

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

wisconsin.sierraclub.org

2010 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

THE BAD NEWS AND THE GOOD NEWS



Thank you to our many volunteers!

By Dave Blouin

There is no way to sugar coat the results of the 2010 midterm elections. The wave of voter discontent and runaway spending that swept the nation also washed over Wisconsin and the loss of the Governor's seat and both legislative houses in Wisconsin will make achievement of our legislative goals more difficult in the next legislative session. That's the bad news. The good news is that voters' reasons for choosing candidates clearly centered on jobs and economic issues and not on environmental or conservation issues. Our goal of a stronger clean energy economy is needed now more than ever.

This year the Sierra Club put extra help and resources into Wisconsin electoral work in the form of national staff members Rachel Ackoff and Emily Heffing. Rachel and Emily worked with chapter staff to organize over one hun-

dred volunteers statewide to work the phones and knock on doors to get out the vote. Special thanks goes to volunteers Cheri Briscoe, Ruth Brown, Don Ferber, Patsy Gavin, Claire Girvin, Carol Gruba, Carol Hardin, Judy Hartl, Steve Ploesser, Ben Sabin, Susan Williams and many others who worked nights and weekends doing elections work. While many of our endorsed candidates did not ultimately win, I believe that we have never been more organized than we were leading up to November 2. We owe every volunteer and staff member a big thank you for the extraordinary effort on behalf of Senator Russ Feingold and other endorsed candidates!

Senator Feingold's election loss is a major disappointment to the John Muir Chapter and the Sierra Club in general. Senator Feingold has been the most stalwart of independent voters

while in the Senate and always took a strong stand for the environment of Wisconsin, the U.S. and our planet as a whole. The Sierra Club has lost a good friend from the Senate. Equally disappointing was the election of Scott Walker as Governor and the loss of pro-environmental, legislative majorities in both state houses. We've been in this position before; we will have to work a little harder to make sure we don't move backwards in the next session.

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INTERCITY HIGH-SPEED RAIL WOULD HAVE MOVED WISCONSIN FORWARD *by Shahla Werner*

In 2010, Wisconsin was awarded \$822 million dollars in federal grant funds to extend the popular Hiawatha passenger service to Madison. This project is part of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative which aims to build a 3,000-mile passenger rail network connecting a nine state area, featuring frequent service and top speeds of 110 MPH. Trains in the Racine - Kenosha - Milwaukee - Brookfield - Watertown - Madison corridor would serve 2.2 million Wisconsinites, or 40% of our population.

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March 2011



FROM THE CHAIR

by Eric Uram, Chair
John Muir Chapter

Well, the elections certainly weren't a mandate for addressing our issues. At least, not at first glance.

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. What we need to do is make progress. And we can, even under these changing political climates. Addressing a belt-tightening, job growth agenda should be helpful in many ways.

We can do more with less, and the current mind-set among the voting public is all for keeping costs down. So, there is hope for moving an agenda to reduce taxpayer burdens by utilizing what is called "Green Scissors" – ending taxpayer subsidies that unfairly distort the marketplace and cause huge environmental problems. These funding shifts in programs can eliminate wasted energy and negative environmental impacts, while spending tax dollars more wisely.

All big money construction projects don't just create jobs, sometimes they overbuild what's needed. Seeking repairs and upgrades to existing infrastructure instead of building

new roads and bridges can reduce taxpayer burden. Enhancing existing locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River instead of expanding them could increase wildlife protection while reducing flood damage by giving the river a more natural flow regime. And what about simply repairing the bridge across the Saint Croix River to better protect the wildlife along the river, instead of building an entirely new bridge?

Tax dollars paid to the forest products industry for building roads to allow logging on public lands create a suite of issues. Paying people to log our National Forests decreases habitat for species needing old growth and undisturbed areas, increases run-off to pristine waters, and opens habitat to species that can quickly overpopulate and overwhelm. In economic terms, logging is a threat to tourism in these areas.

Energy subsidies promote climate change and shift our future energy path in the wrong direction. Assistance to the coal, oil and gas industries with tax dollars or reductions in write-offs send market signals that distort how we produce and use energy.

Subsidies for conventional agriculture and factory farms place too much emphasis on growing commodity crops instead of protecting the land and making sure polluted runoff doesn't happen. Reductions in subsidies could put better food into local markets and reduce our reliance on chemical-intensive farm production.

Mining royalty laws written just after the Civil War mean taxpayers get zero royalties from mining companies that extract minerals worth billions of dollars. Gold is at the highest price ever – over \$1100 an ounce. Establishing royalties for minerals on par with energy royalties (about 12.5%) would reduce mining impacts and tax burdens on everyone.

Stimulating job growth needs to include a business-to-business (B2B) approach. What leaves one business should become the materials for another business. By seeking to reduce the waste problem, we can improve recycling, develop commercial composting, reduce toxic waste, decrease landfill demand, and preserve resources for future generations.

Finally, investing in energy efficiency by following the Public Service Commission's recommendations to increase Focus on Energy funds will create jobs, lower energy bills, and reduce air pollution in Wisconsin.

Curbing or redirecting tax dollars while repairing our economy can fit into the current political agenda while also making progress on the issues that we, as the Sierra Club, need to address. Stay engaged and work with us on this.

Ahhh!!! Sweet, sweet lemonade.... ☺

The 2010 Green Scissors report is available on-line and indicates ways to save \$200 billion dollars annually. Find it at www.greenscissors.com.

THE MUIR VIEW

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Please submit articles typed, on disk, 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.

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DEADLINE FOR APRIL-JUNE 2011 ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2011



JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL RIVER TOURING SECTION MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2011

Join the River Tour Section to help plan our 2011 season trips. Meet in Oconomowoc at the Summit Town Hall. We'll start about 11am, enjoy a potluck lunch, meet old and new friends, discuss river issues, and see slides of past trips – winding up in the late afternoon. A great way to beat those “the water’s too hard to paddle in” blues.

Directions:

From I-94 exit onto WI-67 N, turn LEFT onto Valley Rd, turn LEFT onto N Dousman Rd.

The address is:

2911 N Dousman Rd, Oconomowoc, WI

Meeting plans:

- Schedule all the trips for the coming paddling season
- Discuss issues of interest to Wisconsin paddlers and trip leaders
- Decide how to distribute the fees we charge for our white-water clinics
- Elect a chair
- Have a wonderful pot-luck meal
- See slides, videos, pictures of recent trips our members have taken.

