



News of the
Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club
JUNE - JULY 2015
VOLUME 34, NO. 3

SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

JUNE PICNIC AND OUTING...JUNE 13TH

We are combining our annual June picnic with an outing to explore one of the sites in the new Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. We'll be at the Glacial Park Conservation Area in McHenry, Illinois. "Glacial Park is McHenry County Conservation District's most treasured open space holding, characterized by its rolling prairie, delta kames, oak savanna and the tranquil presence of the meandering Nippersink Creek." <http://www.mccdistrict.org/rccms/index.php/glacial-park/> The area offers hiking trails and bird watching with interpretive trail guides. The Lost Valley Visitors' Center has exhibits on geography and wildlife, and the historic Powers-Walter home offers a glimpse of life here in the late 1800s.

On Saturday, June 13th, arrive in the morning to explore the area, and meet by noon at the Harts Road shelter for lunch. Bring a dish to pass, your grillable (or not) entree, and beverage of your choice (beer and wine OK). If there is sufficient interest, a group may canoe or kayak on the Nippersink in the afternoon (on your own). Let MaryAnn Ortmyer (262-554 5058) know of your interest. Bring a friend who shares your environmental values! This is a great way to introduce someone new to Sierra Club.

The Harts Road shelter is the first shelter inside the entrance to Glacial Park located at 6316 Harts Road, Ringwood, Illinois. Take US Highway 12 south to IL 31. Follow IL 31 to Harts Road and turn right. The park entrance is about 1 mile west.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME (actually, we'll try to find some and put them in...)

Raising monarch butterflies from egg or larva to emerging adult is one of the most instructive things you can do with kids or for yourself. And it's so much fun to watch the day-to-day changes. Finally, releasing this fragile insect to the wide, wild world is a thrill. And every healthy adult we release helps sustain an increasingly threatened population.

All you need is a monarch rearing box and lots of milkweed! Jeff Sytsma and Melissa Warner will help you build your own box and stock it with milkweed. And we'll do our best to find eggs and larvae to put inside. We'll learn some amazing things about this lepidopteran and why its populations are threatened. Join us on June 14 about 2:00 pm at the Warner home, 4444 N. Green Bay Rd., Caledonia. Phone 639-0918 or email melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net for reservations and directions. \$15 covers materials and helps our monarch habitat projects. Space is limited, so reserve early.



**Monarch rearing box and photo by
Jeff Sytsma**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

June 8th, Monday, 3:00 pm, ExCom meeting at UW-Parkside, Tallent Hall, vending room. Meetings are open. If you have items for the agenda, contact bsrrocky@gmail.com or any ExCom member (See p. 7).

June 13th, Saturday, noon to ?, Annual picnic at the Harts Road picnic shelter at Glacial Park, 6316 Harts Rd., Ringwood, IL. See P. 1.

June 14th, Sunday, 2:00 pm Monarch rearing box building at Warners, 4444 N. Green Bay Rd., Caledonia. Cost \$15, Reservations required. Contact Melissa Warner at 639-0918 or melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net. See P. 1.

June 27th, 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.

JULY

There will be no ExCom meeting in July.

July 18th, Saturday, Work day, picnic and paddling opportunity at Lulu Lake, N9564 Nature Rd., Troy Center in Walworth County, with the Great Waters Group (Milwaukee area). Details will appear on the website and in the E-news Update or contact melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net.

July 25th, Saturday, 8:30 am (note change of date and earlier than usual starting time), 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, pointed sticks and bags. Wear good walking shoes, gloves and weather appropriate clothing. There will be a potluck lunch afterwards at Warners, 4444 N. Green Bay Road, Caledonia. We need some more (and younger) participants! Contact John Berge, 633-8455.

July 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.



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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
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Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Concerned about Climate Change? Put it in Writing!

Too busy for another meeting but still want to take action on climate change? Join the campaign to put climate change on Paul Ryan's agenda. The local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby has organized an effort to send 100 climate-related letters a month to Congressman Paul Ryan. Commit to writing one letter a month and sign up for the 100 Letters Campaign using the form on the web site below. We'll send you a monthly reminder and keep track of how many letters are sent each month.

