

CHANGES AFOOT: BUILDING A STRONG CLUB AT AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

By Bill Davis, Chapter Director, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter and Cassie Steiner, Public Relations and Outreach Associate, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

Exciting changes are coming to the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly. The chapter has designed this year's assembly to be fun, engaging and



useful, with an eye towards building power to protect and defend Wiscon-

sin's wild places and environment. This year's Autumn Assembly will provide the knowledge and skills to strengthen Sierra Club leaders and volunteers.



October 7-9, 2016

The specific session topics were drawn primarily from surveys sent to the local groups, but also from the Executive Committee and staff. This year's assembly will be particularly of use to existing and up-and-coming leaders, as well as those interested in developing their campaign planning, communications and other activism skills. Each session is designed to help build and hone skills, along with the confidence to use those skills.

Some plenary sessions include tips for improving diversity, equity and inclusion

in Sierra Club membership, campaigns, networks and coalitions. To be successful Sierrans need to be able to reach out, engage and effectively work with a wide array of people. Leaders from local groups will also share best practices and success stories. Other session topics include choosing issues strategically, strategic communications, and volunteer recruitment and retention.

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CHAPTER AWARDS: NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Have you watched an environmental champion at work in your group or community? Is someone you know making a difference that deserves to be noticed? The John Muir Chapter offers six awards that honor volunteers, elected officials, or organizations that champion environmental protection. But we need your help in identifying these do-gooders. Nominations are due August 19, and awards will be presented during a special dinner on October 8, 2016.

Introducing the L.D. Rockwell Award

The John Muir Chapter is creating a new award this year for outstanding political and electoral activism and service to be named after L.D. "Red" Rockwell. L.D. was on the Chapter Executive and Political Committees and passed away last year. He was a strong and passionate voice and supporter of the Chapter's political work, and it's fitting to honor his memory with an award for outstanding activism on political and/or electoral work. The Chapter Coordinator Jacinda Tessmann shepherded its inception, and the Awards Committee enthusiastically approved this award.

Award Categories

- **Good Citizen Award:** Given to organizations and individuals external to the club. This award champions innovative programs or processes that protect the environment.
- **JJ & Pat Werner Award:** Given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter who show an undying commitment to the goals and missions of the chapter. This award may also be given to a spiritual leader and facilitator promoting the health of the groups and chapters.
- **L.D. Rockwell Award:** Presented to an individual who has provided exceptional service to the John Muir Chapter political/electoral program.
- **Merit Award:** Given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter. Recipient may be an issues

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FROM THE CHAIR

Summer is a great time to be outdoors, and volunteering is a great way to be outdoors! Fellow Sierran Carl Glassford and I enjoy monitoring a local stream each month in summer as part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Water Action Volunteer program. I spent my career helping businesses with corporate data systems and digital communications – computer stuff. My weekends and vacations have always been reserved for outdoor pursuits though – hiking, paddling, camping, hunting, fishing. Nature-based. Stream monitoring fits right in.

My connection to outdoor interests was deepened years ago by a poster on my college roommate's wall. Printed by a forest products company, it pictured a young man in the wilderness, and it posed this question: "Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?" The words came from Aldo Leopold. All I knew of him was that a nearby campus dormitory hall carried his name. (The words are from his essay "Green Lagoons," recounting his inspiring 1922 visit to the remote Delta of the Colorado River, which he later knew existed only in his memory.)



Eventually it dawned on me that the quality of nature and the outdoors was on the decline in many places, from relentless population growth, associated development and from the flotsam and jetsam of humanity – our pollution.

Eventually I read about the Green Lagoons in Leopold's book *A Sand County Almanac*. Then, driving to a trip in the canoe country of Minnesota and Ontario, I picked up Sigurd Olson's book *The Singing Wilderness*. These two books transformed my relationship with the natural world. Around that time I joined the Sierra Club and quickly all of my outdoor interests came together. In Sierra Club we "Explore, Enjoy and Protect," as proclaimed in our mission statement.

Our state (and arguably our world) is now at a crossroads. We are living a life out of balance – "*Koyaanisqatsi*," the Hopis call it. (Check out the visually and aurally stunning 1982 film by this name if you have a chance.) Will Wisconsin revive its national reputation as a leader in managing natural resources and a healthy human living environment, or will we continue our current race to the bottom, abandoning environmental stewardship, driven largely by out-of-state business interests and "jobs-versus-the-environment" propaganda?

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's long-running commitment, active statewide membership and national affiliation make us a meaningful voice in the discussion of Wisconsin's future, and this discussion requires the voices of people who will occupy that future. Some of you will become Wisconsin's leaders. Our state's John Muir Chapter is actively looking to engage young people to grow into leadership roles. If you have much of life ahead of you and are passionate about building a healthy and sustainable future, we want to connect with you! Call our chapter office at (608) 256-0565, explore opportunities to volunteer and consider growing into a Sierra Club leadership role.

We are also actively seeking leaders from diverse communities who are under-represented in our current membership and in the public dialog. Communities of color, the LGBT community, low-income communities, and other minority groups are often preyed upon by government entities and industry influenced by money and power; it is time that we all work together for climate and social justice.

At the same time Wisconsin has a tremendous pool of experienced baby boomers who have recently left the workforce. This includes natural resource professionals, educators and technical people. Others from a variety of private industries harbor a passion for outdoor recreation, the natural world, renewable technologies, efficient transportation or a hundred other "engines" of a sustainable economy. If you fit somewhere within this broad spectrum, you have expertise that Sierra Club needs in our leadership.

If I have (more or less) described you somewhere above, please make a substantive and rewarding contribution to Wisconsin's future by becoming a Sierra Club volunteer leader. We are a meaningful voice, but this voice will be strengthened if you assume a leadership role! We need you, and we will find a role for you at a local or statewide level. Call our office at (608) 256-0565, and let's start a dialog!

Jim Kerler

Executive Committee Chair, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

The majority of sessions will use priority issue campaigns as case studies. For example, the message development session could focus on transportation work, and the volunteer recruit-



ment session could use the tar sands campaign as a model. This is different from past Autumn Assemblies that were very education and issues-based.

While attendees liked the infor-

mation, many left unsure of how to put their new knowledge to use. This agenda should provide both information and concrete ways to apply it.

Despite many changes, attendee favorites remain part of this year's Autumn Assembly. The event is at Bethel Horizons Camp and Retreat Center in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, a beautiful venue that allows for both indoor and outdoor activities. There will be several outings to provide an opportunity to socialize and enjoy the outdoors. Additionally, there will be the Chapter awards banquet and networking opportunities during meals and the Saturday evening reception.

To defend and protect Wisconsin's special places, the Sierra Club must be functioning at the top of its game, and this Autumn Assembly will help build the power to do that. The John Muir Chapter must be organized and efficient internally to make the most of its structure and its strengths. It must be clear, vocal and ever-present in its advocacy. Finally, the Chapter

must genuinely reach out to others — for while the Sierra Club is strong in Wisconsin, it will take many, many voices to win. As part of the efforts to do this, the Chapter invites all to participate in Autumn Assembly.