MIDTERM ELECTION REVIEW

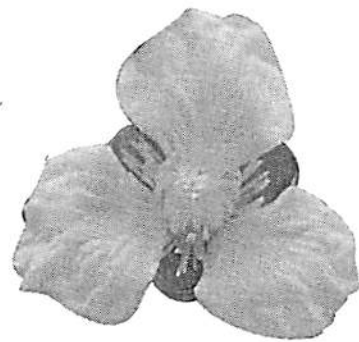
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If you're keeping score at home, 44 of 76 JMC endorsed candidates for the State Senate and Assembly were elected for a 58% success. That percentage is actually fairly good and not very far below election results in past elections. Four of those elected were Republicans who demonstrated great environmental voting records in the last legislative session. Of five endorsed candidates for Congress, three were reelected (Baldwin, Moore and Kind) while Steve Kagen and Julie Lassa lost their elections.

Strong environmental candidates still managed to win election or reelection in the Legislature. They include Chris Larson and Bob Jauch in the Senate and Fred Clark, Janice Ringhand, Dean Kaufert and Penny Bernard Schaber in the Assembly. We're looking forward to working with them and all of our endorsed candidates on both sides of the aisle to further JMC goals in the next session.

Beginning in January, we may not have as many elected “friends” as we did in 2010, but our issues remain just as important and non-partisan as ever. Voters and elected officials alike will support a clean energy economy that helps supply good jobs for Americans. We can fight the deep-pockets of corporate polluters and big energy and their efforts to buy our government by reminding lawmakers that our security comes from less pollution and more jobs. So let's turn this year's election into something more positive and work even harder to protect our future. ♻️

Dave Blouin is the Political Chair of the Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Continued from Page 1

Travelers would have access to the region's largest airports, as well as countless sports, arts and entertainment opportunities along Wisconsin's main business and educational artery. Communities served by intercity passenger rail would benefit from quiet zones and safety upgrades to railway crossings.

Unfortunately, Governor-Elect Walker supported returning project funds to the federal government. He was heavily influenced by a radical minority whose arguments ignore the boondoggle of spending billions of our tax dollars on ever-expanding roads.

Following the November elections, the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter reacted to news that contractors were ordered to halt construction on the intercity high-speed rail line between Milwaukee and Madison. We scrambled to organize a Statewide Day of Action to Save the Train on November 20.

Co-sponsors of our event included Citizen Action of Wisconsin, Dane Alliance for Rational Transportation, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Madison Peak Oil, Pro-Rail, the United Transportation Union, the Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice, the Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association and others.

Over 1,000 people braved chilly temperatures to speak out to save the train at rallies held in Madison, Milwaukee, Watertown, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Oshkosh, and Menomonie, Wisconsin on November 20. At the Madison rally, Scot Ross, Director of One Wisconsin Now, unrolled a scroll comprised of over 7,000 supporters who had recently signed a petition in support of the project between Madison and Milwaukee. While many in attendance could be described as progressives, these were far from partisan events. Republican Scott Walker supporter Bob Lien, owner of Lien Tech Inc, Steel Fabricator, of Stoughton, spoke eloquently about how abandoning this project, for which he was awarded a bid, puts half of his business for next year on hold.

Elected officials who spoke included Watertown Mayor Ron Krueger, La Crosse Mayor Matt Harter, State Senator Spencer Coggs, State Representatives Jennifer Shilling and Mark Pocan, La Crosse County Board member Tara Johnson, and Eau Claire County Board member Jim Dunning.

Amy Gearhart, Chair of the College Democrats of Wisconsin, spoke compellingly at Rainbow Park in Oshkosh about losing quality graduates from UW-System schools to other states with better transit. Rosemary Wehnes discussed the co-benefits of improving the rail line between Milwaukee and Madison for both passenger and freight rail. A recent study shows that expansion of freight rail in the US can create approximately 7,800 green jobs for every \$1 billion of capital invested. Freight rail is also extremely efficient, averaging 436 miles per gallon to haul a ton of freight. Freight trains can currently only travel about 10 miles per hour between Madison and Watertown due to the poor condition of the tracks.

Other speakers included representatives from Citizen Action of Wisconsin, ELPC, 9 to 5 Working Women, NEWRails, ProRail, the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers, the United Transportation Union Local 311, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. Madison even enjoyed a wonderful a cappella performance by the Raging Grannies!





Thanks to Sierra Club Coal and Rail Programs Apprentice Elizabeth Ward for her tireless work to line up venues, media and speakers for this event. We also could not have turned out the masses without tremendous help from our dedicated volunteer activists: Jeremy Gragert, Carol Gruba, Richard Spindler, Jan Moldenhauer, Pat Wilson, Barb Thomas, Liz Wessel, Rosemary Wehnes, and Caryl Terrell, who helped organize local events and promoted this event to friends and allies.

On the heels of this event, Sierra Club and other groups worked to maximize turnout at joint Minnesota/Wisconsin Department of Transportation hearings held in La Crosse, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Madison. As a result, hundreds spoke out to support specific routes for extending efficient intercity passenger train service to the Twin Cities. Notable at the hearing was a veteran who spoke in La Crosse about the benefits of being able to travel to VA hospitals located in Chicago and Madison.


Unfortunately, Governor-Elect Walker was unmoved by the groundswell of grassroots support for expanding passenger train service. As a result, On December 9, 2010 Transportation Secretary Ray La Hood reallocated our funding to California, Illinois, North Carolina and other states who will gladly accept the funds and benefits of expanding passenger train service. When Scott Walker sent millions of dollars out of our state, he also killed thousands of jobs. Fully implementing passenger train service would have created 9,570 jobs, \$173 million in additional household income, and \$704 million in increased property values for Wisconsin.

When we lost this project, we also lost the opportunity to take 500,000 cars off the road. It would have reduced traffic, our dependence on oil, and carbon dioxide emissions by 190,000 metric tons per year. "Wisconsin is now on track to become an economic backwater," said Elizabeth Ward, programs staff for the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter. "Wisconsin's loss - the jobs, economic development, increased tourism - are other states' gains.

