



# SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

News of the  
Southeast Gateway Group  
of the Sierra Club

SEPT-NOV 2022  
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## The Inflation Reduction Act *by Gloria Randall-Hewitt*

Now, more than ever, the most powerful way we can help our environment is to VOTE.

Everyone agrees; it's a big deal. The recently passed "Inflation Reduction Act" (IRA) has been touted as "the biggest US investment in climate change ever". At the same time that many people are celebrating, we acknowledge that this major legislation is only the start of the change that is required to address serious environmental problems. There are many in Washington who have already been mischaracterizing it as governmental overreach or inflationary in an attempt to discredit this historic law. Despite the popularity of the bill with most Americans, the bill was passed with the narrowest of margins when not a single Republican in either the house or the senate voted for it.

**OUR** Future.  
Voice.  
Vote.

Now that the President has signed the bill into law, the work of administering the provisions of the bill will begin. It doesn't seem like much of a stretch to imagine that any possible means to limit the implementation of the new law will be attempted by those who voted against it. As a result, we cannot relax in our diligence on climate change – which means we cannot relax our determination to continue to elect officials who not only acknowledge the reality of climate change but are willing to take action now to address it. In addition, we have an opportunity to engage with our elected officials to influence how the money authorized by the bill will be spent.



This historic legislation includes billions of dollars in tax credits to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles and energy efficient appliances, to push electric utilities towards renewable energy sources while capturing carbon and locating manufacturing of green products here in the US. It also targets investments to help disadvantaged areas that have been disproportionately impacted by pollution and climate change impacts. Everyone who has contacted their elected officials or supported an environmental group or helped to support climate action or the clean energy movement should feel very gratified at the possible accomplishments.

I also recognize that the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) is a very clear illustration of the way that our country seems to work these days. In order to implement the long and short-term changes needed to address our climate crisis and all the accompanying ramifications, the government is relying heavily on incentives instead of penalties. Through this new law, the Federal Government (meaning you and me as taxpayers) is not dictating new tighter emissions standards or air and water quality standards that businesses and local governments are required to meet. We know how that approach goes—companies

**Con't. on page 3**

# GET INVOLVED → START HERE!



## ***Annual Planning Meeting:*** **Thursday, Oct. 27, from 6-8 pm**

Petrifying Springs Area 5 Park Pavilion

Join us for a fun evening as we make plans for your SEGG Sierra Club's future. We will discuss goals for 2023, Excom elections, possible outings and programs, and more. Attendees are encouraged to bring a snack to share. Hope to see you there!

## **October Program:**

### ***An Evening of Fun at the Eco-Justice Center!***

**Thursday, October 20, 5:15 pm**

Join us for a fun evening at the Eco-Justice Center, a 15-acre organic teaching farm and home to alpacas, goats, chickens and more. With wind, solar and geo-thermal energy sources, the Eco-J is 50% off-grid. We will tour the grounds, meet the animals, and learn about fall farming activities.

Pre-registration is requested. Please email Laura Schulz at [schulztwin2@gmail.com](mailto:schulztwin2@gmail.com) to reserve your spot today!

The Eco-Justice Center is located at 7133 Michna Rd, Racine, 53402--Just South of Cliffside Park.



## **November VIRTUAL Program: Wednesday, November 16 at 6:30 pm**

(Zoom link will be posted on the SEGG website)



## **HAIRSPRAY, DUSTERS, REFRIGERANTS-OH MY!**

PRESENTED BY DR. AMELIA RAY

What do hairspray, air dusters, and refrigerants have in common?

All are potentially harmful to the planet. Hairsprays used in the 70s and 80s contained chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), linked to depletion of the ozone layer. And, while CFCs have been phased out, are their replacement hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) any better? Learn about the history of these molecules and recent work to characterize the newest generation.

Dr. Amelia Ray received her PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of California—San Diego, mapping potential energy surfaces of small molecules of atmospheric relevance. Her current research focuses on determining heats of formation of molecules relevant to the atmosphere and combustion.

