

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: THE HIGHLIGHTS AND THE LOWLIGHTS

By Bill Davis, Chapter Director

There has been a great deal of activity in the legislature this spring; unfortunately the majority of it has been to erode environmental protections. Below are the lowlights and highlights of the session so far.

High Capacity Wells

The waters in Wisconsin - lakes, streams and aquifers - are connected. Because of this, withdrawing water in one area can reduce the water available in another area. This is clearly demonstrated in areas of the state such as the Central Sands where the proliferation of withdrawals from high capacity wells has caused the Little Plover River in Portage County to run dry and Long Lake in Waushara County to virtually disappear. To ensure that all users are treated fairly, water use must be monitored and reviewed periodically, with necessary adjustments related to rainfall, groundwater recharge or water use patterns in the area near the well. Senate Bill 76, which was passed by the legislature in May, violates this precept by removing several points where the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) could review water use in a particular area and make adjustments if necessary. Particularly problematic is that now the permit for a high capacity well goes with the land, not the person. This means that if you sell land that has a permitted high capacity well on it, the new owner gets the permit with no review of any kind.



implementation of a large number of rules. This is chiefly for two reasons. First, it considers only costs, not benefits. By addressing only the compliance costs of a rule, the law will prevent enactment of rules that have a positive cost/benefit ratio and are clearly in the public interest. Second, the threshold of \$10 million over any two-year period is not a very high bar from a statewide perspective. Also, it ignores the fact that a rule may have initial costs (for example to install technology) but then have significantly reduced costs or even economic gains in the future.

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Regulatory “Deform”

In the long run, perhaps the most disturbing bill that moved through the legislature this spring is Senate Bill 15, which significantly restricts the ability of administrative agencies to make rules. The bill provides that if any agency proposes any rule costing more than \$10 million in any two-year period, the legislature must first pass a separate law specifically allowing the agency to make that rule. The bill is neither targeted nor limited. If enacted, it would delay or prevent

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July-September • 2017

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FROM THE CHAIR

Justice. Decades ago, communities of color used the phrase “just us” — referring to white privilege. Unfortunately, not enough has changed in the ensuing decades. Fittingly, the April climate march was entitled “Climate, Jobs, Justice” — recognizing that more than just well-off white urbanites are concerned with climate change and face challenges with our current structures and dependence on fossil fuels.

Environmental justice has become integral to our Sierra Club endeavors, adding a new term: energy democracy, which describes the link between energy and a political system that empowers people (or not) to be part of it. Both indicate the links between our impacts and relation to the physical world and to people’s access to our system of government and how it functions (again — or not).

Thomas Jefferson’s vision of our democracy was one where people come together as equals by virtue of common ties to the land. That underlies much of the Sierra Club’s credo — that connections to land and nature matter and are integral to our well-being. Unfortunately, being able to reside in a safe and healthy environment, providing public access to the lands and waters that are our heritage, and having the means to access and enjoy these places are currently under threat.

That is more true for some than others. Many non-Europeans have long been harmed by byproducts of extraction and production. Just as we seemed to be making progress in addressing these inequities, our state and now our federal administration seem focused on reducing or eliminating hard-won safeguards. Climate change only accentuates many disparities, especially internationally

where people who bear little responsibility for climate change are often the most impacted.

On Earth Day, Wisconsin stood up for what we believe in, providing strong reminders of what we value and cherish. In Madison, the Beyond Coal team and Four Lakes Group led a march for climate, jobs and justice, highlighting not only a local utility still highly dependent on coal, but the potential for renewable energy jobs, disparities and injustices that are still all too prevalent.

The Great Waters Group Earth Day event at the Milwaukee Urban Ecology Center in Washington Park focused on environmental issues facing the inner city, and it offered educational opportunities, outdoor service projects,

bike repairs, and a talk by U.S. Representative Gwen Moore.

The Fox Valley Group featured hikes and water sports activities in the Fox River Valley in Appleton for people to explore and enjoy nature and to connect and appreciate what is in their own back yards, making them more likely to help protect it.

With events like these, we can find and are finding the common ground that binds us all together. In focusing on our common values, we are connecting people with nature and with each other. As communications link us more

tightly and as climate change impacts us all more directly, the words of Martin Luther King Jr. echo, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” With no planet B, we better learn to be inclusive and get along with all who reside on planet A.



Don Ferber - Chapter Chair

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program expands parks and wildlife areas and prevents development of waterfront areas by providing funds to counties, conservancies and the state to acquire land. A bill introduced by Rep. Tyler August and Sen. Steve Nass proposes to cut 78 percent from grants to counties and 43 percent from grants to conservation organizations. This threatens many of Wisconsin's protected natural places.

