



GREAT WATERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Spring 2020 NO. 1



Fire fighting foam is just one source of PFAS chemicals that pose a threat to the environment and the health of people exposed to them.

PFAS a forever health threat

Governor Tony Evers has established a task force and the Department of Natural Resources has formed a technical advisory group to develop administrative rules as Wisconsin joins a national effort to combat the growing environmental danger of “forever chemicals” known as PFAS.

As reported in Urban Milwaukee last November, Erik Gunn of the Wisconsin Examiner wrote that although PFAS chemicals have been used for decades for everything from waterproofing clothing to making foam for fighting airplane and industrial

fires, but they have only recently been recognized as hazardous to human health.

Gunn wrote: “PFAS stands for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluorakyl substances, a class of manufactured chemicals that dates back as far as the 1940’s. There are anywhere from 3,000 to 5,000 different compounds, and there’s still not much known about them.

Concern about PFAS started about ten years ago in Minnesota

(Continued on page 8)

Spring Programs

Honoring African American Environmental Pioneers

Monday, Feb 17, 5:30-8 p.m. Wisconsin Black Historical Society Museum, 2620 W. Center St., Milwaukee.

To recognize Black History Month, the Sierra Club Great Waters Group is gathering to celebrate the achievements and lives of important environmentalists in the African-American com-

munity and to acknowledge our local environmental heroes. Museum tours priced at \$5 will be available from 4-5:30 p.m.

Food Waste in the GWG Area

Monday, March 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m. West Allis Library

A panel of local activists and entrepreneurs will present for discussion the issues related to food waste, covering their efforts to reduce food waste and what consumers can do to reduce waste.

Notes from the Chair

The coming year has many opportunities and challenges ahead of us with the effects of climate change becoming more obvious and several important elections being held. I'd like to encourage everyone to redouble their personal efforts to decrease consumption and educate others about the need for this, as well as to vote and encourage others to do so.

Our Executive Committee election results are in. I'd like to welcome our new members, Jennifer Abel and Eric Hansen and returning member, Chris Zapf to their two-year terms of office. They bring years of experience in various aspects of conservation to our leadership team, and I'm looking forward to their contributions as the Great Waters Group moves into the future.

Crystal Hoecherl

We Energies seeks plant expansion

We Energies' parent company, WEC Energy Group, has been pursuing expansion of its natural gas facilities, according to a November report from Matt Kasper in the Energy and Policy Institute blog.

Kasper reported on discussions and presentations by WEC executives starting in 2013 and recently a discussion of questionable legality with the Public Service Commission prior to applying for liquefied natural gas permits for three facilities.

The original request for 60 year-leases was reduced under pressure to 30-year leases and approved by the Public Service Commission on a 2-1 vote.

Kasper notes in his article that there is a strong case for renewable energy being less costly than natural gas, and he points out that Governor Tony Evers has established a Clean Energy Task Force headed by Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes. The entire article is available at: <file:///Users/rich/Desktop/FEB%20%202020%20Sierra%20NL/WEC%20Energy%20Files%20Application%20For%20LNG%20Peaking%20Facilities.html>.

GWG to begin anti-bias workshops in March

A four-week series of Anti-Bias workshops growing out of last October's "On The Table" discussion on Environmental Justice and Equity will begin March 19.

Last fall, the Great Waters Group initiated and co-hosted the discussion session where there was clear agreement that the environmental movement cannot continue to be splintered by the same racial divisions that separate Milwaukee into hyper-segregated communities.

August Ball, a recognized professional in anti-bias training, will facilitate the first three weeks of the series. The class will be limited in size, and so interested parties need to sign up early. There is a cost

African American pioneers will be honored by GWG

Great Waters Group will co-sponsor an event honoring African American environmental pioneers Monday, Feb. 17, at the Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum, 2620 W. Center St. in Milwaukee.

The honorees and their affiliations include Sharon and Larry Adams of Adams Garden Park; Will Allen, Growing Power; Antonio Butts, Walnut Way; Brenda Coley, Milwaukee Water Commons; Andre Lee Ellis, We Got This; David Johnson, Cream City Farms; George Martin, Peace Action Wisconsin; Dr. Patricia McManus, PhD, Black Health Coalition Wisconsin; Deniene Powell, Groundwork Milwaukee; and Venice Williams, Alice's Garden.

