate yourself about this proposal by visiting: <http://www.farmsnotfactories.com/badger-wood-cafo/>, then contact your local elected officials and urge the DNR to do an Environmental Impact Statement.

🐾 Budget Threat *Continued from page 1*

Cathy Stepp, a former developer and State Senator with an abysmal environmental voting record, sole authority over public land sales and purchases.

The Governor's budget also eliminates cost-effective capacity grants to nonprofits. This includes funds for groups like the Wisconsin County Forest Association, the River Alliance to coordinate volunteer river basin groups and funds for maintaining the Ice Age Trail. Volunteers will be left without support to plan, organize and administer these projects on their own.

You've probably heard about Governor Walker's proposed devastating \$300 million cut to the University of Wisconsin System and the \$5 million cut to Wisconsin Public Radio and Television that jeopardize higher education and independent news for citizens throughout the state. But you may not have heard as much about proposed budget cuts that jeopardize children's understanding of and connection to nature. It eliminates funding for our state parks, proposing to fill that gap through user fee increases that have the potential to create real barriers for low income families seeking to explore the outdoors. It also eliminates the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education and Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, established in 1990 to provide environmental education programs in pK-12 schools and in communities across the state.

We also have grave concerns about the Governor's proposal to freeze Stewardship land purchases until 2028. Wisconsin's popular Knowles-Nelson stewardship program has been an effective tool for protecting over 500,000 acres of land since it was enacted in 1989. Stewardship lands benefit all Wisconsinites by providing jobs, protecting habitat, connecting youth to outdoor learning opportunities and recreation such as wildlife watching, fishing and hunting. Last year Sierra Club members worked with the Natural Heritage Land Trust and other groups to purchase and permanently protect 198 acres of forest, prairie and wetlands habitat adjacent to John Muir's Marquette County boyhood home, an acquisition that may not have happened without Wisconsin's Stewardship program. The NRB purchased an easement for 21,189 acres of the 65,867 acre Brule-St. Croix Legacy Project in February to avoid losing the chance to protect this area in the event of a freeze. This property includes globally significant pine barrens, 80 lakes and 14 miles of streams owned by the Lyme Timber Company and the Conservation Fund. Once complete, this project will greatly benefit Wisconsin's \$18 billion forest products industry and the 60,000 jobs it supports, as well as the local

economies of Douglas, Bayfield, Burnett and Washburn counties. Some politicians justify this freeze by bringing up Stewardship bonding concerns. In fact, Wisconsin's Stewardship program is an investment that greatly benefits current and future generations. The overall cost of Stewardship for 30 years from 1990 to 2020 is less than the billions Governor Walker is proposing to spend on transportation for the next two years.

Speaking of transportation, the proposed transportation budget eliminates complete streets and state funds for the Transportation Alternatives program critical for bike paths and sidewalks that foster pedestrian safety and healthier, cleaner alternatives to driving. We agree with Representative Keith Ripp, the Transportation Builders Association and others who are concerned about the \$1.3 billion in bonding being too high. One way to reduce debt would be to delay or even cut highway projects like the expansion of lanes along the I-94 east west corridor that is slated to cost over \$800 million in taxpayer dollars. Projects like that don't make sense given that people are driving less, and given that we could fix this section of road for a fraction of the cost and expand transit to alleviate traffic and improve safety. Why do we have an unlimited appetite for highway spending at the same time we are making devastating cuts to public education?

The budget also affects forestry programs by moving the Division of Forestry headquarters from its central location in Madison (where all other DNR divisions are located) to a northern Wisconsin location. It reduces oversight of the Managed Forest Land program by cutting four full-time staff and eliminating the requirement for DNR staff to approve cutting

notices filed by Cooperative Foresters. It also directs DNR to allow Cooperative Foresters, rather than DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources staff, to complete Natural Heritage Inventory reviews to document rare or declining species, high-quality or rare natural communities, and unique or significant natural features prior to timber sales.

Water safety is also impacted by the Governor's budget. It eliminates the Fertilizer Research Council and funding for its innovative manure management studies, it reduces funding to county Soil and Water Conservation Departments who work with farmers to reduce runoff pollution by \$800,000 and it reduces funds for nutrient management plans by \$500,000. These cuts increase threats from water pollution caused by factory farms. Thankfully, it also contains some good water policies, including maintaining bonding for the Urban Nonpoint Source, Targeted Management Runoff, Contaminated Sediment Removal, and Dam Safety programs, and a proposal to continue collecting ballast water fees needed to control aquatic invasive species.

The budget cuts Recycling Grants to local

🐾 Continued on page 5



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Budget Threat *Continued from page 4*
communities by \$4 million – an approximately 22 percent reduction – leaving what could be a self-sustaining program financially unsustainable. This limits vital recycling services in local communities, and diverts tipping fees that support recycling programs to unrelated purposes. It allocates \$250,000 to the Public Service Commission to study unproven wind

turbine health effects while allocating nothing to abate the known health effects of continuing to burn fossil fuels.

It's not too late for Sierra Club members and other citizens to call for changes to the state budget! The 16-member Joint Finance Committee will be working on the budget throughout March and April. By the time you get this article, the four public hearings will have concluded, but you can still speak out at

listening sessions held by your State Assembly Representatives and State Senators and attend the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters' Lobby Day coming up April 14 at the Wisconsin State Capitol (you can sign up at <http://conservationvoters.org>). You can also write a personalized letter to the editor detailing how the budget impacts you and your area of Wisconsin. Don't let the state budget jeopardize Wisconsin's future! Please speak out today.

