



Four Lakes Sierran

The Newsletter of the Four Lakes Group Sierra Club

Fall 2013

Special Frac Sand Mining Presentation – October 29, 7 p.m.

Frac sand mining in Wisconsin has been a concern to many Four Lakes Group members, but the issue has hit much closer to home with a proposal to mine along the Lower Wisconsin River.



Frac Sands Mine. Lukas Keapproth/Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

Come and learn about frac sand mining with a presentation from the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. Reporters Kate Golden and Ron Seeley from WCIJ will educate us about frac sand mining. The frac sands mining industry that supports hydro-fracking of natural gas is largely unregulated and can produce harmful environmental consequences and side effects. We will also have an update from Sierra Club's own Dave Blouin about the proposed Gogebic Taconite mine in northern Wisconsin.

The October 29 presentation will be held at the newly-renovated Madison Public Library. It will be a great chance to see the renovations, learn about an important issue, and visit with others who care about this important environmental issue. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

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Water Sentinel Team

Sierra Club Four Lakes Group and the First Unitarian Society have joined together to create the Water Sentinel Ministry Team.

The team has had a great response to the initial recruitment to find people interested in exploring the water resources of our area. Some of the ideas for activities offered by volunteer leaders include:

Water monitoring (September) – What can we learn from water monitoring and can the Water Sentinels team play a role in protecting our area waters and cleaning them up?

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Chair's Corner

Dave Blouin

Please come and join us for our annual fall kick-off event on the evening of Sept. 25 at the Wil-Mar Center in Madison. The event is a chance to catch up after the summer and learn more about the activities of the Four Lakes Group. We will have food and drink along with good conversation with fellow members and activists. Go to 4Lakes.org for more info and to RSVP.

While I'm looking forward to the autumn hiking season with its varied weather and the promise of fall colors, I'm wistful that summer has flown by so quickly again. The highlight of the summer travel season for my family was a brief but remarkable trip to Isle Royale National Park. We met many weary but happy hikers thrilled by the solitude and beauty of this rugged and isolated national park. We also were treated to a lecture from retired Michigan Tech Professor Rolf Peterson who has been a leader and long-time researcher for the Wolf-Moose Project at the Park.

Professor Peterson's lecture demonstrated the significant challenges now facing the delicate balance between these animals and the park's unique and isolated ecosystem. They are all intricately connected and the research conducted there since the 1950s demonstrates that the system is sensitive to seemingly minor changes. That research is also showing that the current wolf population is at an all-time low and could die off. The resulting boom in moose and hare populations (food

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SIERRA CLUB
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Four Lakes Group Outings

Fall 2013

For all outings: Wear weather and activity-appropriate clothing (layered is best) and good footwear. Bring fluids to drink, and a snack or food. Sun screen and bug spray recommended in season. For work outings, sturdy gloves and boots, long pants and long-sleeved shirts are best. Tools are provided for restoration outings. Please contact the leader to RSVP, if you have questions, concerns about weather, or to cancel. If carpooling, please arrive early. Check the Four Lakes web site or Facebook page for updates or added events.

Leader Contact Info

Don Ferber – d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or (608) 222-9376

Kathy Mulbrandon – kmulb@charter.net

David Smith – smithdc75@yahoo.com or (608) 233-1210

Thursday, September 19 – Table Bluff Segment Moonlight Hike, Ice Age Trail

Hike this beautiful section of the Ice Age Trail for a wonderful moonlit trek. Sunset is at 7 p.m., just after moonrise, so it will be a great time for both. This IAT segment in the driftless area has marvelous restored prairies and oak woodlands that have a special allure in the moonlight. The hike is ~ 5 miles. Wear sturdy hiking footwear. A flashlight or headlight is recommended. Meet at 6:30 p.m. Take Hwy 14 just west of Cross Plains to Cty KP. Go north 2.3 miles to Table Bluff Rd. Turn left for .3 miles to parking area on the left. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon.

Saturday, October 5 – Lodi Segment Hike, Ice Age Trail

Join us for a 6-7 mile hike along the Lodi Segment of the IAT. This is a very scenic Trail section where you can learn about wetland areas and glaciated landscapes, and about the restoration of the prairie and woodland areas along it. This is a moderate difficulty hike. Meet at 10 a.m. Take Hwy 113 north of Madison and go ~ 2.5 miles past the Village of Dane. Turn left on Lee Rd. for 1 mile, then north on Lodi Springfield Rd. for ~ .8 miles to the parking area on the left with the kiosk. If carpooling from Madison, meet at 9 a.m. at the Hill Farm State Office Building (DOT) west parking lot on Sheboygan Ave. RSVP to David Smith.

