

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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## SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS TRAVEL TO CHICAGO TO DEMAND **CLIMATE ACTION NOW!**

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

This summer, President Obama made a groundbreaking speech laying out his plans for climate change action and outlining all he could do with his Executive powers, given Congressional unwillingness to make meaningful progress on this vital issue. He announced something we have all been waiting for: measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions—the leading cause of climate change. For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will recognize carbon emissions for what they are—pollution. Because coal plants are the largest sources of carbon dioxide emissions, the EPA plans to start there.

rarely it operates. Rather than harness wind and solar locally, Wisconsin spends \$12.5 billion each year to import fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas.



Plans to direct the EPA to regulate carbon pollution have been met with outcries that this will increase the cost of electricity from groups like Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce. In actuality, Wisconsin's current overreliance on coal is already costing ratepayers. Wisconsin has the second-highest electricity rates in the Midwest, and with projects like We Energies' huge, pricey \$2.3 billion 1,200-megawatt Elm Road coal plant in Oak Creek, ratepayers are on the hook for the project, regardless of how

On November 8, 2013 the EPA held a listening session to hear what people want the agency to consider as they begin drafting the carbon rule. Dozens of Sierra Club members traveled to Chicago to support the EPA's rules and ask for the strongest protections possible. Chicago's listening session included 350 participants and 200 testified in support of these rules. A Sierra Club rally prior to the listening session was attended by 450 people. Mary Anne Hitt, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign director kicked

off the rally by expressing hope that these rules will give us the ability to do something about climate change and prevent its worst effects. Hitt went on to cite a new study published in the journal *Nature* that cautions that if we pass the tipping point on climate change, it will lead to unprecedented temperatures, making our hottest years now some of the coldest years we will experience by 2050.

The rally also featured students and doctors speaking about the health problems caused by coal plants and the severe health impacts climate change could bring. We also heard from a farmer, a business owner, and Illinois State Senator Michael Frerichs, who all talked about their excitement for the clean energy opportunities that strong carbon pollution rules will bring.

The real excitement, however, was the testimony at the public hearing.

The EPA listened to Wisconsinites describe how coal plants impact lives in our state. "Judy"  
*Continued on Page 8*

## VICTORY FOR CLEAN AIR!

### Highland Wind Farm Approved

By Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator, John Muir Chapter

Given the many environmental challenges our state currently faces, it is important to celebrate victories when we win them. The July *Muir View* told the story of the Highland Wind Farm and all the trials and tribulations that it has gone through. The 102.5 megawatt, 41-turbine wind farm proposal was met with fierce opposition

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# FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair  
John Muir Chapter

## BE VISIBLE AND PROMOTE THE SIERRA CLUB

“Organizational visibility is intentional, not accidental” (*Peter Brinckerhoff, The Mission Based Management Newsletter, March-April 2009*)

As we approach the end of the year and the preparation of taxes, my husband and I review our contributions to a list of organizations. A list detailing the last three years’ donations sits near the area where we pay our bills (Yep, we still write checks!) as a reference and a reminder. As I look through this I’m reminded of the amazing work these organizations do, and right in the mix is the Sierra Club.

It also brings to mind where I spend my volunteer time. There are a lot of groups on the list, and I cannot volunteer with all of them! Several years ago when I first ran for the Executive Committee, I made a deliberate decision to clear my plate and to put in some focused hours with the John Muir Chapter to ensure its success in the years to come. One

of the questions we should all ask ourselves is *how, in the crowded world of non-profits, can we help the Sierra Club stand out amongst the many worthwhile organizations in Wisconsin?*

We cannot assume that just because the Sierra Club has been around a long time (we just celebrated our 50th year in Wisconsin!), or because the organization has a national arm, that the John Muir Chapter does not need our support. By support I mean donating, volunteering and being visible in the community. The reality is that the John Muir Chapter and the local Groups need members to vocally and visibly align themselves with the Sierra Club.

Visibility and affiliation can help with building and strengthening the Sierra Club. It serves a role in drawing new people to the Club, engaging existing members, and building the Sierra Club’s name and recognition. As members, our goal should be to shrink the number of people in our circles who say they have never heard of the Sierra Club.

So what specifically can we do?

We can start by talking up the Sierra Club and being visible. I often wear a Sierra Club button on my jacket (in fact I have a few that I pull from the closet complete with a button). I may be going to an unrelated meeting or grocery shopping or to the bank, but I am proud of what the Club has achieved and I want others to know about the Sierra Club.

When I head out on a hike or picnic on summer weekends, I grab my Sierra Club hat. Not just because it protects the tops of my head and face but because it lets people know I am a Sierran. Whether or not people we meet on the trail or at a picnic spot say anything, I know they read the Sierra Club label. And when they do ask, I often can talk about the trail or park and make a connection to the Club. Or if I attend a meeting around Madison, during introductions I do not mention all the affiliations I may have. I tend to narrow it down to two – First Unitarian Society and the Sierra Club.

When we work on issues there are so many opportunities for us to promote the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has always relied on its members to be on the front line of any issue, especially at the local and state level. Both the Chapter and National levels provide positions on a range of issues that can be woven into personal statements or letters to the editor. Or maybe you get a call to action from the Chapter to attend a rally or a hearing. Don’t forget to put on that Sierra Club button, shirt or hat as you leave the door.

Of great importance is volunteer participation in other coalitions and networks. Volunteers serve on many bigger coalition efforts from mining, to water, to transportation and energy issues. As volunteer representatives of the Sierra Club, it is important to continue to associate our participation with the Sierra Club and to represent the Club’s position at these bigger tables. It doesn’t hurt to wear a button either! Within the constraints of the

## THE MUIR VIEW

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Club positions and the coalitions, we have a large Sierra Club tool box to bring to many of these efforts.

Consider our work on transportation. As volunteers, several of us from different areas of the state have participated with the broader coalition working to expand public transportation in Wisconsin. Within this coalition, volunteers have been free to develop a "Sierra Club" approach to the issue, working with labor to contest the Milwaukee County budget under then-County Executive Scott Walker, garnering support for rail service, and conducting community meetings to get people to talk about transportation and their neighborhoods. And now, volunteers are contesting the state transportation budget's fixation on new road building to the detriment of road repair and transit development.

