SIERRA CLUB
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SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

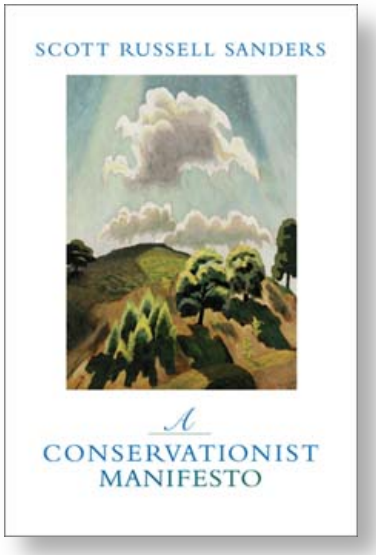
News of the
Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club

APR-JUN 2018
VOLUME 37, No. 2

Why We Care

From the Vice Chair
by Judy Rockwell

When thinking about the many issues Southeast Gateway Group is working on, from FoxConn to coal plants to pipelines, I thought these quotes from two books I read recently would remind us why we care, and inspire us to continue our efforts.

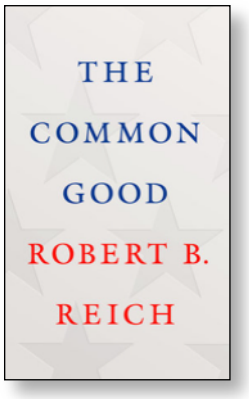


A Conservationist Manifesto written by Scott Russell Sanders, Distinguished Professor of English at Indiana University Bloomington, is worth reading more than once. Here are just a few selections from his 40 point manifesto.

"1. The work of conservation is inspired by wonder, gratitude, reason, and love. We need all of these emotions and faculties to do the work well. But the first impulse is love—love for wild and settled places, for animals and plants, for people living now and those yet to come, for the creations of human hands and minds."

"23. Only by caring for particular places, in every watershed, can we take care of the planet. Every place needs people who will dig in, keep watch explore the terrain, learn the animals and plants, and take responsibility for the welfare of their home ground. No matter what the legal protections on paper, no land can be safe from harm without people committed to care for it, year after year, generation after generation."

"37. Every conservation project tells a story about our values, about our reasons for conserving land or buildings, or skills. We should convey these stories as eloquently as we know how, in words and pictures, in ceremony and song. We draw strength from tales of good work already carried out, from the prospects for restoring landscapes and communities, from the capacity for taking care, and from the healing energies in the universe."



The Common Good is by Robert B. Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. This is from his most recent book.

"...the good we have in common has been a commitment to respecting the rule of law, including its intent and spirit; to protecting our democratic institutions; to discovering and spreading the truth; to being open to change and tolerant of our differences; to ensuring equal political rights and equal opportunity; to participating in our civic life together, and sacrificing for that life together."

Sign up for monthly SEGG E-news!
Email Melissa Warner to stay in the loop:
melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net

Join our Meetup group to stay in the loop!
www.meetup.com/Southeast-Gateway-Group-Sierra-Club-Hikes-and-Activities/

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEGG PROGRAMS

Join like-minded people and learn from experts as SEGG offers informative public programming on environmental issues every ***third Thursday*** of the month at various locations. Membership in the Sierra Club is *not* required to attend.

April 22 is Earth Day!!

Saturday, April 28:
Earth Day at Colonial Park
Weed Out! Racine-SEGG Work Day
9 AM-Noon in Colonial Park, See Page 3

Saturday, May 5:
Garlic Mustard Pickin' Party
9:00 AM at the DNR Root River Steelhead Facility in Lincoln Park, See Page 3

Saturday, May 12:
HWY 38 Cleanup
9:00 AM - Blessed Hope Church, Hwy. 38 and Four Mile Rd. See Page 3.

Thursday, May 17:
SEGG May Dinner
5:00 PM, Cotton Exchange, 345 Hickory Hollow Rd, Waterford. RSVP by May 7. See Page 3.

Saturday, May 19:
HANDS ACROSS THE SAND
Join hands for clean energy at 10:30 AM, North Beach Oasis, Racine. See Page 5.

