

GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

WWW.GREATWATERSGROUP.ORG greatwatersgroupsc@gmail.com Fall. 2014 NO. 3



The sprawling Phantom Lake YMCA Camp will be home to the annual Autumn Assembly.

GWG will host annual Autumn Assembly

By Rosemary Wehnes, Programs Chair

Hey, all you environmentalists. Want a great weekend experience this fall? Come to Sierra Club's Autumn Assembly for the weekend or just for a day.

The Oct. 10-12 gathering at the Phantom Lake YMCA Camp in Mukwonago, Wis., is co-hosted by Great Waters Group. It will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act and feature a keynote speech by Center for Investigative Journalism editor and reporter Ron Seely. Seely was the co-writer and narrator for Wisconsin Public Television's "Love of the Land," a (Continued on page 8)

Fall Programs

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

Wild and Natural in Milwaukee County Parks

Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.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.

Wisconsin's Mining Standoff (Film)

Monday, October 20, 7 p.m. Harvest Potluck at 6:15 p.m. Producer Devon Cupery will bring the 371 Productions film for us to view and discuss regarding GTAC's proposal to dig what could be one of North America's largest open pit mines in Wisconsin's Penokee Hills. Learn about its environmental consequences for Wisconsin. Join us before the talk for a "Harvest Potluck." Please bring a dish to share. Reservations aren't required, but contacting Rosemary Wehnes at: rlwehnes@ameritech.net or 414-828-1357 four days prior helps us plan the food.

An Ecuadorian and Galapagos Island Adventure

Monday, November 17, 7 p.m. Creative snack contest at 6:45 p.m. The Galapagos Islands are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the officials there make great efforts to preserve and protect the area. In April of this year, a group of local Sierra Club members traveled to Ecuador and included a one-week stay on a boat in the Galapagos Islands. Join us to view our photos of Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands as we learn more about this special area and its grand diversity of land and wildlife. Bring a "Galapagos" theme snack to share: i.e. chocolate turtles. A prize will go to the favorite entry.

Save the Date: No Monday night program in December. Please join us at the Holiday Party on Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Wil O Way Recreation Center in Wauwatosa.

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 by the AMC theatre www.se-gwg.org.

Notes from the Chair -

Our Great Waters Group volunteer leaders invite you to join us in some important ventures this fall. Our JMC Delegate, Rosemary Wehnes, and Communications Chair Janet Anderson have organized an amazing Autumn Assembly for the weekend of October 10 at Phantom Lake in Mukwonago. Only 30 minutes from Milwaukee, it's close enough for every member to attend or even commute to.

Our Outing Chair, Dan Buckler, welcomes us to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act the weekend of September 5 with a camping trip at Lake Morgan. As a professional forester, Dan will lead us on trail hikes examining wildlife habitat in the area. And don't forget to bring a canoe if you like. Locally, he continues his Big Tree outings.

As our Program Chair, Rosemary has a great lineup for our

fall program meetings. Educating us about environmental issues, our Political Chair, Ed Anderson, keeps us posted. Energy Chair John Bahr continues leading the "Bag-It" effort to eliminate plastic bags. Contact him to join the group. Secretary Chris Zapf has put out the call to join national Sierrans and 350.org in the Attention to Climate Change March at the UN building in New York City.

As Conservation Chair, yours truly, has joined the local transit coalition known as Citizens for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT), addressing the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's proposed \$2.1 billion expansion of the I-94 east/west Corridor. See articles in this newsletter for more details. And please join us.

Dianne Dagelen, Chair Great Waters Group, Sierra Club



The National Soldiers Home on Milwaukee's West Side is a treasure trove of history.

Explore Soldiers Home

The National Soldiers Home Historic District on Milwaukee's West Side is a perfect place to learn about the history of Milwaukee and our nation's veterans. It's also a great place to explore a beautiful landscape.

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 25, for a walking tour of the trees and geology of Soldiers Home, which add so much to the character of this National Historic Landmark.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Location: Contact Dan.

Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at

Daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088.

Check out the fun at Holiday Party

Join us for our annual GWG Holiday Party and Fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Wil O Way Recreation Center in Wauwatosa. If you haven't attended before, make this the year you check it out.

Doors open at 4 p.m. with drinks, snacks and a silent auction. We will, as always, have many great auction items. At 5:30, we'll sit down to a delicious Middle Eastern dinner catered by Aladdin Deli, with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options available. Afterward, relax to the evening's musical entertainment.

The cost of this very enjoyable full evening is \$25 per person. Reservations are due by Dec. 2. If you have any items to donate for the auction or any questions, please call Janet at 414-258-5624. If you can't make the party, please consider sending a donation to help us continue our efforts in our four-county area. 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.