# Inflation Reduction Act *Con't. from page 1*

and state governments try to find loopholes in laws, work around them, challenge them in court or just flat out defy the law, then tie up lawsuits in courts for years while air, water and overall environmental quality suffers. Instead, the Federal Government is “paying” businesses and individuals to do the right thing and supplementing the technology that will result in the improvements that we need in order to avoid climate disaster. At the same time research and development will be financially supported, companies are being incentivized to locate production in the United States. The results will be far-reaching in all aspects of our economy.

As Jason Mark in the Sierra Club newsletter stated, “Most of all, this legislation is a down payment on a just and sustainable future, It gives us a measure of breathing room to go on and accomplish even more. It buys us some time”.

So what are we going to do next with this extra time we’ve bought?



If you’re looking for new thoughts or just some reminders on what you can individually do, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides some suggestions on how we can impact our climate in several different areas, including waste, transportation, water. [www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change](http://www.epa.gov/climate-change/what-you-can-do-about-climate-change)

But we should be clear. Our personal carbon footprints, even taken collectively, are tiny compared to industry’s and we need our government’s help to push those big levers. The production of electricity, agriculture and industry total 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. We aren’t powerless against industry. We can—and should—continue to encourage our federal, state and local governments to regulate and enforce laws related to those big areas of the climate and environmental issues that are so critical to our future.



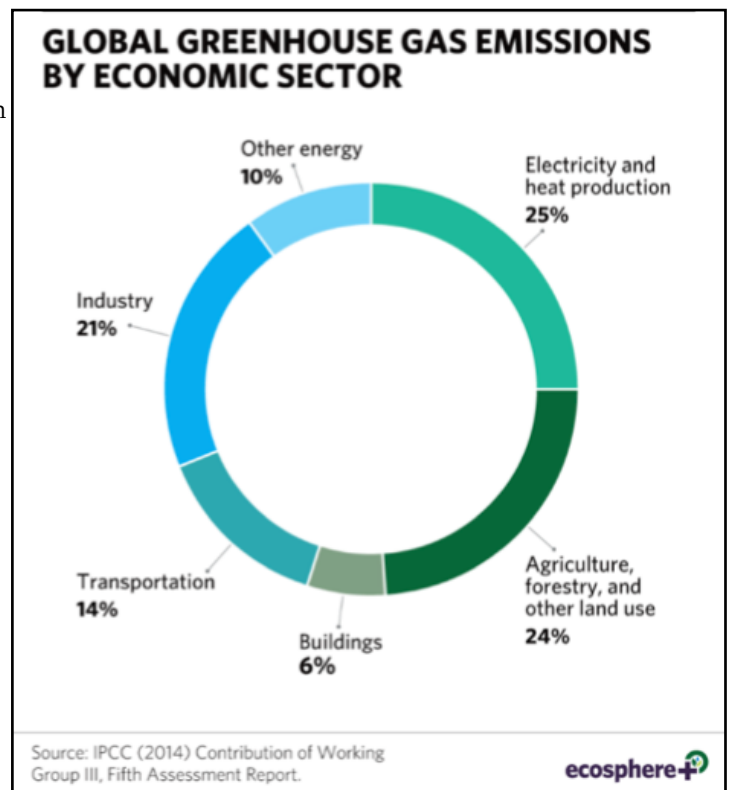
Where to start? The Sierra Club’s “Add Up” Campaign is a listing of important topics and easy ways to add our voices to the various calls for action.

[addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns](http://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns)

Recently this site listed nation-wide Sierra Club Campaigns regarding the southern border wall, a plastic free future for the US, and the new Inflation Reduction Act, as well as Wisconsin specific issues such as opposing fracking plants near Lake

Superior and advocating for our State Parks and Land Conservation with strong PFA standards for our state. Through this site, we can easily participate in sending a message to senate and assembly leaders.

