



# WISCONSIN Sierran

NEWS OF THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

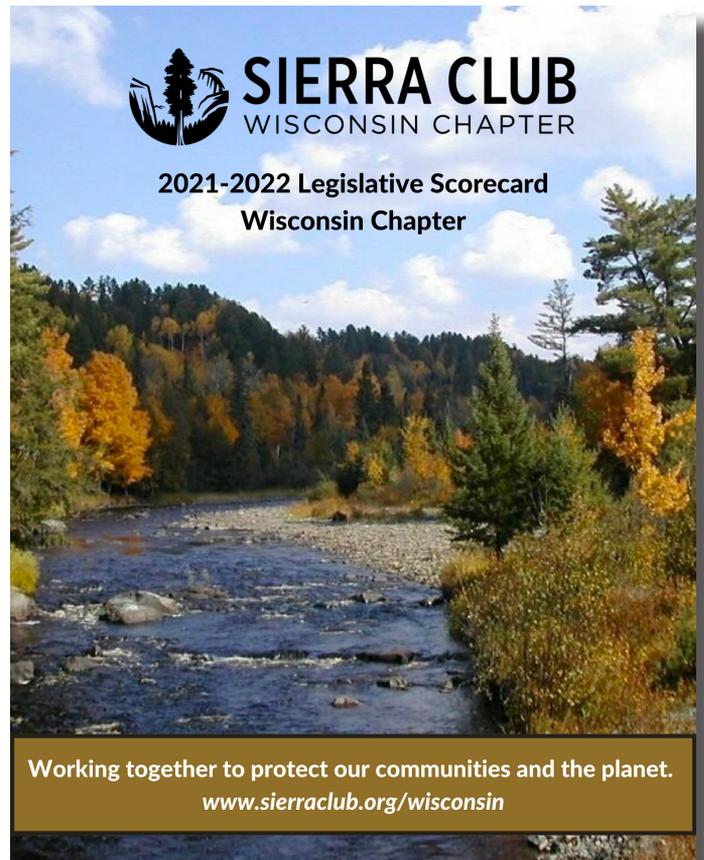
### LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

In short, this session (January 2021 to June 2022) saw continued inaction on impactful legislation and disgraceful attacks on our democracy. Fortunately, we had the support of Gov. Evers, who defended the environment and democracy through his veto power and advanced an environmentally-just budget. It cannot be understated—the inaction by the legislative leadership is unacceptable at a time when people are unable to drink their water and climate change is already wreaking havoc. The time to act is now, and there is no time to wait for politics.

This legislative session did result in a few bi-partisan wins that provide incremental progress on protecting water resources — such as prevention programs for nitrate pollution, state park funding for water infrastructure projects, and improvements to the application process for programs focused on clean water.

Unfortunately, the other wins didn't result in progress towards our priority issues but instead required defending our rights and preventing legislation that took us backward, away from science-based decisions. Thankfully, a key defender and supporter, Governor Tony Evers, used his veto power to stop legislation like the Riot bill and wildlife stocking.

The major disappointment of this session was the continued inaction on our most pressing needs, like combating climate



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# SOME GOOD NEWS FOR A CHANGE

The Inflation Reduction Act alone is not enough to meet the greenhouse gas emission reductions necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and it comes at the expense of some frontline communities, which is unacceptable. We will continue to advocate for those communities and demand environmental justice. In addition to being the first action the US Senate has taken on climate change, it is also the first major federal environmental law passed since 1990. Despite its imperfections, the bill is estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 31 to 44 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 and puts the goals in the Paris Agreement within reach for the US.

The bill achieves these projected greenhouse gas emissions in a variety of ways. First, the bill provides support to people looking to use cleaner energy sources via tax credits for heat pumps, electric vehicles, and rooftop solar panels. In addition to reducing carbon dioxide emissions this provision is expected to save the average household \$500 per year. The Inflation Reduction Act puts \$27 billion into a Clean Energy Sustainability Accelerator, an investment fund focused on the deployment of clean energy. In addition to the tax credits for electric vehicles mentioned above, the bill has other provisions to help clean up the transportation sector including investments in cleaner transit, buses, and trucks. The Inflation Reduction

Act puts \$3 billion into Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants with the goal of reducing pollution and improving public health for traditionally excluded and marginalized communities.

**Real-World Benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act**

More than **3,900** premature deaths and up to **100,000** asthma attacks will be prevented due to reducing carbon pollution & cleaning our air.

The bill also invests \$60 billion to decrease the carbon output of existing US manufacturing sectors. The healthy ports portion of the bill provides \$3 billion to purchase and install zero-emission equipment at the nation's ports. There is also \$20 billion in the bill for climate-smart agricultural practices, \$2.6 billion for coastal conservation and restoration projects, and \$5 billion for forest conservation and urban tree planting. Finally, the bill includes a new methane emission fee and money for agencies to do better planning for clean energy projects.

It's important to celebrate victories, even the imperfect ones, and this is a victory

worth celebrating. It should inspire us all the more to dig in at the local level and push to achieve the full 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 that climate scientists know we need to achieve to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We have lots of opportunities at the state and local level to push harder for policies that will continue reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

A local opportunity that springs immediately to mind is getting our regional power companies to shut down their coal plants and stick to their stated timelines for shutting them down. Despite announcing in 2020 that they would be shutting down their coal-fired Oak Creek power plants in 2023 and 2024 We Energies is now delaying the closures to 2024 and 2025. Sierra Club members, local politicians, and community members joined together to protest this delay in July. Alliant Energy is similarly delaying the shut-down of their coal-fired Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan from 2022 to 2025, and and their Columbia Generating Station from 2024 to 2026. Sierra Club, its members, and allies will continue working to push Wisconsin's power companies to transition more quickly to clean, renewable energy.

**James Davies**  
Chapter Co-Chair

## THE WISCONSIN SIERRAN

754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703  
A Publication of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club

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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:

The deadline for submission of articles to the January issue is midnight on November 15, 2022.

