

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN - [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

## Why Waukesha's Water Proposal May Threaten the Great Lakes

By Jim Kerler, John Muir Chapter Chair; Cheryl Nenn, Milwaukee Riverkeeper and Shahla Werner Ph.D., former Chapter Director

It's no secret – people around the world are short on water. Growing population, changing climate, rising pollution and stressed aquatic ecosystems make clean, fresh water a coveted resource. Fortunately we have plenty here in Wisconsin. We can count on the vast "Great Lakes." Or can we?

Eight states and two Canadian provinces border the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the earth's fresh surface water, supplying 42 million people with drinking water. Tourism and recreation support over 217,000 jobs in the Great Lakes region. Many of us are keenly aware of their vastness and significance, and how they shape our quality of life.

In the past, proposals to divert Great Lakes water outside of the Great Lakes Basin have envisioned tankers of water shipped to foreign countries or water pipelines to the desert southwest. We recognized the threats from the past proposals, and rose to protect our water from these outside interests, but what about the interests of our neighbors and ourselves? Demand for Great Lakes water is now coming from within the Great Lakes states. The City of Waukesha has requested a diversion of Great Lakes water to address cancer-causing radium in their drinking water from their deep well, and aquifer draw-downs caused by population growth and increased water usage. Waukesha's water diversion proposal is a highly significant and controversial case, and a decision to allow it would set an important precedent for future seekers of Great Lakes water.



The City of Waukesha's proposal is regulated under the Great Lakes Compact, historic 2008 legislation to protect our waters in the Great Lakes, passed by eight Great Lakes states and enacted by President George W. Bush in 2008, with an *Continued on page 3*

### Autumn Assembly: Local Acts, Statewide Impacts

By Don Ferber, Four Lakes Group

Why is our statewide, annual gathering called Autumn Assembly? Autumn fits – the event is held the first weekend of October. So does "assembly" from the root word "assemble," meaning to gather together – which is what our members do. But Webster tells us that assemble also means to put together, as to actively integrate a collection of parts.

That's key to this year's Autumn Assembly. The John Muir Chapter (JMC) is defined by the collective grouping of members from around the state. Each of us is part of the JMC, and we invite all John Muir Sierrans to unify and come together to form a greater whole. More than a collection of bodies, we're assembling individuals with many perspectives from diverse settings, collecting our experiences and wisdom, adding in new knowledge, offering additional tools, and drawing upon our passions to create something bigger. Beyond what's in our minds, we bring our hearts, the joy we feel, the frustrations *Continued on page 12*



James Edward Mills, Keynote Speaker

**Volume 53**  
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From the Chair	2
Budget in Brief	4
Mining Update	5
Issues At A Glance	6
Tar Sands Update	8
Green Review	9
River Touring Section Schedule	10
Quetico Canoe Trips	13
Autumn Assembly Schedule	14
Autumn Assembly Registration	15
Chapter Calendar	16

# FROM THE CHAIR

I write this from a Wisconsin northwoods shoreline where I have come repeatedly since the year before I was born. This has always been a place for family gatherings, sights and sounds of nature and for stepping off on an outdoor adventure. Here I have developed most of my own connection to nature, and over decades, my appreciation for nature's restorative abilities – as well as its fragility in the face of human endeavors.

As we enter the summer tourist season I know my presence contributes to the stress we all inadvertently put on nature, and the more aware and sensitive we can be toward our impacts, the more nature's resilience will carry the day. Lakes and streams draw us to swim, paddle, sail or just meditate on the wondrous colors of a sunset. We love our Wisconsin water, and can continue to enjoy it if we care for it!

I truly hope that by the time you read this, Wisconsin's legislature will have restored more of the conservation programs, people and funding torpedoed in Governor Walker's budget proposal. Some of our leaders may not regard Wisconsin land, water and air with the next generation in mind. At times they seem to value these resources as commodities to be consumed until exhausted, defiled or bartered for political favor. And shortsighted legislators may insert special interest legislation into the budget at the 11th hour – measures that further eliminate a county's ability to regulate agricultural practices or to protect citizens from pipeline spills. The Legislature and Governor may add a last minute "Wild West" groundwater law that ignores family wells in favor of the perpetual high-capacity well permits coveted by big agribusiness operations.

But politicians do answer to the voting public. Many in the environmental community as well as hunters, fishers and educators have spoken up for conservation investment and funding. Hopefully this will have been enough. If not, perhaps we can partner again to help the Governor and Legislature feel it in the next election.

This *Muir View* features a recap of the City of Waukesha's request to withdraw water from distant Lake Michigan. A July 25 outing sponsored by the Sierra Club Water Sentinels will focus on the implications of this request

to the Root River watershed. In fact, Waukesha's request has important implications toward the entire Great Lakes system, and the approval process rightfully involves multiple states and Canadian provinces.

I want to thank Cheryl Nenn for her expert collaboration on this article. With the title of Riverkeeper at Milwaukee Riverkeeper, she is directly engaged on this issue. Thanks also to former John Muir Chapter Director Shahla Werner for contributing the foundations of this article.

Yes, as many know, Shahla has already left us in a career change that will have her flexing her entomological muscles in controlling damage from gypsy moths that have been invading Wisconsin. At her new post with the State of Wisconsin she will use her Ph.D. in entomology to work for the good of Wisconsin ecosystems. Shahla has been a thoughtful, knowledgeable and articulate leader and we will miss her dearly. Above all though, we wish her well in her new position!

In the meantime we have been lining up interviews with candidates for the position of Chapter Director. We plan to have this key vacancy filled during August. Our other talented staff members, Elizabeth Ward and Jacinda Tessmann, will continue to run our conservation programs and chapter office, respectively. To assist in the transition over the next few months we plan to hire a recent college graduate to work as a part-time apprentice. Our thousands of Wisconsin members and supporters need and expect the important work of Sierra Club to continue and we will not disappoint you. Get involved and lend your support!

In my early years the land was still recovering from the great cutovers of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Today, large red and white pines are again rising above the surrounding forest.



The logging railroad spurs with their cuts and grades have healed over and are almost invisible through the second and third growth trees, but most lakes are today ringed with cottages and homes. Much of the emergent aquatic vegetation that harbored fish and waterfowl has succumbed to the wash from larger and more powerful boat traffic. Loons may or may not find a suitable place for a nest.

When it's all over and done we are likely to be disappointed on more than one budget outcome. But we will persevere and hold legislator's feet to the fire.

If we lose ground due to suppression of scientific oversight of challenges we face from depletion of ground and surface waters, runoff and toxic blue-green algae on our beaches, chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in fish, we need to reach out to each other and our neighbors to educate and hold the perpetrators accountable.

Better yet would be to respectfully communicate with legislators, who may simply be ill-informed, and prevent bad legislation.

Stick with us – we need you! Keep walkin' and talkin' with your neighbors, friends and state and local elected officials. We are doing the right things for the right reasons. Everyone benefits from good stewardship of land, water and air!

*Jim Kerler*

*Chair, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter*

**Great Lakes Threat** *Continued from page 1*  
 accompanying international agreement with Ontario and Quebec. The Compact requires water conservation within the basin and sets consistent, ecosystem-based standards for assessing diversion requests outside of the basin -- both to straddling communities and straddling counties. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) granted its first Great Lakes Compact diversion request to the city of New Berlin in 2009. Members of the eight-state Great Lakes Council oversee implementation of the Compact, but were not required to approve this request, as New Berlin straddles the Great Lakes basin and is considering a "straddling community."

