

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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



The John Muir Chapter has endorsed Tammy Baldwin for United States Senate.

## JOHN MUIR CHAPTER 2012 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

by Dave Blouin, Political Committee Chair

John Muir Chapter members face critical choices in the upcoming elections that have great impacts on our goals for better environmental protections and conservation in Wisconsin. The last two years have proven that we cannot sit out the election process if we wish to make any progress, let alone halt terrible legislation that could have long-lasting negative effects on our families and the places we care about. The 2010 elections and the later recalls were largely disappointing, but we can draw on the lessons and positive outcomes from 2008 to inspire us.

Beginning with the federal races, our choices of Barack Obama for President, Tammy Baldwin for Senate, and Rob Zerban, Mark

Pocan, Gwen Moore, Ron Kind, Pat Kreitlow, and Jamie Wall for Congress illustrate the urgency and importance of the fall elections. In every federal race, the choice is between our endorsed, proven environmental champions over candidates and incumbents with terrible voting records and commitments to overturn environmental regulations in favor of unchecked and thoughtless growth.

Similarly, our choices for state Senate and Assembly reflect our commitment to support only the best environmental candidates: those who are just as committed as we are to protection and progress instead of pillaging our natural resources. A few years ago, we decided to try to work in every state legislative race each cycle to make as much impact as we can on the elections. This commitment is demonstrated

by the record 82 endorsed state candidates out of 115 contests this year, with more to come. Go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp> to view the current list.

On pages 6-7, you'll find the 2011-12 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard. The scorecard is used to grade the votes taken by our elected officials in the last legislative session. The scores were almost uniformly partisan in the last session. The disturbing truth is that the GOP launched an all-out assault on environmental protections last session and we witnessed an unprecedented level of partisan voting with far too many legislators failing entirely and scoring zeroes. The Sierra Club is non-partisan, and we have supported Republican candidates in the past, but with recent majorities in both houses and the governorship they have consistently voted against our (and arguably their own) interests.

Still, there was an encouraging and significant development at the end of the regular legislative session. State Sen. Dale Schultz bucked his party in a very public way and voted with the Democratic

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## CYRUS HESTER JOINS AUTUMN ASSEMBLY LINE-UP

We are honored to welcome keynote speaker, Cyrus Hester to this year's Autumn Assembly. Hester is a natural resources scientist for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and will discuss *The Science Behind the Debate: Mining in the Bad River Watershed*. Cyrus works to educate decision makers and local communi-

ties about complex issues related to ecology, geology, and land-uses. A veteran who is intimately familiar with the dynamics of conflict, Cyrus hopes that sound

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# FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair  
John Muir Chapter

Benjamin Franklin put it simply – “When the well is dry, we know the worth of water.” This summer’s drought has raised the profile of water and the importance of having an adequate supply. Water is one of the few common denominators for all Wisconsinites, along with beer and the Green Bay Packers. It’s our water. We drink it. We play in it. We use it for agriculture, manufacturing and brewing. Food from our water, like fish and wild rice, provides nourishment, recreation and cultural value.

We cannot afford to wait for the well to become dry or contaminated or privatized; we need to be paying attention now to the people we elect into positions of power. From the shores of Lake Superior and the Penokee Range, to Lake Michigan, the central sands and the Mississippi River drainage, threats to our water resources have arisen and decisions are being made that may impact these resources for years to come.

When you enter the voting booth this fall, remember that your choice at the polls directly impacts water in your community and

across the state. In this issue you’ll find the chapter’s legislative scorecard and candidate endorsements for the fall election. Please use these tools and consider some of the topics below when deciding which candidates to support. To find out how your state legislator voted on specific bills view the complete legislative scored card online at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp>

## CLEAN WATER SUPPLY AND RECHARGE.

This year we have seen both extreme drought conditions and floods. According to Wisconsin Public Radio’s (WPR) drought web site, more than 63 percent of the country in the lower 48 states is experiencing drought, leading some to compare the summer of 2012 to the droughts of the 1950s and even the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. (From WPR web site - <http://wisconsindrought.org/>).

It seemed like a badge of honor this summer to have a brown lawn in order to conserve our water supply. Local policies to control runoff, promote compact development, preserve recharge areas or implement water conservation can keep our water supplies adequate and clean. In the spring, you can elect local and county officials who support policies that protect groundwater recharge areas and control polluted runoff from urban and agricultural sources. But this fall, we need to elect state level candidates that will uphold and defend Smart Growth, Wisconsin’s law governing comprehensive land-use plans.

## PRIVATIZATION AND WATER MINING.

While Wisconsin has not seen an outright push to privatize water resources, there are lessons we can learn from the bottled water fights of the past. In 2000-2001, local activists Arlene and Hiroshi Kanno spearheaded the opposition to Nestlé’s proposal to pump 500 gallons per minute from a spring in New Haven in Adams County, Wisconsin. This proposal amounted to a give-away of our precious water resources to a multinational company. Mining large amounts of groundwater from a region can alter the level and flow of springs, lakes, rivers and well water. In turn, these changes can harm the environments and economies that depend on the water. Local activists used everything at their disposal – public hearings, the press, and ultimately the legal system to get Nestlé to give up on this project.

## FACTORY FARMS OR CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEED OPERATIONS (CAFOs).

Today, we need to be concerned about factory farm operations, which have become the new Nestlé with their expanding appetite for water. CAFOs raise a variety of potential threats to Wisconsin’s environment and communities: including pollution from manure, complications that can arise from a high concentration of animals and the great demand put on local water resources. According to the Wisconsin DNR, one dairy cow produces about as much waste as 18 people. That means that a single 2000-cow dairy operation can produce roughly as much organic waste as the city of Greenfield, WI (population 36,720).

## THE MUIR VIEW

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**DEADLINE FOR JANUARY-MARCH 2013 ISSUE IS NOVEMBER 15, 2012**

# FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

On June 6, 2012, the Wysocki Family of Companies announced plans for building a CAFO with 5,300 cows in the Town of Saratoga, Wood County. 8000 acres have been purchased, and the plan includes 49 high capacity wells. Concerns are being raised about the potential lowering of the water table and reduced flows in local creeks and streams as well as fertilizer and manure contaminating water with nitrates. The Town Board of Saratoga voted for a moratorium on building permits inconsistent with the land use zoning which resulted in a lawsuit being filed by the Wysocki Family of Companies on August 14th.

Other large operations have been proposed in the same region including the Richfield CAFO and the proposed doubling of the New Chester Dairy. As citizens, we have the right to question proposals such as this and to engage in protecting our water resources and communities. Again, we need to support candidates that will work and vote for increased protections for Wisconsin's small springs, groundwater and surface water to reduce the potential for draw-downs caused by high capacity wells and other large water users. Candidates should also be willing to defend a citizen's right to question these proposals.

## WATER CONTAMINATION AND POLLUTION.

Recently, an Oconomowoc waste hauler was cited for spreading excess human waste (as much as 3 times more than allowed by their permit) across fields in Jefferson County, polluting nearby drinking water wells. Many were surprised that this could occur in Wisconsin and that the pollution levels were high enough to cause gastrointestinal illnesses.