Lead bills

On the positive side, there are several bills in the legislature that are trying to address the serious issue of lead in Wisconsin's drinking water. There are more than 176,000 buildings in Wisconsin served by lead lateral water lines. One of these bills, Senate Bill 48, simply provides a way for water utilities to provide a funding mechanism to generate the resources needed to pay for removal of these pipes. The bill sailed through committee with no one speaking against the measure. However, in the Assembly hearing Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) came out against the bill. Apparently WMC does not believe they should be a part of the solution to this problem, even though their members will benefit from it by helping to ensure their future workforce is healthy and productive. Unfortunately, because of this one objection the future of the bill hangs in doubt. However, a very large and diverse coalition of organizations, including the John Muir Chapter, is pushing to get it through the legislature.

Budget

Overall, the budget Governor Scott Walker submitted this year was not as damaging as his past budgets. He did not cut the Stewardship Fund nor further reduce DNR staffing. There are still some provisions we would like changed, such as cuts to county conservation staffing and restoring funding for state parks. There was a provision to study a transfer of regulatory authority over Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) from DNR to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, but that was removed by the Joint Finance Committee. For details about the transportation budget, please see our Transportation Update on page 4 in this edition of the Muir View.

THE MUIR VIEW

754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

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

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Please submit articles by mail or email to:
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Please include the author's first and last names and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

Advertising Coordinator:

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Advertising Rates:

Current rates are available at the JMC website:
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Deadline:

The deadline for submission of articles to the October-September issues is midnight on August 15, 2017.

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.

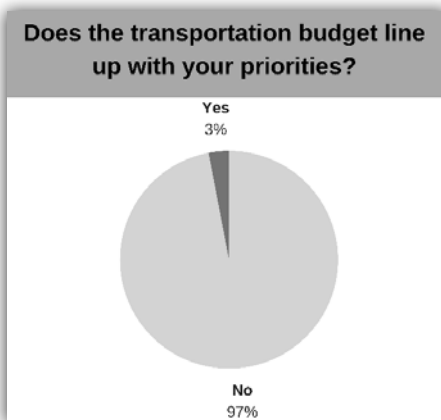
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TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Transportation Budget Doesn't Match Wisconsinites' Priorities

The results of a new survey highlight how the state's transportation budget priorities are increasingly out of step with Wisconsinites' needs and preferences. The informal survey, conducted by Sierra Club and its partners in the Coalition for More Responsible Transportation, asked more than 500 people across the state to create their ideal transportation budget and had respondents compare their preferences to the 2015-2017 spending plan.

Ninety-seven percent of respondents said the last transportation budget



did not reflect their values. Respondents called for more funding to meet local needs, like fixing local roads, expanding transit service or creating more biking and walking options. They also think Wisconsin spends too great a portion of the state budget on major highways.

These same preferences were reflected at a community-organized town hall in Waukesha by a transportation coalition that includes the Sierra Club and religious and community groups. The public hearing was to make sure that Senator Leah Vukmir and Representative



sentative Dale Kooyenga, both on the Joint Finance Committee and both representing people in Waukesha County, heard the transportation concerns of their constituents. The hearing drew very diverse participation from 61 people: riders, service providers, community groups, bus drivers, public officials and community members. The testimonies were powerful and some were very moving. In addition to those who spoke at the town hall, the coalition released 1,600 petition signatures calling for a better-prioritized transportation budget.

As state leaders debate the future of Wisconsin's transportation system, advocates and community members encouraged legislators to support community-oriented, forward-thinking solutions that responsibly address the state's transportation challenges. Specifically, the coalition urges the legislature to rebalance Wisconsin's spending priorities to better meet local needs by:

- ◆ Applying more scrutiny to proposed major highway projects, and not giving the go-ahead to unneeded projects;

- ◆ Increasing support for municipal and county governments to help restore local roads to good condition;
- ◆ Adjusting specialized transportation funding levels to reflect the needs of those with disabilities and the growing population of seniors who are unable to drive; and
- ◆ Restoring previous cuts and increasing transit funding by at least \$34.3 million per year over the next 10 years, as recommended by the Governor's Transportation Finance and Policy Commission in 2013.

As of the writing of this article, the Legislature was still at an impasse. The Assembly is calling for a gas tax increase while the Senate and Governor Walker are refusing to raise taxes. While the focus within the Legislature has been around how money is raised for the transportation fund, Governor Walker has called for a serious look at spending within the transportation fund.

He summarized in an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in February: "Wisconsin might not need to build as many lanes of highways as it has in the past because of changing technology and work habits", Walker said. He noted driverless cars could be on roads in the near future and young people are increasingly choosing not to buy cars and relying on services like Uber and Lyft to get around. "I think part of it is going to be looking ahead and determining whether or not there are better ways we can do those projects in the future...whether

