



GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

WWW.GREATWATERSGROUP.ORG greatwatersgroupsc@gmail.com

Fall, 2016 NO. 3

Apostle Islands trip is any camper's dream

By Cheri Briscoe and Carla Krone

The Apostle Islands were a dream come true for many of us who signed up for an island hopping, camping, backpacking, kayaking trip with leader David Thomas to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our National Parks Service. The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore consists of 21 islands and is the only national “park” in Wisconsin. It seemed like a perfect choice for this celebration.

We departed on a boat shuttle from Bayfield with a stop at Michigan Island on the way to Stockton Island for our first camping site. Due to bureaucratic mistakes in Washington, D.C., Michigan Island had two lighthouses constructed in the late 1800's. The first, which was too small and located on the wrong island, was built by a Milwaukee contractor who was following directions. Ten years later, after much bureaucratic haggling, a much taller lighthouse was added at a much better visual location.

Our first two nights were spent on wood platforms, built to protect the sand dunes grassy area where we were camping. It was cleverly designed with rings and hooks that fit between the boards for anchoring our tents without stakes.

We hiked on several trails, discovering gorgeous little bluebead lilies, Indian pipes, wintergreen and shinleaf. Of course the colorful red and yellow mushrooms, bright green mosses and trickling



The Lake Superior shore provided a scenic backdrop for a camping-backpacking-kayaking adventure in the Apostle Islands.

rivulets were everywhere. Sunny and humid weather on the hikes made swimming in Lake Superior a refreshing and chilly treat. Eighty-three-year-old Edna Pfeifer was a delightful plant identification resource and a role model of healthy spirit for all of us.

For most of us, the search for the famous, now abandoned, brownstone quarry at Stockton, ended just short of our destination. However, the hike was a treat for our forest-thirsty senses. Stockton Island was an important source of the brown sandstone that you find

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Autumn Programs

Free and open to the public

September Program

Fox Brook Park Picnic Area #1, 2925 N, Barker Rd, Brookfield

“A Century of Stewardship: Centennial of National Park Service”

Monday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Outdoor bonfire, 6:15 p.m.

A short presentation by Bill Baurecht, GWG program chair, followed by an open sharing of everyone's favorite place protected and maintained by the NPS. We'll celebrate and sing Happy Birthday to the NPS.

Shelter, fireplace, picnic tables, refreshments, electricity provided. Free parking (covered by GWG). Personal lounge chair optional.

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Notes from the Chair

Trees for sale, or trees preserved for future generations?

Fallen trees cleared for a manicured woods, or the forest revitalized for habitat and regeneration?

Diversity of growth nurtured, or threatened species harvested for furniture?

These are the choices to be made by the Forest Exploration Center (FEC) board of directors, deciding the fate for one of Milwaukee County's largest remaining tracts of forest—the 60 acre DNR woods on the County Grounds. According to their website (forestexplorationcenter.org), their mission is to foster a deeper understanding of forest ecology and sustainable forestry practices.

Attending FEC's Open House on June 27 at Wil-O-Way, which borders the DNR woods, I sensed a division among its board members. Some spoke with pride of preserving the County's last remaining forest. Others talked excitedly of using the forest lumber "for furniture sold in stores."

A Walk in the Woods

A guided walk through the woods was provided for open house visitors. Some of the accompanying discussion gave me pause.

As we started, the leader indicated a current debate among board members: should younger saplings surrounding mature trees be removed in order to open up more sunlight and space for the older trees to flourish, or should the forest be allowed to grow at random as it would in a more natural, wild setting?

We were told that a trail system had been mapped out to enhance or replace the many current user paths. Keeping human feet on the trail would help protect habitat. A number of self-guided educational posts would be set up along the trails to explain the workings of the forest.

When coming upon recently downed trees our tour guide in-

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Water problems flow everywhere

By Dianne Dagen
Conservation Chair

Water Issues Everywhere: and a lot to stop and think about. It's been a hot summer, but water problems have not evaporated.