These types of activities provide opportunities to hang out the Sierra Club banner, post things on the web and Facebook, show up at hearings, and canvass our peers and friends to join the Sierra Club in its vision for a multimodal, interconnected transportation system.

We also need to be visible when the Sierra Club endorses a candidate. When we make an endorsement at the local or state level, Sierra Club volunteers are the positive, tangible benefit for a candidate. Signing in on a volunteer sheet as a Sierra Club member and wearing a button are simple steps to draw the

connection. And when volunteers canvass, a button, shirt or hat, lets folks know that the Sierra Club takes democracy and participation seriously. Being visible may draw other people or Sierra Club members to this work.



Promotion and visibility serve a lot of purposes depending on the context. Visibility on the trail may make someone consider joining an outing or getting involved in a conservation effort. Showing up at a meeting with a button or identifying one of your affiliations as the Sierra Club may prompt a conversation about membership and why you joined. Wearing Sierra Club gear while volunteering for a candidate creates a link in the mind of the campaign staff and the candidate to the organization and its endorsement. Testifying at a hearing wearing a Club button and using

the Sierra Club's positions on an issue broadens the reach of the Club. Liking on Facebook or posting creates the buzz to attract new faces to the Club.

Our job is to fuel the Sierra Club's efforts by building its name and recognition. We have the legacy, the reputation and the tool kit to meet today's environmental challenges. But we need to keep letting folks know we are here. For an anecdote highlighting the need to be visible, Peter Brinckerhoff writes:

... in the weeks and months after the September 11, 2001 attacks, more than 100 nonprofits were formed in NYC to help families, and survivors. Nearly all of them duplicated existing services already in place in New York, but those organizations' low visibility prevented the well intentioned founders of these organizations from knowing that there were already resources in place. (*The Mission Based Management Newsletter, March-April 2009*)

In a crowded nonprofit world, Sierra Club has a lot to offer and people should know about it. So let's help make it stand out amongst the crowd!

*For more information on volunteering: visit the Chapter website <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/volunteer.asp>*

*For Sierra Club gear, visit: <http://sierraclub.usptgear.com/>*



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

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

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

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

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

**Mail your contribution to:** Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter  
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 11, Madison, WI 53703  
or [www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org)

# DEBATE RISES AS GROUNDWATER LEVELS FALL

By Emily Jones, John Muir Chapter Water Sentinels

Between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes, and thousands of lakes in between, it might be hard to think of Wisconsin as short on water. That's just a problem in the arid, drought-ridden Western states – right?

But water quantity in Wisconsin is getting more and more attention as surface water levels have fallen and water-related legislative activity has risen. Much of this activity surrounds high-capacity wells, which draw large amounts of groundwater per day. Legislation that passed in this year's budget limits the ability of citizens to challenge high-capacity wells based on their cumulative impacts, while a proposed bill (SB 302) aims to limit the DNR's authority in regulating high-capacity wells. As legislators weaken groundwater protections, citizens in areas affected by excessive groundwater drawdowns are beginning to see the results.


The impact of groundwater depletion is particularly evident in the Central Sands region, which includes Adams, Portage, Marquette, Wood, Waushara and Waupaca counties. As its name suggests, this area is characterized by its coarse, sandy soils. The streams and lakes in the region are fed by groundwater, which has become a high-demand resource with growing intensive water use. One of the main land uses in the Central Sands is agriculture, and the sandy soils demand a lot of water to irrigate crops. In addition to crops like potatoes and corn, the region is also home to large livestock operations, including some concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). By definition, CAFOs have at least 1,000 Animal Units (AUs) living in confinement, with lower thresholds allowed for operations that discharge into navigable water. While each dairy cow equals 1.4 AUs, it takes 200 chickens to qualify as just 1 AU. Hence, such operations can include thousands of animals, driving up the need for high quantities of water. This includes the New Chester Dairy near Grand Marsh in Adams County with over 8,600 dairy cows and 500 steers. Even more CAFOs could be on the way: the proposed Richfield Dairy in Adams County would house 4,300 cows and pump 72.5 million gallons of groundwater each year, according to the group Friends of the Central Sands.

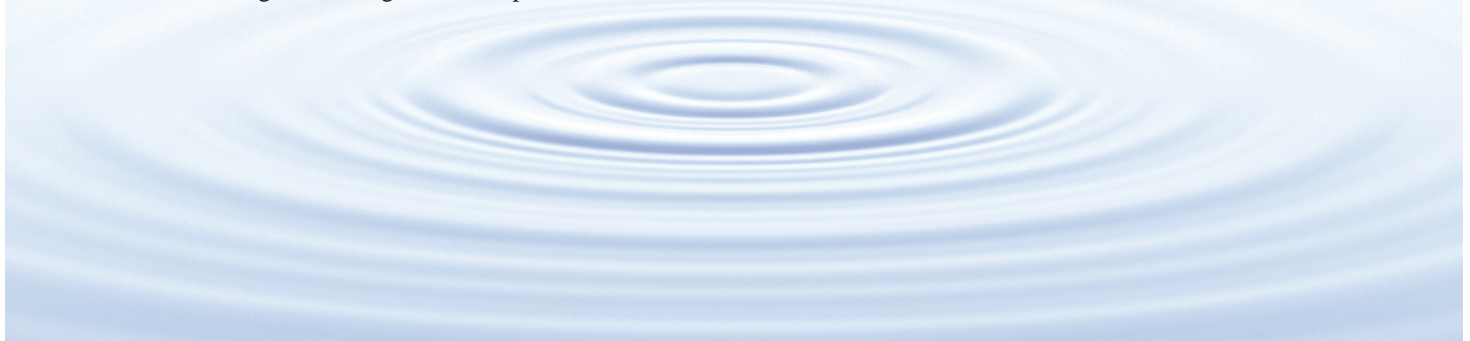
To get all that water to the surface, the region has seen a dramatic increase in the number of high-capacity wells, defined as wells that remove over 100,000 gallons of groundwater per day. Since the 1950s, the number of high-capacity wells in the Central Sands has grown from fewer than 100 to over 3,000, according to the DNR. As the number of wells has gone up, water levels in the area have gone down. Lakes and streams throughout the region have depleted, in drastic

cases almost to nothingness. Levels in water bodies like Long Lake and the Little Plover River have notoriously dwindled in recent years, causing the environmental group American Rivers to list the Little Plover River as one of the nation's most endangered rivers for 2013. While the levels of surface waters naturally rise and fall with wet and dry years, there's a correlation between the steep rise in high-capacity wells and the drop in area water levels.

