

Four Lakes Sierran

The Newsletter of the Four Lakes Group Sierra Club

Spring 2015

Autumn Assembly

Autumn Assembly: Local Acts, Statewide Impacts

Why is it called Autumn Assembly? Autumn fits – this event is the first weekend of October. So does “assembly” from the root word “assemble”, meaning to gather together – which our Assembly definitely is. But Webster tells us that assemble also means to put together, as to actively integrate a collection of parts.

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

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

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Chair’s Corner

Belated Happy Earth Day to everyone! I hope that you were able to take part in the many events that both celebrate Earth Day but also to learn more about the many ways that we can help protect our precious environment. Every year in April, I’m amazed at the number of educational opportunities we have around Earth Day and I’m proud that the Four Lakes Groups leaders and members work to help bring those opportunities to the public via our outings, presentations, and activism. We have a busy summer planned so please check the calendar in this issue and check our website regularly.

Don’t forget that we are hosting this year’s statewide Autumn Assembly on October 2-4 at the Perlstein Resort and Conference Center near the Wisconsin Dells. Save those dates now for the Sierra Club’s annual weekend gathering to meet with fellow members to hear inspiring speakers and learn more about our local and state programs in a beautiful setting on Lake Blass in Lake Delton. We are really lucky to have three great presenters on tap so far: Authors James Mills and Mike McCabe, and public policy researcher Scott Wittkopf, who will be joined by Sierra Club members and staff holding educational workshops and trainings to advance our efforts. Additional details on our speakers and presentations are on page 2. Watch for the next Muir View newsletter for the registration form and the schedule for the event.

Once again, we’re partnering with the Madison Mallards baseball team for a Community Night benefit for both the Four Lakes Group and the state John Muir Chapter on Thursday, July 16. Mallards games are always a blast and the team and management emphasize making the games a fun night out. This will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow members and to help raise some needed funds for work on our priority issues.

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Midwest Tar Sands Resistance March

When: Saturday, June 6, Noon – 4 pm
Where: St Paul, MN

To Participate: Go to <http://www.4lakes.org/> to sign up for the March and for Sierra Club supported buses to get there.

Enbridge and others are trying to build and expand an enormous network of tar sands pipelines from Canada into the Midwest. These tar sands pipelines, along with crude oil trains and tankers, pose a growing risk to the Great Lakes, our rivers, our communities and our climate.

Join thousands of others gathering in the Twin Cities on June 6 for the Tar Sands Resistance March – the largest anti-tar sands event *ever* in the region. We are coming together to send a clear message: keep toxic tar sands out of America’s Heartland, fight for clean water, clean energy, and a safe climate!

Buses will be available from many locations and the Four Lakes Group is supporting at least one bus (and we hope more!) that will be going from Madison to St Paul and back on June 6.

Join us – and fight the spread of tar sands!



SIERRA CLUB
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Autumn Assembly

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Sessions

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

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

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

Not to be left out are key statewide issue campaigns on clean energy, transportation, groundwater, and tar sands and pipeline risks in Wisconsin, with opportunities to learn more, including what's occurring in local communities. We'll also cover other issues such as local activism, fundraising, media use, and the young adult perspective and involvement.

Activities



Nor have we forgotten our Muir roots. Two exciting optional outings on Friday prior to the Assembly, and one after on Sunday offer great outdoors experiences. Friday early afternoon, we'll tour the International Crane Foundation to learn about their wildlife and native landscape preservation efforts. Later that afternoon, just down the road we'll tour the Aldo Leopold's zero net energy use Legacy Center, and then visit the infamous Shack – hallowed ground for many environmentalists.

We won't let you depart Sunday afternoon without one last opportunity to enjoy nature and the outdoors. A presentation by noted UW geologist, David Mickelson, will be followed by an Upper Wisconsin Dells boat tour with David to

directly experience that iconic landscape. The 2-hour tour includes 2 short hikes.

The Assembly itself is not all work and no play. Situated on the shores of lovely Lake Blass, Perlstein has canoes available for your leisure use, and we'll have early morning bird walks on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday evening is our not-to-be-missed social and silent auction, chapter awards (have you nominated your hero's yet?), and dinner. Both Friday and Saturday evenings will provide



time for fun, refreshments, films and singing, with a show your own photos time on Friday.

