

2016 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

By Dave Blouin, John Muir Chapter Political Chair

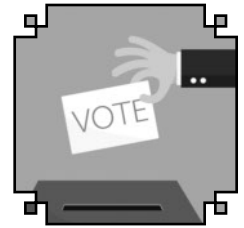
Wisconsin Sierra Club members face critical votes in the 2016 elections that will affect our ability to reverse the assault on environmental protections and conservation by the Legislature. The agenda for the 2015-16 Legislature was again driven by the GOP, which controlled both the Assembly and Senate. With their help, Governor Walker continued to sweep aside important environmental protections on behalf of special interest polluters and developers.

The Sierra Club's choices of Hillary Clinton for President and Russ Feingold for Senate illustrate the urgency and importance of the fall elections. The choice in these two races is between our endorsed proven environmental champions over candidates and incumbents with terrible voting records and commitments to overturn environmental regulations in favor of unchecked and thoughtless polluting industry and development.

The John Muir Chapter can and must play a critical role in taking control away from polluting special interests with the 2016 elections.

Similarly, our choices for state Senate and Assembly reflect our commitment to support only the best environmental candidates: those who are just as committed as we are to protection and

progress instead of pillaging our natural resources. We are continuing our efforts to work in every state legislative race each cycle to make as much impact as we can on the elections. This commitment is demonstrated by the 81 endorsed state candidates out of 115 state contests this year, with more to come. To view the full and current list, go to sierraclub.org/wisconsin/endorsements.



The 2015-16 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard published in the last Muir View was used to grade the votes taken by our elected officials in the last legislative session. The scores were uniformly partisan again. When the GOP consolidated power by winning both houses and the Governor's post in 2010, they began an all-out assault on environmental protections in the Legislature that has continued in each session since.

The scorecard is a scathing indictment of single party control. The Republican majority renewed their attacks on natural resource protections in numerous ways, from a budget prohibiting local control of water protections and cutting DNR science staff funding and budgets for state parks to numerous individual bills that attacked protections.

continued on page 6

THE SIERRA CLUB IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ENDORSEMENTS For the 2016 Elections

The Sierra Club has endorsed **Hillary Clinton for President** and **Russ Feingold for Senate**. For more endorsements, see page 4.

At the state level, our goal of creating and increasing pro-environment majorities in both houses of the Legislature is reflected in our endorsements of 81 candidates so far for the Legislature. A record 39 state lawmakers scored a perfect 100 percent on the scorecard and all have been named 2016 Environmental Champions for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin's environment. The names of the **Environmental Champions** are in bold in the list of endorsed candidates.

The staff and volunteers of the John Muir Chapter are very proud to announce these endorsements. These candidates are committed to maintaining clean air, clean water and the irreplaceable landscapes that make Wisconsin unique. **We urge you, as Sierra Club members, to vote for and help elect new environmental leaders and reelect proven leaders.**



Incumbent officials were judged based on their overall environmental voting record, public statements and activities while in office. Challengers were measured by their responses to questionnaires and interviews, environmental platforms, public service and public statements.

continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Volume 54 • Number 4
October-December • 2016

From the Chair	2
River Touring Section	3
Clean Air & Water	5
DNR and Water	6
Tar Sands Update	7
Issues at a Glance	8
Green Review	10
Bylaw Amendment	11
Moving Beyond Coal	12
Democracy at Work	13
Election Ballot	15
Events Calendar	16

FROM THE CHAIR



Wisconsin has not been left out of this year's National Parks Centennial celebration. I attended an event August 6 at John Muir County Park in Marquette County, as did other Sierra Club members, National Park Service (NPS) officials, US Senator Tammy Baldwin and past Representatives David Obey and Tom Petri. If a county park seems like a strange venue, consider this:

- ◆ The NPS administers the Ice Age National Trail, which passes through John Muir Park on its winding path across Wisconsin's glacial landscape.
- ◆ In 1849 this site became the boyhood home of Scottish immigrant John Muir, a leading national

advocate for wilderness and nature. Yes, Muir was also a Sierra Club founder and its first president. His writings and influences on contemporaries such as President Theodore Roosevelt, Forest Service founder Gifford Pinchot (a Muir antagonist) and publisher Robert Underwood Johnson helped establish the National Park Service. Borax mining executive and Sierra Club member(!) Stephen Mather became its first director in August, 1916.

- ◆ Late in life, Muir cited the importance of his Wisconsin farm experience: "Here without knowing it we were at school: every wild lesson a love lesson, not whipped but charmed into us. Oh that glorious Wisconsin wilderness!" (*The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* by John Muir, published by University of Wisconsin Press).

So Muir County Park was a perfect place for this celebration! It is enthusiastically supported by Marquette County and the Wisconsin Friends of John Muir. Sierra Club leader Don Ferber announced our own \$2,700 pledge to the park's endowment fund at this event. I joined a group led by naturalist Mark Martin in sauntering around the park's Ennis Lake (which Muir called Fountain Lake). We experienced the solitude, beauty and diversity of a place that appears much as it did in Muir's time. Sierra Club and its members can continue to help proudly grow Muir's legacy here!

Speaking of legacies, we are in the thick of a definitive election season. We will elect a new President and a host of federal and state representatives who will profoundly affect our future living environment. Efforts to address climate change lost eight years to the Bush-Cheney fossil fuel juggernaut. Obama's contribution has been mixed but overall positive, working against an obstructive Congress. On Tuesday, November 8 we will vote on our future. This *Muir View* issue presents many of our voter recommendations.

I'm one of many Sierrans for whom Bernie Sanders's message resonated. And I believe that to move forward in preserving a livable planet, we must make the same pragmatic decision Bernie made: to elect Hillary Clinton. She has earned the Sierra Club's endorsement. I hope someday soon we will again endorse members of both major parties, but that is not currently possible. The GOP seems to have cast itself adrift at all levels, including presidential.

Know your voting district, know your candidates and vote! Please help assure that other responsible people vote. I say this because last year, while attending a national assembly of Sierra Club leaders, I learned something that still troubles me. Debby Sease, the Club's Senior Lobbying and Advocacy Director in Washington, DC, informed us: *Sierra Club members vote in numbers that match the general population.*

Think about that... Life on our planet is at risk. The general population often votes in pathetic numbers. Previous generations have struggled and even died to secure our right to vote. Let's take it upon ourselves as Sierrans to turn out a strong pro-conservation vote.

Jim Kerler

Executive Committee Chair, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

P.S. I would like to thank Dave Blouin, the chapter Political Chair, for all his hard work this election season.

