



News of the
Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club
APRIL-MAY 2015
VOLUME 34, NO. 2

SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

ANNOUNCING SEGG'S NEW WEBSITE

by Rebecca Eisel

We completely overhauled our website in February. Sierra Club has been transitioning all local entities, like SEGG, to a new platform and it was our turn. Our new website address is: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway>. If you try to go to our old web address, you will be redirected to the new one.

We really hope you like the new site. It has a very different look and feel from the old one, but you will still find all the information you need about SEGG. We've added a few new features, including a "Take Action" section where you can learn more about important national issues and do something about them. We've also added a "Donate" button, in case you'd like to donate some money directly to SEGG.

We'd like to thank member and photographer Roy Bohn of [brindlebrothersphotography](http://brindlebrothersphotography.com) for donating the use of one of his amazing photos for our website header. Thank you also to all the people who helped out by testing the new site and reading over it to make sure everything was up-to-date and accurate.

We have identified a few issues that the national office will have to address. Specifically, the site gets a little slow sometimes, and the calendar isn't syncing as often as it should. Hopefully those problems will be resolved soon.

Please check out our new website and feel free to let us know what you think! Constructive criticism and kind words are appreciated and can be sent to SEGGWebAdmin@gmail.com.

**Join us for the Southeast Gateway
Group Annual Dinner - See page 4 for
Details.**



Photo by Jay Warner

An Ecuadorian and Galápagos Island Adventure

The Galápagos Islands are well known as the place Charles Darwin visited while traveling as (an unpaid) naturalist aboard the HMS Beagle. His observations over the five-day study of the islands provided the seeds of thought that became the Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection. The Galápagos Archipelago was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, and the residents and officials there make great efforts to preserve, protect and restore the area. In April of 2014 a group of local Sierra Club (SEGG and Great Waters) members traveled to Ecuador, including a one-week stay on the San Jose navigating among the Islands, viewing the wildlife and learning about its history and biodiversity. Join us to view our photos of Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands as we learn more about this special area and its grand diversity of landforms and wildlife.

Bring a "Galápagos" themed snack to share, e.g. chocolate turtles. A prize will go to the favorite entry.

We are meeting at 6:30 pm at the SCJohnson/Gateway Technical College IMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

April 13th, Monday, 3:00pm, ExCom meeting at UW-Parkside, Tallent Hall, vending room. Meetings are open. If you have items for the agenda, contact bsrocky@gmail.com or any ExCom member (See p. 7)

April 14th, Conservation Lobby Day, see <http://conservationvoters.org/act/events/conservation-lobby-day-2015/>

April 16th, Thursday, 6:30 pm, Program meeting, *Galápagos Today* at the SCJohnson/Gateway Technical College IMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant. (See article on p. 1)

April 22nd, Wednesday, 6:30 pm, River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N. Green Bay Rd., Racine. *Bats!* with Paul White, Mammal Ecologist with the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation of the DNR. (See article this page.)

April 23rd, Thursday, 5:30 pm, Potluck Supper and Book Group at Andrea and Frank Egerton's home, 4000 Ridgeway Ave., Racine. Book selection: *Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds* by Jim Sterba. (See article on p. 4)

April 25th, Saturday 9:00 am, Invasive Species Work Day at Bristol Woods (Kenosha) and Colonial Park (Racine). Contact Barry Thomas, bthomas6@wi.rr.com, (Bristol Woods) or Melissa Warner, melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net, (Colonial Park) for more information.

April 30th, Thursday, 7:00 pm, How to Become an Eco-Municipality presentation by Karl van Lith at the Golden Rondelle, 1525 Howe, Racine. (See article on p. 7)

MAY

May 11th, Monday, 3:00 pm, ExCom meeting at UW-Parkside, Tallent Hall, vending room. Meetings are open. If you have items for the agenda, contact bsrocky@gmail.com or any ExCom member (See p. 7)

May 16th, Saturday, 9:00 am, Highway 38 Cleanup. Meet in the parking lot of the church on the corner of Highway 38 and 4 Mile Rd for assignments, safety vests and bags. Wear good walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Bring gloves. There will be a potluck afterward at Warners, 4444 N. Green Bay Road, Caledonia.