The City of Waukesha is outside the Great Lakes basin – it drains through Illinois' Fox River to the Mississippi. However, it is within basin-straddling Waukesha County. All eight Great Lakes states will need to approve Waukesha's request--the protocol for communities located in "straddling counties"--and the two Canadian provinces will also be consulted for feedback prior to a vote by the Compact states.

The John Muir Chapter of Sierra Club, Milwaukee Riverkeeper and other partners in the Great Lakes Compact Implementation Coalition have serious concerns about Waukesha's water diversion request.

If approved, this request could set a dangerous precedent of allowing communities locat-

ed outside the Great Lakes basin to divert the lakes' water resources.

Waukesha's request lacks adequate and meaningful consideration of alternatives to diversion, which is a concern because the Compact requires that a requesting community show they have no reasonable water supply alternatives.

We are alarmed about the high volume of water requested (10.1 million gallons of water per day with a maximum day diversion of 16.7 million gallons per day), which is well in excess of current demand and current water use trends. Waukesha's request includes an expansion in service area of nearly 50 percent to include portions of the city of Pewaukee and the townships of Waukesha, Genesee and Delafield. These communities have not demonstrated they need alternative water supplies, nor are they meeting other Compact provisions such as implementing meaningful water conservation programs prior to requesting a diversion.

There is serious potential to negatively impact water quality, water quantity and aquatic life from the proposed return flow of treated wastewater to Lake Michigan through the Root River. A rigorous analysis would be required to determine how much pollution could be added to these already impaired waterways to ensure that return flow does not lead to "backsliding" related to achieving goals for water quality and fish and aquatic life.

In 2013, the city of Waukesha held public meetings on their updated application, and the WDNR is now preparing a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on their request. Significant changes and additions to the application have been posted to the WDNR website as addendum: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WaterUse/WaukeshaDiversionApp.html>

The WDNR was to release the draft EIS and its technical review of Waukesha's application in June. Public hearings will likely occur in July, and the public comment period will be 45 days from the date the documents are posted for review. If Wisconsin approves this request, the eight-state Great Lakes Compact Council would need to approve it before a diversion could occur. There would also be time for public comment to the Council, additional public hearings scheduled locally, as well as time included to consult with Canadian provinces.

Sierra Club members can help secure lasting protections for our state's fragile water resources by participating in the hearings and public comment cycle. Contact the John Muir Chapter office in Madison (see below) or access our website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin> to learn more and stay informed about your opportunity to comment. Together, we can secure serious review of the city of Waukesha's application to divert water from Lake Michigan.

**JOIN US**

## **Building Awareness of the Great Lakes Compact – One Small Piece at a Time**

Join the Wisconsin John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club Water Sentinels from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, July 25 at Root River Environmental Education Community Center, 1301 West 6th Street, Racine, Wisconsin.

Begin the day with an overview by Dr. Julie Kinzelman of the City of Racine Health Department Laboratory. Dr. Kinzelman has been active in many restoration projects in the watershed ranging from hands-on work with volunteers to writing technical grants that support restoration projects.

For lunch you can bring a brown bag or pay for a catered lunch from a local-sourcing restaurant in Racine. Between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., we'll paddle along the Root River to view an urban river restoration and gain a better understanding of the impacts of water diversion from the watershed. A limited number of canoes and kayaks will be available for rent or participants may bring their own. More information and registration can be found on the chapter website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/outings-events>

## **THE MUIR VIEW**

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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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### **Deadline:**

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### **Change of Address:**

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:  
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# STATE BUDGET IN BRIEF

By Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

As I write this, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), the budget committee responsible for making the initial revisions to Governor Walker's proposed budget, is still debating the 2015-17 Biennial Budget. We have grave concerns about this budget for a handful of reasons. The budget originally stripped the Natural Resources Board (NRB) of power, recommended bonding \$1.3 billion for transportation, while not increasing funding for transit, and in fact eliminated state-funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure. It also cut positions from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) related to science, and a whole lot more. As you're reading this, the final budget has probably passed the full Senate and Assembly and has or soon will be signed by Governor Walker. You can find the most up-to-date information on our website. Here is a breakdown of what we've been watching so far:

## **DNR Science Positions**

We are dismayed to see that proposed cuts to 66 positions at the DNR – especially 33 related to science, education and research – have passed the Joint Finance Committee. It is dangerous to cut science staff at a time when Wisconsin's natural resources face daunting, unprecedented threats, from climate change to the proposed open-pit iron mine to the proliferation of frac sand mines to Chronic Wasting Disease and more. Having in-house scientific experts at the DNR is the foundation of sound management and policymaking.

## **Natural Resources Board Authority**

Thanks to your calls and contacts with your legislators, the Natural Resources Board will maintain its authority. Reducing the authority of the Natural Resources Board would have concentrated even more power in the Executive Branch and further reduced opportunities for citizen participation on natural resource issues affecting their daily lives. This change would also have reduced the authority of the Conservation Congress by making it an advisory board to an advisory board. The Conservation Congress is the statutory body created by Aldo Leopold and others in 1934, in which citizens elect delegates to advise the NRB on managing Wisconsin's natural resources. Removing NRB authority would also make it impossible to restore an independent DNR Secretary. Even more troubling, this change would also give the DNR Secretary, currently Cathy Stepp, a former developer and State Senator with an abysmal environmental voting record, sole authority over public land

sales and purchases. Fortunately, in early April, the JFC removed this suggestion from the budget, protecting the board. Both co-chairs of the committee said the outcry they heard about this proposal led to the decision. Your voice matters, you used it, and it worked. Thank you.

## **Transportation Budget**

Governor Walker proposed borrowing \$1.3 billion (largely for highway expansions), while cutting state funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which funds programs like bicycle infrastructure, Safe Routes to Schools, and more. Additionally, the budget does not address the high demand for funding for transit systems or the crumbling infrastructure of our local roads.

Partnering with 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WisPIRG), we created an alternative budget (<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/press-releases>) that would address these budget shortfalls and help reduce bonding. We recommended that instead of borrowing almost a billion dollars just to expand highways, we postpone or eliminate a handful of highway expansion projects, especially those in which current traffic counts make it seem unlikely if not impossible to meet the projections listed. For example, the budget provided \$20 million in this biennium for an almost \$145 million bypass of Highway 15 in Hortonville. The Department of Transportation justified this project with traffic projections of a 61.2% increase in traffic between 2007 and 2020. In reality, from 2000-2010, the amount of driving in the corridor has actually declined 22.9%. Cancelling or postponing this project would free up funding and allow us to further study this corridor to determine whether the project is still needed. We found four projects with this similar pattern and postponing or cancelling these projects would free up \$499.7 million this biennium (the largest project was the expansion of I-90 from Madison to the Illinois border, which would cost \$405 million this budget). Instead of borrowing it makes sense to hold off on these projects, especially when we don't have the money to pay for them.

We recommended taking the almost \$500 million in savings and using it to increase funding to local governments to invest in local road maintenance. We've seen our local road infrastructure crumbling across Wisconsin. A report by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin found that 38% of the local roads in Wisconsin are in urgent need of repair.

