

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

wisconsin.sierraclub.org

THE TAR SANDS RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSE – AND OUR GREAT LAKES

by Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator, Sierra Club—John Muir Chapter

The proposed Keystone XL pipeline has been the center of most of the national debate about tar sands oil in recent years. The attention is understandable – the proposed pipeline would carry toxic tar sands oil across the United States and through the Ogallala Aquifer, which provides over 80% of the water for the Great Plains area, serving over two million Americans. Meanwhile, the tar sands network in our own backyard severely threatens the climate and our Great Lakes. Although the Keystone pipeline is a national priority, we also need to fight threats close to home that are sneaking under the radar.

Tar Sands Takes Over Wisconsin

The Alberta Clipper Pipeline, or Enbridge Line 67, is operated by Enbridge Energy and extends

from Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. If expanded as proposed, its capacity to pump will be doubled to 880,000 barrels of oil per day. The new line will be 36 inches in diameter. For context, the Keystone pipeline would pump 830,000 barrels of tar sands per day.

In addition to the concerns of additional pipeline capacity, the expansion of Line 67 will feed other tar sands pipelines, projects, and refinery stations. First, to get more tar sands oil through the pipeline, the project will require additional pumping units and more horsepower at current pumping stations in Minnesota. Enbridge also plans to build two additional storage tanks in Superior. This means that thousands of gallons of this crude oil will be resting on the shores of the largest freshwater lake in the world (by surface area).

In addition to Line 67, Enbridge is proposing to expand additional lines. Lines 5, 6B, and 61

are all slated for expansion and are part of the Lakehead System, the pipeline system that runs through the Great Lakes region. Line 6B is the line that ruptured and resulted in the devastating Kalamazoo spill in 2010.

Line 5 is a 60-year old pipeline that connects Lake Michigan and Lake Huron through four miles of the Straights of Mackinac. With the connection of the two lakes, the water oscillates back and forth; sometimes getting as fast as three feet per second, increasing the risk of a rupture.

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WISCONSIN WOLVES IN THE CROSSFIRE

With Aggressive New Hunting Quota & Pro-Hunting Wolf Advisory Committee

by L. Menefee, John Muir Chapter Conservation Committee, Executive Committee

Since Endangered Species Protections were removed in January 2011, Wisconsin's wolf policy has been quickly taken over by special interests representing no more than 14% of the state population.

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair
John Muir Chapter

CREATING GREAT LEADERSHIP

“Life can be much broader once you discover one simple fact—everything around you that you call life was made up by people that were no smarter than you...shake off this erroneous notion that life is there and you’re just going to live in it versus make your mark upon it. Once you learn that, you will never be the same again. Don’t just live a life; build one.” Attributed to Steve Jobs, founder and CEO of Apple

The Sierra Club was founded by people who believed that they could make changes that would last. They worked to set aside some of the most beautiful landscapes. Not just for the privileged few, who had been able to make the trip to the Grand Canyon or Yosemite, but for all. Leadership in the Sierra Club means giving back, not just to the self and to the club, but to the broader community as a whole.

The Sierra Club community offers ample opportunities for those who want to develop their leadership skills. This is a community full of people with skills and experience to share with the next generation of activists and leaders. Many have the scars to show for their efforts and stories we can learn from. Because of its size (over a half million members) and extent (all 50 states plus Puerto Rico) as well as age (the Sierra Club is America’s oldest grassroots environmental organization), the Sierra Club has a pool of leadership resources and potential unlike most other non-profit organizations.

Each one of us can make a difference and can be a leader in our own ways. We all have the potential to create change if we become active and engaged in our lives and our passions. For some it may be an issue that sparks us to action, for others it may be a desire to support and nurture a healthy organization. Regardless of your motivating factor, the Sierra Club offers a chance for you to make your mark on life.

In this issue, you’ll have an opportunity to vote for John Muir Chapter leadership. Local groups are also holding elections at this time of year, and next spring national Sierra Club will hold board elections. At this critical point in time, what types of people should we be looking for from those who are running for Sierra Club leadership positions? What do their statements tell you about achieving outcomes – not just for an issue, outing or event but for the broader Sierra Club community? Consider these “Top 10 Qualities That

Make A Great Leader” from an article in *Forbes magazine*-honesty, ability to delegate, communication, sense of humor, confidence, commitment, positive attitude, creativity, intuition and the ability to inspire.

On the face, these appear to be self-explanatory but let’s look more closely at a few in the context of the Sierra Club. **Honesty** remains core to a democratic organization like the Sierra Club and a core code of conduct when working with a variety of people, especially in a volunteer setting. Recently, I read a book on how to be a successful business in the world of social media. The advice – “*be honest and genuine, be factual and concise*” to build trust between you and the customer (Woessner, 2011). Within the Sierra Club, honesty builds trust and working relationships between leaders, leaders and members, and the Sierra Club and the public. The Sierra Club has a reputation as being a credible source and we have an obligation to maintain this.

And when working in a complex organizational structure like the Sierra Club, a **sense of humor** provides a useful tool to deploy rather than giving in to frustration. Things don’t always go as planned, especially when working with a volunteer led organization. When the document wasn’t saved or we forgot key materials for a meeting a touch of humor can see us through. And we are certainly not all superheroes. Remember that your leaders and fellow members are human.

Commitment and a **positive attitude** applies

THE MUIR VIEW

222 S. Hamilton, Suite 11, Madison, WI 53703

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Muir View Committee

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Please include the author’s first and last names, and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

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to more than just a cause; it means leading by example and working side by side with everyone else. If we, as leaders, expect members to donate money and respond to calls to action then we need to follow through on our end. Leaders need to be at the heart of our efforts showing the way. If all our leaders are committed to working for the betterment of the Sierra Club and come to it with a positive “can do” attitude, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish together – because we have set our minds to it.

Likewise, the ability to **delegate** is more than just doling out assignments. To successfully delegate a leader must be able to identify the strengths of team members, including their own, and delegate accordingly. **Creativity** involves thinking outside the box, especially when the best path to follow is not obvious. **Intuition** refers to more than following a hunch or gut instinct, it means knowing when to call on past experience and the mentors who have “been there, done that.”

Finally, I would add an eleventh quality - **vision**. Our elected leaders provide the

vision and the direction for our groups, chapter and the national levels of the Sierra Club. We need leaders that can see beyond tomorrow and next month to help guide our selection of issues that we work on, how to raise and spend the money for our work, and how to maintain and grow membership in the midst of changing demographics and political environments.

Perhaps *you* are interested in taking on a leadership role within Sierra Club. Many of our current leaders started out as volunteers or interns, learning the organization from the inside out, while developing many of the qualities listed above. Others came to us with skills and expertise they gathered throughout their careers. Whether you fall into one of those categories or somewhere in between, odds are there is a role you could fill within the club. Did the story about the proposed Enbridge pipeline expansion catch your attention? There’s a new subcommittee being formed to work on the issue. Is clean energy more your style? Or maybe you like book-keeping or have experience hosting fundraising events? Do you live for campaign sea-

son? Or have a knack for understanding the legislative process? Check out the opportunities listed on page 12.