Stream Bank Restoration in Western Dane County October 5 - Pleasant Valley Stream Bank Restoration

Join Trout Unlimited to help clear overgrown willow and other plants and learn more about stream bank restoration and what we choose to remove and why. It's also a good opportunity to learn more about fish habitat and why trout find this area good habitat. This is part of Dane County's stream bank easement program that depends in good part on volunteers to provide good fishing access to cold water trout streams in SW Dane County. The outing is from 9 a.m. to noon. The restoration site is 1¼ miles south of Cty JG on Cty H in the Town of Perry at a bridge over Pleasant Valley. The address is 485 County Hwy H, Mount Horeb. Contact Don Ferber for more information. Future outings in western Dane County are planned for November 2 and December 14. Watch 4lakes.org for more details.

Sunday, December 15 – Annual Winter Bonfire at Picnic Point

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for our annual celebratory Winter Bonfire to share good cheer and enjoy a crisp earlier winter evening with fellow Sierrans and other outdoor lovers. Bring beverages (warm or otherwise) and a snack to share (or even something to roast on the fire), and stories to share or holiday songs to sing, and we'll have a merry old time! Picnic Point is off University Bay Drive just off of the Lake Mendota Lakeshore Path. Parking is available. Meet at the farthest fire pit on Picnic Point, ~ 1 mile in. (Ground may be uneven or snowy.) Don't forget a warm hat, gloves or mittens, and boots! RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon. ■

Four Lakes Group Sierra Club Contacts

on the web: [www. http://4lakes.org](http://4lakes.org) - Like us on Facebook

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Four Lakes Group Events

Get Connected at the Fall Kick Off

Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
The Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer Street, Madison

Ever wonder what the local Sierra Club is up to? Want to learn about our programs and plug in to activism? Then this is the event for you! Learn about county initiatives to help clean up our lakes, address the impact of climate change on Dane County, and increasing sustainability and the use of renewable energy throughout county government during a keynote address by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi. There will also be food, fun, live music, and a short overview of our activities and events. Come hear (and share) what's happening, and how you can join in and help make the difference you want to see!

Some areas you can learn about:

- Outdoor Outings to hike, bike, camp and paddle
- Conservation activism
- Cruisin' for Cuisine Dinner Series
- Inner City Outings "at risk" youth program
- Event Recycling & Composting campaign
- Communication & Outreach Opportunities
- Political Education
- Water Sentinels

This will be a fun and engaging event, so grab a friend and join us for a spectacular time! RSVP online at <http://4lakes.org> or call (608) 274-7870. For questions, contact lacinda.athen@gmail.com or (608) 274-7870.

Cruisin' for Cuisine Dinner Series

Cruisin' is a social dinner group that visits local restaurants in and around Madison for an evening of conversation, camaraderie and fabulous food. This fall, we pay special attention to two long-time Madison favorites – Buraka and Husnu's – both of which will have to close or relocate soon, due to construction on State Street. Be sure to come! It might be your last chance in a long time or forever! We do separate checks, so you can order what you like. The event is open to non-members, so anyone can feel free to join us and bring a friend.

Please RSVP a week in advance to lacinda.athen@gmail.com or (608) 274-7870 to hold your seat and for the dinner time.

- Tuesday September 10 - *Buraka* - 543 State Street, Madison WI
- Tuesday, October 8 - *Husnu's* - 547 State Street, Madison, WI
- Thursday, November 14 - *Eno Vino Wine Bar & Bistro* - 601 Junction Rd, Madison, WI

Join us for Autumn Assembly

When: October 11-13, 2013

Where: Green Lake Conference Center (www.glcc.org)

Details & Registration: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>

Autumn Assembly is a statewide, family-friendly gathering for a weekend of education, outings, socializing and planning. This year we feature keynote speaker Tom Heberlein, former chair of the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at UW-Madison and current professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies in Umeå, Sweden.