Because of the potential environmental impacts of high-capacity wells, they are currently held to regulations under DNR permits. Prior decisions have recognized the DNR's ability to regulate high-capacity wells. In an important State Supreme Court ruling in 2011 (*Lake Beulah vs. DNR*), the court unanimously ruled that the DNR has the authority – and the responsibility – to consider the environmental impacts of significant groundwater removal. Due to that decision, the DNR is obligated to consider effects on surface water levels when issuing a high-capacity well permit.

However, recent legislation chips away at both the DNR's and citizen's abilities to prevent excessive groundwater drawdowns. The budget bill earlier this year contained a provision that prevents citizens from challenging high-capacity well applications based on their cumulative environmental impact, removing a tool that citizens could use to confront proposed wells. Proposed bill SB 302, introduced by Republican Senators Neal Kedzie, Rick Gudex and Tom Tiffany, includes provisions that shorten permit decision timelines and prohibit certain future restrictions on new wells, further weakening the DNR's authority to regulate high-capacity wells. The Sierra Club strongly opposes this legislation and submitted testimony at a public hearing in September (see the Legislative Tracker <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker/>). Although SB 302 passed out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 3-2 on November 7, we were relieved that it wasn't brought up for a vote in the full Senate or Assembly in 2013. Although the last regular legislative session day isn't until April 3, we remain hopeful that sustained statewide opposition will prevent the ultimate passage of this bad bill.

In the face of weakening regulations, citizens can still take action. Local grassroots groups like Friends of the Central Sands have challenged permits for high-capacity wells that would support gigantic CAFOs and draw down the local surface water even more. As legislation lessens the power of state agencies, it's important that citizen advocates step to the plate to protect the water resources in their own communities. 



# Mining Update

By Dave Blouin, Mining Chair

This fall the legislature continued to hand out special favors for Gogebic Taconite (GTac) in the form of a new law and proposed legislation designed to remove obstacles for a massive open pit iron mine in the Penokees. The legislature also proposed legislation to make it even easier for frac sand mining operations to start up by gutting already limited local government controls. The economic viability and environmental safety of the GTac proposal took a hit when the asbestiform mineral grunerite was found in rock outcrops at the Penokee mine site.

## Senate Bill 349

Senator Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) continued his efforts to bulldoze restrictions on all forms of mining with the introduction of Senate Bill (SB) 349. SB 349 establishes broad and sweeping limits on local Wisconsin governments facing threats to air and water from frac sand mining, iron mining and any form of development under the guise of “regulatory certainty,” a now familiar euphemism for deregulation of industry. “Regulatory certainty” was a major rationale for the Bad River Watershed Destruction Act that deregulated iron mining for GTac.

SB 349 garnered swift opposition from local governments and the bill is held up in committee for now but is likely to be voted on in early 2014. It would bar any local government from regulating the use of explosives in both frac sand and iron mining. For example, it would bar Ashland County from controlling the use of explosives in rock now proven to contain asbestiform minerals (minerals with asbestos-like fibers) at the Penokee site.

The legislation also directly attacks the recent Wisconsin Supreme Court decision upholding the right of local governments to regulate and even prohibit a frac sand mine proposal. SB 349 is reckless and irresponsible legislation meant to gut local control over air and water protections. Contact your state Senator to oppose SB 349 in its entirety and consider asking your local governments (town, village, city, county) to pass a resolution in opposition.

## Senate Bill 278

Another bill sponsored by Senator Tiffany, SB 278 was approved in November. It grants landowners of the proposed GTac

mine the ability to close public access to virtually the entire mine site to “protect workers from protesters”. Those lands are currently enrolled in the state Managed Forest program that requires the owners to grant the public access for hunting, fishing, hiking, sight-seeing and cross-country skiing. SB 278 also granted the landowners a major tax break estimated at \$900,000 by allowing them to avoid paying back taxes on the land when it is closed to the public.

The John Muir Chapter opposed the bill as unnecessary since current law allows landowners to close their lands from public access provided they pay back taxes. The new law exempts the mine site owners from this requirement but leaves the requirements in place for the approximately 30,000 other landowners across the state enrolled in the Managed Forest program. Moreover, it does nothing to really protect mine workers and creates an enforcement nightmare for local police and sheriff departments which now must bear the costs for enforcing closure of the land for GTac.

## Bulk Sampling in the Penokees

As of early December, GTac had not yet gotten approvals to conduct bulk sampling of rock at the site. GTac wants to conduct the bulk sampling during winter months to avoid extra impacts to roads, wetlands and water resources. The John Muir chapter opposed this proposed “mini-mining” since it could contaminate waters by blasting in rock known to contain sulfides and the mineral grunerite. When exposed to air and water sulfides produce acid mine drainage that contaminate water resources with acids and heavy metals.

Grunerite, an asbestiform mineral, represents a known public and wildlife health hazard. It is one of several fibrous minerals like asbestos (Asbestos is a trade name for similar mineral fibers used in industrial applications such as insulation). These mineral fibers maintain their needle-like shape when crushed or broken up and can cause the cancer Mesothelioma if inhaled. This spring, DNR staff found a sample of grunerite at the mine site. This fall, Professor Tom Fitz of Northland College found multiple sites where grunerite was exposed in the outcrops on the Penokee mine site.



Copper Falls State Park

represents several issues for GTac. Independent testing must be conducted to determine the extent of the grunerite. If it is widespread, GTac will be required to control emissions of the mineral and to monitor worker safety very closely. The presence of grunerite also raises significant engineering issues for the proposal. GTac’s current proposal calls for storing waste tailings via a method called “dry stacking.” Wastewater would drain from tailings to avoid acid production and to allow for higher volumes of wastes to be stored on less land. The problem with grunerite is that it can’t be stored as a waste material in a dry setting where it can become an airborne toxic material. How GTac will resolve the contradictory requirements to store these wastes both wet and dry is unknown.