Today, our club and the environment face many challenges and the deck seems to be stacked against us, but I would say there is no organization I would rather be engaged with than the Sierra Club. If we are able to harness the vast potential within our membership, we will be well equipped to face these challenges. I encourage you to step up, get engaged and make your mark. ☺

Reference: *Entrepreneurs*, 12/19/2012 @ 11:00AM, *Forbes*, <http://www.forbes.com/sites/tanyaprive/2012/12/19/top-10-qualities-that-make-a-great-leader> “Top 10 Qualities That Make A Great Leader”

Woessner, Stephen, 2011. Increase Online Sales Through Viral Social Networking: How to Build Your Website Traffic and Online Sales Using Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn – In Just 15 Steps, Atlantic Publishing Group, FL, Pg. 171 – 172.

2013 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 11-13 | GREEN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER | W2511 STATE ROAD 23 | GREEN LAKE, WI | 54941

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED. REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.WISCONSIN.SIERRACLUB.ORG OR CALL 608-256-0565

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

2:00 PM **Glacier Hills Wind Park**, Randolph, WI

4:00 PM **Hiking Dawson Prairie**

5:00 – 8:00 PM **Registration, Snacks and Solar Homes Display** with H&H Solar, Carroll Youth Center,

Silent auction items. Dinner on your own.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

7:30 – 8:30 AM Breakfast

8:45 – 9:45 AM **Beyond the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act: Protecting Wisconsin from Destructive Metallic Mining**

9:50 – 10:50 AM **Tips for Organizing at the Local Level to Reduce Frac Sand Mining Impacts** 10:50 –

11:00– 11:50 AM **Keynote Speech - Tom Heberlein, author, Navigating Environ-**

mental Attitudes

Noon – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:10 – 2:00 PM **Workshops**, choose from:

A) **Writing Effective Letters to the Editor**

B) **Water Sentinels Lake Sampling Demonstration**, Nancy Carlson

2:10 – 3:00 PM **Factory Farms: Pushing for Increased Oversight to Protect Water Resources**

3:05 – 3:50 PM **Expanding Clean Energy in Wisconsin**

4:00 – 4:45 PM Choose from:

A) **Advocating for Transit, Biking & Walking in Your Community**, *Beyond Oil Committee*

B) **Songwriting Workshop: Applying Verse to Sierra Club’s Campaigns**, *Ken Lonnquist*

5:00 – 6:00 PM **Dinner**

6:15 – 7:45 PM **Awards, Dessert, Silent Auction, 50th Anniversary Slides, and Socializing**

8:00 – 10:00 PM **Musical Entertainment, Ken Lonnquist**

10:00 – 11:00 PM **Campfire or stargazing**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

7:30 – 8:30 AM Breakfast

9:00 – 9:45 AM **Local Group Updates**

9:50 – 10:30 AM **Madison’s Inner City Outings**, Connecting Disadvantaged Youth to the Outdoors

10:30 – 11:30 AM **Reinvigorating Outings: Improving Participation & Conservation Connections** 11:30 – 11:45 AM Wrap up & pick up optional Box Lunches

12:20 PM – 3:00 PM **Hiking John Muir County Park, Montello, WI**



MUIR PLAQUE DEDICATION WELL ATTENDED

SIERRANS TURN OUT TO HONOR CLUB FOUNDER

by *Shahla Werner, Director, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter*

On June 20 over 50 people gathered on the University of Wisconsin - Madison's Muir Knoll along Observatory Drive to unveil a plaque to commemorate the North

Hall dormitory room where wilderness defender, national parks advocate and Sierra Club founder, John Muir, lived as a student.

Although Muir was born in Scotland, at age 11, his family moved to Marquette County, Wisconsin, where they operated farms at Fountain Lake and Hickory Hill. Muir later attended the University of Wisconsin from 1861 – 1863 before trekking west to form the Sierra Club in 1892. Inspired by the bucolic beauty of Wisconsin and his native Scotland, Muir always paid close attention to the natural world. But it was outside North Hall that John Muir received his first lesson in botany from a fellow student. Muir later recalled the pivotal lesson in his book, *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth*, exclaiming, "This fine lesson charmed me and sent me flying to the woods and meadows in wild enthusiasm."

Author, historian & Sierra Club member Andrew Carroll provided funding for the marker. During the dedication ceremony he discussed how this effort is part of his larger "Here Is Where" campaign to find unmarked historic sites throughout the United States and bring attention to them. In identifying and protecting historic sites, Carroll's initiative aspires to rally Americans from all walks of life to explore this country as if for the first time and actively seek out what has been lost, overlooked, or neglected. During his speech he urged attendees to get involved to identify additional sites that should be remembered and marked. Carroll is the author of *HERE IS WHERE: Discovering America's Great Forgotten History*. More information about the book and overall campaign can be found at: [www. HereisWhere.org](http://www.HereisWhere.org).

Cultural and historical resources manager Daniel Einstein later discussed Muir's genius inventions, including one that served as an alarm clock by turning his bed from the horizontal to the vertical position, and how he later coaxed the furnace maintenance staffer to pull a rope on his bed to accomplish the same feat. He called into question the idea that the intellectually curious Muir wasn't exposed to botany until just before leaving the university, explaining that Muir wrote about his youth fifty years after the fact. He also sug-

gested that substantial guesswork was used in identifying Muir's legendary locust tree.

After gathering at the Gard Storyteller's circle, which provided picturesque views of sailboats on Lake Mendota and Muir Woods, attendees headed to North Hall. Daniel Einstein and University Archives Director David Null prepared Muir's former dormitory room by taping off the original floor plan and displaying rare pieces, including an original letter written by Muir acknowledging receipt of his honorary degree, a gavel carved from the locust tree, and records showing Muir's name among the 77 enrolled students.

"Imagine what America would be like if Muir hadn't gotten distracted on a fine June day like this one, when an inspiring botany lesson prompted him to undertake a lifelong journey to protect wilderness," said Shahla Werner, Director, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter. 2013 is a special year, as it marks the 175th anniversary of John Muir's birth and the 50th Anniversary of the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter in Wisconsin. 🍃

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

**Working to protect Wisconsin's
clean air, clean water
and special places**

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

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WOLVES *Continued from Page 1*

More wolves will be legally killed this year, over bait, trapped, and possibly with the use of dogs, than in the first season, last year. The Natural Resources Board (NRB) approved a quota of 275, a 37% increase over last year. This move is causing grave concern among the broader population, including wildlife researchers, Tribal Governments, conservationists, and outdoor recreational non-hunters, such as birdwatchers, nature photographers, hikers, bicyclists and paddlers. In fact, a Mason-Dixon poll of 625 Wisconsin voters conducted this past June found that 79% of those polled felt that wolves are an asset and should be protected, and 81% opposed the “trophy hunting and trapping of wolves for sport.”