TAR SANDS UPDATE

THE NEXT PIPELINE THREAT IN WISCONSIN

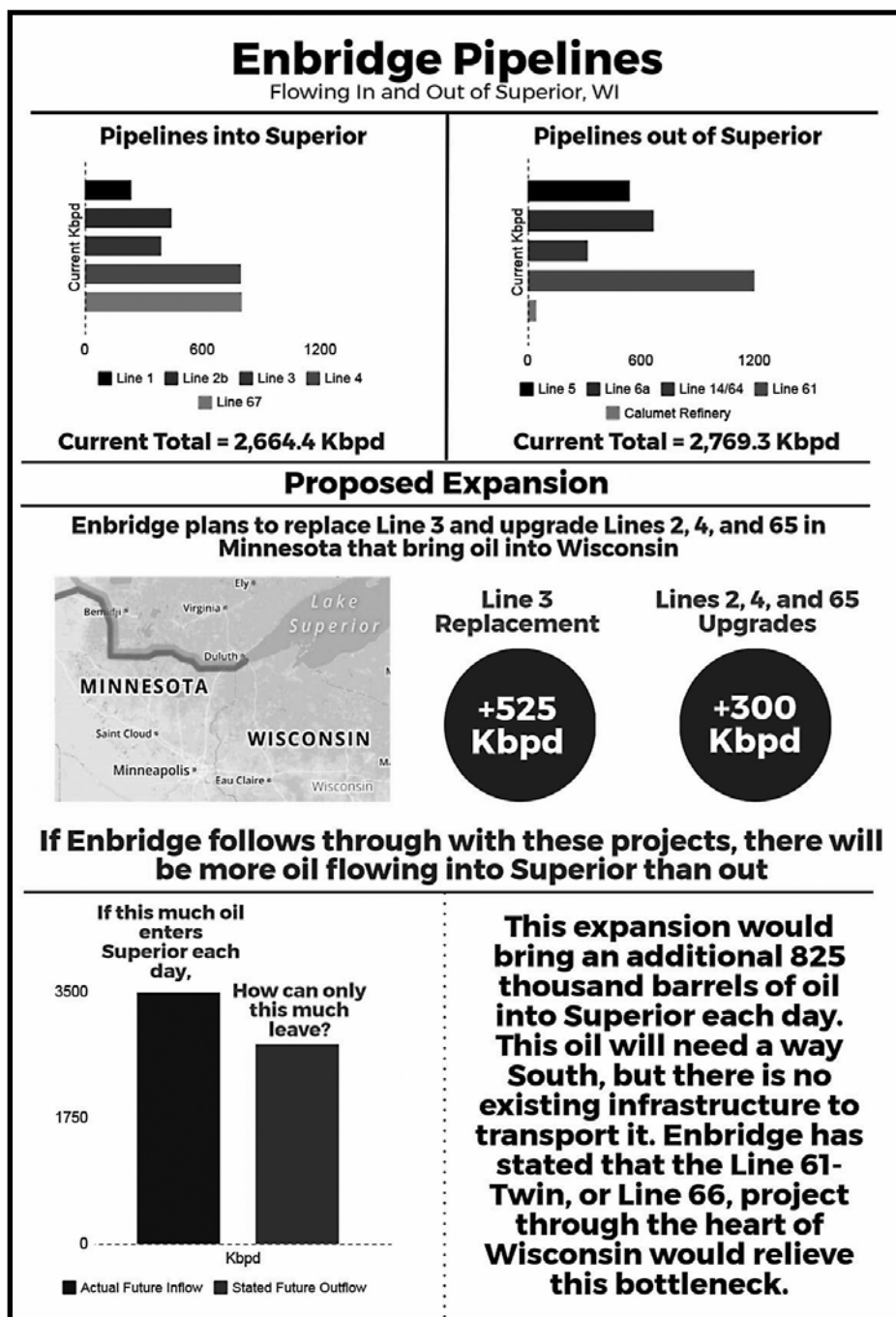
By Hannah Nowakowski, Chapter Tar Sands Intern

The actions and statements of Enbridge do not align and the Canadian company continues to play games with the people of Wisconsin. Although Enbridge publicly denies plans for the Line 61 Twin, also known as Line 66 project, the company's recent actions say otherwise.

Enbridge owns the major pipelines in Wisconsin including Line 61, the second largest pipeline in the world, which carries toxic tar sands oil through the heart of the state. Enbridge plans to increase the capacity of Line 61 to 1.2 million barrels per day but the expansion does not stop there and is only occurring with the help of another pipeline expansion, the Line 3 replacement in Minnesota. Recently announced as the largest project in the company's history, the Line 3 replacement project will not only replace the existing Line 3 that brings tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada to Superior, but will increase its capacity and forge a path for Enbridge to continue expanding.

With plans to replace Line 3 and upgrade Lines 2, 4, and 65, Enbridge is carelessly increasing the input of oil at the Superior terminal with no plan of output. This expansion would bring in an additional 800,000 barrels per day, but this oil needs a way south. In the January 2017 Investment Community Presentation, Enbridge stated the Line 61 Twin project would relieve this bottleneck and also included a map of the potential pipeline.