When the Clean Air Act was passed over 50 years ago in 1970, not a single Senator voted against it. In the House, only 1 person voted no and President Nixon was proud to sign it into law. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendment to the 1970 Clean Air Act was proposed by President Bush and approved by wide margin: 401 – 21 in the House and 89-11 in the Senate. Sadly, we can no longer count on this kind of bipartisan support. We must all continue to engage with our elected officials to support bills that will address climate change.



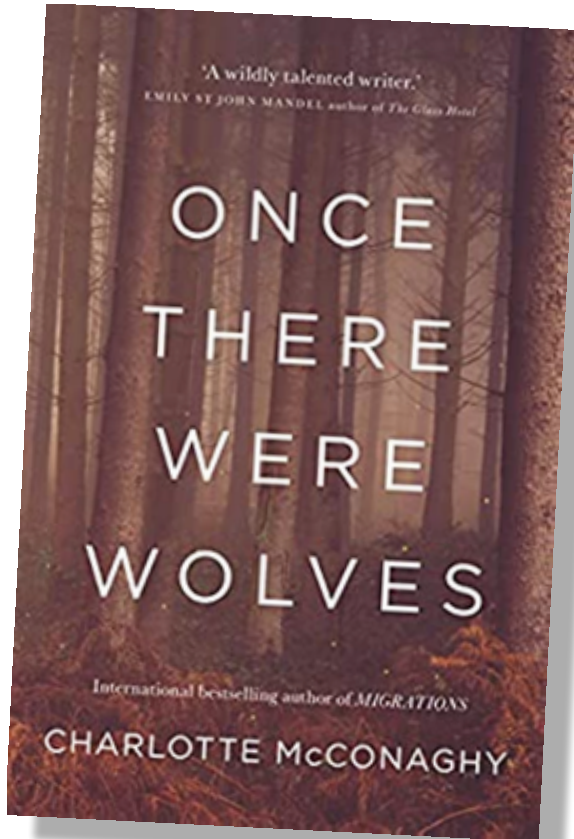


## Join the Sierra Club Wisconsin **Book Club!**

Virtual meetings are held via phone or video chat every other month to discuss a book related to climate change, nature, environmental justice, or equity in the outdoors. Get to know fellow Sierra Club members while engaging in discussion about the best environmental and social justice related books.

November's read is ***Once There Were Wolves*** by Charlotte McConaghy

Join the Discussion: **Tuesday, November 1, from 7-8 p.m.**



"Inti Flynn arrives in Scotland with her twin sister, Aggie, to lead a team of biologists tasked with reintroducing fourteen gray wolves into the remote Highlands. She hopes to heal not only the dying landscape, but Aggie, too, unmade by the terrible secrets that drove the sisters out of Alaska.

Inti is not the woman she once was, either, changed by the harm she's witnessed—inflicted by humans on both the wild and each other. Yet as the wolves surprise everyone by thriving, Inti begins to let her guard down, even opening herself up to the possibility of love. But when a farmer is found dead, Inti knows where the town will lay blame.

Unable to accept her wolves could be responsible, Inti makes a reckless decision to protect them. But if the wolves didn't make the kill, then who did? And what will Inti do when the man she is falling for seems to be the prime suspect?"

**Find more information under "events" on the Sierra Club Wisconsin Facebook page, or at [sierraclub.org/Wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/Wisconsin).**

**You will need to register for the event in order to receive the video call link. We hope you can join us!**

Another Recommendation:  
***Blue Revolution***  
by Cynthia Barnett

"*Blue Revolution* exposes the truth about the water crisis—driven not as much by lawn sprinklers as by a tradition that has encouraged everyone, from homeowners to farmers to utilities, to tap more and more. But the book also offers much reason for hope. Award-winning journalist Cynthia Barnett argues that the best solution is also the simplest and least expensive: a water ethic for America. Just as the green movement helped build awareness about energy and sustainability, so a blue movement will reconnect Americans to their water, helping us value and conserve our most life-giving resource. Avoiding past mistakes, living within our water means, and turning to "local water" as we do local foods are all part of this new, blue revolution."