The state held a lottery on August 15 to select 2,510 wolf hunting and trapping license buyers from a pool of 12,108 applicants. Dave MacFarland, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) large carnivore specialist and member of the Wolf Advisory Committee stated recently that “In order to meet management objectives, putting downward pressure on the population, the number of wolves removed from the landscape needs to increase this year. The 2013 quota is designed to start doing so, in a responsible and sustainable manner.”

However, not all biologists agree that “managing to a 350 population goal” is either responsible, or sustainable. UW Researcher Adrian Treves, who has studied wolf ecology and human interactions for the past 15 years, spoke out about his concerns about the state’s wolf management plans to Susan Bence on WUWM public radio August 21. In the interview, he discussed the implications of meeting the state’s goal of killing 250 wolves this year as representing “a little more than 30% of the late winter wolf count,” which means Wisconsin has the highest or second highest wolf quota on the record in North America. He went on to describe the state’s wolf management as an undeniably “aggressive wolf hunt,” and predicted that by April 2015, there is a high likelihood that wolf hunting will have to end because of steep population declines. Wolves could end up back on the threatened and endangered species list as early as 2016 as a result of unsustainable hunting.

The new Wolf Advisory Committee (WAC) has been created to take the place of the recently dissolved Wolf Science Committee, which advised policy throughout recovery. That Wolf Science Committee was made up of biologists, including Environmental Science

faculty. Additionally, the former Wolf Stakeholders’ Committee was legislatively mandated to advise wolf policy in 1999. The John Muir Chapter had continual representation on Stakeholders, but this committee has also been dissolved. Membership on the new WAC is by invitation only, from WDNR Secretary Cathy Stepp.

“We’re past the recovery stage; now we’re in the management stage” says WAC Chair, Bill Vander Zouwen, WDNR Wildlife Ecology Chief. “It makes the most sense to have the people at the table who are OK with managing and not always fighting that battle.” In a recent meeting, Secretary Stepp explained that the new advisory process has been designed to redress things she “was put off by” as a state senator. Likewise, she wants to include representation “outside the Madison Cubicle.” Two days prior to the first WAC meeting in April, a memo from Stepp’s office barred University of Wisconsin faculty from serving on wildlife advisory committees.

To that end, she has designed a Wolf Advisory Committee which is stacked with unscientific special interests concerned with wolf removal. Of the WAC members 24 of the 26 are either lobbyists for wolf removal, or agency representatives who enforce wolf removal. Specifically, committee membership is comprised of 10 WDNR staffers and a representative from the Conservation Congress; the Wisconsin Cattlemen’s Association; the Wisconsin Bear Hunters’ Association; the Safari Club International; the Timber Wolf Alliance; Wisconsin Bowhunters Association; the US Fish & Wildlife Service; the Wisconsin County Forest Association; the US Forest Service; the US Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services; Wisconsin Trappers Association; Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC).

The agenda set for the WAC over the next year is entirely focused on wolf hunting regulations. There are no timelines for developing educational outreach. Only two members, Peter David, biologist for Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and Randy Jurawicz, recently retired WDNR wolf depredations officer now representing Timber Wolf Alliance, an educational organization, are not affiliated with wolf removal interests. David has called several times for more diverse representation on the WAC, including the Sierra Club. The John Muir Chapter has petitioned WDNR twice to request a seat on the Wolf Advisory Committee. The rationale we were given for the first denial was that membership



was not open to groups opposed to hunting and state-based management. Conservation Chair Will Stahl clarified our position to the WDNR, responding that “The Sierra Club as a national organization has never been opposed to hunting, and the John Muir (Wisconsin) Chapter of the Sierra Club, which has many hunters among our 15,000 members and supporters, has never opposed either wolf hunting or state management. We do have concerns about how both have been implemented, and we contend that those concerns would make our representative a valuable member of the Wolf Advisory Committee.” Nonetheless, our second request for WAC membership was also denied.

Peter David noted at the 2013 Midwest Wolf Stewards Conference that very few wolves were killed in areas experiencing higher depredations. He argues that a non-selective hunt bears no relation to depredations management. Only .016% of Wisconsin’s more than 7,000 farms and livestock operations in wolf territory have experienced confirmed wolf depredation.

Wolves in Wisconsin would have suffered higher death tolls last year had not the tribes exercised their treaty rights to 50% of the take in the ceded territories. The tribes elected not to kill their allotted number of wolves. This year, the NRB threatens to increase the quota proportionately if the tribes don’t kill their allotment. In disregard of the latest research in distribution and mortality models to come out of UW Madison’s Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, no refuge areas outside of the reservations have been designated.

The WAC continues to refer to 350 wolves as a “population target,” however, that number was established in the early recovery period, over thirty years ago, as a threshold below

WOLVES *Continued*

which wolves in the state would be regulated as “threatened.” This number was never established in any Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan as a maximum population for the state. Population goals, or biological carrying capacity estimates, have not been reassessed in Wisconsin since 1992, or by United States Fish & Wildlife Service since 1971.

The current state of wolf management in Wisconsin is undeniably aggressive, considering

that we are the only state in the nation to allow the use of dogs in wolf hunting. The Humane Society is involved with an ongoing lawsuit regarding the WDNR’s regulations governing the use of dogs to hunt wolves, and they are concerned about dog and wolf mortality that will result from invariable clashes between these closely related species. Specifically, they are dismayed that no science-based restrictions have been put in place to exclude hunting dogs from specific mapped zones known by DNR to be dangerous to dogs during sensitive times, such as wolf breeding, mating and rendezvous periods.

The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter encourages our members to continue to be vigilant in advocating for sustainable wolf management in Wisconsin. We urge you to support groups that favour science-based wolf management, and speak out to the media and your elected officials when you observe wolf hunting practices and policies that are not science-based or that favour the wishes of minority special interests over the vast majority of Wisconsin’s citizens. ☺



Copper Falls State Park

by Dave Blouin, Mining Committee Chair

Don’t forget to sign up for Autumn Assembly, where on Saturday, October 12, I’ll be teaming up with Al Gedicks, veteran mining expert and activist and Executive Secretary for the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council. We are pleased to have Al join us to discuss issues surrounding Gogebic Taconite’s (GTac) proposal to open the world’s largest open pit taconite mine and more. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the proposal and what the John Muir Chapter (JMC) will be doing to oppose it.

Gogebic Taconite (GTac) wasted little time starting exploration work on its leased lands in the Penokees last summer after the mining bill it wrote (maybe more aptly called the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act) was signed by Governor Walker. The resulting exploration drilling and application for “bulk sampling” by the company created controversy and stirred protest immediately.