RIVER TOURING SECTION

REMAINING 2016 PADDLING TRIP AND ANNUAL MEETING

There have been many great paddling trips this year! If you were unable to attend any of the previous trips, there's still one more scheduled this year. The River Touring Section (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 sierraclub.org/river-touring-section for the most complete, updated trip list and other paddling links and information.

Oct. 29-30 Wolf River Paddling Trip (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, johnsrud@tds.net

RTS Annual Meeting. January 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. Contact: Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

Questions/Comments? Please visit our website or contact Kevin Olson, RTS Chair.



THE MUIR VIEW

754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

A Quarterly Publication of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

Muir View Committee

Editor: Cassie Steiner
Layout: Cheryl Maggle, Reid Magney,
Janine Melrose, Jacinda Tessmann,
Helen Bannan

Contributor Guidelines

Please submit articles by mail or email to:
754 Williamson St.
Madison, WI 53703
john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org

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.

Advertising Coordinator:

Jacinda Tessmann
jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org

Advertising Rates:

Current rates are available at the JMC website:
sierraclub.org/wisconsin

Deadline:

The deadline for submission of articles to the January-March issues is midnight on November 15, 2016.

Change of Address:

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:
Sierra Club – Membership Services
2101 Webster St., Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

The Muir View (ISSN 199-048, USPS 499-650) is published quarterly by the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703.

Periodical Postage paid at Madison, WI and at additional mailing offices. Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$5.00 annually for non-members.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:
Sierra Club
754 Williamson St.,
Madison, WI 53703

The 2015-16 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard was used in part to judge incumbent candidates and was published in the last *Muir View*. The entire scorecard with descriptions of the legislation used for grading can also be found at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbyingelections/political.

We wish the best for the 2016 Environmental Champions who are retiring or running for new offices. They are **Nikiya Harris Dodd, Andy Jorgenson, Rob Kahl and Mandela Barnes**.

If you're unsure who your state Senator or Representative is, go to myvote.wi.gov and click on "What's on My Ballot?" Use your favorite search engine to find their campaigns.

Additional endorsements will have been made since the *Muir View* was published – please go to sierraclub.org/wisconsin/endorsements to view the most up to date list of endorsements.

.....

President:

Hillary Clinton

U.S Congress:

Mark Pocan 2nd District
Ron Kind 3rd District
Gwen Moore 4th District

State Senate:

John Powers, D-Wittenberg (SD 2)
Lena Taylor, D-Milwaukee (SD 4)
La Tonya Johnson, D-Milwaukee (SD 6)
Diane Odeen, D-River Falls (SD 10)
Bryan Van Stippen, D-Deerbrook (SD 12)
Mark Miller, D-Monona (SD 16)
Mark Harris, D-Oshkosh (SD 18)
Bob Wirch, D-Kenosha (SD 22)
Julie Lassa, D-Stevens Point (SD 24)
Fred Risser, D-Madison (SD 26)
Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay (SD 30)
Jennifer Shilling, D-La Crosse (SD 32)

State Assembly:

Lynn Utesch, D-Kewaunee (AD 1)
Tony Lee, D-Green Bay (AD 4)
William Switalla, D-Wittenberg (AD 6)
Daniel Riemer, D-Milwaukee (AD 7)
JoCasta Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee (AD 8)
Josh Zepnick, D-Milwaukee (AD 9)
David Bowen, D-Milwaukee (AD 10)
Fred Kessler, D-Milwaukee (AD 12)
Chris Rockwood, D-Wauwatosa (AD 14)
Leon Young, D-Milwaukee (AD 16)
Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee (AD 18)
Jonathan Brostoff, D-Milwaukee (AD 19)
Christine Sinicki, D-Milwaukee (AD 20)

Rebecca Clarke, D-Sheboygan (AD 26)
Nanette Bulebosh, D-Elkhart Lake (AD 27)
Jeff Peterson, D-Luck (AD 28)
Scottie Ard, D-New Richmond (AD 29)
Scott Nelson, D-Hudson (AD 30)
Clinton Anderson, D-Beloit (AD 31)
Christine Welcher, D-East Troy (AD 32)
Brandon White, D-Jefferson (AD 33)
Matthew Michalson, D-Lake Tomahawk (AD 34)
Jordan Turner, D-Watertown (AD 37)
Scott Michalak, D-Marshall (AD 38)
Jim Zahn, D-Juneau (AD 39)
Dmitri Martin, D-Waupaca (AD 40)
George Ferriter, D-Fall River (AD 42)
Don Vruwink, D-Milton (AD 43)
Debra Kolste, D-Janesville (AD 44)
Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit (AD 45)
Gary Hebl, D-Sun Prairie (AD 46)
Jimmy Anderson, D-Fitchburg (AD 47)
Melissa Sargent, D-Madison (AD 48)
Jesse Bennett, D-Bagley (AD 49)
Art Shrader, D-Reedsburg (AD 50)
Jeff Wright, D-Plain (AD 51)
Paul Czisny, D-Fond du Lac (AD 52)
Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh (AD 54)
Bob Baker, D-Appleton (AD 55)
Amanda Stuck, D-Appleton (AD 57)
Amee Janus, D-Trevor (AD 61)
Andy Mitchell, D-Burlington (AD 63)
Peter Barca, D-Kenosha (AD 64)
Tod Ohnstad, D-Kenosha (AD 65)
Cory Mason, D-Racine (AD 66)
Dennis Hunt, D-Chippewa Falls (AD 67)
Howard White, D-Altoona (AD 68)

Mark Holbrook, D-WI Rapids (AD 70)
Katrina Shankland, D-Stevens Point (AD 71)
David Gorski, D-WI Rapids (AD 72)
Nick Milroy, D-South Range (AD 73)
Beth Meyers, D-Bayfield (AD 74)
Chris Taylor, D-Madison (AD 76)
Terese Berceau, D-Madison (AD 77)
Lisa Subeck, D-Madison (AD 78)
Dianne Hesselbein, D-Middleton (AD 79)
Sondy Pope, D-Verona (AD 80)
Dave Considine, D-Portage (AD 81)
Mandy Wright, D-Wausau (AD 85)
Nancy Stencil, D-Wausau (AD 86)
Elizabeth Riley, D-Hayward (AD 87)
Noah Reif, D-Green Bay (AD 88)
Heidi Fencel, D-Sobieski (AD 89)
Eric Genrich, D-Green Bay (AD 90)
Dana Wachs, D-Eau Claire (AD 91)
Chris Danou, D-Trempeleau (AD 92)
Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska (AD 94)
Jill Billings, D-La Crosse (AD 95)
Alicia Leinberger, D-Viroqua (AD 96)

Names in **bold** represent incumbent environmental champions.