### Change of Address:

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change, preserving our democratic rights, and ensuring a healthy and safe environment for Wisconsinites.

The result of legislative redistricting was a significant blow to what seemed to be our last glimmer of hope towards progress over the next decade. It is frustrating that gerrymandering has left our state to minority rule, which blocks the will of the majority of Wisconsinites who support climate change action, modernizing public transportation, improving access to clean drinking water, and investing in clean energy and electric vehicles — the Legislature is not fairly representing them by acting on these issues.

Even though Gov. Tony Evers was elected by a majority vote, the gerrymandered Legislature had the power to throw out his proposed executive budget completely. His budget included additional funding for Focus on Energy, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, the Climate Change Task Force, the replacement of lead service lines, mass transit aid, automatic voter registration, electric vehicle bonds and more. Republicans cited wasteful government spending as the main reason for dismissing the budget. Yet at the same time, they approved spending millions of tax-payer dollars on increased funding for legal fees to defend their behind-closed-doors district maps and unfounded 2020 election fraud investigations.

“Missed opportunities” has become the theme of this recent session. It’s important to remember that most Wisconsinites support investing in clean energy, the protection of forests and wildlife, ensuring clean and safe water, and preserving our democracy — all priority issues to members of the Sierra Club. These issues shouldn’t be missed opportunities. Instead, they should be prioritized by our Legislature if they genuinely want to represent the will of the people.

*Check out the full Scorecard with descriptions of the bills we prioritized and how candidates voted on our website. Tables with scores can be found on page 4-5 of this newsletter.*

## PRIORITY ISSUES

**100% CLEAN ENERGY:** Our dependence on fossil fuels has alarming consequences, so moving beyond coal, oil, and gas to clean energy and transportation is a top priority. How we use resources and interact with the natural world has rippling effects — clean energy will help improve our climate, air quality, and public health. That is why we support no new fossil fuels.

**PROTECTING FORESTS AND WILDLIFE:** Enjoying the outdoors is core to who we are as Wisconsinites. As members of this community, we are responsible for preserving, protecting, and guaranteeing these natural resources are accessible to everyone. This work also includes protecting our land and water from dangerous mining proposals.

We also share this planet with millions of other species of plants, animals, and other organisms. Wildlife plays an essential role in the function of ecosystems, and like land, we have a responsibility to help preserve and protect other species. We believe in science-backed wildlife management informed by Tribes and other public input; these decisions should be left to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

**PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES:** Water sustains life. Fortunately for us, Wisconsin has plenty of it. One of our top priorities is to ensure clean, drinkable water. Every Wisconsinite should be able to turn on their tap and know the water coming out is safe to drink and use.

**DEMOCRACY:** We believe in the values of grassroots organizing and the power of the people to choose their elected representatives. But unfortunately, these fundamental rights were under attack during this legislative session.

Elyssa Emrich  
Legislative Committee Member

## WOLF AWARENESS WEEK OCTOBER 16-22

### JOIN OUR PACK FOR A FUN-FILLED WEEK

The Wildlife team is hosting Wolf Awareness Week again this year during October 16-22. It will be an exciting week of themed activities each day. These opt-in activities are open to all members and will highlight wolf behavior, wolf policy in Wisconsin, provide advocate actions and wolf-

themed fun for everyone! The week will focus on celebrating the benefits wolves provide the greater ecosystem. We will also do myth busting; proving wolves are not the “bad guys” they are portrayed to be in stories. We hope you sign up to participate and receive the daily emails

by joining our “Sierra Club WI Wolf Pack” for Wolf Awareness Week! Visit [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin) to learn more.

Amy Mueller  
Wildlife Team

# HOW DOES YOUR LEGISLATOR RATE?

Sierra Club Wisconsin's 2021 - 2022 Legislative Scorecard reflects votes taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate on bills that impact our environment.

This scorecard focuses on bills related to the Wisconsin Chapter's priority

issues of reducing climate change and protecting land, water and wildlife in Wisconsin. Use this scorecard as a guide to judge candidates in your district this election year. All 99 Assembly and half the Senate seats (odd-numbered) are up for election in 2022. Let your representatives know if you're pleased or

disappointed with their voting records.

You can find the full scorecard with descriptions of the bills used to grade the candidates at the "elections" tab of our website [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin).

## SENATE SCORECARD

NAME	DIST.	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
Agard	Melissa	16	Madison	D	100
Ballweg	Joan	14	Markesan	R	0
Bernier	Kathy	23	Chippewa Falls	R	0
Bewley	Janet	25	Mason	D	88
Bradley	Julian	28	Franklin	R	0
Carpenter	Tim	3	Milwaukee	D	100
Cowles	Robert	2	Green Bay	R	13
Darling	Alberta	8	River Hills	R	0
Erpenbach	Jon	27	West Point	D	100
Felzkowski	Mary	12	Irma	R	0
Feyen	Dan	18	Fond du Lac	R	0
Jacque	Andre	1	DePere	R	0
Jagler	John	13	Watertown	R	0
Johnson	LaTonya	6	Milwaukee	D	100
Kapenga	Chris	33	Delafield	R	0
Kooyenga	Dale	5	Brookfield	R	0
Larson	Chris	7	Milwaukee	D	100
LeMahieu	Devin	9	Oostburg	R	0
Marklein	Howard	17	Spring Green	R	0
Nass	Stephen	11	Whitewater	R	0
Petrowski	Jerry	29	Marathon	R	0
Pfaff	Brad	32	Onalaska	D	88
Ringhand	Janis	15	Evansville	D	100
Roth	Roger	19	Appleton	R	0
Roys	Kelda	26	Madison	D	100
Smith	Jeff	31	Brunswick	D	88
Stafsholt	Rob	10	New Richmond	R	0
Stroebel	Duey	20	Saukville	R	0
Taylor	Lena	4	Milwaukee	D	100
Testin	Patrick	24	Stevens Point	R	0
Wanggaard	Van	21	Racine	R	0
Wimberger	Eric	30	Green Bay	R	0
Wirch	Robert	22	Somers	D	100