Despite concrete evidence that Line 61 Twin was announced to investors, Enbridge publicly states that there is no such project and continues to sneak around. In 2015, Enbridge played a significant role in changing Wisconsin's eminent domain laws to allow pipeline companies to claim private land as easements. However, this change was tucked into the



WATER UPDATE

By Bill Davis, Chapter Director

Water Papers

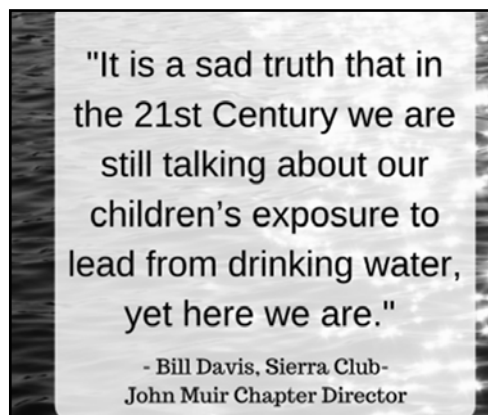
The Water Team has been very busy this Spring. They have written and released five papers highlighting the most serious water problems Wisconsin is facing. These papers are intended to be a resource for anyone who wants more information on water problems and what can be done about them. The events releasing the papers also serve to keep the issue in front of decision-makers and the media. The papers can be found on the Chapter's website, www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin. The papers cover the following topics:

Water Quality: This paper discusses the serious health threats in Wisconsin due to the lack of protection for water resources. Bacteria, nitrate, radium and pharmaceuticals are several common and serious contaminants found in water throughout the state. Despite the severity of contaminated water, several important issues relating to health impacts and water quality in Wisconsin are not being addressed.

Lead in Drinking Water: There are more than 176,000 buildings in Wisconsin served by lead lateral water pipes. This contributes to lead poisoning in children, which may lead to reduced IQ, learning disabilities and developmental delays. Based on 2014 numbers 4.5 percent of Wisconsin children tested with elevated blood lead levels, compared to 4.9 percent in Flint, Michigan.

Water Quantity: This paper examines Wisconsin's management of our water resource, which currently is not living up to the Department of Natural Resource's goal to "sustainably manage the quantity and quality of water in the state to ensure that water is available to be used to protect and

improve our health, economy and environment now and into the future." Our current system for ground water unfairly benefits big agriculture and big business at the expense of small users, individual households and our lakes and streams. This is particularly problematic because groundwater provides drinking water for about 70 percent of all Wisconsinites, with approximately 940,000 of them getting their drinking water from private wells that are vulnerable to both contamination and lowering of the water table. Commercial, industrial and agricultural activities rely on water as part of their business operations.



Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs): Since the passage of the Wisconsin Livestock Facility siting law in 2004, Wisconsin has seen an explosion in the number of factory farms in the state, to the detriment of our water resources. Factory farms create water problems in two ways. First, they almost always require at least one high capacity well to provide enough water for the animals. These wells contribute to drawdowns of the water table that can dry up neighboring wells and lakes and streams. Second, the farms spread their manure on neighboring fields. This has led to groundwater contamination, as we have seen in Kewaunee County where a third of

the wells tested are contaminated to the point they cannot be used.

Energy Infrastructure Impacts on Water: This paper looks at the impacts on our water systems made by moving fuels and generating energy, including oil pipelines (such as line 5 that goes under the Straits of Mackinac), oil storage tank farms, and coal ash piles.

Dredging General Permit

In addition to our water papers, the water team has been weighing in on other issues that have arisen this spring. For example, after the legislature failed to pass a bill last session that would have dramatically and disastrously reduced regulation on dredging in Wisconsin's lakes, the Department of Natural Resource has issued a proposed general permit for dredging in lakes. A general permit means someone can act, in this case dredge, by just filling out an application. There is no site inspection, there is no way to evaluate the cumulative impacts of several people dredging on the same lake, and there is no notification to neighbors or lake associations. The DNR has put in some provisions to limit possible negative impacts from the general permit to lakes, ponds and impoundments, but the fact is that they have different hydrological regimes than flowing water and hence need to be regulated differently. Due to the variation between different lakes, ponds and impoundments, the "one size fits all" nature of the general permit system is not appropriate. The water team will continue to monitor this situation, and seek opportunities to comment on proposed legislation. Watch our website sierraclub.org/wisconsin for any updates.

SEEKING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

The John Muir Chapter is seeking dedicated Sierra Club members who would like to join other passionate volunteers in working toward the general and operational health of the chapter. Do you have skills in budgeting, project management, strategic planning or fundraising? Or do you have an interest and willingness to learn skills in those areas? Do you like looking at the big picture and then rolling up your sleeves and pitching in to do the work? Have you been looking for a way to put your talents to work in a way that serves your values, purpose and passion? Then consider running for a seat on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Three at-large seats will be filled in the 2017 fall election. Those elected will serve a three-year term starting in January 2018 and ending December 2021. Members from across the state are encouraged to apply. Meetings are generally held every four to six weeks and are scheduled

for weekends and evenings to accommodate work/school schedules. Mileage reimbursement is available for travel to in-person meetings, and most meetings also offer a call-in option.