CLEAN AIR AND WATER: NONPARTISAN ISSUES

By Elizabeth Ward, Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator

After announcing our endorsements, we often get calls from people with concerns about why our endorsement has to have more Democrats than Republicans. Sometimes these calls are angry, other times inquisitive and sometimes concerned that we are not making decisions based on the environment, but instead based on partisan politics. Our endorsement process is very carefully run to ensure that the candidate with the best record on the environment is selected. The Sierra Club has a strong history of working with Democrats, Republicans and any other person who strives to protect the environment—**clean air and clean water are not partisan issues.**

This year, we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the National Park System—what is often called "America's best idea." Our national parks serve to provide a place for all of us to explore and learn about our environment. Sierra Club's founder, John Muir, worked closely with Republican President Theodore Roosevelt to establish the park system. There is a similar track-record in Wisconsin with Republicans and Democrats working together to establish important environmental protections, like Wisconsin's Mining Moratorium and the Nelson-Knowles Stewardship Fund (named after a Republican and a Democratic Governor).

Today, the values haven't changed. Clean air and clean water are something every single Wisconsinite needs in order to live and thrive — regardless of gender, race, economic status or political affiliation. We all agree that the most important role of government is to protect our citizens — this protection includes the ability to survive through breathing clean air and drinking clean water. These are shared values. In fact, one could argue that much of the work we do today is in-line with 'traditional' Republican values.



Here are some examples:

◆ **Local Control:** There have been a handful of bills that have been proposed and passed that take away the ability for a local community to determine the best decisions for their community. A memo by the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau found that 128 pieces of legislation have passed that restrict local control. Many more were proposed. This includes bills that tried to take away the ability for a County, Town, City or Village to regulate frac-sand mines. In the budget, there were amendments added that restrict the ability for a local government to set standards for lakes and rivers that offer better protections than the state's standards, but are critical for a unique circumstance that only the local community recognizes.

◆ **Fiscal Responsibility:** When it comes to fiscal responsibility within the transportation budget, the Senate Republicans have been champions. However, we've seen a move from both parties to continue to fund unnecessary highway expansions. In addition to misusing taxpayer money, it also means that there is less funding available for transit systems and local road funding in Wisconsin. This discrepancy has even garnered national attention, with the Wall Street Journal highlighting the lack of priorities as the state moves forward on an expansion of the Interstate 94 in Milwaukee, while potholes and transit cuts fill the community.

◆ **Eminent Domain:** Eminent domain has historically been an issue that Republicans oppose. However, even this opposition has been shifting. In a late-night budget amendment, the Joint Finance Committee expanded the definition of eminent domain. An open-records request by Wisconsin Public Radio

found that Enbridge Energy (the tar sands pipeline company) was behind this change. The change got support from most Republicans (when the final budget was passed) and opened the door for a foreign company to take Wisconsinites' land for its private gain.

It is not that these values are no longer held by Republicans. Rather, the emphasis on these values has declined as corporate money has begun playing a bigger role in our elections. Election funding from fossil fuel and other companies has become a priority. This is also not a partisan issue; this emphasis on donor money has impacted both parties. That is why it is more critical than ever to question each candidate on the ballot about their plans to protect the values we all share. Then we must hold elected officials on both sides of the aisle accountable for the decisions that are made, especially when they deviate from traditional values of a party and our right to clean air and water.



DNR ILL-EQUIPPED TO PROTECT WATER IN WISCONSIN

By Kendl Kobbervig, John Muir Chapter Intern

Every day, Wisconsin's water faces new threats. The byproducts of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) that runoff into surface and groundwater sources, high capacity wells that draw down the water table and a changing climate continue to disrupt the delicate balance of aquatic ecosystems in Wisconsin. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, it is up to Wisconsin's Supreme Court, Legislature, Executive Branch and citizens to protect our navigable waterways. However, the organization with the most power to do so, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has become ineffective.

The DNR issues permits and oversees approximately 1,250 municipal wastewater treatment plants, industrial wastewater treatment facilities and large livestock farms. Although its mission is to "protect and enhance our natural resources," a report released by the Legislative Audit Bureau detailed the many ways in which the DNR has not upheld its responsibilities. For example, the DNR's pollutant regulators failed to follow their own policies regarding violators of water pollution laws more than 90 percent of the time. Only 36 of 1,900 annual compliance reports from polluting CAFOs were electronically recorded as received, and 41 incidents were discovered in which it took the DNR six or more years to renew expired five-year pollution permits. Furthermore, 6.5 percent of CAFOs were inspected after their permits had already been reissued.

While many of these issues can be partially attributed to funding cuts and staffing shortages, the DNR's ability to protect our water has been further restricted by Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel, who released an opinion in May 2016 that stated that the DNR does not have the authority to put conditions on well applications that would take into account their cumulative effects

on streams, rivers and lakes in the surrounding area. Despite the Public Trust Doctrine, which holds that Wisconsin's navigable waterways are to be protected for the public, Schimel found that the DNR had no explicit authority in state law to impose conditions for approval of a well. For example, a CAFO requests a permit for a high-capacity well to provide water for 8,000 cows, and the DNR assesses the impact of the well and determines that the permit should only be granted with the condition that the farm has fewer cows in order to protect nearby neighbors and water resources. While this may seem like a reasonable compromise, under Schimel's opinion, the DNR is unable to do so because there are no rules that explicitly grant the authority to alter the number of cows in a CAFO.

As a response to the myriad of concerns over the DNR's ability to properly protect our water, the Midwest Environmental Advocates filed a Petition for Corrective Action with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in October 2015. On behalf of 16 citizens around the state, the petition asks that the EPA assess whether or not the DNR is in violation of the Clean Water Act and, if so, to step in and correct noncompliance or resort to issuing permits for the state. In addition, the Sierra Club has also begun a petition that calls on the EPA to withdraw the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program delegation from the State of Wisconsin and review Wisconsin's Safe Drinking Water program.

Our water is not an unlimited resource, nor can it continue to serve as a dumping ground for human byproducts. We all must take steps to prevent further mistreatment of this precious resource and ensure access to clean and plentiful water for everyone. Sign the petition and find out more at tinyurl.com/protectwiwater.



Political Activities continued from page 1

16 of 19 GOP Senators and 43 out of 62 GOP Representatives scored zero: not one correct environmental vote.

The Sierra Club is a non-partisan organization and we have supported Republican candidates in the past, but the utter lack of independence and the lockstep partisanship support for polluters demonstrated by these votes makes supporting them impossible. Our state faces major air, water, energy and transportation issues in the coming years, and the majority party here has shown it is not willing or capable of taking responsible positive steps to work on them.