## ASSEMBLY SCORECARD

NAME	DIST.	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
Allen	Scott	97	Waukesha	R	0
Anderson	Jimmy	47	Fitchburg	D	100
Andraca	Deb	23	Whitefish Bay	D	83
Armstrong	David	75	Rice Lake	R	0
August	Tyler	32	Lake Geneva	R	0
Baldeh	Samba	48	Madison	D	100
Behnke	Elijah	89	Oconto	R	0
Billings	Jill	95	LaCrosse	D	100
Born	Mark	39	Beaver Dam	R	0
Bowen	David	10	Milwaukee	D	100
Brandtjen	Janel	22	Menomonee Falls	R	0
Brooks	Robert	60	Saukville	R	0
Brostoff	Jonathan	19	Milwaukee	D	100
Cabral-Guevara	Rachael	55	Appleton	R	0
Cabrera	Marisabel	9	Milwaukee	D	100
Callahan	Calvin	35	Tomahawk	R	0
Conley	Sue	44	Janesville	D	100
Considine	Dave	81	Baraboo	D	100
Dallman	Alex	41	Green Lake	R	0
Dittrich	Barbara	38	Oconomowoc	R	0
Doyle	Steve	94	Onalaska	D	83
Drake	Dora	11	Milwaukee	D	100
Duchow	Cindi	99	Town of Delafield	R	0
Edming	James	87	Glen Flora	R	0
Emerson	Jodi	91	Eau Claire	D	100
Goyke	Evan	18	Milwaukee	D	100
Gundrum	Rick	58	Slinger	R	0
Haywood	Kalan	16	Milwaukee	D	100
Hebl	Gary	46	Sun Prairie	D	100
Hesselbein	Dianne	79	Middleton	D	100
Hintz	Gordon	54	Oshkosh	D	100

## ASSEMBLY SCORECARD

NAME	DIST.	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
Hong	Francesca	76	Madison	D	100
Hortacher	Cody	33	Mukwonago	R	0
James	Jesse	68	Altoona	R	0
Katsma	Terry	26	Oostburg	R	0
Kerkman*	Samantha	61	Salem	R	0
Kitchens	Joel	1	Sturgeon Bay	R	0
Knodl	Daniel	24	Germantown	R	0
Krug	Scott	72	Nekoosa	R	0
Kuglitsch**	Mike	84	New Berlin	R	0
Kurtz	Tony	50	Wonewoc	R	0
Loudenbeck	Amy	31	Clinton	R	0
Macco	John	88	Ledgeview	R	0
Magnafici	Gae	28	Dresser	R	0
McGuire	Tip	64	Kenosha	D	100
Meyers	Beth	74	Bayfield	D	83
Milroy	Nick	73	South Range	D	100
Moore Omokunde	Supreme	17	Milwaukee	D	100
Moses	Clint	29	Menomonie	R	0
Murphy	Dave	56	Greenville	R	0
Mursau	Jeffrey	36	Crivitz	R	0
Myers	LaKeshia	12	Milwaukee	D	100
Neubauer	Greta	66	Racine	D	100
Neylon	Adam	98	Pewaukee	R	0
Novak	Todd	51	Dodgeville	R	0
Ohnstad	Tod	65	Kenosha	D	100
Oldenburg	Loren	96	Viroqua	R	0
Ortiz-Velez	Sylvia	8	Milwaukee	D	100
Penterman	William	37	Columbus	R	33
Petersen	Kevin	40	Waupaca	R	0
Petryk	Warren	93	Town of Washington	R	0
Plumer	Jon	42	Lodi	R	0

\*Kerkman resigned June 2022  
 \*\*Kuglitsch resigned May 2022  
 \*\*\*Steineke resigned July 2022  
 \*\*\*\*Vorpapel resigned June 2022

## ASSEMBLY SCORECARD

NAME	DIST.	HOME TOWN	PARTY	SCORE	
Pope	Sondy	80	Mt. Horeb	D	100
Pronschinske	Treig	92	Mondovi	R	0
Ramthun	Timothy	59	Campbellsport	R	0
Rierner	Daniel	7	Milwaukee	D	100
Rodriguez	Sara	13	Brookfield	D	100
Rodriguez	Jessie	21	Oak Creek	R	0
Rozar	Donna	69	Marshfield	R	0
Sanfelippo	Joe	15	New Berlin	R	0
Schraa	Michael	53	Oshkosh	R	0
Shankland	Katrina	71	Stevens Point	D	100
Shelton	Kristina	90	Green Bay	D	100
Sinicki	Christine	20	Milwaukee	D	100
Skowronski	Ken	82	Franklin	R	0
Snodgrass	Lee	57	Appleton	D	100
Snyder	Patrick	85	Schofield	R	0
Sortwell	Shae	2	Two Rivers	R	0
Spiros	John	86	Marshfield	R	0
Spreitzer	Mark	45	Beloit	D	100
Steffen	David	4	Green Bay	R	0
Steineke***	Jim	5	Kaukauna	R	0
Stubbs	Shelia	77	Madison	D	100
Subeck	Lisa	78	Madison	D	100
Summerfield	Rob	67	Bloomer	R	0
Swearingen	Rob	34	Rhineland	R	0
Tauchen	Gary	6	Bonduel	R	0
Thiesfeldt	Jeremy	52	Fond du Lac	R	0
Tittl	Paul	25	Manitowoc	R	0
Tranel	Travis	49	Cuba City	R	0
Tusler	Ron	3	Harrison	R	0
VanderMeer	Nancy	70	Tomah	R	0
Vining	Robyn	14	Wauwatosa	D	100
Vorpapel****	Tyler	27	Plymouth	R	0
Vos	Robin	63	Rochester	R	0
Vruwink	Don	43	Milton	D	100
Wichgers	Chuck	83	Muskego	R	0
Wittke	Robert	62	Racine	R	0
Zimmerman	Shannon	30	River Falls	R	0

# STAYING ON THE PATH TO CLEAN ENERGY

This past June, Alliant Energy and We Energies stated that they would be delaying the retirement of three Wisconsin coal plants. To be perfectly blunt, this is bad for Wisconsin and will contribute to climate change.