At the same time, the funding for this local road maintenance has declined by 30% in the last 15 years. The Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission recommended increasing local road funding \$40 million per year and restoring and increasing funding for transit. We recommended using a portion of the \$500 million savings for this local road funding, transit and maintaining the Transportation Alternatives Program. This would leave enough funding to reduce bonding by \$380 million.

The Joint Finance Committee has decided this will be one of the last items they take up—as it is the most controversial. Committee members are between a rock and a hard place as Governor Walker said he would not allow a fee increase (taxes or registration fees) and because they have a lot of pressure from the road-builders not to cut any projects.

## **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**

Governor Walker proposed freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program until 2028, which would have eliminated the program for 13 years and made it extremely difficult to get the program back. Stewardship lands benefit all Wisconsinites by providing jobs, protecting habitat, connecting youth to outdoor learning opportunities, and recreation such as wildlife watching, fishing and hunting. Last year Sierra Club members worked with the Natural Heritage Land Trust and other groups to purchase and permanently protect 198 acres of forest, prairie and wetlands habitat adjacent to John Muir's Marquette County boyhood home, an acquisition that may not have happened without Wisconsin's Stewardship program. The Natural Resources Board purchased an easement for 21,189 acres of the 65,867 acre Brule-St. Croix Legacy Project in February to avoid losing the chance to protect this area in the event of a freeze. This property includes globally significant pine barrens, 80 lakes, and 14 miles of streams owned by the Lyme Timber Company and the Conservation Fund. Once complete, this project will greatly benefit Wisconsin's \$18 billion forest products industry and the 60,000 jobs it supports, as well as the local economies of Douglas, Bayfield, Burnett and Washburn counties. We were thrilled when the JFC decided not to maintain this freeze. We are, however, disappointed that funding was cut by 33%.

➤ Continued on page 9

# MINING UPDATE

By Dave Blouin, Mining Chair, John Muir Chapter

Final results from the annual statewide Conservation Congress Spring Hearing held on April 13 demonstrated significant statewide support in favor of mining safeguards and environmental review of Enbridge's proposed tar sands pipelines. Overwhelming majorities supported resolutions for:

- Repealing 2013 Act 1 – the law written by Gogebic Taconite for its now-abandoned iron mine proposal
- Imposing a statewide moratorium on new frac sand mining permits until the state acts to strengthen state laws
- Requiring an environmental impact review of Enbridge's tar sand pipelines proposal
- Supporting the Mining Moratorium Law in effect for metallic mining.

Each of these resolutions was approved by 3-to-1 margins or better across the state. Thanks to Sierra Club members who worked to introduce these resolutions in their counties! Even if the resolutions aren't used to draft questions for the 2016 hearing questionnaire, the hearings serve as a great place to help educate the public on the importance of these issues.

Representative Chris Danou and Senator Kathleen Vinehout have reintroduced several frac sand mining reform bills that weren't acted on last session of the legislature. Unfortunately these bills to strengthen local controls are unlikely to receive a hearing due to the GOP control of the Legislature and committees where the bills were introduced. To see which bills the John Muir Chapter is working on, go to the Legislative Tracker page on our website. We will also send action alerts should the bills be taken up for committee hearings.

Midwest Environmental Advocates led an effort last year to petition the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct an updated cumulative effects analysis of frac sand mining. That organizing effort paid off when the Natural Resources Board in January agreed with the petition and approved a new study to update one from 2012 that was out of date and failed to address a number of concerns that have evolved during the explosive growth of frac sand mines and processing facilities. The DNR has one year to finish that study and our hope is that it will guide the DNR and other policy makers to consider new or additional protections for communities struggling to protect their citizens, lands and water from damage from this intensive industrial activity.

The Conservation Congress resolution petitioning the DNR to support a statewide moratorium of new sand mining permits grew from news of the approval of the study. While we're unlikely to see a moratorium, we believe it only makes sense to call a timeout until the results of the study are released and any potential reform for protections are proposed and approved.

Great news to report from our National Board of Directors on a policy change related to hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for fossil fuels including mining sand for fracking wells. Earlier this year, the Board adopted a strong and clear policy opposing all fracking for natural gas and oil based on our commitment to eliminate the use of all fossil fuels. This policy replaces previous Club policy which had called for opposing fracking that did not meet tough environmental standards. The Board felt that an updated and unambiguous policy statement was

called for because of the significant harm that fracking has been shown to cause to our water, air, land and climate.

Finally, I hope this is the last update on the now-cancelled Gogebic Taconite (GTac) proposal. The anti-climactic ending to this fight has left many wondering why the company left and whether there were ulterior motives behind a proposal that seemed doomed from the outset. I believe GTac's proposal was always a real effort to obtain permits to mine. GTac sunk millions of dollars into drafting and passing a comprehensive law that was designed to move significant hurdles out of the way for the proposed mine. That's enough evidence alone to conclude that it was serious about getting permits to mine.

But what GTac did not understand was the depth of opposition, especially from the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. The Bad River Tribe spent precious resources working to safeguard their natural resources to ensure that unsafe mining would be blocked. They used their treaty rights to craft important air and water protections that would have raised huge compliance issues that GTac likely could not meet. The

federal government would have then been hard-pressed to approve permits if the Tribe's resources would be harmed.

At the state level, it's possible that GTac and the DNR would have been hard-pressed to defend a permit decision that violated the Public Trust doctrine in state law that holds that navigable water resources belong to every state resident and cannot be destroyed for private gain. GTac was telling the truth when it cited the unexpectedly large amount of wetlands at the site as a big problem for them. The mitigation costs for destroyed wetlands alone would have been extraordinarily expensive and could have been a big factor in the decision.

Ultimately, I'm very proud that the John Muir Chapter, along with many allied organizations, helped raise public awareness of the threats of iron mining to the unique and special Penokee Hills. We will continue to work to repeal the special interest legislation written by and for GTac, for permanent protections for the Penokees and for a sustainable economy and jobs for northern Wisconsin that does not include the permanent destruction and hazards of boom and bust mining.



**October-December Issue Deadline: Aug. 15**

# ISSUES AT A GLANCE

## Bidding a Fond Farewell to Chapter Director Shahla Werner

Shahla Werner's leadership has made us proud to be Wisconsin Sierrans. In late April Shahla moved closer to her first love—entomology—by taking a job as plant pest and disease specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

During her seven and a half years as executive director of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, Shahla projected a positive vision, working to overcome the anti-environmental agenda of the governor and legislature. Her leadership stretched from solar and renewable energy to land and forest stewardship to transit choices to counter poverty and social injustice. Shahla's committed efforts have increased our Chapter's work with youth and millennials, building a strong foundation for our future work.

Shahla has "bugged out" but not very far. If her new schedule permits, we hope to see her and her family at some upcoming Sierra Club events including the Madison Summer House Party mentioned at the right.



## Madison House Party

Sierrans and community supporters are invited to gather on Wednesday July 29, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at EVP Coffee, 3809 Mineral Point Road, Madison for the chapter's annual Locally Grown, Nationally Known fundraiser. This event features delicious appetizers made from locally sourced foods and offers a great opportunity to socialize with fellow Sierrans and featured guests. You can also come wish former Director Shahla Werner well and learn how she's doing in her new job. Plus you can honor her work by becoming a sponsor of the event or providing a donation so we can continue to carry on our work and her legacy.