Congressional Bills Jeopardize Wolves and the Endangered Species Act

By Laura Menefee, Chapter Executive Committee & Shahla Werner PhD, Chapter Director

On December 19, 2014, a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in removing Endangered Species Lakes States.¹ Within hours of delisting, both Minnesota and Michigan, voters have been being regulated as game animals. status prevents states from issuing control, and halts trophy and sport

Judge Beryl Howell based her decision to return Great Lakes wolves to protected status in part on the hostile state management policies which threaten to replicate conditions under which wolves were extirpated in the first place. At least 518 Wisconsin wolves were killed by hunters and trappers between 2012 and 2014, and over 1,500 wolves were killed “recreationally” in Great Lakes states within that time. This does not include lethal wolf control carried out by USDA Wildlife Services and other State agencies in direct response to wolf depredations.

Prior to the court decision, Wisconsin's 4 ½ month long wolf harvest allowed for leg hold trapping, snaring and hunting with bows, guns, and dogs. In 2014, rules allowing year-round unregulated training of dogs on wolves –through breeding and denning sessions –were approved by the Natural Resources Board. Wisconsin was the only state to allow the use of dogs in wolf hunting. Wisconsin was in the process of reducing the wolf population from around 800 to 350 or less, based on the outdated 1991 Wolf Management Plan drafted when we had



fewer than 200 wolves in the state. Wolf kills exceeded annual quotas during each of Wisconsin's recent wolf seasons. Concerns about insufficient state monitoring and unsustainable management prompted six prominent wolf researchers to voice serious concerns to the USFWS in fall 2014. This unsustainable state management—along with the fact that wolves have yet to colonize suitable habitat in several states—contributed to the decision to restore endangered species protections for

District Court ruled that the US was “arbitrary and capricious” status from gray wolves in Great the December 28, 2011 Federal Wisconsin passed wolf hunting fighting to keep wolves from The return to Endangered Species landowner permits for lethal wolf hunting and trapping.

this species.

Now, two bills have been introduced to override the decision to return Federal protections: HR 843 (Rep. John Kline, R-Minnesota) would prohibit USFWS from listing wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, returning management in perpetuity to the states. HR 884 (Rep. Reid Ribble, R-Wisconsin) would override the December 19, 2014 ruling and return wolves to state management in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Wyoming. HR 884 was introduced after Rep. Ribble received a joint letter from 12 agricultural groups, two cattlemen's associations and nine hunting organiza-

tions including the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, the group who lobbied for WI Act 169 which mandated the use of trapping and dogs in wolf hunting. These groups claim that without HR 884, “the State of Wisconsin will lack the means to control the gray wolf population.”

While these groups claim to be “concerned about the effects that wolves are having on cattle in our state,” in reality, wolves are

Continued on page 11

ISSUES AT A GLANCE

GTac pulls plug on Penokee Mine

In early March Gogebic Taconite (GTac) announced its decision to withdraw operations from Wisconsin and halt the permitting effort for what would have been the state's largest and most destructive mine. The Sierra Club announced opposition to the mine immediately after its proposal in 2011 and is proud to be a part of the strong statewide grassroots movement that has led to GTac's departure. However, the announcement does not mean that the Penokees and the Bad River Watershed are protected from unsafe mining proposals. GTac does not own the land and mineral rights and a new company could assume GTac's leases and continue work on the proposal at any time.

GTac's political boosters in the legislature and Governor's office caused significant damage to Wisconsin's environmental protections and democracy by passing the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act in 2013 despite overwhelming public opposition and strong scientific evidence demonstrating short and long-term damage. The Sierra Club will work to repeal the special interest legislation written by and for GTac, for permanent protections for the Penokees and for a sustainable economy and jobs for northern Wisconsin that does not include the permanent destruction and hazards of boom and bust mining.

National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - VOTE!

A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway.

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates?

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more.

Each candidate provides a statement about



themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting Online is Quick and Easy!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than election day, April 29, 2015.

Chapter Members lead National Outings

Considering a family trip this summer? Hoping to introduce your grandchildren to the wonders of nature? Sierra Club national outings offers trips with a Wisconsin connection that may be of interest to you. This summer Bill Baurecht and Helen Bannan-Baurecht of the Fox Valley Group will lead and assist in two outings in the Sierras near Lake Tahoe. These outings are based at Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Pass. Full descriptions can be viewed online or contact the national outings office at 415-977-5522 to find other trips led by Wisconsinites.

Sierra Vistas and Family Fun in Tahoe National Forest, California (Trip # 15212A)

Enjoy panoramic mountain vistas and activities with your family in the Eastern Sierra July 26-31, 2015. We will hike near the Pacific Crest Trail, swim in mountain lakes, float the Truckee River, and play at cozy Clair Tappaan Lodge, without the distraction of electronic devices. We'll be outdoors all day every day playing and learning in an area rich in Western history. This trip lets us introduce children to mountain hiking. It's for kids accompanied by their parents, aunts, uncles, or grandparents. Minimum age is 6. Co-leaders: Bill Baurecht and Helen Bannan-Baurecht.

Just for Grandparents and Grandkids, Tahoe National Forest, California (Trip #15209A)

Want quality time with your grandchildren? If you enjoy short hikes, wading in clear creeks, swimming in mountain lakes, and picnicking on the beach, don't miss this opportunity to create precious memories together July 28-31, 2015. Join a Sierra Club classic at Clair Tappaan Lodge and discover why kids always ask, "Can we go again next year?" Minimum age is 6. Co-leaders: Aurora and Hurston Roberts. Assistant: Bill Baurecht.

View details at <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings>. At FIND A TRIP type the trip number.

Want to be an Outings Leader?

Outings Leader 101/210 Training

Want to share your passion for exploring, enjoying and protecting the outdoors with others? The Great Water Group and the John Muir Chapter are looking for a few good leaders! Outings leaders, that is.

Take part in a special opportunity to obtain certification to lead trips using your knowledge and the protection Sierra Club offers to get people outdoors safely and back home with great memories of that experience. The training will be held May 2 and 3 at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee.