While both Wisconsin utility companies have stated that this will NOT deter their clean energy commitments and that they will still retire these coal plants, letting these coal plants run longer than slated has significant negative impacts.

The delay of the coal plants in Sheboygan, Portage, and Oak Creek will result in two more years of carbon pollution, asthma, mercury in Lake Michigan, and all the other harms that running coal plants causes. Additionally, customers of Alliant Energy and We Energies will continue paying costly and climbing fossil fuel rates; Everyone will pay the price for the climate impacts of keeping these plants open for longer.

Why is the retirement of these plants being delayed? Due to poor planning and utility companies delaying embracing a clean energy future, there are supply chain issues and a lack of infrastructure available to support the move away from coal. This is one more example of how we're all paying the price for the poor decisions of the past. Reluctance by utilities, lawmakers, and regulators to embrace a clean energy economy and to make the necessary investments, and the plans we need to get there is at the root of the problem

We are working hard on long-term solutions, but Wisconsin can't afford to delay taking action any longer. We can't endure more short-sighted decisions. Want to help? Here are a number of opportunities where action allows us to continue on our path to 100% clean energy:

- **MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS:** Wisconsin's energy efficiency program, known as Focus



on Energy, undergoes a review every four years known as the Quadrennial Review. This year, Wisconsin's Public Service Commission (PSC) is undergoing that review. We've been advocating for the program to prioritize projects that will reduce climate pollution and that will be targeted at reducing energy burden in Milwaukee. The pilot project to address energy burden with community input was recently approved!

- **INCENTIVIZE CLEAN ENERGY, NOT FOSSIL FUELS:** We Energies has proposed a large rate increase, in part because of their bad past decisions to build coal plants and partly to pay for some new gas infrastructure. We can't keep allowing the utilities to make money off of the backs of ratepayers for these ill-advised decisions to run fossil fuels plants.

Another issue in the rate case is customer-sited renewable energy. Similar to energy efficiency, when people use the energy created by solar panels and batteries installed on their homes, it reduces the pressure on the system and reduces carbon pollution. However, We Energies has been actively working to block customers

from installing solar panels. Had this not been the case, we may not be where we are today. Stay tuned for more information about the rate case.

- **FIGHT TO CLOSE ALL FOSSIL FUEL PLANTS, INCLUDING GAS:** Fossil fuel infrastructure is not the direction we need to go. Building gas plants locks us into carbon emissions for years, further contributing to climate change.

Despite the negative environmental and community impacts, utilities continue to pursue new gas plants. We are challenging these decisions on all fronts. In July, we filed an appeal of the decision to allow Dairyland Power Coop to move forward with building a new gas plant on the shores of Lake Superior.

Now, the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Service is considering giving Dairyland a loan to build the Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) gas plant, which would be located in Superior, Wisconsin, despite President Biden's commitment to ending federal subsidies for fossil fuel energy resources. NTEC will have significant negative environmental impacts,

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including more than \$2 billion in climate damages, as estimated by the Environmental Protection Agency. We need to protect our communities, environments, and futures; We need to stop NTEC.

- **LONG-TERM PLANNING:** Days before the retirement delay announcement came out, the Public Service Commission (PSC) released its draft Strategic Energy Assessment (SEA). This is meant to be an outlook on our clean energy future and sets the direction for where we are going. There are some good points in the SEA, including an acknowledgment that we don't have the reliability issues that the utilities are trying to suggest. It also includes some major red flags, including a suggestion that we should double-down on gas infrastructure. What are they thinking? We will continue to demand a fossil fuel free future!



We can make Wisconsin a champion of clean energy, but for that to happen we need to close coal plants now. The climate crisis won't wait, we need to shift to renewable, clean energy now - gas is not the answer. If you would like to learn more about how to take action or the Beyond Coal team and work, email Cassie Steiner at [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org)

Madison Buening  
Organizing Project Intern

## GREEN REVIEW

# TALES OF TWO PLANETS:

## STORIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INEQUALITY IN A DIVIDED WORLD

Edited by John Freeman, Penguin Books, 2020, 275 pages.

John Freeman's anthology trilogy of inequity, *Tale of Two Cities*, and *Tale of Two Americas* concludes with *Tales of Two Planets*. His trilogy riffs on literary explorations of inequality and place. Into a world where the climate is far into the process of becoming less hospitable to many forms of life, especially people, most especially poor people, he delivers his final volume in the series. Thirty-six accomplished writers from around the globe consider the impact of the climate crisis where they live through reportage, essay, fiction, and poetry.

Freeman's introduction showcases the talent of an expert essayist as he begins on a Paris day when the temperature is a life-threatening 109 degrees. Five people died that day. Earlier urban planners had improved the life of Parisians by offering "water, air, shade" through urban revitalizations that included new sewers, fountains, and parks to all its inhabitants. Freeman's account of intrepid actions that are now not enough to make the city consistently livable for the vulnerable evokes wonder for what humans can do when they act boldly, with scientific acumen, and with hope, if they choose to do so.

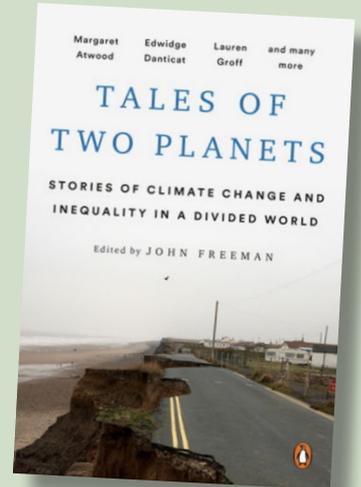
In Iceland, Andri Snaer Magnason writes of his family returning to Iceland when he was nine years old. His depictions of nurturing a relationship with a geothermal landscape that declares the land is but a thin crust on a fiery ball of fire teeming with dualities. "After a thousand years of human settlement in Iceland, the country was covered by an invisible layer of stories." Every space has a second meaning when culture is tied to the land. Ecosystems and relationships between place and living things are known. Yet, for those who haven't known nature, the culture may soon be based on destruction and, still, love.

