

# Sierra



Mar/Apr 2015

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CLUB  
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## Newsletter of the Chippewa Valley Group

WISCONSIN.SIERRACLUB.ORG/CHIPPEWA

### March

4 Monthly Meeting  
*Penokee Hills Wetlands*



**March Monthly Meeting**  
*Wetlands of the Penokee Hills*  
Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 PM  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
421 S Farwell St, Eau Claire

Presenter: **Tracy Hames**, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands Association

This science-based presentation will introduce you to the beautiful, diverse and abundant wetland resources of the upper Bad River Watershed. You will learn about the types of wetlands present in the upper watershed, their current ecological condition, and the important role these wetlands play in helping maintain watershed health all the way downstream to the Kakagon/Bad River Sloughs estuary along Lake Superior. Information will also be given on what is known about a proposal to develop a large taconite mine in this area, and the potential impacts of such a project. A discussion period will follow the presentation.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is a non-partisan, science-based, statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of Wisconsin's wetlands. Tracy Hames and staff have spent much time assessing the wetlands of the proposed mine project area in the Bad River Watershed of the Penokee Hills. Tracy obtained a BA from Macalester College and an MS in Natural Resources from UW-Stevens Point. Before returning to Wisconsin in 2011, Tracy worked for over 20 years protecting, restoring and managing large wetland projects on the Yakama Indian Reservation in Washington state.

We'll again gather at **Stella Blue's** at 5:30 for a quick meal with our speaker.

**April Monthly Meeting**  
*Earth Green Award Dinner*  
Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 PM  
1st Congregational Church  
310 Broadway St, Eau Claire

**GAYLORD NELSON EARTH GREEN AWARD DINNER**  
See registration form p. 5

**6:00 PM Wine and Conversation**

**6:30 PM Dinner**

**7:30-8:00 PM Program**

**Steve Betchkal** is an award-winning photo journalist, life-long naturalist and environmentalist who is dedicated to saving the world, one bird at a time. Steve will be honored and receive the 2015 Earth Green Award. Steve's writings include the books *Steve's writings include the books "All of This and Robins Too: A Guide to the 50 or So Best Places to Find Birds in Wisconsin"* and *"Make Birds Not War: Step by Step Instructions for Saving the World a Birder at a Time"* See more at <http://manymorebirds.webs.com/>



- 13-15 **Canoeopia 2015**  
Madison
- 31 "Green Drinks" UWEC
- April
- 7 **Spring Election – VOTE!**
- 14 **Monthly Meeting**  
*Earth Green Award Dinner*
- 14 **Conservation Lobby Day**
- 28 "Green Drinks" UWEC
- May
- 6 **Monthly Meeting –UWEC**  
"Paddling to Winter"

### Welcome, New Members!

#### Nov 2014

**Augusta** Jeanette Lange **Chippewa Falls** Terri Buhrow, Thomas Chisholm **Eau Claire** Greta Blanford, David Grambow, Brady Klein, Kurt/Sharyl Miller, Janet O'Hern-Bethke, Donald Riemer, Marian Stewart **Fairchild** Vaughn Nagahashi-**Ladysmith** Carol Sinclair **Menomone** Gary Johnson, Katherine McEwen, Janet Spina, Loretta Thielman **Merillan** Diana Moran Thundarcloud **Weyerhauser** Carol Czekalski

## **Chair's Time**

Caryn Treiber, Chair CV Group

Our WI state John Muir chapter has a new website: [www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin).

March 3, 2015 is the Big Share, an online giving day organized by Community Shares of WI, that includes our John Muir SC chapter among dozens of other worthy nonprofit organizations like WI Wetlands Association and Midwest Environmental Advocates. And Community Shares

[thebigshare.com/Sierra-Club-John-Muir-Chapter](http://thebigshare.com/Sierra-Club-John-Muir-Chapter)

I recently went on the EPA's Green Power Partnership website, very informative about renewable energy, I noticed a large number of businesses from WI on their certified 100% renewable energy list and the cities of River Falls and Stoughton WI.