## Mining Committee Now Forming

Join our Mining Committee to help with education and research on the GTac proposal. We’re looking for dedicated volunteers willing to make presentations to other groups and organizations on the risks to critical natural resources of the Bad River Watershed and Lake Superior. We also need expert help with researching scientific and technical issues related to the proposal. GTac has not been required to do significant research so far but we expect that studies will be commencing in 2014. Volunteers could work on an “on call” basis evaluating the documents and research as they become available. *To volunteer please contact Elizabeth Ward at (608) 256-0565, elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org. Check the mining page on our website for updates on this issue: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/mining.asp>*

# WANT THE LOWDOWN ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

## ASK THE BIRDS!

By Steve Betchkal



I recently had the opportunity to do a sit-down, round-table interview with representatives of five species of North American birds; Purple Martin, Wood Thrush, Canvasback, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Black-throated Blue Warbler. The following is the transcript of that interview:

*Good morning everyone. Thanks for joining me today and agreeing to do this interview.*

Assembled birds: You're welcome! Glad to be here!

*I suppose that's an appropriate starting point, isn't it? You are here. You've survived another North American breeding season -- and that's no small accomplishment.*

Black-throated Blue Warbler: It's true. Sad, but true. I can't speak for everyone here, but as a bird that weighs in at about a third of an ounce who has to travel thousands of miles just to be here, I consider myself one lucky warbler!

*How about you Cuckoo? You're the one who hails from farthest away...*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: That's right. I'm due in Uruguay by November. Just east of Buenos Aires.

*Uruguay? Que el viento Levante que a las y llevar!*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: ¡Muchas gracias!

*The reason I've asked you all here today is to get your thoughts on "the topic that must not be named": Climate Change.*

(Much nodding and head-shaking): Uh-huh! Yeah, so true!

*According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "climate change is increasingly recognized--along with habitat destruction--as one of the most serious and widespread threats to biological diversity on this planet."*

Canvasback: Number one on my list!

Purple Martin: Same here!

*Okay -- well, that's where you five come in; It's becoming clear that you guys -- birds -- are the best biological indicators of what's going on out there...*

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Well, to be exact, that would be trees.

*OK. Point taken. Trees--and forests--in North America and across the globe are taking a tremendous hit. Can I say they are one of the best biological indicators?*

Black-throated Blue Warbler: That would be more accurate.

*Why would you say that is?*

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Well, a couple two-three reasons. We're pretty and pretty obvious. And we get around.

*Can you elaborate on that?*

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Sure. I'm talking about birdwatchers. There are millions of them. And they keep lists. Where they spot us; when they spot us; how many. And since we have wings, we are not only more visible, but more mobile. We literally crisscross Earth in our migratory journeys.

*So you've become kind of a living, breathing, mobile laboratory for how living things are responding to climate change?*

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Right. For example, the first arrival dates of us migratory birds are a prominent fixture in the storied phenological records of Europe. And that's happening in America too. When we start to talk about "scientists," you have to realize that "citizen scientists" are more common than ever before.

*"Phenology" is another word for "seasonal timing." And for wildlife, seasonal timing is -- well -- like clockwork.*

Purple Martin: You could say we've got phenology "down to a science." In fact human records will back this up -- even though we may start off in another continent, we often tradi-

tionally show up at migrational end points on about the same day each year. After millennia of evolution and adaptation our internal directional systems are that finely-tuned.

*The word migration has come up several times now, but while many people understand what migration is, few realize it is food that fuels it.*

Purple Martin: That's right. I'm a bug-eater myself, so I come north to Wisconsin to take advantage of your huge insect hatches in early spring and summer. Plant-eaters surf the "crest of a green wave" as they move north -- taking advantage of fresh plant growth at its most nutritive and energy-laden stage before moving on to the next crop. One of the problems that climate change creates for us birds is it has thrown off the timing we've worked so hard to master.

*I believe that's what human scientists call "Mismatch Hypothesis?"*

Purple Martin: Exactly. When I show up in Wisconsin in late April, I expect there to be bugs to eat. Severe shifts in weather throw migratory timing off; a sudden cold snap can mean tough-flying and no insect life where a bird needs them to survive. This actually happened this past spring in Wisconsin, when birds that don't normally eat seed started showing up at backyard feeders during the unusually cold spring, and people were noting thin or starving birds. There have been mass die-offs of Purple Martins that have resulted from birds arriving early and being blindsided by cold weather and no bugs. This spring, there were even examples of "reverse migration" -- days where migrants turned around and attempted to move south again to milder conditions in order to survive.

*But couldn't that happen any spring here in Wisconsin?*

Purple Martin: Absolutely, and that's bad enough -- but climate change has made weather timetables more unstable. One of the results we are seeing from climate change is that weather patterns are less -- not more -- predictable. Storm seasons are longer and stron-

ger. Jet stream patterns have shown greater variability, bringing surprising and dramatic fronts and temperatures shifts. In 2008, Bird-Life International found extreme weather events to be the top climate-change threat to critically endangered birds, including the risk of heat waves and drought.

*Yes, but I've got to ask the obvious question here...If there are no bugs up north, why not stay put down south?*

Purple Martin: Spoken like a true human! Look – I don't get the Weather Channel where I live. When I start out migrating in Brazil -- in February -- the weather is just multa, but I have no way of knowing what it's like in Wausau, Wisconsin. My genes tell me it's "time to fly now," so I do what I do best. Purple Martins and Wood Thrushes sometimes cover more than 300 miles a day during migration. The fact that climate change is messing with the timing mechanisms is way beyond my control.

*So what you're saying is you're not the one calling the shots?*

Purple Martin: The internal settings for migration – and the external – the sun, stars, and magnetic poles – have served us just fine since long before humans were around. But migration is a genetic, not cognitive response. It took generations to develop and perfect. It's taken just a few decades for you people to gum it all up.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Easy my friend! We're feelin' you! I'd like to add something...

*Please! Jump right in!*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Obviously, a bird like a Black-capped Chickadee, or American Crow – birds that are basically non-migratory – can adjust a whole lot easier to shifts in regional weather. That spring you had here recently, where plants were blooming four weeks early, for example. Any bird that has less distance to cover has an adaptive advantage over us Neotropical migrants. Song Sparrows in western Canada for example, were more likely to nudge their breeding dates if they'd experienced warmer El Nino spring conditions over

several breeding seasons. Scientists have thus far documented 43 cases of birds that have begun to shift their migration patterns, and an analysis of 440 species in 19 European countries between 1950 and 2009 showed that the first arrival dates of birds have advanced an average of 2.8 days earlier per decade, but down in Uruguay, I'm in the same boat as Martin. Didn't get the memo! My food of choice is tent caterpillar. If I get here and the tent caterpillars have hatched out four weeks early, I'm in a world of hurt. And so are you when the insect outbreak goes wild.