June 12 : We learned that US. bottled water sales are likely to surpass soda within a year. Sales are up 120% from 2000 to 2015. There's good news in that trillions of calories have been cut from diets that used to come from sugary, carbonated drinks. But more than double the number of phalate-loaded plastic bottles are floating to the ocean.

June 22: Waukesha's request for Lake Michigan water was unanimously approved by Great Lakes Compact Council members. There were important amendments, though. Waukesha was limited to 8.2 million gallons a day vs. its 10.1-gallon request, and it was not allowed to expand its existing service area.

In addition, individual states or the states as a group may take enforcement actions against Waukesha for non-compliance, and Waukesha's water utility is subject to performance audits.

June 11: In response to Attorney General Brad Schimel's May legal opinion, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources **says it lacks legal authority to regulate expanded dairy farms or high-capacity wells, even if state waters would be harmed.**

Our state Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that the DNR had a duty
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Long Lake has been a leading victim of misguided state policies on water conservation

American cities aim for Zero Waste standard

By Charlene Lemoine
Waukesha County Environmental Action League

San Francisco, with a diversion rate of 80%, continues to lead the way toward Zero Waste as cities across the nation work to divert their landfill waste to re-use.

Austin, TX, plans to reach the zero standard by 2040, and Minneapolis has a goal to reduce waste by 50% in 2020 and by 80% in 2030. The city of San Diego's Zero Waste Plan recently added a separate collection for organic waste and will be increasing the

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Seminary Woods a natural wonder

The forest that is adjacent to the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary is an incredibly beautiful and diverse 68 acres of mammoth trees, rare flowers and minimal invasive species. It is also a rich part of the history of the 171-year-old seminary.

Join the Sierra Club in a historical and natural exploration of the Seminary Woods as we learn about the people that have lived and learned in this special place, as well as the plants and animals that call it home.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Level: Easy

Location: 2801 East Morgan Avenue, Milwaukee.

Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at

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



Dan Buckler is dwarfed by an American beech tree at Seminary Woods

Exploring urban wilds with Eddee Daniel

Learn about what you can do to protect precious lands along the Menomonee River and Parkway and other special areas around Milwaukee by hiking with nature photographer Eddee Daniel on Sept. 10 as he follows his inclination to seek out urban wilderness.

The route will start on the Menomonee River Parkway at Capitol Dr. and continue north on the west side of the Menomonee River to Hampton Ave. and then back to Capitol on the east side. It will follow a mountain biking trail on the west side and the Oak Leaf Trail on the east side.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes and expect to get a little muddy if there has been recent rainfall. Bring a water bottle. Park north of the Capitol Dr. overpass on the parkway.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 10, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Level: Medium

Location: Meet on the Menomonee River Parkway northwest of the Capitol Dr. overpass

Leader: Dianne Dagelen. Information and RSVP at ddagelen@sbcglobal.net or 414-232-3208

GWG party scheduled

Join us for our annual GWG Holiday Party on Sunday Dec. 4 at 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. Cost is \$25 per person.

This is our sole fund-raiser for the year. If you can't make the party, please consider sending a donation to continue our environmental efforts in the four-county area. If you would like to volunteer for this fun evening, or have an item to donate for the silent auction, contact Dianne Dagelen at 414-771-1505).

Check: Payable to "Great Waters Group-SC" sent to Roy Kreuger, 237 Madison St. #56, Waukesha, WI 53288.

Fall 2016

Monarch Friends fete Aug. 28

Friends of the Monarch Trail are celebrating with music and art on Sunday, Aug. 28 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The program includes an educational hike along the Monarch Trail. Meet at the Monarch Trailhead, 9810 Eschweiler Dr. in Wauwatosa.

More information and maps are available at www.themonarchtrail.org or on Facebook.