Saturday, May 26
Weed Out! Racine-SEGG Work Day
9 AM-Noon in Colonial Park, See Page 3

Saturday, June 16:
SEGG Annual Picnic
11:00 AM-3 PM, Eco-Justice Center, 7133 Michna Rd., Racine. See Page 5.

Saturday, June 23
Weed Out! Racine-SEGG Work Day
9 AM-Noon in Colonial Park, See Page 3

Please visit our website for calendar updates.

Yes! I want to make a difference.
I want to be a member of the Sierra Club and help preserve the beauty of our Earth.

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New Member or Gift Member Recipient Name(s)

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☐ From time to time, we make our mailing list available to other worthy organizations. If you prefer your name NOT be included, please check here.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to *SIERRA* magazine plus $1 for your chapter's newsletter.

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GET INVOLVED ➡ START HERE!

Invasive Species Work Days

Spring brings birds and bees and butterflies... and garlic mustard!

Sierrans who work in Colonial Park and Pringle Nature Center know how quickly garlic mustard appears once the snow melts – in fact the first year plants have hidden under the snow all winter, waiting for the first rays of sunlight in order to put forth flowering stalks. And that, of course, is the problem; the flowering stalks produce numerous seeds that enable this invasive to quickly crowd out our native wildflowers.

You are the solution! We need you to pull garlic mustard! It's not hard; the plant is easily pulled in the spring when the soil is moist. We have gloves and tools, or you can bring your own. Please dress for the weather with long pants and closed toed shoes.

We work from 9:00 to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month: April 28, May 26 and June 23.

Email melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net if you are able to pull in Colonial Park at other times. Contact Valerie Mann <naturalist@pringlenc.org> if you are able to pull other times at Pringle.

PLANT A TREE FOR EARTH DAY!

Join us on **April 28th, 9AM to noon** at Colonial Park to plant trees in honor of Earth Day. We will have 100 swamp white oak saplings, as well as birch, black cherry and red maple seedlings to plant. Because they are small, they are relatively easy to plant. Gloves and shovels provided.

Join SEGG and Weed Out! Racine for the 2nd Annual

Garlic Mustard Pickin' Party!

Saturday, May 5 ~ 9:00 to 1:00 PM

Meet at Lincoln Park, East of the DNR Steelhead Facility
(2200 Domanik Drive on your GPS)
Bring the whole family or grab some friends to pick as a team.
We want to better last year's score of 94 bags.
Live music and lunch provided at noon.
Inquiries to melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net or 262 639-0918

PUBLIC HEARINGS

On Monday, April 9, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7PM where individuals interested in natural resources management will have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress on proposed rule changes and advisory questions relating to fish and wildlife management in Wisconsin.

County residents have the option to run for a seat on the Conservation Congress and to elect delegates from their county to represent their county's views regarding natural resources on the Conservation Congress. Also, individuals have the opportunity to bring forth new conservation issues of a statewide nature to the attention of the Conservation Congress through the citizen resolution process.

Where to go: Union Grove HS for Racine County residents, Kenosha County Center in Bristol for Kenosha County residents and Delavan-Darien HS for those in Walworth County.

Info & questionnaire here:
https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/Documents/spring_hearing/2018/2018SpringQuestionnaire.pdf

HIGHWAY 38 CLEANUP SEEKS NEW VOLUNTEERS

Twenty-nine years is a long time for any continuing project. But that is how long the Southeast Gateway Group has been cleaning up the three-mile long stretch of Highway 38 between County Highway K and Five Mile Road in Racine County.