In response to a single unfortunate incident with a protester in July, GTac deployed heavily

IRON MINING UPDATE

armed paramilitary security at the mine site. GTac’s unhinged and provocative response was far in excess to any threat from unarmed protesters. Photos and media reports of the militia from Bulletproof Security of Scottsdale, Arizona carrying semi-automatic weapons were published widely and drew national attention.

GTac compounded their over the top response by failing to ensure that the company they hired was licensed in the state. Bulletproof itself did not apply for a license and operated illegally until mid-July when they were sent back to Arizona. In the meantime, the Iron County District Attorney failed to press charges and the state Department of Safety and Professional Services issued a license to Bulletproof despite the fact the company clearly broke state law. The John Muir Chapter (JMC) formally opposed the license and urged District Attorney Marty Lipske to file charges, but to no avail so far.

GTac filed two additional controversial documents in June. The first was a permit application for what’s called Bulk Sampling. Bulk Sampling could be described as mini-mining and generally involves drilling shallow holes for explosives to break up rock for sampling purposes. The JMC opposed the application for several reasons: the potential for sampling to encounter sulfides (the mineral that can cause acid drainage and heavy metal contamination); the lack of a detailed plan for how to deal with contaminated stormwater and wastewater given the proposed use of ANFO explosives; and the fact that minerals containing asbestos are known to be in the rock GTac is working in. It is expected that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will rule on the application later this fall or early winter.

The other important but also controversial document filed by GTac is called the Pre-appli-

cation Notice. Current mining law for metallic mining requires an extensive document from permit applicants called the Notice of Intent or NOI. The NOI details proposed mining plans, environmental baseline studies, and a scope of study for additional research needed to support the permit application.

When GTac wrote its mining law, it changed the NOI to a simple pre-application notice letter that puts most of the burden of determining what information is required onto the WDNR. The letter provides very little about the proposal and raises far more questions and concerns than it answers. The JMC filed extensive comments that can be found on the mining page of our website.

A public information hearing was held on both documents in Hurley in August. This hearing was one of only two public information hearings required for the proposal over the entire life of the application process which could take many years. The new law requires hearings on the proposal be held in Iron County, where it appears that GTac aimed to “stack the deck” with supporters of its proposal. Yet the count of comments and speakers at the hearing demonstrated a strong majority in opposition just as with each of the handful of hearings on the law itself.

The John Muir Chapter will continue to work to educate the public on the risks from this extremely destructive proposal that threatens the Bad River Watershed and Lake Superior. The public can sign up for updates on the proposal from the DNR by going to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Mines/Gogebic.html>. The DNR also archives submissions from GTac along with DNR responses at this page. Please also visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/mining.asp> regularly for updates on this issue. ☺

SIERRA CLUB SOLAR HOMES PROGRAM STARTS OFF STRONG

The demand for clean, affordable energy alternatives was evident this summer when Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter launched its new Solar Homes campaign. Hundreds of homeowners have already expressed an interest in having their home assessed to see if solar is a viable option for them.

The Solar Homes program is part of the chapter's ongoing campaign to reduce Wisconsin's dependence on dirty fossil fuels. To encourage the shift to clean energy sources, they have partnered with H&H solar to offer members an affordable and easy way to get solar on their rooftops.

Sierra club members can register for a free site assessment on the chapter website: www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org. H&H will prepare an estimate based on the site assessment. At the end of the program period H&H will provide a rebate to those who have systems installed and a payment to the Sierra Club based on the total number and size of systems installed. The higher the participation, the higher the rebate. In addition to the individual savings realized, each installation helps curb climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

On Friday, October 11, H&H will host a solar display as part of the 2013 Autumn Assembly. Representatives will be on hand to answer questions about solar energy and the program. Other solar events will be held throughout the program, which is expected to run through 2014. Watch the website for dates and time or contact the chapter office. www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org 608-256-0565



Over 70 people attended a solar homes launch party in August. Attendees enjoyed a first-hand look at a solar powered residence and learned more about the Sierra Club's Solar Homes program.



Solar Power Specialist and Master Electrician, Andrew Bangert explains the inner-workings of his home's solar system at an open house in August.

SAVE MONEY, CUT CARBON AND SUPPORT THE SIERRA CLUB...

Put your values into action by going solar. It's easy and affordable with the Solar Homes Program.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Sierra Club members can sign-up for a free site assessment at www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org
- H&H provides an estimate and, if the homeowner decides, installs the system
- At the end of the program period, H&H provides a rebate to the system hosts and a donation to the Sierra Club based on the total number and size of systems installed.

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



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

H&H Solar:
solarhomes@hhsolarenergy.com
(608)273-4464
or visit
www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org



TAR SANDS *Continued from Page 1*

The expansion will allow 50,000 more barrels per day to be transported.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, Enbridge has estimated that in the event of a pipe rupture, as much as 1.5 million gallons of oil could spill from Line 5 into the Straights of Mackinac before the leak could be shut off. Additionally, since the Straights of Mackinac are in such a distant location, it could take responders three hours to get to the spill. Any spill, no matter how small, could be devastating to Lakes Michigan and Huron, their deep water canyons, and pristine shorelines.

Enbridge would also like to extend the tar sands network throughout the country by adding an additional line to Oklahoma for export in the Gulf Coast. The line would cross the Ozarks and the Mississippi River, the other enormous source of freshwater for the country.

Finally, there is a proposal to ship tar sands oil across Lake Superior. Calumet Specialty Products Partner LLC, which currently owns and runs a refinery in Superior, has announced plans to ship oil over Lake Superior via barge. They are considering building a crude oil dock to allow this, pending demand, which could develop especially if pipeline capacity increases in the region. As Calumet manager Dave Podratz said to the Superior Telegram, “The Upper Midwest is awash in oil. They have more oil than capacity to move it.” He explained Enbridge imports 500,000 more barrels of oil a day than it can send out.

Currently, the excess oil gets shipped on the rail lines. However, shipping by barge is much cheaper than rail and is therefore very attractive to oil companies. The dock would allow the shipment of 13 million barrels of crude oil per year and store 150,000 barrels of oil in two tanks. Meanwhile, lake levels have been so low that barges have had to lighten their loads. Calumet hopes to begin construction and be operating by 2015. Fortunately, however, the shipping dock will need to be permitted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the United States Coast Guard. Calumet would be required to provide proof that they could respond to spills, and the ships are now required to be double-hulled as a result of the Exxon Valdez spill.

Could Enbridge Stop and Properly Clean Up a Spill?