*Interesting – and scary – point.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: But here's another thing. The farther a bird has to travel, the more sensitive it is to changes along the route. Timing is critical, but so are stopover points. Birds have relied upon stopover points – islands of habitats that allow a bird to stop and refuel during a long migration – but if these locations are compromised because of climate change, then the birds can't refuel, and they'll lack the energy resources to continue on.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Mortality rates for my species are already fifteen times higher during migration than during other non-migratory phases of our annual cycle. Climate change – combined with habitat destruction, wild cats, and picture windows – is another roadblock to me making it back north each spring.

*And that means fewer adult birds leading to less reproductive success and fewer new baby birds and ...*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: You got it! Your classic vicious circle. A great example was the summer of '02.

*The summer of '02?*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Yeah – even in California's "feast or famine" Mediterranean climate of winter rain and summer drought – most birds do just fine. Friends out there – Wrentits, Spotted & California Towhees, Rufous-crowned Sparrows – thought 2001 was a pretty good year. Nine out of ten of those

species successfully raised an average of two fledglings per pair. That's reproductive success. A year later, productivity withered and blew away like tumbleweed. 2002 was the driest year in the area's 150-year climate period. Only one in 15 pairs (among those same four species) even attempted to breed. The results? Near-total reproductive failure. Probably due to lack of food.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: I have friends out west telling me the same thing; MacGillivray's Warblers in central Arizona depend upon Canyon Maple for nesting habitat. As the trees have dried up and died out, the birds have also deserted the area.

Wood Thrush: Climate change touches every part of our life cycle! It's not just during the breeding season. In winter, we're a lot less territorial, so we pack it in tight. As wintering habitats shrink, more and more birds are concentrated in the good habitat that remains.

Well, your scientists have identified twenty-five habitat "hotspots" in the tropics that harbor about 44% of the world's vascular plants and 35% of its mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians – in just 1.4 % of the planet's land area! These "hotspots" have already lost 70 % of their natural vegetation. If those critical habitats continue to disappear, it could mean mass extinction for thousands of species of plants and animals.

*Canvasback, you're the only one here who isn't a long-distance or "neotropical migrant."*

Canvasback: No. I'm what's called a short-distance migrant – but that's only because it seems short to you!

*Touché! What are we talking about in terms of distance? The Prairie Potholes to winters in the Gulf States?*

Canvasback: That's right. I spent this past summer in Manitoba, migrated north and south through your Mississippi Valley, and hope to be in Louisiana for New Year's, flight feathers willing!

*Continued on Page 12*



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## CLIMATE ACTION *Continued from Page 1*

spoke about how asthma impacts her life. She spoke about her need to check the air advisory report each morning to try to anticipate what kind of day she will have. That morning she questioned whether she should even go to Chicago because of the ‘orange’ rating, indicating unhealthy air quality for those in sensitive groups. According to the American Lung Association, soot pollution from coal-fired power



plants has been linked to over 550,000 asthma attacks, 38,000 heart attacks, and 22,000 avoidable deaths annually in the United States. In Wisconsin, 123,000 children and over 400,000 adults struggle with asthma.

Most of the testimony was focused on the larger reasons people took time off work and spent 6 hours on a bus to get there—a strong desire to see real action on climate change. Many spoke about the concerns they have for their children and grandchildren. They want future generations to grow up in a Wisconsin where they experience snowy winters, safe lake swimming, and hiking and fishing in our beautiful north woods. All of this is jeopardized by climate change.

Others mentioned dramatic and extreme weather changes we are already seeing. Farmers expressed concerns about poor crop production. Others talked about not being able to take their kids apple- or cherry-picking as a result of the heat wave and drought of 2012. Some participants testified that allergies have become worse and worse as the seasons change more dramatically and quickly.

The *Nature* study also reported that we still have the ability to stop the worst effects of climate change - if we act now. The most urgent need is a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, our economy will benefit by enacting strong carbon rules, both by creating thousands of clean energy jobs and by switching from increasingly costly, dangerous fossil fuels. Many at the EPA hearing spoke of wanting to see transitions to proven energy sources like wind and solar to relieve our economic woes. Participants also spoke out strongly in favor of investing heavily in energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption, lower utility bills, and create jobs that cannot be shipped overseas. Studies have shown that Focus on Energy, Wisconsin’s energy efficiency program, returns \$2.30 for every dollar invested in the program. Additionally, an increase in the program could create between 7,000 and 13,000 jobs. Wind energy already employs between 2,000 and 3,000 people in Wisconsin according to the American Wind Energy Association. Last, solar energy employs over 1,670 Wisconsin

people, including those working in manufacturing, sales, and installation, earning Wisconsin the rank of 13th for solar jobs per capita in the US, according to the Solar Foundation’s 2011 Nation Solar Jobs Census. Clean-energy investments create 16.7 jobs for every \$1 million in spending, while an equal investment in fossil fuels only creates 5.3 jobs according to a study by the Center for American Progress.

Enacting strong EPA carbon pollution rules for existing and new coal and gas power plants will reap immeasurable benefits now and well into our future. We look forward to the draft rules, which should be out next year. At that time we’ll need our members and supporters to travel to the next EPA hearing to advocate for strong climate change action. Stay tuned to [wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org) for the announcement of the draft rules and plan to speak out in favor of these rules. ☕

## VICTORY *Continued from Page 1*

from neighbors that had fallen victim to ‘wind turbine syndrome’ propaganda. The Public Service Commission (PSC), the Wisconsin state agency responsible for regulating energy projects, rejected the proposal, despite the immense benefits.

While it’s true that all forms of energy have downsides, we obviously must “keep the lights on.” Therefore, it is important to have standards for each form of energy, including clean energy sources



like wind. This is why Wisconsin has a Wind Siting Law, a policy created by a range of stakeholders over several years designed to create business certainty and overcome the patchwork of local regulations that has threatened clean energy development in Wisconsin. Although the Highland Wind farm was able to abide by the allowable noise levels under the current Wind Siting Law, the PSC claimed that it came too close to the allowable levels and improperly prohibited the wind farm. The Highland Wind Farm developer, Emerging

Energies, appealed the decision and the PSC agreed to re-open the case.