Equally disturbing was the obvious lack of enforcement when the company received the minimum penalty in spite of DNR staffs' recommendation to prosecute. Since Scott Walker was elected governor in 2010, there has been a dramatic drop in enforcement of natural resources laws to a 12-year low in 2011, as reported by Ron Seely of the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

## AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE COUNCIL (ALEC) AND REDUCING THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has been the source of insidious model legislation, from diminishing voters' rights to attacking organized labor and collective bargaining. Many pieces of model legislation embed clauses reducing or eliminating the citizen role in environmental rules and decision making. This legislation crafted outside Wisconsin, which for the most part benefits large corporations, gets introduced by member legislators such as Rep. Robin Vos (R-Burlington), who also

serves as the ALEC state chair. Wisconsin has seen ALEC's writing firsthand in the mining bill and in the state's voter ID bill, part of a disturbing trend of states attempting to pass laws that would disenfranchise student and minority voters.

ALEC has model legislation for regulating groundwater contaminants that would undercut a state's authority. It establishes EPA standards as a ceiling, rather than a floor, meaning states could not set more stringent standards. It would give an agribusiness-dominated review panel a regulatory veto, and add other burdens to state regulation of groundwater. Another piece of model legislation would privatize public water and sewerage services and prohibit local governments from requiring contractors to meet labor and wage standards.

On November 6 and in the spring of 2013, you can vote for state legislators and members of Congress who will fight against these threats to Wisconsin. During the last legislative session, 25 candidates scored a perfect 100 percent on the scorecard and have been named 2012 Sierra Club Environmental Champions. Read on to find out which state-level candidates the Sierra Club has endorsed and visit our website to see how your legislators voted on environmental issues last session. <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp> ☞

# SENATOR SCHULTZ RECEIVES NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB AWARD



Twenty-eight "Modern-Day Muirs" received national awards from the Sierra Club at a ceremony held in San Francisco August 4. Among them was Wisconsin senator Dale Schultz. Senator Schultz received the Distinguished Achievement Award, which honors persons in public service for a particular action of singular importance to conservation. In 2012, Schultz was the lone Republican to vote against two pieces of anti-environmental legislation that came up in the state legislative session. One of the bills he voted against would have made

sweeping changes to Wisconsin mining law, enabling Gogebic Taconite (GTac) to create an open pit taconite mine in the headwaters of the Bad River Watershed in northern Wisconsin and dump its toxic mine wastes into wetlands and streams immediately adjacent to the open pit. The Bad River is an irreplaceable cultural and subsistence resource for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The John Muir Chapter is opposed to any reductions in environmental protections to enable strip mining for iron near Lake Superior.



# THE SIERRA CLUB IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR **ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE 2012 ELECTION**

THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER HAS ENDORSED **BARACK OBAMA FOR PRESIDENT, TAMMY BALDWIN FOR SENATE, AND ROB ZERBAN, MARK POCAN, RON KIND, GWEN MOORE, PAT KREITLOW, AND JAMIE WALL FOR CONGRESS.**



The Sierra Club worked hard four years ago to elect President Obama knowing that clean air and water and the health of our families was at stake. The President has acted on many of our concerns including limiting toxic mercury pollution from coal plants and implementing the strongest fuel-efficiency standards in history. President Obama acted to save a million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and worked towards independence from dirty energy by investing in clean energy and calling for an end to costly tax subsidies for oil companies. It is critical that Sierra Club members work to reelect the President to continue the fight to stand against big polluters, save more lands and safeguard our air and water.

At the state level, our goal of creating and increasing pro-environment majorities in both houses of the Legislature is reflected in a record number eighty-two candidates endorsed so far this year for the State Legislature. 25 state lawmakers scored a perfect 100% on our legislative scorecard and have been named **2012 Environmental Champions** for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin's environment. The names of the Environmental Champions are listed in bold in the list of endorsed candidates.

The staff and volunteers of the John Muir Chapter Political Committee are very proud to announce these endorsements. These candidates are committed to maintaining clean air, clean water and the irreplaceable places that make Wisconsin unique. We urge you, as Sierra Club members, to vote for and help elect new environmental leaders and re-elect proven legislative leaders.

Incumbent officials were judged based on their overall environmental voting record, public statements and activities while in office. Challengers were measured by their responses to questionnaires and interviews, environmental platforms, public service, and public statements.

The 2011-12 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard was used in part to judge incumbent candidates and can be found on pages 6-7. The entire scorecard with descriptions of the legislation used for grading can also be found at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.asp>. Unfortunately, the scorecard shows that single party control and the deep partisan divide in Wisconsin resulted in unprecedented attacks on natural resources last session, from a budget that slashed recycling, transit and energy efficiency to a serious effort to gut mining safeguards and new laws that seriously undermine wetlands protection.

Several 2012 Environmental Champions are retiring or running for new offices but earned recognition. They are: David Cullen, Tamara

Grigsby, Mark Pocan, Kelda Helen Roys, Barbara Toles, and Robert Turner.

If you're unsure who your state Senator or Representative is, go to [www.legis.state.wi.us/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/) and click on "Who represents me?" Use your favorite search engine to find their campaigns. ☺

**ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES MAY HAVE BEEN ENDORSED SINCE THE MUIR VIEW WENT TO PRINT. GO TO [HTTP://WISCONSIN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/POLITICAL/ENDORSEMENTS.HTM](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/political/endorsements.htm) FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF ENDORSEMENTS.**

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# 2012 ENDORSEMENTS

## PRESIDENT:

Barack Obama

## U.S. SENATE:

Tammy Baldwin

## U.S CONGRESS:

Rob Zerban	1st District
Mark Pocan	2nd District
Ron Kind	3rd District
Gwen Moore	4th District
Pat Kreitlow	7th District
Jamie Wall	8th District

## STATE SENATE

**Lena Taylor**, D-Milwaukee (SD 4)  
Nikiya Harris, D-Milwaukee (SD 6)  
Daniel Olson, D-Clayton (SD-10)  
Susan Sommer D-Eagle River (SD 12)  
Margarete Worthington, D-Wautoma (SD 14)  
Mark Miller, D-Monona (SD 16)  
Jessica King, D-Oshkosh (SD 18)  
Tanya Lohr, D-West Bend (SD 20)  
Robert Wirch, D-Kenosha (SD 22)  
Julie Lassa, D-Plover (SD 24)  
**Fred Risser**, D-Madison (SD 26)  
Jim Ward, D-Greendale (SD 28)  
Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay (SD 30)  
Jennifer Shilling, D-La Crosse (SD 32)

## STATE ASSEMBLY

Patrick Veesser, D-Luxemburg (AD 1)  
Larry Pruess, D-Two Rivers (AD 2)  
Kole Oswald, D-Appleton (AD 3)  
Michael Malcheski, D-De Pere (AD 4)  
John Powers, D-Wittenberg (AD 6)  
**JoCasta Zamarripa**, D-Milwaukee (AD 8)  
Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee (AD 9)  
**Sandy Pasch**, D-Whitefish Bay (AD 10)  
**Fred Kessler**, D-Milwaukee (AD 12)  
John Pokrandt, D-Wauwatosa (AD 13)  
Chris Rockwood, D-Wauwatosa (AD 14)  
**Leon Young**, D-Milwaukee (AD 16)  
Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee (AD 18)  
**Jon Richards**, D-Milwaukee (AD 19)  
Christine Sinicki, D-Milwaukee (AD 20)  
William Kurtz, D-S. Milwaukee (AD 21)  
Mike Helmke, D-Sheboygan (AD 26)  
Steve Bauer, D-Plymouth (AD 27)  
Jim Swanson, D-Menomonie (AD 29)  
Diane Odeen, D-River Falls (AD 30)  
Scott Woods, D-Delavan (AD 33)  
Merlin Van Buren, D-Rhineland (AD 34)  
Mary Arnold, D-Columbus (AD 37)  
Scott Michalak, D-Marshall (AD 38)  
Jim Grigg, D-Horicon (AD 39)  
Melissa Sorenson, D-Berlin (AD 41)  
Paula Cooper, D-Pardeeville (AD 42)  
Andy Jorgenson, D-Fort Atkinson (AD 43)  
Deb Kolste, D-Janesville (AD 44)  
**Janis Ringhand**, D-Evansville (AD 45)  
**Gary Hebl**, D-Sun Prairie (AD 46)  
Melissa Sargent, D-Madison (AD 48)  
Carol Beals, D-Platteville (AD 49)