Bikers set to explore Oak Leaf Trail Sept. 25

Biking the Oak Leaf Trail

Southeast Wisconsin is a tremendous biking region, and we love to get out onto the roads and trails of the area. Join us as we bike 25 miles of the Oak Leaf Trail in Milwaukee County.

We will meet at the Alan Kulwicki Park on Highway 100 and Cold Spring Road and ride south to Franklin and back. The fairly flat trail takes us through mostly county parkland along waterways and prairies, over wooden bridges with scenic vistas.

Learn about the new initiative just begun by the Rails-to-Trails organization, the Route of the Badger, an exciting attempt to connect existing trails created in seven Wisconsin counties. An optional dinner at an area restaurant will follow.

Date: Sun, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m.

Distance: 25 miles

Location: Oak Leaf Trail - Hwy 100 and Cold Spring Road

Leader: Chris Zapf. Information and RSVP at zapfchristine@sbcglobal.net or 414-429-8069

FEC Open House raises key issues

(Continued from page 2)

formed us that they would be repurposed for lumber. Perhaps for furniture at the new education center, and eventually furniture to be sold in stores. Older fallen trees would reportedly be removed for “safety reasons” even though none had fallen on the trail itself.

I questioned the wisdom of removing fallen trees, as they provide habitat for wildlife, and nurturance for revitalizing the forest. I suggested that perhaps they would instead be a significant spot for one of those educational guide posts to inform walkers of the regeneration value of fallen trees. After all, isn't this a forest, not a park?

As we continued our woodland tour, visitors were told of the many different species of trees, including red oak. Our guide bragged about a number of elms in the DNR woods, which survived the massive destruction by Dutch elm disease of the 1960's, primarily due to the forest's diversity. I commented that this woods is truly a gift with live elms that can be touched by children whose grandparents witnessed the clear-cutting of all elms that once canopied our city streets. It would be like tree time travel.

However, when approaching an ash tree, we were told that these will be the first species to be cut out of the woods, since they were likely to die from emerald ash bore disease anyway. I asked if the ash in this diverse forest setting couldn't be saved so that future generations of grandchildren could still touch a live ash tree long after all those currently lining our streets have been preventively removed. Wouldn't the ash survivors tomorrow be as valuable as the elm survivors of today?

Our guide had no answer, except to later comment that the elm trees in the DNR woods were actually “not that big.”

The Grateful Dead

For conservationists, a dead tree is more alive than a live tree. Downed trees are home to ants, who help break down the wood, aerate the soil with their burrows and protect trees from the onslaught of other insects. Hundreds of ground-nesting bee species, vital to pollinating forest wild flowers, also call these trees home.

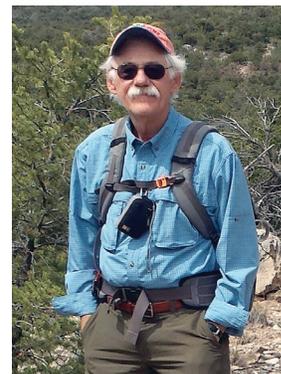
More than 40% of all bird species depend on dead trees for some part of their life cycle. Eagles build nests in the top of snapped-off snags. Nut hatches and woodpeckers forage in dead logs for food.

Bats roost in the flaky bark of dead snags or cavities. Most lichen and fungi depend on dead trees to exist. Hollow logs provide cover and thermal protection to small mammals to survive the extremes of high summer and low winter temperatures.

Salamanders have a close relationship with dead fallen trees to the extent that to eliminate these logs is to eliminate the salamander. And as a fly fisher, I know well the value of fallen trees in ponds, rivers and lakes to provide fish habitat.

Bill Baurecht assumes Program Chair duties

We're pleased to welcome Bill Baurecht as our new GWG Program Chair. Bill has been a member of the Sierra Club for many years and has led and participated in national lodge, service, base camp, family and grandparents/grandkids outings.