<https://sites.google.com/site/100letterscampaign/>

FROM THE CHAIR

By LD Rockwell



National update:

Are you ready to lose our nation's last, greatest wilderness area forever?

Five years after the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history—and we're still finding oil.

"Oil washing up on beaches. Oil at the bottom of the gulf. Oil covering dolphins, killing turtles, and poisoning birds. But none of that matters to Shell. The Administration just confirmed the oil company's lease to drill off Arctic shores, and Shell is moving huge oil rigs to the Arctic right now. The same Arctic that's considered our planet's greatest natural treasure, where the extreme, frigid climate would make oil spill clean-up virtually impossible. The same Arctic that has less and less ice to spare every year."

This quote comes from Michael Brune, and it is a good lead into my column. Michael fails to mention the economic impact that the gulf oil spill caused and that still continues today. In addition, BP has been working to get back money paid out on claims that they contend are fraudulent, and this involves the majority of the few claims they have paid.

In the meantime, the nay-sayers continue to deny what is probably the most evident factor in the entire world: The melting of the glaciers and the changing climate. The rise of water around the world. And the nay-sayers continue to insist this is NOT caused by man?

More locally, plans are in the works to build a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks. From what I have heard about the proposed plan presented by the designers, this structure will require mega amounts of electric power. That only takes into account the lights and marquees. Winter will, of course, require even more energy. No matter what the source, electricity or gas, it will be substantial; pulling on

the energy grid for extreme amounts of power.

I wrote to Congressman Paul Ryan last week about fracking/drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. His response was, of course, the usual lip-sync, touting how safe it was to drill and, specifically frack drill, drilling in the Arctic was not a great risk, the US needs all of that oil, and it would mean energy security for America!!! Never mind that with almost certainty all of that oil will go on the world market. So where is Americas' energy security??

JMC Chapter reviewed

For those of you that are not aware, the chapter has new headquarters. The old office was becoming problematic & a drawback. Some occupants that had signed long term leases walked out, leaving JMC obligated for rent of the entire office space. The cost of phone service was taxing. So the search began for a new residence. The office is now at 754 Williamson Street. From all that has been said it appears quite satisfactory

Update from the local news

First I need to update you on our June picnic. I had proceeded with planning the picnic on June 20th not realizing that was Midwest Renewable Energy Association Energy Fair weekend. Since many SEGG members will be in Custer, Wisconsin on 6/20 I rescheduled for 6/13; time is unchanged. I was able to keep our shelter. For additional information on the shelter go to www.MCCDistrict.org and click on "sites". Look for "Glacial Park." MaryAnn and I discussed having a canoe/kayak trip on the Nippersink. So if you are so inclined bring your canoe or kayak and proceed up or down the Nippersink. For assurance of sufficient water levels on our day at Hackmatack, check out this web site. www.MCCDistrict.org/web/canoe-access

For those of you that are interested in helping monarch sanctuaries, McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) will be constructing sanctuaries, and conducting other programs. Check out <http://www.mccd.org/rccms/index.php/special-events/>

Bubbling Bobolink, Thursday, June 18th 6:00-8:30 P.M. for information please call Prairieview Education Center (815) 479-5779.

And my favorite, Ice Cream Social of 1858, Sunday, June 14th, Noon – 4:00 P.M; at "Powers House" Route 31 & Harts Rd. Ringwood, IL

COMMENTARY ON LAWN CARE

By Amy Jo Cagney

As the warm months are here, many of us turn our attention to our yards, whether it be gardening, trimming the shrubs, or cutting the grass. It is this last project, to maintaining grassy areas of the yard that I wish to address.

I am asking several actions of all our members, to protect the health of humans and wildlife, and lower the emissions of CO₂.