In addition to our distinguished keynote speaker, we'll hear from a range of other experts on topical conservation issues. Mining Chair Dave Blouin and Wisconsin Resources Protection Council Executive Secretary Al Gedicks will provide us with an update on metallic mining, while the Fox Valley Group's Kelly Ramstack will join Pat Popple to offer tips on community organizing around proposed frac sand mines.

In celebration of the John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary in Wisconsin, this year's event will feature historical photos and displays to commemorate our accomplishments, as well as a forum where we'll unveil Sierra Club's current work and exciting future plans.

Field trip options include a Friday tour of the Glacier Hills Wind Park and a Sunday tour of John Muir Park. Accommodation options at Green Lake Conference Center include camping, rustic, and dorm rooms with bunks and shared bathrooms. Don't miss the fun! Early registration ends on 9/15.

Annual Holiday Potluck – Sunday, December 8

Join your fellow Sierrans around the fireplace with a drink in one hand and a plate in the other for this fabulous holiday event. Bring a dish or dessert to pass, and enjoy an evening of socializing and sharing the year's successes and challenges. Sierra Club 2014 calendars and logo items will be available for sale, for yourself or as holiday gifts, so bring your checkbook! Held at Lacinda Athen's home on Madison's near West side. RSVP by December 5 to Lacinda at Lacinda.athen@gmail.com or (608) 274-7870 for address, and so Bandit (Lacinda's cute dog) will know how many to expect. ■

CHAIR from page 1

for wolves) threatens the health of the rest of the park's forests and other resources.

We paid a brief but memorable visit to the Peterson family cabin where Rolf and research partner and spouse, Candy have worked for decades and where they raised four kids. They welcomed us to their cabin and gave us a tour of their extraordinary collection of moose bones and other specimens collected for their research. Candy had just finished baking bread for 16 volunteers arriving the next day to conduct two weeks of field study, and she generously shared that bread with us. We were thrilled and grateful to visit with these remarkable people.

The struggles and issues threatening the health of the ecosystem of Isle Royale are similar to those we face here in our area and statewide. But I'm encouraged after visiting the park that devoted research and science will continue to inform our policy makers and help them make good decisions. It might seem a bit gloomy for the short term given our political makeup, but I am hopeful for the future. More info about the Wolf-Moose Project can be found at isleroyalewolf.org.

I'm pleased to announce a new partnership between the Four Lakes Group and First Unitarian Society of Madison designed to build a better understanding and appreciation of the important water resources in our area. Active society members, including Sierra Club members such as John Muir Chapter Chair Liz Wessel, have committed to help protect water resources via a new Water Sentinels program. The Water Sentinels will consider a range of efforts from monitoring waters in the area to educational programs on a broad spectrum of scientific and cultural topics around waters.

Working with the society to energize our respective members to work



Rolf Peterson, leader and long-time researcher for the Wolf-Moose Project at Isle Royale National Park.

to protect and enhance local water resources is exciting. It represents an opportunity to work proactively to protect resources when so often we're forced to play defense by fighting against poor development ideas and damaging public policy proposals. The first event in the program — a water monitoring event — is tentatively scheduled for September 29. Please check our website for more info and details on this event and more.

The makeup of the Four Lakes Group Executive Committee changed this

summer with the retirement of Berenice Wiecki. Thanks to Berenice for her work as our treasurer. I also want to thank Erik Petterson for joining the committee; Erik is training to take over as treasurer. The committee serves as your "board of directors" for the group and administers our finances and resources while pursuing our policy and advocacy goals. The committee is always looking for anyone interested in working from the inside to keep the group vital and involved. Please contact me if you're interested in learning more. ■

WATER SENTINELS from page 1

Stream quality – Ever wonder whether streams are different in an urban and rural setting? Join us and let's find out.

Permaculture and water-friendly gardening and horticulture – We will get a tour of a property being restored using land and water friendly techniques.

Snowshoeing – Snowshoes provide a great way to explore our parks and lakes in winter. Look for a fun and educational outing this winter.

Fishing – Fish provide an indication of the quality of lakes. We will take a fishing trip next spring/early summer.

These are just some of the ideas that we are planning. Our goal is to offer a range of activities that will appeal to a wide variety of people.

A planning group will be meeting soon to follow up on these ideas and more. If you want to join the Water Sentinel Team, please contact Liz Wessel, 238-9934, lizmwessel@gmail.com or Cindy Rose, 271-6440, crose5@att.net. ■

A Pipeline to Disaster

Most environmentalists have already heard of the controversial proposed Trans-Canada Keystone XL pipeline that would bring Canadian tar sands sludge and fossil fuels through the Midwest. But did you know that Wisconsin is already 'blessed' with two pipelines carrying tar sands sludge from Canada?