John Muir Chapter Outings Chair, experienced wilderness outings leader and certified outings trainer, Eric Uram, will provide EXCELLENT training and fun during this two-day event. For those interested in leading local outings in places easily served by first responders, Sierra Club offers basic Outdoor Leadership Training, OLT-101, offered Saturday only. For those interested in leading trips away from cars and for overnight, OLT-201 is needed and requires both Saturday and Sunday training.

A \$10 per day fee covers lunches and materials. Please RSVP (and pay) online at: <http://action.sierraclub.org/JMCOLT2015> on or before April 25, 2015. Contact Eric Uram, JMC Outings Chair with questions at 608-233-9022 or eric.uram@headwater.us

2015 Boundary Waters Canoe Trips

Get a jump start on summer and celebrate the long days and short nights of the solstice during the June 20-28 (two travel days, canoe trip: eight days, 7 nights) Quetico paddling trip led by David Thomas 414-344-1044, thomasdp@thomerwald.net. Dave and his wife Diane, experienced trip leaders, will head up this adventure which departs from Moose Lake-Ely, MN area. Direct shared costs will run about \$600 per person. Contact David to reserve your spot.

Ontario Canada's Quetico Provincial Park offers one of the world's unique and premier canoeing experiences. Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter will be leading several trips throughout the summer but they are filling up fast. For a complete trip list visit <http://sierraclub.org/Wisconsin>. It's never too early to start planning for next year!

Attend the Muir-Eggleston Land Dedication June 13

Last year the Natural Heritage Land Trust worked with the Sierra Club and other groups to purchase, restore and permanently protect 198 acres of high-quality woodland, prairie and wetland habitat -- including 38 acres of the land settled by John Muir's father Daniel -- adjacent to the Fox River Wildlife Refuge and Muir Park in Marquette County. Many of you made this effort possible with your donations, along with major grants from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and the Natural Resources Damage Assessment Program. Because of your support, this land will be open to the public for hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, fishing and bird-watching, allowing future generations to retrace the footsteps of Sierra Club founder and wilderness icon John Muir. On June 13, from 1 to 4 p.m., join us as for a special Muir-Eggleston Land dedication on this property featuring Congressman Tom Petri, guided hikes, a Muir impersonator and more. This event will give us the opportunity to thank supporters and

give them an opportunity to explore land (which they helped protect) on guided hikes. Honor the McGwin Eggleston family who made this special acquisition possible and dedicate this special parcel as we unveil a memorial wall and kiosk at the property. RSVP for this special event by emailing shahla.werner@sierraclub.org no later than June 10. We hope to see you there!

Solar Homes Program Returns

We're excited to announce that Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter's Solar Homes Program will continue throughout 2015. Last year the 15 members took advantage of the group buy discounts resulting in 82kw of solar energy. See the Solar Homes Program ad below for more details, then sign up for your free, solar assessment at <http://action.sierraclub.org/solarhomeswi> or call Stanley Minnick at 608-438-9026.



How it works:

- Sierra Club members can sign-up for a free site assessment at <http://action.sierraclub.org/solarhomeswi>
- H&H provides an estimate and, if the homeowner decides, installs the system
- H&H provides a discount of \$500-\$1,000 depending on the system size and a donation to the Sierra Club

The Benefits:

- You save money and put your values into action
- Wisconsin reduces its dependence on dirty fossil fuels
- The John Muir Chapter raises money to support conservation work in Wisconsin

For more information contact H&H Solar:
solarhomes@hhsolarenergy.com
(608)438-9026
or visit <http://action.sierraclub.org/solarhomeswi>



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Spring Conservation Congress Hearings

Make Your Voice Heard on Gripping Fish & Wildlife Questions

By Don Hammes, Chapter Executive Committee and Shahla Werner PhD, Chapter Director

The annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) spring hearings will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015. There will be 72 public hearings, one in each county, starting at 7:00 p.m. where individuals interested in natural resources management in Wisconsin have an opportunity to provide important input. Visit this website to find the location of the hearing in your county and view the advisory questions: <http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>.

The WCC is made up of delegates elected to represent each county to advise the Natural Resources Board (NRB) which currently sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources. Spring hearing attendees can vote for Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) delegates, vote on proposed rule changes, and weigh in on 112 advisory questions relating to fish and wildlife management. The spring hearings also provide an opportunity for citizens to bring statewide conservation issues to the attention of the Conservation Congress through the citizen resolution process. Below are a few representative questions that may be of interest to Sierra Club members. You'll have to decide how to vote for yourself, as our organization has not taken an official position on most of these measures!

Question 8: *Do you support a legislative change to ban deer baiting and feeding statewide from September 1 through the last day of any deer hunting season?* Current laws enacted by the legislature prohibit baiting and feed of deer in all counties where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been detected in either wild or game farm deer. Banning deer baiting and feeding from September 1 through the last day of any deer hunting season statewide will reduce regulatory inconsistency and reduce the spread of CWD and bovine tuberculosis (DeMarais et al. 2002. Biological and social issues related to confinement of wild ungulates. Wildlife Society Technical Review 02-3, 29 pp.).

Question 10: *Should the Natural Resources Board and the DNR partner with appropriate state and federal agencies to conduct a comprehensive and independent evaluation of the environmental impact of silica sand mining in Wisconsin?* At its January 2015 meeting, the Natural Resources Board approved a recommendation from the Department of Natural

Resources to initiate a strategic analysis of the industrial sand mining industry in Wisconsin that will update the current report to include cumulative impacts of this growing industry on open space, groundwater, air quality, soil erosion, or fish and wildlife habitat. The Sierra Club supports the strategic analysis of frac sand mining, and we urge you to vote yes on question 10.