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway>



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB NOW AND HELP US MAKE HISTORY

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421941, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1941 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

F94Q W 1

May 21st, Thursday, 5:30 pm, Annual Dinner meeting at Casa Capri, 2129 Birch Rd, Kenosha. See invitation on p. 4

May 23rd, Saturday 9:00 am, Invasive Species Work Day at Bristol Woods (Kenosha) and Colonial Park (Racine). Contact Barry Thomas, bthomas6@wi.rr.com, (Bristol Woods) or Melissa Warner, melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net, (Colonial Park) for more information.

BATS OF SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

Seven bat species call Wisconsin home. Several species migrate to warmer climates for winter, while the others hibernate in caves and mines. The cave bats now face the threat of extinction from a deadly disease called white-nose syndrome. Learn what must be done to protect them and how the bat program monitors the health and trends of Wisconsin's bat population.

On April 22nd, at 6:30 pm, River Bend Nature Center, 3600 N. Green Bay Rd., Racine, Paul White a mammal ecologist with DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will share what Wisconsin is doing to protect it's bat population.

FROM THE CHAIR

By LD Rockwell



I have completed two months of my term as chair and, fortunately, am not aware of any extraneous happenings. We should start with national news and from the Green Life Daily Tips comes some good news. There are some that have come to realize that the sun and wind are viable producers of energy:

Going Solar: The Jets' and Giants' home turf of MetLife Stadium has a custom-built ring of solar panels. These 1,500 panels provide light for night games, and last year saved \$43,000 in energy costs.

Saving Water: In rainy Seattle, CenturyLink Field started saving water by retrofitting all of the bathroom urinals with ultra-low-flow water fixtures, the stadium saved more 1.3 million gallons of water per year -- enough water to turn any football field into a swimming pool.

Reported in THE GREEN LIFE, Daily Tips for Living Well and Doing Good from the editors of Sierra magazine. So, slowly but surely, not only people but (the wiser) corporations are also seeing the benefits of using solar and wind as a source of energy and the benefits of conserving water. With football stadiums falling in line possibly there will be others following suit.

From The John Muir Chapter;

The proposed State Budget, released February 3rd, is more bad news for Wisconsin's air, water and wildlife and many economic industries. Deep cuts to positions at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – especially those related to science, education and research, put Wisconsin's

natural resources at risk. It is dangerous to cut science staff at a time when Wisconsin's natural resources face daunting, unprecedented threats, from climate change to algal blooms to Chronic Wasting Disease.

This is but a small example of the drastic measures being proposed to impress ultra-conservative big-money interests. Severe proposed cuts will devastate all levels of education. At the college level the Legislative Audit Bureau projects that the Governor's austerity push will result in a "funding levels reduction of state funding to UW – Stevens Point totaling \$6,260,900 million, if the \$300 million reduction in funding to the UW system were to be approved." For more information see <http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/blog/2015/02/walker-budget-proposal-threatens-wisconsin-environment-public-safety-and>

Now for the local updates:

Having been confirmed to the Board for Friends of Hackmatack (FOH), I will be adding events from their programs with my report. The first item of interest will be a "Migratory Bird Watch" on April 25th and 26th which includes a presentation by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Location to be determined.

Secondly, I have confirmed the SEGG annual picnic date of June 20th at Hackmatack. We will be located at the "Hart Rd. shelter" just off of Illinois State Hwy. 31. No program has been set for the picnic. If you have a suggestions, I would be interested in hearing your ideas. My intent is to have Cindy Skrudrud give us the \$.50 tour.

A final note; the ballots for Sierra Club Board of Directors will be out in early March, so by the time you get this newsletter you will have received it. If you voted last year by electronic ballot you will receive an e-ballot. It is most imperative that you cast your ballot. Our voice is strong when we all speak out, and the ballot an opportunity for you to make your voice heard. Please read the candidate profiles and make your informed choices.

Announcing the SEGG Annual Dinner Event

Welcome, Bienvenue, Benvenuti, Willkommen, and Bienvenido.....no matter how it's said:
Please join us for the SEGG annual dinner.