Executive Committee meetings focus on decision making regarding membership recruitment, long-range strategic planning, fiscal and financial health, fundraising, issue campaigns and outings. There will also be opportunities for individuals to participate in subcommittees within these areas.

The deadline for completed applications is August 15, 2017. A full description of Executive Committee member expectations is available as well as a short application form. Please contact Liz Wessel at (608) 238-9934 or lizard59sc@yahoo.com to learn more about the opportunity to serve.



Transportation Update continued from page 4

or not those bidding on those projects are able to deliver at the price that fits the needs of the taxpayers. So we want to make sure that we're using every dollar wisely."

As the budget debate continues, Sierra Club will be watching closely for any updates, especially as they relate to the transportation fund. For more information and for calls to action, visit our blog at sierraclub.org/Wisconsin.

ISSUES AT A GLANCE

Conservation Congress

On April 10, Wisconsinites gathered at the Conservation Congress Spring Hearing to make their opinions heard on conservation questions throughout the state. Questions ranged from creating an open season on sandhill cranes to introducing more safeguards for oil transportation by rail. Wisconsinites responded and introduced new resolutions that showed their support for science over politics, preserving the intent of the mining moratorium law and supporting climate change science. Of those voting, 75 percent supported the congress taking an official position against the Enbridge Pipeline expansion and 71 percent supported legislation to repeal Act 1, the Iron Mining Law. Sierra Club members spoke to conservation questions and introduced resolutions in 23 different counties!



Beyond Coal Update

Spring has brought new life into the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign here in Wisconsin, and our efforts to fight for a livable climate for all culminated with helping to organize the Madison Climate March on Earth Day, April 22. Nearly 3,000 people gathered to hear speakers, many who weren't "traditional" environmentalists, speak about the importance of working together to build a movement that can fight back against those who threaten our climate and our hopes of a better future.

But our efforts are just getting started. On May 31, we held a Beyond Coal meeting for new and seasoned volunteers to discuss ways to keep our momentum moving forward, to bring more of our friends and neighbors into the movement and to develop new ways to continue to pressure Wisconsin utilities to drop coal, replace it with renewables and to transform our energy economy into one that is powered by the sun and wind and works for all people. Then on June 22, we hosted a special pre-screening of the new National Geographic documentary "From the Ashes" about the impacts of coal, from mining and burning to the global climate.

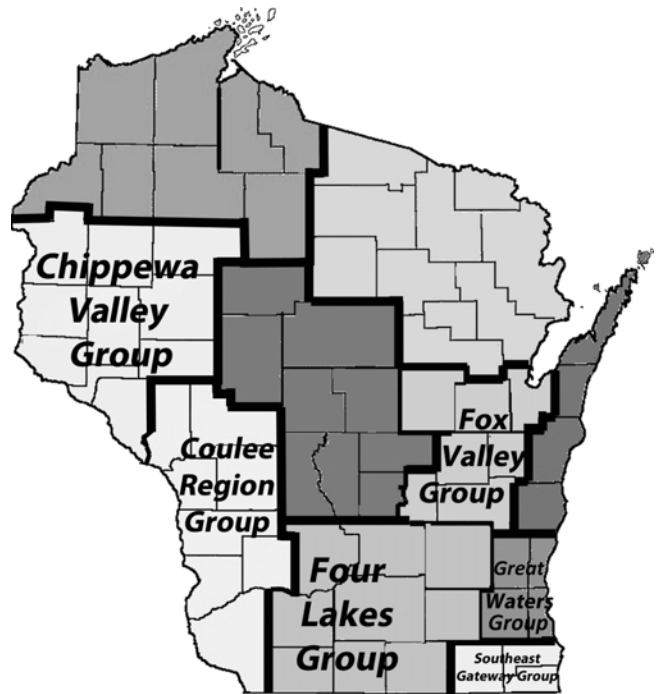
If you'd like to get more involved in the effort to move Wisconsin Beyond Coal, contact Devin Martin at devin.martin@sierraclub.org, call 608-338-0746 or find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/WIBeyondCoal](https://www.facebook.com/WIBeyondCoal).

Going Local!

What happens when the President, Congress, Governor and Legislature do everything they can to put up road-blocks to the progress that has been made to address climate change? The Sierra Club goes local!

While the State Legislature works to roll back water protections, Dunn County is considering a moratorium on permitting factory farms. The City of Madison passed a resolution going for 100 percent clean renewable energy across all sectors, including electricity, heating and transportation. The City of Milwaukee banned using coal ash for tar sealants.

With six local groups around Wisconsin, the John Muir Chapter is in the perfect position to turn its energy towards working with local communities. Go to sierraclub.org/Wisconsin/local-groups to find out about the group in your area and how to get involved to make progress locally.



Preserving the Mining Moratorium

The John Muir Chapter continues to lead the effort to preserve the Mining Moratorium Law – our “Prove It First” law requiring a company seeking permits to demonstrate successful examples of metallic sulfide mines.

The ores found in Wisconsin are usually bound up in metallic sulfides that create acid drainage and toxic metals when disturbed. Sen. Tom Tiffany announced his intent to repeal the law early this year, and we expect he will introduce legislation soon.