Question 19: *Would you support DNR efforts to institute a public awareness campaign aimed at restoring more milkweed vegetation in Wisconsin?* The monarch butterfly population is at historic lows as a result of climate change-related droughts, heat waves, and extreme weather events, deforestation at Mexico overwintering sites, and the loss of milkweed plants due to the widespread use of Roundup herbicide on agricultural landscapes. Milkweed is the only plant species that monarch larvae eat.

Question 24: *Do you think Wisconsin should have a sandhill crane hunting season?*

There are 700,000 sandhill cranes in North America (including 14,000 in Wisconsin), and 17 states have hunting seasons. The International Crane Foundation would only support a sandhill season if it is designed to avoid over-harvest of local breeding birds, and only if measures are taken to minimize risk to Wisconsin's endangered whooping crane population. For those who vote on this question, it is important to understand that hunting sandhill cranes in fall will not reduce spring crop damage. It is much more effective to treat corn seeds in high risk areas with the nonlethal repellent Avipel or anthraquinone to make it so distasteful that cranes feed on soil insects, worms, and waste grain in the field instead.

Question 39: *Do you favor a change in state law to prevent entry of motorized watercraft to public and private spawning marshes of the Wolf River except for Department of Natural Resources fisheries assessment activities between March 15 and the first Saturday in May?* This change would protect walleye eggs and vegetation from disturbance and destruction caused by boat motors.

Question 40 & 41 deal with changing the wolf harvest season from October 15 to the first weekend in November or the Saturday

before the opening of gun deer season to reduce trapping and hunting conflicts. These questions are currently moot because federal Endangered Species Act protections for wolves were restored following a December court decision. The Sierra Club considers body-gripping, restraining and killing traps and snares to be ecologically indiscriminate and unnecessarily inhumane and therefore opposes their use. The John Muir Chapter opposed Wisconsin's legislatively mandated, unscientific wolf hunt due to the use of dogs, the lengthy trapping seasons, annual quota overkills, and other concerns.

This year's spring Conservation Congress hearings are especially topical, as Governor Walker's proposed state budget would strip the NRB's policymaking authority, making the board advisory to DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. Under these changes the WCC would also become advisory to the DNR secretary. In reaction to this proposal, Rob Bohmann, Chair of the WCC, stated, "This proposed change would take the policymaking authority from the public arena to the political arena. Giving the policy-making authority solely to the department secretary would potentially allow for important natural resource decisions to be made behind closed doors without any public vetting." Bohmann added "Any potential gains in efficiency that may result from this proposal do not justify the loss of an open and transparent government. The division of power and citizen involvement is essential for the long-term management of the state's resources which are held in public trust and belong to all citizens of the state."

The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter urges attendees of this year's spring hearings to vote to retain the policymaking authority of the NRB in any resolutions that are introduced. In addition, we are seeking out citizens to introduce resolutions related to mining, such as increasing frac sand mining protections or repealing Act 1, the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act, which guts Wisconsin's mining regulations and leaves our natural resources vulnerable to out-of-state mining companies. Please contact us at john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org by April 10 if you are willing to introduce a mining resolution at the spring hearing in your local county. This is a once a year opportunity...go make your voice heard!

Tar Sands Update: Wisconsin and Beyond

By Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

Keystone XL Pipeline Veto and Possible Rejection

In February President Obama vetoed a bill that would have forced an approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, only the fourth veto he has used in his presidency. As I write this, we are still anticipating President Obama's rejection of the pipeline. The veto (and potential rejection) sends a strong message that these pipelines, and the tar sands oil they are carrying, pose a significant threat to our climate and irreplaceable water resources, and that we must carefully evaluate the hazards these pipelines pose.

Line 61 Update

In Wisconsin, Line 61 is in the process of expanding and will become America's largest tar sands pipeline, carrying triple the amount of tar sands oil—a whopping 1.2 million barrels per day. Given the significant risks of tar sands to the climate and our water resources, we were appalled when the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) opted not to study the environmental impacts or perform any other analysis of the Line 61 expansion. Unfortunately, all but one permit has been granted to allow this upgrade. The remaining permit from the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation committee is all Enbridge needs to complete the expansion.

Before granting the permit, the Dane County Zoning Committee is considering whether to require Enbridge to obtain an insurance policy that would cover any damages from potential pipeline ruptures and spills. As the clean-up costs for the pipeline rupture that contaminated the Kalamazoo River in Michigan exceed \$1.2 billion, the county is concerned about the ability of Enbridge to clean up another spill, if one were to occur. This could be precedent-setting for the Midwest and is the biggest step taken by a governmental body thus far to ensure protection for the environment and residents as this expansion develops. The county is currently researching potential insurance policies and could make a final decision as early as mid-March.

Enbridge's Illegal Scheme and Alberta Clipper Permit

While the Line 61 expansion is ongoing, the pipeline that feeds it, the Alberta Clipper pipeline, is being illegally expanded. Fortunately, the Alberta Clipper pipeline, which travels from the tar sands developments in Alberta to Superior, will need a Presidential Permit in order to expand to the proposed 800,000 barrels per day. Because the Alberta Clipper pipeline crosses the border, just like the Keystone pipeline, the State Department will undertake a similar process of studying impacts and risks in order to determine if the expansion is in the nation's best



interest before it can be approved. Because the Alberta Clipper feeds Line 61, we have the opportunity to request that impacts of Line 61 also be included in the federal Environmental Impact Study.

Unfortunately, Enbridge is not as eager about this process, especially on the heels of a potential Keystone rejection. Instead they have begun illegally constructing the pumping stations needed to expand the line. In November, the Sierra Club joined environmental and tribal groups in a lawsuit to get this illegal maneuver stopped. We are currently awaiting the decision of this lawsuit. In the meantime, we are calling on Secretary of State John Kerry to stop this illegal scheme and continue the Environmental Impact Study process, complete with public hearings and other public input and comments.

