



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
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**GREAT WATERS GROUP  
NEWSLETTER**

WWW.GREATWATERSGROUP.ORG

PHONE 414-258-5624

FALL, 2012 NO. 3

**Fall Programs**

*Mayfair Mall, Community Room,  
Room G110  
Garden Suites East  
Free and open to the public*

**Hydrogeology in Wisconsin**

*Monday, September 17 7 p.m.*

We will learn about the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, geothermal energy work here in Wisconsin and how it can be interesting and useful for us as citizens from UW Madison hydrogeologist David Hart.

**The Importance of Saving Natural Areas**

*Monday, October 15 7 p.m.*

Author Bernice Popelka will teach us about the value of natural areas and some of the organizing principles she learned about in her successful efforts to save the last black soil, tall grass, virgin prairie in the Chicago area. After the talk, Bernice will have a signing of her recently published book, *Saving Peacock Prairie*.

**North Country Trail Association**

*Monday, November 19 7 p.m.*

The North Country Trail Association stretches across seven states, and Wisconsin claims the longest continuous stretch of trail. Learn from local President Michael Stafford about Wisconsin's spectacular waterfalls, varied terrain, vistas, and the Penokee Mountain Range.

**Find us –**

The GWG presents its programs on the third Monday of the month in the Mayfair Mall Community Room on the lower level, Room G110, located in the Garden Suites East area. Enter from the covered parking area on the east side of the mall.



*Photo by Eddee Daniel*

*The Eschweiler Buildings were added to the National Historic Registry in 1998.*

**Eschweiler Buildings  
could be coming down**

*By Dianne Dagele*

Wauwatosa's historic Eschweiler Buildings are in danger of being torn down unless people who care about these architectural treasures and their natural surroundings help persuade elected leaders to save them.

On Sept. 5 the development company, the Mandel Group, will ask the Wauwatosa Historical Preservation Commission to allow it to demolish some of the buildings so that it can profitably build as many as 200 residential units on an eight-acre site formerly on the Milwaukee County Grounds but now part of UW-Milwaukee's Innovation Park.

Barb Agnew, founder of the Friends of the Monarch Trail, along with the County Grounds Coalition, of which GWG is a member, are exploring alternatives to the Mandel plan and raising funds to promote them. Citizens should contact the Preservation Commission, the Wauwatosa Common Council and the Milwaukee County Board to ask them to hold the developer to the original commitment to restore the Eschweiler Buildings. (See [countygroundscoalition.org](http://countygroundscoalition.org)).

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Nominations accepted for Executive Committee

Do you care about environmental issues and wish you could do more about them? Well, here's your chance to become a leader with a respected organization that helps get people outdoors to explore, enjoy and protect the planet while keeping the pressure on officials to make the right environmental choices.

Nominations are being accepted for five openings for the 2013-14 term of the Great Waters Group Executive Committee. The ExCom is an elected board of dedicated Sierra Club member-volunteers who meet regularly to determine policy for our group. ExCom members are elected to two-year terms, and they meet nine or ten times a year. They're usually expected to hold an office or chair a committee as part of their volunteer commitment.

If you're interested in becoming an ExCom member or in nominating someone else, you can email us or write to the Nominating Committee, SC Great Waters Group, P.O. Box 26798, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0798. **Nominations must be postmarked no later than October 15.**

Nominees can also be placed on the ballot by a petition consisting of ten members of the Great Waters Group. In this case, the petition and a statement of consent must be received by the Nominating Committee by October 15. A nominee must be a member in good standing of the Sierra Club and the Great Waters Group.

For more information on how our ExCom and our Volunteer Leadership Council work, come to our next meeting on September 26 at 7 p.m. or contact Janet Anderson at [janeta16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeta16@sbcglobal.net) or check our website at [www.sc-gwg.org](http://www.sc-gwg.org).

## Update your Sierra Club address

Great Waters Group regularly gets notifications from National Sierra Club when email addresses bounce back or when memberships lapse. We update addresses as well as we can, but they change frequently, and we're not always successful. So if you do have a new email or home address, we're asking you to take a minute to update Sierra Club at: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org).