The candidates we've endorsed have demonstrated they have the energy, will and wisdom to tackle these issues. Our endorsement is just the beginning of our work to help support these candidates. The next steps to electing new environmental leaders and keeping our proven champions are up to each of us as individual Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter members. We will work harder than ever during this election to emphasize that the environment is nonpartisan, but we will also work to hold these elected officials accountable for the votes they cast.

Review the list of endorsed candidates in your area (see page 4 for the list of endorsed candidates) and contact their campaign offices to help. Volunteering can be as easy as you want it to be. Your help can be as simple as stuffing envelopes, distributing literature, making calls or even hosting a fundraiser for a candidate. A little of your time goes a long way if we all give a little, but it's critically important to become a part of the solution. Please give generously of your time and resources and remind candidates that you are a proud Sierra Club member wishing to help them.

Chapter and group leaders will also mobilize members to work for endorsed candidates in key races where our support and efforts can make a difference. We will organize members to help distribute literature, contact neighbors and friends, make phone calls to voters and get out the vote. Please contact your group political chair or other group leaders to find out how to volunteer.

The Sierra Club is still the most effective environmental organization in the country because we vote and act on our principles. Let's make a difference in this year's elections. Please contact me at burroak15@gmail.com or (608) 233-8455 if you have any questions about the John Muir Chapter's political activities. Thanks and don't forget to vote on November 8!

TAR SANDS UPDATE



MARATHON PULLS SUPPORT OF SANDPIPER PIPELINE

Sandpiper and the Line 3 replacement are two large oil pipeline projects that were to come into Superior and then connect other pipelines - including the proposed Line 61-twin (AKA Line 66) through Wisconsin. Sandpiper is planned to eventually carry up to 540k barrels per day (bpd). The Line 3 Replacement will be up to 790k bpd, which is why we assume the proposed Line 61-twin will be around the same size as the existing pipeline running through Wisconsin, Line 61 (1.2 million bpd).

The Sandpiper pipeline was going to be built with about a 40 percent investment by Marathon Oil Corporation. On August 4, Marathon and Enbridge announced a plan to move forward on a different pipeline. As part of this agreement, Marathon will no longer support the Sandpiper project. At the time this article was written, the effect this could have on the proposed Line 61-twin in Wisconsin is unknown. It could mean that the Sandpiper Pipeline will no longer move forward. If that happens, it could mean a smaller proposed Line 61-twin pipeline in Wisconsin, and it could mean that the economics are shakier for future pipelines. One thing we know for sure: **working together to take a stand against these destructive pipelines works.**

Though we're still waiting for more information, there is no doubt that part of this decision was made based on the outpouring of opposition from Minnesotans, the impacted tribes and everyone else fighting the pipeline. We are building on this momentum in Wisconsin.

DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

Unfortunately, as part of the agreement discussed above, Marathon and Enbridge are moving forward on the Dakota Access pipeline, a pipeline with a similar path (from the Bakken fields in North Dakota to Illinois, where that oil can flow through a network of pipelines south). This investment in Dakota Access has launched the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe into action, setting up the Sacred Stone Camp on the Standing Rock reservation to stop the pipeline. There has been an outpouring of support from around the country, including celebrities like Rosario Dawson and Shailene Woodley.



Many organizations and individuals, including the Sierra Club, have also signed onto letters of support. The Ho-Chunk and Lac du Flambeau tribes have also passed resolutions in support.

WEAT KICK-OFF

Landowners across Wisconsin are joining together to leverage power in numbers as negotiations begin with Enbridge for the new pipeline easement. The effort to make a legal support network available for landowners during negotiations, known as the Wisconsin Easement Action Team (WEAT), kicked off in mid-September.

Brian Jorde, the attorney for the Nebraska Easement Action Team (NEAT) who successfully fought the Keystone XL pipeline, has agreed to be the attorney for WEAT. Public forums and an opportunity to sign-up for WEAT were held September 13-15 in southern, central, and northern Wisconsin.

PEOPLE GETTING ENGAGED ALONG THE LINE

Community members, landowners, and activists are beginning to organize throughout Wisconsin. Groups have been getting together to discuss the potential impacts of the new pipeline and ways to engage the community. Highlights include:

Washburn County Lakes and River Association annual meeting

At its annual meeting in late August, WCLRA discussed the Environmental Hazards of Pipelines, with special emphasis on the Line 61 pipeline river crossings in the area. In Washburn County, the Line 61 corridor (and anticipated new pipeline) will cross the St. Croix River headwaters in three places: the Namekagon, the Eau Claire and the Totagatic. Conservation Programs Coordinator Elizabeth Ward spoke at the event.

Columbia County

A group of concerned community members, landowners and other activists have been meeting regularly to create a strategy to stop the pipeline running through the county. After only one meeting, the

continued on page 11

ISSUES AT A GLANCE

LOCALLY GROWN, NATIONALLY KNOWN: A SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER

On July 11, more than 50 Sierra Club supporters gathered at the home of Mary and Scott Kolar for the annual Locally Grown, Nationally Known fundraiser. With delicious appetizers, a beautiful view and powerful campaign updates from national Sierra Club Board Member Spencer Black, event host and Dane County Board Member Mary Kolar, Chapter Executive Committee Member Liz Wessel and staff members Bill Davis and Elizabeth Ward, the event was a huge success! Thank you to all who sponsored, volunteered and attended!



WISCONSIN YOUTH ATTEND MIDWEST POWER SHIFT

On August 12 - 14, around 100 young climate activists gathered in Detroit, Michigan for Midwest Power Shift, a conference focused on youth involvement in the environmental justice movement. Power Shift provided opportunities for trainings, workshops, creative engagement in the movement through art and an open mic night, a toxic tour of Michigan's most polluted zip code and a march for environmental justice. Laura Donovan, one of the Power Shift attendees from Wisconsin, reflects on the weekend stating, "I definitely got the reminder that I always have room to grow and a community of fantastic people to do so with. I can't wait to continue working, growing, and learning from them over the next year and hopefully beyond that as well. Spaces like Power Shift give me hope for the future."

Wisconsin was able to send 20 college students and recent graduates to Power Shift due to the generous donations of UW-Madison's Sierra Student Coalition, the Sierra Club Four Lakes Group and 350 Madison, as well as many individual

donors. Over the next year, students and alumni throughout the University of Wisconsin system hope to take the lessons learned at Power Shift to work together through the Wisconsin Youth Network (WiYN) to advocate for clean energy, to fight coal and tar sands oil and to encourage their peers to vote. For more information about student, youth and young adult involvement, contact Cassie Steiner at cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org.



TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY SUMMIT

For access to work, food, healthcare and social engagement, transportation is essential. For many around the state, owning or driving a car is not a possibility, whether that is due to income level, disability or lack of driver's license. In these cases, public transit becomes a necessity. For others, choosing public transit provides an environmentally-friendly and convenient alternative to driving. An effective plan that repairs local roads and provides transit rather than massive highways is essential to providing an equitable and environmentally-friendly solution to Wisconsin's broken transportation system. Because of this, Sierra Club and coalition partners have coordinated a transportation and equity summit, taking place on December 3, 2016* in Milwaukee. This event includes a keynote address that is open to the public followed by breakout groups and training sessions for equitable transportation and transit advocates. At the time this article was written, the location and agenda were still to be determined. For more information or to register to attend, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin.

**In the previous edition of the Muir View, the transportation and equity summit was listed as October 1. Since that edition came out, the date has changed.*

SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS LEAD ISSUE-BASED FORUMS AROUND STATE

The last several months have been huge for Sierra Club members throughout the state! In preparation for elections, Sierra Club volunteers, supporters and members have worked hard to elevate conservation issues around the state, including the threats of tar sands pipelines, concerns about water quality and quantity and the needs for clean and equitable transportation.



Water

Our Water, Our Communities, forums about water throughout Wisconsin, has sparked conversations in multiple cities about the value of and threats to water. UW-Oshkosh's Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) co-hosted the Our Water, Our Communities event in Oshkosh. Members of SEAC and Sierra Club are pictured at left.

Tar Sands

Concerns about Enbridge's tar sands pipelines have sparked multiple community forums up and down the existing and proposed pipeline routes. Over the summer and into early fall, over 500 people attended events about the pipeline! Pictured to the right is a booth that community members and landowners put together for the Columbia County Fair.



Transportation

In September, ten cities in Wisconsin hosted forums about equity and transportation policy. The picture at left is from the transportation forum in Appleton. Other forums took place in Wausau, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Madison, West Bend, La Crosse and Eau Claire.

By Amy Lou Jenkins

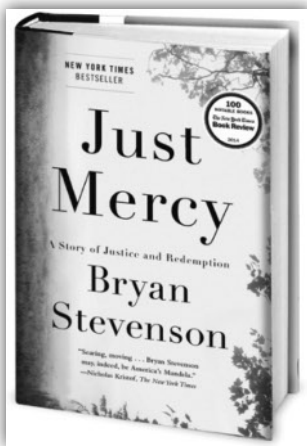
What interests us? Certainly not every book discussed in this column interests every Sierra Club member, yet it is appropriate to consider the range of books that may match the mission: “To explore, enjoy and protect the planet. To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.”

In concert with our mission, this column will expand its scope in two ways.

One: We are adding a Facebook group to discuss books reviewed. We will post the books to be reviewed/discussed a few weeks before the Muir View issue is published. Join us at [facebook.com/groups/sierraclubbooks](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sierraclubbooks).

Two: We will include books and media related to the mission of protecting and restoring the quality of the natural and human environment. We plan to include books related to issues of social justice and inclusion as well as books that promote appreciation, understanding and advocacy for our beautiful Earth.

Just Mercy: The Story of Justice and Redemption, by Bryan Stevenson, 2014, 318 pages. Most of us have read Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, set in the town of Maycomb, Alabama where a young black male, Tom Robinson, is convicted of a



crime despite his innocence. In another thread, a white and very reclusive Boo Radley engages the gothic imagination of the child protagonists. Before reading *Just Mercy*, I must admit that I hadn’t fully considered that the character Boo Radley was given a break by the justice system. The Maycomb Sheriff showed mercy toward the strange, young white male who had meant well. Boo didn’t face much of a chance of conviction, yet the sheriff decided to hide some truths to protect Boo. *Just Mercy* lifted a veil on the way I now see *Mockingbird* and on interpretations of humanity as expressed in our criminal justice system. *Mockingbird* includes an overall happy ending for most of the white characters and a tragic ending for the black characters. That’s not much of a happy ending. It’s so

obvious now, yet before, my main take-away from the book was the righteousness and charisma of the father/lawyer Atticus Finch. I’d never considered how Lee might have changed plot lines if Boo Radley were black.

Why all this talk about *Mockingbird*? Stevenson draws comparisons to the well-loved *Mockingbird* in the true stories chronicled in *Just Mercy*. He structures the narrative around a young black Walter McMillian, completely innocent of a crime, who has been sentenced to death. McMillian lived in Monroeville, AL, Harper Lee’s hometown and the inspiration for Maycomb. His real “crime” was an affair with a white woman. He was convicted of murder despite his presence at a well-attended public event during the commission of the crime.

The nonfiction account is a compelling page turner of the battles to save those caught in an unjust system. Judicial misconduct is so egregious a novelist would be chastised for such outlandish plotlines. Stevenson alternates chapters, so that the reader is pulled through the McMillian tale and the memoirist’s tale of dealing with scores of other cases in a fight for justice.

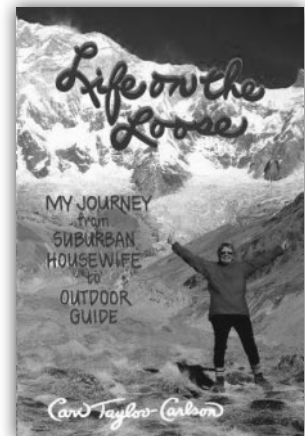
The weight of the stories and inequities don’t lead to hopelessness. The reader is buoyed by Stevenson’s inner work to preserve his own sense of identity and hope. Alongside that hope is an anger that we participate in a system with a cruel underbelly. In many communities, one of three black males is in jail, in prison or on parole. In Alabama, over a third of black males have lost the right to vote. For every nine

death penalty executions, one convict is exonerated. Stevenson reminds us that for many in the U.S., the opposite of poverty isn’t wealth; it is justice.

Read and discuss on our Facebook Page.

Questions for discussion:
How does the author use the theme of mercy across the arc of the book? What emotions did you feel as you read? Was Stevenson’s argument balanced in terms of considering victims of crime? Is he obligated to provide a balanced argument? Do you feel compelled to act after reading? What can you do? How does racial justice relate to our work to project the planet?

Life on the Loose: My Journey from Suburban Housewife to Outdoor Guide, by Cari Taylor-Carlson, 2016, 270 pages.



Carlson was an unhappy housewife, but the reader doesn’t need to fear being too mired in her discontent. After 31 pages, she starts her guide business and the outdoor adventure begins. In Wisconsin, the West, the East and even in Nepal, she describes both the adventure and her inner struggle

continued on page 11

CHAPTER BYLAW AMENDMENT

At its November 2015 meeting the Sierra Club national Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

BOARD RESOLUTION: The following language is required for addition on or before January 1, 2018, to Chapter bylaws section 3.1 to require terms of service on the Executive Committee.