Paul Czisny, D-Fond du Lac (AD 52)  
Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh (AD 54)  
Jim Crail, D-Greenville (AD 55)  
**Penny Bernard Schaber**, D-Appleton (AD 57)  
John Steinbrink, D-Pleasant Prairie (AD 61)  
Melissa Lemke, D-Racine (AD 62)  
Kelley Albrecht, D-Burlington (AD 63)  
Peter Barca, D-Kenosha (AD 64)  
Tod Ohnstad, D-Kenosha (AD 65)  
**Cory Mason**, D-Racine (AD 66)  
Judy Smriga, D-Thorp (AD 68)  
Paul Knoff, D-Granton (AD 69)  
Amy Sue Vruwink, D-Milladore (AD 70)  
Katrina Shankland, D-Stevens Point (AD 71)  
Justin Pluess, D-Wisconsin Rapids (AD 72)  
**Nick Milroy**, D- South Range (AD 73)  
Janet Bewley, D-Ashland (AD 74)  
**Chris Taylor**, D-Madison (AD 76)  
**Terese Berceau**, D-Madison (AD 77)  
**Brett Hulsey**, D-Madison (AD 78)  
Dianne Hesselbein, D-Middleton (AD 79)  
**Sondy Pope-Roberts**, D-Cross Plains (AD 80)  
**Fred Clark**, D-Baraboo (AD 81)  
Kathleen Wied-Vincent, D-Brookfield (AD82)  
Mandy Wright, D-Wausau (AD 85)  
Elizabeth Riley, D-Hayward (AD 87)  
Joe Reinhard, D- Abrams (AD 89)  
Eric Genrich, D- Green Bay (AD 90)  
**Chris Danou**, D-Trempeleau (AD 92)  
Jeff Smith, D-Eau Claire (AD 93)  
Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska (AD 94)  
**Jill Billings**, D- La Crosse (AD 95)  
Tom Johnson, D-Viroqua (AD 96)  
Marga Krumins, D-Waukesha (AD 97)  
Thomas Hibbard, D-Hartland (AD 99)



## CANDIDATE BIOS

**Tammy Baldwin's** voting record in the Congress has been stellar. Her Sierra Club score for the 2011 Session was 100% and garnered her a grade of A plus. Her League of Conservation score in the last session was 97% and matches her lifetime LCV score of 97%. The Sierra Club proudly endorses Tammy Baldwin for U.S. Senate.

**Rob Zerban** is our choice for the 1st Congressional District. Zerban is a businessman and a proven environmental activist and champion serving on the Board of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters. He faces Paul Ryan whose environmental voting record has been terrible: his Sierra Club Clean Water score for the last session was 0% and earned him a grade of F (failed). His League of Conservation (LCV) score last session was: 3% and lifetime is 16%.

**Mark Pocan** is the Sierra Club's choice for 2nd District. Pocan's voting record of 100% in the last state legislative session and in the three previous sessions earned him the title of "Environmental Champion" and we're proud to endorse him.

**Ron Kind** is our choice for 3rd District where he continues to be a strong environmental voter and we have endorsed him in his last eight terms for Congress. Representative Kind scored 83% on our Clean Water Score and has a 91% lifetime LCV voting record.

**Gwen Moore** has been endorsed by the Sierra Club for each election since 2004 and is our choice for the 4th District. Representative Moore's Sierra Club Clean Water score in the last session was 100% and her lifetime LCV score is 97%

**Pat Kreitlow** is the Sierra Club's choice for the 7th District. Kreitlow is a journalist and broadcaster challenging incumbent Rep. Sean Duffy who scored 0 on the Sierra Club Clean Water scorecard earning him a failed grade. During his 4-year term in the state Senate, Kreitlow was a proven pro-environment voter and scored 90% on our legislative scorecard.

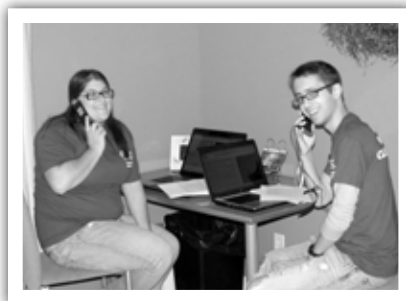
**Jamie Wall** is our choice for the 8th District. Wall is a Rhodes Scholar and businessman and formerly served on the Board of Clean Wisconsin's Action Fund. He faces Rep. Reid Ribble and his failed environmental voting record. Ribble's LCV score was 6% last session and 6% lifetime. His Sierra Club Clean Water Score was 0 and earned him a failed grade of F.

# POLITICAL ACTIVITIES *Continued from Page 1*

minority against legislation designed to bulldoze environmental protections in favor of the Gogebic Taconite strip mine proposal near Lake Superior. Sen. Schultz also opposed the extreme “budget repair” bill that stripped public workers of important rights, and he fought to block the repeal of statewide wind siting regulations. For his singular courage in fighting his own party on these key measures, the Sierra Club awarded Sen. Schultz the Distinguished Achievement Award for 2012 – a national award given to public officials for an action of particular importance to conservation. Our congratulations and thanks go out to Sen. Schultz.

Our endorsement is just the beginning of our work to help support these candidates. The next steps to electing new environmental leaders and keeping our proven champions are up to each of us as individual Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter members.

Review the list of endorsed candidates in your area and contact their campaign offices to help. (See page 5 for the list of endorsed candidates.) Volunteering can be as easy as you want it to be. Your help can be as simple as stuffing envelopes, distributing literature, making calls or even hosting a fundraiser for a candidate. A little of your time goes a long way if we all give a little, but it’s critically important to become a part of the solution. All endorsed candidates, from President Obama to Tammy Baldwin to our Congressional candidates and our endorsed candidates for Assembly and Senate, need our help. Please give generously of your time and resources and remind candidates that you are a proud Sierra Club member wishing to help them.



Chapter and group leaders will also mobilize members to work for endorsed candidates in key races where our support and efforts can make a difference. We will organize members to help distribute literature, contact neighbors and friends, make phone calls to voters and get

out the vote. Please contact your group political chair, group leadership or me to find out how to volunteer.

The Sierra Club is still the most effective environmental organization in the country because we, as individual members, act on our principles. So, let’s get to it and make a difference in this year’s elections. Please contact me at: [burroak15@charter.net](mailto:burroak15@charter.net) or (608)233-8455 if you have any questions about the John Muir Chapter’s political activities. Thanks, and don’t forget to vote on November 6! ☺

## 2011-12 SENATE SCORECARD

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter’s 2011-12 Legislative Scorecard reflects votes taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate on environmental bills. You can learn about bills that affect you by using our Legislative Tracker at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker>. Our scorecard focuses on bills related to the John Muir Chapter’s priority issues of reducing climate change and protecting land and water resources in Wisconsin. Use this scorecard as a guide to judge candidates in your district this election year. Let your representatives know if you’re pleased or disappointed with their voting records. And don’t forget to vote in the general election November 6.