Sponsorship levels are \$500, \$250 or \$100. If you are interested in sponsoring or would like to RSVP and make a donation, please contact Jacinda Tessmann at [jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org](mailto:jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org) or 608-256-0565.

## Saunter John Muir's Boyhood Neighborhood

Join the Wisconsin Friends of John Muir (WFJM) and the Sierra Club on Saturday, September 12, 2015 for a special outing to explore the boyhood neighborhood of John Muir, the first President of the Sierra Club and father of the national park system. Join this guided exploration of Muir's early years and view the landscape that inspired his early love of nature and the land. The saunter, led by Karen Wollenburg, Mark Martin and Kathleen McGwin, will include the land surrounding the family homestead near Montello, Wisconsin, Ennis Lake, Observatory Hill State Natural Area, Knight's Lake, Hickory Hill and the Wee White Kirk where John's father preached and two nephews and a brother-in-law are buried in the pioneer cemetery. The \$10.00 fee will benefit WFJM and can be paid at the event but advance registration is required. RSVP at <http://action.sierraclub.org/muirsaunter> The outing will begin at John Muir Memorial County Park, N1383 County Hwy F, Montello, WI.

## Executive Committee Nominations Sought

We need you to serve! The Chapter is now accepting applications to serve on the Executive Committee. Three at-large seats for three-year terms (beginning January 2016 and ending December 2018) will be up for election this fall. All Executive Committee members are asked to engage in activities, tasks and events in areas listed below that contribute to the Chapter's well being:

- General and operational health of the Chapter
- Membership development and retention
- Strategic planning and decision making
- Fiscal and financial health, including fundraising.

The next few years will be important ones for the Chapter as we undergo internal changes with the selection of a new Chapter Director while continuing work on the major environmental issues facing Wisconsin today. We'll

continue our already active campaign against tar sands pipeline expansion in Wisconsin; ramp up our efforts to protect native forests and wildlife and work for the repeal of recent mining legislation. We'll have opportunities to elect conservation champions at every level of government from national (president and congress) to state (governor and legislature).

A full description of Executive Committee member responsibilities is available as well as a short application form. Please contact the chapter office at [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 608-256-0565 to express your interest in serving. A member of the Nominating Committee will contact you with details on the nomination and election process. All nomination materials must be submitted by August 15, 2015. Thank you so much for offering your time, talent and resources to the John Muir Chapter!

explore, enjoy and protect the planet!

## Eggleston-Muir Land Dedication

Over 200 people gathered on June 13 for the Muir-Eggleston Land Dedication at Muir Park in Montello. The event was the culmination of an effort by the Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) who worked with Sierra Club and other nonprofit groups to purchase, restore and permanently protect 198 acres of high-quality woodland, prairie and wetland habitat. Thirty-eight of those acres were part of the land settled by John Muir's family. Congressman Petri and members of the McGwin Eggleston family, who made this special acquisition possible, were on hand for the unveiling of a memorial wall and kiosk. The day also featured guided field trips and presentations as well as refreshments and live music.

## More unfair rate hikes proposed

Last year, Sierra Club and thousands of Wisconsin citizens worked tirelessly to stop proposals by We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) and Madison Gas and Electric (MG&E) to increase their fixed rates. Imposing a fixed rate, the fee we pay just for having electricity, instead of basing those charges on the amount of electricity used, undermines clean energy and energy efficiency by reducing their return-on-investment. Despite the public outcry the PSC enacted the highest fixed charges for any regulated utilities in the Midwest.

This sent a signal to utilities about how open the PSC is to these proposals. Lamentably, we've already seen similar proposals this year from WPS and Xcel Energy. Xcel Energy has proposed increasing the fixed fee to \$18. This is especially disappointing as Xcel has been one of the most progressive utilities in the state. In Minnesota, they've invested in renewable energy. WPS has proposed increasing their fixed fee charge to \$25. This comes less than six months after the PSC approved their previous request for an 80 percent fixed-fee increase. Sierra Club has already been working with our allies to oppose these unreasonable increases.

In June, the Wisconsin PSC hosted a conference for all public service commissions. Sierra Club worked with the Alliance for Fair Utilities, Renew Wisconsin, Environmental Law and Policy Center, and others to deliver letters to all attendees exposing these bad fixed-fee policies to their peers. The full letter and up-to-date information about how to stop these fixed-fee proposals can be found online at <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin>.

## Results of Conservation Congress Resolutions Encouraging

Sierra Club members throughout Wisconsin introduced resolutions at this year's Spring Hearing of the Conservation Congress. The resolutions introduced related to tar sands pipelines, frac-sand mining, maintaining Wisconsin's sulfide mining moratorium, and repealing Act 1, or the "Bad River Watershed Destruction Act" that would pave the way for Gogebic Taconite to build a taconite mine in the Penokee Hills. The full language of the resolutions can be found online. Although the resolutions are non-binding, they are an important indicator of public opinion for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the media and legislators to consider. They also educate nearby community members.

"I don't think most people in my community recognize the threat the tar sands pipeline poses to our water resources," stated Ronni Monroe, a concerned community member near the pipeline in Lake Mills who introduced a resolution at the Jefferson hearing. She continued, "We are blessed to have the Rock River, Lake Koshkonong, and other critical waterways like it. These provide recreational areas, fishing opportunities and create the overall quality of life we all live here for."

All Sierra Club supported resolutions passed overwhelmingly and showed strong support for better oversight of mining and tar sands pipelines in Wisconsin. Each of these resolutions was approved by 3-to-1 margins or better across the state:

- Repeal of 2013 Act 1, the enabling legislation that removed many of the state's mining protections was approved in 13 of 14 counties with a vote count of 685 in favor and 190 against or 78 percent approval.
- The resolution directing the DNR to support a moratorium on new frac sand mining permits until recommendations from a recently approved DNR cumulative impacts study was approved in 14 of 15 counties with a vote count of 641 in favor and 207 against or 76 percent approval.
- The resolution supporting the current Mining Moratorium Law was approved in 9 counties

with 519 votes in favor and 102 opposed or 84 percent approval.

- The resolution calling for increased oversight and environmental impact review on the Line 61 pipeline expansion and any new tar sands pipelines passed overwhelmingly, with 86 percent voting in favor (1108-161). The resolutions passed in Adams, Chippewa, Columbia, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jefferson, Lincoln, Marquette, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pierce, Rock, St. Croix, Sawyer, Vernon and Walworth counties, 10 of which have an oil pipeline running through them.

Voting and introducing resolutions at the Spring Hearing is easy and has huge effects. Carol Balek in Hayward was nervous to introduce a resolution, but explained, "I was struck by how many people were unaware of how our community will be impacted by the proposed taconite mine in the Penokees. My neighbors didn't realize it threatens our water here in Sawyer County. It wasn't as intimidating as I had expected it to be and was very rewarding."

We plan to introduce resolutions again next year. Contact Elizabeth Ward at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565 if you are able to participate next year. The hearing is usually the first or second Monday in April.



Join us in the  
"Duck Pond"  
July 16th,  
2015

Madison  
Mallards  
vs.  
Lakeshore  
Chinooks

7:05p.m.