DOT weighs Billion Dollar Boondoggle

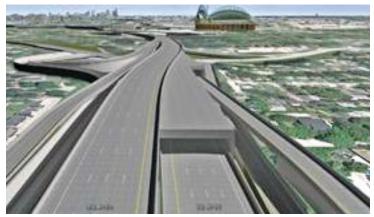
By Dianne Dagelen, GWG Conservation Chair

A 3.5 mile double deck highway, visually barricading Spring Hill Cemetery from Wood National Cemetery. A second relocaton of the Stadium Interchange in 16 years. Increased noise and air pollution for the Story Hill Neghborhood. All for only \$1.2 billion of taxpayer money. And sorry, no funds available for transit.

These are the options presented by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to reconstruct the I-94 east/west corridor, traveling from 17th to 70th Street. Built in 1961-'62, the corridor connects local and out-state residents, workers, tourists and freight movers between the Marquette and Zoo Interchanges and beyond to the Midwest. The final WisDOT product depends on citizen response to the current proposals.

The Double Deck

With four lanes in each direction but on different levels (east below and west on top), this two-tiered road would allow for higher speeds west from Miller Park. It would also raise the spread of noise and air pollution to new heights. And although the deck would keep the current I-94 footprint through the cemeteries, its presence would be more of a giant concrete boot print. Immense and distracting, the structure would dishonor the sacred space of the cemeteries and the national pride of the Veterans Home. The additional top deck cost is \$260 million.



Double decking a stretch of Interstate 94 in Milwaukee as shown in this rendering would be immense, distracting and needlessly expensive.



Hunger Task Force pickets protested WisDOT proposals to double deck Interstate 94 and eliminate the south ramp at Milwaukee's Hawley Road. One would obscure visibility, and the other would hamper access to their operation.

Stadium Interchange Re-relocation

Didn't we do this not too long ago? Yes, the Stadium Interchange south of I-94 was completely relocated and reconstructed to the east by a few hundred yards in 1998 to make room for Miller Park. The cost was \$18.1 million. Now WisDOT wants to move the entire interchange, this time to the south. The reason is to take the bump out of the "roller coaster" ride between 40th and 50th streets, so that the speed limit can be raised. However, straightening the "coaster" is more for cosmetic reasons than for centrifugal force. The repeat relocation cost is \$420 million.

Story Hill Nightmare

Increasing lanes will increase traffic. As the road rises for the 2,000-foot double deck, Story Hill Neighborhood residents will have headaches with the echoing noise of semitrailer rigs and loud motors roaring by their homes. With the lower deck tunnel funneling carbon monoxide and heavy metals, and then blowing it out near Story Hill, property values will be reduced while toxic emissions increase.

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Monarch Migration Celebration Aug. 24

The Friends of the Monarch Trail invite you to their seventh annual Migration Celebration, Sunday, Aug. 24, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The free, family-friendly event will take place at the Monarch Trail on the County Grounds. Parking will be available on Discovery Pkwy. & Eschweiler Dr. Just look for the colorful flags, and you'll find us! Please visit www.theMonarchTrail.org for more information and site map.

The Migration Celebration begins with a special performance by "Moving for Monarchs." This touring project involves dancer Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch in a presentation of dance with gorgeous costumes in the setting of the Monarch Trail.

"Moving for Monarchs" raises awareness of problems facing monarchs by combining the art forms of dance, photography and film and the power of the internet in a way that makes the issue highly visible. Sunday's performance will highlight movement with audience participation welcome. For more information on "Moving for Monarchs," please view the video at https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1427293109/moving-for-monarchs-the-dance-of-life.

Other activities include guided tours of the Monarch Trail from 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. educational displays about Monarch butterflies, face painting, milkweed plants, butterfly boutique items sponsored by the Friends of the Monarch Trail, and live music by traditional Irish music band Ceol Cairde. Snacks, sandwiches and drinks will be available. This is a great opportunity for Plein Air outdoor painters,



Dancer Gwynedd Vetter-Drusch's performance of "Moving for Monarchs" relies on a number of art forms to raise awareness of the problems facing Monarch butterflies.

photographers and videographers, especially during the Monarch release.

The Schedule for the Event is:
4-4:50 p.m. – "Moving for Monarchs"

Program www.movingformonarchs.org
5 p.m. – Monarch Release
5:15-6:45 p.m. – Lively Irish Music by Ceol Cairde "Music of Friends" www.CeolCairde.com
5:30 & 6 pm – Guided Tours of the Monarch Trail

All activities take place outdoors, rain or shine. Feel free to bring lawn chairs or a blanket.