The event in recognition of Black History month will begin with a social hour from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with food and beverages. Drummers from Ko-Thi African Dance Company will perform a "Call to Ceremony" to begin the 6:30 program.

Brenda Coley of Milwaukee Water Commons will be the featured speaker, telling stories of African-American pioneers in American History, followed by the award presentation. The program will also include student poets/spoken word artists with musical punctuation by Jahmes Finlayson and a short video. Participants are encouraged to join Museum tours from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for a fee of \$5.

The event is funded in part by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The original sponsoring organizations in addition to GWG are Milwaukee Water Commons, Century City Triangle Neighborhood Association, Urban Ecology Center and Nearby Nature Milwaukee.

Questions and press inquiries should be addressed to contact@nearbynaturemke.org.

RSVP's are encouraged at www.sierraclub.org/great-waters/calendar.



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

involved in putting on the workshops, but no one will be turned away for an inability to pay the suggested fee. Register now via the Great Waters Group on-line calendar. Go to www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/calendar.

"In the three years that I have been trying to build bridges and partnerships via the Nearby Nature program, I found the greatest barriers were internal," said GWG Nearby Nature Chair David Thomas. "Like most white Americans, I have biases that affect the way I work and play. It's taken intense study and self-reflection to accept that my biases may never change, but I can be more mindful and develop strategies and tools to interrupt this bias."



Outings Chair Dan Buckler (left) presented the GWG Environmental Hero Award to David Thomas at the club's annual Holiday Party.

GWG hero award goes to Thomas

*By Dan Buckler
Outings Chair*

David Thomas, an inspirational and energetic leader who has been committed to expanding access to nature for everybody, was honored at December's holiday party as the Great Waters Group Environmental Hero of the Year.

David is the architect and current leader of the club's Nearby Nature program, a critically important effort to connect underserved and marginalized populations in Milwaukee to green things and green spaces.

Nearby Nature has focused on the 30th Street Corridor and the connected Lincoln Creek Greenway, areas lacking many opportunities for environmental education and access to nature. David has tirelessly cultivated relationships with community groups, educators and environmental organizations. The program has provided funding to educators from the Urban Ecology Center to provide almost 400 hours of educational opportunities to youth..

David has also been leading self-reflective programming and discussions aimed at incorporating an environmental justice and equity lens into the Sierra Club and the wider environmental community. He is a true organizer, who has held many one-on-one conversations, some of which were uncomfortable and/or time consuming.

In addition, he is a leader in the Friends of Lincoln Park, on the Volunteer Leadership Council of the Great Waters Group, an outings leader with the Sierra Club and a National Park Service volunteer.

Farmers need tools for climate change

*By Tina Ritter
Senior Program Associate with the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*

The current administration has gone to great lengths to suppress climate change research, weaken key research institutions, and scrub mentions of climate change from government websites and documents. Despite these efforts, American farmers already know that the climate crisis is on our doorstep, because they've been experiencing the negative aspects of it for years.

As part of our efforts to arm farmers and ranchers with the tools they need to meet the challenges of climate change, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NASAC) has released a policy position paper that it will deliver to Congress putting forward eight policy priority areas. They are:

1. Support producers to make US agriculture climate-neutral
2. Remove barriers and strengthen support for sustainable and organic production systems
3. Support climate-friendly nutrient management to reduce agricultural nitrous oxide emissions
4. Increase support for composting as a climate friendly alternative to landfill and manure lagoon disposal of organic "wastes"
5. Strengthen protection of carbon sequestration potential of sensitive and marginal lands
6. Support climate-friendly livestock production systems and end subsidies for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
7. Support on-farm energy conservation and low-carbon renewable energy production
8. Fund public plant and animal breeding for climate-resilient agriculture

For more details, to go to <https://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/a-call-for-climate-focused-agriculture-policy>.

Spring 2020

Boundary Waters study canceled by White House

*From Friends of the
Boundary Waters Wilderness*

Attempts to revive a study on the potential impact of copper sulfide mining on lands next to the Boundary Waters have failed a second time.

A year ago, the Trump administration abruptly cancelled the nearly complete study, which would have been grounds for a 20-year moratorium on the mining in large parts of the Superior National Forest.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum was able to include legislation in the proposed 2020 federal budget that would have completed the study, but the White House had the provision taken out.