Tar sands oil is a sludgy form of oil, known as diluted bitumen. According to a 2007 U.S. Geological Survey report, tar sands oil has eleven times more sulfur, six times more nitrogen, eleven times more nickel, and five times more lead than traditional oil, making it that much more dangerous. Since it is so much denser than traditional oil, it needs to be mixed with toxic chemicals like benzene in order to move it through the line. This can also mean more pollution; worse, this means that when a spill occurs, sediments settle to the bottom, making it hard to clean it up—the reason for the continued dredging of the Kalamazoo River. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated that because tar sands oil is different than conventional oil in water, it “may require different response actions or equipment”.

Many remember the Kalamazoo spill in 2010. An Enbridge pipeline erupted and spilled 840,000 gallons of tar sands oil into a wetland that leaked into the Kalamazoo River during a planned shutdown. The pipeline spewed tar sands oil for over 17 hours, before Enbridge realized it



Photo courtesy of United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration



was leaking. The environmental damage to the wetlands, Kalamazoo River, and Talmadge Creek will likely never fully be remedied. The full extent of public health effects will possibly never be known, but 320 homes had to be evacuated. Enbridge is still funding clean-up. In March (nearly three years after the spill), the EPA ordered river dredging as the river is still contaminated. The total clean-up is expected to exceed \$1 billion.

The Kalamazoo spill is the biggest inland oil spill in history. Other spills give reason to be wary of future pipeline expansions. Last year, Wisconsin had its own, much smaller, spill in Grand Marsh (Adams County) from a pipeline also operated by Enbridge. According to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, the rupture spilled an estimated 50,000 gallons of oil and contaminated 17,000 tons of soil.

After the Grand Marsh spill, and multiple other failures, the United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHSMA) ordered Enbridge to submit plans to improve the safety of the entire Lakeland System. Also, Canada's National Energy Board has stated that Enbridge is not complying with safety standards at 117 of its pumping stations and is analyzing the concerns and solutions. Given this track record, why should we trust Enbridge, a corporation with over 800 spills since 1999, with our precious water resources?

Our Climate Cannot Afford Tar Sands Oil

Tar sands oil is literally crude oil mixed with sand and water, sometimes found inside sandstone, like that buried deep beneath the Boreal Forests in Canada. In order to get this oil, 54,000 square miles of the forest have been destroyed, open-pit mined, and drilled. The oil is then extracted from the sand and refined. Because this process is so intense, it emits far more carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases than traditional oil. The destruction of the forest and peat bogs (habitat that captures carbon) increases the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. One calculation projects that, if expanded, Enbridge 67 would yield about 132 million tons of greenhouse gasses per year. At a time in which we desperately need to be reducing the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted, this project's reckless contribution of emissions is irresponsible.

The Great Lakes Cannot Afford a Spill

Have you seen Lake Superior? Have you ever had friends who visited Lake Superior for the first time? Chances are the response was something along the lines of "it's so clear you can see the bottom of it." Even if the chances of an oil spill are rare, the chances of a spill being catastrophic are not. One spill is all it may take to change Lake Superior forever.

The beauty, rarity, and purity of the Great Lakes make them the cornerstone for the life of the region. The economy relies on the multi-billion dollar tourism, boating, and fishing industries. More importantly, the Great Lakes provide 84% of North America's fresh water supply and over 20% of the fresh surface water supply for the world. The Great Lake Basin supplies drinking water to 30 million residents. The Great Lakes region is also culturally significant to the Lake Superior Chipewya Tribe and their sub-nations.

Our oil supply is not more important than our water supply. The water that we drink from. The water that we swim and fish in. The water that gives many their identity. And the water that we need to sustain us. Wisconsin needs to focus on reducing our oil demand by increasing

clean transportation infrastructure, not finding more ways to get toxic oil regardless of the risks. ♻️

The State Department will be coming out with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the line soon and we'll need all hands-on-deck to help submit comments and attend public hearings. Contact Elizabeth Ward at (608) 256-0565 or elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org to get involved.



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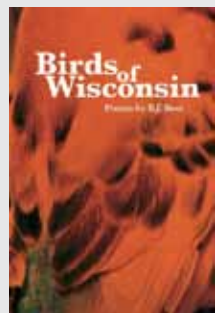
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THE GREEN REVIEW

BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

by Amy Lou Jenkins.



BIRDS OF WISCONSIN

B.J. Best, New Rivers Press, 2010.

B.J. Best claims he is not an avid bird watcher, yet the author photo on the back cover of *Birds of Wisconsin* depicts the poet in a wooded setting wearing a canvas fedora that is perfectly suited to an aviary expedition.

So, by virtue of a book of poems about birds and his adorned noggin, let's call him a bird-watching devotee anyway.

Best carries no binoculars to identify nuanced coloration of the migrating warblers; he hunches over no microscope to inspect graveled gizzards. He observes birds through the lens of Owen Gromme's (1896-1991) life. Gromme, painter and artist, outdoorsman, environmentalist, curator of birds and mammals at the Milwaukee Public Museum (including taxidermy duties) is the renowned illustrator and author of *Birds of Wisconsin* (1963), one of the first books detailing birdlife in the state. Anyone who studies Gromme is going to see a lot of birds.

continued on next page...

THE GREEN REVIEW



continued...

Best's poems sharpen and blur. Divided into three parts, *Birds of Wisconsin* pulls lines of resonance through the legacies of Gromme and from the lives and landscapes of the Midwest. We move through facts as detailed as a dissected gullet and as boundless as flight itself.

Part one, *Instructions on Flying*, offers an experiential draw to winged wilderness. The opening poem, titled "owen gromme as a child watched canada geese staging," begins:

they were the *reason i quit high school:*
to muck about the bottom of the lake,
hushed in the rushes and waiting for wings [...]

In the poem "junco," four brief lines in length, the unsentimental solid grayness of Wisconsin's winter proffers a comforting structure of harmony to implied landscapes and bird imagery: "broken sleep / swept across the slate-colored morning / the husk of a sunflower seed / in the snow."

Part two, *The Prayers of Birds*, gifts birds with personified introspection and the occasional well-timed wink or knife through the heart. "The Prayer of the Common Pigeon" begins with the line, "Forgive me, I have defiled yet another city statue," and ends with, "I have forgotten what it is to be bird."

Part three, *Instructions on Landing*, weaves through actual and supposed events and moments in Gromme's life. "Bird Dissection," from part one, is repeated and morphed in part three. We see through the lenses of Best and Gromme as they slice, inspect, and lean close: "You open a nuthatch call to a piff of spores, and are / now concerned they seed in your lungs: // Record your findings on ruled paper, black ink."

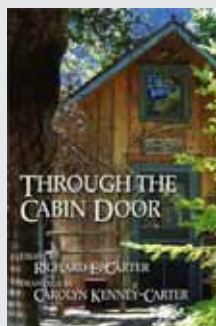
The counterintuitivity in the final poem, "owen gromme lies down and accepts the finality of it all," which riffs on Gromme's claim that he has never painted a bird that satisfied him, explodes our passion for the ephemeral life. Best injects us with thoughts and glimpses that cannot be captured within rhetoric.