In 'A Calypso,' poet Khaled Mattawa (Libya/US), explores the poverty of corporate mining, offering jobs, but taking more: "No more ivory, but human bones."

South Korean writer Kryss Lee generates a fictional future of loss as the known world is replaced with turbulence while a family loves with the details of caring for each other and searching for hope. Her imagined future feels disturbingly familiar.

The collection is not joyful, but it is alluring. Each writer offers a moment, a history, a story, set on an angry planet. The anger seems rooted in disbelief that civilization could contribute to setting the climate on a path to hurt those who are capable of such love, boldness, wonder, and such hope.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the editor of *Corners: Voices on Change*. Contact her through [JackWalkerPress.com](http://JackWalkerPress.com) if you would like to forward a book for possible review.





## TAR SANDS UPDATE

Summertime on the Great Lakes may be tranquil, but it is by no means an idle season. Clean water and energy advocates are continuing their work against the proposed expansion of Enbridge's Line 5 through outreach projects such as tabling or public events like the highly anticipated Communities United by Water gathering that occurred in Ashland last June. The weekend-long festivities blended joyful fellowship with a sense of urgency as participants honored the life of Bad River tribal elder Joe Rose, held a pow wow celebrating water protectors, and cleaned up local roads while touring the lands and waters that the proposed reroute threatens.

Grace Johnson  
Tar Sands Team member

## JOIN A DIGITAL SUPPORT TEAM!

Want to volunteer occasionally but not sure where to start? Are you looking to use YOUR skill sets to help advance our work in Wisconsin? Support Teams may be for you! These are entirely virtual groups of volunteers that contribute to projects focused on a specific skill area. Join the ones you want to learn about, or the ones you want to contribute your expertise to! Here are our teams:

- **AMPLIFICATION**
- **DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS**
- **WRITING AND RESEARCH**
- **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY**
- **DATA ENTRY**
- **PHONE BANKING**
- **TEXTING**

Email [Katie.Hogan@sierraclub.org](mailto:Katie.Hogan@sierraclub.org) to learn more and join one (or more!) teams.

Katie Hogan  
Volunteer Coordinator

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: CHAPTER TREASURER

The Wisconsin Chapter is seeking a volunteer to fill the role of Chapter Treasurer. The Treasurer works closely with the chapter staff to manage and report on the organization's finances and to protect the financial stability of the chapter and groups in Wisconsin. Duties range from bookkeeping and transaction coding, to creating monthly financial reports and compiling year end reports for the national financial audit. The Chapter Treasurer also provides guidance and support to local group treasurers and chairs the Chapter Finance Committee, which makes financial recommendations to the Executive Committee.

This is a unique opportunity to lend your skills and experience in support of our advocacy work. Onboarding will be provided by the current Treasurer of nine years, before he steps down from the position. To express your interest, visit [https://www.sierraclub.org/WI\\_Chp\\_Treasurer](https://www.sierraclub.org/WI_Chp_Treasurer) and complete the form linked there. Deadline to apply is November 18, 2022.

## STILL NEEDED: GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

Wisconsin now has regulations for PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as forever chemicals) levels in our water, though weaker than the Department of Natural Resources recommended. In February, the Natural Resources Board approved limits for surface water and drinking water based on the Environmental Protection Agency's standards at the time.

But it needs to get better –the EPA has lowered its health advisory levels for several PFAS compounds since then, and Midwest Environmental Advocates has filed a petition with the DNR to adjust Wisconsin's drinking water standards to match them. Also, Wisconsin is suing 18 companies that manufacture PFAS or products containing PFAS, seeking damages to cover investigation and cleanup costs.

Pat Bowne  
Pat Wilson  
Water Team Members



## WISCONSIN MANUFACTURERS AND COMMERCE (WMC)

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) has been the state's chamber of commerce since 1911. They are designed to help protect and promote business interests, often at the expense of helping low income families, labor union advancement, and environmental protection policies. Most, if not all of their actions are solely based on the interests of business, disregarding other concerns. WMC has proved to Wisconsin residents their disregard for public health and environmental protection, starting from rejecting clean water standards to supporting Enbridge's Line 5 and much more. WMC is known as the "state's most influential business lobbying group," according to The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. It is important to understand that WMC solely has business interests in mind and favors corporations, the wealthy, and polluters at the expense of the general public – their health and their pocketbook. Together, let us fight for ethical business practices in Wisconsin and uncover the unnecessary actions WMC has taken to favor corporations, the wealthy, and polluters. Read the full blog online at <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/blog/2022/06/wisconsin-manufacturers-and-commerce>

Tess Wadsworth  
Project Aide

# THE SIERRA CLUB IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS

The Sierra Club has endorsed **Mandela Barnes for US Senate, Tony Evers for Governor and Ann Roe, Mark Pocan, Brad Pfaff, Gwen Moore, Mike Van Someren and Dick Ausman for Congress.**



At the state level, our goal of creating pro-environment majorities in both houses of the Legislature is reflected in our endorsements of 69 candidates so far for the Legislature. **State lawmakers who scored a perfect 100% pro-environment voting record have been named 2022 Environmental Champions** for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin's environment. **The names of the Environmental Champions are listed in bold in the list of endorsed candidates.**

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

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

If you're unsure who your state Senator or Representative is, go to [www.legis.state.wi.us/](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/) and click on "Who represents me?" Use your favorite search engine to find their campaigns.