Stoughton's mission statement reads "The City of Stoughton and Stoughton Utilities have elected to lead by example in pursuing green power consumption, promoting water and energy conservation, reducing our local carbon footprint and encouraging environmental stewardship." Their electricity providers are WPPI Energy, and on-site generation. Many of the green businesses use RECs, renewable energy credits, that are invested in non-fossil renewable energy companies because local or on-site green energy may not be available to them. I buy Evergreen renewable energy credits from my power supplier Dunn Energy Cooperative and they buy some electricity from a wind farm in MN. All the electrons in generated electricity from nonrenewable and renewable get mixed together in the grid.

I just received a text message from national Sierra Club - President Obama just vetoed Congress's Keystone XL approval bill! Please thank him and encourage our state to shut down Enbridge's pipeline 67 that will carry even more toxic tar sands oils through WI on its way to refineries and also to make safety regulations on oil tanker trains that travel through our beautiful but ecologically threatened Wisconsin!

## ***"THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING"***

by Naomi Klein

### **Book Review by Eleanor Wolf**

I and many of my friends, are fond of saying "I'm glad I'm old and won't live long enough to experience the catastrophic consequences of Climate Change." Therefore we avoid reading books about this depressing subject, because after all, there is no hope. However, I'm urging you to read this one book that captures the remarkable combination of idealism and determination that we need to adopt. Klein's book demands a radical rethink of our understanding of how to make a new political system and how to make progress and win battles in an all-out effort to save the planet and humanity. She beautifully wraps it all up with these words: "We are products of our age and of a dominant ideological system; one that too often has taught us to see ourselves as little more than singular gratification-seeking units, out to maximize our narrow advantage, while simultaneously severing so many of us from the broader community whose pooled skills are capable of solving problems big and small. We're facing a battle of worldviews requiring a rebuilding and re-inventing the commons, the civil and the civic after so many decades of attack and neglect. We must delegitimize the current worldview. Changing the system requires rapid-fire law-making. The right calls it "shock therapy". The left calls it "populism". We lack the collective spaces in which to confront the raw terror of ecocide, the end of the world as we know it. The task is to articulate an alternative future... imbedded in interdependence rather than hyper-individualism, to cope with lowering emissions and the disasters we can't avoid. We have a choice: civilization or barbarism. Our goal is to change deeply entrenched values....akin to ending slavery. Use moral arguments instead of economic arguments. Say there is no acceptable price for allowing entire countries to disappear, for leaving millions to die on parched land." I would love to host a [discussion group](#) following your reading of the book, (in May?) Contact Eleanor Wolf at [ellewolf1@hotmail.com](mailto:ellewolf1@hotmail.com) or 715-835-4829

## **Enbridge Pipeline Plans**

(below is taken from a Sierra Club webpage, re an issue raised by Jeremy and Eleanor at our Feb 2015 meeting)

With all eyes on Keystone, another tar sands pipeline just crossed the border, threatening Wisconsin. Enbridge's Alberta Clipper pipeline, also known as Line 67, can now pump up to 570,000 barrels thick sticky tar sands crude from Canada across the border into the U.S. without a permit. By the middle of 2015, Enbridge plans to transport 800,000 barrels of crude per day through Line 67. By comparison, the much-contested Keystone XL pipeline is projected to move 830,000 barrels per day. The Alberta Clipper expansion requires a Presidential Permit, issued by the State Department. However, a State Department staff member, Patrick Dunn stated, in a letter to Enbridge, that their new interconnections and pump upgrades did not legally require federal authorization. Environmental and Native American groups claim Enbridge's move is illegal and are suing the State Department for violating the National Environmental Policy Act and its own regulations by approving the expansion project with neither a permit nor an environmental assessment. Doug Hayes, a staff attorney for the Sierra Club says, "What Enbridge is doing is building an entirely new pipeline in the same right-of-way and calling it 'maintenance.. Frankly, I don't think this has ever happened before, where the State Department is deep into doing its full analysis while simultaneously allowing the project to go forward before they're done with their review process." "Why should we be concerned? Enbridge has a disgraceful history of spills. From 1999 to 2010, Enbridge was responsible for more than 800 spills that released 6.8 million gallons of hydrocarbons, including the worst onshore oil spill in U.S. History, the 2010 Kalamazoo River disaster. Areas threatened by the pipeline expansion include forest, farms, lakes and streams in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. It also puts Lake Superior and the Mississippi River at risk for a devastating spill. Take action: Go to <http://sierraclub.org>. Click on **Beyond Oil**, then click on **Alberta Clipper**. Complete the email Action Alert "Big Oil isn't Above the Law" which will be sent to the State Department.