When: May 21, 2015

Where: Casa Capri, 2129 Birch Road, Kenosha WI

Social Time: 5:30 (cash bar available) and dinner will be served at 6:15 (presented family style)

Menu

Salad

Cheese & spinach mostaccioli

Italian baked chicken

Roast beef

Oven roasted potatoes

Vegetable medley

Coffee & tea

Cost: \$25 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

Program: Guest Speaker: Melody Orban will provide a photo tour of Richard Bong State Recreation Area, and share upcoming special events. Copies of trail maps and program brochures will be available.

Green Award: Presented by Barry Thomas

RSVP: Barbara Meyocks:

262-654-2208 or bmeyocks@wi.rr.com

Please Respond No Later Than May 15, 2015.

BOOK GROUP: NATURE WARS BY JIM STERBA

On, Thursday, April 23rd, the Book Group will meet at 5:30 pm at Andrea and Frank Egerton's home, 4000 Ridgeway Ave., Racine. The book selection is: *Nature Wars: The Incredible Story of How Wildlife Comebacks Turned Backyards into Battlegrounds* by Jim Sterba (NY, Crown Publishers, 2012, 343 pages).

Sterba is a journalist who has done his homework, consulting essential authorities both in person and in publications. He addresses twelve dilemmas in as many chapters, which arose from the way government and citizens have responded to particular aspects of nature. His examples include: beaver, trapped out of most of America, but easily reintroduced into many places where they cause water and tree problems; deer, which were hunted into rarity, but now are too abundant in many suburbs and farms; wolves and coyotes were almost exterminated as vermin, but now are numerous enough to be hazards to livestock and pets in many areas. Will Sierra Club agree with all his suggestions about what to do? Perhaps not, but we should consider his case histories and see if we sometimes have better suggestions.

The book discussion follows the potluck around 7:00 pm. Please contact Andrea or Frank for more information or let them know if you are coming. They can be reached at 262-633-0991 or by email: egerton@uwp.edu or andreaegerton@yahoo.com.

We are looking for book selections for future topics. Please contact Mary Ann Ortmyer at 262-554-5058 or by email at maortmayer@gmail.com with suggestions

LULU LAKE UPDATE

By John Berge

In the June/July 2014 issue of the Southeast Sierran, I wrote about the choice facing the Town of Troy regarding the type of "Wild" they wanted for Lulu Lake – "Wild" and noisy parties with up to 80 or 90 power boats or a quieter "Wild" of natural flora and fauna observed from canoes, kayaks and other less obtrusive water craft. A restriction or prohibition of boat motors on the lake had been recommended by the Nature Conservancy which owns considerable land on the lake. Several of us from the Southeast Gateway Group attended the April 9 Town Board Meeting at which the results of a public hearing held on March 6 were presented (including our written comments). The issue was declared "a sensitive issue" and a nine-member advisory committee was appointed to look into the issue and to report back at the October 2014 Town Board Meeting, thus permitting another summer of party boats. All three Town Board Members were part of this committee.

According to the Town of Troy Clerk and Treasurer, the report was received but no ordinance or change in policy was adopted. The Advisory Committee recommended "further education and research". The clerk/treasurer's e-mail to me stated, "A newly formed Lulu Lake Coalition is in the process of being formed to do this."

As I wrote in last year's newsletter, Lulu Lake (84 or 95 acres) in northeastern Walworth County is surrounded by mostly DNR and Nature Conservancy land with only two private properties on it. It is connected to the much larger and more developed Eagle Spring Lake by the Mukwonago River channel. There are no public restrooms on Lulu Lake so beer parties can mean people trampling the local wetlands, fens, bogs and sedge meadows that ring the lake.

It has been awhile since the Southeast Gateway Group has canoed into Lulu Lake from Eagle Spring Lake but we are discussing a joint canoe trip to Lulu Lake this year with the Great Waters Group, which includes Waukesha County, about half a mile from Lulu Lake and site of Eagle Spring Lake where most of the party boats come from.

Don't Drink the Water

By Melissa Warner

Tyson Cook (pictured below) and Katie Nekola from Clean Wisconsin addressed the February meeting on the topic of "How Well Is Your Well?" They described their study published last fall, "Don't Drink the Water" <http://www.cleanwisconsin.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/dont-drink-the-water-report-clean-wisconsin.pdf>.