7 p.m. – Seventh 7th Annual Migration Celebration ends

All of this is offered for free to all ages of all communities by the volunteers of Friends of the Monarch Trail. It is our hope that everyone will be able to experience the wonderment of all the creatures that inhabit the special place we care for dearly: The Monarch Trail.

Sierra Club endorses Burke for governor

By Ed Anderson, Political Chair

The Sierra Club endorses Mary Burke in the November Wisconsin governor's race and supports her efforts on behalf of clean energy, mass transit, repealing Act 2013 which gutted Wisconsin's mining protections, and local control of sand mining on western Wisconsin. It is vitally important for all of us to vote and get our friends and families out to the polls as well.

"Mary Burke is the environmental champion Wisconsin needs to lead our state," said Shahla Werner, Ph.D., Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Director. "She has earned our endorsement because she shares our goals of protecting our precious natural resources, public health, and sustainable economic development. Mary is committed to protecting Wisconsin's

fragile land and water resources from destructive mines and other risky developments."

"Mary's real world private sector experience shows that she knows how to grow our economy without sacrificing our future, and that's why we're supporting her run for Wisconsin," said Jim Kerler, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Chair. "Mary is a longtime Sierra Club member, and voters can count on her to restore Wisconsin to its former place as a leader on economic and environmental policies."

To learn of other Sierra Club endorsements for the State Senate and Assembly, please check out the "Legislative Tracker" tab of the John Muir Chapter Sierra Club home page and click on "elections and endorsements." To volunteer to assist in the campaigns, please call Ed Anderson at 414-520-2751.

Transit activists win in court

Transportation activism continues within the Great Waters Group. The vigilance to stop highway expansion and to preserve habitat and human peace of mind is led by the Highway J Citizens Group in Washington County and the Coalition Opposed to the West Waukesha Bypass in Waukesha County. Both groups are addressing constant challenges by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to expand highways.

The Highway J group won an important battle in the Wisconsin Supreme Court in March of 2010. The court ruled that WisDOT did not provide an adequate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before approving the Highway 164 project. The EIS did not address indirect or cumulative impacts on land use, or on air and water from expansion of HW164/J to four lanes.

And in response to a summary judgment filed by Waukesha County Environmental Action League (WEAL), the court ruled that WisDOT failed to hold a public hearing as federal funding requires when a highway project involves passing by or through a city or town, stating that an "open house" is not a public hearing.

In what is seen as a landmark victory, in May of this year Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin, Inc. (BHCW) and Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) reached an agreement with the Wisconsin and the US Departments of Transportation and other federal highway agencies for \$13.5 million to create and expand bus routes linking Milwaukee cen-

Locally grown food to be featured at Fair

By Anne Steinberg

Fresh, locally grown foods don't just taste delicious, they're better for you, your community, and the environment. You can learn how to vote with your food dollar at the annual Eat Local Resource Fair to be held Saturday, Sept. 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Urban Ecology Center.

The Fair is organized by Eat Local Milwaukee, which is a collaboration of the Urban Ecology Center and Outpost Natural Foods Co-op with the support of Slow Food WISE.

Whether you've been eating foods grown or produced closer to home for years, or you're just beginning to explore the options, the fair offers something for everyone. You can:

- Pick up information, tips, ideas and tools to help you find and enjoy local foods all year long, including how to garden and compost.
- Get connected with local options for more than produce. Meet and buy food directly from local businesses selling bakery,

tral city residents to employment opportunities in suburbs north of Milwaukee County.

This was the result of a 2012 lawsuit filed by the two advocate groups challenging the lack of mass transit opportunities provided alongside the \$1.7 billion Zoo Interchange reconstruction project. The settlement was mediated by state Supreme Court justice Lynn Adelman.

Press conference August 15

Beginning Aug. 24 the Wisconsin and federal Departments of Transportation are providing \$13.5 million for two new bus lines from Milwaukee to Menomonee Falls and the New Berlin Industrial Park. The latter includes stops at Brookfield Square and Mayfair shopping malls. The funding is a result of a lawsuit settlement regarding the Zoo Interchange, and it's expected to last for four years, running daily bus service, for all shifts.

Help celebrate the transit victory for workers in Milwaukee. Meet at St. Francis Church in the north parking lot at Fourth and Brown Streets at 10 a.m. for an Aug. 15 press conference sponsored by the Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH) and the Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin (BHCW). Starting at 11a.m. that day, buses will arrive for a free round trip ride along the two new routes, but you can get off the bus anywhere along the routes. We hope to fill the buses, so bring a friend.



snacks, coffee, beverages and more. Plus pick up canning and other food preservation supplies and equipment.