If your SC membership needs renewing or updating, or if you need answers about membership, contact [membership.services@sierraclub.org](mailto:membership.services@sierraclub.org). To remain on our GWG email listserv, you may update your email address at: [janeta16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeta16@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.



Thank you to everyone who contributed through workplace giving to the Sierra Club Foundation and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.



*Happy campers at the Great Waters Group June 8-10 outing at Perrot State Park included (from left) Eric Hansen, Anne Steinberg, Vicki Samolyk, Bill Moore, Dianne Dagelen, Janet Anderson, Chris Zapf and Allen Becker.*

## Autumn Assembly set for Oct. at Williams Bay

Hiking through beautiful natural scenery, learning about conservation and the environment from great speakers, and meeting Sierra Club members from around the state are all part of the attraction at the annual Autumn Assembly of Wisconsin Sierra Club members.

The event hosted by the Southeast Gateway Group and sponsored by the John Muir Chapter will be held Oct. 12-14 at Williams Bay on scenic Geneva Lake. The public is invited to share in this fun time.

For information about registration and the agenda and speakers, see "The Muir View" or follow this link: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>. We hope to see you there!

## Volunteers help Brewers recycle

Dedicated volunteers walked the Miller Park parking lots this summer handing out recycling and garbage bags to tailgaters while meeting receptive, helpful fans in a successful five-game stand for recycling.

One game remains in GWG's joint effort with Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful and the Waukesha County Environmental Action League to urge the Milwaukee Brewers to improve their level of recycling. If you would like to help out on Sept. 15 from approximately 4-6 p.m. that evening, please contact Erin at [betsy@kgmb.org](mailto:betsy@kgmb.org).

# From the Chair

By Janet Anderson

Protection of our natural resources, exploring and enjoying our natural areas, and sustainability of our Earth. Those are reasons that most of us join Sierra Club. The journey toward sustainability can only succeed when all of us take responsibility and become part of the solution.

We are looking for volunteers. Most activities don't take a lot of time. Many require just a couple of hours a month.

✓Can you help us at our annual Holiday Party? We need a few people to set up the room, clean up after, bring a dessert or refreshments, or help organize silent auction items.

✓Do you have bookkeeping/accounting experience to help us keep our finances in order?

✓Can you bring light refreshments to our monthly programs?  
✓Can you volunteer at our Sierra Club table at a public event? Or distribute newsletters?

✓Do you have an interest in recycling, forestry, power lines, reducing plastic bag use, improving air and water quality, conserving our environment, improving transit, containing sprawl or any of a myriad of other environmental issues? We need you to keep us up-to-date.

✓Do you have a strong interest or some expertise in birds or trees or hiking or paddling? We need help with our outings and activities.

If you can help, please contact me at 414-258-5624 or [janeta16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeta16@sbcglobal.net). As always, be sure to check our website [www.sc-gwg.org](http://www.sc-gwg.org) from time to time.

## GWG to hike Ice Age Trail, Lion's Den

You can learn about Wisconsin's great glacial geology and take in beautiful woodland valley views during the first of two GWG hikes scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 20-21. On Saturday, we'll visit the West Bend segment of the Ice Age Trail starting at the Glacial Blue Hills Recreation Area at 10:30 a.m. Wear good hiking shoes and allow two hours to cover this hilly route. If you have our *GWG Kids' Guide*, see page 139 for more information.

## GWG holiday party scheduled Dec. 2

Join us for our annual GWG Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Wil O Way Recreation Center in Wauwatosa. Doors open at 4 p.m. with drinks, snacks, and a silent auction, followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. and a spectacular slide show of southwest travels. Cost is \$25.00 per person.

If you have questions or items to donate for the auction, call Janet Anderson at 414-258-5624. If you can't make the party, please consider sending a donation to help us continue our efforts in the four-county area. Because the Great Waters Group Sierra Club is not a 501(c)3 organization, donations are not tax deductible.