Using results from almost 1000 well reports and public data on where coal ash was used on fields, trails, or as fill (in foundations, for example) they found "... molybdenum levels beyond state enforcement levels in nearly half the wells tested in Southeastern Wisconsin; our research furthers shows that the closer the tested wells are to coal ash reuse sites, the higher the level of molybdenum contamination they tend to have."

To bolster their conclusions and provide a firm foundation for changes in how coal ash is used, Clean Wisconsin proposes the following:

- An improved leach test to be used on coal ash (current test is 24 hours in neutral water);
- More information on where coal ash has been used for "beneficial" purposes;
- Better management of coal ash;
- Health studies on the effects of molybdenum so a safe level can be established; and
- Molybdenum data from more wells in SE WI.

SEGG is asking that if your household depends on well water, that you have it tested, and send Clean Wisconsin the results. Information on having your well tested is here <http://www.cleanwisconsin.org/well-testing/> and the place to send the results is groundwater@cleanwisconsin.org.

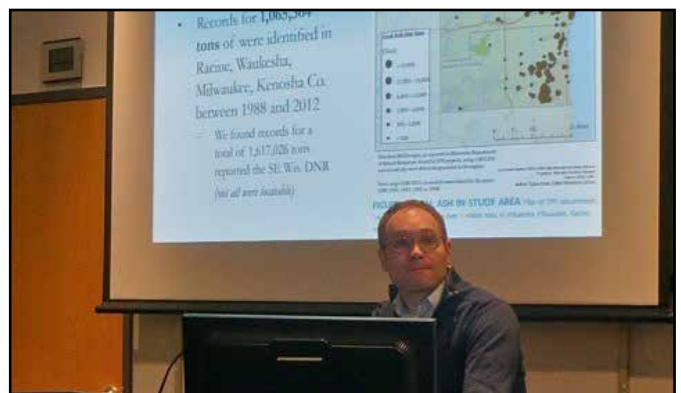


Photo by Melissa Warner

INVASIVE SPECIES WORK DAYS

By Melissa Warner

Spring brings birds and bees and butterflies...and garlic mustard! Sierrans who work in Colonial Park and Pringle Nature Center know well how quickly garlic mustard appears once the snow melts – in fact the first year plants have hidden under the snow all winter, waiting for the first rays of sunlight in order to grow rapidly and put forth flowering stalks. And that, of course, is the problem; the flowering stalks produce numerous seeds that enable this invasive to quickly overtake and crowd out our native wildflowers. In fact, many formerly lovely areas have been entirely overrun with it.

You are the solution! We need you to pull garlic mustard! It's not hard; the plant is easily pulled in the spring when the soil is moist. We work from nine to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month. Join us April 25 and May 23. During May we'll also pull any time there are two or three of us to work an hour or two. Contact melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net if you are able to pull in Colonial at other times. Contact Valerie Mann, naturalist@pringlenc.org, if you are able to pull other times at Pringle.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bristol Stevan Savic
Burlington Lorrie De Bord, Anthony De Meo, Andrew Hart, Shawn Jelinek, Kathy Yoder
Delavan Larry Bagby, Colleen Callahan, Tracey Eaton
East Troy Kathryn Hungness
Elkhorn Richard Hickey, Thomas Laduc, John Unger, Pauline Zeman
Fontana Laura Bursh
Franksville David Prins

Kenosha Ella Albrecht, Cipriano Apicelli, Ron Brudny, Santos Cruz, Mary Gerger, Pam Holy, Ingrid Verhulst, Christopher Lawell, Linda D Zanot
Lake Geneva Gary Adamson, Jim Cusa, Shawn Murray, Beverley Schalz,
Mt Pleasant James L Schroeder, Norma J Schroeder
Pleasant Prairie Lori Theine, Kelly Rae
Racine Corey Ambrose, Dee Dee Davies, Jean Ferstl, W Patrick Fogarty, Glen A Halbe, Linda Jorgenson, Ann Lund, Kristin Rosholt, Lori Strausser,
Twin Lakes Mary Brady