**Additional endorsements will have been made since the Wisconsin Sierran was published – please go to <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbying-elections/political> to view the most up to date list of endorsements.**

**U.S. SENATE:** Mandela Barnes

**GOVERNOR:** Tony Evers

**U.S CONGRESS:**

Ann Roe 1st District  
Mark Pocan 2nd District  
Brad Pfaff 3rd District  
Gwen Moore 4th District  
Mike Van Someren 5th District  
Dick Ausman 7th District

**STATE SENATE**

Andrea Gage-Michaels, D-DePere (District 1)

**Sen. Tim Carpenter, D-Milwaukee (3)**

Jessica Katzenmeyer, D-West Allis (5)

**Sen. Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee (7)**

Steven Doelder, D-Genoa City (11)

**Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit (15)\***

Kristin Alfheim, D-Appleton (19)

Kelly Westlund, D-Ashland (25)

**Dianne Hesselbein, D-Middleton (27)\***

Sen. Jeff Smith, D-Eau Claire (31)

**STATE ASSEMBLY**

Roberta Thelen, D-Bailey's Harbor (District 1)

Joseph Van Deurzen, D-DePere (5)

**Rep. Daniel Riemer, D-Milwaukee (7)**

**Rep. Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, D-Milwaukee (8)**

**Rep. Marisabel Cabrera, D-Milwaukee (9)**

**Rep. Dora Drake, D-Milwaukee (11)**

Rep. LaKeshia Myers, D-Milwaukee (12)

**Rep. Robyn Vining, D-Wauwatosa (14)**

**Rep. Kalan Haywood, D-Milwaukee (16)**

**Rep. Supreme Moore Omokunde, D-Milwaukee (17)**

**Rep. Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee (18)**

**Rep. Christine Sinicki, D-Milwaukee (20)**

Nathan Jorowski, D-South Milwaukee (21)

**Rep. Deb Andraca, D-Whitefish Bay (23)**

Bob Tatterson, D-Mequon Bay (24)

Patty Schachtner, D-Somerset (28)

Sarah Yacoub, D-Hudson (30)

Brienne Brown, D-Whitewater (31)

**Rep. Don Vruwink, D-Milton (33)**

Ben Murray, D-Porterfield (36)

Henry Fries, Independent-Waupaca (40)

**Rep. Sue Conley, D-Janesville (44)**

Clinton Anderson, D-Beloit (45)

**Rep. Jimmy Anderson, D-Fitchburg (47)**

**Rep. Samba Baldeh, D-Madison (48)**

Lynne Parrott, D-Platteville (49)

Michael Leuth, D-Reedsburg (50)

Joey Lavrentz, D-Fond du Lac (52)

Stephanie Holt, D-Neenah (55)



Patrick Hayden, D-Appleton (56)

**Rep. Lee Snodgrass, D-Appleton (57)**

Daniel Larson, D-Cedarburg (60)

Anthony Hammes, D-Racine (62)

**Rep. Tip McGuire, D-Somers (64)**

**Rep. Tod Ohnstad, D-Kenosha (65)**

**Rep. Greta Neubauer, D-Racine (66)**

Nate Otto, D-Altoona (68)

**Rep. Katrina Shankland, D-Stevens Point (71)**

Criste Greening, D-Wisconsin Rapids (72)

Laura Gapske, D-Superior (AD 73)

John Adams, D-Washburn (74)

**Rep. Francesca Hong, D-Madison (76)**

**Rep. Shelia Stubbs, D-Madison (77)**

**Rep. Lisa Subeck, D-Madison (78)**

Alex Joers, D-Middleton (79)

Mike Bare, D-Verona (80)

**Rep. Dave Considine, D-Portage (81)**

Deborah Davis, D-Franklin (82)

Lu Ann Bird, Hales Corners (84)

Kristin Conway, D-Schofield (85)

Elizabeth Riley, D-Hayward (87)

Jane Benson, D-Saumico (89)

**Rep. Kristina Shelton, D-Green Bay (90)**

**Rep. Jodi Emerson, D-Eau Claire (91)**

Alison Page, D-River Falls (93)

Rep. Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska (94)

**Rep. Jill Billings, D-La Crosse (95)**

Jayne Swiggum, D-Gays Mills (96)

Christina Barry, D-Waukesha (98)

**\*Scored 100% on**

**Sierra Club's 2022 Legislative Scorecard**

# WISCONSIN CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB

Three Wisconsin volunteers, Liz Wessel, Zane Klavina Franke and Andrea Collins were selected from a national pool of nominees to be honored for their contributions to the Sierra Club. The national Sierra Club Awards program recognizes people inside and outside the Sierra Club who have made outstanding contributions to protecting the environment. Join us in congratulating them!

**LIZ WESSEL** received the Volunteer Service Award, which honors Sierra Club volunteers for strong and consistent commitment to the environment or the Club over an extended period of time. For more



than 12 years, Liz Wessel has been a strong and consistent leader in the chapter, from climate and environmental justice activism to organizational support. Her advocacy has centered around movement building, clean transportation, and increasing access to public lands. She served on the national Sierra Club committee that organized large-scale movement moments like People's Climate March, as well as the Wisconsin Chapter fundraising,

political/electoral, water, transportation and lands committees. She has also helped the local Sierra Club - Four Lakes Group create and launch a Water Sentinels Program and a Lands Access and Equity campaign, which has been advocating for a more equitable bus system and parks system in the county in which she lives.

Beyond her leadership roles and her willingness to get things done, Liz also knows how to support others and encourage growth and leadership. Liz uplifts the work of others and celebrates victories across the organization and the broader movement community.

**ZANE KLAVINA FRANKE** and **ANDREA COLLINS** together received the Volunteer Achievement Award, granted



to Sierra Club volunteers for a particular achievement of importance to the environment or to the Club. In 2021, the main event of our Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter Volunteer Appreciation Week was our Virtual Awards Ceremony. Zane helped

get video testimonials of friends, fellow volunteers, and partners about the award winners and knit them together in order to put on a seamless Virtual Awards Ceremony that demonstrated the breadth of support for the Award winners. In addition, she put together beautiful promotional posts, articles, and other information for the Chapter's social media, newsletter, blog and more. This resulted in nearly 100 people attending to celebrate our winners.

Throughout the week, Andrea helped coordinate thank you's to all of our Volunteers. She put together a wide range of social media posts thanking all of the Chapter's Teams, Groups, Committees, and other volunteers. Additionally, all volunteers received a postcard (over 500 were mailed) thanking them for their work. Each team received a thank you from a National Sierra Club staffer and there was a jamboard (collection of stories and thank yous from fellow team members) put together for each Team. This event and appreciation week couldn't have been successful without Andrea and Zane!