Sierra Club Tar Sands Team

The Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter is creating a team of volunteers to tackle the illegal scheme, help plan upcoming events, fight pipeline expansions in Wisconsin and work on other issues related to the threats of tar sands. Team participation will require 5-10 hours a month, including monthly meetings via conference call as well as helping with public education, writing action alerts, coordinating other volunteers, and participating in coalition events. If you are interested in being a part of this team, contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.

Upcoming Events

Sierra Club is working with other organizations to plan events around the tar sands invasion.

April 14 - 30: Midwest Campus Tour: A tour, traveling from Michigan to Minnesota, will build the resistance to Enbridge's expansion plans across the Midwest. At each stop we'll hear from First Nation members directly impacted by the tar sands development in Canada, Michigan residents affected by the Kalamazoo spill and community leaders about the local threat the tar sands expansion is posing. We'll also discuss strategies for stopping these expansions. The tour will make four stops in Wisconsin. All programs will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.:

- Monday, April 20: UW-Whitewater
- Tuesday, April 21: UW-Madison
- Wednesday, April 22: UW-Stevens Point
- Thursday, April 23: UW-Superior

Saturday, June 6: Great Lakes Tar Sands Rally in Minneapolis to elevate the issue of tar sands coming into the United States via pipelines in the Great Lakes region, the threats this poses to communities and tribes along the pipeline routes and to call on Secretary Kerry to stop this tar sands invasion.

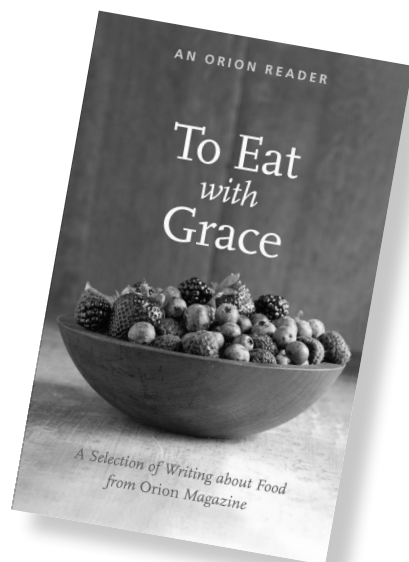
For more information on the dangers of tar sands oil or the ongoing efforts of the John Muir Chapter to stop the tar sands expansion, visit SierraClub.org/Wisconsin or contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.

GREEN REVIEW

By Amy Lou Jenkins

Exploring Orion Readers

Orion Readers collect what their editors deem “landmark” selections of essays and poems into thematic volumes.



To Eat With Grace: a Selection of Writing about Food from Orion Magazine, Forward by Darra Goldstein, 2014 The Orion Society, 2014, 88 pages.

Approaching *To Eat With Grace*, I braced, expecting to be chastised for never finding a local source of grain or for eating Auntie's chicken dinner without asking her if the hen had roamed a beautiful range (in Wisconsin, in February?—any sane fowl would huddle in shelter). The beautiful salmon served from a friend's barbecue looms in my memory along with his words “since they started farming salmon, the prices are so reasonable.” I continued to eat my portion trying to avoid thoughts about a concentrated slurry of fish waste and ocean dead-zones. Who needs more guilt about food?

Orion essays are not likely to beat one over the head, and as hoped—these essays and poems do not proclaim food dictums. Rather they wander a beautiful labyrinth searching for the meanings in relationships that transfer life, culture, and legacy.

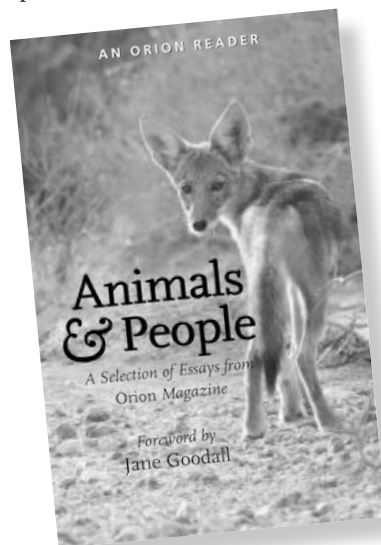
Tamara Dean opens our eyes to a local food staple that we have ignored. The wild groundnut, which Thoreau explored and sampled, hasn't become better known since his day. European settlers thought foods of the native populations were inferior and imported their

familiar crops. The groundnut is so forgotten that many Native populations don't know their own history with this food source. Once Dean prompts us to search for what some call *Apios Americana*, our relationship with this food staple could change so that like her “we see it everywhere.”

Katrina Vandenberg cajoles us into loving the hard and complex vegetable of fall.

Tamar Adler offers a vision of eating that ceases to celebrate exotic, imported and rather celebrates the “bobbing and tilting” of wise food decisions that each individual makes within their pantry and community.

Debra Slicer's poetic celebration of the apricot “a summer Taos sunset” weaves the thread from life to death into a gossamer matrix. A sensitive reader will want to caress, smell, lick, taste, swallow and savor that next summer apricot—and feel alive.



Animals and People: a Selection of Essays from Orion Magazine. Foreword by Jane Goodall, Orion Magazine, 2013, 113 pages.

Jane Goodall was taught by Cambridge professors that animals do not have personalities, minds, and emotions. Goodall knew this wasn't true based on a childhood relationship with her dog, Rusty. Animals may not think as we do, but does being different delegate a species to a lower position of value and rights?

Animals and People gathers explorations of intellectual intimacies between animals and people that illuminates the animal species—including humans.