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



**TICKETS \$15**

Reserved Field Box Stadium seat & official Mallards hat

- \$5 of every ticket donated to the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter
- 50/50 raffle benefits Sierra Club
- First pitch will be thrown out by a Sierra Club representative

### To purchase tickets:

Go to: [www.MallardsGroups.com](http://www.MallardsGroups.com)  
Enter: Sierra

At the bottom of the page click "buy"  
Choose your seats (Green indicates available seats)

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

# TAR SANDS UPDATE

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

## **Dane County Requires Insurance on Line 61 Pumping Station; Enbridge Appeals**

Last year, Enbridge announced plans to triple the amount of oil flowing through the Line 61 pipeline. As of April, the company had received all of the state and local permits needed to increase this capacity. Dane County approved this permit on April 14 on the condition that Enbridge purchase insurance (\$100 million in General Liability and \$25 million of Environmental Impairment Liability) in order to ensure that if a spill occurs, it will be cleaned up and the County will not be on the hook to pay for cleanup costs. Many were thrilled to see this requirement since it's the only way residents in Dane County are guaranteed a full cleanup.

Not surprisingly (but still disappointing given their record), Enbridge has appealed Dane County's decision. The Dane County Board will take up the appeal at its July 16 board meeting. Sierra Club, Madison 350 and others will be on hand to speak in favor of keeping the insurance requirement. Members wishing to show their support can find meeting details on the chapter website.

## **Tar Sand Resistance March**

The Sierra Club and dozens of other concerned groups organized the Midwest Tar Sands Resistance March in St Paul, Minn. on June 6. While Enbridge and others are trying to build and expand an enormous network of tar sands pipelines from Canada into the Midwest, these pipelines, along with crude oil trains and tankers, pose a growing risk to the Great Lakes, our rivers, our communities and our climate. Thousands of people gathered in the Twin Cities for the largest anti-tar sands event ever in the region. The Sierra Club-Four Lakes Group helped provide buses from Madison to St Paul and back. Check our website for more information and pictures from the event.

## **Michigan Sierra Club Lawsuit Over Line 5**

From Michigan Sierra Club Chapter, see full press release at [sierraclub.org/Michigan](http://sierraclub.org/Michigan)

The Michigan Chapter of Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service to block a federal permit required to operate the controversial Enbridge Line 5 pipeline, which

travels from Superior through Northern Wisconsin to the Upper Peninsula and under the Straits of Mackinaw into the Lower Peninsula. The pipeline travels through the Huron-Manistee National Forest, requiring a permit from the forest service.

The Forest Service issued a permit in December, using an administrative procedure in an attempt to bypass more stringent study and analysis typically required under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). "We want the court to simply require the Forest Service to use the same standards for environmental analysis as for any other project of this type and magnitude,"



said Conservation Director Anne Woiwode of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter. "It is indefensible for the federal government to say that no environmental analysis is needed for a pipeline carrying a half-million barrels of oil a day across the Great Lakes, through a national forest and under numerous sensitive areas."

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Bay City, is the first legal challenge to the Enbridge Line 5 pipeline along its entire length (nearly 1,100 miles), and the only formal request for an environmental analysis under NEPA. The pipeline has been in operation since 1953 and has never undergone federal environmental analysis. It has operated across Forest Service lands without a valid permit since January 2013.

## **Announcing People on the Pipeline List**

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance, we are working to help set up a new forum for those living on the pipeline. This is a closed, private group specifically for landowners living on the pipeline. This can serve as a resource connecting those who have similar questions, negotiations or issues with Enbridge. Interested property owners can email [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) for more details.

## **New Pipeline Coming — Need to Continue to Educate Across the Line**

We are continuing our outreach as we identify and work with concerned community members throughout the state, especially the Line 61 corridor. This year alone we've spoken to communities in Jefferson, Columbia, Washburn, Dane and Marquette Counties. We know Enbridge is working to survey to build ANOTHER pipeline in the Line 61 corridor. The only way we can defeat this is for communities across the pipeline route to work together calling for more oversight or to stop the pipeline.



# GREEN REVIEW

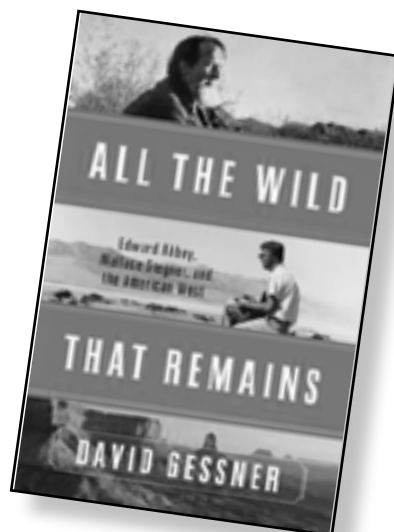
By Amy Lou Jenkins

*All the Wild that Remains; Edward Abbey, Wallace Stegner, and the American West*, by David Gessner, Norton, 2015, 320 pages.

As a Midwesterner, I lament that the East and the West often claim to own the dualistic personality of the nation, while the middle of the nation is perceived as bland, uptight and irrelevant. So I may have approached this apparent homage to the West with a chip on my shoulder. Do we need another book that celebrates the West? In only a few pages, the answer emerged: Yes.

The promise of narrative non-fiction finds fulfillment as Gessner layers the facts and interpretations of the work of Edward Abbey, Wallace Stegner, and the landscapes of their lives. Gessner isn't just providing a look back—he's taking the reader to the present day Western settings. He draws an eruditely-woven thread of relevancy through decades and landscapes.

While Abbey and Wallace shared a kinship with the West, their approach to environmental activism was so different that someone seating them at a wedding would surely choose the two chairs with the most distance between them. Abbey's *Monkey Wrench Gang* is the seminal book of ecoterrorism while Stegner (1909–93) became a special assistant to former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall under John F. Kennedy's presidency. He served on and then chaired the Advisory Board for National Parks, Historical Sites, Buildings and Monuments. Stegner authored 46 works, including 13 novels, and won a Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.



Grey, handsome and perhaps smarter than the rest of us, he presented himself in later life as a cross between the Marlboro Man and a college professor. Gessner sees Stegner's writing as tenacious yet reflecting a longing to be more. Alternatively, Gessner perceives Abbey (1927–89) as a man/writer who deeply accepted himself, a trait that his cult-like followers may have found comfort in. Abbey wrote 28 books, was a Fulbright Scholar at Edinburgh University and may be best known for his book *Desert Solitaire*, which literary scholars often claim to be as worthy as Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*. Gessner says Abbey "makes bluntness a high art." If Gessner has a favorite, this reader couldn't find the chosen one.

Insight into the lives and literature of these U.S. icons stirs us to return to the pages that

inspired a previous generation who also wanted to feel and understand their place in the interconnected web of Earth and pulse. And as we hope for from good literature, we learn and feel. We understand more fully what we have taken from the arid landscapes of the West that cannot sustain our lust for water, cattle, agriculture and fossil fuels. Gessner's probe fosters our love for the West and its icons—and consequently intensifies the pain of our losses.

While reading, we fall more deeply in love with the idea of wildness that has come to define much of the character of the U.S.; Gessner awakens us to the complexity of truth. The arid and overtaxed resources of the West serve as a touchstone for a sick Earth. How will we save the wild that sustains us—in the East, Middle, or the West?