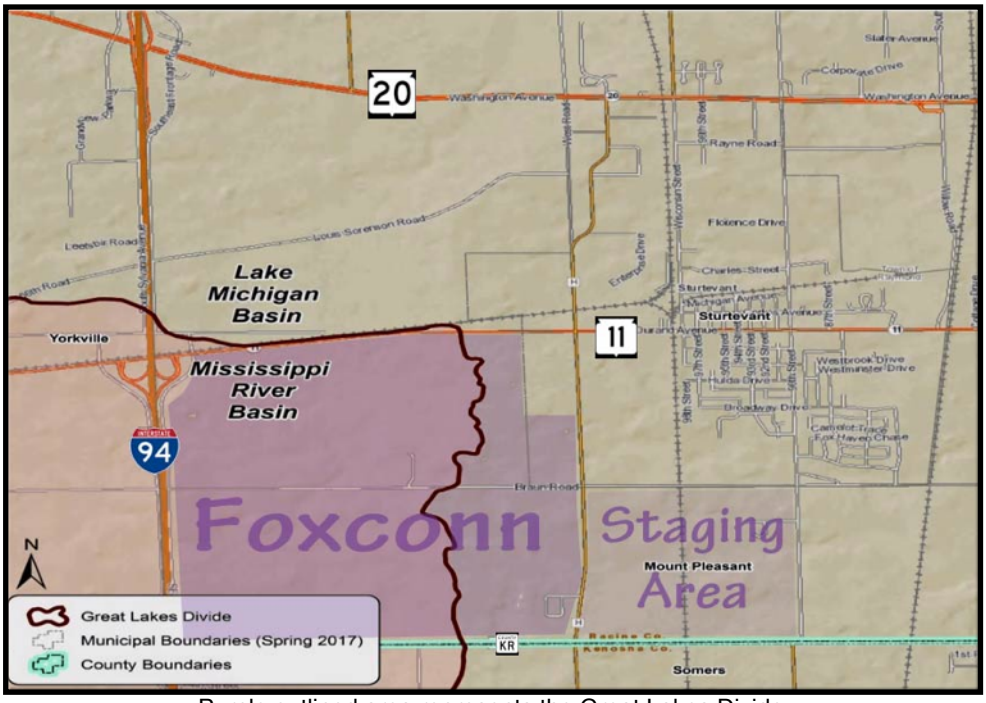
Please mark your calendars:
May 12, starting at 9:00 a.m.
August 4, starting at 8:30 a.m.
September 29, starting at 9:00 a.m.

If we can recruit a dozen volunteers each time, we can work in teams of two and be done in about an hour. Meet in the Blessed Hope Church parking lot on the corner of Highway 38 and Four Mile Road for assignment of areas, issuing of safety vests, bags and other equipment.

The State coordinates the various highway cleanup programs. The county supplies the vests and bags and picks up the trash bags afterwards. We supply the fun labor!
Contact John Berge at (262) 633-8455 or jberge35@wi.rr.com for more info.

A PRIMER ON WATERSHEDS *by John Berge*

With the coming of the Foxconn factory to the Village of Mt. Pleasant, Lake Michigan water going to Waukesha and the reorganization of Root-Pike WIN, "watersheds" are certainly in the news. First of all, what is a watershed? According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a watershed is "the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater." All of us live in one or more watersheds. At the largest level, did you know we have a continental divide (or sub-continental divide) right in our backyards? This divide separates the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River watershed from the Mississippi River watershed. It goes right through the area to be developed by Foxconn. As the map shows, some of the water that falls on that area goes south to the DesPlaines River and hence down the Illinois River to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. Rain and snow falling on the east side of that area will go into the Pike River and then into Lake Michigan.



Purple outlined area represents the Great Lakes Divide

Major watersheds may be broken up into smaller watersheds fitting that same definition and generally based on a single river and its tributaries. Thus, most of us live in the Pike River, Root River, Des Plaines River, Oak Creek, Upper Rock or Fox River watersheds or in a somewhat different kind of watershed without a named river such as the Wind Point watershed. It should be noted at this point that all (or most) of these rivers were recently assessed and classified by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) as being "impaired" using the Wisconsin's Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology (WisCALM). This methodology basically is to determine whether the river is swimmable and fishable, checking on nitrogen, phosphorus, biological oxygen demand and e. coli levels.

But rather than wringing their hands in despair, organizations such as the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, including many Sierra Club members, have worked out long-term Watershed Restoration Projects to upgrade and improve these rivers and their watersheds. According to a recent WIN newsletter, they "have helped raise more than $1.4 million for watershed restoration projects" and "More than 40 projects are in some phase of planning, design or implementation." Within approved Watershed Restoration Plans for the Root, Pike and Wind Point watersheds, are more than 500 project recommendations. "Approved" means by both the WDNR and EPA; local governments are also adopting or endorsing these plans.