Enbridge Inc. is looking to expand its major Alberta Clipper pipeline, which comes down from Canada to Superior, then splits into two paths. One path, called Line 61, travels southeast diagonally through Wisconsin toward Chicago and then east through Michigan.

The other path, called Line 5, goes under the Straights of Mackinac. As an old pipeline, it is considered quite unsafe and poses a considerable risk to the ecology of Lakes Michigan, Superior and Huron.

The tar sands going through these pipelines are very corrosive, which increases the risk of breakage or leaking from carrying any fossil fuel through the pipelines. Tar sands are also very difficult to clean up if and when they spill.

Enbridge is applying to increase the flow through some pipelines, including Line 61 that had a recent spill in Wisconsin. Two years ago Enbridge had a much larger spill in Michigan. But Enbridge wants to send added materials through Delavan and Illinois then down to the Gulf of Mexico because of the problems and delays with the Keystone XL proposal. Enbridge has hardly been forthcoming about the risks that come with the pipelines. They don't even want to disclose what or how much they carry.

The risks are huge for pipeline spills, not if they will occur, but when and where. While those risks are significant, they may pale compared

to what will occur if the pipelines are expanded and work as planned. Acclaimed Columbia University scientist James Hansen declared that if the Keystone XL is built, and the tar sands oils are extracted and burned, it's "game over" for climate change. Even if Keystone XL isn't built and other routes are found for the tar sands, the results for climate change will still be the same.

Would you get in your car or on your bike if you knew a catastrophe was imminent? Would you want the DOT to build roads that were

inherently unsafe? If you wouldn't take those risks, why would we allow Enbridge's pipeline plans that will further exacerbate the overheating of our planet?

If you're concerned or want to learn more, you can educate yourself and take action. In addition to signing petitions and contacting your federal representatives, a day of action is being planned by 350.org on September 21 in Madison and elsewhere to show your opposition. Stay tuned for more information and updates on this issue and event. ■

Membership Survey Results

Periodically, the Four Lakes Group communications team polls the club's members to know whether events and publications continue to be appropriate for an ever-changing membership. The current survey, conducted between January and June of 2013, was done in that spirit, and received 72 responses.

Results will be used by the executive and communication committees to guide our 2014 planning and to try and line up events, outings and campaigns that are in line with our membership.

Respondents believe protecting our natural resources is the most important environmental issue, with moving beyond fossil fuels coming in second. Respondents rated recycling and composting as the second-most important environmental issue, followed closely by frac sand mining.

We are happy to report that more than three-fourth of the respondents read every issue of this newsletter and think it is about the right length. They like the feature articles and want to see more issue and science articles.

Most respondents often use the eNews email to find out about Four Lakes Sierra Club activities and sometimes go to the website to find out about activities.

While most respondents were aware of outdoor outings, political education and activism opportunities and statewide outings and volunteer opportunities, a little over one-quarter of respondents were not aware of the Recycling Away from Home and Inner City Outings programs or the Fall Kick-off party in September and the Volunteer Party in February. This year's Fall Kick-off Party will be September 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wil-Mar Center.

When asked what activities they would most like to see, the most respondents chose educational presentations and hikes. We will host an educational presentation on frac sand mining October 29 at 7 p.m. at the newly-renovated Madison Public Library. ■

Frac Sand Industry Faces DNR Violations, Warnings

Some companies 'seem to put construction and production ahead of regulations,' inspector says

By Kate Prengaman
Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

Nearly a fifth of Wisconsin's 70 active frac sand mines and processing plants were cited for environmental violations last year, as the industry continued to expand at a rapid clip.

Violations included air pollution, starting construction without permits, and an accident at the Preferred Sands mine in Trempealeau County where a mudslide during a heavy rainstorm damaged a neighboring property.

In addition, the state Department of Natural Resources cranked out letters of noncompliance — warnings to fix a problem before it becomes serious enough to merit a notice of violation — at numerous facilities.

"Some of these companies should have known better," said Marty Sellers, a DNR air management engineer.

"They seem to put construction and production ahead of regulations."