**Location:** Underwood Wil O Way Recreation Center, 10602 W. Underwood Creek Parkway, Wauwatosa (located across from Hansen Golf Course - up the hill and into the woods)

**When:** Doors open at 4 p.m. Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**Check:** Payable to "Great Waters Group-SC" and sent to Heather Hansen, at 2520 A North 64th St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213.

On Sunday you can explore the Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve, a 72-acre "ecological jewel" within the Ozaukee County park system on the Lake Michigan shoreline in the Town of Grafton. We'll hike part of this magnificent park with its bluffs, wetlands, and scenic lands beginning at noon. Allow two hours. If you have our *GWG Kids' Guide*, see page 80.

Wear good hiking shoes and be ready for a trail that includes steps. If you'd like to stay a little longer, you're free to explore the adjacent 44-acre Waterfowl Production Area or other trails at the park on your own.

RSVP on either hike to Janet Anderson at 414-258-5624 or [janeta16@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeta16@sbcglobal.net).

## Treasurer needed

We are looking for a new Treasurer to take over in October, 2012 for Sue Sedlachek. We are grateful for Sue's expertise and for her willingness to participate in our other activities. If you have questions or if you want to volunteer, contact Sue at 414-755-0550 or Janet Anderson at 414-258-5624.

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## Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC)

Janet Anderson, GWG Chair: 414-258-5624  
Heather Hansen, Vice Chair & Membership: 812-360-0652  
Dianne Dagen, Conservation Chair: 414-771-1505  
John Bahr, Energy Chair: 414-256-0932  
Gary Hofmeister, Outings Chair: 262-821-1088  
Susan Sedlachek, Treasurer: 414-755-0550  
Chris Zapf, Secretary: 262-786-9584  
Rosemary Wehnes, Delegate to JMC: 414-453-1689  
Ed Anderson, Political Chair: 414-962-6077  
Sandy and Dale Hofmann, Newsletter Editors: 414-476-8636

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## Protect America's Environment for Our Families, For Our Future

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Great Waters Group of the John Muir Chapter  
P.O. Box 26798  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0798

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Milwaukee, WI

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## Quality nature books recommended for kids

Are kids spending too much time with technology and not enough with nature? Does it matter? And if it does, can we do anything about it? *The answer to all three questions is yes.*

### ***Eschweiler Buildings . . .***

*(Continued from page 1)*

In early 2011 the UWM Real Estate Foundation purchased the buildings and the surrounding eight acres with the provision that the structures were to be renovated and preserved. Many in southeastern Wisconsin objected to the project because of the potential danger it poses to the sensitive butterfly habitat known as The Monarch Trail.

Eighteen months later, the Mandel Group came before Wauwatosa's Historical Preservation Commission with a plan to demolish three of the four Eschweiler buildings, claiming that preserving them would not be economically viable. Then in August, the developer returned with another plan to demolish the three buildings, but retain the ruins of two to convert into an "urban park."

Subsequently, the Mandel Group said it would not contribute to the rehabilitation of the remaining building, but would instead ask Wauwatosa for an additional \$2.5 million in TIF funds, with no guarantee that the city would provide those funds.

According to research reported recently in The Wall Street Journal and on Scholastic's Parents website, kids ages 8-18 spend an average of four hours a day on technology, and they would be more creative, happier and better able to focus if they had even a brief exposure to the outdoors. The research also says that when children with attention deficit disorder are surrounded by trees and animals, they're less likely to have behavioral problems.

While it's obvious that one of the best things we can do for our children is to get them outside, Mike and Judy Howden of the Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Store point out that another excellent way to help them build a healthy relationship with nature is to introduce them to quality nature books. To aid parents, teachers, and other adult friends of children in doing that, the Four Corners of the World Fair Trade Education Committee has published lists of highly recommended reads for pre-school, elementary, and middle-school children on its website: <http://www.fairtrademilwaukee.org/sustainability-books-2/>.

These recommended books are available at public libraries and can be purchased online. Some are available at local bookstores. Let's take our kids outside, and let's give them books that help them understand what's out there.