In response, Sierra Club members submitted dozens of comments to the PSC asking that the carefully crafted Wind Siting law be the standard and that the PSC approve clean, renewable forms of energy to help begin reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

The PSC finally approved the wind farm on September 26. The Highland Wind Farm will create over 100 jobs during construction and up to 8 permanent jobs. Over the next 30 years, it will provide \$4.8 million in revenue to Forest Township, and over \$6.8 million to St. Croix County. The most significant commercial activity in the Town of Forest is farming. The 25 host landowners will benefit from lease payments offered by the Highland Wind Farm, and this income is critical for anchoring the many family farms in this area. This is a huge victory for clean air and clean energy jobs in the small town of Forest and for the entire state. So celebrate! ☕



# THE GREEN REVIEW

## BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

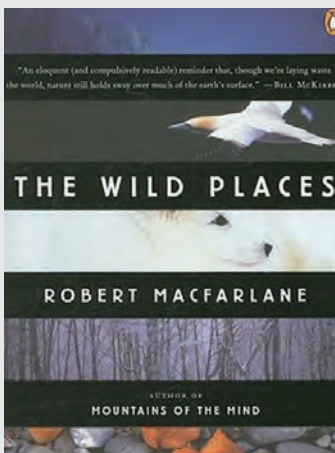
by Amy Lou Jenkins.



### The Wild Places

Robert Macfarlane, Penguin, 2008, 321 pages

We step outside of the United States with Robert Macfarlane's *The Wild Places*. Although we live in a culture of predominately western thought, the "mother country" of the British Isles (England, Ireland and Wales) carries, perhaps, little relevance to our sense of wonder at the natural world. The Old World is often seen as paved over and ridden with a long history of human impact. England evokes images of Buckingham Palace and Tudor houses, while Ireland captivates with its castles and pubs. Surely, kilt wearers march and blow bagpipe down oddly-angled cobblestone streets in Scotland, while sheep graze pastures in Wales and tight-pants crooners like Tom Jones dream of hitting it big in the US. Macfarlane shatters these stereotypes as he tours the wild places that nurtured the development of western ideology.



The journey begins in a Beechwood tree. Macfarlane roosts in high branches, much like our John Muir did as his thoughts flourished atop a Douglas Fir in *The Mountains of California*. Macfarlane imagines a journey and a book that will allow him to explore the wild places that "step outside of human history." While the wild places are those few landscapes without human development, these wild places offer connection to the development of human culture. His tour quickly establishes itself at multilayered. The writing is dotted with references that blur the boundaries between prose and verse. In a remnant wood left from a prehistoric vast tract of Scottish Highland forest that was severely attenuated in 3000 BC (by ancient climate shifts during the cold and wet Atlantic period), Macfarlane offers an account of walking the Black Wood in early spring:

"Around dusk, there was a drop in the wind, and coppery clouds pulled slowly overhead, their high cold bosses still struck with the light of the low sun. Then it started to snow – the light flakes ticking down through the air, settling on every upturned surface. A flake fell on the dark cloth of my jacket and melted into it, like a ghost passing through a wall."

Flakes and their accumulations in dark forests remnants throughout the British Isles inspired the Snow Queen of Narnia's landscape, winter running wolves in John Masefield's *Box of Delights*, and set the romantic backdrop to the 14th century literary quest to define chivalry in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.

Literary references accents accounts of starry sleep-outs, freezing tramps and phosphorescent swims in places like the valley of Coruisk on the Isle of Skye and the summit of Ben Hope in Scotland. At the Skellig Islands, we learn that while an Anglo-Saxon wrote a tale of wild beasts to be conquered in Beowulf, monks on the Skelligs were writing the praises of wild abundance.

Read with an atlas nearby to enhance the travel adventure aspect of the book. Read with a journal at hand to record the thoughts this kind of layered literature evokes. Read with consideration of a need to continue your armchair travel of the wild world. Macfarlane has surely taught us that beyond the blend and clash of cultures in the UK and the US, our complicated US culture originates in unadulterated lands all over the world.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. Contact her at [www.AmyLou-Jenkins.com](http://www.AmyLou-Jenkins.com) for inquires and information about how to forward review copies for consideration.

## River Touring Section Annual Meeting Saturday, January 4, 2014

The annual meeting of the John Muir Chapter's River Touring Section will be held Saturday, January 4, 2014 at the Summit Village Hall located at 2911 N. Dousman Rd., outside of Oconomowoc. Socializing starts at 11am. Pot-luck lunch at noon, followed by a brief business meeting.

Our main goal is to fill our 2014 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 details, contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, [eddyout@gmail.com](mailto:eddyout@gmail.com)



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The Ela Activist Fund is an unrestricted, non-tax-deductible fund that supports the John Muir Chapter's efforts to recruit the next generation of Sierra Club members; to elect conservation champions to local, state and federal office; and to enhance our legislative lobbying presence in the State Capitol to support lasting policies to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. The fund is named in memory of Jonathan Ela, a lifetime Sierra Club member and environmentalist who dedicated his life to preserving ecosystems and protecting water and land for future generations. Thank you to all who supported this fund in 2013.

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## ASK THE BIRDS *Continued from Page 7*

*So no matter how you frame it, you still face some of the same stressors these other birds do?*

Canvasback: Yes – only it's not the forests that concern us ducks – but the wetlands. At least half the Great Plains potholes have been drained or altered over the last century.

*A "pothole" is a pond in the middle of all those grasslands, correct?*

Canvasback: Thousands of ponds created by the passing of glaciers. And each one of those ponds is home and hearth to ducks and other birds.

*I hear that "ethanol" is a four-letter word to ducks? And King Corn is a serious threat to prairie wetlands?*

Canvasback: Ever since the abandonment of the Conservation Reserve Program, grasslands and ponds have been sacrificed on the altar of increased corn acreage. And scientists calculate that if pond numbers decline by half, the number of ducks drop by half. Climate change only magnifies the problem.