Usually, Sellers said, the DNR expects 90 percent of companies in a regulated industry to comply with rules on their own. But in his visits to a dozen frac sand facilities, Sellers encountered the opposite pattern, and he sent letters of noncompliance to 80 to 90 percent of the sites.

DNR compliance officials acknowledged they have been stretched thin monitoring the sand industry, which has grown from a handful of sites five years ago to more than 100 permitted mining, processing or transport facilities today.

Wisconsin is the nation's leading supplier of frac sand. The companies mine, sort and wash sand for use in hydraulic fracturing of shale to extract natural gas in other states.

Gov. Scott Walker has proposed two new DNR positions in his budget

to monitor the sand industry, by shifting \$223,000 from other parts of the budget.

The Wisconsin Industrial Sand Association, an industry trade group representing five large companies, applauded the move. Increasing staff will help to ensure that all mining companies operate according to state laws, the group said in a press release.

Citizens aided enforcement

Dust generated the most community complaints about frac sand operations in 2012, but most violations involved stormwater permits.

DNR environmental enforcement specialist Deb Dix said some of the violations resulted from residents' complaints. Perhaps because sand mines have provoked so much controversy, citizens have been alert to problems, Dix said — more alert than for similar problems that can be caused by road work or other construction.

In response to complaints in the Frac Sand Sentinel, an e-newsletter for anti-mining activists, that the DNR was slow in responding to a runoff concern, a DNR stormwater specialist wrote in, explaining that the extra vigilance was helpful.

"I do greatly appreciate any and all photos and reports," Ruth King wrote. "It is precisely because I am only a half-time employee and cannot be everywhere at all times that we really really need concerned citizens to be our eyes and ears."



From bottom right, a conveyor carries sand from the crushing area to a wash plant tower to be washed and sorted by grain size at the Preferred Sands plant in Blair, Wis., on June 20, 2012. Lukas Keapproth/Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism

In neighboring Minnesota, where Democrats are in control of the legislature and governor's office, a Senate committee approved a bill recently calling for a statewide moratorium on new mine development and a study of the industry's environmental impacts.

But in Wisconsin, where Republicans are in control, the DNR decided last year that existing non-metallic mining regulations were sufficient to handle the frac sand boom, and politicians appear unlikely to move toward more regulation.

The proposed two new DNR positions would most likely be focused on mines' compliance with air quality regulations, said Tom Woletz, the DNR's point person for frac sand.

"Many Wisconsinites have the impression of the DNR as a big strong agency, but it's not what it was 10 years ago," said Pilar Gerasimo, a journalist and environmental activist in Dunn County. "They are understaffed and have not been able to keep up."

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VIOLATIONS *from page 6*

Gerasimo said that she worries that under the Walker administration, the DNR is doing more to “work with” businesses that are potential polluters and spending less time tracking potential problems.

Air regulator Sellers said he only inspects large operations that dry sand, a process that poses the greatest risk of dust pollution, on a rotating basis and when mines are testing emissions for permitting purposes. The air quality compliance staff doesn’t inspect small mines regularly unless someone complains about them.

Two significant runoff incidents

The DNR referred two May 2012 frac sand mine violations that caused significant environmental damage to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. The agency said it is reviewing the cases.

At the Preferred Sands mine in Trempealeau County, the mudslide that flooded a neighbor’s property during a heavy storm violated its stormwater permit. The Minnesota-based mining company also had multiple violations of its air quality permit.

Todd Murchison, the Preferred Sands regional manager, has said that the company had learned a lot from the accident, changed its policies and was cooperating with the DNR.

At the Burnett County mine owned by Minnesota-based Interstate Energy Partners, a leak in a holding pond let silt-laden water leak into the St. Croix River for a few days before it was noticed by a hiker.

“A release like that could have been devastating to wetlands or the St. Croix if left uncorrected,” Dix said about the leak. “The regulations are there to protect the environment — from catastrophic events and ongoing damage.”

Three additional companies were fined in 2012.

Sierra Club Tabling: Starting the Dialog

You’ve probably heard of tabling a discussion as a way to end it. In our case, tabling is a way to start discussions. Engaging people in conversations is an important part of what we do as the Sierra Club. We can often inform them about important issues they might find relevant. In some cases, we learn from them. Either way, that dialog and face-to-face conversation is a critical point of contact.