It is more important than ever that Sierrans build power over time, while also maximizing existing power in the short term. The Sierra Club's greatest strength is people — 15,000 strong and in every corner of the state. In order to take advantage of that strength, more members must be engaged and participate in outings and advocacy. To do this leaders must be continually curious about what members are interested in. Perhaps more importantly, the Sierra Club must find the best way to allow more people to become engaged.

To take steps to accomplish this, Sierra Club volunteers, leaders and active members can strengthen their existing skills and continue to learn. That will be the focus of this year's Autumn Assembly. If you're looking for a way to become more involved, to become a more effective leader or to gain new skills, the Autumn Assembly is perfect for you!

To register, fill out the form on page 15. Check sierraclub.org/wisconsin for updated information about the agenda and outings. If you have questions, contact the chapter office at john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.

Algunos artículos de *Muir View* están disponibles en español.

Se sitúan en la red: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter.

Select articles from the Muir View are available in Spanish. They are found online: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter.

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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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2015-16 LEGISLATIVE SESSION RECAP

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

The 2015-16 Legislative Session was filled with attacks on local control and science — much of which was symptomatic of the pay-to-play culture that has been established in the Legislature. Numerous bills, unfortunately, helped specific special interests at the expense of air and water protections, jeopardizing the health of people across Wisconsin.

The two-year state budget that was proposed in early February of last year was the focus of the Legislature for the first part of the session, and set the stage for the rest of the session. The proposed budget by Governor Scott Walker was egregious, proposing to cut Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff, especially in the science division; removing all funding for state parks; freezing the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship fund; bonding almost \$1 billion in transportation funding for highway expansions and much, much more. Luckily, the Joint Finance (or budget) Committee fixed some of the worst provisions of the budget, but they also threw in new causes for concern. The result was a hodgepodge of small improvements, overshadowed by numerous assaults on air, water and local control.

The entire legislative session seemed to follow the same pattern: horrendous bills that were introduced and passed with only slight “improvements.” This still resulted in awful changes to air and water protections and a series of bills that paid back donors and fundamentally attacked the environment and democracy.

Attacks on Science

The proposed state budget undermined the importance of science and proposed cuts to 66 positions at the DNR — especially 33 related to science, education and research. There was also a proposal to reduce the authority of the Natural Resources Board (NRB) and concentrate more power in the Walker Administration — whose top DNR executives have little or no science backgrounds. Fortunately, the authority of the NRB was protected, but many of the worst cuts to the DNR, including the science positions and educational centers, remained.

Throughout this session, there was more weakening of science-based natural resources management. The DNR and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are responsible for considering different air pollutants and creating rules that protect them. A handful of new laws and decisions prohibited the DNR from performing its otherwise mandated duties.

It is dangerous to cut science staff at a time when Wisconsin's natural resources face daunting, unprecedented threats from climate change and the proposed tar sands pipelines to the proliferation of frac sand mines and Chronic Wasting Disease and more.

Diminishing Local Control

Wisconsin ranks sixth for the most towns and municipalities in the

country. That's because Wisconsin has always recognized the importance of local governments striking a balance between the rights of one property owner and the rights of the other property owners in the community.

Wisconsin has a vast and diverse use of land, from agricultural areas to heavily forested areas to very urban areas and everything in between. No one knows better whether an area or community needs extra rules and protections than those local governments. Local communities can also be incubators for trying new ideas that end up becoming statewide or nationwide programs.

With the Walker Administration and DNR downplaying threats to natural resources, local communities have begun stepping up to analyze the impacts of projects like frac-sand mining or tar sands pipelines to ensure their local community is protected. Instead of applauding the diligence of these local governments, the legislature spent the last session removing their ability to protect themselves.

In a late Friday-night, last-minute amendment to the state budget, the Joint Finance Committee included over 100 non-policy items. None of them had fiscal impacts, and none should have been in the budget. A handful were especially egregious, including one that prohibits counties from requiring insurance for pipeline operators as clear retribution after Dane County required that Enbridge purchase insurance to protect the county from a tar sands pipeline spill.

Throughout the session the trend of diminishing local control to benefit large corporations continued, with bills to allow towns to withdraw from zoning, leading to runaway development, a ban on the local regulation of plastic bags and even a bill that forces a community to accept a project if a different entity (another municipality, the state, etc.) granted the project a permit.

Worse, many of these bills were disguised as promoting property rights, but they actually take away the rights of Wisconsinites and Wisconsin communities to prosper and do what they wish on their property. Ironically, another provision in the last-minute budget changes was an expansion of eminent domain that will allow Enbridge, a foreign

company, to use eminent domain authority to take the land of someone in Wisconsin for the company's private gain.

Damages to the Right to Clean Water

Wisconsin has a history of recognizing the importance of natural resources including clean drinking water. Even the state constitution notes how important water is, making it a sacred,

public asset. Unfortunately last session, there was a multitude of attacks on this important resource.

Wisconsin's water quantity is threatened by overuse for factory farms and other industrial uses. Just one shocking example of this is the Little Plover River in central Wisconsin, which is being devastated due to drawdown in the water table, resulting in sections of the river drying up. The ability to drink clean water is no longer something people can assume they have.



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There is a public health crisis in Kewaunee County, where it is not safe for many residents to drink their water, and many are forced to rely on bottled water. With Wisconsin's history of valuing this resource, these are problems that wouldn't have been expected in Wisconsin, yet it has become the reality.

While the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter and others were calling for solutions to these problems, bills to limit, reduce, or even repeal some of Wisconsin's most important water protections were pushed forward. The budget eliminated the Fertilizer Research Council and funding for its innovative manure management studies, cut funding to county Soil and Water Conservation Departments who work with farmers to reduce runoff pollution, and cut funding reductions for nutrient management plans. These cuts increase threats from water pollution caused by factory farms. Originally, the cuts to the county Conservation Departments were much larger, but the Joint Finance Committee restored some of those cuts.

There were egregious proposals to allow unlimited high-capacity wells throughout Wisconsin, to roll back important water protections, to allow dredging of the Great Lakes, and even to exempt fish farms from rules about wetland protection. Fortunately, the worst of these proposals were taken out, and there was a bright spot early in the session, when both houses unanimously supported banning of microbeads in personal care products. Overall, however, Wisconsin was left with diminished clean water protections.

Rollbacks to Wisconsin's Clean Energy Economy

Across the Midwest, the country, and even the world, it is becoming increasingly clear that the clean energy economy is here. A third of the electricity in Iowa is now produced by wind energy. In 2014, half of the electricity infrastructure installed in the United States was wind and solar. In the first half of 2015, 75 percent of the new electricity installed was clean energy. With this clean energy comes clean energy jobs that are family-supporting and cannot be exported. In Wisconsin, where there isn't any coal, oil or natural gas, clean energy jobs means putting Wisconsin first and not sending money to other states.