# Outing to Scuppernong Springs Nature Trail

*Sunday, October 9 at 1 p.m.*

*By Outings Co-Leader Al Sommer*



This Nature Area is adjacent to the Scuppernong segment of the Ice Age Trail, which is 5.5 miles. We will combine a hike of this segment of the trail with a short hike of the trail connecting about ten springs in the vicinity of and contributing to the Scuppernong River.

This short trail takes you by the remains of an old marl pit. (Marl is a calcium carbonate material and silt that is formed in aquatic environments and apparently at one time had a value that made it worth mining.) It also takes you to about ten different springs that all have mostly different environments and are fun to see. Who doesn't like to watch water coming out of the ground and moving bits of calcium carbonate and silt around.

This nature trail and one of the trailheads for the Scuppernong segment of the Ice Age Trail are both near the intersection of Rte 67 and County Rd ZZ, about 5 miles north of Eagle. Meet in the parking lot for Scuppernong Springs Trail at 1:00 on Sunday, October 9. Be prepared to sign the Sierra Club Outings Waiver

## Canoe/Kayak Paddle on Lulu Lake

*Sunday, October 16 at 1 p.m.*

Join me on a paddle outing on beautiful and pristine Lulu Lake. The lake is in the headwaters of the Mukwonago River which is one of the cleanest and most biologically diverse streams in Southeastern Wisconsin. It is a 95-acre kettle lake in The Nature Conservancy (TNC) connected by the Mukwonago River to Eagle Spring Lake. Lulu Lake has wild rice growing in it and has a population of mussels and fish that are quite unique to the area.

After paddling there will be access to a hiking trail that once was part of a railroad that was used to haul ice from the lake.

Meet in the parking lot on Nature Road (N) about 1 ½ miles north of County Rd J. We have permission to drive into The Nature Conservancy area to park and launch watercraft. Be prepared to sign the Sierra Club waiver. Call Al Sommer at 262-716-6955 for more information about the outing.



I look forward to sharing these unique and beautiful places with club members and potential members!

**Sign up to receive our Monthly SEGG E-News filled with upcoming SEGG programs, meetings & other local happenings. Email: [Laura Schulz - schulztwin2@gmail.com](mailto:laura.schulz@gmail.com)**

## NEW for 2023 Small Grants Available!!

As part of the national Sierra Club, the Southeast Gateway Group has been organized to promote the national Sierra Club's goals, as described below, at our local level.

*The purposes of the Sierra Club are to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.*

In keeping with these goals, starting in 2023, the SEGG Excom will evaluate potential donations to other local organizations and efforts to ensure consistency with the overall Sierra Club's purpose. In addition, SEGG will review any requests for gifts or donations against current

priorities within that purpose, and monitor recent gifts in an effort to reach all areas of our community and promote the Sierra Club's mission to as wide an audience as possible.

To achieve such goals, SEGG will start accepting grant applications in January 2023. Applications will be available on our website. Local organizations and environmental efforts may request up to \$500. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.



### Cranberry Sale!! Cranberry Sale!!

SEGG is offering the best fresh cranberries for sale, direct from a family-owned farm right here in Wisconsin. These are the plump variety rarely found in grocery stores, packed the day they are picked.

Cranberries are rich in vitamin C, B-6, potassium and magnesium.

Use them fresh for the holidays or keep them in the freezer for up to 12 months.

Each 1-pound bag costs \$4.25 and helps support your Southeast Gateway Group.

Deadline for ordering is October 30. Delivery/Pick-up will begin November 5.

To order, contact Jeff Sytsma at 262-637-6845 or [jeff12759@aol.com](mailto:jeff12759@aol.com)

### CANOE FOR SALE!

Melissa and Jay Warner have generously donated a 1988 We-No-Nah canoe, 17ft. Sundowner model. Also included are two adult PFDs, four paddles, and a set of LLBean portage trailer wheels.

Suggested price is \$700 or best offer.

