



**SIERRA
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**GREAT WATERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER**

WWW.GREATWATERSGROUP.ORG greatwatersgroupsc@gmail.com

Winter, 2013 NO. 4



Water can turn strange colors when it's polluted by chemical mining operations as Salvadoran activist Esmeralda Villalta demonstrates by pouring this orange concoction into a bucket. Actual El Salvador water was too toxic to use for this demonstration.

El Salvador mines strike local chord

By Dianne Dagelen

The battle over chemical mining of gold has brought disastrous consequences to El Salvador and important lessons to Wisconsin.

Speaking at an Oct. 7 news conference held before the Milwaukee legal counsel offices for Commerce Group, Ltd., Salvadoran activist Esmeralda Villalta reported that the company's operation has contributed to the contamination of 90% of her country's potable drinking water. It has left many areas uninhabitable, and residents from the mining area have experienced a disproportionate occurrence of kidney failure, cancer and nervous system disorders compared to the country's population as a whole.

When two Presidents denied more mining permits, Commerce Group sued El Salvador for \$100 million under the Central
(Continued on page 5)

Winter Programs

*Mayfair Mall, Community Room,
Room G110 - Garden Suites East
Free and Open to the Public.*

There will be no December program due to the **GWG Holiday Party and Fundraiser on Sunday, December 1**. See article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Free Wheeling: An Introduction to Bicycle Touring
Monday, Nov. 18, 7p.m.

Jane Stoltz, a bike tour leader for the Adventure Cycling Association based in Missoula, Mont., will launch you into the world of bicycle touring, discussing the different types of tours and appealing destinations and the calming effects of pedaling outdoors.

Film Night: "Burning the Future: Coal in America"
Monday, Jan. 20, 7p.m.

Writer/director David Novack examines the explosive conflict between the coal industry and residents of West Virginia. Learn how courageous residents demonstrate strength of character in their improbable fight to arouse the nation's help protecting their mountains, saving their families and preserving their way of life.

Milwaukee County Parks - Wild and Wonderful
Monday, Feb. 17, 7p.m.

Learn about Milwaukee County's beautiful park trail systems in a power point tour of the Oak Leaf Trail and the Forked Aster Hiking Trail system with Cheri Briscoe, Secretary of The Park People and Chair of the Oak Leaf Discovery Tour passport program. Discover lesser known urban wild places to put on your list of adventures for next summer. Spread the word by bringing your friends and get up to date on what's happening and how we can help promote and preserve Milwaukee County's 107-year-old legacy of parks.

Programs are held the third Monday of most months in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall, Room G110. The room is located in the Garden Suites East area, entered most directly from the covered parking area on the east side of the mall. www.sc-gwg.org

Notes from the Chair

Autumn Assembly was amazing. Standing inside the base of a 410-foot, 138-ton wind turbine, you could hear the hum of power being provided to 45,000 residences by the 90 turbines of Glacier Hills Wind Park. Hiking the Dawson Prairie of Green Lake Conference Center under a big blue sky, we were told to “take all the seeds you want” as our guide named each plant and told its story in the field of dreams and biodiversity. And that was just the first afternoon.

The next morning we heard about the essential and sacred Bad River Watershed, juxtaposed with the destructiveness of metallic mining. Then a woman in her 60’s from Chippewa and a woman in her 20’s from the Fox Valley shared their trials in challenging frac sand mining in their home communities. The keynote speech by author Dr. Thomas Heberlein addressed “Navigating Mining Attitudes.”

After lunch, the impacts of factory farms and high capacity wells on local water resources were addressed, followed by advocacy for transit, biking and walking. The last workshop of the day held outdoors in our perfect autumn weather, offered the most involvement and the most fun. Ken Lonquist conducted a song writing workshop, with our favorite song creation being: “Sunshine On My Solar”.

The assembly ended Sunday with a guided walk through John Muir County Park near Princeton, which included the lake John Muir navigated as a youngster and the first house he called home in America. Sharing and learning ideas, enjoying the company of friends, walking with nature ... what could be better? Hope to see you at Autumn Assembly next year.

Dianne Dagele

Chair and Conservation Chair, Great Waters Group

Dunes overnight Feb. 15



This cozy cabin with 11 miles of ski and hiking trails at its front door will be home to GWG's Feb. 15 overnight and potluck dinner at Point Beach State Forest near Manitowoc. Participants can learn about the geological history of the Lake Michigan dunes on a guided hike with the park ranger. Get your reservations in early by calling Ed Anderson at 414-520-2751.

Stroll scenic Havenwoods

Take a break from your busy holiday schedule to stroll through the beautiful Havenwoods State Forest in Milwaukee. Our forest-dependent ancestors knew that the woods didn't cease to be useful during the cold winter months, and this is your chance to learn about the trees that local inhabitants have used for centuries to survive the harsh conditions of the winter season.