Obviously, these plans and projects involve good environmental stewardship. I have been involved with some of the removal of invasive, alien plant species along the rivers and in the wetlands. I have also assisted in the planting of native species in these areas. These projects will continue once the weather warms up again in the spring. Organizations such as Weed Out! Racine can use LOTS of volunteers. To volunteer, contact Melissa Warner at melissa.warner.3@sbcglobal.net or Dave Giordano, the Executive Director of Root-Pike WIN, at dave@rootpikewin.org. or any of the other organizations that make up the "Network".

May I also suggest that you visit one of the major restoration successes in the city of Racine; make sure you get down to Samuel Myers Park in most any season of the year. This restoration project was carried out under the direction and fantastic fund raising of Dr. Julie Kinzelman, Laboratory Director for the Racine Health Department. The Park is located on Lake Michigan just south of Gateway Technical College (junction of 11th Street and Pritchard Drive). Invasive plant species were removed, native species planted, proper grading and a board walk with educational signage installed. Acceptance of a large grant from the US Forest Service for additional native tree planting has been approved by the City Council. This will more than double the amount of tree canopy and storm water infiltration, thus improving our health as well as that of the Lake. ##

Joining Hands For Clean Energy

By Laura Feider

HANDS ACROSS THE SAND

Hands Across The Sand Is Coming To Your Beach or City

I am so excited to host Wisconsin's 2018 Hands Across the Sand event! I had to wait until Jan. 1 to register our event on the international website, but I was the first to do so!

Our event happens on **Saturday, May 19** and we will gather at Racine's North Beach Oasis at 10:30 AM. There will be a short presentation on the state of clean energy and then we will head to the lakefront to gather hands and create our symbolic chain of solidarity at 11:00 AM.

Hands Across the Sand is an international event that has been occurring since 2010. Last year, Hands reported 112 events in 20 states and four countries including Australia, Egypt, Belize and New Zealand.

The first event gained international attention after BP's Deepwater Horizon oil spill happened in the Gulf of Mexico earlier that year. The Hands website states, "People came together to join hands, forming symbolic barriers against spilled oil and to stand against the impacts of other forms of extreme energy."

It also states how under Trump's climate change denying administration, millions are beginning to understand that, "there's a rising tide of grassroots activism demanding that we choose a clean energy future over the dangerous and dirty fuels of the 20th century."

I really look forward to gathering with other citizens who are concerned for our energy future. Hands Across the Sand is sponsored by many organizations, including the Sierra Club.

If you have friends that may be interested, but do not live nearby, they can find all registered events at www.handsacrossthesand.com. Please RSVP to my Facebook Event by searching Hands Across the Sand-Racine when logged on.

On May 19 say NO to fossil fuels and YES to clean energy!

S A V E T H E S E D A T E S !

SEGG Annual Picnic

Saturday, June 16 from 11-3 PM

The Eco-Justice Center

7133 Michna Road, Racine

Please join us for our annual pot-luck picnic. Please bring a dish to pass. There will be seating available in the barn or you may bring a chair if you prefer to sit outside.

Laura Feider will provide a tour of this wonderful environmental education center.

RSVP to Laura at Lmflowerpower@hotmail.com.

SEGG May Dinner

Thursday, May 17 at 5 PM

The Cotton Exchange

345 Hickory Hollow Rd, Waterford

The Cotton Exchange is a beautifully restored barn and banquet hall on the corner of Hwy 83 and 20. We will dine in the Silo and order from the menu. Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge will present an update on activities at the Refuge.

Please RSVP to Judy Rockwell at jjrockwell@gmail.com by May 7.

TAKING A LEAD ON LEAD *by Melissa Warner*

The Wisconsin Legislature recently passed SB 48, the Leading on Lead Act, authored by Senator Robert Cowles and Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, giving water utilities and municipalities the ability to offer financing plans so that homeowners may replace lead service lines on their properties.