Readers don't have to be steeped in understanding of Gromme, birds, or poetic theory to enjoy this themed collection. Best will woo you. These poems open heavy doors. Don your bird-watching hat or not, but do journey with Best through *Birds of Wisconsin*.

This review first appeared in the Cambridge Book Review

Amy Lou Jenkins is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*, contact her at www.AmyLouJenkins.com for inquires and information about how to forward review copies for consideration.

Copies of *Birds of Wisconsin*, *Through the Cabin Door* and *Deerland* were provided by the publishers.

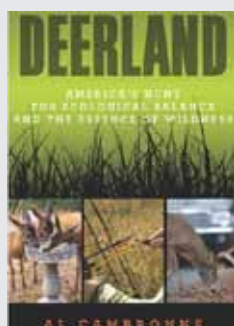


THROUGH THE CABIN DOOR

by Richard Carter, drawings by Caroline Kenney-Carter, Appleport Press, 2011.

This winner of the Council of Wisconsin Writers outdoor-writing award chronicles memoiristic ruminations on Wisconsin, specifically Door County. But the themes and

subject matter extend to the expanse of the history of Earth as well as the intimacies of a moment in connection with source. Carter's artist/wife illustrates with drawings that celebrate the natural world with a lovely sense of waggishness. These essays and illustrations celebrate a love with the natural world and the mature richness that emanate from a decades-long relationship.



DEERLAND America's Hunt for Ecological Balance and the Essence of Wilderness

by Al Cambronne, Lyons Press, 2013

While America might not be universally hunting for ecological balance, Al Cambronne is. When we read, we take a ride in his pickup, take a walk, and hear his carefully researched and respectful plea. See if you can figure out why his salient argument (about deer populations run amuck by policies that decimate predators and favor deer to the extent that biodiversity is denuded by their rampant browsing) doesn't convince policy makers and land owners that all these lovely deer represent flawed thinking and contempt for the ecologic systems that we all depend upon. Cambronne might not be the first to sound the warning, but his current account of our utter dependence on the adulterated natural systems should be heard. What are we waiting for? "Here in America we now have 30 million deer, 100 times more than just a century ago." This genuine northwoodsman shows us around the historical and contemporary issue, and a thoughtful reading finds us loathe to find fault with his assessment.



WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES: **BEETLES!**

by James Steffens, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter Executive Committee

Those of us interested in the natural world are good at asking the “what” questions: what kind of bird is that? What does it eat? Less often do we ask the “why” questions: why do I see this bird in open grassland rather than in the forest? Often the “why” questions pertain to an animal’s diet. For example, a bird found in a prairie habitat is likely dependent on insects or seeds found on the prairie. However, at times the answers are more subtle.

My particular fascination is with beetles. Beetles are the largest order of insects, which are arthropods with three distinct body parts (the head, leg-bearing thorax, and abdomen) and 3 pairs of legs. Beetles are in the Order Coleoptera, which is the largest order in the entire animal kingdom, with nearly 400,000 described species, including 40% of all insects. All Coleoptera have “complete” development, meaning that, like butterflies, they have an egg, larval, pupal, and adult stage. The word Coleoptera is a Greek word meaning sheathed wing – describing the hard wings or elytra on beetles that meet in a straight line down the middle of their bodies and protect their second pair of transparent wings used in flight. Beetles are found all over the world in a variety of habitats, and include everything from lightning beetles to ladybugs (really ladybird beetles) to weevils.

When I first began to identify beetles in the 1970s, little did I know that my interest would turn into a collection of over 3,000 specimens. There are some interesting “why” questions one can ask about beetles. For example, the American burying beetle, *Nicrophorus americanus*, used to be found throughout the eastern half of the United States, whereas today it is found in only a few locations and is federally protected. Why has this happened? This

beetle lays its eggs on the carcasses of dead animals and birds which it then buries. The larvae develop on the carcass and eventually emerge from the ground as adults to repeat the reproductive cycle. One possible explanation for its current rarity is that it may have depended heavily on the carcasses of the passenger pigeon, once so common that it blackened the skies but which is now extinct. If this hypothesis is true, then mankind’s total annihilation of a once abundant species has caused the marked but not yet total disappearance of another species heavily dependent upon it.



In other cases, changes in availability of habitat can have profound effects. Take the Carabidae, or ground beetles, a diverse family of insects that includes about 40,000 species worldwide, including 2,000 in North America. Few distinguishing features describe this huge group beyond their five segmented tarsi, or foot segments; and threadlike (never clubbed) antennae. Many are active at night, and almost all are predators. Within the carabid family is the beetle tribe Carabini, which includes 3 genera of beetles that are spectacular in size (17-35 mm or up to 1 3/8” long) and often in color. This tribe includes all the beetles in the genus *Carabus*, which includes 11 North American species. Some Carabini are generalists, meaning that they are not particular about habitat and are happy in any forest set-

ting or even open fields and urban areas. Other species, however, are highly specialized on old growth forests. Why this is so is not clear, although the higher prevalence of coarse woody debris, land snails, butterfly and moth larvae in these areas could make the difference for these beetles.

From Maine to Georgia there are vast stretches of forests which (humankind willing) will forever be wild. In other parts of the country, Wisconsin being one, old growth forests are vanishing at an alarming rate, and almost all of our forests have been cut at least once. With these forests will vanish not only the beetles but all species, plant and animal, dependent on such habitat. Have you seen a specimen of *Carabus sylvosus* lately? Aptly named, this ground beetle is heavily associated with old growth forest (especially areas dominated by sugar maple, yellow birch, white pine and eastern hemlock trees) and it is rapidly becoming a rarity. *C. sylvosus* is a large black beetle with a bluish tint on the outer edge of its thorax and wings. It has two generations per year in Wisconsin, one that peaks in early May, and another around September. For such a species, vast expanses of red and jack pine in the northern part of Wisconsin are essentially deserts. In fact, you will not usually see *C. sylvosus* even decades after clear-cutting takes place, especially if an even-aged forest of a single species replaces a formerly diverse forest with a variety of species and age classes.

In Germany the federal government has put most if not all species of Carabini on a protected list, prohibiting anyone from collecting them. Perhaps we should consider that option in this country as well, although the most pressing threat is loss of habitat. The natural world is an intricate web. Even though we do not fully understand it, we can rejoice and be glad in it and work for its preservation. ☞

BECOME A TREASURER-IN-TRAINING FOR TREE-HUGGERS

Here's your chance to join the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States as a Volunteer Chapter Treasurer!