NAME	DIST	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
Carpenter	Tim	3	Milwaukee	D	91%
Coggs	Spencer	6	Milwaukee	D	91%
Cowles	Robert	2	Green Bay	R	0%
Cullen	Tim	15	Janesville	D	70%
Darling	Alberta	8	River Hills	R	0%
Ellis	Michael	19	Neenah	R	0%
Erpenbach	Jon	27	Middleton	D	82%
Fitzgerald	Scott	13	Juneau	R	0%
Galloway	Pam	29	Wausau	R	0%
Grothman	Glenn	20	West Bend	R	0%
Hansen	Dave	30	Green Bay	D	73%
Harsdorf	Sheila	10	River Falls	R	0%
Holperin	Jim	12	Conover	D	55%
Jauch	Bob	25	Poplar	D	64%
Kedzie	Neal	11	Elkhorn	R	0%
King	Jessica	18	Oshkosh	D	60%
Larson	Chris	7	Milwaukee	D	91%
Lasee	Frank	1	De Pere	R	0%
Lassa	Julie	24	Stevens Point	D	82%
Lazich	Mary	28	New Berlin	R	0%
Leibham	Joseph	9	Sheboygan	R	0%
Miller	Mark	16	Monona	D	91%
Moulton	Terry	23	Chippewa Falls	R	0%
Olsen	Luther	14	Ripon	R	0%
Risser	Fred	26	Madison	D	100%
Schultz	Dale	17	Richland Center	R	18%
Shilling	Jennifer	32	La Crosse	D	60%
Taylor	Lena	4	Milwaukee	D	100%
Vinehout	Kathleen	31	Alma	D	82%
Vukmir	Leah	5	Wauwatosa	R	0%
Wanggaard	Van	21	Racine	R	0%
Wirch	Robert	22	Pleasant Prairie	D	91%
Zipperer	Rich	33	Pewaukee	R	0%



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# 2011-12 ASSEMBLY SCORECARD

NAME	DIST	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
August	Tyler	32	Walworth	R	0%
Ballweg	Joan	41	Markesan	R	0%
Barca	Peter	64	Kenosha	D	92%
Berceau	Terese	76	Madison	D	100%
Bernard Schaber	Penny	57	Appleton	D	100%
Bernier	Kathy	68	Chippewa Falls	R	0%
Bewley	Janet	74	Ashland	D	83%
Bies	Garey	1	Sister Bay	R	0%
Billings*	Jill	95	La Crosse	D	100%
Brooks	Ed	50	Reedsburg	R	0%
Clark	Fred	42	Baraboo	D	100%
Coggs	Elizabeth	10	Milwaukee	D	100%
Craig*	David	83	Big Bend	R	0%
Cullen	David	13	Milwaukee	D	100%
Danou	Chris	91	Trempealeau	D	100%
Doyle*	Steve	94	Onalaska	D	89%
Endsley	Mike	26	Sheboygan	R	0%
Farrow	Paul	98	Pewaukee	R	0%
Fields	Jason	11	Milwaukee	D	100%
Fitzgerald	Jeff	39	Horicon	R	0%
Grigsby	Tamara	18	Milwaukee	D	100%
Hebl	Gary	46	Sun Prairie	D	100%
Hintz	Gordon	54	Oshkosh	D	92%
Honadel	Mark	21	S. Milwaukee	R	0%
Hulsey	Brett	77	Madison	D	100%
Jacque	Andre	2	Green Bay	R	0%
Jorgenson	Andy	37	Fort Atkinson	D	92%
Kapenga	Chris	33	Delafield	R	8%
Kaufert	Dean	55	Neenah	R	8%
Kerkman	Samantha	66	Genoa City	R	0%
Kessler	Fred	12	Milwaukee	D	100%
Kestell	Steve	27	Elkhart Lake	R	0%
Kleefisch	Joel	38	Oconomowoc	R	0%
Klenke	John	88	Green Bay	R	0%
Knilians	Joe	44	Janesville	R	0%
Knodl	Daniel	24	Germantown	R	0%
Knudson	Dean	30	Hudson	R	9%
Kooyenga	Dale	14	Brookfield	R	0%
Kramer	Bill	97	Waukesha	R	0%
Krug	Scott	72	Wisconsin Rapids	R	8%
Krusick	Peggy	7	Milwaukee	D	83%
Kuglitsch	Mike	84	New Berlin	R	0%
Larson	Tom	67	Colfax	R	8%
LeMahieu	Daniel	59	Cascade	R	0%
Litjens	Michelle	56	Oshkosh	R	0%
Loudenbeck	Amy	45	Clinton	R	8%
Marklein	Howard	51	Spring Green	R	0%
Mason	Cory	62	Racine	D	100%
Meyer	Dan	34	Eagle River	R	0%
Milroy	Nick	73	South Range	D	100%
Molepske	Louis	71	Stevens Point	D	83%
Mursau	Jeffrey	36	Crivitz	R	0%

NAME	DIST	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
Murtha	John	29	Baldwin	R	0%
Nass	Steve	31	Whitewater	R	0%
Nerison	Lee	96	Westby	R	8%
Nygren	John	89	Marinette	R	0%
Ott	Al	3	Forest Junction	R	8%
Ott	Jim	23	Mequon	R	0%
Parisi	Joe	48	Madison	D	100%
Pasch	Sandy	22	Whitefish Bay	D	100%
Petersen	Kevin	40	Waupaca	R	0%
Petrowski	Jerry	86	Marathon	R	0%
Petryk	Warren	93	Eleva	R	0%
Pocan	Mark	78	Madison	D	100%
Pope-Roberts	Sondy	79	Middleton	D	100%
Pridemore	Don	99	Hartford	R	0%
Radcliffe	Mark	92	Black River Falls	D	64%
Richards	Jon	19	Milwaukee	D	100%
Ringhand	Janis	80	Evansville	D	100%
Ripp	Keith	47	Lodi	R	0%
Rivard	Roger	75	Rice Lake	R	0%
Roys	Kelda Helen	81	Madison	D	100%
Seidel	Donna	85	Wausau	D	92%
Severson	Erik	28	Star Prairie	R	0%
Shilling	Jennifer	95	La Crosse	D	100%
Sinicki	Christine	20	Milwaukee	D	90%
Spanbauer	Richard	53	Oshkosh	R	17%
Staskunas	Tony	15	West Allis	D	91%
Steinbrink	John	65	Pleasant Prairie	D	91%
Steineke	Jim	5	Kaukauna	R	0%
Stone	Jeff	82	Greendale	R	0%
Strachota	Pat	58	West Bend	R	0%
Stroebel*	Duey	60	Saukville	R	0%
Suder	Scott	69	Abbotsford	R	0%
Tauchen	Gary	6	Bonduel	R	0%
Taylor*	Chris	48	Madison	D	100%
Thiesfeldt	Jeremy	52	Fond du Lac	R	0%
Tiffany	Tom	35	Hazelhurst	R	0%
Toles	Barbara	17	Milwaukee	D	100%
Tranel	Travis	49	Cuba City	R	8%
Turner	Robert	61	Racine	D	100%
Van Roy	Karl	90	Green Bay	R	0%
Vos	Robin	63	Racine	R	0%
Vruwink	Amy Sue	70	Milladore	D	83%
Weininger	Chad	4	Green Bay	R	0%
Williams	Mary	87	Medford	R	0%
Wynn	Evan	43	Whitewater	R	0%
Young	Leon	16	Milwaukee	D	100%
Zamarripa	Jocasta	8	Milwaukee	D	100%
Zepnick	Josh	9	Milwaukee	D	92%
Ziegelbauer	Bob	25	Manitowoc	I	83%