In cities like Racine, water mains and laterals to the property lines have been replaced whenever other street work was being done. However, service lines to individual homes, being the responsibility of the property owner, were not replaced. Racine has been fortunate in obtaining grants which have allowed replacement of some service lines, but only a neighborhood at a time. Before SB48, municipalities had no way to assist homeowners in replacing their service lines.

Lead in drinking water is of concern to the many communities in our state that provide drinking water through a utility. Lead gets into drinking water by corrosion from older (pre-1986) lead pipes, as well as from brass (and chrome-plated brass) fixtures and lead solder. In many cities, such as Racine, corrosion is reduced by adding a phosphate compound that creates a thin protective film inside the pipes.

Lead is one of the elements where there is no safe level of exposure. Lead poisoning in children results in lower IQs, learning disabilities and developmental delays. These conditions place a burden on our schools and on our health care system. Lead poisoning occurs disproportionately in low-income families, because these families are more likely to live in older city homes built with lead service lines.

cleanwisconsin

Many children are also exposed to lead from chipping and flaking of older, lead-based paint. Lead was banned from paints in 1978; any house built before then may have lead-based paint underneath the current layer. Children ingest lead particles inadvertently from house dust and outside dirt. If you are concerned about lead in your house dust or in your water, contact your public health department for information on how to test for lead, and precautions to take to reduce your risk of exposure. Children can be tested for lead levels in their blood. For more information, visit **https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water#getinto**

While we are pleased that the Wisconsin legislature has passed SB48, we must realize that it is not a magic bullet that will make lead problems go away. Water utilities still need to work on the best way to use their resources to remove remaining lead water mains, laterals, and service lines. SB48 is one new "tool in the box."

For the Love of Butterflies *by Laura Feider*

SEGG's Conservation Committee will be active in 2018! One of our priorities is butterflies, focusing mostly on monarchs.

The presence of butterflies is an environmental indicator that the environment in that area is doing well. It's important to help these insects by preserving, and creating environments for them.

One benefit of having a healthy population of butterflies is that some people like to record locations of butterflies, or photograph them, which gets people into the outdoors. Butterflies are also an important part of the food chain for birds and bats. There is also economic value as many people will travel to certain areas for migrations.

SEGG will emphasize planting nectar plants for adults and food plants for the larvae. Our first action was spreading milkweed seeds in the prairie in Racine's Colonial Park. We encourage everyone to plant at least one corner of your garden with native plants that butterflies need and love.

Here's one great source for butterfly gardening tips: http://www.naba.org/chapters/nabawba/WBAPDFs/SWBAButterflyGardening.pdf

Jane Segelink and sons, Parker and Cole, joined Laura Feider and Melissa Warner to plant milkweed seeds.

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

SEGG encourages you to *WRITE* to your legislators on the issues you care about.
Find yours at legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Stephen L. Nass
Senate District 11 (R - Whitewater)
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Senator Van H. Wanggaard
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Representative Greta Neubauer
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Explore, Enjoy And Protect The Planet

2018 Southeast Gateway Group Leadership

Executive Committee

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Laura Feider (Secretary)….....lmflowerpower@hotmail.com
Joe Dubaniewicz (Program Chair)….....joeduban@yahoo.com
Allan Sommer (Outings Chair)…….....sommerallan4@gmail.com
Laura Schulz..(Webmaster).....schulz@uwp.edu

Other Group Leaders

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Mary Schroeder (Hospitality).....ilovedogsandcats2@yahoo.com
Barry Thomas (Conservation, Kenosha Co.)……bthomas6@wi.rr.com
Melissa Warner (Editor, E-News).....melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net

SIERRA CLUB
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The newsletter of the Southeast Gateway Group is published quarterly by Group members.

Please send any articles, photographs, letters, calendar submissions, corrections and comments to:

Nicole Reid - nreid23@wi.rr.com
Please use subject line: *SEGG Newsletter*

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of the Sierra Club
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www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway

Prairie School students plant trees in a park.

Join Us!

Tree Planting Event for Earth Day on April 28

Colonial Park, Racine

See page 3 for more info.

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