One of the arguments used by Tiffany is that the Flambeau mine near Ladysmith is a successful example despite being found to have violated the Clean Water Act by polluting a tributary of the Flambeau River. For that reason alone, the closed mine could not meet the moratorium permit conditions. The Sierra Club has helped fund additional research into groundwater contamination from the buried mine wastes there. You can find preliminary results from this research on the Chapter website.

state budget and occurred without many people’s knowledge. Enbridge has also begun surveying land and contacting landowners along the pipeline route in preparation. While the company states this is simply following procedure, the company would not spend the time and money changing the laws and contacting landowners if it didn’t plan to follow through with the project.

Why would Enbridge lobby to change the eminent domain laws in Wisconsin if it had no plans to build another pipeline? Where is the additional oil coming into Superior going to go if another pipeline isn’t built? Enbridge refuses to answer these questions.

Our land, water, and communities are already at risk and Wisconsin should not assume the increased risks of yet another pipeline while Enbridge profits. A healthy planet and sustainable future does not exist if we continue to build fossil fuel infrastructure so it is important to stand up to Enbridge and demand a switch to clean energy and clean transportation.

CHAPTER AWARDS: NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Have you watched an environmental champion at work in your group or community? Is someone you know making a difference that deserves to be noticed? The John Muir Chapter offers six awards that honor volunteers, elected officials or organizations that champion environmental protection. But we need your help in identifying these do-gooders. Nominations are due August 15, and awards will be presented during a special celebration on October 7, 2017.

Award Categories

Good Citizen Award: Given to organizations and individuals external to the club who champion innovative programs or processes that protect the environment.

JJ & Pat Werner Award: The chapter's highest honor, given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter who have shown an undying commitment to its goals and mission throughout the year. This award may also be given to a leader and facilitator promoting the health of the groups and chapters.

L.D. Rockwell Award: Presented to an individual who has provided exceptional service to the John Muir Chapter political/electoral program.

Merit Award: Given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter. Recipient may be an issues champion who has effectively battled environmental challenges; a consistent leader in the environmental movement (i.e. organization leadership roles, organization builder); or one who actively carries the Sierra Club message to decision-makers and the concerned publics.

New Activist Award: Given to a person who has been a John Muir Chapter activist for less than two years and who is an enthusiastic participant in issues and the organization. This recipient possesses a willingness to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues.

Torchbearer Award: Given to organizations and individuals external to the club: decisionmakers who consistently promote legislation, regulations or practices that protect the environment.

Wildflower Award: Given to Sierra Club leaders in the John Muir Chapter, including an individual who exemplifies all that is wonderful in the environment and the club, a mentor for new and existing activists or an educator who promotes a positive image for the Club.

Nomination forms can be found online at <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards> or by emailing Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com.



GREEN REVIEW - Books of interest to Sierra Club Members

Join the book discussion at Environment and Equity Book Club ([facebook.com/groups/SierraClubBooks](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SierraClubBooks)).

Lab Girl by Hope Jahren, Vintage, paperback-2017, 282 pages.

One might imagine that no one really needs an autobiography from a bipolar plant geobiologist; one would be mistaken. Hope Jahren's memoir begins in her father's lab and continues with a stoic walk in small-town Minnesota. As her foot hits the icy pavement, a world appears. With each step, the town, a loving yet emotionally stifled family, Scandinavian paradigms, her past and the portent of the future appear in multidimensional authenticity. The world she builds is tangible, funny and troublesome. She writes about fallen leaves: *"These brave trees lay all their earthly treasures on the soil, where moth and rust doth immediately corrupt. They know better than all the saints and martyrs put together exactly how to store next year's treasure in Heaven, where the heart shall be also."* She shares difficult details about dysfunctional head-banging, rejection, snotty crying and failures that lead to breakthroughs. She writes of poverty, family, love, victory and plants. Her stories of plant wonders always do double duty as metaphors for humanity.

This is not a book written for scientists. She writes several papers a year for them. This story is highly accessible. Readers vicariously experience matrixes of plant life that present mystery, challenge and a poetic beauty — both in the lab and in the field. She describes a Minnesota corn field in summer: *"At its peak, sweet corn grows a whole inch every single day, and as the layers of husk shift slightly to accommodate this expansion, you can hear it as a low*

continuous rustle if you stand inside the rows of a cornfield on a perfectly still August day."