\* Doyle was elected to AD 94 after Huebsch became DOA Secretary; Craig was appointed to AD 83 after Gunderson joined DNR Executive Staff. Billings was elected to AD 95 after Shilling won her recall election for State Senate. Stroebel was elected to AD 60 after Gottlieb was appointed WisDOT Sec.; Taylor was elected to AD 48 after Parisi became Dane Co. Executive

# WATCHING OUR WATERS

by Emily Jones

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in April, I stood knee-deep in Black Earth Creek, just outside Cross Plains, with about six other volunteers learning how to take a stream's vital signs. We were being trained to be stream monitors for the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program, which is run through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the University of Wisconsin-Extension. Kris Stepenuck, the program volunteer coordinator, was instructing us on how to evaluate habitat quality when an empty plastic water bottle floated towards us from upstream. We fished it out, but it was a telling reminder of why we were standing in the stream: Wisconsin's waters need our help.

Wisconsin's waters are central to the state's culture, environment, and economy. They provide habitat to native species and enjoyment for native Wisconsinites and tourists alike. But pollution detracts from their value. According to the DNR, over 700 of Wisconsin's water bodies are on the state's Impaired Waters List, with 138 new waters proposed to be added to the list for 2012. The list, which is required by the Clean Water Act to be compiled every two years, includes water bodies whose poor quality has diminished fish and aquatic life, recreation, public health and welfare, and wildlife.

In a state political climate that has often put corporate interests and political ties ahead of the environment, our waters face the threat of even more pollution. Programs such as WAV allow concerned Wisconsin citizens to get involved in keeping their waters safe and enjoyable.

The WAV program is part of Wisconsin's citizen water monitoring network, which offers various levels of water monitoring opportunities based on experience and interest. Our training focused on level 1 stream monitoring, but the WAV program also includes storm drain stenciling and river cleanups as volunteer opportunities.

Level 1 stream monitoring volunteers track six indicators of stream health: temperature, turbidity (clarity), dissolved oxygen levels, velocity, habitat quality, and macroinvertebrate life. Once a month from April to October, volunteers record this data at a section of stream that is either assigned or chosen by the volunteer. The WAV program provides volunteers with an array of water monitoring tools, from a long glass tube for assessing water clarity to a kit of chemicals for testing the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water body. Volunteers then submit their data online so that extension workers can analyze trends.

Volunteers don't need to have a scientific background to get involved. The level 1 monitoring steps are basic, and experts get involved when a volunteer discovers something problematic about a stream. However, there are more advanced opportunities for seasoned volunteers. Our basic level 1 training took under four hours. Stepenuck gave us our testing materials, presented an overview of the program and what we should be looking for in streams, and then had us go through every step of the data collection process. Along the way, she explained a bit of the ecological significance of each indicator for stream health.

The samples we took that day indicated that the stream was in relatively good shape. The water was clear, had adequate dissolved oxygen, and the habitat was of good quality. However, other statewide waters are threatened by pollution, aquatic invasive species, and more.

In Wisconsin's impaired waters, common pollutants include mercury and phosphorus. Mercury, which is a by-product of activities such as coal mining and burning, is a toxin that can cause birth defects and neurological damage. When present in a body of water, mercury accumulates in the tissues of fish, making the fish toxic to humans.





Phosphorus, meanwhile, is necessary for plants and animals to grow, but it can cause problems in excessive amounts. You've most likely seen – and smelled – blue-green algae on a lake in midsummer. Blue-green algae (also called cyanobacteria) are plant-like bacteria that thrive in warm water with high levels of phosphorus. The algae form thick, smelly green blankets on the surface of bodies of water. Their appearance and smell drive down property values around the water and make swimming and boating not only unpleasant, but dangerous. The algae produce a toxin that can cause symptoms ranging from nausea and skin irritation to serious illness or even death in livestock, pets, and humans.

Blue-green algae aren't only detrimental to human enjoyment of water bodies. Algae growth disrupts the aquatic ecosystem. When excessive phosphorus is in a body of water, algae and other plants proliferate. This process is known as eutrophication and can have drastic effects on the makeup of the body of water. Blue-green algae blooms decrease the total dissolved oxygen in the water. Deprived of oxygen, fish and other aquatic animals can then also die off, affecting the food chain and the balance of the lake ecosystem. That's why dissolved oxygen testing is an important part of stream monitoring.

The data that WAV stream monitors record can catch the symptoms of water pollution so they can be addressed. For example, if a volunteer notes low dissolved oxygen in a stream, she can notify the DNR so they can test the area for phosphorus contamination. If phosphorus contamination is found, the DNR can then investigate the source, such as agricultural or industrial runoff. WAV stream monitors can also be the first to catch aquatic invasive species, such as the rusty crayfish, in their stream.

With the WAV program, you can be on the front lines of water protection. If you want to get involved as a water volunteer, contact Shahla Werner at (608) 256-0565 and visit the program home page at <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/level1/wav.html>. ☞

Along with the WAV program, there are other efforts underway to improve water quality in Wisconsin. One such project is a collaborative effort between various groups to reduce phosphorus contamination in bodies of water. Several communities and organizations, including the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and several environmental groups, are working on a pilot project in Dane County with a unique approach to phosphorus runoff reduction.

After years of hard work by Sierra Club and other environmental groups, in 2010 Wisconsin adopted statutes that restrict the amount of phosphorus that can be present in different types of water bodies. Under the rules, phosphorus dischargers such as factories and wastewater treatment plants are required to limit their phosphorus output so that surrounding waters stay clean. However, technology to reduce phosphorus in industrial discharge is expensive. In some cases, it might be more cost-effective and efficient to reduce nonpoint phosphorus runoff, which is pollution that has no clear source (as opposed to point sources, such as a factory's discharge pipe). Nonpoint phosphorus from agricultural and urban sources runs off of fields and lawns and into bodies of water, polluting the watershed.

Under the state phosphorus rules, point source phosphorus dischargers can work to reduce nonpoint source pollution to improve the overall water quality in the watershed. Part of the rules allows for a strategy called the adaptive management option, which is central to Dane County's pilot project. Rather than requiring specific steps to achieving pollution reductions, adaptive management is a flexible option that allows phosphorus dischargers to come up with their own plan to attain compliance with the rules. By developing a plan to reduce nonpoint phosphorus pollution in their watersheds, point source phosphorus dischargers can avoid having to invest in expensive filtration and treatment technologies to reduce their own phosphorus output.

The Dane County pilot project is the first of its kind in Wisconsin. MMSD is working with a variety of stakeholders, including farmers, conservationists, and environmental groups, to come up with an adaptive management plan that will meet their needs. In the long run, the goal is to respect stakeholders' needs while still reducing overall phosphorus levels in our waters.

## CYRUS HESTER JOINS AUTUMN ASSEMBLY *Continued from Page 1*

science and respectful dialogue can provide common ground for what the New York Times recently identified as the most politically divisive place in America.

Cyrus received his Master of Science degree from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he studied the landscape ecology of cultural resources in Lower Michigan. He's also worked on a range of issues at the nexus of resources and society, including finding culturally-appropriate climate change adaptation options for the Chicago Climate Action Plan,

monitoring avian toxicology at a Superfund site for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and introducing tribal perspectives on bison conservation and climate change to wildlife managers.