- Keep the grass at about 2-3 inches high. This keeps the grassy areas more dense and less likely to allow plants such as dandelions, which some don't like, to root and grow.
- Water the grass only when needed because water is such a precious commodity. Please do so in the early morning to avoid evaporation from sunlight.
- Please avoid using herbicides on the grassy areas of your yard. Herbicides kill unwanted plants, but can also injure humans, companion animals, birds and wildlife, sometimes seriously. One commonly used herbicide, 2, 4-D, was one of the active ingredients in Agent Orange, the defoliant used in the Viet Nam war. Other herbicides can also have toxic effects, such as glyphosate, the active ingredient in Round-Up® products.
- Please always use a push mower to cut the grass. Gas-mowers use fossil fuel. Mowing the grass for one hour carries the emissions equivalent to driving 150-200 miles in a gas-powered car. A push mower is powered by muscles, energy, and sweat. Benefits include getting some exercise, saving money, using a quieter machine, and avoiding CO₂ emissions. Push mowers are lighter now than decades ago, are easy to use and do a good job.
- If you prefer to avoid the chore of mowing, please consider digging up the grass and planting ground covers of native vegetation that does not need much attention.

By following these steps, I believe you will be healthier, protect pets and wildlife from harm, and have more time for fun with your family.

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SEGG BOOK CLUB Fall Selection Your Choice

The Southeast Gateway Group Book Club has two objectives: 1) to find books concerning pertinent topics dealing with our environment, present and past, to read and be informed; 2) to share these ideas with each other after an informal potluck. The book selection may be more topical, selected for a specific idea either nationally or internationally, or it may have a historical context with people and places of the past, what they found and fought for and implications today. The book club usually meets the fourth Thursday of a selected month, usually three or four times a year. The selection process is informal. Pick a book or topic and let us know so that publicity can be established through the newsletter and at meeting announcements. Usually whoever selects the book also hosts a pot luck supper with a discussion to follow, but hosting is not required to make a suggestion. Anyone is welcome to join the group at anytime for either the discussion or the pot luck, or both.

The first topic will be CLIMATE CHANGE. This time we will all read something different, Find a primary source about climate change either about causes, effects, nationally or internationally, and future predictions. Or perhaps read something that negates the charges that permanent changes are taking place. The book could be written by a meteorologist, sociologist, ethics philosopher, historian etc. Bring your book, if possible, and we will brain storm and share ideas.

The first book club meeting resuming after summer will be Thursday, September 24 at Mary Ann Ortmayer and Harry Knipp's home, 4033 Wickford Place, Racine. Potluck will be at 5:30 PM with topic discussion on CLIMATE CHANGE to follow at 7:00 PM. Please RSVP or direct any questions to maortmayer@gmail.com, or 262-554-5058

BEES STILL IN TROUBLE

by John Berge

What a joy to see our native, ground-dwelling bees emerge and go visiting the crocuses, blue Scilla, Dutchman's britches, winter aconite and bloodroot flowers. Their numbers seem smaller than other years, but that may be due to the harsh winter, the earliness of the season when I wrote this, or insecticides. Although I don't broadcast any on our lawn, there are those in the neighborhood who do. But the biggest problem of declining numbers is the honeybees, those non-native, migrant agricultural workers, so important to many of our fruit and vegetable crops. Most of us are aware of Colony Collapse Disorder, which has seen many hives losing all their inhabitants or suffering greatly reduced numbers.

There does not seem to be a single cause, but parasitic mites, pesticides, immune system issues, stress and poor nutrition were cited as possible contributing factors in a recent *Christian Science Monitor* article. So what is a good environmentalist supposed to do? That same article made the following suggestions:

Grow a variety of plants to supply nectar and pollen throughout the growing season. Our native bees prefer native plants, but honeybees are less restrictive and will gladly visit your flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals, even if they are non-natives. Provide water for them to drink. A small dish on the ground near the flowers or a birdbath with a suitable landing area will do fine. Give the native bees shelter. Honeybees may want a hive, but the natives generally live underground or in rotting logs and dead tree limbs. So here is an excuse not to make your garden or yard too clean and neat.