Despite this tremendous disappointment, we will continue the fight for clean transportation that Wisconsin needs for so many reasons. We will also hold Governor-Elect Walker accountable for all the jobs he destroyed when re-election time comes. "Whether it's to reduce greenhouse gases or to avoid congestion, Wisconsin citizens need transportation choices," explained Liz Wessel, head of the Clean Transportation Team for Sierra Club—John Muir Chapter. ☺

The Sierra Club John Muir Chapter thanks Katherine Olson for taking the photographs from the Madison rally featured in this article.

Visit the Save the Train Wisconsin Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-the-Train-Wisconsin>. Contact us with questions about our clean transportation campaign at (608) 256-0565 or e-mail Elizabeth Ward at Elizabeth.Ward@sierraclub.org.



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In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks. John Muir

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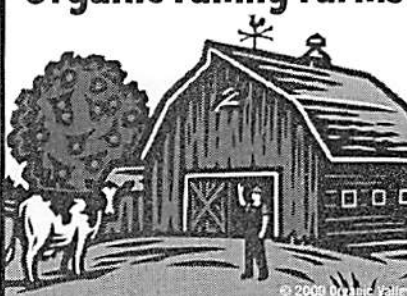
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A WARM AND EXCITING AUTUMN ASSEMBLY WEEKEND

AT CAMP EHAWEE

by Shahla Werner

This year's Autumn Assembly was hosted by the Coulee Region Group at Camp Ehawee near La Crosse from October 8-10, 2010. Throughout the weekend, campers appreciated the mild weather, clear, starry skies, and the sounds of coyotes and owls calling out in the night. While adults attended a host of informative workshops, the kids enjoyed playing games with the local girl scouts, climbing trees, making recycled art projects, and even constructing bat houses.

On Friday, Chapter volunteer leaders from around the state participated in a strategic planning session with Sierra Club life member and non-profit consultant Jane Elder who helped us set our course for a successful future. Attendees later enjoyed delicious refreshments in Bertha Lodge prepared by dedicated Coulee Region volunteers.



Keynote speaker Bruce Niles

Saturday featured an excellent keynote speech with Sierra Club Deputy Director of Conservation Bruce Niles, who mapped out Sierra Club's clean energy vision for the future. His speech focused on finding cleaner alternatives to coal, as well as a plan to get off oil within 20 years to help stop the next oil tragedy before it strikes another fragile ecosystem. Several other experts spoke about regional and local conservation issues. Cornucopia Institute co-founder Will Fantle talked about how

supporting local, organic agriculture protects the planet. Pam Thiel from the US Fish & Wildlife Service discussed the history and impacts of Asian carp in the United States. Gretchen Benjamin gave an excellent talk on Mississippi River conservation, and Craig Thompson from the WDNR discussed the connections between bird conservation in Wisconsin and Costa Rica.

On Saturday evening Jim Steffens presented awards to several of our outstanding volunteers.

Will Stahl received the **Merit Award** for his service as Conservation Chair & a member of our Water Protection Team, and for his excellent conservation writing as a columnist for the Fox Cities publication, *The Scene*.



Camp Ehawee Lodge

Organic Valley received the **Torchbearer Award** for all their work to support local, organic family farms, for their instrumental role in defeating Dairyland's planned coal ash dump and for their vocal support of clean energy.

Chiwaukee Prairie Preservation Fund received the **Good Citizen Award** for their work to protect habitat in southeastern Wisconsin.

Group and Outings treasurers Ann Bourque, Danny Foote, Amy Furreness, Denise O'Meara, Joleyn Olen, Sally Peck, Jim Rickard, John Rider, Gregg Riemer, John Reindl, Jeff Sytsma, and Eleanor Wolf received the **Wildflower Award** for all their hard work to keep the Sierra Club's finances in order.



The Group and Outings Treasurers

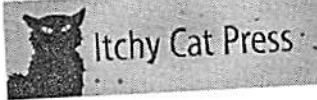
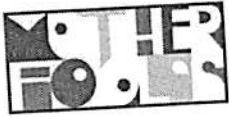
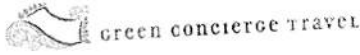
After the awards, attendees enjoyed excellent tunes from Synister Dane and the Cosmonuts, a local group whose songs cover everything from genetically modified foods to cloning to Monsanto.

Special thanks to the volunteers and staff that helped make the 2010 Autumn Assembly such a success! Claire Girvin, Marilyn Pedretti, Bill Katra, Maureen Kinney, Danny Foote, Pat & Bobby Wilson, Patsy Gavin, Kari Oleson, Don Ferber, Dave Blouin, Judy Hartl, Rachel Ackoff, Emily Heffling, Emily Miota, Jennifer Feyerherm and Elizabeth Ward.

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter thanks Organic Valley, Green Concierge Travel, Community Shares of Wisconsin, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Mother Fool's Coffeehouse, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, and Itchy Cat Press for sponsoring this year's Autumn Assembly, along with local Wisconsin businesses who generously donated many beautiful, unique, and practical items to our silent auction. Collectively, our business partnerships generated nearly \$2,500 for the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's work for clean water and clean energy in Wisconsin. Please thank businesses who support the Sierra Club's conservation work by patronizing them the next time you need gifts, dairy products, chocolate, jewelry, entertainment, camping gear or other items. ♻️

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The Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter Executive Committee needs your part-time financial and bookkeeping skills.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Provide financial leadership and vision within the chapter
- Prepare financial statements and guide the development of programmatic budgets
- Protect the financial integrity and stability of the chapter
- Participate in long range planning

- Assist in allocation of financial resources in a manner consistent with the opportunities, abilities, and commitment of the chapter
- Monitor, question, and evaluate club activities requiring expenditures
- Maintain financial records for the chapter and provide them to auditors and other regulatory agencies when necessary
- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend Executive Committee meetings and general meetings
- Contribute to a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

If you are interested in this position, please contact Shahla Werner, Chapter Director at (608) 256-0565, shahla.werner@sierraclub.org. If you would like to discuss the job duties and training available, please contact Harriet Iwamoto, Acting Treasurer at (262) 786-6624, hsiwamoto@hotmail.com.



Thank You to Our Donors!

Your generous contributions – above and beyond your membership dues – provided crucial support for our local grassroots campaigns to protect Wisconsin's air, water, and wild places for future generations.