Contrasting approaches can both be valid. For all that is different about these two writers, we need them both. The bits of wildness that remain need every kind of care and activism that is rooted in intelligent respect for the communion of place and people. Complexity inhabits the allure of *All that is Wild*. Lives are layered and contrasted. Denuded and pristine landscapes are explored. Contemplative analysis presents as lucid, sad and beautiful. The West, its legacies and perils, belong to us all. Neither Abbey, Stegner, nor even Gessner were born in the West, so being a Westerner is simply a claim. I am a Westerner.

Contact Amy at [www.AmyLouJenkins.com](http://www.AmyLouJenkins.com) to forward books for possible review. Amy Lou Jenkins is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact*.

## ☞ Budget in Brief *Continued from page 4* **Targeting Dane County**

We've also seen some surprising, heavy-handed attacks to Dane County in this budget process. The Joint Finance Committee had added a handful of provisions undermining the County's authority.

First, the committee voted to prohibit Dane County from having water standards higher than Wisconsin's minimum. Additionally, the committee prohibited the DNR from working with Dane County to enforce these water rules. Dane County has unique water rules, especially given the diverse land use from farming to large urban areas. This heavy-handed attack on local control was a surprise to the members of the JFC who reside in Dane County and no member from Dane County voted for this measure.

Later, the Joint Finance Committee superseded

the rules in place and allowed the Town of Windsor to incorporate, without going through the proper process.

Finally, it has been rumored that there will be an additional budget amendment that will be voted on in the eleventh hour of debates. Earlier this year, the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation committee voted to add a handful of conditions (including one to require that Enbridge acquire insurance in case of a spill) to a permit granted to Enbridge for a pumping station for the upgrade of its Line 61 pipeline. Opposition to this (mostly by Enbridge) reignited an idea that has historically been pushed by the towns within Dane County to allow them to opt-out of zoning. If this happens, the Town of Medina (where the pumping station is located) could opt-out of zoning and could undercut the decision to require insurance. There are also rumors of an additional amendment that may prohibit all

governments from zoning tar sands pipelines. Zoning is a critical tool that governments have to ensure sustainable development and appropriate land-use. Without it, a municipality could permit a project that is not compatible with nearby properties that are controlled by a different municipality. For example, a town could permit a large hog farm near a school within an adjacent village.

This is another example of the state legislators attacking local control and making decisions that should be made at the local level. Right now this legislation is specific to Dane County, but when the next county does something a member of the legislature doesn't like, we could see a similar attack on that county.

For the most up-to-date information on the budget and what happened, go to [the.sierraclub.org/Wisconsin](http://the.sierraclub.org/Wisconsin) and check out our blog or contact Elizabeth Ward at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565.

# River Touring Section

## 2015 Paddling Trips and Instructional Clinics

*Interested in paddling some great water with fun and skilled paddlers? If so, Sierra Club's River Touring Section (RTS) is the group for you. Every year, our members lead paddling adventures on both quiet water and whitewater. We also lead instructional clinics to teach you paddling and safety skills.*

July-October trips and clinics are listed below. Visit the RTS website for additional information <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section>

### INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

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

### RIVER SAFETY & RESCUE CLINIC

#### August 1-2 Red River

Class I-II; Car Camp. Fee: \$40/person, plus camping fees. Limited to 10 people. Through active, hands-on instruction, you will learn river rescue techniques. Including how to throw and receive a rope, correctly swim and cross the river, rescue boats and swimmers, handle strainers, release pinned people and boats, and manage rescue scenarios. Note that swimming in the river and moderate physical activity are part of this clinic. One of the goals of the clinic is to improve overall comfort and knowledge in the river/water/rapids. We will paddle the Red River on both days. Recommended to all who might lead or aspire to lead paddling trips. Also recommended for regular retraining of rescue techniques for experienced paddlers and leaders. For information contact: Walt Ruben, 920-946-1440, [walt.ruben@kohler.com](mailto:walt.ruben@kohler.com), for Registration or Camping contact Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com)

### PADDLING TRIPS

#### July 4 Wolf

Class II-III Car Camp. Enjoy a summer day on the Wolf. Helmet required. Great opportunity to observe wildlife. For details contact: Marianne McEvelly, 715-250-3891, [rivermouse369@yahoo.com](mailto:rivermouse369@yahoo.com)

#### July 11-12 Wolf

Class III-III+ Car Camp. Come and enjoy some challenging whitewater and beautiful scenery. We will paddle Section IV on Saturday and a short III on Sunday. There is a \$30.00 fee to paddle Section IV. This is an Intermediate Level trip and above. For details contact: Jack Burton, 608-393-9793, [burlton-jack48@gmail.com](mailto:burlton-jack48@gmail.com) or Bruce Nelson, 608-609-9973, [b1bnelson@att.net](mailto:b1bnelson@att.net)

#### July 11-13 Chippewa River

Quietwater; Canoe Camp. The Chippewa River features sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines and a wild appearance. You can expect to see eagles, osprey and other wildlife while paddling. We will start on the Red Cedar River (Irvington) to the confluence of the Red Cedar and Chippewa (camp) then continue on to Durand. Optionally, those wanting to spend another night on the river can continue on to camp below Durand and complete the trip on Monday at the Mississippi. We will cover 10 to 15 miles a day and paddle through both the Dunnville and Tiffany State Wildlife Areas. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. For details contact: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, [carl.wisler@att.net](mailto:carl.wisler@att.net)

#### Late July Montana Whitewater

Class II-IV; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in northwest Montana. The trip will be flexible in order to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. For details contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net)

#### August 1-2 RIVER SAFETY AND RESCUE CLINIC (See Clinics above.)

#### August 15-16 Upper Iowa (Iowa)

Class I; Canoe Camp. This spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest – beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about the unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. Dogs are allowed on this trip. For details contact: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com)

#### August 29-30 Flambeau River

Class II; Canoe Camp. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. Learn how state forests are important for protecting water quality. For details contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, [richkrieg@new.rr.com](mailto:richkrieg@new.rr.com) or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, [daleink55@gmail.com](mailto:daleink55@gmail.com)

#### September 5 Wolf

Class II-III Car Camp. Join us on the Wolf, home to multiple forms of wildlife. If we are lucky we will see deer, eagles, ducks or otters. Helmet, floatation, PFD, required. For details contact: Marianne McEvelly, 715-250-3891, [rivermouse369@yahoo.com](mailto:rivermouse369@yahoo.com)

#### September 12-13 Kickapoo and Wisconsin Rivers

Quietwater; Car Camp. We'll put in a Plumb Creek Landing on the Kickapoo, camp on a sand bar on the Wisconsin and take out at the bridge at Highway 48 at Bridgeport. The camping is primitive – no facilities. The quietwater trip is a great way to study the early fall bird migration in the Plumb Creek unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. For details, contact: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, [carl.wisler@att.net](mailto:carl.wisler@att.net)

#### September 24-27 Namekagon River (for women)

Moving Water; Canoe Camp. Join other Sierran women for a scenic trip down a quiet water section of the beautiful Namekagon River in Wisconsin's north woods. Learn about the ecology and significance of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. For details contact: Janet Clear - 608-833-1339, [janet-clear@gmail.com](mailto:janet-clear@gmail.com) or Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, [njmcderm@gmail.com](mailto:njmcderm@gmail.com)