BENEFITS OF THIS VOLUNTEER POSTION INCLUDE:

- Gain valuable experience and training
- Training trip to San Francisco, CA in March 2014 (airfare & lodging paid)
- Develop financial leadership skills
- Work with "green" (\$) for a "green" organization

The Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter Executive Committee needs your part-time financial and bookkeeping skills. Experience with Quickbooks, accounting and non-profit finance preferred but not required.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Provide financial leadership and vision within the chapter and groups
- Prepare financial statements and guide the development of programmatic budgets

- Protect the financial integrity and stability of the chapter and groups
- Participate in long range planning
- Complete end of year reports on chapter, group and section finances for national Sierra Club
- Assist chapter staff with maintaining and tracking online donations
- Monitor, question and evaluate club activities requiring expenditures
- Maintain financial records for the chapter
- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend Finance Committee meetings (4 per year) and Executive Committee meetings (6-8 per year)
- Contribute to a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact the chapter office at 608-256-0565 or john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org



Join the Team...

Our statewide Conservation and Organization Committees are looking for dedicated members who are passionate about the issues and willing to take action & get involved. Join your skills and experience with other volunteers from around the state. Together the sky's the limit.

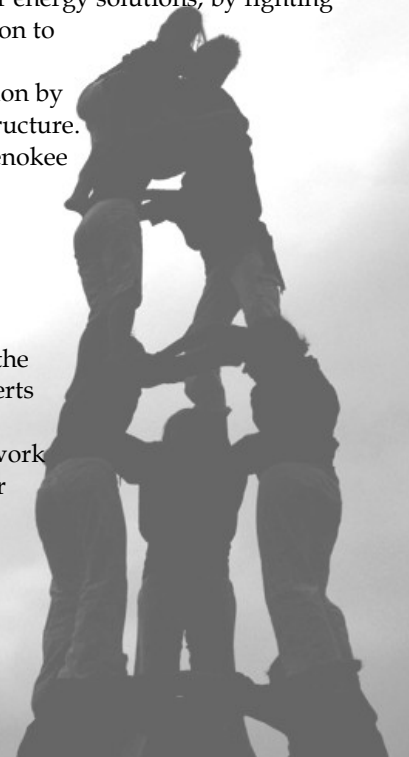
Conservation Committees:

- **Water Sentinels:** protects clean water by helping to pass legislation, fighting Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs), monitoring water, and protecting the Great Lakes.
- **Beyond Coal to Clean Energy:** Working to move Wisconsin beyond dirty coal to cleaner energy solutions, by fighting individual coal plants, promoting reduced consumption, and advocating for the transition to renewable energy including solar, wind, and offshore wind.
- **Beyond Oil through Clean Transportation:** Leading the charge to reduce oil consumption by reducing demand through transit, trains, bicycling, walking, and electric vehicle infrastructure.
- **Mining Safeguards:** Works to maintain Wisconsin's Mining Moratorium, protect the Penokee Hills from the largest taconite mine in the world and create safeguards for sand mining
- **Pipeline Protection:** This *NEW* committee will work to protect Lake Superior from Enbridge's dangerous proposal to build oil pipelines through the Great Lakes.

Organization Committees:

- **Legislative Committee:** reviews bills at the legislature and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee about positions, creates and reads public testimony, and action alerts about legislation
- **Fundraising Committee:** helps the Chapter fundraise to be able to support our critical work
- **Membership Committee:** Works to plan and implement campaigns to and maintain our strong membership base.

For more information visit www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org or email john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org





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 5, 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. This is a very scenic section of the Trail overlooking wetland areas and with good views of the glaciated landscape, and contains restored prairie and woodland areas. This will be a moderately difficult hike. If driving, take Hwy 113 north of Madison and go ~ 2.5 miles past the Village of Dane. Turn left on Lee Rd for 1 mile, then north on Lodi Springfield Rd. for ~ .8 miles to the parking area on the left with the kiosk. 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 or 608-233-1210 [4L - Madison area]

OCTOBER 11 – 13: AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Join fellow Sierra Club members for a weekend of engaging speakers, workshops and hands-on nature activities. The 2013 itinerary (page 3) offers activities tailored to both educate and rejuvenate. Advance registration required. Register online at www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org or call the chapter office at 608-256-0565.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK – SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

Join your fellow Sierrans around the fireplace. Bring a dish or dessert to pass, and enjoy an evening of socializing and sharing the year's successes and challenges. Held on Madison's near West side. RSVP by December 5 to Lacinda at Lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 for address, and so we know how many to expect. [4L - Madison area]

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 6:30 PM – ANNUAL WINTER BONFIRE AT PICNIC POINT

Come to our annual celebratory Winter Bonfire to share good cheer and enjoy a crisp earlier winter evening with fellow Sierrans and other outdoor lovers. Bring beverages (warm or otherwise) and a snack to share (or even something to roast on the fire), and stories to share or holiday songs to sing, and we'll have a merry old time! Picnic Point is off University Bay Drive where parking is available, and is just off of the Lake Mendota Lakeshore Path. We'll meet at the farthest fire pit area on Picnic Point. It's nearly a mile long hike in over uneven ground that may be snowy, so don't forget a warm hat, gloves or mittens, and boots. Get a Picnic Point map. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon at kmulb@charter.net

OUTING INFORMATION

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.

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Please read the following questions listed below, and then read each candidate's responses on the follow page. Vote for your choices by using the ballot form on page 15.

- 1) Please discuss when and why you joined the Sierra Club, and describe any leadership or volunteer activities with our organization or other non-profit groups that will help you fulfill your role.
- 2) What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background (fundraising, legal, accounting, communications, Board, political) will you bring to the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee?
- 3) Why are you applying to become a candidate for the Executive Committee of the John Muir Chapter?

4) Although the John Muir Chapter works on a variety of conservation issues, we focus on a limited number of priority issues affecting Wisconsin. Currently these are:

- Protecting the Great Lakes and other Water Resources
- Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy
- Moving Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation
- Protecting Habitats from Destructive Mining

Of the Chapter's priority issues, which one are you most passionate about and why?





LIZA PECKHAM

1) I joined the Sierra Club in 2009 during an internship at the Chapter office. After the internship, I continued to volunteer, and was elected to the Executive Committee in 2011. I have enjoyed serving on the Executive Committee and as the Membership Chair for the chapter. Since taking on the role of Membership Chair last year, I've worked with a

committee of volunteers to develop a plan to combat membership attrition and strengthen the club. Initial steps have included conducting a best practices survey of group leaders and analyzing current membership distribution across the state. Next steps include developing a template that groups can use to attract new members and leaders. In addition, I have helped with outreach for various campaigns and fundraising efforts from the Chapter office.

2) Several of my past professional positions have involved outreach, data work and marketing, and I have been able to use these skills with the Sierra Club. As a newer member, I have really appreciated the opportunity to become involved and contribute while learning of new ways to be an effective participant.

3) I am applying again because of my belief that I can continue to contribute to the Sierra Club while furthering my integration and skill-building for future projects. I think developing a next generation of Sierra Club leaders is essential for the continuation of a thriving organization.