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These donations were made from November 1, 2009 through October 31, 2010. Workplace-giving donors from 2009 are included as well. Thanks also go out to our many contributors who prefer to remain anonymous. We try to acknowledge every donor; if your name is not listed, please know that we greatly appreciate your support.



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SPIRIT WOOD

THE WILDEST AREA OF THE ICE AGE TRAIL

By Drew Hanson

When seeking solitude or backpacking on the Ice Age Trail, its 42 miles through the Chequamegon National Forest is a common retreat. The Blue Hills and Chippewa Moraine receive a fair amount of back-country attention as well. In southern Wisconsin, the Northern and Southern units of the Kettle Moraine State Forest are probably the most popular backpacking areas of the IAT, with 31 and 32 miles of IAT, respectively.

But I'm here to tell you about another area along the IAT that is the wildest of them all – it has no paved road crossings, offers more solitude and contains a de facto roadless area of almost 100 square miles. Spirit Wood is a vast, nearly blank spot on the map. Hike the Ice Age Trail through this area, between the Wisconsin River in Lincoln County and Highway 102 in Taylor County, and you will have covered about 40 miles without crossing a paved road. Over the years, the more I learn about Spirit Wood the more special qualities I find, and, more importantly, I realize how supremely special it could become.

If not for the following landmarks, Spirit Wood could be the blank spot on the map exalted by Leopold: Grandfather Falls, Turtle Rock, the New Wood River, the New Wood State Wildlife Area, Wood Lake County Park, Gus Johnson Creek and a few named gravel roads. Noteworthy geologic landforms are the bedrock outcrops at Grandfather Falls, end moraines near Highway 102 and numerous ice-walled lake plains sprinkled here and there.

In 1983, the since-disbanded Wisconsin Wild Resource Advisory Council stated that, "The New Wood Area [of] Lincoln County offers one of the largest undeveloped areas in the state." It remains so today.

Prior to 1999, Spirit Wood presented the IAT with its most obtrusive gap – a connecting route of gravel roads that diverted hikers north almost to Tomahawk in order to get around a huge block of roadless private land. That was the year the Wisconsin DNR purchased The Great Addition. The acquisition continues to hold the distinction of having protected more miles of IAT than any other land acquisition in the history of the Trail – over six miles of IAT in a single purchase.

Only then could the Timberland Wilderness and Camp 27 segments of the IAT be constructed across previously uncharted territory.

The wilds of Spirit Wood received more big news in 2002 when the Wisconsin DNR purchased a 35,000-acre forest legacy easement. The easement allows timber harvesting to continue but permanently prevents subdivision into smaller parcels and the construction of buildings.

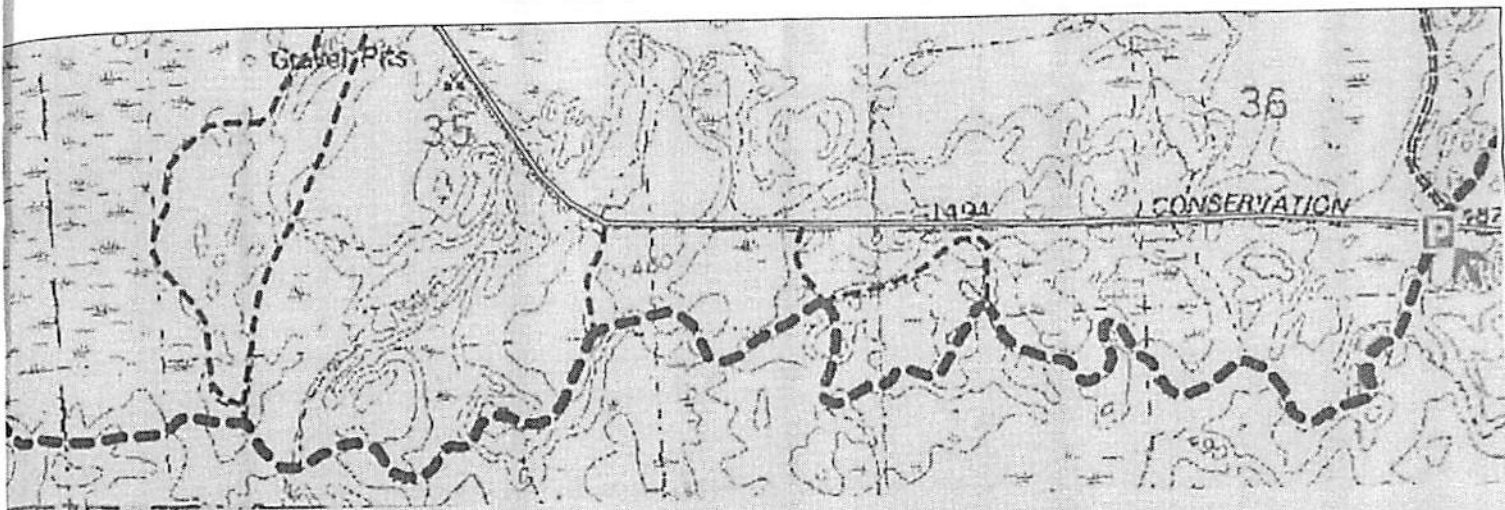
Inspired by *The Big Outside*, by Dave Foreman and Howie Wolke (Harmony Books, 1992), in August, 2008 I completed an analysis of roadless areas along the Ice Age Trail. The effort evaluated all areas bounded by public roads along the Trail. The product was a poster map titled, "Largest Roadless Areas on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail". It shows roadless areas along the IAT that are greater than five square miles (3,200 acres). The map shows that there are few roadless areas over this threshold in southern Wisconsin and nearly all are bounded entirely by paved roads. But in northern Wisconsin, there are quite a lot and many of these are bounded by less intrusive gravel roads.



The largest roadless area along the IAT in the Chequamegon is 14 square miles and contains the Ice Age Primitive Area. Much more significantly, through Spirit Wood the IAT crosses five roadless areas of at least five square miles, with the second largest being Highway 102 to the west crossing of Bear Avenue at 14.5 square miles. The largest roadless area of the entire IAT is between Tower Road and County Highway E in Lincoln County at a whopping 92 square miles. (Ironically, the September, 2008 edition of Backpacker magazine ran a story titled Destination Nowhere which highlights the most remote, solitude-

promising places in the United States. They missed Spirit Wood.) By comparison, the IAT through the Chequamegon also has more road crossings than Spirit Wood, including a few paved road crossings. A lack of public roads makes for more solitude and prime wolf habitat.