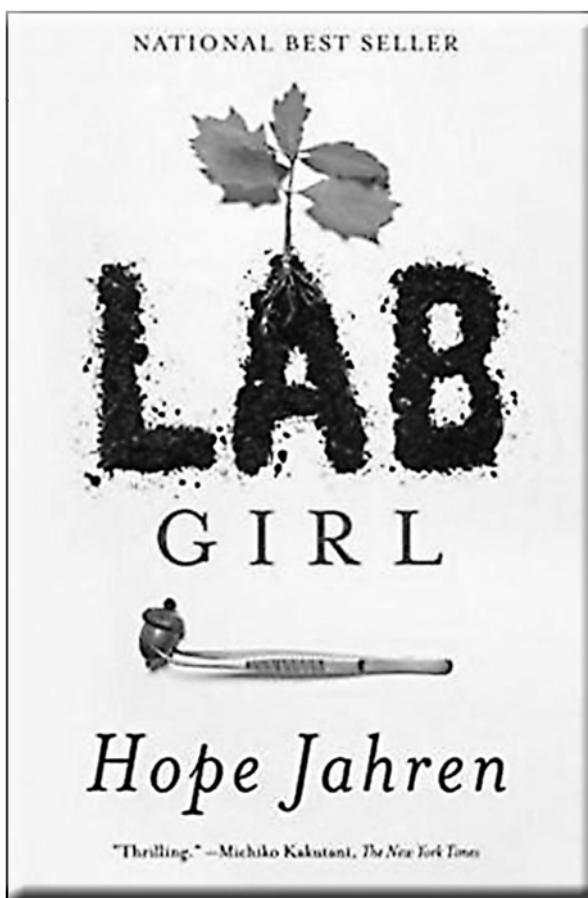
Her trajectory toward becoming a respected scientist often seems blocked, impeded by perceptions about women in academic science and by the ever shrinking lack of funding. It's scary. The conflict is novelistic. Her love for beautiful intricacies of the plant world evoke lyrical prose that present plant science as compelling

exoticism. She shares the visceral connection to findings that feel spiritual as her science reveals truth. This scientist who seeks revelation in the lab and field also brings that value to storytelling. Jahren's mother nurtured love for literature and writing, and that connection serves every sentence in this scientist's coming-of-age story which ultimately inspires the reader to follow passions over comfort and convention.

Lab Girl's chapters form a general chronologic advancement, yet chronology is not king in this prose; meaning rules. Each chapter might serve as a stand-alone essay — each constructing insight and transcendence about the value of science and of people who are estranged from social norms: people with deformity, mental illness, awkward social skills and gender obstructions.

Jahren's account of family and quirky relationships with students and fellow scientists show how much we imperfect people can accomplish as we search for truth and nurture each other. Her truth is seen in the plant word, which, of course, is our world too.

By Amy Lou Jenkins BSN, MS, MFA is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact*. If you have book you'd like considered for review, contact her through JackWalkerPress.com.



RIVER TOURING SECTION

2017 Paddling Trips and Instructional Clinics

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section>

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

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

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

PADDLING TRIPS

Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section/trips> for additional trip listings.

July 24-Aug. 2, Montana Whitewater Class II-III; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in Montana. The trip will be flexible to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net.

Aug. 26-27, Flambeau R. Class II; Canoe Camp. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau R. by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. Learn how healthy state forests are important for protecting water quality. Contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557,

richkrieg@new.rr.com or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com.

Sept. 2, Wolf R. Class II-III; Day Trip. Join us on a river where wildlife and rocky rapids abound. If we are lucky, we will see deer, eagles, ducks or otters. Contact: Marianne McEvelly, 715-250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com.



Sept. 9-10, Namekagon River Class I; River Camp. Paddle a stretch of the Namekagon, which is designated as a part of the 200 mile St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and National Park. We'll camp overnight along the way, so all gear will need to be in waterproof bags. Enjoy great scenery and wildlife. Contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-858-5290, sueob1@gmail.com or Carol Brewton, 507-454-7187, cbrewton@smnmmn.edu.

Sept. 16, Badfish Creek Class I; Day Trip. Badfish Creek meanders, welcoming shorter boats. The creek has twice the speed of current typical of the area because of the effluent from the state of the art Madison wastewater plant. Come see how the water starts out clearer from this highly regulated effluent and gets murkier from less regulated farmland runoff as we go downstream. Contact: Carl Zimm, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com, 608-246-0485.

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Sept. 23-24, NE WI Rivers (Pike, Red or Wolf, depending on water levels) Class II-II+ Car Camp. Contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kayaker.kasy@gmail.com or Dave Skriba, 920-210-9400, screeps2017@outlook.com.

Sept. 30, Kickapoo R. Quietwater; Day Trip (Car-Camp option). This narrow river winds through the Kickapoo Valley in the heart of Wisconsin's driftless area. Ooo and ahhh over the tall sandstone cliffs, fall colors, Great Blue Heron and other natural delights. We'll also review the history of the federal dam project that was halted on this river years ago with help from Sierra Club, the UW and others. Optional camping at Wildcat Mountain State Park on Friday and/or Saturday nights. Contact: Carol Olson: olsonfam44@centurytel.net or 608-356-8992. Co-leader: Meg Nelson: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com.

Oct. 7-8, Mekan River and Neenah Creek Quietwater; Car Camp. Paddle these serpentine wetland rivers and learn about the threats and impacts of irrigation and proposed bottled water facilities. Contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, gregg.riemer@gmail.com.