The state budget proposed eliminating the funding for groups that intervene in Public Service Commission (PSC) decisions. This is funding that ensures groups like the Citizens Utility Board (a group that focuses on keeping electricity rates reasonable for residents) and

environmental groups like Renew Wisconsin can have a voice when a utility proposes building a new coal plant or increasing electricity fees. This is very important to ensure all stakeholders have a say in the process and decisions are made with all the information. Fortunately, that provision was removed from the budget; however, there was no funding added in this two-year budget to support this work.

This disregard for keeping electricity rates reasonable for consumers continued throughout the session. The Legislature removed Wisconsin's decade-old nuclear "moratorium" — which isn't a real moratorium. Instead, it simply protects consumers and communities



by requiring that a utility ensure there is a place for the radioactive waste and that it is economical for ratepayers before building a new nuclear plant.

Additionally, a bill disguised as a minor tweak to Wisconsin's Focus on Energy Program changed the formula for Focus on Energy, resulting in a \$7 million decrease to the program. Wisconsin was once a leader on clean energy — Focus on Energy was groundbreaking, and Wisconsin was one of the first states to require that part of the state's electricity comes from renewable energy. Since 2010, this leadership has been attacked or rolled back while neighboring states are flying ahead.

Threats to Democracy

Among the many attacks from the aforementioned last minute budget motion, it also included a shocking proposal to completely undercut the Open Records Law. This was a fundamental attack on democratic transparency. This is the same law that allowed

Wisconsin Public Radio to discover that Enbridge was behind the changes to the eminent domain law.

Throughout the session, the laws and rules that allow Wisconsin to be known for transparent elections vanished — doubling limits for campaign donations, eliminating the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board and refusing to do anything about the partisan gerrymandering that is eliminating accountability across Wisconsin.

A fully-functioning and transparent democracy is important to ensure clean air and water for all. When constituents are able to voice their opinions, watch the actions and votes their elected officials are taking, and know who is financially supporting a candidate, citizens are ensured of a democracy that is of, by, and for the people, not the polluters. It is not a coincidence that some of the most well-known contributors to candidates are from the coal and oil industry.

The Silver Lining: Recognizing the Imbalance in Wisconsin's Transportation Budget

The chapter has been working with coalition partners to expose the lack of balance within Wisconsin's transportation budget. Wisconsin has been putting more and more money into unnecessary highway expansions at the expense of local roads, transit systems, and biking and walking infrastructure. This coalition has called for the State Legislature to better balance the budget to meet the needs of all people and all communities.

This problem was recognized during the state budget debate. In fact, the disagreement about what to do with the transportation budget was one of the issues that made the budget process drag out so long. Governor Walker proposed almost \$1 billion in funding for highways, much of which would go to expanding highways. Unfortunately, there was not a big move to balance transportation spending.

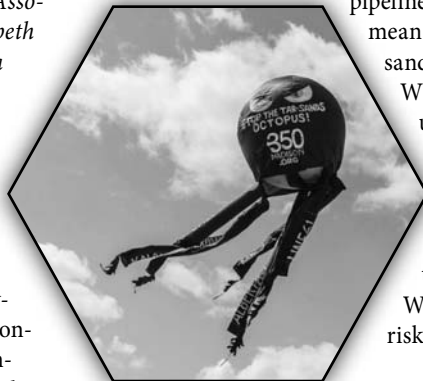
The Republicans in the Senate, however, did recognize the spending problem and are striving for better solutions. The Joint Finance Committee restricted the bonding for transportation, and called for an audit of the Highway Program. Governor Walker vetoed this audit, but the Joint Legislative Audit Committee unanimously approved the audit and it is now moving ahead. The Senate Republicans also championed this need to get spending in line and come up with long-term solutions.

TAR SANDS UPDATE

By Cassie Steiner, Public Relations and Outreach Associate, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter, and Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

WISCONSIN TAR SANDS RESISTANCE TOUR

On April 3 - 8, Cassie Steiner of the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter, Andy Pearson of MN350, and UW-Stevens Point student Cailie Kafura traveled to seven campuses in five days with the Wisconsin Tar Sands Resistance Tour. They talked to hundreds of students and helped them come up with plans to defeat these increased pipelines. Along the way, they talked to those concerned about explosive oil trains and the common



need to keep this dirty oil in the ground. Students gathered and discussed ways to raise the issue on campus, build and engage in larger events, and get their



campus to stand up and fight! Read the full story on the blog

“Reflections from the Wisconsin Tar Sands Tour” at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-musings

SANDPIPER/LINE 3 REPLACEMENT COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE

While Minnesota is embarking on a long, diligent process to study the Sandpiper and Line 3 replacement pipelines, Wisconsin is quickly moving forward to give Enbridge the permits it needs for the 14 miles in Wisconsin. That didn't stop Wisconsin citizens from speaking up! The Sierra Club and its tar sands coalition collected over 1,000 signatures from across Wisconsin opposing the pipelines.



LINE 61-TWIN FIGHT KICKS OFF!

Enbridge has been moving forward on plans to build a “Line 61-twin,” meaning another tar sands pipeline through the heart of Wisconsin. Once the expansion is complete, Line 61 will be the largest tar sands



pipeline in the world outside of Russia. Twinning it could mean that Wisconsin could have the *two* largest tar sands pipelines outside of Russia. Twinning it means Wisconsin could have another pipeline that travels under the St. Croix River, the Wisconsin River and the Rock River. Twinning it means Wisconsin could have another pipeline that threatens the safety of the communities the pipeline travels through. Twinning it means another pipeline that jeopardizes the state's tourism economy. Worse, twinning the pipeline means twinning the risk of a pipeline spill.

The Chapter is partnering with other organizations, including 350 Madison and the Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance to build a strong, statewide fight against this pipeline. This campaign was launched in April.

Jane Kleeb, founder of Bold Nebraska — the entity that fought the Keystone XL pipeline — visited Wisconsin to help kick off this fight. In mid-April she privately met with landowners to help them organize. The new pipeline will require a new easement, and landowners are being threatened with eminent domain, which was made accessible to Enbridge through a last-minute change in the state budget last year. Jane helped the group organize so that they have power in numbers as Enbridge comes knocking on their door.



Later that evening, Jane spoke at a large kick-off for the campaign in Madison, talking about the need to work together to stand up to companies like Enbridge and protect the state that Wisconsinites know and love. She was joined by Former Representative and current National Sierra Club Board Member Spencer Black and Mark Borchardt, landowner in Marshfield.

After the kick-off, leaders started organizing. There was a webinar called Wisconsin Pipeline Invasion 101 to get everyone up to speed about tar sands, the Enbridge pipeline network, and the threats they pose. The webinar was recorded and is posted on the Sierra Club Wisconsin YouTube page or online at sierraclub.org/wisconsin.

Additionally, leaders in every county throughout the line are organizing in their communities, raising awareness of the threats, and working to build robust, local opposition to the pipeline. If you live in a county threatened by the pipeline and want to get involved, contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.