Wolves were extirpated from Wisconsin by 1960. However, during the mid-1970s individual wolves began to disperse from Minnesota into northern Wisconsin. In 1980, the first documented wolf pack in the



state occurred near the New Wood River. Today there are several healthy wolf packs who call Spirit Wood their home. Few areas along any National Scenic Trail in the United States offer a better chance to hear the riveting sound of howling wolves than Spirit Wood.

As wonderful and unique as Spirit Wood is today, an important part of its story is a vision for the future. Three actions would transform the current 40-mile hike into one of the premier backpacking trips in the United States.

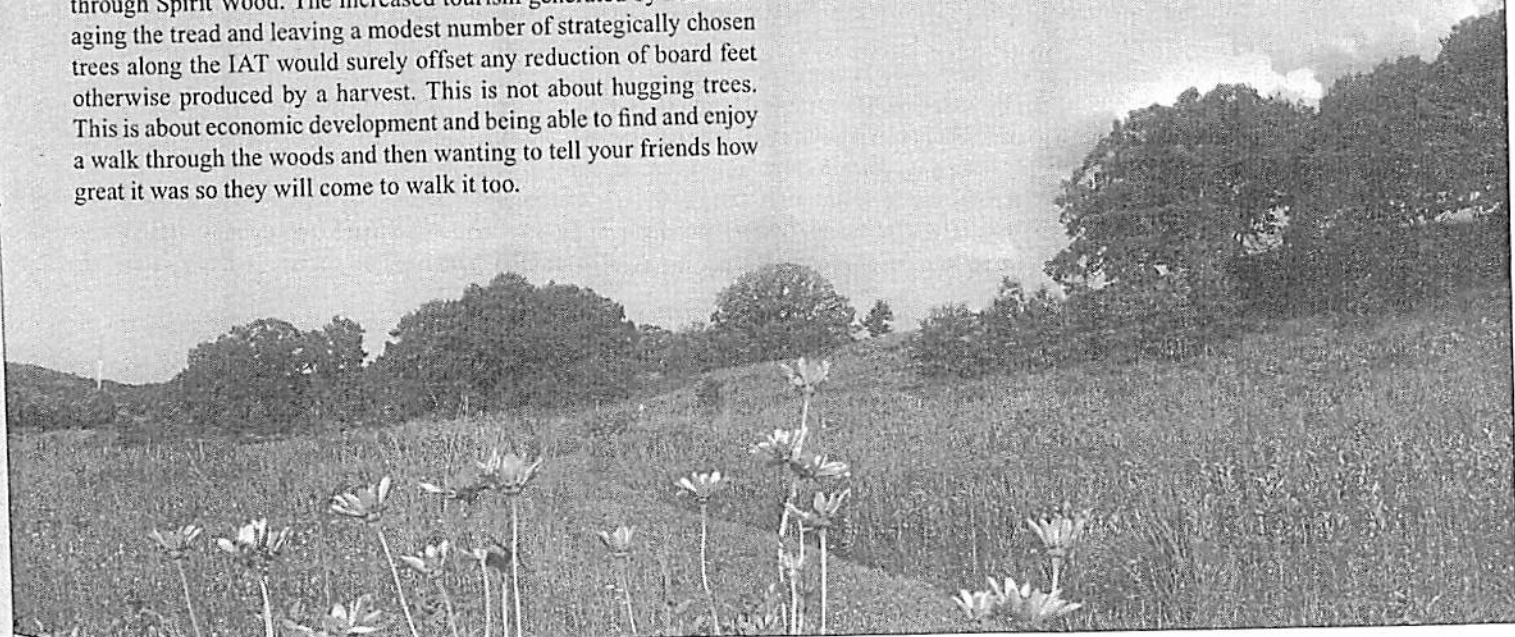
First, with the purchase of only a half-dozen privately owned properties between the Wisconsin River and Highway 102, a gap in the Trail could be closed, vulnerable Trail could be solidified and segments could be rerouted and rebuilt to National Scenic Trail standards. Land values in this area are lower than most areas of Wisconsin, so relatively little acquisition funding would go a very long way.

Second, small adjustments to timber harvest techniques in this area would improve the IAT experience. It is one thing to see the slash of a timber harvest in the distance. But, on lands where the Wisconsin DNR holds a legal interest, it should be unacceptable for a timber harvest to adversely affect the walking surface (i.e. tread) of the IAT, as is sometimes the case along several miles of the IAT through Spirit Wood. The increased tourism generated by not damaging the tread and leaving a modest number of strategically chosen trees along the IAT would surely offset any reduction of board feet otherwise produced by a harvest. This is not about hugging trees. This is about economic development and being able to find and enjoy a walk through the woods and then wanting to tell your friends how great it was so they will come to walk it too.

Finally, there is the hydroelectric dam at Grandfather Falls and a clumsy road walk around it to the north. The Grandfather Dam is owned by Wisconsin Public Service Corp (WPS). Their license for the dam with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission expires in 2018. In the couple of years leading up to 2018, through the dam relicensing process we need to secure an accommodation for the Ice Age Trail across the Wisconsin River at Grandfather Falls. All we really need is a safe public pedestrian walkway across the dam to dramatically improve the Ice Age Trail. Once a greatly improved river crossing is in place, Newwood County Park along Highway 107, a Civilian Conservation Corp camp during the Great Depression, can become the eastern trailhead for a truly outstanding hike.

Imagine, in just ten years, we could have one of the best 40-mile hikes of the entire National Trail System. People would travel great distances to enjoy it. But let's not just dream about it. Let's make it happen! In the meantime, explore as much of Spirit Wood as you can so someday you can say, "I remember when..." ☺

Drew Hanson is a Spirit Wood landowner and is the volunteer maintainer of a half-mile of the Wood Lake Segment. For 13 years he was on the staff of the Ice Age Trail Alliance and was co-editor of the 2006 Wisconsin Land Legacy Report. The views and opinions expressed in this article are his own.