Bill Baurecht brings a life-long love of the outdoors to his new position as GWG Program Chair.

A certified national outings leader, Bill shares his love of mountain hiking, knowledge of Western culture and history and support of national and state parks and monuments. As a member of the Ice Age Trail Alliance he volunteers to maintain trails and build new segments.

Bill and his wife Helen lead Sierra Club national outings in California and Nevada. Most are based at Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge, its largest rustic, historic lodge located above Donner Pass, less than an hour drive from Lake Tahoe. Next summer Bill and Helen will again help lead *Just for Grandparents/Grandkids*, a popular outing for more than 30 years based at CTL.

Dead trees gradually molder into the soil, helping to recycle and produce nutrients for forest growth. Downed small-diameter trees also help prevent erosion, especially in areas such as the DNR woods' ravine.

Life Cycle Rings

When FEC first appeared a few years ago with the idea of starting a school in the Eschweiler Buildings, its plans included a logging saw facility to demonstrate the workings of forestry. It would have been housed at the spot where the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will now be building rest rooms and a meeting center for educational tours.

The facility will be in exchange for the DNR allowing concrete crushing from the Zoo Interchange reconstruction on the outskirts of the DNR woods. From talking to FEC board members, it wasn't clear to me that the logging saw was completely out of the picture or off the table.

A dead tree left on the forest ground is not a missed lumber opportunity. Rather it is an investment in the life cycle rings of the forest ecosystem. It's important for FEC board members to understand this. If you prize the dead trees, let FEC board members know. Their contact information is found on the FEC website.

Dianne Dagen, Chair

Fall 2016

Water issues are flowing freely

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and authority under the state Public Trust Doctrine to protect rivers and lakes from pollution. However, Schimel concluded that Act 21, passed later in 2011, dictates that the DNR can't put conditions in a water permit unless requirements are spelled out in state law or rules.

One concern is the Little Plover River, once a trout fishery which has repeatedly dried up due to inadequate groundwater to feed it. The cause is over-pumping by nearby high-capacity wells (those pumping more than 100,000 gallons a day). Another is Long Lake in Plainfield which went from 12 feet deep to a three-foot deep pond.

However, on July 18 a Dane County judge ruled that the DNR must require Kinnard Dairy to install groundwater monitoring equipment and place a cap on the number of cattle the farm could keep, in order to protect groundwater. The DNR is reviewing the decision and consulting with the Justice Department.

July 22: The DNR set **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for three pollutants of concern: phosphorus, bacteria and total suspended solids.** These plans are designed to ratchet down pollutant loads to meet federal Clean Water Act standards in the Milwaukee River Basin. They apply to point and "non-point" sources of pollution. These limits will affect all four GWG counties plus three more.

Urban and rural storm water runoff is a major source of pollution in area rivers. High phosphorus in Green Bay has caused seasonal "dead zones" of low oxygen levels where fish cannot breathe. This is due largely to phosphorus loads from the Fox River, caused in large part by farming. The Fox River already has a TMDL. However, farm compliance continues to be voluntary.

June 24: On the subject of **lead water pipes**, Milwaukee recently received a \$1 million federal loan to replace lead lateral drinking water pipes, starting with day care centers. However full replacement of all old lead pipes is estimated to cost between \$531 million to \$756 million for 70,000 affected homes.

June 8: After a decade of legal battles, conservation groups won a federal appeal that the US Environmental Protection Agency has to get tougher with **ballast discharges that ravage the Great Lakes.** In 1973, the EPA had removed contaminated ballast discharges from the list of industrial pollutants to be regulated under the Clean Water Act. That was a mistake.

Last October environmental groups won a ruling that ordered stiffer standards to limit the post-flushing organisms (viruses, poisonous algae, exotic mussels and fish) being discharged into the Great Lakes via ballast.