Date: Sunday, December 15, 2013 **Time:** 1 p.m. to approximately 3 p.m.

Level: Easy.

Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at Daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088

Location: Parking lot beside the Nature Center – 6141 N. Hopkins St. Milwaukee, WI 53209

2

GWG holiday party offers camaraderie, food, music

Join us for our annual GWG Holiday Party and Fundraiser on Sunday, December 1, 2013 at the Wil O Way Recreation Center in Wauwatosa.

Doors open at 4 p.m. with drinks, snacks, and a silent auction. We will, as always, have many great auction items, and we'll sit down to a delicious, Middle Eastern dinner with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options catered by Aladdin Deli.

Afterward, relax to the keyboard, guitar and percussion stylings of the three-woman group Armonia, which includes fellow Sierran Sheila Larkin. The group plans an eclectic blend of world, folk-rock, and original songs. The cost of this pleasant full evening is \$25.00 per person.

Reservations are due by Monday, November 25. If you have any items to donate for the auction or any questions, please call Janet at 414-258-5624. Because The Great Waters Group SierraClub is a 501(c)4 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: Checks should be made payable to “Great Waters Group-SC” and sent to:

Janet Anderson
2130 N. 85 St., Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Winter

Four nominated for Executive Committee

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Chris Zapf, presents four nominees for the Executive Committee of the Great Waters Group for the two-year 2014-'15 term. No other nominations were received from the GWG membership, and there are no other open ExCom positions.

Here are your candidates:

Janet Anderson

Janet joined the Sierra Club in 2000 and is an active member of the Volunteer Leadership Council where she has served in the past as Program Chair, Membership Chair, Secretary and GWG Chair. She currently coordinates GWG Communications.

She has also organized the Holiday Parties, the Autumn Assembly and volunteer appreciation events. She participates in and leads group outings and hikes. As a respiratory therapist, one of Janet's main environmental interests is clean air. Other interests are sustainability practices and efforts to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags.

John Bahr

John is presently serving on the GWG's Executive Committee, and he chairs the Energy and Global Warming Committee. He is also on the Wauwatosa Energy Committee and his church environmental committee, and he has organized a group focused on reducing the use of single-use plastic bags in our community. John believes this work must start at the local community level to serve as a model for other communities. He appreciates this opportunity to help make the GWG a strong presence in this four-county area.

Dianne Dagen

Dianne is currently GWG Chair, and she continues as Conservation Chair, a position she has held for the past four years. She represents GWG on the Cleaner Milwaukee Coalition and Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICA), or-



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

Snowshoe trekkers will tour Kettle Moraine

Come join us in the winter wonderland for our eleventh annual snowshoe trek and learn about the glacial ecology of Wisconsin. We gear our snowshoe hikes for the beginner to intermediate level, so everyone's welcome.

We may hike near the southern kettle or northern kettle areas depending on snow conditions. These areas have great trails where we can walk on eskers or through moraines or around drumlins. Then, join us afterward for potluck chili and a hot beverage.

Winter

Official Ballot: 2014-2015
GWG Executive Committee Election

Voter #1 SC Membership Number _____ Voter #2 SC Membership Number _____
(for joint memberships)

Mark an X on the line next to your selections.
Each member may vote for only/up to 4 candidates.

Voter #1 ___ Janet Anderson ___ John Bahr ___ Dianne Dagen ___ Bill Moore
Voter #2 ___ Janet Anderson ___ John Bahr ___ Dianne Dagen ___ Bill Moore

Mail completed ballot to: SC Great Waters Group Election Committee
PO Box 26798
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0798

Ballots must be postmarked by December 28, 2013, or bring to our Holiday Party

organizations committed to environmental justice. Working toward conversion of We Energies' Valley coal plant and preservation of parkland from clear-cutting are two of their recent efforts. She organizes educational Earth Day celebrations each year, focusing on issues ranging from water and air pollution to transit and habitat. She enjoys cross-country skiing, sailing, paddling, cycling and hiking.

Bill Moore

The Sierra Club offers a full range of activities from conservation initiatives and political actions to outings and social gatherings. Bill is proud to have been a leader for 13 years in a strong and influential organization. He leads canoe trips to the Boundary Waters and Quetico Provincial Park and encourages everyone to spend as much time as possible outdoors in nature.

To vote, enter your Sierra Club membership number in the space provided on the ballot and then mark your vote for up to four candidates running for two-year terms.

If you do not know your membership number, it is located at the top-right of the mailing label on your GWG newsletter. The membership number will not be used to identify you, but it is needed to authenticate the ballot. Any ballot without a valid membership number or with more than four total votes (or eight total votes for joint memberships) cannot be counted.