In related news, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MECA) has launched a website called The People vs PolyMet designed to protect Minnesota's air and water from an unsafe mining proposal by PolyMet.

In mid-January the Minnesota Court of Appeals' rejected PolyMet's dam safety and mine permits. PolyMet has said it will appeal.

Food a key to carbon footprint

By Anne Steinberg

It's estimated that a quarter to a third of global human greenhouse emissions come from the production, processing and retail of food. If we are serious about avoiding catastrophic climate change, we can't ignore the importance of reducing the carbon footprint of our food system. Here are some ideas on how to accomplish that:

- Shift toward a plant-rich diet.
You can become a vegan, but eating less meat (especially beef) and cheese will also have an impact on your footprint.
- Reduce food waste.
The food that gets thrown away by retailers and consumers causes about 8% of all human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. If we waste less, we can grow less. Also, try to compost your food waste to return the nutrients to the soil and to reduce methane emissions in landfills.
- Support regenerative agriculture.
As an eater you are part of the agricultural system, and you can support the transition to a regenerative agriculture system – one that builds healthy soil, holds carbon in the ground and reduces water use. Look for farmers who produce sustainably and support governmental policies that encourage the transition to a regenerative agriculture.
- Consider growing some of your own food and try to buy locally grown and produced food.



Besides reducing the miles your food travels, buying directly from local farmers and businesses gives you the opportunity to start conversations and learn more about our food system.

- Consider subscribing to a CSA farm this year so you'll be sure to have healthy fresh produce in the house. Meet the farmers and learn more at the Local Farmer Open House on Saturday, March 7h at the Urban Ecology Center in Riverside Park. More info at: urbanecologycenter.org/LFOH or on Facebook [@18th Annual Local Farmer Open House](https://www.facebook.com/18thAnnualLocalFarmerOpenHouse).

Club labels new trade agreement a failure

Sierra Club National has rated the newly enacted version of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) now named the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) as “a failure for the environment and for people.”

The U. S. Homeland Security website defined NAFTA as a free-trade zone in North America. But Food and Water Action (FWA), a watch-dog organization, wrote in early December that “NAFTA was the beginning of an era of trade deals written by and for

Help needed at Havenwoods

Join the Great Waters Group and the Friends of Havenwoods State Forest to cut invasives and plant trees and other vegetation. While working on the site, we will also learn about the impact of invasives on local ecosystems. No experience or equipment is needed, just appropriate clothing.

Date: Saturdays – March 21, April 25, May 30 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Location: Havenwoods State Forest, 6141 N. Hopkins St. Milwaukee.

Leader: Dan Buckler. Please RSVP at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/calendar

corporate interests. The new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement is continuing this trend.

“It is full of giveaways to the pharmaceutical, oil and gas and big ag interests and contains virtually nothing for US workers, farmers and the environment, sending jobs to where work can be done cheaply and under weaker regulatory controls.”

“From food safety to clean air and water, every one of us will be impacted by the terms of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. It would cause an array of new problems by outsourcing pollution and jobs, undermining environmental protections and locking in our dependency on fossil fuels.”

Television network CNN said: “The new version of the deal between the US, Mexico and Canada will get rid of controversial protections for biologic drugs entirely. The United States already has patent protections for biologic drugs in place domestically, but Democrats opposed enshrining the protections in the agreement because they want Congress to be able to legislate on drug pricing issues without being bound by the trade deal.”

For Sierra Club's detailed “Failure” analysis see: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/Trump-NAFTA-Environment-Failure.pdf>.

Back Forty mine co. withdraws its application

From Urban Milwaukee

The company proposing to build an open pit mineral ore mine on the Michigan-Wisconsin border known as the Back Forty Mine, has informed Michigan authorities that it is withdrawing its dam safety permit application while it gathers additional information required by local authorities. This will restart the dam safety permit review process from the beginning.

The Back Forty Mine project has generated serious safety concerns that have recently been addressed by the United Nations Environmental Program and the mining industry's International Council on Mining.

Mines like the Back Forty must store waste materials in a tailings dam, and the proposed design for this dam has had multiple failures at other sites. The worst of these was a collapse in Brumadinho, Brazil, that killed 270 people in January, 2019.