- Learn how you can take the Eat Local Challenge.
- Take part in the new Food Book and Cookbook Exchange.
- Participate in a useful workshop. Workshops include: Eating Healthy and Local with Slow Food, WISE at noon; Backyard Fruit Production with the UW Extension at 1 p.m.; and Almost Cooking with Outpost Natural Foods, giving new life to fridge 'ingredients' like leftover deli-style salads or chicken at 2 pm.

The event is free, but donations are welcome. Lunch will be available for purchase.

Parnell Woods cut gets a second look

By Jim Maurer, Citizen Activist

As a frequent visitor to the Northern Kettle Moraine State forest I noticed a number of trees marked orange for timber harvest in a fragmented older growth area of Parnell Woods. By their girth, some appeared to be more than 100 years old.

I contacted the DNR Regional Forester who had written the timber sale project proposal and asked about the inclusion of old growth oak and maple. The answer about the normal cycle of cutting trees to regenerate new growth was unsatisfactory, so I embarked on a campaign of intense information gathering.

The more mature section of Parnell Woods was last cut over in 1905. This area is where the oak trees approaching 100 years old are located. They have a potential of reaching 200 to 400 years of age. Many of these prime specimen oak trees are marked for cutting.

This is also where a large number of kettle lakes are located. The project proposal for the timber sale states, "Wetlands and ephemeral pools will be identified and protected by staying out of the primary life zone," which would seem out of line with the trees selected for the harvest.

There are four known forest-interior bird species that inhabit the Parnell Woods that are classified by DNR as "threatened." They are the red-shouldered hawk, Acadian flycatcher, hooded warbler and Cerulean warbler. All four species need large tracts of old growth forest with closed canopy in order to breed. Opening the canopy by cutting selected large trees threatens their habitat.

The Wisconsin State Legislature has mandated a harvest of approximately 100 acres each of hardwood and softwood annually from the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The Parnell

Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

Dianne Dagelen, GWG Chair and Conservation 414-771-1505

John Bahr, Vice-chair and Energy 414-256-0932

Janet Anderson, Communications 414-258-5624

Heather Hansen, Membership 812-360-0652

Dan Buckler, Outings 330-261-2088

Chris Zapf, Secretary 262-786-9584

Rosemary Wehnes, JMC Delegate and Programs 414-453-1689

Ed Anderson, Political Chair 414-520-2751

Bill Moore, Member at Large, 262-785-9022

Roy Krueger, Treasurer 262-544-6893

Dave Wehnes, Website Administrator 414-453-1689

Sandy and Dale Hofmann, Newsletter Editors 414-476-8636



Photo by Outings Chair Dan Buckler Black lines on a number of a number of Parnell Woods trees have replaced the orange markings that previously designated them for cutting.

Woods timber harvest comes via a variance to the master plan allowing a harvest of 300 acres per year as opposed to the 200 allowed under the Master Plan that was approved on August 7, 2009.

Armed with all this information and much more, I talked with local and state environmental groups, as well as Milwaukee County Supervisors and Parks Department. On July 28, I met on-site at Parnell Woods with DNR decision makers, including Dan Schuller, Wisconsin State Parks and Recreation Bureau Director, and Peter Biermeier of Planning, Recreation and Development, plus two state foresters and a forest ecologist. In addition I invited a retired botanist from SEWRPC and a local ornithologist/naturalist to join us.

The Bureau representatives explained their process of determining which trees to remove. In this thinning, and managing for oak, they examine trees for signs of inner decay, lack of stability, indications of stress, crown deformity or uneven growth patterns, as well as proximity of these trees to other trees that show a more stable growth pattern and vigor which would indicate a higher probability of reaching maturity.

We agreed that to prolong some older oaks and other species is an important goal for the Parnell area in balance with the protection of wildlife habitats. The result is that I will be going through the proposed timber sale and selecting a number of older, mainly oak, trees to see if they qualify for removal from the planned cut.

I will make a note of these trees and then meet with the forester for his approval. Two important old growth trees have already been removed from the timber harvest list by this method with the previous forester. The orange line has been covered by a black marking line.

Record turnout seen for Climate March

Organizers including the Sierra Club are expecting half a million people, the largest mobilization around climate change in history, when a broad coalition of social justice, environment, labor, religious and peace groups joins the People's Climate March in New York City on Sunday, Sept. 21.