JB Mackinnon makes a case for elderly animals in his essay *Wisdom in the Wild*. What happens to an elephant herd during a fifty-year drought when none of the elephants are over fifty? Could schools of fish rely on the large elders (sought after by fishing practices) to migrate? What purpose does the old crow serve? What if there is no elder rhino group to check the aggressive adolescent's penchant for violence? This call to see the need for elders implicitly smacks against devaluation of all things old. Turns out, it's really stupid to get rid or ignore elders. If this volume contained only this essay—it would still be essential reading.

Wonder connects us to the thing we may not name, though some call it God or Universe. Wonder goes beyond thinking, and some find it a holy experience. Bryan Dole explores wonder with a focus on sturgeon—fish that roam our Wisconsin waters and his Columbia River. The known and unknown cause wonder: they live more than 100 years, perhaps 200; females release rafts of 3 to 4 million eggs; they can be bigger than a bear or car; they swam in waters that flowed alongside dinosaurs. And as Dole witnessed, the visage can evoke an awed silence—even in a three-year-old, who punctuates his moments of silence with a toddler's voice and the words “Holy Sh*t.”

Lisa Couturier holds an uncomfortably bright spotlight on the horsemeat industry. Since we tend not to eat horses in the US, it's easy to imagine that we honor our horses. As Couturier reports with difficult sensory detail, we come to understand the special relationship that many have with their horses lasts only as long as the living horse offers significant benefit to the owner. Once the horse has more benefits as a meat product to be sold overseas, an industry lies in wait.

Animals and People doesn't pretend to have answers as to how to consider relationships that include love, servitude, and consummation—yet it's impossible to consider these beautiful and smart essays without chewing on enlightened perspectives and taking them in. When considering this book and my relationship with animals, end lines from Mary Oliver's poem “The Fish” came to me: “We are nourished by the mystery.” Yes, we are.

Wolf *Continued from page 5*

responsible for less than 2% of all livestock deaths, including “missing calves.” Weather and respiratory illnesses claim more livestock loss than all wildlife depredation combined. Wisconsin depredation statistics show that losses to wolves were actually lowest when the state’s population was at its height. The group claims the return of endangered status to wolves leaves producers “with no mechanism to keep the Wisconsin wolf population in check.” In fact, humans do not need to “keep [the] wolf population in check” because as a density dependent species, wolves regulate their own population in response to available habitat and prey density. Removing a thriving wolf population that causes little conflict with humans may actually pave the way for more conflict.

Some hunters feel that wolves are responsible for reducing Wisconsin’s deer populations. In fact, research shows that each wolf kills 15-19 deer per year. This means that wolves killed less than 18,000 deer per year, even when our state’s wolf population exceeded 800, less than half of the 40,000 deer hit by cars, and a fraction of the 450,000 deer shot by hunters. Moreover, deer overpopulation caused by an abundance of forest edge habitat along with low numbers of predators has been found to inhibit natural forest regeneration and driven forest floor understory plant composition for the past several decades.²

There is also research that suggests hunting and trapping wolves can make depredation issues worse. A 2014 Washington State University study demonstrates a 6% increase of livestock loss to predators in areas where wolves are recreationally hunted and trapped and illegally killed, due to the destabilizing effects of hunting and trapping these territorial pack animals. Furthermore, a recent Canadian study shows higher rates of recruitment, or increases in pack size, in response to the pressure of hunting and trapping. Analysis of hair tufts gathered in Alberta, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories reveals “human-caused harassment elevates stress hormones such as cortisol,

alters a wolf pack’s elaborate social structure and might have evolutionary consequences. Reproductive hormones...may also be elevated,” according to University of Calgary Prof. Marco Musiani, who co-authored the study.

Both the Ribble and Kline bills should prompt us to reflect whether legislatively regulating species protections is in the best interest of the Public Trust. The Sierra Club and other groups are concerned that any Congressional bill that promotes the legislative delisting of wolves will place not only wolves, but also the entire Endangered Species Act in jeopardy, as there will be no stopping future delisting efforts for far less beloved and notable species. In this way, the Endangered Species Act - one of the most significant, effective environmental laws ever enacted - will be dismantled.

On March 18 the Endangered Species Coalition, of which Sierra Club is a member, sent farmers and hunters who oppose these bills that undermine the ESA and wolf protection to Washington, DC to speak to their members of Congress. In Wisconsin, over 500 people have responded to our action alert online or signed our petition opposing these dangerous bills. But we still need your help to stop these fast moving, shortsighted proposals. Learn more about this issue by watching the new documentary, Political Predator, available from the Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf on YouTube. Then please contact US Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, as well as your local member of Congress, and urge them to oppose any bill (such as HR 843, HR 884 or an appropriations rider) that would jeopardize wolves and the Endangered Species Act today!

1 http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/Document68_NRM_WYOpinion.pdf

2 Frerker K, Sabo A, Waller D (2014) Long-Term Regional Shifts in Plant Community Composition Are Largely Explained by Local Deer Impact Experiments. PLoS ONE 9(12): e115843. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0115843



Join us in the
“Duck Pond”
July 16th,
2015

Madison
Mallards
vs.
Lakeshore
Chinooks

7:05p.m.

*The Madison Mallards are pleased to
welcome Sierra Club to a night
at the ballpark*



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TICKETS \$15

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- \$5 of every ticket donated to the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter
- 50/50 raffle benefits Sierra Club
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At the bottom of the page click “buy”

Choose your seats (Green indicates available seats)

Limited number of Sierra Club tickets available.
Tickets must be purchased online by July 1 or while
supplies last.

River Touring Section

2015 Paddling Trips and Instructional Clinics

Interested in paddling some great water with fun and skilled paddlers? If so, Sierra Club's 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.