Please mark your votes on the ballot, cut along the dotted line, and mail the ballot to the address below. Ballots must be received by December 28, 2013. For those receiving this notice by email, please print the ballot page, fill out as indicated above and mail to: GWG Election Committee, PO Box 26798, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0798.

We have our fingers crossed for snow this year. If there is none, we will hike or look for another trail.

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2014

Time: starts at 10 a.m. Allow 2-3 hours.

Leader: Janet Anderson at 414-258-5624 or janeta16@sbc-global.net

Location: Final location to be determined later, depending on snow. Call or email Janet for further details and finalized location and to sign up.

Beautiful Boundary Waters Lure Paddlers

You can learn the history of the storied International Boundary Waters Wilderness Area at a fraction of an outfitter's price this summer by taking advantage of one of the scenic canoe trips being offered by the John Muir Chapter and Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Share your spirit of adventure and love of nature's wonders with new friends by paddling, portaging and camping in Ontario, Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. Layover days are planned for swimming, photography, fishing, hiking, exploring or just relaxing.

Crews are limited to nine participants. No experience is required, but physical fitness is essential. Crew members must sign liability waivers, fill out a medical history and be approved by their trip leaders. All Quetico trip leaders have Wilderness First Aid and outings leadership training.

Participants are encouraged to carpool to the outing's starting point. Sierra Club outings insurance does not cover the time prior to or following the outing. Prices include group supplies, equipment, food and lodging, park permits and taxes. Contact trip leaders for additional information about registration, which includes a refundable \$100 deposit.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Nature lover Buckler is new GWG Outings Chair

Dan Buckler, forester, nature lover and soon to be bridegroom, is GWG's new Outings Chair.

Recently transplanted from Youngstown, Ohio, Dan grew up with a deep appreciation of nature stemming from his family vacations to Colorado. He joined the Sierra Club in 2006 and after finishing his undergraduate education at the College of Wooster, he spent a summer working in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness with the Student Conservation Association and the US Forest Service.

He earned his Master's Degree at Youngstown State University where he researched post-fire forest regeneration in Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada. He then monitored fire effects for the Nature Conservancy in western Virginia and moved to Milwaukee in February, 2013.

Dan is currently employed as a forester in southeast Wisconsin, spending his days walking among and mapping trees. He enjoys backpacking, canoeing, baseball, comic books, and cinema. He is looking forward to getting married in October.



Dan Buckler

August 1-10, 2014 (9 days, 8 nights)

Trip Leader: Nancy McDermott njmcderm@gmail.com (608-238-1421)

Departure point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN

Cost: \$600

This trip is geared for participants who want to maximize fishing time or for those who relish relaxing at camp and eating fresh fish. We will double portage (to keep packs lighter) to one or two base camps. Enjoy delicious home-cooked meals with camp-baked treats.

August 2-9 2014 ((8 days, 7 nights)

Trip Leader: Mike McQuilkin sumcqu@comcast.net (253-219-9208) and

Scott McQuilkin lo86blazer@aol.com (253-988-4394)-
Cascade Chapter Outing

Departure point: Atikokan, Ontario

Cost: \$600

Put in on the Northern side of the park on Nym Lake and do a loop down to Lake Kashipiwi and back. Layover days and fishing opportunities make this a relaxing trip. Less trafficked area of the park means an even more solitary opportunity.

August 8-17, 2014 (9 days, 8 nights)

Trip leader: Vicki Christianson [715-827-0379](tel:715-827-0379) ctn44958@centurytel.net

Departure Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.

Cost: \$600

Participants can choose from a two route options that include a variety of lakes, portages, streams, wildlife, waterfalls, Ojibway pictographs, fishing opportunities and lengths. Enjoy unparalleled scenery, voyageur history and two restful layover days at gorgeous wilderness campsites.

Other trips of interest to less remote areas for those not yet ready to take the off-grid wilderness area plunge:

June 5-9, 2014 (5 days, 4 nights)

Trip leader: Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com

Departure point: Watersmeet, MI

Cost: \$250

Join five other women for canoe and portage camping in the Sylvania Wilderness. This mini "Boundary Waters" has 34 named lakes with sandy beaches and record-sized red and white pines. This trip is ideally suited for women wanting a gentle introduction to wilderness canoe camping.

September 25-28, 2014 (4 days, 3 nights)

Trip leader: Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com

Departure point: Trego, WI

Cost: \$150

Enjoy the autumn colors on a leisurely float on a women-only trip covering 25 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Namekagon River in Northern WI. Limited to six participants.