Perlstein has several lodges with very nice rooms available that accommodate up to 4 people, each with its own bathroom, with camping available for those who wish. Check the schedule and registration form for other information, and updates and further details will be available on the chapter and Four Lakes web sites, and on Facebook.

Will you come?

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

Four Lakes Group Sierra Club Contacts

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

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*Executive Committee members

Spring/Summer 2015 Outings

For all outings, wear weather and activity appropriate clothing, and good footwear. For work outings, wear work clothes and gloves. Bring fluids to drink, and a snack or food, and sun screen, a hat, and insect repellent if needed. If carpooling, please be a little early. Please contact the leader to RSVP, if you have questions, or with concerns about weather and to cancel. Check the Four Lakes Group web site or Facebook page for updates or added events.

Leader Contact Info

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Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 pm – Night Time Spring Hike, Ice Age Trail Junction Verona Segment

Ice Age Junction parking lot on Cty PD, just west of High Point Rd

Join us for an easy 3-4 mile hike through mostly prairie on the Ice Age Trail in Verona. If the weather cooperates, we'll be hiking under lovely moonlight. It's a great time to learn about prairie plants and see the prairies and woods in bloom before mosquito season. Take Hwy PD west of Verona Rd toward Hwy M. The parking lot is atop the hill just past the High Point Rd stoplight. Bring a flashlight or headlamp. Contact Kathy Mulbrandon for more info.



Saturday, May 16, 9 am - noon – Pheasant Branch Conservancy workday

Pheasant Branch Conservancy parking lot, 4864 Pheasant Branch Road

The Friends of Pheasant Branch workday will get you off the trail and into the landscape, learning about what it takes for restored areas to flourish. Activities depend on season and may include cutting brush missed by spring fires, removing invasives that out-compete native plants, or seed recently cleared areas. Emails will be sent out 1 day prior. RSVP to Liz Wessel.

Monday, May 18, 6 - 7 pm – Cow Power Tour! Manure Digester

7167 Schneider Road, Town of Middleton

Tour the newly completed Springfield "Cow Power" manure digester! The facility consists of digesters and generators that produce electric power. Manure from three dairy farms is processed to produce clean energy, create an organic fiber compost by-product, and remove phosphorus. Phosphorus from excess manure spread on fields is a major cause of Lake Mendota water quality problems. Participants welcome ages 12 and up. Wear appropriate clothing and good walking shoes. Space is limited to 30 with organized carpooling, so you must RSVP to Herb Garn, 608-836-3016 or hsgarn@wisc.edu.

Sunday, May 31, 4 pm – Water Sentinel Planning Meeting (check list for room)

First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison

Meet to plan additional events for the summer and think about the fall. If you have ideas or suggestions, please send them to Liz Wessel.

Saturday, June 13, 1 - 4 pm – Muir Park Land Dedication

N1383 County Rd F, Montello, just north of Muir Park. See article on page 4 for description.

Saturday, June 13, 10 am - 3 pm – Paddle and a Picnic, Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge

Harts Road Shelter in Glacier Park, southeast of Lake Geneva off IL Hwy 31

See the new addition to our National Wildlife Refuges! Join Water Sentinel members and the Southeast Gateway Group of the Sierra Club on a Sierra Club paddle and a picnic at the Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge. The picnic (bring a dish to share) will be in the Illinois portion of the refuge from 10 am to 3 pm. Paddling will be on the Nippersink Creek probably after lunch. For more information, contact L.D. Rockwell.

Saturday, June 20, 9 am - noon – Pheasant Branch Conservancy workday

See May 16 description



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Midwest Renewable Energy Fair bus – June 20

You may already have the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's Energy Fair from June 19 - 21 on your radar. If you don't, maybe you should. Every year, the Fair provides a wealth of knowledge not only on renewable energy and efficiency for your home or business or car, but it offers a huge range of workshops with opportunities to live green and be sustainable. Special keynote speakers this year include a former Chair of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Amy Goodman of Democracy Now. More information on the Energy Fair can be found at <https://www.midwestrenew.org/energyfair>.