Nominations continued from page 1

champion who has effectively battled environmental challenges; a consistent leader in the environmental movement (i.e. organization leadership roles, organization builder); or one who actively carries the Sierra Club message to decision-makers and the concerned publics.

- **New Activist Award:** Given to a person who has been a John Muir Chapter member for less than two years who is an enthusiastic participant in issues and the organization, and who possesses a willingness to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues.
- **Torchbearer Award:** Given to organizations and individuals external to the club, such as decisionmakers who consistently promote legislation, regulations or practices that protect the environment.
- **Wildflower Award:** Given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter, including an individual who exemplifies all that is wonderful in the environment and the club; a mentor for new and existing activists; or an educator who promotes a positive image for the Club.

Nomination forms can be found online at

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards or by emailing Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com

JOIN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER!

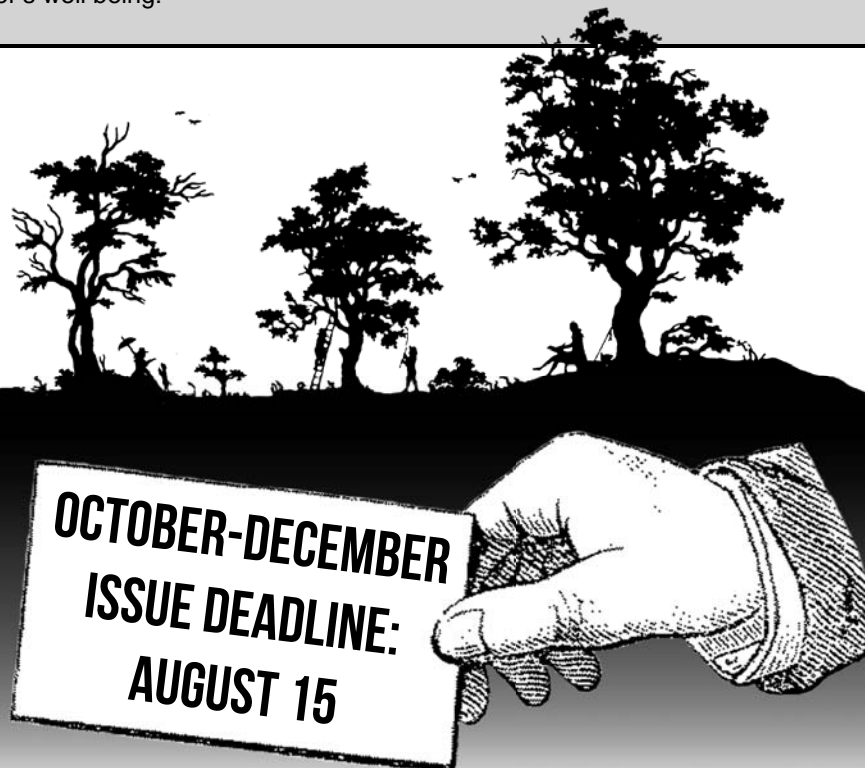
Do you have skills in communication, budgeting, marketing, project management or fundraising? Are you working on a campaign in your community to increase renewable energy, expand public transportation or limit confined animal feed-lots? Do you like to lead hikes or kayak trips on rivers? Your business, campaign or outdoor leadership experiences can help to keep the Sierra Club healthy and effective.

The Sierra Club is a democratic organization that elects its leadership. There are three at-large Executive Committee seats to be filled in the 2016 fall election. Each seat is for a three-year term starting January 2017 and ending December 2020. The Chapter is seeking geographic, demographic, and skill diversity within its Executive Committee. Executive Committee members are expected to engage in activities, tasks and events in areas listed that contribute to the Chapter's well being:

- General and operational health of the Chapter
- Membership
- Strategic planning and decision making
- Fiscal and financial health, including fundraising
- Issue campaigns
- Outings program

The deadline for completed applications is August 15, 2016. A full description of Executive Committee member expectations is available as well as a short application form. Please contact Liz Wessel at (608)238-9934 or lizard59sc@yahoo.com to learn more about this opportunity to serve.

Thank you so much for offering your time, talent and resources to the Chapter!



ISSUES AT A GLANCE

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION THREATENS DNR

On May 10 State Attorney General Brad Schimel issued an opinion at the request of the Republican legislative leadership that further cripples the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This opinion further widens the gap between the protections the people of Wisconsin deserve and expect and what the DNR can actually do. It does so in two major ways. First, the opinion states that the DNR can only do what is explicitly articulated in either state statutes or explicit rules. That may sound harmless, but it is not. Here is an example of what it means: say that in order to protect neighbors and the environment from pollution, the DNR wants to reduce the number of cows at a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) and require the operator to put in monitoring wells. It seems reasonable enough — the operator gets the permit, but with limits to protect the rights of others. But under Schimel's opinion the DNR can't do this because nowhere in the statutes or rules does it specifically say the DNR can adjust the number of animals at a CAFO or require monitoring. Second, the opinion seeks to severely limit the scope of the Public Trust Doctrine by calling into question a century's worth of Wisconsin Supreme Court decisions that have interpreted this section of the State's Constitution.

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR MINING SAFEGUARDS, DNR INDEPENDENCE AND SCIENCE AT CONSERVATION CONGRESS HEARINGS

Final results from the annual statewide Conservation Congress spring hearing held on April 12 demonstrate significant statewide support in favor of mining safeguards, DNR independence and science education requirements for DNR officials. The Conservation Congress is a body of citizen-elected delegates who advise the Natural Resources Board and DNR on how to manage Wisconsin's natural resources. Thank you to all of the Sierra Club members who participated in the Conservation Congress Hearings.

A recommendation for appointment of the DNR Secretary by the Natural Resources Board instead of the Governor was approved by 89 percent of voters and approved by all 72 counties.

A recommendation to repeal 2013 Act 1, the enabling legislation written by Gogebic Taconite removing many of the state's mining protections, was approved by 67 percent of voters and by 62 of 72 of counties.

The question about a moratorium on new frac sand mining and processing permits was approved by 77 percent of voters and by 70 of 72 counties.

Finally, the question to require top officials at the DNR to have advanced natural resource education or experience was approved by 87 percent of voters and by all 72 counties.

FRIENDS, FOOD, FUN AND FUNDS FOR CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

Good food, good friends and a good cause all collided at the John Muir Chapter's spring celebration on May 19. The event was hosted at Clock Shadow Creamery in Milwaukee. Our hosts provided an interesting tour of the "living" building that houses their operation. Guests then gathered in the Creamery's retail shop to sample donated cheeses, beer, wine and other local products. Many thanks to all who attended and to Liz Wessel and Caryl Terrell for preparing delicious gourmet appetizers. A huge thank you also goes out to the Clock Shadow Creamery and the many sponsors who made



the event possible. Proceeds from the event help support the work of the John Muir Chapter including clean transportation advocacy in the Milwaukee area.