Photo by Kerry Thomas of Transit NOW

Bill Sell of the Milwaukee County Transit Services Advisory Committee and GWG Chair Dianne Dagelen (center) provided their input at a Vision 2050 workshop sponsored by the South-eastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Vision 2050 sheds light on transit issues

Transit was the issue that came up repeatedly at “Vision 2050”, a series of local interactive workshops sponsored by the South-eastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Meeting on Oct. 25 in all four GWG counties, SEWRPC offered residents the opportunity to provide input on how they want their communities and the region to develop and how they want to be connected to where they live, work and play. Input was still being accepted until Nov. 13 at www.vision2050sewis.org.

The issues of poverty, race and jobs were also raised. Participants expressed their density and land use preferences by digital responses to various photos. Then observations on the area’s strengths and weaknesses were shared within small groups and later prioritized for a large group report. The energy in sharing ideas and opinions was audibly abuzz. There will be additional workshops in the months ahead, with an attempt toward broader engagement.

As crude a weapon as the cave man’s club, the chemical barrage has been hurled against the fabric of life.

– Rachel Louise Carson, *Silent Spring* (1962)

Speak up against state mining legislation

By Ed Anderson, Political Chair

In response to a recent court ruling holding that local units of governments had power to regulate mining, Tom Tiffany (R-Hazelhurst) has announced plans to introduce legislation that would eliminate almost all powers of towns and townships to regulate mining. Please call, write or email your legislators urging their opposition to this anti-environment measure.

Following the Legislature’s passage last year of significantly

Snowshoe fans will explore peaceful Carlin Trail System

A forest blanketed in snow can be both the most peaceful and most exciting place to enjoy nature. We’re hoping the snow remains for a February snowshoe excursion along the Emma Carlin Trail System in the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit. Come along and learn about the role snow plays in shaping our environment. If there is no snow, we will still enjoy hiking in these lovely woods.

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2014 Time: 10 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m.

Level: Moderate.

Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at Daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088

Location: Parking lot on County HWY Z south of State HWY 59, east of Palmyra

Winter

weakened mining laws, this is just another attempt to tilt the balance further toward the mining companies and away from the state’s citizens and environment. Towns need to be able to regulate truck traffic, air quality, noise levels and groundwater pollution standards. This measure could have even more significance now that asbestos has been discovered in core samples from the Gogebic mine. These carcinogens could become airborne in the mining process.

El Salvador abuses ...

(Continued from page 1)

American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), citing investor protection rights. Another mining corporation has also sued the government for millions.

State Rep. Fred Kessler, Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition Chair Steve Watrous and other speakers, including GWG Chair Dianne Dagelen highlighted a number of connections between the Salvadoran experience and current issues in Wisconsin. They noted that the proposed Gogebic Taconite mining process in the Penokee Hills also raises concern over the contamination of surrounding waters, including the sacred, sovereign rice beds of the Bad River Indian reservation.

They also pointed out that the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) coming before Congress would allow a foreign corporation to sue to weaken Wisconsin laws. In fact, recent legislative proposals in our state would limit local community controls over the health and environmental impacts of mining.



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

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

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Recycled Paper

Sierra Club outing the stuff of dreams

By Cornelia Beilke

When my family moved to Wisconsin seven years ago, I had a vision that we would spend lots of time outdoors, hiking, camping, and maybe even kayaking. Then things got really busy for my husband and, much to my dismay, I discovered that my daughters didn't much care for the outdoors. I would have to find adventure buddies somewhere else.

Imagine my delight upon learning that the Sierra Club offered the kinds of outings that I had been dreaming about! However, these outings are very popular and very booked. But a friendly Club member in Madison put me on a waiting list.

At the end of September, I received an e-mail from the amazing Nancy McDermott, who told me there was an opening and gave me a very concise list of things I would need.

The plan was for six of us to meet in Madison on Sept. 26 and take two cars to Trego, Wis., where we would embark on a trip down the Namekegon to the St. Croix River. But on the night before our departure, Nancy called to say that the outfitter in Trego was not allowed to rent us the canoes because of the government shutdown. Undeterred, Nancy located an outfitter in Manitowish who had closed for the season but was willing re-open just for us.

We were now down to four women, going to the Flambeau River and Turtle-Flambeau Flowage. But then at 6 o'clock on the morning of the trip my trusty van died. The trip seemed doomed. I called Nancy, and she called the others, and after a few minutes, the phone rang again. It was Nancy telling me they'd drive to Milwaukee to pick me up.

I made three fast friends on the way to Manitowish, and we all had a wonderful trip. I was very impressed with Nancy's preparations, from camping details to the delicious food. I will be sure to get on her trip list next year!

Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

Dianne Dagelen, GWG Chair and Conservation 414-771-1505
Janet Anderson, Communications 414-258-5624
Heather Hansen, Membership 812-360-0652
John Bahr, Energy 414-256-0932
Dan Buckler, Outings 330-261-2088
Chris Zapf, Secretary 262-786-9584
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