That’s why we have a Sierra Club table at many events, and why your participation is important. Each Saturday, weather permitting, we table at the Farmers Market on the Capitol Square. And in September, we’ll have two key opportunities to reach out to very supportive audiences at Fighting Bob Fest at the Alliant Energy Center on September 7, and the Willy Street Fair in Madison, September 21 and 22. The great thing is that these are all really fun events to be at, and you never know when you’re going to meet some really cool people, and maybe make new friends!

Your assistance tabling at any of these events is appreciated. We have plenty of information, guidance and support if you haven’t tabled previously. For more information or to help out, contact Don Ferber at d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or (608) 222-9376. ■

Last March, the DNR received a complaint about muddy water in a stream and found a leaking holding pond at the Panther Creek Sand mine in Clark County. According to Dix, the damage was minor and the company fixed it right away; it was fined \$464.

Bear Creek Cranberry in Monroe County paid \$868 for serious problems with its environmental protection plan.

The Chippewa Sand Company notified county officials in April that a pond holding wastewater overflowed into a drainage area, eventually soaking into the soil. Dan Masterpole, the Chippewa County conservationist, said the company was fined \$2,795 and made changes to prevent similar problems in the future.

Runoff problems are more likely in the spring as snow melts and mines resume operations, Masterpole said, so Chippewa County has scheduled inspections for this spring.

Nine companies that received

violations faced no fines, Dix said. Their violations were largely either paperwork problems or other easily corrected issues.

Few air pollution violations so far

Dust pollution — a potential health concern as well as a nuisance — attracted the most attention from citizens, but only a few sand mines received serious air quality violations.

Companies monitor dust levels to protect workers. They spray water on exposed soil and use specialized equipment like dust collectors and covered conveyors to prevent pollution, Woletz said.

Dix said some of the recent violations were a result of the frac sand boom and new people moving into the industry who were not familiar with the rules and regulations.

“The fines are meaningless in relation to both the potential profits and damages in question,” Gerasimo said. “Two new agents isn’t going to change that.” ■



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Newsletter Mailing

Our goal is environmentally friendly, cost effective communication with our members. Our primary modes of communication are this newsletter, the Four Lakes Enews and our web site. We mail a hard copy if we don't have your email or you request it. Others receive an email letting you know when the newsletter is available for downloading. Please consider sending your email to d_ferber@sbcglobal.net if we don't have it to save the cost and paper of mailings. Plus we can also send you our Enews to keep you better informed.

Working our way up the R's

We've all heard the three Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle. It is best to do them in that order. First you reduce your waste, reuse what you can, and lastly recycle what you still have to get rid of. Unfortunately our culture often thinks first about recycling, next about reusing, and maybe occasionally actually reducing consumption and waste.

Our Recycling Away from Home (RAH) program started a few years ago with recycling at east side Madison festivals. But now we are taking the next step, reusing waste products. It's the second year the Atwood Summerfest has used compostable beer cups. Thanks to the diligent efforts of our volunteers, the collection of food waste and beer cups rose almost four-fold from last year -- from 285 pounds in 2012 to 820 pounds this year.

Paul Abramson, who helped start the RAH program, also made the Willy Street Co-op member party at La Fete de Marquette a fully-compostable event. They collected nearly a half a ton of compost!

Both events also featured the Madison Water Utility's new water cart that allows people to fill their empty containers with cool, clear city water at these events, further reducing water bottle waste.

The future looks very positive. We have been contacted by the organizer for the Orton Park Festival, who now plans to use compostable beer and wine cups. We will be working hard to try to get all the east side festivals to move

to compostable beer cups next year. The people at the Goodman Community Center want to make the Atwood Summerfest fully compostable next year, including vendors. Perhaps we can get all the festivals to do that – and then we're talking real waste reduction.



You know what we'd say to that? RAH! ■

Fall Kickoff — September 25 (see article page 3)

FRACKING *from page 1*

The mission statement of the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism is: "Protect the vulnerable. Expose wrongdoing. Seek solutions to problems." Because of their reporting on frac sand mining, they continue to receive inquiries from governmental agency officials, mining companies and others using the comprehensive spreadsheet and map of existing and potential mining areas that they produced. The state DNR also has begun to study the effects of sand mining on Wisconsin residents. And the state Department of Transportation has consulted their reporting in its effort to quantify the effects of the burgeoning sand rush on Wisconsin's highways and railroads. ■