The next fundraiser is our Locally Grown, Nationally Known house party on July 11 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Madison. Contact Liz Wessel at lizard59sc@yahoo.com or (608) 238-9934 if you would like to attend.



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CLEAN TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

WisDOT Moves Forward with the I-94 Expansion

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter and its partners in the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT) continued to call on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to go back to the drawing board on its plans to expand the I-94 highway and to instead research a transit alternative.

At the end of March, more than 100 people turned out to engage with elected officials and a panel of community leaders about the I-94 boondoggle and the need for more responsible alternatives that will better serve Milwaukee. Dozens of public comments on the proposed expansion were collected with the clear message: fix, but don't add lanes to I-94. The community needs real transportation solutions!

A couple of weeks later, the coalition delivered thousands of petitions to WisDOT on the final day for public comments on the project. Advocates also called on the department to put forward more cost-effective, community-oriented alternatives that would better address Milwaukee's most pressing transportation needs, such as repairing existing infrastructure and improving transit service. The public comment period on WISDOT's proposal to expand I-94 between the Zoo and Marquette Interchanges has ended, and the final decision on the project should be announced later this summer or early fall.

Check out the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation's Facebook page for all of the pictures from the great events and updates about the issue!

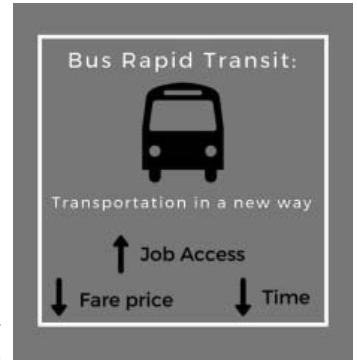


Milwaukee/Wauwatosa Bus Rapid Transit Moving Forward

After the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter and allies have spent years calling for a better balance in transportation spending, someone is finally listening. The fight continues within the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to recognize the ability for transit to be a cheaper, better option to provide access for all to get to jobs, healthcare and other services and needs. Fortunately, Milwaukee County, the City of Milwaukee, and the City of Wauwatosa

are moving forward on a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

The East-West BRT would provide travel times competitive with driving and include high quality stations, raised platforms with precision docking to provide easy-level boarding. It should have robust connections with buses and the new Downtown Streetcar. BRT makes neighborhoods and streets safer, greatly reducing crashes and improving pedestrian and bike safety. Fares would be the same as bus fares. A multimodal solution is critically needed to provide mobility for all people, accommodate robust growth and traffic and parking challenges, and help spur efficient, accessible job growth and economic development.



Instead of spending billions to widen roads and highways, there ought to be investment in a transportation future that connects people to jobs, is safe, effective and affordable for drivers and non-drivers, and uses tax dollars responsibly. BRT would provide a 21st century travel option for the Milwaukee region. Plus, BRT systems have helped boost local economies and create more vibrant communities from Cleveland to San Antonio, from Kansas City to Jacksonville.

The process is ongoing and at the time this article was written, the study still requires votes of support from the City of Wauwatosa, the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Board.

Transportation Equity

The John Muir Chapter and its coalition partners have been working on a transportation equity campaign focusing on access to quick, efficient and affordable transportation to locations that are abundant with good, high-paying jobs and other community assets like schools, healthcare and grocery stores. Currently, many neighborhoods throughout this state do not have this type of transportation service. Low-income neighborhoods, communities of color, and Wisconsin's aging and disabled populations are disproportionately affected by the lack of options. To elevate this issue, there will be transportation equity forums taking place throughout the state. These forums will consist of community members banding together to fight for the expansion of equitable transportation within their neighborhoods, like improved transit systems or repairs to crumbling local infrastructure rather than massive highway expansions. These forums will be happening around Wisconsin beginning in late summer and will conclude with a large transportation equity summit in Milwaukee on October 1. For more information or to get involved, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin.

HOW DOES YOUR LEGISLATOR RATE?

Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter's 2015-16 Legislative Scorecard reflects votes taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate on environmental bills. You can learn about bills that affect you by using our Legislative Tracker at wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker.

This scorecard focuses on bills related to the John Muir Chapter's priority issues of reducing climate change and protecting land and water resources in Wisconsin. Use this scorecard as a guide to judge candidates in your district this election year. All 99 Assembly and half the Senate seats (even-numbered) are up for election in 2016. Let your representatives know if you're pleased or disappointed with their voting records. You can find the full scorecard with descriptions of the bills used to grade the candidates at sierraclub.org/wisconsin

2015-16

Senate					
Name	District	Hometown	Party	Score	
Bewley ^{††}	Janet	25	Ashland	D	90
Carpenter	Tim	3	Milwaukee	D	100
Cowles ^{††}	Robert	2	Green Bay	R	23
Darling ^{††}	Alberta	8	River Hills	R	7
Erpenbach	Jon	27	Middleton	D	100
Farrow	Paul	33	Pewaukee	R	0
Fitzgerald	Scott	13	Juneau	R	0
Gudex	Richard	18	Fond du Lac	R	0
Hansen	Dave	30	Green Bay	D	92
Harris Dodd	Nikiya	6	Milwaukee	D	100
Harsdorf	Sheila	10	River Falls	R	0
Kapenga	Chris	33	Delafield	R	0
Larson	Chris	7	Milwaukee	D	100
Lasee	Frank	1	De Pere	R	0
Lassa	Julie	24	Stevens Point	D	85
Lazich ^{††}	Mary	28	New Berlin	R	7
LeMahieu	Devin	9	Oostburg	R	0
Marklein	Howard	17	Spring Green	R	0
Miller	Mark	16	Monona	D	100
Moulton	Terry	23	Chippewa Falls	R	0
Nass	Stephen	11	Whitewater	R	0
Olsen	Luther	14	Ripon	R	0
Petrowski	Jerry	29	Marathon	R	0
Ringhand	Janis	15	Evansville	D	92
Risser	Fred	26	Madison	D	100
Roth	Roger	19	Appleton	R	0
Shilling	Jennifer	32	La Crosse	D	92
Stroebel	Duey	20	Saukville	R	0
Taylor	Lena	4	Milwaukee	D	100
Tiffany	Thomas	12	Hazelhurst	R	0
Vinehout ^{††}	Kathleen	31	Alma	D	100
Vukmir	Leah	5	Brookfield	R	0
Wanggaard	Van	21	Racine	R	0
Wirsch	Robert	22	Kenosha	D	100