Buses from Milwaukee to New York will leave on Saturday afternoon and return on Monday morning. The buses have been arranged by 350MKE.org, a local affiliate of the national 350.org devoted to keeping carbon dioxide levels below 350. You can buy tickets by accessing https://www.picatic.com/pcmmke, our recently launched events page. Tickets are priced at \$135 round trip. Some subsidies are available, so let us know if you need help covering the cost. For more information, visit peoplesclimate.org.

350MKE is also organizing a bus to New York on Sept. 18 for people who would like to attend the NYC Climate Convergence. That bus will return on Sept. 22. There are some folks taking the train to the Convergence, so let us know if you're interested.

This is a great opportunity to expand our coalition in Milwaukee for organizing around climate change and interconnected social issues.

Contact Julie at (414) 964-9478 or Devon at (414) 617-5843 if you have questions or want to buy tickets offline.



Beautiful Morgan Lake will provide the backdrop for a weekend of hiking and camaraderie honoring the anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

Hike honors Wilderness Act

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the Great Waters Group will host a weekend of hiking and camaraderie on the Nicolet side of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Staying together at the group site in the Morgan Lake Campground, we will explore our beautiful natural heritage and learn about the personal and ecological meanings of wilderness. Register your spot now or email Dan for more information.

Dates: Sept. 5-7

Location: Morgan Lake Campground, southeast of Long Lake, WI.

Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at

Daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com or 330-261-2088.

DOT considering billion dollar boondoggle

(Continued from page 3)

Other Options

Mayor Tom Barrett has long advocated for transit. He prefers reducing congestion by routing semi-trailers around I-894 rather than through the downtown area on I-94. He wants to keep the same corridor footprint at grade level, with no double deck. He recommends lowering the speed limit from 50 to 45 mph through the cemeteries in order to safely reconfigure four lanes out of the current space for three lanes. Traffic calming may allow retention of all Hawley Road ramps that would otherwise be removed. Currently, none of these concepts are included as a WisDOT option.

CMRT

There's a new transportation coalition composed of environmental groups (including Sierra Club), neighborhood associations, faith congregations, veterans, college students and transit organizations. It's called Citizens for More Responsible Transportation (CMRT).

We believe that WisDOT's alternatives are a billion dollar highway boondoggle that will be bad for our community and the environment, waste taxpayer money, desecrate local cemeteries and national historic landmarks and do nothing to better connect workers to jobs and residents to each other.

Our concern is for environmental justice and to educate the public through community outreach about alternatives to highway expansion. Our specific goals are for WisDOT to rehabilitate the existing footprint of the I-94 east/west corridor and the stadium interchange with no expansion, no double deck, no relocation and no widening of the highway; and to adopt real options other than highway expansion that will be good for the community, safe and environmentally sound.

The primary state transportation decision maker is the governor. CMRT is asking Gov. Scott Walker to take administrative action and direct WisDOT to provide more options for fixing I-94, including transit.



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Volunteers welcome at Autumn Assembly

Want to come to the Autumn Assembly this year, but you're worried that you don't know anyone? A great way to meet others is through volunteering.

If you are able to do any of the following tasks, please let me know which ones, which days you're available and your name and whether you'd rather be contacted by phone or email. The following are general volunteer tasks (I will be in touch with details):

- Bring a snack or beverage.
- Introduce speakers (You just read the already prepared bio.).
- Give technical assistance with power point shows and DVD's
 Friday evening, Saturday morning or evening or Sunday morning.
- Help ready the camp for attendees during the day on Friday.
- Help pick up silent auction items from Milwaukee-area businesses (flexible days in Sept).
- Assist with silent auction. Help set up on Friday and/or tally and collect money Saturday evening.



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

- Help staff the registration table Friday afternoon, Friday evening, Saturday morning.
- Help Sierra Club staff in Madison get folders, paperwork, etc. organized in Madison.

Contact: Janet Anderson at janeta16@sbcglobal.net.

GWG to host Annual Assembly

(Continued from page 1)

1997 documentary about private landowners who have adapted Aldo Leopold's land ethic.

This family-friendly event offers activities for people of all ages, including hiking and canoeing at the Phantom Lake camp that sits on 72 acres of scenic woodlands. We're also offering a chance for you to jam with others on Saturday night, so bring your instrument.

Learn about various timely program topics, including tar sands oil, mining, white-nosed bats, Great Lakes protection, renewable energy, Waukesha water diversion, protecting wild Wisconsin and more.

For more information, see http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/
http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/site/
http://action.sierraclub.org/site/
Calendar?id=173821&view=Detail
Register online by Sept. 15 to avoid late fees. We hope to see you there!