However, keeping your carbon footprint low in getting there and back can be a concern. Unless you plan to bike or use Wisconsin's Rideshare, the Four Lakes Group is offering you another option again to ride in the comfort of a luxurious Van Galder bus on Saturday, June 20 to enjoy the Fair for the day. You can [sign up for the bus at http://vols.pt/zUWYr8](http://vols.pt/zUWYr8). There is no cost, but we never turn away donations! The schedule is as follows:

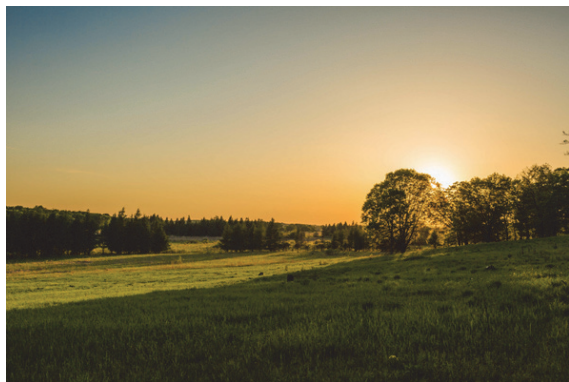
- 7 am - leaves from Willy St Coop West, 6825 University Ave in Middleton. Riders should find street parking and not park in the lot.
- 7:15 – pick up at the Hilldale parking ramp entrance (park on the top floor) opposite the Great Dane
- 7:30 am – pick up at the UW Chazen Museum, University Ave
- 7:45 am – pick up behind Hawthorne Library at 2707 Hermina
- 8:30 am – optional pick up in Portage
- 6:15 pm – leave MREA to return to Madison. Will be at Willy St West Coop at 10 pm.

Muir Park Dedication

Saturday, June 13, 1 – 4 pm
N1383 County Rd F, Montello

Celebrate Conservation of the Eggleston-Muir Family Farm

Last year, the Natural Heritage Land Trust worked with the Sierra Club and other non-profit groups to purchase, protect and restore 198 acres of land adjacent to Muir Park, including 38 acres of land settled by Muir's family.



Join the John Muir Chapter, Sierra Club, the Wisconsin Friends of John Muir, and others for a special event on this now permanently protected land. Enjoy your choice of field trips and the dedication of a distinctive memorial wall that honors the cultural and historic legacy of this landscape. More information and a link to register for free is at www.nhlt.org.

Chair's Corner

Continued from page 1

Your \$15 ticket supports our fundraising plus you get admission to the game v. the Lakeshore Chinoooks from Mequon and a Mallards cap. We had a great turnout last year and hope to make the party even bigger. Buy tickets today by going to our website and join in the fun!

We're busy making plans for more public education on important issues via regular tabling at the Farmers Market and other events this summer. The Recycling Away From Home (RAH) is working at area outdoor festivals and concerts to continue to divert wastes from our landfills. Your help is needed at these fun events; please contact our tireless organizer and conservation chair, Don Ferber for more information or go to our website at 4Lakes.org.

We held our annual Volunteer Recognition event at the downtown Madison Brocach Pub and Restaurant back in February. We reviewed the successful campaign work from the previous twelve months and hopefully recruited many of you to help continue and build on that work throughout this year. The Recognition event is a fun mix of social outing and activism just like the Volunteer Kickoff each fall and the Cruisin' For Cuisine Dinner series hosted by our own Lacinda Athen. We'd love to have you join in any of these events to meet fellow member activists and learn more about our work.

Congratulations to Sierra Club member Steve Arnold on his election to Mayor of Fitchburg. We proudly endorsed him in his race this spring. Our endorsement is an important honor sought after by many candidates and only those who are strong advocates for the environment receive Sierra Club approval. Please contact me if you're interested in helping the Club achieve our goals via volunteering with our political programs.