## Selected Events

### Eau Claire Pie Riders

This local informal biking group will be hitting the roads ere long. Keep informed at

<http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/ECPieRiders/>



### Round Hill Road Prairie Field Trip Friday, May 1, 2015, 9-11 AM

Explore a recent prairie addition to the Tiffany Wildlife Area with DNR Wildlife Biologist, **Mark Rasmussen** and DNR District Ecologist **Dean Edlin**. We'll be looking for the elusive pasque flower plus other earl bloomers, birding, and discussing prairie management on Tiffany WA. This property was the site of a Lower Chippewa River Alliance Dec. 2014 prairie restoration workday, so those volunteers will have a chance to see the results of their labor. This site also presents a spectacular view of the Lower Chippewa River system. For directions and carpooling, contact Eleanor Wolf at 835-3829 or [ellewolf1@hotmail.com](mailto:ellewolf1@hotmail.com). Weather may change date.



## Re: May 2015 Monthly Meeting

**Julie Buckles** will be visiting our group at the May meeting. She'll be talking about a trip she and her husband Charley took in a canoe they built for the purpose of paddling from the Bayfield Peninsula on Lake Superior through the Canadian arctic. If you haven't read the chronicle of that part of her life titled "*Paddling to Winter*," a narrative, you should. Day to day accounts of miles made good with the right blend of anecdotal background draws the reader firmly into her - Steve Scoll

### Beaver Creek Reserve Events

Phone 715-877-2212

[beavercreekreserve.org](http://beavercreekreserve.org).

Click "View all events" (Programs)

### Snowshoe with BCR Director

Feb 28 1-3:30 PM

### Bee Keeping

March 7 9 AM-4 PM

### Phenology, Snowshoes for Elders

Mar 12 9:30-11:30 AM

### Owl Prowl

Mar 17 7-9 PM

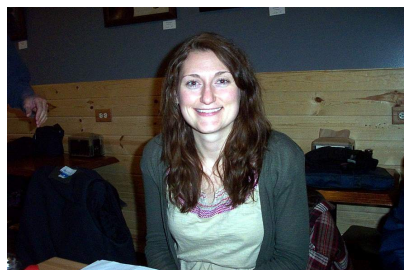
### Maple Syrup Sunday

March 29 -Various afternoon times

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### EXCOM ELECTION

Elected to the Chippewa Valley Group Executive Committee for two-year terms were **Paul Hoff, Emily Lind, and Steve Scoll**. **Jane Schley** will substitute for Paul Hoff. Continuing members are Caryn Treiber, Margo Miller, Jeremy Gragert, and Paul Ebel.



**Emily Lind**

## STEWARDSHIP FUND IMPERILED

by Chris Kirkpatrick

I'm writing today with an urgent message from Gathering Waters to all Wisconsin TPE (The Prairie Enthusiasts) members. As you may have seen in the news, Governor Walker has proposed a moratorium on Wisconsin's Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. For years, almost all of TPE's acquisitions in Wisconsin have been funded in part by the Stewardship Program. Some recent examples of Stewardship funded projects include:

- Hauser Road: Just last year TPE purchased this 25 acre remnant, a part of the Empire Prairies that stretch across northern Dane County, WI. This property conserves critically important grassland bird habitat for grasshopper sparrows, field sparrows, eastern meadowlarks, and bobolinks.

- Borah Creek: This expanding complex of remnants near Fennimore, WI in Grant County has been funded twice by Stewardship grants. In addition to state funding, this site includes a significant population of the federally threatened Prairie Bushclover, which has enabled the Stewardship funds to be leveraged by US Fish & Wildlife Service funding for threatened and endangered species.

- Mounds View Grassland: The largest complex of property TPE owns and manages, at nearly 600 acres, has been the result of several Stewardship grants over multiple years. This has enabled TPE to create a landscape level restoration project which continues to preserve remnant prairies, create highly diverse prairie plantings, and supports habitat for a wide variety of plant, insect, bird, and mammals endemic to Wisconsin and exemplary of our prairie heritage.