But now some in Congress want to skirt this backup procedure by transferring ballast oversight from the EPA to the US Coast Guard, which isn't required to follow Clean Water Act requirements. It's part of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, which was added to the Fall 2016

Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

Dianne Dagen, GWG Chair & Conservation Chair 414-771-1505
Bill Moore, Membership Chair 262-785-9022
Dan Buckler, Outings Chair 330-261-2088
Ed Anderson, Political Chair 414-520-2751
Chris Zapf, Member-at-Large 262-786-9584
John Bahr, Energy Chair 414-256-0932
Crystal Hoecherl, Secretary 414-614-3034
Roy Krueger, Treasurer 262-544-6893
William Baurecht, Program Chair 414-882-7218
Heather Hansen, JMC Delegate 812-360-0652
Communication Team:
E-letter, Face Book & Website: Vacant; Volunteer(s) Needed
Dianne Dagen, Newsletter Chair 414-771-1505
Dave Wehnes, Website Administrator 414-453-1689
Sandy and Dale Hofmann, Newsletter Editors 414-476-8636

\$603 billion National Defense Authorization Act that has already passed in the House.

June 19: Eric Hansen's enlightening op-ed informed us that the State Department recently signed off to allow **Enbridge to increase tar sands oil pipelines near and under Lake Superior.** Enbridge has yet to finish cleaning up its 2010 spill of Michigan's Kalamazoo River that permanently destroyed farmland and recreation in the area.

A pipeline spill in Wisconsin could result in heavy tar sands sinking to the bottom of lakes and rivers for difficult clean up, threatening Ojibwe wild rice beds, poisoning the Lake Superior watershed and exposing first responders to chemical burns. The "double cross" will allow twice as much tar sands oil to cross from Canada through the US without public review or a new permit being required.

June 2: State Sen. Tim Carpenter asked US Sens. Baldwin and Johnson to make sure the US Department of Transportation classifies underwater pipelines in and around the Great Lakes as "off-shore" facilities. Under federal law, cleanup for "onshore" facilities is capped at \$634 million, but "offshore" facilities must have resources to cover all costs.

July 28: The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors was to decide whether to increase spending by \$600,000 to repair the 80-year-old **Estabrook Park dam.** Repair is now estimated at \$4.1 million, with an additional \$160,000 in yearly maintenance and operation costs. The alternative is to spend \$1.8 million to demolish the dam and to let the Milwaukee River flow free.

However, Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb is challenging the quoted price for repair and maintenance, and the vote is again delayed. Milwaukee Riverkeeper has five legal actions associated with the dam. The City of Milwaukee has voted to intervene, challenging the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and permits for dam repair.

Assembly set for Dodgeville

This year's Autumn Assembly will be held at Bethel Horizons Camp and Retreat Center in Dodgeville, WI., from Oct. 7-9. In addition to field trips and outings, environmental issues will be explored from the perspective of campaign planning, activism and leadership training. See your Muir View or john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org for details.

Biking/camping outing a welcoming experience

By Bill Baurecht
and Helen Bannan-Baurecht

Long-time Sierra Club members, we found the Great Waters Group online shortly after we moved to the Milwaukee area in Fall, 2015. In winter we began attending meetings, where we heard about the biking/camping outing Ed Anderson planned for a weekend in mid-June. We signed up right away, hoping to get to know more people and experience a part of Wisconsin we had never visited.

Fast-forward to June. After we set up our tent on a low bluff above Big Lake in the American Legion State Forest in Vilas County, we joined our 12 companions and spent the evening in a screened shelter with people we immediately felt comfortable with, who shared our love of being in and learning about the outdoors. Half of the group had been on this outing before, yet we newcomers were just part



GWG bikers shared companionship and conversation at a biking, camping outing in Vilas County in mid-June.

of the gang. No insiders. No competition.

Our dinner Saturday was a potluck, with our varied contributions coming together as if by magic into a healthy and satisfying meal, from appetizers to desserts. There was more than enough for everyone to eat and enjoy. On Sunday we rode to Manitowish Waters

where we enjoyed ice cream together and shared more stories.