MOVING BEYOND COAL

FOR WISCONSIN'S FUTURE

By Elizabeth Ward and Shahla Werner

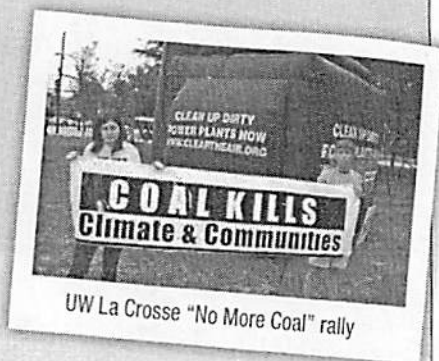
The Sierra Club made steady progress on our efforts to move beyond coal in 2010. Nationwide, retirements or conversions of 148 boilers, or 14,400 MW of coal, were announced for implementation by 2020. This means a reduction of 44 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading cause of climate change. Grassroots calls for clean energy and lawsuits filed by the Sierra Club in Wisconsin contributed to these amazing achievements. In our state, Sierra Club's efforts resulted in the retirement or conversion of 12 boilers, including Madison Gas and Electric's Blount Street plant, the EJ Stoneman Station, and three state-owned plants— UW-Charter Street Plant, the Waupun Correctional Central Heating Pit, and Capitol Heat and Power in Madison —that ended a century of coal burning last March.

Old fights continue, and new campaigns to convert aging coal plants are beginning. The Public Service Commission has a generic docket on old coal, and we will weigh in and encourage others to make their voices heard for retiring or refueling, rather than making expensive, taxpayer-funded retrofits to these dinosaurs. One such plant, the We Energies Valley coal-fired power plant, located in the Menominee Valley in Milwaukee, is one of the oldest, dirtiest plants in Wisconsin. The city does not meet standards for particle pollution, ozone, or smog. Valley adds to the problem, jeopardizing the health of 24,000 residents who live within a mile. To address the problem, the Sierra Club joined a coalition for cleaner air that includes Clean Wisconsin, the American Civil Liberties Union, 9 to 5, the Black Health Coalition, the Latino Health Coalition, and others in the community. The first step in the Valley Campaign was to flood the DNR with comments urging them to make limits for pollutants that contribute to soot and smog -- including nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and fine particulate matter -- more protective of public health. Our efforts spurred over 100 to attend the hearing two days after the elections! This was the beginning of a long fight, but the community is not giving up, and we will not stop working for clean air, clean water, and public health. Coalitions are also forming to clean up the air in the Sheboygan area and in western Wisconsin. Join our efforts as we work for cleaner alternatives throughout our state!

As inspiring as these new fights are, we continue to work on issues that have been going on for years. In 2010, the Sierra Club continued to urge decision-makers to move beyond coal at state-owned heating plants at universities and other institutions. Students throughout Wisconsin pushed the Board of Regents to commit to get off of coal and make healthy choices for students. In February, the No Coal Coalition at UW-La Crosse created a snow mountain to illustrate the damage caused by mountaintop removal mining, urging the Department of Administration to stop buying coal that supports this devastating practice. In June, students delivered 1,000 postcards to Board of Regents, urging them to act. By fall, they still didn't listen. So UW-La

Crosse students hosted a rally attended by over 100 on October 5, and later that week, 30 UW-Oshkosh students greeted the Regents at their meeting with No More Coal signs. As this fight continues, each day the movement is expanding. Join our efforts to continue pressuring all state-owned plants to move beyond coal, because our students and Wisconsin deserve better.

Wisconsin deserves better than coal— including 'clean coal'. The problem with 'clean coal' is that it does not exist. When someone tells you that scrubbers will eliminate the problems of burning coal, you can remind them about issues surrounding mining and coal combustion waste. Combustion waste, or coal ash, has been leeching its way into our groundwater, lakes, and rivers. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead, mercury and other toxins, but household garbage currently has stronger disposal regulations. It has rendered drinking water in Caledonia, Wisconsin, unsafe. For the first time in history, the EPA decided to regulate coal ash disposal. Sierra Club did not let this go unnoticed. The closest hearing was in Chicago, and we brought fifty people from La Crosse to Madison to Milwaukee to fight for the option that protected communities and the environment—not coal and utility companies. At the hearing, attended by over 400, activists told passionate stories, and a Chicago doctor even offered bowls of cereal with coal ash sprinkled on top to EPA representatives. In Wisconsin we also sent over 400 postcards to the EPA. Across the country, the EPA received over 256,600 comments, 113,500 of which came from the Sierra Club! Our achievements remind us that there is always a silver lining and more victories in our future. Although we have a lot of work ahead, the Sierra Club— John Muir Chapter's members are ready and we will prevail! ♻️

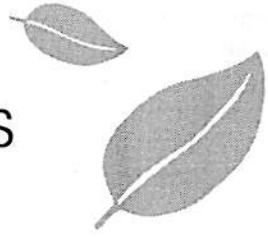


UW La Crosse "No More Coal" rally

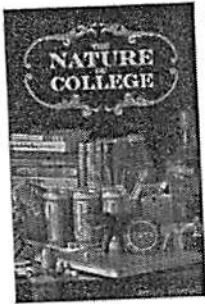
THE GREEN REVIEW

BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

By Amy Lou Jenkins



The Nature of College How a New Understanding of Campus Life Can Change the World

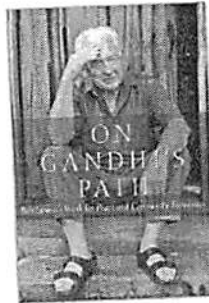


by James J. Farrell,
Milkweed Editions, 2010, 312 pages.

College Professor James F. Farrell has a lot of faith in the potential of college students or perhaps he's given up on the stoic masses that hold power and decided to direct his focus towards a more malleable citizenry. Farrell is a guide to rethinking a life. Great summer reading for college-bound kids—but you should read it too.

The Nature of College reads like a treatise on changing the world. Farrell examines old and familiar paradigms underpinning our way of life and fueling climate change as well as a pervasive sense of emptiness. Readers will be asked to consider if fun brings happiness, the nature of love and sex, the cultural benefits and detriments of a motorized and screen-hypnotized society, and more. There is an implicit assumption in the text that if college students imagine a way of life not based on fossil fuel consumption, they may be able to actualize the infrastructure to build a better world. They might have a more meaningful life. They might tend the planet better than the industrialists and advertisers who built the country. But really everyone can access these fundamentally transcendental ideas and imagine a new and original relationship to the universe. Farrell's book can inform and inspire anyone to begin. ♻️

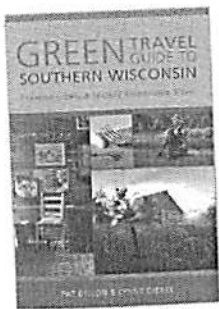
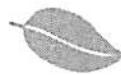
On Gandhi's Path Bob Swann's Work for Peace and Community Economics



by Stephanie Mills
New Society Publishers, 2010, 128 pages.