The 2012 Autumn Assembly is being hosted by the Sierra Club's Southeast Gateway Group October 12, 13 & 14 at Holiday Home Camp in Williams Bay, WI. Holiday Home Camp is a 26-acre facility located on the shores of Geneva Lake. The camp was established in 1887 and remains one of the oldest accredited camps in the

country. The Assembly offers a chance for Sierra Club members and friends from around the state to gather for a weekend of nature, celebration and learning. Weekend plans also include sessions on lake and watershed restoration and conservation as well as boating, monarch butterfly tagging, hiking and the chapter's annual awards ceremony and banquet.

Registration is available online at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp> or by mail using the form in the July - September, 2012 issue of the Muir View. ☞

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<sup>^</sup>2012 EPA Fuel Economy Estimates. Based on EPA formula of 33.7 kW/hour equal to one gallon of gasoline energy. Actual mileage may vary with driving conditions.



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## WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

# COMMON EASTERN BUMBLEBEE

by Shahla Werner, PhD, Chapter Director

**Family:** Apidae (Cuckoo, Carpenter, Digger, Bumble, and Honey Bees)

**Name Origin:** Either the plant genus *Impatiens*, which it often visits, but some suggest “impatiens” refers to its impatient manner.

**Size:** 9 – 23 mm (workers are smallest; queens are largest)

**Range:** The common eastern bumble bee thrives across a wide range of habitats and climates ranging from Ontario to Maine and south to south Florida.

**Habitat:** The common eastern bumble bee forages on a wide range of plant species, allowing it to be a habitat generalist, found in open prairies, farms, suburbs and even highly developed urban areas like downtown Madison and Milwaukee.

The common eastern bumble bee is the most often encountered bumble bee across much of eastern North America. It has a very long flight season, often being the first bee to emerge in spring and the last to disappear in autumn, when you find large numbers of bumble bees on goldenrod. This summer there seemed to be more bumble bees than usual in Wisconsin; possibly related to the early hot spring and summer that led to early blooms of its food plants.

Bumble bees are insects in the order Hymenoptera, which includes bees, wasps and ants. There are 45 species of bumble bees in North America, including several in Wisconsin. Bumble bee species have different banding colors (yellow, black, white, orange, & brown) and patterns that can help you identify one species from one another.

Bumble bees have hairy bodies, and females use this trait to carry pollen moistened with nectar in stiff incurving hair baskets in their hind legs. Their hairy bodies also provide insulation that allows them to forage at lower temperatures than other insects.

They also have long tongues (5 – 12 mm long) that allow them to drink nectar from flowers that other insects can’t reach. This tongue is retractable, so you won’t see it unless you are observing bumble bees foraging.

Bumble bees don’t nest in wood, like carpenter bees and others do. In early spring the hibernating female queen emerges and searches for a suitable site for a new colony, preferring old rodent nests, tree cavities, or grass piles. Once a site is selected, the queen creates a waxen honey pot and a pollen store to help her survive periods of bad weather. She then lays eggs atop the wax-covered pollen ball. The first batch of larvae are fertilized female workers. Later on the queen will produce males and young queens, whose function is reproduction. Colonies range from 24 to 800 bees.

You might have heard the common myth that, according to physics, bumble bees shouldn’t be able to fly. It was started by an engineer who did a calculation at a cocktail party that failed to take the bee’s ability to bend its wings and create vortices that provide lift on the upward and downward strokes. Luckily, this rumor hasn’t stopped bumble bees from flying.

Bumblebee queens and workers can sting, and because their sting is not barbed like that of the honeybee, they can sting more than once. Shallow breathing and slow movement can sometimes help you avoid a sting. If you find a bumble bee nest on your property in an area that’s at least 10 feet from human activity, leave it alone. If you need it removed, try to find a company that is willing to try non-lethal removal. If you find a honey bee colony that needs to be removed, you can find Wisconsin beekeepers who will remove the hive, often for free, at: <http://www.bees-on-the-net.com/wisconsin-beekeepers.html>

Although bumble bees do make honey, it is not enough to harvest for commercial purposes. Their commercial value lies in their unique pollination abilities. Some flowers, including tomatoes, must be vibrated to release their pollen (at around the frequency of a musical C note). Bumble bees do this by grabbing onto a flower and vibrating their flight muscles without flapping their wings.

### CONSERVATION CONCERNS:

Several bumble bee species, including the *Bombus occidentalis* (the western bumble bee), have experienced sharp declines in recent years, and there is some evidence that the bee industry might be responsible through exposing wild populations to diseases and by reducing their genetic diversity. Because of the decline of the western bumble bee, the common eastern bumble bee is now widely used for greenhouse pollination in California and Mexico, far outside its native range. Hopefully this won’t leave our eastern bumble bee vulnerable to a similar decline. ☞

### HOW TO ATTRACT AND CONSERVE NATIVE POLLINATORS

- Plant a diversity of native plants in landscaping to provide nectar and pollen sources for bees, wasps, beetles, butterflies, moths and other pollinators
- Don’t use pesticides
- Don’t destroy or disturb colonies and nests
- Construct nesting boxes for native pollinators
- Avoid purchasing bees from outside their natural range (such as the popular western orchard bees).

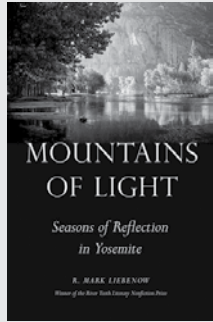
For more information, check out the excellent Xerces society guide, *Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America’s Bees and Butterflies* and check out: <http://www.bumblebee.org>.



# THE GREEN REVIEW

## BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

by Amy Lou Jenkins. Amy Lou Jenkins BSN MFA is the author of the award-winning *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. She writes from Wauwatosa, WI. [AmyLouJenkins@gmail.com](mailto:AmyLouJenkins@gmail.com)



### MOUNTAINS OF LIGHT: SEASONS OF REFLECTION IN YOSEMITE

by R. Mark Liebenow, University of Nebraska Press, 2012, 192 pages.

Mark Liebenow channels the John Muir sensibility that “going out is really going in.” His explorations of Yosemite in every season are imbued with insight granted in the otherness of the natural world. The sincerity in his well-crafted prose evokes the spirit of John Muir. In our snarky and salacious society, this sincerity may strike the reader as almost foreign.

This sincere searching for connection and renewal serves as conduit for healing and spiritual growth. Liebenow is not bounding around joyfully in Muir’s noble Yosemite. Liebenow’s wife died suddenly of an undiagnosed heart ailment. He’s wounded. And the wounded move slowly-- just the right pace to take in the layers of grandeur within the Yosemite landscapes.

Readers don’t have to turn too many pages before they find themselves itching to go to Yosemite. While the long views are grand, the fourteen hundred species of flowering plants and accompanying layers of fauna make it impossible to escape wonderment no matter the direction of scope of vision. The descriptions of moving through

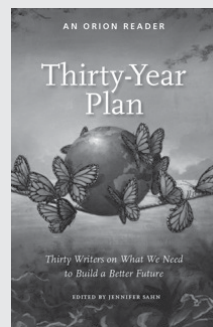
this place are artful, yet the descriptions of the place acting upon Liebenow are even more special. We might not want to share his experience of awaking to a bear nudging our feet, but we are enticed by a tent illuminated with a brightness that awakes the tired hiker. He wonders if the light is the glow of a wildfire.