What stands out in memory? Congenial company, excellent trails, fragments of conversation, clusters of water lilies blooming in mid-river and perfect weather. We plan to go again next year. Hope to see you in camp and on the trail.

US cities strive to reach Zero Waste

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city's 67% recycling rate to 75% by 2020, 90% by 2035, and Zero Waste by 2040. Adding an organics collection required the city to work with haulers to extend waste contracts that were due to expire in 2021 to 2023.

Unfortunately, communities in Wisconsin haven't embraced a Zero Waste philosophy yet, but there are communities that have an important component of most Zero Waste plans, Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) trash collection. In our state, Appleton, Eau Claire, Fitchburg, Oshkosh and a number of other communities have adopted various forms of PAYT.

With PAYT, households are charged either by the size of the garbage cart or by the bag, so that people who throw away the least amount of trash do not subsidize households that are "big wasters." PAYT significantly reduces waste and increases recycling, giving communities considerable reductions in disposal costs.

Another component of an effective Zero Waste plan involves a separate collection for food scraps. "Feeding America" estimates that much of food grown and processed in the US ultimately ends up being sent to landfills and incinerators, and that food scraps are among the most discarded materials in municipal solid waste.

There are initiatives underway across the US to divert food that would otherwise be thrown away to feed America's hungry from supermarkets, restaurants, institutions, and businesses. Zero Waste

communities also target food scraps by offering residents collections for composting. Diverting food scraps from landfills not only reduces waste, it reduces the generation of methane.

In Wisconsin, the City of Madison has a limited food scrap collection program in one section of the city. By the end of this year, Madison expects 2,000 households and 60 businesses to be included in the program.

Educating the public to think of discards as valuable resources is crucial when it comes to developing a comprehensive Zero Waste Plan. Planning for Zero Waste takes time, and it requires that proponents speak at public meetings, write letters and encourage their neighbors to reduce waste.

In the meantime, there are steps we can all take to reduce waste. The first is to evaluate purchases. Think about whether the product you are buying can be re-used, repaired, repurposed or recycled. Then be sure not to buy more food than you think you will consume. If you have food scraps, consider home composting.

County extension offices sometimes have workshops on home composting, and composting bins can be purchased at various places, including Retzer Nature Center. We can advocate for these changes in future recycling and trash collection contracts.

Once we start thinking "Zero Waste," we realize there are many steps we can take to reduce trash and every step we take brings us one step closer to Zero.



Kayaking near the mainland of the Bayfield Peninsula can be an unforgettable experience.

Apostle Islands a dream for campers

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in many of the old commercial and government buildings in that area. It also had busy logging and fishing industries.

Stockton Island is home to approximately 10 bears. We enjoyed seeing their footprints along the beach about 150 yards away one morning. David, an experienced Apostle Islands light house parks volunteer, was a stickler for storing all food and bear attractions in bear-proof boxes, so there was never a concern of “visits” to our campsite.

Part of most Sierra Club Outings includes some historical or environmental information designed to give new insights and opportunities for thoughtful discussion. One of our participants, Tom Ryan, had the opportunity to do research for Bill Christofferson for a book called *The Man from Clear Lake: Earth Day Founder Senator Gaylord Nelson*. He shared some stories from that book about our amazing, dedicated wilderness advocate after dinner one evening.

Another night, while we sat around the campfire, David shared a story about Benjamin Green Armstrong, a man from Alabama who emigrated to northern Wisconsin around the Apostle Islands. He became an advocate, interpreter and negotiator for the Lake Superior Chippewas.

He fought to defend their rights to their lands and eventually married the niece of Buffalo, the head chief of the Lake Superior Chippewa. It is a story of caring and courage in the wild Midwest. Sierra Club Outings are where very special memories are made. We then traveled to Oak Island for more adventures.