*How so?*

Canvasback: To raise our young, ducks need a pond to retain its water for about 100 days. But with only 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit of warming, this "hydroperiod" would be reduced by two thirds. The farther west you go in the Great Plains – where it is already more arid --the worse it'd get. For us to escape the arid sweep of climate change we'd theoretically have to move east – into places like Wisconsin – where there is already great pressure to develop wetlands.

*You are welcome you know. We like ducks here!*

Canvasback: The proof of any welcome is in the habitat. And I'm not convinced Wisconsin is any better than anywhere else.

Wood Thrush: Agreed. I love this place, but fact is I'm nervous.

Purple Martin: Me, too. There's no sign what-so-ever that urban sprawl is slowing, and human population on Earth is currently growing at a rate of around 1.14% per year. Every bird in this room knows its species' population has declined steadily since before their lifetimes, while you humans gain 80 million members each year.

*This is one of those moments where words fail me. Even apologies seem insufficient.*

Purple Martin: Words and apologies do little to make things right, especially with wild animals who don't trade in them. But I think the human race could do a lot better than that. They could offer actions – especially in the form of changed attitudes and behaviors.

Birds: Amen!

*Well, I'd like to thank all of you for your honesty and insight. On behalf of humans everywhere, I can assure you that some of us are listening and are willing to help do something about climate change. I wish you safe travels, wherever it is you are bound.*

Birds: Thanks!

*Steve Betchkal, an award-winning professional journalist, is the author of "All of This & Robins Too: a Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin" and "Make Birds Not War." <http://manymorebirds.webs.com/>*

## *With Gratitude...* for our 50th Anniversary Sponsors

We offer our sincere gratitude to all whose generosity made it possible for the John Muir Chapter to celebrate 50 years of conservation leadership in 2013. The many reminders of our long and proud history in Wisconsin have served to reinvigorate our members and supporters. We enter the New Year poised to build upon the chapter's legacy.



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JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

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# 2013 Chapter Award Winners Recognized

Each year the John Muir Chapter pauses to recognize a handful of individuals and organizations whose actions have made a difference in our efforts on statewide environmental issues. This year's awards were presented when 100 Sierra Club members and supporters from throughout Wisconsin gathered at the Green Lake Conference Center for our Autumn Assembly, October 11-13. Award winners included:

- **H&H Solar Energy Services** received the Torchbearer Award, given to organizations external to the Club for consistently promoting practices that protect the environment. Madison-based H&H received the award for expanding energy efficiency and clean, renewable solar and wind energy throughout Wisconsin, avoiding over 4 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions every year. They also received the award for partnering with the Chapter in our new Solar Homes program which offers a discount to Sierra Club members and support for the Chapter's conservation work for each installed solar system.
- **Chuck Quirnbach** received the Good Citizen Award, given to individuals external to the club who champion innovative programs or processes that protect the environment. Although the Wisconsin Public Radio reporter could not accept this award at our event, he was recognized for his comprehensive coverage of environmental issues in Wisconsin, including mining, wolf ecology, and the impacts of excess phosphorus on our lakes, rivers and beaches.
- Chapter Chair **Liz Wessel** received the JJ & Pat Werner Award, given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter who display an undying commitment to the goals and missions of the chapter. Liz received the award for implementing strategic planning, for her efforts on our Fundraising and Membership Committees, and for planning the Chapter's inspiring 50th Anniversary celebration featuring Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.
- Former teacher and sand mining activist **Pat Popple** received the Wildflower Award, given to a mentor for new and existing activists and to an educator who promotes a positive image for the Club. Popple founded Concerned Chippewa Citizens, which later merged with other groups to become the Save The Hills Alliance. She publishes The Frac Sand Sentinel, a weekly e-newsletter on current sand mining topics around the country and she participates in national Sierra Club groups on and frac sand mining.
- Clean Energy Committee Member **Carol Johnson** received the New Activist Award for her enthusiastic participation in Sierra Club issues and in the organization, for her efforts to support the Highland Wind Farm and to garner local support for clean energy choice which allows landowners to host renewable energy systems owned by others on their property.



- Clean Transportation Committee Member **Hans Noeldner** received the Merit Award, given to a Sierra Club leader who actively carries the Sierra Club message to decision-makers and the concerned public. Noeldner won the award for encouraging dozens of mayors and other local officials to support increased transit investments in the state budget, for writing clean transportation editorials, and for riding his bicycle from Oregon WI to Lake Delton, WI to testify in support of safe walking, biking, and transit at the state budget hearing.

Is there an environmental champion who you feel deserves recognition for contributions to the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter's mission? Please visit the website for details on how to make a nomination <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/awards.asp> or contact Awards Chair Lacinda Athen at [lacinda.athen@gmail.com](mailto:lacinda.athen@gmail.com)

## Wisconsin attorney receives national Sierra Club award



*Pictured from left to right: Jamie Saul-Sierra Club Legal Chair, award recipient David Bender-Beyond Coal Campaign, Jim Steffens-John Muir Chapter Executive Committee and Bruce Nilles, Beyond Coal Campaign Senior Director.*

David Bender recently received the William O. Douglas Award, a national Sierra Club award recognizing those who have made outstanding use of the legal and judicial process to achieve environmental goals, particularly those with national significance.

Bender, an attorney at McGillivray, Westerberg & Bender, is a key player in the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, whose legal victories have triggered coal plant retirements, prevented new coal plant construction, and required forest protection and renewable energy investments reducing climate change threats in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. Senior Campaign Director Bruce Nilles presented the award at the chapter's Autumn Assembly, October 12th.

# Autumn Assembly Recap 2013

By Carol Johnson

This year's gathering of the John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly was held October 11 – 13 at the Green Lake Conference Center. Those attending enjoyed a beautiful fall weekend on Green Lake that included a tour of the Glacier Hills Wind Park and hikes through Dawson's Prairie and John Muir County Park. While the weekend was full of good food, camaraderie, musical entertainment and invigorating walks, members also heard presentations on a variety of environmental issues including iron and frac sand mining, clean energy and transportation alternatives.

The keynote speaker this year was Tom Heberlein, author of *Navigating Environmental Attitudes*. Tom's presentation focused on going beyond education to build campaigns that play on existing public attitudes to make structural changes and develop lasting norms as strategies to successfully influence mining proposals. Attendees also participated in workshops to write more effective letters to the editor and learned of the devastating damage factory farming is causing to our water resources, specifically in Kewaunee and Door Counties.