Assembly					
Name	District	Hometown	Party	Score	
Allen	Scott	97	Waukesha	R	7
August	Tyler	32	Lake Geneva	R	0
Ballweg	Joan	41	Markesan	R	7
Barca	Peter	64	Kenosha	D	100
Barnes	Mandela	11	Milwaukee	D	100
Berceau ^{††}	Terese	77	Madison	D	100
Bernier	Kathleen	68	Chippewa Falls	R	7
Billings	Jill	95	LaCrosse	D	100
Born	Mark	39	Beaver Dam	R	0
Bowen	David	10	Milwaukee	D	100
Brandtjen	Janel	22	Menomonee Falls	R	0
Brooks, E	Edward	50	Reedsburg	R	7
Brooks, R	Robert	60	Saukville	R	0
Brostoff	Jonathan	19	Milwaukee	D	100
Considine	Dave	81	Baraboo	D	100
Craig	David	83	Big Bend	R	0
Czaja	Mary	35	Irma	R	0
Danou	Chris	92	Trempealeau	D	100
Doyle	Steve	94	Onalaska	D	100
Duchow	Cindi	99	Town of Delafield	R	8
Edming	James	87	Glen Flora	R	7
Gannon	Bob	58	Slinger	R	0
Genrich [†]	Eric	90	Green Bay	D	94
Goyke	Evan	18	Milwaukee	D	100
Heaton	David	85	Wausau	R	0
Hebl	Gary	46	Sun Prairie	D	100
Hesselbein	Dianne	79	Middleton	D	100
Hintz	Gordon	54	Oshkosh	D	100
Horlacher	Cody	33	Mukwonago	R	0
Hutton	Rob	13	Brookfield	R	0
Jacque [†]	Andre	2	DePere	R	0
Jagler	John	37	Watertown	R	0
Jarchow [†]	Adam	28	Balsam Lake	R	0
Johnson	LaTonya	17	Milwaukee	D	100
Jorgensen	Andy	43	Milton	D	100
Kahl [†]	Robb	47	Monona	D	94

continued on page 11

Katsma	Terry	26	Oostburg	R	0
Kerkman**	Samantha	61	Salem	R	6
Kessler	Frederick	12	Milwaukee	D	100
Kitchens	Joel	1	Sturgeon Bay	R	13
Kleefisch	Joel	38	Oconomowoc	R	0
Knodl	Daniel	24	Germantown	R	7
Knudson	Dean	30	Hudson	R	0
Kolste	Debra	44	Janesville	D	100
Kooyenga	Dale	14	Brookfield	R	0
Kremer	Jesse	59	Kewaskum	R	7
Krug	Scott	72	Nekoosa	R	20
Kuglitsch†	Mike	84	New Berlin	R	0
Kulp	Bob	69	Strafford	R	0
Larson†	Thomas	67	Colfax	R	0
Loudenbeck	Amy	31	Clinton	R	0
Macco**	John	88	Ledgeview	R	6
Mason	Cory	66	Racine	D	100
Meyers	Beth	74	Bayfield	D	93
Milroy	Nick	73	South Range	D	100
Murphy	David	56	Greenville	R	0
Mursau	Jeffery	36	Crivitz	R	0
Murtha	John	29	Baldwin	R	0
Nerison	Lee	96	Westby	R	7
Neylon	Adam	98	Pewaukee	R	0
Novak	Todd	51	Dodgeville	R	27
Nygren**	John	89	Marinette	R	13
Ohnstad	Tod	65	Kenosha	D	100
Ott, Al	Alvin	3	Forest Junction	R	7
Ott, Jim	Jim	23	Mequon	R	0
Petersen†	Kevin	40	Waupaca	R	0
Petryk†	Warren	93	Eleva	R	13
Pope	Sondy	80	Cross Plains	D	100
Quinn	Romaine	75	Rice Lake	R	13

Riemer	Daniel	7	Milwaukee	D	100
Ripp	Keith	42	Lodi	R	0
Rodriguez	Jessie	21	Franklin	R	0
Rohrkaste	Mike	55	Neenah	R	0
Sanfelippo	Joel	15	New Berlin	R	0
Sargent**	Melissa	48	Madison	D	94
Schraa	Michael	53	Oshkosh	R	0
Shankland	Katrina	71	Stevens Point	D	100
Sinicki	Christine	20	Milwaukee	D	100
Skowronski	Ken	82	Franklin	R	0
Spiros	John	86	Marshfield	R	0
Spreitzer	Mark	45	Beloit	D	100
Steffen†	David	4	Green Bay	R	0
Steineke	Jim	5	Kaukauna	R	0
Stuck†	Amanda	57	Appleton	D	94
Subeck	Lisa	78	Madison	D	100
Swearingen	Rob	34	Rhineland	R	0
Tauchen	Gary	6	Bonduel	R	0
Taylor	Chris	76	Madison	D	100
Thiesfeldt	Jeremy	52	Fond du Lac	R	0
Tittl	Paul	25	Manitowoc	R	0
Tranel†	Travis	49	Cuba City	R	13
VanderMeer	Nancy	70	Tomah	R	7
Vorpapel	Tyler	27	Plymouth	R	0
Vos	Robin	63	Rochester	R	0
Wachs	Dana	91	Eau Claire	D	100
Weatherston†	Thomas	62	Caledonia	R	0
Young	Leon	16	Milwaukee	D	100
Zamarripa	JoCasta	8	Milwaukee	D	100
Zepnick†	Josh	9	Milwaukee	D	94

[†]Includes vote in Assembly Energy and Utilities Committee related to the Nuclear Moratorium (the vote passed in the full Assembly on a voice vote)

^{**}Includes vote on Joint Legislative Audit Committee regarding the Transportation Audit

Support your local Sierra Club

When you make a donation to the John Muir 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. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter's budget.

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

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 other amount: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

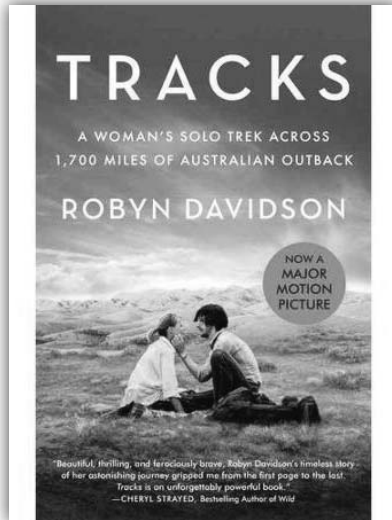
Please keep my gift anonymous

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

Online contributions:
www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin

GREEN REVIEW

By Amy Lou Jenkins, author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*



***Tracks: A Woman's Solo Trek Across 1700 Miles of Australian Outback* by Robyn Davidson, Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, Vintage Departures Series, 2014, originally published by Pantheon Books (1980), 288p.**

At first pass, *Tracks* sounds like an Australian version of Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* — but with camels: young woman traverses wild lands in a bid for transformation and redemption, and both Davidson and Strayed lost their mothers. But while Strayed's memories of loss accompany her on the trek through the Pacific Crest trail, Davidson provides little reflection on her past, her losses and the motivations for her decision to take a few bucks and parlay it into some camels and all the equipment needed to cross 1,700 miles of desert.