Given this the Chapter needs to update our bylaws. The national board gave the chapters latitude as to the specifics of the term limits for the Executive Committee. After discussion, the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee adopted the proposed amendment below to forward to our members for your approval. The Executive Committee felt this would allow for sufficient institutional memory and orderly turnover of members. The Executive Committee therefore encourages you to vote for this proposed chapter bylaw amendment by using the ballot on page 15.

Section 3.1 of the John Muir Chapter Bylaws is amended to include the following language:

Members elected may serve an unlimited number of terms in that capacity, except that, after any two consecutive full three-year terms, that member shall not be again eligible to serve as a delegate at-large or voting group representative until one year shall have elapsed after the conclusion of the second such consecutive term. This amendment shall take effect beginning with eligibility for election in the annual election in 2017.

Green Review continued from page 12

to offer compelling yet safe experiences to her patrons. Those who love wilderness are likely to enjoy the short chapters rife with descriptions of hiking and paddling experiences in natural places.

At least as compelling as the quest to overcome hardships and wild surprises is the honest struggle and questions the author raises in regard to her own skills and experiences. She admits that she began by faking competence, yet the reader also understands her painstaking preparations to provide memorable outings for her clients. While Carlson is certainly working to follow her bliss, hardships and self-doubt accompany every journey. This honest thread of reflection offers a realistic comfort to all risk takers while removing naïve dependence one might have held for any wilderness guide.

Adventure is often a goal associated with wilderness trips, and adventure involves risk. Carlson never quite finds a perfect balance between safety and risk or between comfort and discomfort: that seems to be the point. The risk and discomfort are connected to the moment's awe and joy; they are interdependent. Carlson helps us understand.

Read and discuss on our Facebook Page. Questions for discussion:

Is Carlson fair in her characterization of her Whitefish Bay neighbors?
After reading, are you more or less inclined to feel safe under the auspices of a wilderness guide?
Of all the trips she described, which trips would you like to have been on?
Carson seemed to need time in wilderness. Does everybody?

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. She also writes for children under the pen-name Lou Jenkins. If you would like to send a review copy, contact Jenkins at www.AmyLouJenkins.com.

Tar Sands Update continued from page 7

group was able to get a booth together (with a week's notice!) for the Columbia County Fair.

Jefferson County

Sierra Club member Ronni Monroe worked tirelessly in Jefferson County to make and distribute safety packets. Ronni's sincere concern about her neighbors and everyone living in the vicinity of the pipeline led to the idea of making safety packets to help educate landowners and those near the pipelines about the safety risks and actions to take in the event of a spill. The packets included wind flags to know which direction the wind is blowing so you can move away from toxic fumes, a military-grade glowstick, a whistle in case your escape route includes the woods or other areas that are not well lit and most importantly, the Pipeline Safety Trust's landowner's guide to pipelines. Ronni made 400 of these packets and hand delivered them to property owners along the pipeline corridor in Jefferson County. In addition to the packets, over 2,000 fliers were delivered to those living near the pipeline in Jefferson County. These efforts resulted in a tremendous turnout for a public forum held in mid-July.

Sawyer County

There is also a growing network in Sawyer County organizing against the pipeline. Initial meetings were held around Brian Jorde's visit. Landowners, activists and other concerned community members are beginning to come together to form this network.

None of this would be possible without the great and unbelievably inspiring work everyone is doing. A special thanks to Phyllis Hasbrouck for her tireless work helping facilitate getting things going in Columbia and Sawyer counties.

If you are interested in getting involved in your community, please contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.

MOVING WISCONSIN BEYOND COAL

By Elizabeth Katt Reinders, Senior Campaign Representative, Sierra Club's national Beyond Coal Campaign

Hello from Wisconsin's latest addition to the Sierra Club team. My name is Elizabeth Katt Reinders, and I am the senior campaign representative for Sierra Club's national Beyond Coal Campaign, working to transform the electricity sector from coal to clean energy. I came on board at the beginning of April to develop and direct the campaigns for Wisconsin, Iowa and Kansas, and I am based in Madison at Sierra Club's Midwest Field Office.

I am thrilled to have landed at Sierra Club after more than 15 years working on water resources and other environmental issues in the nonprofit and public sectors. I am grateful for the opportunity to work for an organization with a mission I believe in, strategic goals to achieve that mission and volunteers who contribute time, expertise and passion to work for solutions to our planet's most pressing challenges.

Among the most important issues we face are the causes and impacts of climate change. As stated in Sierra Club's 2015 strategic plan, "climate disruption threatens all the wild places we have fought so hard for more than 100 years to protect, as well as all humanity and every living thing." Climate change is broader than an "environmental" problem; it also manifests in the spheres of public health and racial and economic disparity. Coal-fired power plants are one of the strongest drivers of climate disruption, as well as enormous sources of air and water pollution. And our most vulnerable populations are being hit the hardest by the consequences of these coal plants, including contaminated drinking water, asthma-inducing air quality, erratic storms and flooding and increasing heat waves.

That's why in our 2015 strategic plan, Sierra Club put forth a bold, board-approved goal of 100 percent clean energy as part of its overarching goal to "achieve ambitious and just climate solutions." It is the role of Sierra Club to "set ambitious clean energy targets and build the public will to meet them."

An integral part of playing this role will be to "engage and support a broad, diverse, inclusive and powerful movement." The Beyond Coal Campaign is a key vehicle to achieving these goals, and we have a lot of work to do here in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin was where the Beyond Coal Campaign had some of its earliest successes, retiring coal-fired power plants in downtown Madison and then statewide. But our work is not finished. According to analyses by the Public Service Commission, Wisconsin still gets 65 percent of its electricity from coal, which is far more than the national average of 33 percent (U.S. Energy Information Administration). This reliance on dirty coal puts our state at risk as aging plants require continued investment in necessary pollution controls and as coal faces increasing competition in the region from low-cost wind energy.

While Wisconsin has no coal to mine or gas to frack within our state, our utilities continue to invest in fossil fuels rather than embracing clean energy. Wisconsin clings to coal, while we're falling further behind our neighbors in clean energy development. Solar power comprises less than 1 percent of Wisconsin's energy mix,

contrary to the argument that clean energy will mean higher costs, rates are inversely proportional to the state's investment in renewable energy.