Finally, I'm pleased to report the results of our 2015 Executive Committee elections. Beverly Speer, Judi Duncan, and I were each elected to the two-year terms. We will miss Dane Varese, who stepped down from the Committee earlier this year to devote more time to his work with Representative Mark Pocan where he was recently promoted to District Director. The Executive Committee generally meets once a month and is responsible for oversight of the activities of members and committees of the Group. We're always interested in your input and feedback and also recruiting members interested in serving on committees including the Executive Committee.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Hope to see you on the trails this summer!

Autumn Assembling

Can you do some Autumn Assembling?

Your Four Lakes Group has the privilege of hosting this year's Autumn Assembly, October 2 – 4 in the Wisconsin Dells. We want this to be a fun and educational event, and we need a bit of your help to show what our Four Lakes Group can do. We have a number of simple and fun tasks to do prior to or at the Autumn Assembly. Can you spare a little time (and maybe talents) to make this a special event for John Muir Chapter members and guests? We have a suite of options below for you to choose from with the various tasks, many of which can be done with others in your spare time. Items with an “*” can be done prior to the Autumn Assembly. Contact Don Ferber at 608-222-9376 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net to assist.

Conference packet preparation *

- Print out necessary materials (at JMC office)
- Assemble conference packets – AA schedule, map, survey and evaluation forms in folders

Name tags *

- Design name tags and ancillary identification (e.g. group, activity area)
- Assemble name tags

Activities

- Determine social activities and locations *
- Find movies to bring *
- Obtain drinks and snacks for social time *
- Set out and manage drinks and snacks

Publicity *

- Promote Autumn Assembly on social media
- Reach out to other groups and organizations to publicize the AA
- Design one or more flyers

Awards *

- Help solicit recipients for awards and get awards ready

Speakers Committee *

- Contact speakers to confirm attendance
- Find intro people for main speakers
- Make sure speakers will have needed equipment and support

Registration and welcome

- Check people in the at registration table
- Take money for merchandise or other purposes
- Help people get oriented or settled in

Silent Auction

- Help obtain items for silent auction from businesses, individuals or organizations *
- Lay out silent auction items and bid sheets and collect them after the auction ends
- Take money and get winners their prizes

Outings

- Track lists of people for outings prior to or after the Assembly *
- Serve as a contact and on site people tracker

RePower Madison Update

After MGE's efforts last year to disempower customers ability to control their utility bills with the increases in fixed monthly charges, MGE has agreed to community conversations regarding our energy future. They will be conducted this fall, with preparatory discussion with various community groups being held this summer.

It was beyond disappointing MGE did not listen to the community's clearly expressed concerns last year and proceeded with their rate case proposal. We hope MGE learned from the pushback they received last year and is sincere about wanting to be our community energy company that will listen to and respond to what the community. But concern remains after MGE's original plan to continue increasing fixed customer fees, and a Public Service Commission that is encouraging them to do so.

However, the City of Madison has had a Sustainability Plan, one MGE participated in, since 2011 that reflects the community's wishes and directions. The City is forging ahead and has created and passed an added Energy Work plan whose goals include 25% renewables by 2025, and a 50% energy reduction by the entire City by 2030. This forward-looking plan reflects the community's progressive values, and MGE should be strongly encouraged to participate in achieving these laudable goals.

MGE hired a consultant, JSA Associates, to conduct the community conversations. They have begun their preparatory phase which includes talking with many organizations and people in the community to determine how best to structure this process and ensure the entire community is heard.

RePower Madison will help organize the community to ensure that critical viewpoints are included, and all voices are heard during the community conversations. Much more is at stake than just having MGE divest from coal and add or support clean energy and efficiency measures. Critical equity issues exist. The fixed rate hikes increased community disparities, with low income, low energy users paying more and well off high energy users generally paying less. Similar rate increases in the commercial sector not only raise rates for low energy businesses, they also cause the loss of clean energy jobs as people and businesses are less likely to make efficiency upgrades or install solar. MGE's heavy reliance on fossil fuels for electricity (nearly 88%), also creates a negative business climate for entrepreneurs looking where to locate.