Davidson begins: "I arrived in the Alice at five a.m. with a dog, six dollars and a small suitcase full of inappropriate clothes. 'Bring

a cardigan for the evenings,' the brochure said. A freezing wind whipped grit down the platform and I stood shivering, holding warm dog flesh, and wondering what foolishness had brought me to this eerie, empty train-station in the centre of nowhere. I turned against the wind, and saw the line of mountains"

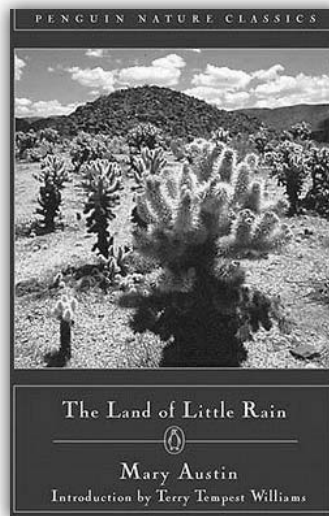
After two years and about 125 pages, the trek begins. Those years and pages are not lost, and they do not delay adventure. The time in Alice Springs layers a history of genocidal colonization and exploitation against Australian aboriginals and introduces Davidson and the reader to the complexity of the camel and the misogyny that often raises its head when a woman ventures forth without a man.

Davidson wants to be alone, yet even in the 1977 Australian Outback she's often dodging tourists, wild camels and even people she cares about. Davidson is judgmental and harsh as she considers others, and she is just as harsh on herself. The only person who consistently enchants her is Mr. Eddy, the aboriginal elder who must accompany her across sacred lands.

Strayed's *Wild* is very internal and finds many resolutions. Davidson's journey is more external and complex as she considers the Australian native people and the two centuries of murderous wrong done to them and the land that they inhabit. Davidson does achieve some

resolution in her self-imposed coming-of-age trial, yet she mires herself and the reader in lamentations of ongoing environmental loss, racial and sexual exploitation, and the emptiness of superficial and fast journeys. Davidson isn't always likable, but she's about as real as any memoirist can be on the page. The words feel honest and the journey the reader takes is evocative.

***The Land of Little Rain*, by Mary Austin, Penguin Books, 1997 (Originally published 1903 by Houghton Mifflin), 110p.**



Mary Austin is a North American classic writer who deserves to be better known. In 14 little essays, an authoritative and lyrical voice reveals hard facts and mysticism of the deserts and hill country between the High Sierras and the Mojave Desert of southern California. Edward Hoagland reminds us in the preface that "nature predates thought." It is the living system that gives life to all. It is source. Austin writes of lands that no longer resemble their wild self; the Owens Valley, for example, has been robbed of its water. *The Land of Little Rain* is a sad and beautiful elegy for a

loss that deserves to be felt. Austin breathes with her beloved landscape, and an affected reader learns to breathe along. This short book is a slow read. The short essays don't offer one a clear narrative thread that pulls through all the essays; the reader doesn't move forward through a story but deeper into a landscape and into a network of rich connections.

Contact Amy Lou Jenkins at AmyLouJenkins.com to send book copies for possible review.

How do YOU want to change the world?



Photo: Community GroundWorks

Protecting our environment,
living sustainably

Support our group and
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www.communityshares.com



RIVER TOURING SECTION

2016 PADDLING TRIPS AND INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section

Interested in paddling some great water with fun and skilled paddlers? Sierra Club's River Touring Section (RTS) has just what you're looking for. RTS leads trips and instructional clinics on whitewater and quietwater that are open to Sierra Club members and the general public. Join us to perfect your skills, explore new waterways, meet other paddlers, learn from skilled volunteer leaders and have fun on the water. Trips are free, unless otherwise indicated. Visit our website for the most complete, updated trip list and other paddling links and information (see link above).

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS offers instructional clinics for a nominal fee, taught by skilled volunteer instructors. Clinic sizes are limited to maintain low student-to-instructor ratios, so reserve your spot early. Fees are due in advance and are non-refundable unless the clinic is cancelled. RTS whitewater clinics are for reasonably experienced paddlers who want to learn or improve their whitewater paddling and safety skills. Additional clinics are offered for beginning canoe and kayak paddlers.

RIVER SAFETY AND RESCUE CLINIC

Aug. 13-14 Red River Class I-II; Car Camp. Fee: \$40/person plus camping fees. Limited to 10 people. Learn river safety and beginning rescue techniques for boats and swimmers through active instruction and practice, including use of ropes, river swimming/crossing, strainers, rescuing pinned boats and managing rescue scenarios. Requires swimming and moderate physical activity. Recommended to all who might lead paddling trips including experienced leaders wishing to retrain. Registration deadline is July 16. Contact: Doug Robinson, (608) 334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com



PADDLING TRIPS

visit: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section/trips for additional trip listings

July 10 Red River Class II-III; Women

Only. Join us for a "girls just want to have fun" day on the Red. Learn about the historical monastery while enjoying the summer day. Contact: Marianne McEvilly, (715) 250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com. Co-leader: Kasy Culbertson, (608) 222-0746, kayaker.kasy@gmail.com

July 9-10 Wolf River Sections III-IV Class

III-III+ Car Camp. Come to enjoy beautiful scenery and some of the most challenging whitewater in Wisconsin. We will paddle Section IV on Saturday (\$35/person fee to Menominee Tribe), and a short Section III on Sunday. This is an intermediate-level trip and above. Contact: Mari Gasiorowicz: (608) 512-7394, mgasiorowicz@gmail.com or Jack Burton, (608) 393-9793, burtonjack48@gmail.com or Bruce Nelson, (608) 244-6397, b1bnelson@att.net

July 14-17 Namekagon River. Class I;

Women-Only Canoe Camp. Enjoy warm summer days on a women-only leisurely paddle covering 35 miles on the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. Learn about how designation as a National Scenic Riverway



protects these beautiful rivers. John Muir Chapter trip. \$150/person fee. Contact:

Vicki Christianson, (715) 827-0379, vicki.christianson@yahoo.com

July 22-Aug 3 Montana Whitewater Class II-III Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in northwest Montana. The trip will be flexible 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. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud, (715) 445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net

Aug. 20-21 Flambeau River Class II; Canoe Camp. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau River by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. Learn how healthy state forests are important for protecting water quality. Contact: Rich Krieg, (920) 660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com or Dale Dean: (608) 302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com

Sept. 3 Wolf River Class II-III; Day Trip.