According to Al Gedicks, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, who has written an analysis of this project, if the UN and International Council draft proposals are adopted, mining companies would be required to address the rights of indigenous and tribal people at or near tailings facilities, or downstream areas that may be affected by a failure.

Gedicks writes that the design characteristic at issue is known as the "upstream dam" construction method, the lowest cost dam design but also the most prone to failure. A different method known as dry stack tailings, increases a dam's stability, but can cost ten times as much.

Earth Day activities will be expanded

Stemming from its "On the Table" discussions, the Sierra Club has received a small grant from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to expand its Earth Day activities at the Washington Park branch of the Urban Ecology Center.

To help in our mission to diversify participation in green spaces, we plan to hold a Camping and Outdoor Expo in conjunction with the day's regular activities. Also, groups will spread through Washington Park to participate in stewardship activities, followed by a community lunch. "Inside" duties, are available as well. Contact Dan Buckler at daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com.

On Milwaukee's Northwest side, volunteers will also gather at Lincoln Creek as part of the annual Spring River Cleanup organized by Milwaukee Riverkeeper. Updated information can be found on our web calendar: www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/calendar.

Lincoln Creek cleanup set

The Sierra Club has adopted a section of Lincoln Creek, an important and neglected waterway in northwest Milwaukee, and will be participating in the city-wide river cleanups organized by Milwaukee Riverkeeper on Earth Day. Participants will also learn about the Great Waters Group's Nearby Nature program.

Date: Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Location: The intersection of 35th St. and Congress St., Milwaukee.

Leader: David Thomas. Please RSVP at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/calendar.

Plastic proliferation a triple threat

*By Barbara Richards
Conservation and Newsletter Chair*

The proliferation of plastic in practically every aspect of our society brings with it three major environmental problems.

The first is the waste from its production. According to the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WISPRIG) newsletter "Last year, the plastics industry discharged 128 million pounds of plastic pollution into U.S. waterways – including approximately 78,000 pounds of cancer causing chemicals.

"The plastic pollution crisis is only getting worse. With plastic production expected to increase 40 per cent over the next decade, swift and sweeping action must be taken to prevent further risks to public

health. WISPRIG is urging the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the discharge of plastic pollution under the Clean Water Act."

The second problem is created by the recycling of plastics. "It has been about two years since many East Asian countries began to stop accepting plastic trash shipped from America and other places around the globe," reported WISPRIG. "In the aftermath our weak recycling system has struggled to keep up. Many municipalities have had to cut back on recycling, sending more to landfills and/ or incinerate waste.

The third problem is with plant-based plastics that were developed to be compostable but were found to have PFAS chemicals that stay in the environment forever and are hazardous to human health. The compostable container industry has begun research to remedy this hazard.

Birds threatened by Trump policy

By James Rowen

Excerpted from *Urban Milwaukee* Dec. 30

Want dramatic examples of Donald Trump's anti-environmental actions, which are the direct opposite of local initiatives in Wisconsin? Buried in the news dominated by impeachment and holiday shopping were Trump's actions eliminating basic legal protections for birds, essentially removing years of common sense policy.

The New York Times reported: "As the state of Virginia prepared for a major bridge and tunnel expansion in the tidewaters of the Chesapeake Bay last year, engineers understood that the nesting grounds of 25,000 gulls, black skimmers, royal terns, and other seabirds were about to be plowed under.

"To compensate, they considered developing an artificial island as a haven. Then in June 2018, the Trump administration stepped in. While the federal government "appreciates" the state's efforts, new rules in Washington had eliminated criminal penalties for 'incidental' migratory bird deaths that came in the course of normal business, administration officials advised. Such conservation measures were now 'purely voluntary.' The state ended its island planning."

Across the country birds have been killed and nests destroyed by oil spills, construction crews and chemical contamination, all with no response from the federal government. According to emails, memos, and other documents viewed by the New York Times, not only has the administration stopped investigating most bird deaths, it has discouraged local governments and businesses from taking precautionary measures.

This compares unfavorably to recent efforts in Milwaukee and elsewhere to preserve wildlife, such as the Important Bird Area (IPA) designation of Birdlife International that will help statewide active conservation at certain sites. The proposed Kohler Golf Course would disrupt an IPA preserve.

James Rowen is a former journalist and mayoral staffer in Milwaukee and Madison, who writes a regular blog, The Political Environment.