Environmentalists have been getting accustomed to the feel of the new word "locavore" in their mouth: the idea of finding food close to home. The notion of knowing the farmer or being the farmer seems related to community building as well as keeping watch on earth-sustaining activities. But as Stephanie Mills teaches us in a biography of Bob Swann, the idea of decentralism by way of strong local communities has fueled the passions of many visionaries from earlier times.

Swann spent his life (1918-2002) working for strong communities and peace. This brief account of his life introduces the reader to a history of philosophers and decentralists who understood the suffering and poverty that accompanies a culture where a great big far-away industry produces the products, grows the food, and handles the money. Swann's story is the history of decentralism in the United States. Mills traces the history of Swann's thinking, risk-taking and sacrifice, while painting a portrait of a fulfilled life. Before we were thinking about global warming, or farmed fish, or banks "too big to fail" Mahatma Gandhi, E.F. Schumacher, Swann and others held visions of productive, resilient and sufficient communities. And they were not afraid to work for this better world, nor were they concerned that a life less devoted to the accumulation of stuff might lead to deprivation. No, quite the contrary. ♻️

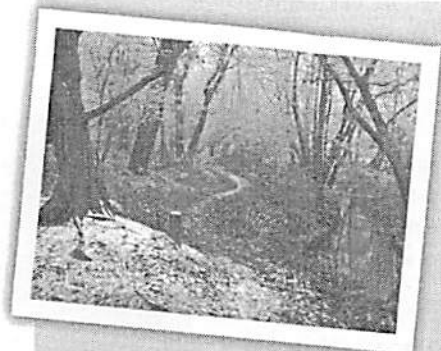


Green Travel Guide to Southern Wisconsin Environmentally & Socially Responsible Travel

by Pat Dillon & Lynne Diebel, University of Wisconsin Press, 160 pages.

Dillon and Diebel will have you pulling out a calendar to plan your southern Wisconsin trips. Find enticing destinations and meet the entrepreneurs who commit to building a greener world. They depend on consumers to vote with their dollars. Make your fun-dollars work toward supporting a green lifestyle. Find places to go, things to do, where to eat, and where to stay in Southwest and Southeast Wisconsin. ♻️

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*, May 2010. The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* calls it "Nothing short of sensational." Read an excerpt in the Jan/Feb issue of *Wisconsin Trails* magazine.



WINTER OUTINGS

The Sierra Club, as an organization, serves a dual purpose. John Muir's vision for an environmental group was not just one of education and legislation. He felt very strongly that the best way to empower people to want to protect the wild places of the earth was to get them out to enjoy them. Therefore the Sierra Club has always fostered a strong outings program to go along with our conservation ethic. To that end, there are many local events available to hike, bike, camp, ski etc. To see the latest information, visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp>

Outings are open to all members of the John Muir chapter and to the general public. Note that all outings are subject to change. PLEASE contact trip leaders ahead of time so they know you are coming and can contact you in case of cancellation or other changes.

TUESDAY, JAN. 11: CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE BONFIRE GRILL, 2601 W BELTLINE HWY, MADISON

Enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine and participating in a thought-provoking educational discussion. We try to mix locations and price points, so hopefully we'll hit a spot you like! Open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you want. Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Dinner time will be provided when you RSVP. [4L]

SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 4PM: WINTER CAMPING / CANDLELIGHT SKI BLUE MOUND STATE PARK

Join Bill for a great time skiing, snow shoeing and camping at Blue Mound State Park. We'll begin by meeting in the campground parking lot at 4:00 PM and then select a campsite at the park and set up our tents (all sites are walk-in only). A bonfire will quickly follow. I'll supply turkey chili (spicy) for the camper's evening meal. Please bring along a dish to pass and your own beverages. We'll participate in the candlelight ski or snowshoe hike put on by the Friends of Blue Mound State Park. Hot beverages are also available from the Friends Group. Please bring your own food for breakfast Sunday morning. We'll ski, snowshoe, and/or hike on Sunday after breakfast. All vehicles must have a State Park Sticker (<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/fees>).

OUTING INFORMATION

Host group is indicated in brackets

[CV] Chippewa Valley Group	[GW] Great Waters Group
[CR] Coulee Region Group	[SEG] Southeast Gateway Group
[4L] Four Lakes Group	[SCVI] St. Croix Valley Interstate Group
[FV] Fox Valley Group	[JM] John Muir Chapter

Liability Waiver & Carpooling

In order to participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Cost is \$10.00 (non-refundable) per person payable through PayPal. Please RSVP to Bill no later than January 14th for payment details. Contact Bill at duh.guru@att.net. [4L]

TUESDAY FEB. 15: CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE PAISAN'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT, 131 W. WILSON, MADISON

Enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine and participating in a thought-provoking educational discussion. We try to mix locations and price points, so hopefully we'll hit a spot you like! Open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you want. Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Dinner time will be provided when you RSVP. [4L]

SATURDAY, FEB. 26, 10AM: GOTH PARK SNOWSHOE/HIKE

Join us for a pleasant day of snowshoeing or hiking at Goth Park - Goth Park is on Old Sauk Road in the Town of Middleton (~3 miles west of Beltline). We'll meet in the parking lot near the trailhead at 10:00 AM and snowshoe or hike for about 2 hours. There are about 20 acres at Goth Park; plenty of variety for experienced snowshoers to novices. Families are welcome. Snowshoes can be rented at REI, Fontana Sports and Rutabaga. To get to Goth Park take Old Sauk Road west from the Beltline. It is very close to the end of Old Sauk Road near Timber Lane. For more information or to RSVP contact Bill: duh.guru@att.net. [4L]

TUESDAY, MARCH 15: CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE THE VINTAGE, 674 SOUTH WHITNEY WAY, MADISON.