*“ I bundle up, head for the meadow, and discover that the full moon is lighting up the entire valley, making it look like the negative of a photograph by Ansel Adams.”*

Throughout his journeys, he deals with how much risk to take. He’s not trying to prove his manhood by testing or conquering nature. He searches for meaning in a place with an inviolate message. He expresses his connections to the Transcendentalists who sought to have an original relationship with the universe.

*...“all the books written by people who have lived in Yosemite over the centuries are like dried raisins and nuts. They’re interesting to chew as trail food, but I can’t use their experiences to get close to nature. I have to use my own eyes and feet. It’s the beginning steps of my journey moving beyond the facts I’ve read and experiencing the wild unknown.”*

Readers will understand the depth of the impact upon Liebenow, yet they may find they must head to Yosemite or the nearest wild place to nourish their own relationship with their understanding of the meaning of life and death.



### THE THIRTY-YEAR PLAN: THIRTY WRITERS ON WHAT WE NEED TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Edited by Jennifer Sahn, Orion, 2012, 104 pages.

The Orion Society has some big plans that include building a better future. In celebration of thirty years of *Orion Magazine*, the publishers are planning a series of books called *Orion Readers*. These essay collections feature writers with ecological credibility and significant rhetorical chops. The first collection in the series, *The Thirty Year Plan*, asked writers, including Carl Safina, Terry Tempest Williams, Diane Ackerman, Jane Hirshfield, Richard Louv, Julia Alvarez, and Charles Bowden, to name one thing we will increasingly need to live happily, sustainably and redeemably on Earth. Every answer rocks.

Yes, we must face some harsh realities. Elizabeth Kolbert explores the role of luck in climate sensitivity, because we are going to need to be lucky to live with our actions as well as the changes already set in motion by the age of fossil fuels. Nikki Giovanni reminds us that we need fear. Fear may finally evoke our readiness to act on behalf of the planet.

Yes, we must rediscover forgotten joys. When Julia Alvarez attends a wedding in Haiti, she’s reminded of the grace in sharing and building community. If we share and build a strong community, that community can save us if we need help. While Haiti has more than its share of troubles, its successes come from understanding how to share resources cooperatively. Diane Ackerman wonders if we will survive our own ingenuity and proposes that the spell of the present, the detail of the now, is the engaging romance we have thrown away in an Earth-crushing effort to amass a future of more and bigger.

Richard Louv, in his highly-researched way, reminds us that the future need not look like a Mad Max scene. Our new nature movement can win with a diverse array of players who love and care for the planet. This collective power is the antidote to despair.



# AUTUMN OUTINGS

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. To see the latest information, visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp>

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 ICE AGE TRAIL HIKE-A-THON**

This hike will begin at Hartman Creek State Park just west of Waupaca and will include the new trail that was built in June. The fee to hike is \$5. Water, apples, and snacks will be provided. Proceeds benefit the Waupaca and Portage County chapters of the Ice Age Trail. We're planning to hike the entire 10-mile segment that day. Tentative start time for our group is 9:00 am but please call to confirm. Contact FVSG IATA Coordinator Darrel Ruechel 920-993-0903 [r7dairl@yahoo.com](mailto:r7dairl@yahoo.com) [FV]

## **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 10 AM HIKE ON THE LODI SEGMENT, ICE AGE TRAIL**

Join us for a 6-7 mile hike along the Lodi Segment of the Ice Age Trail. If carpooling from Madison, meet at 9 AM at the Hill Farm State Office Building (DOT) west parking lot on Sheboygan Ave. RSVP to David Smith at [smithdc75@yahoo.com](mailto:smithdc75@yahoo.com) or 608-233-1210 [4L]

## **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 10AM THE LION'S DEN**

Explore the Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, a 72-acre "ecological jewel" within the Ozaukee County park system on the Lake Michigan shoreline in the Town of Grafton. RSVP to Janet Anderson at 414-258-5624 or [janeta16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeta16@sbcglobal.net) [GWG]

## **OCTOBER 12-13: AUTUMN ASSEMBLY**

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 3:15 PM CHEROKEE MARSH HAYRIDE & S'MORES**

Enjoy a crisp fall afternoon with a fun gathering in Cherokee Marsh. Madison Parks is doing a 30 minute hayride for us followed by a campfire with 'smores! Please arrive by 3pm. There is a maximum number for this trip, so you MUST RSVP to [lacinda.athen@gmail.com](mailto:lacinda.athen@gmail.com) or 608-274-7870 to reserve your spot. [4L]

### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 9 AM: PRAIRIE PLANTING**

A fun and easy family activity for school aged kids on up. Join the Ice Age Trail Crew to continue planting one of their properties northwest of Cross Plains into beautiful restored prairie. From Madison, take Hwy 14 west of Cross Plains to Cty KP. Turn right for 3 miles to Pine Rd. Turn right on Pine Rd. for .5 miles and look for the prairie and parked cars on the right. RSVP to Don Ferber [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net) or 608-222-9376 [4L]

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 6:30 PM – ANNUAL WINTER BONFIRE AT PICNIC POINT**

Come to our annual Winter Bonfire to share good cheer. Bring beverages (warm or otherwise) and a snack to share (or even something to roast on the fire). We'll meet at the farthest fire pit area on Picnic Point. Don't forget a warm hat, gloves or mittens, and boots. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon at [kmulb@charter.net](mailto:kmulb@charter.net). [4L]

## OUTING INFORMATION

### Host group is indicated in brackets

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

# RIVER TOUR CALENDAR

For more information visit our website at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>

## **OCTOBER 13 - 14 KICKAPOO RIVER**

Moving Water; Canoe Camping. Ontario to LaFarge. Paddle through and learn the history of the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net).

## **OCTOBER 27 - 28 WOLF RIVER (SECTIONS II & III)**

Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Let's leave the river looking good for winter by picking up trash as we go. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details, contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, [johnsrud@tds.net](mailto:johnsrud@tds.net).

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2013 RIVER TOURING SECTION ANNUAL MEETING**

Summit Village Hall, outside of Oconomowoc. Socializing starts at 11am. Potluck lunch at noon, followed by a brief business meeting. Our main goal is to fill our 2013 calendar with paddling adventures. We'll end with slides and entertaining stories from our members' trips this past year. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, cups, and utensils. RTS will provide beverages. For further details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net)

# JOHN MUIR CHAPTER 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Please read the following candidate statements for election to the Executive Committee as at-large delegates. Vote for your choices by using the ballot form on the next page.



## **LAURA MENEFEE**

I have served as Wolf Issues Chair on the Conservation Committee for the John Muir Chapter since succeeding Jim Olson in 2008. In this role, I act as a liaison between the membership and professionals in the biological sciences, coordinate efforts between wildlife management and stakeholders and help educate and inform the membership about the most up-to-

date research and policy issues. I am also a professionally trained volunteer Carnivore Tracker for WDNR and on the Advisory Board of the National Wolfwatcher Coalition. Because of my work in wolf advocacy, I was offered honorary membership by Defenders of Wildlife in 2009. I have also served as a volunteer biologist for USFWS and on the Board of Directors for League of Women Voters, Door County, WI.

As a tenured, Assistant Professor in Humanities, I learned the importance of education and collaboration and the power of ideas to change the world. As an environmental writer, I continue to educate and inspire my readers to take action, to implement their beliefs with integrity and enthusiasm. I am inspired by the renewing powers of nature and I am passionate about sharing that experience with others.