The Wisconsin Breeding Bird Atlas II is a comprehensive citizen-science project aimed at recording the distribution and abundance of breeding birds in the state between 2015-2019 and how these populations have changed since the first Atlas project was conducted 15-20 years ago. Information collected over the next five years will further our understanding of conservation needs of Wisconsin's breeding birds. Volunteers of all abilities are crucial for the success of the project. Those that participate will learn about the data collection protocol, including the entry of their data via the WBBA II eBird website portal. For more information, go to: <http://wsobirds.org/atlas>

Please join us for the Highway 38 (from Hwy. K to 5 Mile Rd.) Cleanup on May 16th at 9:00 am. Contact John Berge at 262-633-8455 to sign up. Potluck at Warners follows.

Greening Greater Racine

Thanks to Wild Root Market for the following write-up!

SEGG representatives recently participated in the inaugural meeting of a newly forming coalition called Greening Greater Racine. The goal of this community initiative is to bring together local groups that each have an environmental focus to form a collective vision for a greener, more sustainable, Racine. Approximately 50 representatives from over 25 local churches and organizations attended the meeting on January 31 to discuss our efforts to lead municipalities in the Greater Racine area toward becoming Eco-municipalities. This process will involve:

- Developing a shared vision for change to which each group contributes;
- Establishing measurement systems to track progress;
- Specific projects and activities that each group undertakes to move the vision forward;
- Ongoing communication through which the groups share, report and strategize;
- Creating a centralized support organization to manage the process.

To kick off this initiative, SEGG is partnering with the coalition to host an exciting event on April 30th at the Golden Rondelle called, "How to Become an Eco-Municipality" with speaker Karl van Lith, trainer and consultant for The Natural Step in Madison. Call 262-260-2154 for reservations. The Natural Step is a grassroots, non-profit organization that fosters the creation of a more sustainable community and world through effective education, community action, and collaboration.

Want to know more? Go to

http://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/naturalStep/documents/Madison_TNScasestudy.pdf

for the whole story about how the City of Madison, WI used The Natural Step framework to bring the municipal government and community groups together in support of a common change initiative. We can re-create this huge success story in Racine!



Explore, Enjoy And Protect The Planet

SEGG Leadership

SEGG Executive Committee

LD (Red) Rockwell (Chair).....bsrrocky@gmail.com
Tom Rutkowski (Vice Chair).....natom@wi.rr.com
Betsy Georg (Secretary).....bgeorg@hotmail.com
Judy Rockwell (Delegate to JMC).....jjrockwell@gmail.com
Melissa Warner (Program Chair)...melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net

Other Group Leaders

Jeff Sytsma (Treasurer).....Jeff12759@aol.com
MaryAnn Ortmyer (Hospitality).....maortmyer@gmail.com
Rebecca Eisel (Webmaster).....SeggWebAdmin@gmail.com
Kari Olesen (Membership).....(262)995-4455

The newsletter of the Southeast Gateway Group of the Sierra Club is published six times each year by the Group newsletter staff. Please send articles, photographs of group activities, letters, calendar items and/or corrections and comments to Dana Huck at:

dhuck1105@wi.rr.com

Check out the newsletter in color, calendar updates and much more at <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway>. Visit our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubsoutheastgatewaygroup>.

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE-JULY 2015 ISSUE IS
MAY 1ST 2015**

Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club
1529 Crabapple Dr.
Racine, WI 53405-1705

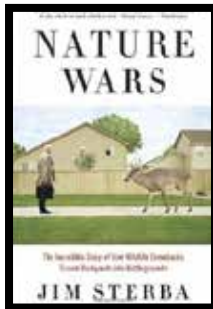
Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Racine, WI
Permit No. 1261



<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway>

<https://www.Facebook.com/SierraClubSoutheastGatewayGroup>

Book Club Selection - See article on p. 4.



Melissa Warner and Jeff Sytsma are justly proud of the amount of garlic mustard removed from Colonial Park by the SEGG Crew on a workday. See the article on p. 6 for information about getting involved this year!



Garlic Mustard
Photo by Melissa Warner