April-June trips and clinics listed below. Visit the outings section of the chapter website for July-October trips. www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS members offer several instructional clinics for a nominal fee. These clinics are a great way to gain skills and confidence. Because we strive to maintain a low student to teacher ratio—typically four to one or less—we can offer highly individualized instruction. The clinics fill up early. To avoid missing out on the clinic you want to take, reserve your spot now by calling the clinic instructor and sending in your fee (non-refundable). All of the clinic teachers volunteer their time. Fees cover supplies and some refreshments. RTS donates the remaining funds to conservation and river protection groups.

WHITEWATER CLINIC FOR SOLO OR TANDEM CANOES

June 6-7 Wolf River

Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person; plus a camping fee for two nights. RTS whitewater clinics are for reasonably experienced moving water (river) paddlers who want to learn whitewater skills and novice whitewater paddlers who want to improve their skills. This is for open canoes, not kayaks. Paddlers must provide their own properly equipped canoe. Except for some classroom sessions, separate instruction will be provided for solo and tandem participants. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night for clinic participants, instructors, and RTS paddlers. Please bring a dish to share. We have reserved the group campsite at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort for camping Friday and Saturday nights. If you prefer other lodging arrangements, there are many options available. See the Wolf River Territory website (www.wolfriverterritory.com) for information.

For information and registration, contact: Registration (Solo or Tandem): Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com. Solo Clinic Leader: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com

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



WHITEWATER CLINIC FOR WHITEWATER KAYAKS

June 13-14 Wolf

Class II; Car camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person. Camping fee pro-rated for 2 nights. Kayak whitewater clinic is limited to 10 boats. Description of expectations is as listed for the Canoe Clinic, with attention paid to water flow and levels appropriate to participants. For whitewater use, your kayak must be equipped with bulkhead or air bags behind the seat and a properly fitted neoprene spray skirt. There will be a classroom session geared only for kayakers. Camping and other information including sign-up forms will be provided as part of the registration process. For Details and Registration, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com

MOVING WATER KAYAK CLINIC

June 23 and/or June 25 Bark and/or Crystal Rivers

Class I. Day Trip. Clinic Fee: \$15 per person per clinic day. If you are comfortable on lakes and are now ready to try rivers, RTS has added 2 kayak clinics. Strokes and boat maneuvering more applicable to kayakers will be taught, as well as river reading skills. The class size will be limited to 5 boats per clinic day. Locations will be determined by water level and participant interest. For details and Registration, contact: KasyCulbertson 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com

MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC

June 27 Badfish or Koshkonong Creek near Madison

Class I. Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. Confident and competent on lakes, but not ready for rivers? Then this canoe clinic is for you. We'll review the basic strokes—draws, prys, sweeps, forward, back and J. We'll discuss safety, reading water, and maneuvers—ferries, side slips, and eddy turns. Then we'll practice these skills as we canoe Badfish Creek or Koshkonong Creek. To register or get more details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com

PADDLING TRIPS

April 11 Bark River

Class 1+; Day Trip. Join us for an early spring paddle on a clear spring made so by restored wetlands. As there are 7 bridges, portaging may be needed. Weather and water level dependent, with Upper Rock as a fall-back river choice. LIMIT: 10 boats. For details contact: Kasy Culbertson 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com

April 18- 19 Little Rivers Exploratory

Class III; Car Camp. Based on water levels, we'll select two or more small rivers in central or northern Wisconsin that can only be paddled in spring. Learn about river restoration and preservation. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. Note: Depending on water levels, we may change the date of this trip. For details, contact: Dale Dean 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com or Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com

May 2-3 Pine River

Class II; Canoe Camp. Join us for the 39th annual Pine River weekend! We plan to paddle from Highway 55 to Chipmunk Rapids in Forest and Florence Counties. This is a terrific opportunity to canoe and camp on one of Wisconsin's designated "wild rivers." There will be time to reflect and discuss the challenges and changes facing this river. For details contact: Larry Zibell, 715-546-2131.

May 2-3 Root River (Minnesota)

Class I; Car Camp. Enjoy a weekend paddling the Root River in unglaciated SE Minnesota near Lanesboro. Dolomite cliffs overlook the valley which has many spring fed tributaries and abundant wildlife. Learn about the region's early history and its effect on the river valley. Camping is free but canoes/kayaks need to be licensed. For details, contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-452-3164, sueob1@gmail.com

May 9 Whitewater Rivers of Central Wisconsin - Exploratory

Class II-III-Car Camp. Rivers determined by water levels. Saturday's hoped-for choice is the Little Wolf, located in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape region in northwestern Waupaca County, home of major land cover of aspen, white cedar, hemlock, red pine and numerous conifers, and hardwoods. However water level may determine another choice such as Eau Claire, Big Rib, etc. Wet/dry suit as needed, neoprene spray skirt (kayaks), and helmet required. For details, contact: Marianne McEvilly 715-250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com Co-leaders: Kasy Culbertson, Doug Robinson

May 10 Whitewater Rivers of Central Wisconsin/Exploratory

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

May 16 Baraboo River

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

May 23-25 Bois Brule

Class I-II; Car Camp. Join us for three day trips on the Bois Brule. On Saturday, we'll paddle from County S to Highway 2. On Sunday, we'll paddle from Pine Tree Landing to Highway 13—this section includes a series of Class II rapids. On Monday, we'll paddle from Highway 13 to Lake Superior, with fairly constant Class I rapids. We'll learn about the work to protect this trout stream. Helmets required for rapids. Camping is available at the DNR Campground south of Brule WI in Douglas County. The trip leader will reserve as many sites as possible. This is a busy weekend so please share your site with fellow Sierrans. Trip leaders: Pat & Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, 608-397-2531 (cell), pbwilson@centurytel.net and Kevin & Carol Olson, 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

May 26 - 29 White, Montreal, additional rivers based on group interest

Class III/IV; Car Camp. In addition to paddling, we'll hike into several area waterfalls (Saxon, Superior, Potato, Morgan, Copper, Brownstone, and more) Learn about area mining issues and water resources. For details contact: Kevin or Carol Olson, 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

June 6-7 WHITEWATER CLINICS for Solo and Tandem canoes (See Clinics above)

June 6-7 NE WI Rivers

Class II; Car Camp - Bear Paw. As this month will bring a special celebration of Wisconsin's Federal Wild and Scenic River Act, in appreciation of Larry Zibell's efforts in the establishment of the DNR land purchase for a put-in on the Pike, on Saturday we will try to paddle the Pike.