Task force addresses climate crisis

With the national Democratic convention coming to Milwaukee in July, a Joint City-County Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity is hard at work creating a plan to "address the ongoing climate crisis, ensure Milwaukee meets the obligations set forth in the Paris Climate Accord and mitigate racial and economic inequity through 'green jobs.'"

Meetings of the Taskforce are open to the public. Check the City Legistar for meeting announcements, working documents and the record of the meetings. At the end of this initial stage, the Taskforce will be overseeing a long term community based plan.

In California, R L Miller of Climate Hawks Vote.com reports that the

Volunteer Leadership Council (VLC) Contact List

Crystal Hoecherl, Chair 414-614-3034
William Baurecht, Vice-Chair 414-882-7218
Jane Schneider, Treasurer 262-391-7502
Veronica Bell, Secretary, 414-202-6219
Jenny Abel, Program Chair 571-305-3821
Von Roberts, Trails Chair 414-313-6483
Chris Zapf, Volunteer Chair & Hospitality Chair 414-202-8069
Ed Anderson, Membership Chair 414-520-2751
Rashi Grewal, Fundraising Chair 908-240-7043
Rose Both, JMC Delegate & Political Chair 262-751-4802
Karen Samelson, Publicity Chair 414-481-1596
David Thomas, Nearby Nature Chair 414-810-2286
Dan Buckler, Outings Chair 330-261-2088
Janet Anderson, Communications Chair 414-258-5624
(Communications, E-Letter, Facebook, Website)
Barbara Richards, Conservation & Newsletter Chair 414-259-0731
Dave Wehnes, Website Super Administrator 414-453-1689
Dale Hofmann, Newsletter Editor 414-476-8636
David Hetzel, Newsletter Reimbursement 414-228-9512

Volunteer work night scheduled for February

Join us at our Great Waters Group Volunteer Work Night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5. Like to make phone calls? We can give you a list to call. Prefer to text or email? We have needs for that. Love graphic design or social media? We need help with those.

Even if you have just two hours to give, then this is a great opportunity to meet representatives from the state chapter office. No party is complete without food and (vegan) snacks, so we'll have those, too.

The work night is at Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., Milwaukee, which has a parking lot off N. 25th and bus service on W. Wisconsin Ave. Please bring a laptop, tablet and/or smart phone if you have them. We encourage you to register at www.greatwatersgroup.org.

California Democratic Party has proposed "going all in for the green new deal." His proposal includes:

- Supporting a green new deal, a comprehensive energy security and climate protection law calling for full decarbonization of the United States economy running on net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Urging Congress and the California legislature to implement a green new deal that achieves 100 per cent clean electricity by 2045, with hiring preferences for formerly incarcerated and socially and/or economically disadvantaged people.
- Deploying building and vehicle electrification and zero-net, carbon-free infrastructure transitioning away from extraction and refining of fossil fuels.

Latest Keystone spill ten times worse

Last October's Keystone Pipeline oil spill has proved to be almost ten times worse than originally reported, according to the *Food and Water Watch Newsletter*.

The public was told that the pipeline "spilled 383,000 gallons of conventional and dirty, sticky tar sands crude oil" onto 2,500 square feet of North Dakota wetlands. But new reports say the affected area was actually 4.8 acres.

GWG website has blog and new look

The Great Waters Group has been upgrading its electronic communications to better serve members and supporters.

Our website, www.greatwatersgroup.org, has a new look that includes a blog with timely information. The up-to-date calendar of events is where you can sign up for outings and other programs. The website also links to the John Muir Chapter's calendar, so you can find events all over Wisconsin.

Our new e-letter, which debuted in October, has a new look and more photos, thanks to new software, and uses a larger Sierra Club database. Everyone who is a member and lives in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties should be receiving it.

While we are able to reach more people, we have discovered that some people, mostly members who previously opted out of national Sierra Club emails, are no longer getting e-letter. If you haven't received the GWG e-letter since September:

- Search your spam folder for "Great Waters Group." The e-letter comes out on the first Monday of the month.
- If you get national Sierra Club email, go to "manage preferences" at the bottom of an email and make sure "my Chapter" is clicked (This governs both GWG and John Muir Chapter emails).
- If you've opted out of all Sierra Club emails, the club now allows members to manage their account, email and mail preferences, and payment history. Go to <https://myaccount.sierraclub.org/MyAccountCreateAccount> and create an online account and password.