**All proceeds go to SEGG.**

Interested parties should contact Amy Macemon at [amymacemon@gmail.com](mailto:amymacemon@gmail.com).





## Save a Tree & See in Color!

Email [natom@wi.rr.com](mailto:natom@wi.rr.com) to request a full-color, digital newsletter emailed instead of receiving a paper copy.

*Make a Difference!*  
**DONATE**

**Your donation helps us continue to  
"Explore, Enjoy and Protect" SE Wisconsin.**

Checks can be made out to *Sierra Club SEGG* to be used towards any purpose, or to *Sierra Club Foundation* to be used strictly for educational programs and activities. Mail donations to:  
Jeff Sytsma, 3508 Washington Ave, Racine, WI 53405



SEGG encourages you to WRITE to your legislators on the issues you care about.  
Find your representative at [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov)

Senator Stephen L. Nass  
**Senate District 11 (R - Whitewater)**  
State Capitol Room 10 South  
P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608) 266-2635  
[Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Senator Van H. Wanggaard  
*Majority Caucus Vice-Chair*  
**Senate District 21 (R - Racine)**  
State Capitol Room 319 South  
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[Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Senator Robert W. Wirch  
**Senate District 22 (D - Kenosha)**  
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Representative Tyler August  
*Speaker pro tempore*  
**Assembly District 32 (R - Lake Geneva)**  
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Vacant  
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Representative Thomas Weatherston  
**Assembly District 62 (R - Caledonia)**  
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Representative Robin Vos  
*Speaker*  
**Assembly District 63 (R-Rochester)**  
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Representative Tip McGuire  
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Representative Tod Ohnstad  
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[Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Representative Greta Neubauer  
*Minority Leader*  
**Assembly District 66 (D - Racine)**  
State Capitol Room 6 North  
PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708  
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## 2022 Southeast Gateway Group Leadership

### Executive Committee

Laura Schulz (*Co-Chair/Programs*).....[schulztwin2@gmail.com](mailto:schulztwin2@gmail.com)  
Tom Rutkowski (*Vice Chair/Programs*).....[natom@wi.rr.com](mailto:natom@wi.rr.com)  
Allan Sommer (*Outings Chair*).....[sommerallan4@gmail.com](mailto:sommerallan4@gmail.com)  
Keith Kohlmann.....[rowdyjunction@gmail.com](mailto:rowdyjunction@gmail.com)  
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Kelsey Saari.....[vinesgurl89@yahoo.com](mailto:vinesgurl89@yahoo.com)  
Alex Weyenberg .....[alex.weyenberg@gmail.com](mailto:alex.weyenberg@gmail.com)

### Other Group Leaders

Jeff Systema (*Treasurer*).....[jeff12759@aol.com](mailto:jeff12759@aol.com)  
Mary Schroeder (*Hospitality*)..ilovedogsandcats2@yahoo.com  
Jessica True (*Outings*).....[jessicattrue@yahoo.com](mailto:jessicattrue@yahoo.com)

The newsletter of the Southeast Gateway Group is published quarterly by Group members. Please send articles, event submissions, photographs, corrections and/or comments to: Nicole Reid - [nreid23@wi.rr.com](mailto:nreid23@wi.rr.com)

**Deadline for Dec-Feb Issue: Nov. 18, 2022**

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our website.



[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway](https://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway)

## Order Your 2023 Sierra Club Calendars Today!



These calendars make lovely holiday gifts and are a great way to support Southeast Gateway Group activities.

The engagement calendar is spiral bound and has a week-by-week format. With 56 full-color images by America's leading nature photographers, it is sure to transport you to a wild place far beyond your desk. Engagement calendars are \$16 each.

The spiral bound wall calendar features twelve stunning landscape photos. This Sierra Club Wilderness Wall Calendar has been America's best-loved wall calendar for more than 40 years. Wall calendars are \$15 each.

To purchase, contact Jeff Sytsma at **262-637-6845** or **jeff12759@aol.com**



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