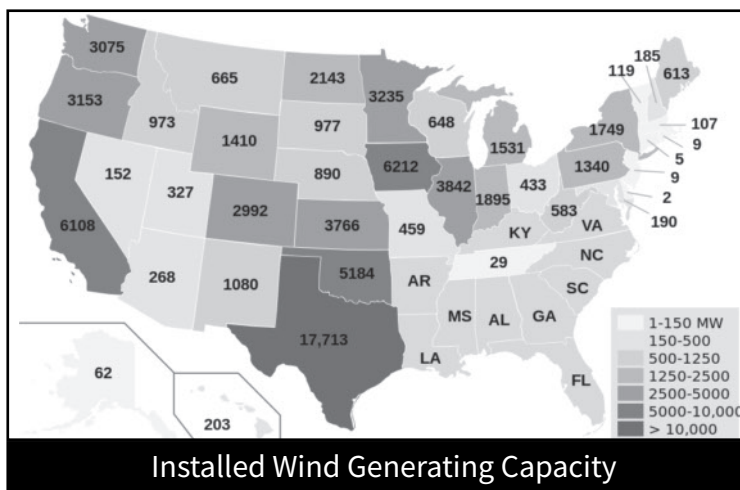
In addition to market signals, there are regulatory drivers that will impact our work on climate change. The Clean Power Plan offers an unprecedented opportunity to reduce carbon emissions in the state. While the plan is on hold pending legal review, there is plenty of work we can do to develop support for a smart and strategic state plan that will get Wisconsin on the right path toward compliance. Now is the time to build support for truly developing clean energy sector statewide.

It's our job to change our state's trajectory, and we'll need to engage allies in our efforts. We need clean tech, healthcare and other business leaders at the table. We need to build partnerships with labor unions and engage the state's manufacturing businesses in developing a thriving clean energy economy. And we need to work for environmen-

tal justice and with frontline communities who are most affected by dirty coal and its harmful impacts.

In my role with the Beyond Coal Campaign, I will be working closely with the John Muir Chapter, as well as national Sierra Club staff from across the country in our legal, communications, digital strategies and grassroots organizing departments. With this team of experts and committed volun-

teers like you, we are drafting and implementing a plan to push Wisconsin further and faster in its transition from coal to a 100 percent clean energy future. I am optimistic that, together, we will be successful. I encourage you to get in touch with me at elizabeth.katt@sierraclub.org if you are interested in engaging on these issues. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you as we work together for Wisconsin and for the planet.



and only 2.5 percent of our in-state energy generation comes from wind. Compare this to 17 percent wind in Minnesota and 31 percent wind in Iowa, and the contrast paints a stark picture of Wisconsin's outdated, lagging electricity sector. While our investment in renewables falls far below our neighboring states, our electricity rates soar far higher. According to a study by Clean Wisconsin, a comparison of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin illustrates that,

DEMOCRACY AT WORK: VOTE FOR CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The John Muir Chapter Executive Committee, your volunteer leadership, is made up of nine at-large members that you elect and six appointed local group delegates. **Each year you have the opportunity to vote for up to three at-large candidates.** Below, you will find the 2016 slate of candidates. Please continue the Sierra Club's tradition of elected leadership and take the time to VOTE!

The Executive Committee provides direction to the chapter on fiscal matters, policy, fundraising and prioritizing issue work. After reading the candidates' statements, use the ballot on page 15 **to vote for up to three candidates.**

Candidates for the Executive Committee were asked the following questions:

- 1) Please discuss when and why you joined the Sierra Club, and describe any leadership or volunteer activities with the Club or other non-profit groups that will help you fulfill your role.
- 2) What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background (fundraising, legal, accounting, communications, Board, political) will you bring to the Chapter's Executive Committee?
- 3) Looking forward over the next two to five years, how do you think the Chapter needs to grow and change to be effective on our issues?
- 4) The Chapter's current priority issues are:
 - ◆ Protecting Our Water Resources
 - ◆ Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy
 - ◆ Moving Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation
 - ◆ Protecting Habitats from Destructive Mining
 - ◆ Protecting native Forests and WildlifeOf the Chapter's priority issues, which one are you most passionate about and why?

Thank you for your interest in the future success of the John Muir Chapter! Vote today by filling out the ballot on page 15 and mail your ballot to the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter, 754 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53703. Ballots must be mailed or postmarked by November 15 to be counted.



Carol "Lee" Balek Question 1: Balek

I have been aware of the work of the Sierra Club for many years. For me it has always been synonymous with protecting the environment. When I moved to Northern Wisconsin from Chicago, that "environment" was all around me - including the history and work of John Muir. I can't remember when I actively joined, but it has been years.

Over the past several years, I have been more involved, particularly when the Penokee mine project was a huge threat to Northern Wisconsin. I supported Sierra Club's efforts to bring awareness through phone contacts, presented an anti-mining proposal to the DNR annual conservation meeting. I helped promote a day-long event at LCO featuring presentations by Elizabeth Ward, Carl Whiting, and others about the dangers of oil pipelines.

I became a member of the new Superior hub of the Sierra Club and help "man" a table with other members of the Superior branch.

As a member of CCL (Citizens Climate Lobby organization) I attend their regular monthly meetings, have written LTE's, contacted legislators, and helped promote their work. There are other organizations, I'd be very glad to mention if asked to do so.

Question 2: Balek

A) I was awarded a Bush Foundation Fellowship grant for Leadership.

B) I received national recognition for my work with at risk children. I was recognized by the Wisconsin AODA organization as Counselor of the Year. Part of my work

included monthly radio interviews about a variety of issues.

C) I was selected as a member of a Wisconsin state senate campaign. My work included phone contacts, organizing and participating in fundraising, platform ideas, outreach and voter registration.

D) Upon my retirement, I purchased a 40 acre piece of land and restored it to create a wildlife sanctuary. It has a wonderful composition of prairies, wetlands, old-growth trees. We have witnessed a return of monarchs, animal wildlife and indigenous plants. (P.S. I don't have a current photo of myself because I'm always in work clothes and netting....hence the rather formal photo!)

Question 3: Balek

The next generation needs to be included and encouraged to participate. They have the energy and optimism so needed for change. We needed visible networking and collaborating with other organizations and movements that reflect our guidelines. I noted that Sierra Club will be up in Superior to welcome and celebrate the Water not Oil participants. Given the political nature of some of environmental issues, I believe we need a strong and visible legal department available not only in the courts, but available for questions by our members.