**September 26-27 Wisconsin Whitewater**  
(rivers to be determined)

Class II-III; Car Camp. Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Depending on water levels, paddlers' interest, and weather, we could paddle the Pike, Red, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers, and to see bald eagles and kingfishers along the way. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details contact: Dave Skriba, 920-210-9400, or Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com

**October 3-4 Wolf-Section 4 and Peshtigo**

Class III+; Car Camp. Fall colors and challenging whitewater. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Learn about the challenges of autumn whitewater. For details contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, gregg.riemer@gmail.com

**October 17-18 White River and Neenah Creek**

Quietwater; Car Camp. Paddle these serpentine wetland rivers and learn about the threats and impacts of irrigation and proposed bottled water facilities. For details contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, gregg.riemer@gmail.com

**October 24-25 Wolf River (Sections II & III)**

Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net

**Saturday, January 9, 2016 River Touring Section Annual Meeting**

Location to be determined!! For details, contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com

RTS is affiliated with the Sierra Club, where all trips and outings are open to everyone. We want to get you on rivers and into the outdoors. We hope that you grow to enjoy paddling and to love rivers and support groups that work to protect them such as the Sierra Club and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

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

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?** Please see our web site at: [sierraclub.org/Wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/Wisconsin) or contact:

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



Support Your  
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Contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of the John Muir Chapter's budget.

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

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

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



\$50                       \$100                       \$250                       \$500

any other amount \_\_\_\_\_                       Please keep my gift anonymous

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail your contribution to:** Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter  
754 Williamson Street  
Madison WI 53703

**Donate online at:** [www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

we share, and the hope we envision in exploring, enjoying and protecting our state and planet.

Drawing on Margaret Mead to “never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world,” we will assemble from October 2 to 4 at the Perlstein Resort near the Wisconsin Dells. We invite you to join us for the Assembly and bring what only you have to offer – as we offer you the opportunity to connect, learn, enjoy and help us become much more. The theme for this Autumn Assembly is “Local Acts, Statewide Impacts,” and our vision is that we become more when we assemble.



*Mike McCabe,  
Keynote Speaker  
& Author of “Blue Jeans  
In High Places”*

## SESSIONS

Becoming more is just what our first keynote speaker, Mike McCabe, has to offer us. The former director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Mike’s book *Blue Jeans in High Places* talks about how we need to and can move beyond the current two-party political stagnation and disservice. Mike will provide fundamental insights into what’s wrong with our system and how we can fix it. He will also help us think about the link between environment and democracy and how to nurse both back to health.

Many people don’t have the connections to nature we once had. James Edward Mills addressed this nature deficit in his book *The Adventure Gap*, which was featured in the January-February 2014 issue of the *Sierra Magazine*. James will offer his vision of how to connect more people with nature, just as our founder John Muir did, and will spend additional time in a workshop to discuss how to expand the reach and appeal of our outings.

Many activists worry that having facts on our side often doesn’t seem to matter much when it comes to convincing people about environmental issues. Our final keynote, Scott Wittkopf of the Forward Institute (and [frame4future.com](http://frame4future.com)), will discuss how to frame messages effectively. A disciple of George Lakoff, Scott is noted for his skills in creating progressive campaign messaging. An exciting feature is that we will have breakouts to allow you to work on messaging for your issue or campaign with Scott’s assistance.

Not to be left out are key statewide issue campaigns on clean energy,

transportation, groundwater and tar sands pipeline risks in Wisconsin, with opportunities to learn more, including what’s occurring in local communities. We’ll also cover other issues such as local activism, fundraising, media use and the young adult perspective..

## ACTIVITIES

We haven’t forgotten our Muir roots—two exciting optional outings on Friday and one on Sunday offer great outdoors experiences. Early Friday afternoon, we’ll tour the International Crane Foundation to learn about their wildlife and native landscape preservation efforts. Later that afternoon, just down the road, we’ll tour the Aldo Leopold’s zero net energy use Legacy Center, and then visit the infamous Shack –

hallowed ground for many environmentalists.

We won’t let you depart Sunday afternoon without one last opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors. A presentation by noted UW Geologist David Mickelson will be followed by an Upper Wisconsin Dells boat tour with David to experience that iconic landscape. The two-hour tour includes two short hikes.

Situated on the shores of lovely Lake Blass, Perlstein will have canoes available for use. We’ll also have early morning bird walks both days as well as time for fun, refreshments, films and singing in the evening. Saturday evening features our not-to-be-missed silent auction and chapter awards celebration (have you nominated your heroes yet?)

Perlstein has several lodges with comfortable rooms that can accommodate up to four guests. Each room has a private bathroom and shower. Camping is also available. Further details and online registration can be found at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2015-autumn-assembly](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2015-autumn-assembly) or use the paper registration form in this issue to reserve your spot today.

## WILL YOU COME?

The key question is, will you join us the first weekend of October and help us assemble as a chapter, making it more effective and more fun? Muir talked about climbing the mountains to get their good tidings. In Wisconsin, especially now, many of the mountains we must climb are virtual, but we hope you will climb them with us so we all can receive more good tidings.

# Sign up today!

## Quetico Provincial Park and the International Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Trips

Looking for a wilderness adventure this summer? Two of our Quetico paddling trips still have openings. Spend eight days and seven nights navigating the rugged beauty of Quetico's towering rock cliffs, majestic waterfalls and virgin pine and spruce forests. Quetico offers travelers on its picturesque rivers and lakes a visual and personal encounter.

Fees generally run \$600 per person, but can vary. Crews can be limited by trip leaders up to a maximum of nine. Fees include all group supplies, equipment, food and lodging - including park permits and taxes. Not included are personal pre/post trip travel costs, passports, permits and fishing licenses. You supply your personal camping gear and clothing. Contact trip leaders for additional information about registration - including where to send your \$100 (refundable) deposit to reserve your spot.

Fees include support for the John Muir Chapter Outings Program and its ability to continue offering these trips annually. Additional contributions to this fund are always welcome. Available trip dates are:

### AUGUST 7-16, 2015 (TWO TRAVEL DAYS, CANOE TRIP: EIGHT DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS)

Leader: Vicki Christianson 715-827-0379  
vchristianson@cornell.k12.wi.us

Trip Departure Point: Moose Lake - Ely, Minn. area.

Trip Cost: \$600

Participants get to enjoy a variety of lakes, portages, streams, wildlife, waterfalls, Ojibway pictographs and fishing opportunities.

### AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 7, 2015 (TWO TRAVEL DAYS, CANOE TRIP: EIGHT DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS)

Co-leaders: Peter Brands 262-888-3516  
pbrands@gmail.com and  
Tim Karaskiewicz 414-397-8768  
tkaraskiewicz@mitchellairport.com

Trip departure point Ely, Minn. area

Trip cost \$600

Entering through a Minnesota entry point, this ultralight trip will prioritize photography, drawing, painting or fishing opportunities especially on layover days.

### Liability Waiver & Carpooling

While no experience is required, all participants must complete a medical history and canoe experience form, and then be approved by their trip leader before participating on any outing. Liability insurance coverage provided by Sierra Club for all participants. All forms are available for viewing by any prospective participant upon request.

In the interests of facilitating logistics for some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements to the outing's starting 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 a private arrangement made among participants.