My top environmental issue is wildlife conservation, especially predator conservation and habitat preservation. There is no "Wilderness" without wildlife. *"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything in the universe."* ~ John Muir.

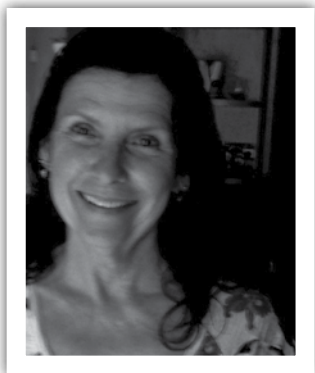


## **ELIZABETH WESSEL**

I became a lifetime member in 1984 after witnessing first-hand the impact of grassroots organizations like the Sierra Club. The environmental movement needed and still needs people power to bring about a transition to a sustainable path. I just completed my first term on the Executive Committee, during which I served as Chapter Chair, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, and a member of the Nominating and Elections Committee. I am currently leading the 50th Anniversary (2013) Planning Committee. My interest in Outings was sparked by a great family rafting trip. I've also completed Outings 101 training.

I have extensive experience and training in communications and fundraising and have served on multiple state and national boards. In 2005, I started Green Concierge Travel, a green business venture that merged two passions both fundamental to the Sierra Club: outdoor recreation and environmental activism.

As an Executive Committee member I'll work to build a stronger chapter by developing new leadership; linking our groups, the chapter and our grassroots members more closely to support one another; raising more of our operating funds (non-tax deductible) through the chapter appeal and fundraising events and implementing the Strategic Plan passed in 2012. On the issues, I'll provide guidance on how to strategically use the mix of tools in our toolbox (grassroots lobbying, outings, political work, education and legal) to be successful in the chapter's priority issues: global warming and transitioning our energy sources from carbon based fuels to renewables and efficiency, protecting Wisconsin's valuable water resources, and maintaining and enhancing mining safeguards in Wisconsin.



## **DENISE DEMARB**

I have 25 years of leadership experience and formal leadership training that I would bring to the Sierra Club. As Director of Finance for Trek Bicycle, I was responsible for global finance; my role expanded to assisting in opening new international subsidiary offices. This allowed me to work with people from different countries and understand their cultures and

ways of doing business. I was also able to grasp the business from top down and bottom up and offer many ways to save time and resources. I left my work at Trek last August to move into the next phase of my life and spend my time and talents on my passions.

Since leaving Trek, I've taken a variety of courses that bolstered my background in conservation and leadership. Living kindly with the earth is very important to me and I wanted to gain more information about leaders in sustainability and their work. I took a course in sustainable leadership at Edgewood College, the Journey to Facilitation and Collaboration (JOFC) course through UW-Madison and two other courses on management and facilitation through UW. I put these skills into practice when I was invited back to JOFC to co-facilitate the class. I also facilitated public meetings held during the recent school board race.

I have the ability to look at a situation and divide it into parts to enable me to assess, understand and determine a course of action. This abil-



## John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee

### ELECTION BALLOT 2012

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

**Voter #1:**

- Denise DeMarb
- James Kerler
- Laura Menefee
- Elizabeth Wessel
- Write In:  

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**Voter #2:**

- Denise DeMarb
- James Kerler
- Laura Menefee
- Elizabeth Wessel
- Write In:  

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**Ballots must be postmarked by November 6, 2012**

Mail to: Marilyn Pedretti, N7097 Cty Rd XX, Holmen, WI 54636-9214

ity has aided me throughout my career and allowed me to be affective working through a variety of situations. It also allows me to unburden people by streamlining work flow. The current economic climate we face makes this a necessary skill. Serving on the Executive Committee will provide a unique opportunity to weave my business experience with the knowledge obtained in my graduate work. I look forward to bringing these skills to the Sierra Club.

The conservation issue I'm most passionate about is water stabilization, cleanup and subsequent stewardship. However, I do not feel less passionate about air quality or the misuse of national resources due to runaway consumerism. Because of my study of system theory and my understanding of James Lovelock's Gaia Theory, I know that it all works together. So it doesn't matter which conservation issue a person is passionate about as long they are passionate and put that passion to work. We can't have clean air and dirty water – each is dependent on the other.



#### **JAMES KERLER**

After studying electrical engineering and business, and retiring from a career in computers and data communications, I now dedicate my time to working with those who seek to sustain a healthy and diverse natural environment. A resident of Lake Mills (Jefferson County), I'm an active board member of the Rock River

Coalition and member of the Rock Lake Improvement Association. A member of Sierra Club since 1983, I currently serve as facilitator of the chapter's Water Sentinels team. My work with Water Sentinels has also entailed monitoring water quality in streams in Jefferson County, working to bring the agricultural and environmental communities together to reduce nutrient pollution, and speaking in favor of increased protection for Groundwater at the Capitol. In addition to being an At-Large member of the Executive Committee for the past couple years; I have also served as Secretary and Vice Chair for the John Muir Chapter.

I thought more than once that I might not stand for re-election to the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee. I'm retired. I could go fishing instead. Of course freshwater fish, like many other living species we all enjoy and depend upon, are threatened by climate change, and loss of wetlands. And farm runoff. Ditto for birds I enjoy watching. In fact, whole ecosystems are beginning to break down, as oceans acidify and drought erases the ability of plants to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

No. Just going fishing would be about the same as sitting back and waiting to die. We must engage fully at every opportunity if we are to overcome rampant indifference, ignorance and propaganda perpetrated by those whose world view is fatally flawed by greed. To make it even more challenging, we must find a positive message and deliver it often, to everyone we meet. We must continue to enjoy fishing. And bird watching. And hiking and camping. Please vote for my re-election to the executive committee, and join me in embracing the natural world as we strive to heal it.

## JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

### EXCOM MEETINGS

- Dec 1** Executive Committee Meeting  
First Congregational Church, Baraboo @ 10am
- Jan 12, 2013** Executive Committee Meeting  
First Congregational Church, Baraboo @ 10am

### 2012 EVENTS

- Oct 12-14** Autumn Assembly  
Holiday Home Camp, Williams Bay, WI
- Nov 6** General Election
- Nov 6** ExCom election ballots due
- Jan 5, 2013** River Touring Section Annual Meeting  
Summit Village Hall, Oconomowoc @ 11 am.  
RTS Chair Greg Riemer, [duNord@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duNord@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

**Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter**  
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 11  
Madison, WI 53703-3201



## AUTUMN ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Registration & check-in  
Evening snacks & conversation

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Bird walk before breakfast

**7:30 to 8:30** breakfast

**8:30 to noon:**

Geneva Lake Conservancy and Geneva Lake Environmental Group  
Root-Pike Watershed Initiative and Pike River Restoration (Mount Pleasant portion)  
Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge update  
Point-of-use waterfilters documentary (Racine HS students)

**1:00 to 2:00** Keynote speaker Cyrus Hester, *The Science Behind the Debate: Mining in the Bad River Watershed*.

**2:00 to 4:00** Recreation: boating, walking, hiking, monarch butterfly tagging, Kishwaukee preserve, Yerkes Observatory tour

**4:30-5:30** Visit/predinner conversation

**5:30** Dinner, awards ceremony, Aldo Leopold; music, silent auction followed by campfire and stargazing

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

**7:30 to 8:30** Breakfast

**8:30 to noon** Sierra Club group and chapter updates.

**Noon** Sack lunch

Afternoon hiking the Ice Age Trail