As someone who cares about protecting the places that make Wisconsin special, we need your help. Please contact your state legislators and the governor's office today to express your concern and share why the Stewardship Program is important for your community. You can use these message templates for Legislators to help in creating a letter to send to your elected officials. Please visit Gathering Waters website [gatheringwaters.org](http://gatheringwaters.org) for more details about the Stewardship Program and additional information about how you can help. Together we can let our legislatures know how important the Stewardship Program is to all of us and the things we care about- like ensuring the perpetuation of prairies, oak savannas, and associated ecosystems here in Wisconsin.

Sincerely, Chris Kirkpatrick

Executive Director, The Prairie Enthusiasts,  
110 S. Main St, PO Box 824, Viroqua, WI  
54665 [ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org](http://ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org)

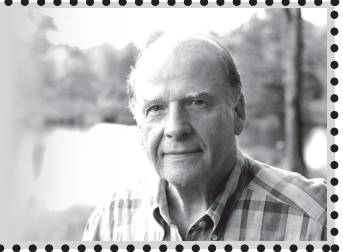


**Alice Droske with one of the Kestrel boxes she spoke of at our Jan 2015 meeting at the Library**



**Crispin Pierce taking a comment at our Dec 2014 meeting**

# 2015 Gaylord Nelson Earth Green Dinner



**Tuesday, April 14th, 2015, 6 P.M.**

Location: First Congregational UCC Community Room  
310 Broadway St. (corner of Broadway and Third Ave.), Eau Claire, WI.

**Steve Betchkal** is an award-winning photo journalist, life-long naturalist and environmentalist who is dedicated to saving the world, one bird at a time. Steve will be honored and receive the 2015 Earth Green Award.

**Don't miss this special event and wonderful Italian dinner.**

6 P.M.	Wine and conversation
6:30 P.M.	Dinner
7:30 - 8 P.M.	Program

*"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."*

**Gaylord Nelson**



**Clip and fill out the box below and mail by April 9.**

## 2015 Gaylord Nelson Earth Green Dinner

\$25 per adult, \$15 per student

*Please let us know the number in your party and specify vegetarian or meat.*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian

Meat

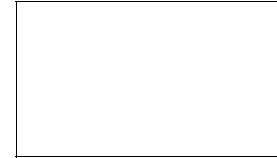
Make check payable to (and mail to): **Chippewa Valley Sierra Club**

1810 Birch Street, Eau Claire, WI 54703

*Question or inquiries: Eleanor Wolf, 715-835-4829 or ellewolf1@hotmail.com*

# Sierra Club

c/o Bob St. Louis  
3427 McElroy Ct  
Eau Claire, WI 54701



## Mini-Directory – Chippewa Valley Group

Chair	Caryn Treiber*	N9021 590th St Colfax WI 54730	684-9374
Vice Chair/Treasurer	Margo Miller*	221 Washington St Eau Claire WI 54701	835-4549
Political/JMC Del.	Caryn Treiber*	N9021 590th St Colfax WI 54730	632-2055
Events/Earthgreen	Paul Ebel*	P.O. Box 141 Menomonie WI 54751	651-335-8759
Programs	Paul Hoff	2519 Keith St Eau Claire WI 54701	834-5419
Conservation/Sec'y	Jeremy Gragert*	451 Lincoln Ave Eau Claire WI 54701	612-220-1970
ExCom member	Jane Schley*	1414 Emery St, Eau Claire, WI 54701	834-2864
ExCom member	Emily Lind*	3405 Trimble St Eau Claire, WI 54701	828-6565
Programs	Donna Martin	20279 77th Ave Chippewa Falls WI 54729	720-8890
Newsletter/Web Pg	Bob St Louis	3427 McElroy Ct Eau Claire WI 54701	835-4863
John Muir Chapter	Shahla Werner	222 S Hamilton St, Suite 11 Madison WI 53703	608-256-0565
Membership	Patty Henry	2014 Ruby Ln Eau Claire WI 54703	832-1387
Ice Age Tr/Publicity	Richard Smith	27200 145th St New Auburn WI 54757	967-2164
Population	Paul Ebel*	P.O. Box 141 Menomonie WI 54751	651-335-8759
Fundraising	Steve Scoll*	N12096 730th St Wheeler WI 54772	556-1891

\* Member of CV Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

Except as otherwise noted, all area codes are 715