On Sunday the river is TBD. Helmets required. For details contact: Marianne McEvilly, 715-250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com. Co-leader: Kasy Culbertson

June 13-14 WHITEWATER CLINICS for kayaks (See Clinics above)

June 13-14 Pike or Oconto/Wolf

Class II-III; Car Camp. We will determine rivers based on water levels on Saturday. Enjoy some beautiful scenery, wildlife and classic WI whitewater. We will help keep the rivers clean by picking up some trash along the way. For details contact: Dave Hiller, 608-527-3661, dave@davehiller.com or Bruce Nelson, 608-609-9978, b1nelson@att.net

June 19-23 Sylvania Wilderness Service Project

Quietwater; Car and Canoe Camp. The pristine Sylvania Wilderness is being invaded by non-native thistles. Help the Friends of Sylvania remove these invasives and enjoy the beauty of this special place. You can also practice portaging and canoe camping to prepare for your other summer expeditions. We will begin Friday, June 19, 2015 with a pizza dinner, introductions, orientation, and a movie. We will finish on Tuesday, June 23. The first evening will be car camping and the remainder will be backcountry canoe camping. Meals will be coordinated cooperatively to minimize expense and maximize quality. Fees are \$50/ person. We have 11 places open. If interested, we need your reservation by June 9, 2015. See the Friends of Sylvania website for background. Canoes are available for discounted rental. Contact Wally Brinkmann for registration at wabrinkm@wisc.edu and for questions and details contact trip leader: Dan Wallace, 608-835-5144, djwallac@wisc.edu

June 20-21 Pike River/Wolf River

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

June 20-21 Mekan River

Class I; Car Camp. This trip is for those that like to paddle small rivers. We will paddle a section above Germania Marsh on Saturday and a section below the marsh on Sunday. The Mekan is a premium trout stream with crystal clear water. It maintains a steady current and at times requires precise maneuvering around tight bends or dead fall. Come learn about the threats and impacts of irrigation and proposed bottled water facilities. For details contact: Leo Hummel, 608-322-7014, dhummel@centurytel.net

RIVER TOURING SECTION – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

June 23 or 25 MOVING WATER KAYAK CLINIC (See Clinics above.)

June 27 MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC (See Clinics above.)

July 4 Wolf

Class II-III Car Camp. Enjoy a summer day on the Wolf. Hopefully we will have sufficient water levels otherwise the Red is an option. Helmet required. Great opportunity to observe wildlife. For details contact: Marianne McEvilly, 715-250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com

RTS is affiliated with the Sierra Club, where all trips and outings are open to everyone. We want to get you on rivers and into the outdoors. 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 white-water 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.

PADDLING RESOURCES: Wisconsin guidebooks include: Paddling Northern Wisconsin, Paddling Southern Wisconsin, and White-water; Quietwater. In addition, you'll find information about safety about other issues on the following web sites: American Canoe Association: <http://www.americancanoe.org>.

American Whitewater: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org>. The latter includes current water levels for many Wisconsin rivers.

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 below) 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/kayak skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER RATING DIFFICULTY

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.

From the American Canoe Associate Web Site.

(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.)

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/>.

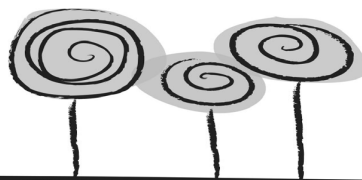
TRANSPORTATION: You are responsible for providing your own transportation to and from the river. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. We can identify people who have space in their car and people who need rides, but we do not make transportation arrangements.

OTHER: We do not allow non-paddlers, glass containers, or alcoholic beverages on our trips while we are on the water. Pets are prohibited unless the trip announcement explicitly mentions that pets are allowed.

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

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Please see our web site at: sierraclub.org/Wisconsin or contact:

Rich Krieg, RTS Chair, at richkrieg@new.rr.com, 920-660-3557



Support Your Local Sierra Club

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us and are an important part of the John Muir Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the John Muir Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in Wisconsin's own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and

wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able—and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

explore, enjoy and protect the planet!

\$50

\$100

\$250

\$500

any other amount

Please keep my gift anonymous

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

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

Donate online at: <http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin>

The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club has moved

our new address:
754 Williamson St.,
Madison, WI 53703

our new web address:
<http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin>

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

Events Calendar:

- April 14** **Conservation Lobby Day**
WI State Capitol, Madison
Register at <http://conservationvoters.org/>
- April 14-30** **Tar Sands Resistance Tour**
Dates and times can be found on page 9
<http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin>
- April 29** **Sierra Club National Board of Directors
Ballots Due**
Details at <http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>
- May 2-3** **Outings Leader Training**
Milwaukee, WI, Register by April 25 at
<http://action.sierraclub.org/JMCOLT2015>
- June 13** **Muir-Eggleston Land Dedication**
Marquette Co., 1-4 pm
RSVP by June 10 to shahla.werner@sierraclub.org
- June 19-21** **Midwest Renewable Energy Fair**
Custer, WI
<https://www.midwestrenew.org/energyfair>
- October 2-4** **Autumn Assembly**
Perlstein Resort & Conf. Center, Wisconsin Dells
<http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin>

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

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY



APRIL 22