If you are in the MGE service territory or have a job linked to it, this is critical to Madison's future. Whether you are concerned about clean energy and climate change, the environmental justice issue that MGE's rates take away more money from those can least afford it, or about our local economy with local businesses and jobs, the community conversations will be your opportunity to speak up.

Realizing how critical this is, the Four Lakes Group has been supporting RePower Madison including funding development and maintenance of the www.repowermadison.org web site. We encourage you to watch this site as well as the RePower Madison Facebook page and the Four Lakes web site and Facebook page for updates – and then get involved. The climate and our community are at stake.

If you have thoughts or questions or want to be more involved in determining Madison's energy future, please contact Don Ferber at 608-222-9376 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net.

Tar Sands and Pipelines

Tar Sands and Pipelines – the Growing Threat

Enbridge continues to bring us added cause for concern as they work to expand their pipeline system and tar sands oil transport. With over 800 spills in its tar sands pipeline systems in the last decade, the infamous million gallon spill in Michigan that is costing over \$1.2 billion to (maybe) clean up, and three major spills along line 61 in Wisconsin, any way you look at it, those numbers are very troublesome. Enbridge may have a better record than some pipeline companies, but that's little consolation to those impacted by their spills, or to the flora and fauna that suffer catastrophic damages. Further, it totally disregards the impacts of tar sands extractions and the affects of climate change that are accentuated by the use of tar sands.

But as Enbridge plans to 'upgrade' tar sands pipeline 61, extending from Superior to near Delavan, our dedicated tar sands fighters may be causing Enbridge some woes in return.



The line 61 'upgrade' from 400,000 to 1.2 million barrels per day was based on increasing the power at four pumping stations in Wisconsin, and adding 9 more. The other pumping stations have been installed, but Dane County's land use regulations require a conditional use permit for the station near Marshall. On the basis of some terrific awareness and activism by 350 Madison and others, the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation committee, after careful research and deliberation, is requiring Enbridge to provide an additional \$125 million in environmental insurance loss protection should there be a spill at the pump station.

Enbridge protested the added insurance wasn't needed. However, the spill four years ago in Michigan of a tar sands pipeline with 1/6 of the flow of line 61 that has cost over \$1.2 billion to clean up, convinced the committee that it was indeed warranted. Enbridge decided to appeal the decision to the Dane County Board of Supervisors, and if they don't get satisfaction there, they can appeal it in the courts. But the Dane County requirement for added insurance was well founded based on the recommendation of an expert insurance adjuster.

A bigger concern is that Enbridge is now proposing another tar sands pipeline (line 66) in the same corridor as line 61. This will create added consternation for landowners on the issue of eminent domain and raise further concern that the DNR should require an Environmental Impact Statement that would include an analysis of the materials carried. Fortunately, our chapter has obtained funding to support Elizabeth Ward's terrific campaign work in concert with the WISE (Wisconsin Safe Energy) Alliance and others. Also 350 Madison has obtained a grant from Patagonia to do organizing along the pipeline corridor which will provide extra support for our efforts.

However, the dark scourge of the tar sands transport network and their tentacles of darkness extend far beyond pipelines. More trains loaded with tar sands and Bakken oil continue to explode and put tens and hundreds of thousands of citizens at risk, including in dense urban areas such as the Twin Cities, La Crosse, Milwaukee and Chicago. This is becoming an increasingly pervasive risk where many people are unaware of the dangers they are exposed to. It is also becoming apparent that even the added safety standards being proposed are far from adequate and offer little peace of mind.

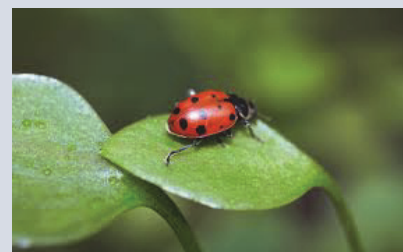
However, you have a prime opportunity to stand up to the tar sands octopus. The Sierra Club along with 350.org and others are organizing the Midwest Tar Sands Resistance March in St Paul, MN on June 6 where you can show your opposition to the ever-expanding pipeline threat. Please sign up with the links on our www.4lakes.org web site. Sierra Club supported buses will be going from Madison, and are \$30 per person, with a lesser fare for those who need support. Please come and help us fight the tar sands expansion! ■