Oct. 28-29, Wolf R. Class II+; Car Camp. Annual Halloween trip. We'll paddle Section 3 of this wild, scenic river on Saturday and Section 2 on Sunday. Wet/dry suit required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Contact: Philip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net.

RTS Annual Meeting.

January 6, 2018, 11 a.m. to-3 p.m. LOCATION: First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St., Baraboo. Potluck at noon, followed by business meeting, trip list formation and slideshow/videos of 2017 trips. Advance registration not required. For details, contact Kevin Olson, 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

Jan. 29-Feb. 9, 2018, Florida Rivers Class I; Car Camp.

Take a break from winter and enjoy the unique flora and fauna of Florida's rivers. Space limited and advance campground reservations required, so inquire early. Contact: Kevin & Carol Olson, 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net. Co-leader: Katy Golden, katyrenny@yahoo.com.

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

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ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

By Eric Uram, Chapter Executive Committee Member

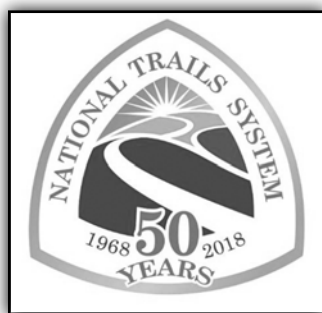
Have you made your summer get-away plans? Do they include heading somewhere remote? Get there by joining a John Muir Chapter (JMC) hiking, paddling adventure and/or whitewater clinic.

The River Touring Section (RTS) covers many of the best paddling waters in the state and also helps you prepare for whitewater adventures with clinics to learn proper safety and paddling techniques.

For the truly adventurous, join a trip to the International Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness.

For hikers, openings remain for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore excursion starting July 2. Pick what segments of the trip you want to participate on – anywhere from 3-6 days. Most other hikes don't have limits for the number of participants.

Want to learn more about the threats to Wisconsin's environment? Join us by going onsite to learn first-hand about them. JMC offers trips to many locations around the state where resources are in jeopardy.



Trips to Quetico and RTS clinics fill quickly. Threatened resource outings fill fast and often don't get a lot of lead time, so check the website often to see what we're up to!

Even if you don't get a chance this year, especially if a trip is full, start making plans for next year. Get onto a waiting list by contacting trip leaders to talk about their plans for next year. Many offerings in 2017 will have parallel offerings in 2018. Fun will be the rule in 2018 as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of both the Wild and Scenic Rivers and the National Trails System.

Visit the JMC website and look over the offerings for all sorts of outdoor adventures — <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin>.

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Quetico Outing 1 – Christianson, Clear, and McDermott

July 28-August 6, 2017

(8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp)

· Co-Leaders: Vicki Christianson, 715-827-0379, vicki.christianson@yahoo.com, Janet Clear, 608-833-1339, janetclear@gmail.com and Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com.

· Outing Departure Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.

· Outing Cost: \$600 including \$100 deposit

· Join our chapter's inaugural women's trip to Quetico with three seasoned Quetico leaders. A shorter route is planned which will allow participants plenty of time to relax and enjoy the unparalleled scenery. Two layover days are planned. Limited to seven participants.

Quetico Outing 2 – Brands and Karaskiewicz

August 11-20, 2017

(8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp)

· Outing type: paddle/portage/camp

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

· Outing departure point: Gunflint Trail, MN.

· Outing cost: \$600 including \$100 deposit.

· This trip will embark from the Gunflint Trail into the southeastern edge of Quetico. Warm days and starry nights will make this an adventure to remember as our dates coincide with the Perseid meteor shower. Two lay-over days are planned. Limited to nine participants.

Quetico Outing 3 – McDermott and Stahl

August 18-27, 2017

(8 days, 7 nights; paddle/portage/camp)

· Co-Leaders: Nancy McDermott, 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com and Will Stahl, 920-725-9185, wrsy55@sbcglobal.net.

· Outing Departure Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.

· Outing Cost: \$600 including \$100 deposit.

· Designed for the fishing enthusiast — Enjoy a five-night base camp on Agnes Lake sandwiched between canoe travel days in and out of the park to maximize fishing and cooking delicious fresh fish meals. Limited to seven participants.



Support your local Sierra Club

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

Please be as generous as you are able. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter's budget.

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

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

Name: _____

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Please keep my gift anonymous

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Madison, WI 53703

Online contributions:
www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin

EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT WISCONSIN



2017 JOHN MUIR CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDER

July 15 - JMC Executive Committee Meeting - location TBD

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

August 15 - Deadline for Chapter Award Nominations, sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards or contact Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@sierraclub.org

August 19 - 20 - JMC Strategic Planning, Madison

September 9 - 17 - National Drive Electric Week, driveelectricweek.org

September 16 - Fighting Bobfest, Madison

September 30 - JMC Executive Committee Meeting - location TBD

November 11 - JMC Executive Committee Meeting - location TBD

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.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER ISSUE DEADLINE: AUGUST 15, 2017