4) I love Wisconsin, and have been lucky enough to spend time in many of the different habitats our great state has to offer. For this reason, I feel strongly about protecting our waters for future generations along with current residents and dependents- human or otherwise. Similarly, threats to land and water from proposed mining projects are very real and pressing issues. Our economy is said to benefit from developments in these areas, but the detractions due to contamination and aesthetic compromise outweigh any temporary and localized influx in compensation. Transition from coal to clean energy is crucial, and as importantly, energy conservation should be more and more in the forefront of consumer minds. Projects that excite me most involve developments in transportation. I would love to see more efficient modes of getting from A to B, and hope to see a resurrection in rail projects very soon.



ALYSSA SHELSTAD

1) I joined the Sierra Club in the fall of 2009 as a volunteer after transferring to the UW-Madison campus. I was looking for a way to become involved in the community outside of campus and found a match with the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club allowed me to take action on the issues I was passionate about while providing me with opportunities for skill develop-

ment and education on other issues.

While in college, I also served as the Marketing Director for a start-up student-run non-profit, The Madison Fund. I worked with our team to develop marketing campaigns to raise awareness of our group as well as funds for the microloans we provided to small business, entrepreneurs, and companies seeking to expand their green energy initiatives.

Currently, I serve as the Co-Director of Public Relations for the Sheboygan Jaycees. In the past year, I have worked to expand the Jaycees' social media presence, develop relationships with the press in the Sheboygan area and coordinate branding at events within the community.

2) As a volunteer for the Sierra Club for the past four years, I have been able to develop skills in the areas of fundraising, communications and member recruitment. I served as the primary contact of the Wisconsin Sierra Student Coalition, which held educational meetings in order to recruit members and engage students in environmental issues. Throughout my time as a volunteer, I participated in phone banking in order to promote particular candidates or raise awareness of upcoming legislation. I also assisted in membership data entry and newsletter revisions.

While working for The Madison Fund, my primary responsibility as the Marketing Director was to raise awareness of the organization through direct mailings, email campaigns, radio advertisements and press exposure. Through this increase in awareness, we were able to increase donations, recruit new team members and educate the public about microfinance.

From my professional and educational background, I believe I bring a perspective on sustainable (and viable) farming practices. My Agricultural and Applied Economics degree exposed me to a variety of farming practices and the issues that arise with large-scale farming.

3) As a long time volunteer for Sierra Club, I have always been impressed with the presence and voice the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter holds in Wisconsin. More impressive are the people who are able to influence lawmakers, industries and businesses as well as their commitment to environmental protection.

It would be an honor to join the Executive Committee in defending Wisconsin's natural resources. I strongly believe it is humanity's responsibility to take action now to protect the environment for future generations. I believe joining the Executive Committee would allow me to do just that.

4) Growing up in Milwaukee and now living in Sheboygan, I have seen first-hand, the need to protect the



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John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee
ELECTION BALLOT 2013

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

Voter #1:

Voter #2:

Liza Peckham

Liza Peckham

Alyssa Shelstad

Alyssa Shelstad

Jim Steffens

Jim Steffens

Write In:

Write In:



Ballots must be postmarked by November 6, 2013

Mail to: Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter, Madison, WI 53711-1429

Great Lakes. I believe protecting the Great Lakes and all of Wisconsin's 30,000+ lakes, rivers and streams is both one of Wisconsin's greatest challenges but also greatest opportunity. Sheboygan is a key area in this fight with the potential for green energy technology development and water protection. Between Lakeland Technical College's Wind Energy Technology program currently training students to install and maintain wind turbines and the recent Sheboygan River Cleanup project which dredged contaminated sediment in order to restore the river's habitat, Sheboygan has taken the first steps towards protecting its valuable resources.

Additionally, I have served on six national committees, including the Council of Club Leaders Executive Committee (one year as Chair) and the National Honors and Awards Committee since 2008.

2) One of my skills that I most enjoy is working with Group and Chapter Executive Committees to improve their organizational effectiveness and setting of priorities, including the selection of conservation goals and planning an effective campaign. To improve our effectiveness as a Chapter, we must improve the effectiveness of our Groups. I would like to help in that effort.

3) The John Muir Chapter is the most effective environmental organization in the state. I have enjoyed immensely contributing to the Chapter's efforts, especially at this time when Wisconsin faces arguably the worst environmental challenges it has ever seen. I would greatly enjoy continuing to serve.

4) All of these issues are more than critical, and we cannot support any of them enough. However, my most pressing concern lies with the Beyond Oil campaign. Without our knowledge, Wisconsin has become a major conduit for tar sands crude, moving by ship, barge, train, truck and pipeline through our state. Likely there has been little planning for a spill of this toxic material. Furthermore, we can do far better than utilize tar sands crude as a source of energy.



JIM STEFFENS

1) I joined the Sierra Club in 1996 in Delaware, mad as hell at the lack of land use planning throughout the state. Together with members of a committee, we put together a document on the values of rational land use planning that became a resource document at the University of Delaware. I was a member of the Delaware Chapter Executive Committee

for a number of years, serving as Chapter Chair for two years and Council of Club Leaders delegate for four. After moving to Wisconsin, I was active on the four Lakes Group Executive Committee for one year, and have served on the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee continuously since 2006, serving as Chair for three years.

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

EXCOM MEETINGS

- Nov 9** Executive Committee Meeting
First Congregational Church, Baraboo @ 10am
- Jan 11, 2014** Executive Committee Meeting
First Congregational Church, Baraboo @ 10am

2013 EVENTS

- Oct 11-13** Autumn Assembly with keynote Dr. Thomas Heberlein
Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, WI
- Nov 6** Executive Committee election ballots due
Ballot located on page 15
- Nov 16** Public Health Forum on Clean Water sponsored by Kewaunee
CARES and Clean Water Action Council, Stone Harbor,
Sturgeon Bay. <http://kewaunee cares.wordpress.com/>
- Jan 4, 2014** River Touring Section Annual Meeting
wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/ or email: eddyout@gmail.com

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



Graphic Design Volunteer Needed

We're looking for a volunteer with an eye for design and excellent layout skills to take over production of the quarterly Muir View newsletter. Our current designer will train the right candidate. Experience with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop software required.

Interested? Email Jacinda Tessmann at jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org and include at least three samples of your design work. For more details call 608-256-0565

Proofreader Wanted

Work with the Muir View editor to proof the chapter's quarterly newsletter for grammar, punctuation and typographical errors. Brainstorm content ideas and fact check submissions for each issue of the Muir View. This volunteer position can be performed via email, but does require the ability to meet deadlines. Please send a brief email expressing your interest and include a summary of past proofing or editing experience. Email Jacinda Tessmann at jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org or call 608-256-0565 with questions.