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

# How do YOU want to change the world?



Photo: Community GroundWorks

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Support our group and  
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[www.communityshares.com](http://www.communityshares.com)



# AUTUMN ASSEMBLY – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

## *Local Action, Statewide Impact* Perlstein Resort and Conference Center, Lake Delton, WI

### Friday, October 2

*Lunch on your own. Visit the website for a list of nearby restaurants.*

- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. International Crane Foundation Tour (additional fee and pre-registration required)  
3:30 – 6:00 p.m. Aldo Leopold Reserve Tour (additional fee and pre-registration required)

*Dinner on your own. Visit the website for a list of nearby restaurants.*

- 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Registration, Silent Auction, Snacks and refreshments  
7:30 p.m. Slides from trips and favorite locations.  
Bonfire with story telling

### Saturday, October 3

- 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Early bird hike  
7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Welcome and what's new with the John Muir Chapter  
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Morning Keynote: Mike McCabe will discuss the link between the environment and democracy and how to nurse both back to health**  
10:10 – 11:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS:  
  - *Transportation solutions*
  - *Local engagement with Mike McCabe*
11:10 a.m. – noon CONCURRENT SESSIONS:  
  - *A New Energy Framework: Community Solar and more*
  - *Groundwater resolutions*
Noon – 1 p.m. *Lunch*  
1:00 – 1:50 p.m. **Afternoon Keynote: James Mills will discuss connecting people with nature**  
2:00 – 2:50 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS:  
  - *Tar sands/pipelines/bomb trains*
  - **WORKSHOP: *Outings with Eric Uram and James Mills***
3:00 – 3:50 p.m. **Afternoon Keynote: Scott Wittkopf will teach us how to frame our environmental messages and engage more people**  
4:00 – 4:50 p.m. **WORKSHOP: *Campaigns messaging with Scott Wittkopf***  
5:00 – 5:15 p.m. Sunday preview  
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Silent Auction, Social time  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m. *Dinner*  
7:30 – 8:00 p.m. Awards  
8:00 – ? Social time Bonfire with singing  
Film

### Sunday, October 4

- 6:30 – 7:30 a.m. Early bird hike  
7:30 – 8:30 a.m. *Breakfast*  
8:30 – 9:15 a.m. Local Group, Inner City Outings and Sierra Student Coalition reports plus a discussion of JMC challenges in 2015  
9:20 – 10:10 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS:  
  - Local activism workshop
  - Young adult panel
10:15 – 11:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS:  
  - *Fun and easy fundraising*
  - *Media workshop*
11:00 – 11:50 a.m. Dave Mickelson talks about the unique Wisconsin Dells geology  
12:00 – 12:45 p.m. *Lunch*  
12:45 – 1:20 p.m. Depart for boat tour  
1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Outing: Geology boat tour of the Dells with Dave Mickelson (additional fee and pre-registration required)

## GO SOLAR with Sierra Club

### How it works:

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

### The Benefits:

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

For more information contact H&H Solar:

[solarhomes@hhsolarenergy.com](mailto:solarhomes@hhsolarenergy.com)

(608)438-9026

or visit <http://action.sierraclub.org/solarhomeswi>



# 2015 Autumn Assembly Registration

Perlstein Resort, Lake Delton, WI

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions

Select your registration, meal, field trip and lodging choices. Add the totals for each section together. Register by September 13 to avoid late fees.

**Online registration also available at:**

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2015-autumn-assembly>

**Questions:** 608-256-0565 or  
john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org

## Assembly Registration

*The registration fee includes meals, beverages and snacks as well as program fees. Children's rates available upon request. Call (608)256-0565.*

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY REGISTRATION:

**Regular Rate-if paid by September 13**

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (12 & up) x \$70 \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Rate-if paid after Sept. 13**

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (12 & up) x \$85 \_\_\_\_\_

### SATURDAY ONLY REGISTRATION:

**Regular Rate-if paid by September 13**

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (12 & up) x \$55 \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Rate-if paid after Sept. 13**

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (12 & up) x \$70 \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

*Please reserve your meals and indicate any dietary restrictions below*

**Saturday:** Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday:** Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

## Field Trips

*Optional field trips are available. Advance registration is required. Please note that some field trips have a fee that must be paid with registration. Indicate the number attending each trip below and add in registration amount.*

**Crane Fdn Tour** \$7 per adult

Fri. 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

**Aldo Leopold Walking Tour** \$10 per adult

Fri. 3:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

**Upper Dells Boat Tour** \$22.50 per adult

Sun. 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

## Lodging

*Perlstein Resort offers tenting or lodge rooms that accommodate up to three or four guests per room. Rooms include heating, private bath, towels & linens.*

**Private Room for one**-Register early. Limited number of single rooms available.

\_\_\_\_\_ # rooms Fri. night x \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # rooms Sat. night x \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

**Room for 2**-Indicate name of roommate if they are registering separately. If none indicated we will assign.

\_\_\_\_\_ # people Fri. night x \$36 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # people Sat. night x \$36 \_\_\_\_\_

**Shared Room for 3 or 4**-Shared rooms offer a combination of Queen, twin & bunk beds. Do you have a preferred roommate who is registering separately? List name below. If none indicated we will assign.

\_\_\_\_\_ # people Fri. night x \$28 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # people Sat. night x \$28 \_\_\_\_\_

**Tenting**-Pitch your own tent on the grounds. Guests must provide their own camping gear and bedding. Shared bathroom nearby.

\_\_\_\_\_ # sites Fri night x \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # sites Sat night x \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate preferences:

## Payment

**Total due** (Registration + Lodging + Field trips) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail registration and payment to:** Sierra Club, 754  
Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

CHECK (made payable to Sierra Club-  
John Muir Chapter)

CREDIT CARD

Cardholder name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

## JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

### Executive Committee Meeting

**September 19** *Marathon Co. Public Library  
10:00-3:00 p.m.*

### Events Calendar:

**July 15-16** **Wolf and Wildlife Conservation and Coexistence educational conference**  
*Hosted by Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf  
HoChunk Conf. Center, Wisconsin Dells  
<http://www.fofww.org/home.aspx>*

**July 16** **Madison Mallards Game/Sierra Club Fundraiser**  
*Tickets: [www.mallardsgroups.com](http://www.mallardsgroups.com)  
password: sierra  
Or call: 608-256-0565*

**July 29** **Locally Grown/Nationally Known Chapter Fundraiser**  
*EVP Coffee, 3809 Mineral Point Road,  
Madison 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
RSVP by calling the chapter office  
608-256-0565*

**August 12-15** **Building a Land Ethic: Teaching and Learning Across Boundaries**  
*Conference hosted by  
Aldo Leopold Foundation  
Baraboo, WI <http://www.aldoleopold.org/Programs/conference.shtml>*

**August 15** **Deadline for Executive Committee Nominations**  
*[john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org) or  
608-256-0565*

**Sept 12** **Saunter John Muir's Boyhood Neighborhood**  
*Starts at Muir County Park, N1383 County  
Hwy F in Montello, Wisconsin  
RSVP online  
<http://action.sierraclub.org/muirsaunter>*

**October 2-4** **Autumn Assembly**  
*Perlstein Resort & Conf Center, Lake Delton  
<http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2015-Autumn-Assembly>*

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