Communication volunteer wanted

Are you an information specialist? Enjoy working with websites? Have a knack with words or pictures? Excel at Facebook?

Our long time Communications Chair, Janet Anderson, retired as of August 1, and we are in need of one or more persons to pick up where she left off. If you can help with our Website, E-letter or Facebook, contact Dianne Dagelen (414-771-1505). Help spread our environmental message.

Fall 2016

Oak Island

On July 19, thirteen adventurous souls caught the ferry in Bayfield to Oak Island. From the dock, there was a one-and-a-half mile backpack to our campsite at the south tip of the island with all of our camping gear.

Our campsite was very near a long, secluded sandspit beach with the chilly waters of Lake Superior lapping at the shore. We had the south end of the island all to ourselves. The three days on the island were spent camping, hiking and exploring the coast. All but a few braved the frigid lake for a swim.

Two campers brought their kayaks to explore the red sandstone bluffs along the coasts. The heavily wooded island had some unusual and interesting plants including indian pipe, American cancer-root, and pinedrops.

We were delighted to have a pair of bald eagles along with a juvenile flying above the beach on several occasions, as well as a pair of loons sighted just offshore. Though we found some scat, thankfully we did not encounter any bears, although two were sighted near the ranger station.

After a very stormy night with high winds, everyone emerged from the tents unharmed the morning of July 21. We discovered numerous large trees snapped in half all around our campsite and were very fortunate we were all okay.

We were treated to a heavenly sight that night: a very bright, reddish, just-past-full rising moon shining across the sparkling waters of Lake Superior.

We departed Oak Island the afternoon of July 22 and took the ferry to Raspberry Island. There we had a little time to explore the island before touring its historic lighthouse.

The next day nine of us went on a kayak tour with a local outfitter and explored some of the spectacular sea caves. They were amazingly beautiful. In the afternoon, we explored the brackish water of a slough with many tamarack trees and unusual plants such as dogbane, bog rosemary and pitcher plants. We also saw great blue herons, kingfishers and mergansers as well as a bald eagle.



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Autumn Programs

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(Heavy Rain location: back to Mayfair Mall Community Room G110, sans bonfire)

For September, we will diverge from our usual Program setting at Mayfair Mall with a bonfire and social gathering. We cordially invite all members, especially new GWG members and those who have not attended our meetings recently. What an opportunity to enjoy an autumn evening outdoors in the company of kindred spirits who share a deep commitment to conservation.

October and November Programs

Mayfair Mall, Community Room G110, Garden Suites East.
Enter east side of mall from covered parking area under the movie theater.

“Why Milwaukee Should Be a Green Destination”

Monday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

Autumn Harvest Potluck at 6:15pm

Free and open to the public

Milwaukee never makes it onto lists of “green” or environmentally-friendly cities. “Urban Wilderness” photographer Eddee Daniel will make the case that it should. Milwaukee has resources and natural assets that ought to be considered world-class. What we need are more people who believe in them and want to make the case. Come hear why Milwaukee compares well with cities like Portland, OR that regularly make the “green” cities list.

Join us before the talk for an Autumn Harvest Potluck from your garden or favorite grocery store. Please bring a dish to share if you can. Contact Bill Beaurecht by the Thursday beforehand to help us plan the food.

“Disappearing into the Woods:

No-Trace Skills for Old Dogs and Novice Naturalists Alike”

Monday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

We’ll learn how to improve our camping skills when experienced Boy Scout leader Mike Kelley explains the latest techniques of “no trace camping.” Mike is a 20 year-plus outdoor skills leader with extensive training in reducing our impact while in the woods. This will be a good chance to review your camping skills and pick up tips to be better stewards of the land when pitching a tent. Even long-time campers will be surprised at new hints to leave no trace behind.

Holiday Party — Save the Date

Sunday, Dec. 4, 4-8 p.m. Wil O Way Recreation Center, Wauwatosa



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