An extension of the popular Vintage Spirits on University downtown, come sample one of Madison's newest breweries and sit by their roaring fireplace! Enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans, open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you want. Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Dinner time will be provided when you RSVP. [4L]

TUESDAY, APRIL 12: CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE BUNKY'S CAFE, 2425 ATWOOD AVENUE, MADISON.

Enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine and participating in a thought-provoking educational discussion. We try to mix locations and price points, so hopefully we'll hit a spot you like! Open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you want. Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Dinner time will be provided when you RSVP. [4L]

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2011 QUETICO/BOUNDARY WATERS PADDLING ADVENTURES

Hearing the loon's cry while watching the sunset from a remote lakeshore invites the wilderness into your heart and soul. Just as the salmon and swallows return, people need to connect with the wild. Since 2004, when Sierrans were first invited by Bill Moore to join on a wilderness paddle in Ontario's incomparable Quetico Provincial Park, dozens have shared the joy of Quetico wilderness travel by joining one of the annual John Muir Chapter outings into the area. This year is no exception as trips are being announced for the following dates.



Besides the sheer joy of escaping "civilization," the trips include many educational themes. From experiencing cultural history through Ojibwa pictographs and following the trails of the French voyageurs, to wilderness trip planning, packing and meal preparation, to map reading, orientation and navigation as well as much more, participants can expand their wilderness experiences. Participants share camp chores as well as the camaraderie of group activities at mealtimes and around evening campfires. These moderate to strenuous trips combine muscle-challenging paddle and portage days with relaxing layover days. Travelers enjoy plenty of opportunities for swimming, fishing, stargazing, photography, day-hiking, berry picking, cooking or just meditation. In the tradition of the first trip, these are designed to minimize costs and include canoes, group equipment, meals, necessary lodging, and park usage fees. Associated costs for individual permits and licenses (as well as passports) are not included. Costs are generally half of what outfitters charge. Travel to the base/starting point is not considered part of the trip, though carpooling is encouraged and often coordinated by participants.

All trip leaders have completed Sierra Club outings leadership training emphasizing group safety, as well as Wilderness First Aid courses. While experience is not a requirement, good physical fitness and a good attitude are essential. Interested Sierra Club members should contact trip leaders directly about registering. All trips are limited to 9 participants. A required \$100 deposit begins the process. Travel arrangements to/from the starting point, passports, personal permits and licenses are the participant's responsibility. Call trip leaders for more information.

AUGUST 6TH - 14TH

Leader: David Thomas david@thomerwald.net, (414) 344-1044

Departure Point: Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base, east of Ely, MN

Cost: \$450

Description: On the water 7 days, 6 nights with emphasis on light weight travel to accommodate all ages and fitness levels.

AUGUST 13TH - 21TH

Leader: Eric Uram, Eric.Uram@SierraClub.org, (608) 233-4120

Departure Point: Canadian entry point, likely Nym Lake

Cost: \$500

Description: On the water 7 days, 6 nights with emphasis on "gourmet" food and fishing opportunities.

AUGUST 22ND - 31ST

Leader: Bill Mathias, wj.mathias@gmail.com, (920) 339-0437

Departure point: BD, Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base, east of Ely, MN

Cost: \$525

Description: Multi-generational focus with father/son, uncle/nephew, guardian/ward participation to emphasize wilderness preservation and spiritual development.

AUGUST 27TH - SEPTEMBER 5TH

Leader: Frank Remfrey, fremfrey@wi.rr.com, (262) 542-0176

Departure Point: Northwestern Quetico via Beaverhouse Lake

Cost: \$525

Description: On the water 8 days, 7 nights. Trip leaders share extensive knowledge of area history and outdoor photography.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Each trip includes the name and contact information of the trip leaders. You must call the leaders prior to the trip to register and to get the logistics of the trip (when and where it departs.) Trip leaders can provide information about the trip and help you assess your abilities to participate. Leaders reserve the right to limit participation based on the number of people registered, participant skill levels, trip difficulty, and other reasons.

GEAR: You are responsible for providing all of your gear—boat, paddles, life jacket, bail bucket, and so on. You'll also need to provide weather-appropriate clothing. This means a wet or dry suit for early and late season runs and for whitewater as well as gear to minimize sun exposure, such as a hat and sunglasses.

All participants **MUST** wear a properly fitted and securely fastened life jacket on all the trips and in the clinics. You are responsible for providing all of your camping equipment, tents, sleeping bag, food, etc.

CLASSES OF WATER: We want your RTS experience to be fun. We also want it to be safe. The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water and will help you decide if a trip is appropriate for you and your skill level. Many of these trips are suitable for paddlers with solid flatwater canoe skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

LIABILITY WAIVER & REQUIREMENTS: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip and abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. If you would like to read the liability waiver form before you sign up for a trip or clinic, please see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of CA.

TRANSPORTATION: You are responsible for providing your own transportation to and from the river. We can identify people who have space in their car and people who need rides, but we do not make transportation arrangements.

OTHER: We do not allow non-paddlers, pets, glass containers, or alcoholic beverages on our trips while we are on the water.

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

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Visit wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rtf/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2011 EXCOM MEETINGS

January 15 Executive Committee Meeting
Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo, 10:00 AM

2011 ELECTIONS

February 15 Wisconsin Primary Election
April 5 Wisconsin General Election

2011 EVENTS

January 8 River Touring Section Annual Meeting
2811 N Dousman Rd, Oconomowoc, WI

February 22-26 MOSES Organic Farming Conference, La Crosse, WI
<http://www.mosesorganic.org/conference.html>

June 17-19 22nd Annual Midwest Renewable Energy Fair
7558 Deer Rd., Custer, WI
http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php

October 7-9 Autumn Assembly, hosted by the Fox Valley Group
Camp Helen Brachman, Almond, WI

Check the John Muir Chapter website, or e-mail or call the Chapter office for updated information.

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15b1	Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	11,248	11,219
15b2	Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	0	0
15b3	Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS	0	0
15b4	Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	12	10
15c	Total paid distribution	11,260	11,229
15d1	Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d2	Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d3	Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	9	5
15d4	Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail	229	210
15e	Total free or nominal rate distribution	238	215
15f	Total distribution	11,498	11,444
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15h	Total	11,626	11,574
15i	Percent paid	97.93%	98.12%
16	Statement of Ownership will be printed in the January/February/March issue of this publication.		
17	Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner		

Patrea Wilson
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Chapter Coordinator