Shahla has Bugged Out

Or perhaps we should say she's bugging in. Hiring a Chapter Executive Director whose first love is entomology carries its risks, and the appeal of bugs and gypsy moths was finally too much for our ED, Shahla Werner, to resist, and she's leaving her Sierra Club 'cocoon'. We hoped the dire situation our governor and legislature put our state in and all the hard battles she helped us fight might keep her here, but how can you compete with insects and other creatures that have more than just the two legs allotted to us humans? How many of us can fly without artificial means or have alluring shades of body color to endlessly fascinate her? Certainly, she'll now have subjects who will much more readily submit to inspection under a microscope.

Apparently too, Executive Director of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club wasn't a long enough title. Shahla will now be working as a Plant Pest and Disease Specialist for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

Bug us as it might, and as much as we'll miss her and her talents, we have to look for a replacement and the search is already underway. But as she herself said, she is leaving, but not gone, and will be staying in Madison. We can count on seeing her at the Muir Park dedication on June 13, and the Mallards game on July 16. There will also be a fundraiser tribute to Shahla on July 29 at EVP Coffee on Mineral Point Rd. (See details on page 8)



Thank you Shahla for all you've done and meant to us here. You leave us in a better place to continue moving forward.

Spring / Summer 2015 Outings

Continued from page 3.

Tuesday, July 7, 6:30 pm – Picnic & Patchouli Olbrich Gardens, Madison

Enjoy a summer evening at lovely Olbrich Garden's Great Lawn with the wonderful folk music of Patchouli. Bring a munchie to share. You can also buy a brat or dog, or new this year, all-you-can-eat ice cream for only \$5! (Bring on the warmth!) Bring a folding chair or blanket. Meet in the Olbrich lobby at 6:30 and we'll claim a spot on the lawn. \$1 suggested concert donation. RSVP to Don Ferber so you'll be expected!

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 pm – Munchies and Music – The Whiskey Farm Olbrich Gardens, Madison

Enjoy another summer eve on Olbrich Garden's Great Lawn with the folk/bluegrass tunes of The Whiskey Farm. Bring a munchie to share. Brats and dogs for sale, or beat the heat with all-you-can-eat ice cream for only \$5! Bring a folding chair or blanket. Meet in the Olbrich lobby at 6:30 and we'll claim a spot on the lawn. \$1 suggested concert donation. RSVP to Don Ferber so you'll be expected!

Thursday, July 16, 7 pm - Mallards Fundraiser Game

Mallard stadium, Warner Park

Enjoy a night of summer baseball! Tickets are just \$15 each, and you get a free hat and the Sierra Club gets a \$5 donation supporting our local work to explore, enjoy, and protect Wisconsin's natural resources! Visit www.mallardsgroup.com and enter "sierra" to reserve your tickets today!

Wednesday, July 29, 5:30 – 7:30 pm – JMC Fundraiser and Tribute to Shahla Werner

EVP Coffee, 3809 Mineral Point Rd

See article on back page.

Sunday, August 2, 10 am - 3 pm – Four Lakes Summer Soiree and naturalist hike

See article on back page.

Saturday, September 19, 9 am - 4 pm, Kettle Moraine Hike and/or Lunch at The Trout House

A unique opportunity combining an outing and Cruisin' for Cuisine. Rushing Waters is a locally owned, sustainable fish farm in Palmyra. They also host a well-reviewed restaurant, The Trout House, serving fresh fish - grown, caught, and prepared on site! We'll pair a lunch with a hike in the local Kettle Moraine area, location TBD.

Leave Madison about 9 am, hike from 10:30-1:30 pm, get lunch at 2 pm, and head back about 3 pm. If you don't want to hike, just RSVP for the lunch. Palmyra is about an hour from Madison. RSVP to Lacinda Athen to let her know if you want lunch, to hike, or both. ■

Four Lakes Water Sentinels

The Water Sentinels, a joint project of the Four Lakes Group and First Unitarian Society in Madison, has been busy! We had two successful projects:

1) In the fall, a water social justice project was launched by the youth group at First Unitarian Society. The purpose was to raise funds to be directed to micro-grant projects through *Water Charity*. Water Charity funds small but critical water projects in more than 60 countries. Each project offers the solution to a local community water problem and costs no more than \$600. On the ground Peace Corps volunteers identify, implement, and manage the projects working directly with the people of each community.