Still having trouble? Email member.care@sierraclub.org or call and request Member Care at (415) 977-5500.

Nonmembers can get on the GWG and JMC email list by clicking on the "Sign Up" button on the right column of our website or by signing up for an event online.

Spring 2020

The newsletter reports that "The October 29 leak is the twenty-first spill from Keystone 1 in just the last ten years. But TC Energy, the company that operates the pipeline, has not only restarted the Keystone 1, it's pushing to build an even bigger tar sands pipeline, the Keystone XL.

That pipeline would go across one of the world's largest freshwater sources, the Ogalla Aquifer, endangering the drinking water source for millions of people across multiple states."

An article published by the Reuters news agency also reported that in 2017, TC Energy scrapped plans for a \$8.9 billion cross-country Energy East project from Alberta to Canada's Atlantic Coast because of mounting regulatory hurdles."

Many thanks go to all who made party a success

Thanks to all who attended and supported the Great Waters Group's Holiday Party and Fundraiser on Dec. 8 at Wil-O-Way Grant Park. We were pleased to see new faces and new bidders.

GWG is run by volunteers, and we couldn't have done it without you. We were also impressed by the number of attendees who remembered to bring their own plates and silverware. Special thanks go to the Gutekunst Flute Choir for the lovely holiday music.

The fundraiser was successful thanks to our many business, individual donors, and volunteers. We are grateful for their generosity.

Paddle Lincoln Creek with Mom

Lincoln Creek is a lovely urban water trail that is under-utilized and under-appreciated. We'll meet in Lincoln Park at the Milwaukee River Trail landing on Mother's Day for a bring-your-own picnic lunch at noon and then at 1 p.m. paddle and explore Lincoln Creek.

Please bring your own boat if you have one. If you do not have a boat but want to rent one, please RSVP by May 8, and we can arrange a rental kayak or canoe for \$25 or less.

Date: Sunday, May 10 at 1 p.m.

Level: Medium. Swimming and previous paddling experience helpful.

Location: Lincoln Park boat landing, 4950 N Milwaukee River Parkway (Just north of Hampton Ave)

Leader: David Thomas. Please RSVP at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/calendar.



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PFAS poses forever threat to environment

(Continued from page 1)

with contamination associated with the production of Scotchgard at 3M sites. Wisconsin started examining landfill waste from 3M and since has expanded its search and found more than 25 industrial and military sites in Wisconsin that are contaminated. Two legislative actions, one sponsored by Republicans and one by Democrats, have been introduced in the State Legislature.

According to Gunn, "Further investigation has found that PFAS

Find a little Heaven in Monches

Join Cheri Briscoe on May 9 for a gem of a hike on the Ice Age Trail in the Monches Park segment. We will hike up to three miles down to Funk Road and three miles back. Bring binoculars for bird watching.

There could be some wetness on the trail, so wear hiking shoes that are water resistant. Refer questions to Cheri at cherib41@gmail.com or 414-239-7883.

Date: Saturday, May 9 at 9 a.m.

Location: Meet at the intersection of Hwy Q and K in Monches in Waukesha County.

Leader: Cheri Briscoe. Please RSVP at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters/calendar.

has been ingested by animals, birds, and people. Along the Wisconsin River, eagles have been recovered with PFAS in their bloodstream."

Darsi Foss, administrator of the environmental management division of the Wisconsin DNR told the Examiner, "Federal regulation of PFAS has lagged, because the substances didn't fit any of EPA's three top areas of concern: their contamination hasn't been classified as hazardous wastes; the chemicals themselves aren't petroleum or petrochemical products; and they're not buried in toxic 'Superfund' sites.

Only when evidence surfaced that PFAS was entering some drinking water supplies did EPA conclude it had jurisdiction over them.

At a recent gathering of environmental regulators from all 50 states, Foss said, "They all agreed that we're all going to have to solve this ourselves, because the EPA isn't moving fast enough."

It appears that states are truly on their own. The League of Conservation Voters newsletter of December 22, 2019 reported that in the negotiations over the spending bill in Congress, the Trump administration was able to kill safeguards to protect against PFAS. However, pro-environment leaders in the House are working on legislation that would require the EPA to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance, one of the three areas of concern.