On Saturday night, awards were presented to a variety of individuals whose efforts in 2013 resulted in significant contributions to the work of the chapter. While 2013 has been filled with many challenges, we must also look back and acknowledge the successes in our work. Coal plants are being retired, or better yet, not even built; communities are paying closer attention to the damage done by frac sand operations; individuals are standing up against big oil and coal influences and speaking out for more renewable energy options. All of this thanks to the efforts of members of the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter. ♻️



## Thank You to our 2013 Autumn Assembly Sponsors & Silent Auction Donors

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The Spice House  
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We also thank Michael Brune, Andrew Carroll, John Frantz, Pat Peckham, Jeff Sytsma, Jay & Melissa Warner, Rosemary & David Wehnes & Liz Wessel for their individual item donations!



# REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2014 QUETICO/BOUNDARY WATERS PADDLING ADVENTURES

Ontario Canada's Quetico Provincial Park offers one of the world's unique and premier canoeing experiences. If you've heard, read, or dreamed about paddling this location, now is your opportunity to explore the area with experienced guides for a fraction of an outfitter's price. Share your spirit of adventure and love of nature's wonders with new friends by paddling, portaging and camping in this pristine wilderness. Expect to see wildlife that voyagers, trappers and ancient Ojibway saw as you travel the same waterways they traversed centuries ago. Learn the history of how this storied wilderness came to be as you encounter clear drinkable waters, star-lit skies and deafening silence. With layover days planned for swimming, photography, fishing, hiking, exploring or just plain relaxing, these trips will have you reminiscing for years to come.

All Quetico trip leaders are experienced veterans of the area with Wilderness First Aid and outings leadership training. No experience is required, but you will find a positive attitude and physical fitness essential. Crews are always limited to a maximum of nine participants unless otherwise noted. Prices include all group supplies, equipment, food and lodging - including park permits and taxes. Not included are pre/post trip travel costs, passports, personal permits and fishing licenses. Contact a trip leader for additional information or with specific questions. ☘



## **August 1-10, 2014** (8 days, 7 nights)

Trip Leader Nancy McDermott, njmcderm@gmail.com (608-238-1421)

Departure point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN

Trip cost \$600

This trip is designed for participants who want to maximize fishing time or for those who relish relaxing at camp and eating fresh fish. We will double portage (to keep packs lighter) to one or two base camps. Enjoy delicious home-cooked meals with camp-baked treats.

## **August 1-9 2014** (8 days, 7 nights)

Leader Mike McQuilkin, sumcqu@comcast.net (253-219-9208) and Scott McQuilkin, lo86blazer@aol.com (253-988-4394)- Cascade Chapter Outing

Departure point: International Falls, MN / Atikokan, ON

Trip cost \$600

Put in on the northern side of the Park on Nym Lake and do a loop down to Lake Kashipiwi and back. Layover days and fishing opportunities make this a relaxing trip. Less trafficked area of the park makes this one even more remote.

## **August 8 - 17, 2014** (8 days, 7 nights)

Leader: Vicki Christianson, ctn44958@centurytel.net (715-827-0379)

Departure point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.

Trip cost: \$600

Participants get to choose from two route options that include a variety of lakes, portages, streams, wildlife, waterfalls, Ojibway pictographs, fishing opportunities and lengths. Enjoy unparalleled scenery, voyageur history, and two restful layover days at gorgeous wilderness campsites.

Other trips of interest offered by our leaders.

## **June 5-9, 2014** (5 days, 4 nights)

Trip leader: Nancy McDermott, njmcderm@gmail.com (608-238-1421)

Departure point: Watersmeet, MI

Trip cost: \$250

Join five other women for canoe and portage camping in the Sylvania Wilderness. This mini "Boundary Waters" has 34 named lakes with sandy beaches and record-sized red and white pines. This trip is ideally suited for women wanting a gentle introduction to wilderness canoe camping.

## **September 25-28, 2014** (4 days, 3 nights)

Trip leader: Nancy McDermott, njmcderm@gmail.com (608-238-1421)

Departure point Trego, WI

Trip cost: \$150

Enjoy the autumn colors on a leisurely float on a women-only trip covering 25 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Namekagon River in northern WI. Limited to 6 participants.

A portion of trip fees support the John Muir Chapter Outings Program and the chapter's ability to offer these trips annually. Additional contributions to this fund are always welcome.

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

**LIABILITY WAIVER & CARPOOLING:** While no experience is required, all participants must fill out medical history and canoe experience forms, and then be approved by their trip leader before participating in an outing. All approved crew members must sign a liability waiver to participate. All forms are available for preview to any prospective participant.

In the interests of facilitating logistics for some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements to the departure point. Sierra Club outings insurance does not cover the time prior to, or following, the outing when crew may still travel together. Therefore, carpooling, ride sharing or similar activities are private arrangements among participants.

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

# JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

## EXCOM MEETINGS

**Jan 11** Executive Committee Meeting  
First United Methodist Church, Baraboo @ 10am

## 2014 EVENTS

**January 4** Sierra Club - River Touring Section Meeting  
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>

**January 10** RENEW WI Policy Summit  
<http://www.renewwisconsin.org/>

**February 2** World Wetlands Day

**Feb 27-Mar 1** MOSES Organic Farming Conference  
<http://mosesorganic.org/conference>

**Feb 28-Mar 1** WI Environmental Health Network Making the Connection Conference, WEHNmail@gmail.com

**March 7-9** Canoecopia, Alliant Energy Center, Madison  
<http://www.canoecopia.com>

**March 22** UN World Water Day

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

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15a	Total no. of copies (net press run)	12,191	12,338
15b1	Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	11,857	12,008
15b2	Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	0	0
15b3	Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS	0	0
15b4	Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	5	5
15c	Total paid distribution	11,862	12,113
15d1	Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d2	Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d3	Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	5	5
15d4	Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail	250	150
15e	Total free or nominal rate distribution	255	155
15f	Total distribution	12,117	12,268
15g	Copies not distributed	74	70
15h	Total	12,191	12,338
15i	Percent paid	97.9%	98.18%
16	Statement of Ownership will be printed in the January/February/March issue of this publication.		
17	Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner		

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