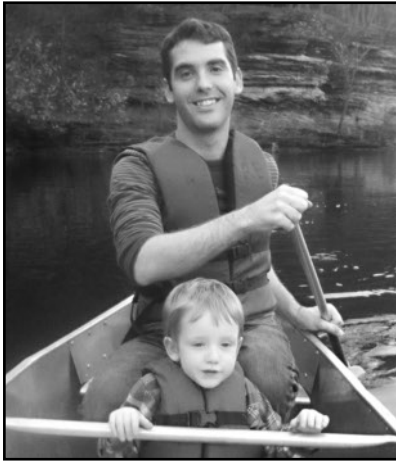
Question 4: Balek

Protecting our Water Resources is probably the most imminent threat to Wisconsin. This includes legislation about loss of local control, pipelines and large scale agricultural farms. The recent floods in the area of Lake Superior area are a testament to the unanticipated damage that devastates lakes, wells and structures. With the DNR and Clean Water Act virtually irrelevant, we absolutely need and informed populace and environmental attorneys skills in tackling these issues.

Devin Martin Question 1: Martin

My concern about the dire state of Louisiana's disappearing wetlands, the social and political disaster of

continued on page 14



Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the existential threat of climate change to the fragile and unique culture and bioregion I grew up in led me to first join the Sierra Club in 2006. I got involved with the local Acadian Group, as well as the Society for Peace, Action, Environment, and Knowledge (SPEAK) at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. After college, I worked as a Field Manager on an environmental canvassing campaign with the Gulf Restoration Network, a Sierra Club ally based in New Orleans, LA. I also served on the steering committee of the Youth Alliance of Louisiana Leaders (YALL), a coalition of campus environmental groups that grew out of the PowerShift conferences in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

In 2010, I was hired by the Delta (Louisiana) Chapter as a Conservation Coordinator, the first and only employee of the Chapter to date. I assisted the ExCom in fulfilling all the duties and initiatives of the Chapter and its active groups, including conservation programs, the Water Sentinels program, Outings, membership and leadership recruitment, donor development, grassroots lobbying and ExCom meetings of the Chapter and Groups.

In 2012, I began working as an Organizing Representative for the national Beyond Coal campaign in New Orleans, Louisiana, crafting a campaign that culminated with the enforcement of Clean Air and Clean Water Act laws on coal export terminals and successfully organizing community power to block a proposed new coal terminal on the lower Mississippi River.

Question 2: Martin

I bring a deep knowledge and understand-

ing of the management and leadership structure of all branches of Sierra Club's organization, from Groups up to National Staff and Board. My expertise lies in understanding how to run a successful and visible campaign that can bring new interest, energy, diversity, and strength to the Sierra Club's conservation efforts. I have experience in representing the Club to the public and other organizations, recruiting and cultivating new leadership, building up allies and coalitions, and building and leveraging people power into political power. I also have experience in fundraising and planning and leading outings both within the Sierra Club and with other organizations.

Question 3: Martin

The John Muir Chapter is a lot like many other Chapters of the Sierra Club — composed mostly of middle-class, white, liberal Baby Boomers. In order to stay relevant, robust, and effective, the composition of the Club must resemble the communities that it works in. We must work harder to bring in younger people, people of differing racial, ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, sportsmen and women, farmers, and yes, even some Republicans(!). Building a more diverse membership cultivating new leadership is perhaps the single most important task of Chapters and Groups for the next decade.

Question 4: Martin

As a Cajun who grew up in wildlife-infested swamps, I am passionate about protecting forests, wildlife, wild areas and those bits of nature that reconnect us with a force that is beyond our world of artifacts and industry.

Liza Peckham

Question 1: Peckham

I have been an ExCom member since 2011, after having served as an intern in the Chapter Office during my senior year of college. I have also held the office of secretary, capturing the meeting's conversation and actions for interested parties who were unable to attend and been active on the chapter's membership committee. I have enjoyed being a part of this group



because participating keeps me connected to important issues that I don't deal with in my day-to-day work or studies.

Question 2: Peckham

I have a well-rounded background in terms of serving on the board of an environmental organization. I am currently studying math and economics, and have worked in an accounting department for three summers. My bachelor's degree is in science and environmental studies. Since I have spent less time in the organization than many of my peers on the Executive Committee, I have enjoyed the discourse and learning the many aspects involved in creating an effective board.

Question 3: Peckham

I think the Chapter is already making great improvements in their visibility -- making sure we're seen at events and extending ourselves so we're identified as allies with other movements and activities. I'm also very excited about the Chapter allocating more time toward transit issues, and hope to be a part of that work. Continuing to move on these items will attract new members from a wider range of Wisconsin residents, which has been a long-standing goal of the Chapter.

Question 4: Peckham

Within the "Beyond Oil" umbrella, I'm most excited about the burgeoning transit efforts. Good transit options improve the economy, quality of life for citizens and, of course, the environment.

**John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee
ELECTION BALLOT 2016**

Instructions: Read the candidate statements on the preceding page. Select up to three candidates. Indicate your choices by marking the appropriate box. Only ballots from mailed copies of *The Muir View* with legible membership numbers on the back are valid. One vote per member. "Voter 2" column for use in households with a "joint membership."

Voter #1:

Voter #2:

Carol Lee Balek

Carol Lee Balek

Devin Martin

Devin Martin

Liza Peckham

Liza Peckham

Write In:

Write In:



CHAPTER BYLAW CHANGE:

Instructions: Please cast your vote for the proposed chapter bylaw change using the ballot below. One vote per member. "Voter 2" column for use in households with a "joint membership."

Do you approve the proposed amendment to the John Muir Chapter Bylaws, Section 3.1 as described on page 11 of the Muir View?

Voter #1: Yes No Voter #2: Yes No

Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2016
Mail to: Heather Wittrock, c/o Sierra Club, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

Support the John Muir Chapter

Your donation to the John Muir Chapter allows 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.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email _____

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



2016 JOHN MUIR CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDAR

Events, Outings and Executive Committee Meeting Calendar

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

October 8 - Chapter Awards Banquet, Bethel Horizons Camp and Retreat Center, Dodgeville.
sierraclub.org/wisconsin or (608) 256-0565

October 29 - 30 - Wolf River Paddling trip,
sierraclub.org/river-touring-section or contact
Phillip Johnsrud at johnsrudp@tds.net

November 8 - General Election, myvote.wi.gov

November 12 - Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Location TBD, sierraclub.org/wisconsin

November 15 - Executive Committee Ballots must be post-marked by this date.

December 3 - Transportation and Equity Summit, Milwaukee.
9:00 am - 5:00 pm, location TBD,
sierraclub.org/wisconsin

January 7 - River Touring Section Annual Meeting, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St, Baraboo. Contact Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678 or olsonfam44@centurytel.net

January 14 - Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Location TBD,
sierraclub.org/wisconsin

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.

JANUARY-MARCH ISSUE DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15