## PERMANENT OPPORTUNITY TO PROTECT WISCONSIN'S WILDLIFE

The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) would create dedicated, annual funding of \$1.4 billion to supplement current and future wildlife & habitat conservation and recovery efforts. This once-in-a-generation level of funding would give states, territories, and Tribal nations increased ability to protect and recover endangered, threatened and imperiled wildlife in conjunction with new funding streams for federal wildlife management programs. The most exciting part? This funding would be available annually.

This is a HUGE opportunity for Wisconsin. We have dozens of endangered or threatened species in Wisconsin, including the gray wolf, monarch butterflies and whooping crane. Without action, the number of endangered species will only grow as climate change continues to wreak havoc on our ecosystems. This funding will help protect these species and their habitats.

After passage at the federal level, it's up to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin

legislature to take advantage of this opportunity. The DNR will determine uses for the funding and the Legislature will need to sign off on funding the 25 percent match that is required. We are already making plans and working with partners to make sure we jump on this opportunity. Contact [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org) to learn more about our land protection work.

**Elizabeth Ward**  
Sierra Club Chapter Director

# SAVE THE DATE TO CELEBRATE OUR AWARD WINNERS!

Save the date for the 2022 Awards celebration! We hope to see you on Thursday, December 1st for this event. Every year, the Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter recognizes some of our many wonderful volunteers and community leaders for their dedication, passion and leadership. We could not do our work alone, and celebrating our award winners is one of the best parts of our year. This virtual ceremony will allow us all to be together and celebrate these environmental leaders from across the state. You can RSVP at the event on our calendar on <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar>.



## MINING UPDATE

The Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter testified at a July Department of Natural Resources (DNR) public hearing on Flambeau Mining Company's petition for a Certificate of Completion of Reclamation (CCR) for its former copper and gold mine near Ladysmith, WI. The petition is for the remaining 32 acres of the mine site contaminated by copper and zinc that polluted Stream C that flows through part of the site and is a tributary of the Flambeau River.

The Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and

Wisconsin's Green Fire released a joint statement regarding the history of the site and the need for the DNR to address the contamination of Stream C. It can be found at: [wisconsinrivers.org/flambeau-mine-closure-statement](https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/flambeau-mine-closure-statement)

Additionally, officials from the only active mining company in the state (GreenLight Metals or GLM) met recently with Marathon County officials and staff to promote potential mining of the Reef gold deposit east of Wausau. GLM has proposed exploration drilling this winter but has not applied for permits yet. GLM

has been "greenwashing" this proposal by implying that it would benefit renewable energy tech and climate change. This is patently false as the only economic mineral at Reef is gold – a mineral primarily used for jewelry and investment. The Chapter is working with a coalition of statewide activists to monitor GLM's activities and will update members if GLM applies for exploration permits.

**Dave Blouin**  
Chapter Mining Chair



## Support the Wisconsin Chapter

When you make a donation to the Wisconsin Chapter 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.

\$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

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

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

## LAURA LANE

of Waunakee, Dane County



I started volunteering with the Sierra Club because I'm concerned about climate change and want to advocate for clean energy, mass transit, and clean air and water. I'm in my

third year serving on the Wisconsin Chapter's Executive Committee. Last year, I chaired the Committee and this year I am a co-chair. I am also an active member of the Beyond Coal and fundraising teams.

I studied law at the University of Colorado and passed the Wisconsin bar in 1999. Although I am not currently practicing law, I have experience researching and analyzing complex issues. I also worked in the non-profit sector and have experience with fundraising, managing volunteers, and grant writing. After my first child was born, I became a full-time mom and freelance writer. I have written four books for children with a fifth one due out this fall.

I believe limiting climate change is a top priority for the Wisconsin Chapter. We need as many Wisconsinites as possible to advocate for clean energy, an accessible mass transit system, and clean air and water. There is power in numbers, so recruiting, training and supporting new volunteers is important to me. A strong and strategic fundraising plan is also key, and I'd love to recruit more people to the Chapter's fundraising team.

All of these issues are important, but the one I'm most passionate about is moving beyond coal to clean energy. In 2021, utilities announced the retirement of 4 out of 8 coal plants in Wisconsin. This was a tremendous victory for Sierra Club staff and volunteers! Unfortunately, in 2022 the utility companies are trying to push back these retirement dates. I

know the Chapter's Beyond Coal team will continue to tirelessly fight for clean energy, and I'm excited to be a part of it.

## AMY MUELLER

of Dousman, Waukesha County



I've worked on the Wildlife Team and Equity Committee while also helping with chapter-wide Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) efforts. I

have partnered with organizations like Wisconsin's Green Fire, Project Coyote, and The International Crane Foundation to get over 300 eco-friendly WCC resolutions submitted in March. I've helped develop blog posts, author newsletter updates, create the Sierra Club WCC voting guide, write scripts for the text and calling campaigns, and lead the Chapter Volunteer night in April.

I have a background of roughly 20 years in Marketing and Communications with knowledge leading and organizing team efforts, strategic planning and managing budgets. Beyond my BBA in Marketing from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater, I am also a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP). As such, I have managed complex conferences where I led project teams of over 50 people and was responsible for corporate events with budgets over \$1M.

We need to put an emphasis on fostering and keeping a sense of belonging and purpose. I propose to define a role within each issue team to help keep people engaged such as an "Action Ambassador". They are responsible for highlighting a "bite-sized" action for each meeting with a defined goal and an outcome that has a positive effect on an overarching issue. We also need to continue to build and strengthen our partnerships with other organizations, even when we don't "totally agree" but can find common ground.

Of all the Chapter's priorities, I am the most passionate about protecting native forests and wildlife. But, I understand that everything is connected. As John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." All our priority issues have an interconnectedness that require us to be a group of strategic advocates.