2) A small team of Water Sentinels and other water activists researched, developed and then worked to pass a county resolution that would recognize and protect Dane County's groundwater resources. We learned how:

- To work with our locally elected representatives
- To work with local government issue Committees
- The resolution process works and to get the County Board to take action

After several months of work, the Dane Co Board passed Resolution 391 on February 19th making groundwater and water supply protection a priority for the county! Thank you to all who responded to our action alerts and helped with the resolution.

In addition to these projects, Water Sentinels continue to offer activities to engage members, supporters and the broader community on water in our area. We have:

- Toured the arboretum to learn about storm water management
- Toured both a food/community waste bio digester and a manure digester
- Offered Introduction to Water Monitoring workshop
- Visited the Sassy Cow creamery
- Participated in stream bank restoration work-days
- Labeled storm drains with the Sierra Student Coalition on the UW campus

Check the 4 Lakes Group website for current and future Water Sentinel activities.

We are currently planning additional activities for the summer and fall and a follow up to groundwater resolution. The water sentinels welcomes your ideas and participation. Our next planning meeting will be on Sunday May 31st at 4 PM at the First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive. Please join us there or contact Liz Wessel, 238.9934 or lizmwessel@gmail.com or Cindy Rose, 271.6440 or crose5@att.net.





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Newsletter Mailing

Our goal is environmentally friendly, cost effective communications. We share info via this newsletter, the Four Lakes Enews, and our web site and Facebook pages. Members receive a hard copy newsletter if we don't have your email, or you request it be mailed. Otherwise, you'll receive an email when the newsletter is available for downloading. If we don't have it, please send your email to d_ferber@sbcglobal.net to save paper and mailing costs. Plus, we'll happily send you our Enews to keep you better informed.

Madison Summer House Party

A fundraiser and tribute to Shahla Werner

Wednesday, July 29, 5:30 – 7:30 pm
EVP Coffee, 3809 Mineral Point Rd, Madison

Come gather with Sierrans and others in the community to honor Shahla's work and leadership as Executive Director of the John Muir Chapter for 7 ½ years. You can come wish Shahla well and find out how she's doing in her new job. Plus you can honor her work by being a sponsor of the event or providing a donation, so we can continue to carry on our work and her legacy.

Sponsorship levels are \$500, \$250, or 100. If you are interested in sponsoring or donating, please contact Jacinda Tessman at jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org or 608-256-0565.

Mallards Fundraiser Game

Thursday, July 16, 7 pm
(6 pm to sell raffle tickets)
Mallard stadium, Warner Park

A night of summer baseball! Tickets are just \$15 each, and you get a free hat and the Sierra Club gets a \$5 donation supporting our local work to explore, enjoy, and protect Wisconsin's natural resources! Visit www.mallardsgroup.com and enter "sierra" to reserve your tickets today! We'll also be selling raffle tickets again to raise extra funds, so show up at 6 if you can assist with that.



Four Lakes Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 2, 10 am – 3 pm
Hoyt Park, Madison (main shelter)

10 am – naturalist hike to explore the woods

Noon – potluck picnic – bring a side dish to share, grill items and refreshments provided

Our annual summer soiree will be held this year on Madison's west side at

Hoyt Park where we can enjoy a relaxing time. Locals can also bike or bus (Metro route 8) to the



Park. We'll provide the usual grill goodies and refreshments of all sorts, and you can show off your favorite side dish or dessert as you choose. Plus, if you've ever wondered what you might be seeing or can find in the woods in some of Madison's parks, we'll have a naturalist led hike at 10 am.

All you have to do is go to <http://vols.pt/sW7Set> to sign up, and then show up on August 2. Questions? Contact Don Ferber at d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or 608-222-9376.

See you there!