Join us on a river where wildlife and rocky rapids abound. If we are lucky, we will see deer, eagles, ducks or otters. Contact: Marianne McEvilly, (715) 250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com

September 17 - 18 Oconto River Quietwater; Car Camp. We'll paddle quietwater stretches from Suring to Hintz on Saturday and from Hintz to Pulcifer on Sunday. Learn how Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law impacts the state's forests. Contact: Gregg Riemer, (608) 257-5239, gregg.riemer@gmail.com

Sept. 22-25 Manitowish River and Turtle-Flambeau Flowage Quietwater Women-Only Canoe Camp. Enjoy birds, trees and wildlife on a women-only paddle on the flat-water river section of the flowage. Learn about preserving DNR protections for quiet recreational opportunities and wildlife on state forest lands and protecting wetlands and other waters from invasive species. John Muir Chapter trip. \$160/person fee. Contact: Janet Clear, (608) 833-1339, janetclear@gmail.com

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Sept. 24-25 Wisconsin NE Whitewater Class II-III; Car Camp. Depending on water levels, we will paddle the Pike, Red and/or Wolf Rivers. Enactment of the WI Wild Rivers Act by our state legislators over 50 years ago will be discussed. Wet/dry suit might be required. Contact: Kasy Culbertson, (608) 222-0746, kayaker.kasy@gmail.com
Co-leader: Dave Skriba

Sept. 29-Oct. 2 Namekagon River Class I; Women Only Canoe Camp. Enjoy the autumn colors on a women-only leisurely paddl covering 25 miles. Learn how its designation as a National Scenic Riverway protects this beautiful river. John Muir Chapter Trip. \$150/person fee. Contact: Nancy McDermott, (608) 238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com

Oct. 29-30 Wolf River (Sections II & III) Class II+ Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III of this National Wild and Scenic River on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud, (715) 445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net

RTS Annual Meeting. Jan. 7, 2017. 11 a.m. to ~3 p.m. NEW LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St, Baraboo, Wis. Potluck at noon, followed by business meeting, trip list formation and slideshow/videos of 2016 trips. For details, contact Kevin Olson: (608) 963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

Questions/Comments? Please visit our website or contact Kevin Olson, RTS Chair: (608) 963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

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

General Trip & Clinic Participant Requirements (see RTS website for details).

Preregistration is required for all trips and clinics. Contact the person listed for each trip to obtain details, determine if you have the abilities and equipment needed for the trip and to register.

Participants are responsible for providing their own boats and gear, whether owned, borrowed or rented. Boats and gear must be appropriate for the type of trip planned. This includes a properly fitted PFD (life-jacket) on all trips and a helmet,



flotation (and spray skirt for kayaks) on whitewater trips. Food, lodging and transportation are also typically the participant's responsibility, although we can help identify people who need rides and who have

space in their cars.

All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip or clinic and to abide by decisions made by the trip leaders.

Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the water. Non-paddlers are not allowed on the water without permission of the trip leader. Pets are not allowed unless the trip description specifies otherwise.

International Scale of River Rating Difficulty Temperatures below 50° F typically increase a rating to the next higher level.

Class I: Moving water with few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.

Class II: Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels that are obvious.

Class III: Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that can require complex maneuvering. May require some scouting from shore.

Class IV: Long, difficult rapids and constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scout from shore often necessary and

conditions make rescue difficult. Canoeists and kayakers should have the ability to roll/self-rescue.

Classes V and VI: RTS does not offer trips at these levels.

OUTINGS AND MEMBERS: A GOOD MIX

By Liz Wessel, Membership Committee Chair, Sierra Club -John Muir Chapter

Outings have been instrumental to the growth and longevity of the Sierra Club. Early outings included paddling trips to some of Wisconsin's best rivers. These trips became instrumental in mobilizing the Sierra Club and other activists and organizations to get the St. Croix and Wolf Rivers designated as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Today, the John Muir Chapter has both an outings program and a River Touring Section that offer outings to explore the waters of the state, trainings and workshops to build paddling skills and longer tours into water wilderness.

To get the word out on these trips and Sierra Club Outings, the Sierra Club has had a booth and been a sponsor of the biggest paddling event in the country, Canoecopia.

For the three days of Canoecopia, 32 volunteers from the membership committee, outings team, and River Touring Section talked with hundreds of new people about the Sierra Club. Lots of people

discovered that:

- the Sierra Club Outings program has a diversity of trips from local to international,
- there are outings and paddling events right here in Wisconsin
- and that Sierra Club Outings and River Touring Section can teach outdoor and paddling skills.

During the event, there was also a membership drive with a goal of 20 new members. After Friday evening, volunteers were not sure how things would turn out, but not to worry! Around 20 members were registered in a two-hour span on Saturday with a total weekend tally of 48 new members! This was due to the great work of volunteers talking with people and letting them know about the \$15 membership opportunity and t-shirt or bag.

The membership committee and the Chapter send a big "thank you" to all the volunteers who made Canoecopia a success. Welcome to all new members (including those from Canoecopia) to the Sierra Club. Hopefully you will take the opportunity to get involved and get outdoors with the Sierra Club this summer!

2016 Autumn Assembly Registration

Bethel Horizons Camp & Retreat Center, Dodgeville, WI

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Cell #: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ email: _____

Instructions

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

Online registration is available at:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2016-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 \$80 _____

Late Rate-if paid after Sept. 13

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$95 _____

SATURDAY ONLY REGISTRATION:

Regular Rate-if paid by September 13

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$65 _____

Late Rate-if paid after Sept. 13

_____ # Adults (12 & up) x \$80 _____

Registration Total _____

Meals

Please reserve your meals and indicate any dietary restrictions below

Saturday: Breakfast _____ Lunch _____ Dinner _____

Sunday: Breakfast _____ _____

Dietary restrictions: _____

Field Trips

Optional field trips are being planned for Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. Details will be announced on the website as it becomes available. Please check the box below if you would like us to email field trip information directly to you

YES, please email field trip information to me at the email address above.

Lodging

Bethel Horizons offers tenting or lodge rooms that accommodate up to three or four guests per room. Rooms include a private bath.

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 \$45 _____

_____ # people Sat. night x \$45 _____

Shared Room for 3 or 4-Shared rooms offer a combination of 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 \$40 _____

_____ # people Sat. night x \$40 _____

Tenting-Pitch your own tent at one of the designated campsites. Guests must provide their own camping gear and bedding. Shared bathhouse nearby.

_____ # sites Fri night x \$18 _____

_____ # sites Sat night x \$18 _____

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 _____



..... 2016 JOHN MUIR CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDER

Events and Executive Committee meeting dates:

July 11 - Locally Grown, Nationally Known fundraiser, 125 N. Hamilton St., Madison, 5:30 - 7:30 pm, contact Liz Wessel at lizard59sc@yahoo.com or (608) 238-9934

July 13 - Executive Committee Meeting, sierraclub.org/wisconsin

August 9 - Wisconsin State Primary, myvote.wi.gov

August 13 - 14 - Powershift Midwest: a youth climate and social justice workshop, Wayne State University Student Center, Detroit, MI, powershift2016.org

August 15 - Deadline for Executive Committee Nominations, contact Liz Wessel at lizard59sc@yahoo.com

August 19 - Deadline for Chapter Awards Nominations, sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards or contact Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com

September 10 - 18 - National Drive Electric Week, driveelectricweek.org/

September 17 - Executive Committee Meeting, sierraclub.org/wisconsin

September 19 - Fighting BobFest, Breese Stevens Field, Madison, WI, fightingbobfest.org/

October 7 - 9 - Autumn Assembly, Bethel Horizons Camp & Retreat Center, Dodgeville, WI, sierraclub.org/wisconsin or (608) 256-0565

November 8 - General Election, myvote.wi.gov