## TIM KARASKIEWICZ

of Glendale, Milwaukee County



I have been a member for more than twenty-five years and have worked, hiked, and paddled with people who have become friends and with whom I share common

values: a fundamental respect for the environment, a desire to preserve native habitats, environmental justice, access to clean water, and the conservation of natural resources. Most of all I have found a shared sense of respect for the environment in the Sierra activities that I have participated in or led.

I have practiced law for more than 35 years -- at a large law firm, as a civil rights trial attorney with the US Department of Justice, and as General Counsel at Mitchell Airport where, among other things, I became familiar with and addressed environmental issues. I have been a member and chairperson of two national airport lawyer organizations and served on several boards of public organizations and nonprofits.

Attitudes toward the environment have changed over time, but we are witnessing an era of unparalleled environmental threats from human activity. Growing up in the era of Rachel Carson, I cannot remember anyone who was not optimistic about the prospects for the environment under the nascent Environmental Protection Agency. But

in the last forty years there has been a steady decline in the environment and attitudes about protecting it. It is almost inconceivable that in 2022 access to clean water is threatened or that we have reached an environmental tipping point regarding climate change. Although the courts have provided some relief, a renewed emphasis on political change is necessary. The Sierra Club must rise to this new challenge and seek additional solutions to protect the environment.

The Chapter's priorities for the environment are deeply interrelated. I am particularly concerned about threats to water resources from PFAS contamination and CAFOs.

**GAIL SYVERUD**

of Ashland, Bayfield County



I originally joined the Sierra Club because of concerns about oil and gas exploration on public lands. By late 2019, the environmental threat of Enbridge Line

5, an aging tar sands oil pipeline in

northern WI and MI, near Ashland, Lake Superior, and the Bad River Reservation was front and center. I was happy to learn Sierra Club had a national campaign focusing on tar sands oil pipelines and a track record of success on the Nebraska Keystone XL Pipeline. I joined the WI Chapter Executive Committee in 2021 and will complete a 2-year term in December. I serve on the Tar Sands Team, Line 5 Coalition and the Finance Committee. During that time, I learned the WI Chapter is an effective non-profit environmental organization successful in fundraising, providing information on issues and encouraging average citizens to take action at the local, state and national level.

I am a long-time member of state and national organizations that advocate for sustainability, natural resources, wildlife and taxing carbon. I have experience organizing educational events, publicity, fundraising, advocacy, lobbying, partisan get out the vote activities and Membership Chair of my local political party. Skills from my professional background in

human services administration include budgeting, strategic planning, program evaluation, hiring and supervision of staff.

The Wisconsin Chapter should focus on the climate crisis, advocate for broad policies to reduce carbon emissions and support no new fossil fuel infrastructure.

My priority issue is Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy. I feel that we need to hold WI coal powered plants accountable for closing on schedule and not allow them to convert to gas.

**Support the Wisconsin Chapter through Workplace Giving**

**Does your employer offer a Community Shares workplace giving campaign?**

Designate your gift to the Sierra Club Foundation and you'll be supporting our work to protect Wisconsin's water, land & wildlife.

For a list of workplace campaigns or information on starting a campaign, visit [www.communityshares.com](http://www.communityshares.com)

**Wisconsin Chapter-Executive Committee**  
**ELECTION BALLOT 2022**

**Instructions:** Read the candidate statements on the preceding page(s). Select up to three candidates. Indicate your choices by marking the appropriate box. Ballots clipped from *The Sierran* must have a legible membership number on the back to be valid. One vote per member. "Voter 2" column for use in households with a "joint membership."

<p><b>Voter #1:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tim Karaskiewicz</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Laura Lane</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amy Mueller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gail Syverud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Write In: _____</p>		<p><b>Voter #2:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tim Karaskiewicz</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Laura Lane</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Amy Mueller</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gail Syverud</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Write In: _____</p>
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**Online:** <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/2022-wi-chapter-executive-committee-elections>

**Mailed ballots must be postmarked by November 11, 2022**  
Mail to: Linda Frank, 1845 N Farwell Ave. #202, Milwaukee WI 53202



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Volume 60 / Number 3 OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2022

## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 12

#### Virtual Volunteer Night

6:30 p.m.

Registration required to receive the zoom call link.

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

### OCTOBER 16-22

#### Wolf Awareness Week

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

### NOVEMBER 1

#### Book Club - *Once There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy

7:00 p.m.

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

### NOVEMBER 2

#### Get out the Vote Volunteer Party

6:30 p.m.

Registration required to receive the zoom call link.

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

### NOVEMBER 8

#### Election Day

[myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

### NOVEMBER 11

#### Deadline to vote in Chapter Excom election

See candidate bios and ballot in this newsletter.

### NOVEMBER 29

#### Giving Tuesday

Please consider including the Chapter in your giving.

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/donate](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/donate)

### DECEMBER 1

#### 2022 Chapter Awards

RSVP via our calendar

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar)

### DECEMBER 14

#### Last Virtual Volunteer Night of the year

6:30 p.m.

Registration required to receive the zoom call link.

[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

### DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 2

#### Winter Break - Sierra Club Offices Closed

### JANUARY 7

#### River Touring Section Annual Meeting

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St., Baraboo, WI.

Potluck at noon (if COVID-safe; otherwise BYO bag lunch), then

business meeting, 2023 trip and clinic planning and slideshow of

2022 trips. Bring your dish to pass and table service. Pre-registra-

tion NOT required. For details, contact: Kevin Olson: 608-356-8992,

[olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).



## OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION

The Water Team's summer movie screening, *The Biggest Little Farm*, challenged us to take a vacation from pessimism and dance toward the happy future we want to see. We asked the audience what they were doing to live this future, and viewers' responses

ranged from Meatless Mondays or making yogurt at home to using a hybrid vehicle. Daniel from Madison rose to the challenge in a big way: "I'm volunteering with the local Knights of Columbus to collect unpurchased farm products at the local farmer's

market... we drop off the leftovers at local food pantries."

What's one thing you're doing this year to spend time in a better world?

Pat Bowne  
Water Team member