A concern not discussed in that article, but possibly the most important, is the use of neonicotinoids, thought by many to be a key factor in the decline of all sorts of bees and other pollinators. In Europe, at least three of this class of insecticides have been banned from use on

any flowering plants. In this country, many of the plant suppliers for garden centers and "big box stores" have been using neonicotinoids, which are systemic and so persist in the plants one brings home for the yard and garden, probably for their lifetime and in the pollen and nectar. Ask your dealers if their plants have been so treated and, if so, urge them to buy from a supplier that does not use neonicotinoids and state that you will shop elsewhere. If enough people express their concern, business practices can be changed. The EPA has stated that it was unlikely to approve new uses for this class of pesticides "until new bee data have been submitted and pollinator risk assessments are complete." According to an article by David Jolly in *The New York Times*, American opponents of neonicotinoid use delivered more than four million signatures to the White House in March calling for stronger action to protect pollinators.

In an ironic twist, a study reported in the journal *Nature*, showed that bumblebees and honeybees actually preferred sugar water containing low doses of a neonicotinoid over plain sugar water as food. Geraldine Wright of Newcastle University in England who led the study, showed that the bees can't taste the pesticide, so it may be that, like humans smoking cigarettes for the nicotine, the bees may get a "buzz" from the neonicotinoid. But unlike humans, they can't read and heed a Surgeon General's warning on the package.

In another study reported in *Nature*, Maj Rundlöf of Lund University in Sweden reported that when comparing 8 fields planted with rape seeds treated with the neonicotinoid, clothianidin, and a fungicide with 8 fields with seed treated only with the fungicide, the former had reduced density of wild bees and reduced colony growth in bumblebees, specifically. But in this study, the researchers saw no significant impact on honeybee colonies.

SEGG Conservation Committee Update

By Barry Thomas

After Laura Feider moved to California, no one volunteered to replace her as Conservation Committee Chair. At the January 2014 Planning Retreat, I suggested that we have three co-chairs, one for each of the three counties that comprise SEGG. I volunteered to be the Kenosha co-chair and L.D. Rockwell agreed to be the Walworth County co-chair and later Vickie Stellato became the Racine County co-chair. Having a co-chair for each county provides more awareness of conservation issues that occur in those localities. The role of the co-chairs is to be aware of and communicate environmental issues in their communities, to announce local environmental events, meetings, and hearings of interest, to solicit letters and phone calls to elected officials on local issues and to schedule screenings of films or field trips of environmental importance. A future goal is to have a list of officials or organizations that can be contacted in each county to address environmental problems.

The Racine County division of the conservation committee has adopted Colonial Park for ecosystem management and the Kenosha division has done the same for Bristol Woods County Park. If you would like to receive updates on local issues and events from the co-chair for your county, please use their e-mail listed under the SEGG Leadership section of this newsletter.

RAIN BARREL ART

Each Spring, St. Lucy School holds an annual fundraiser. Every class completes an art project that is auctioned off at the fundraiser. This year, one of the classroom projects was to decorate a rain barrel.



Photo Contributed By And Published With Permission Of St. Lucy School

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bristol	Robert Einhorn
Burlington	Abigail Fredenberg, Rich Weiss
Caledonia	Holly Cayse
Camp Lake	Euegene Lamb
Delavan	Helen Mullis, Charlene Staples
Elkhorn	Doreen Snodie
Franksville	Leah Hinze, Mary A Skold
Genoa City	Seleta Varga
Kenosha	David Bobst, Jack Kuehn, Jan Marshall, Kathleen Martinelli, David L Pagliaroni, Robert Sorensen, Kurt Stein, John Weston, Joyce Wynne
Lake Geneva	Stanley Kielmar
Mount Pleasant	Valorie Frame-heidenreich
Pleasant Prairie	Nancy Earley, Mary Lewis, Karen Odorizzi, John Page, Carol Ryzak
Racine	Kathleen Foldy, Thomas Haakenson, Nancy L Juern, Carol Keller, Bongo Praninsky, Spencer Robertson, Doug Stansil
Twin Lakes	James Clendenning, Amanda Lewis
Walworth	Lisa Brickler, Melodie O'Leary
Waterford	Dennis King, Jeffrey Weber
Williams Bay	Don Rickard, Kevin Roettiger

HELP WANTED:

The ExCom is seeking 2 or 3 persuasive individuals to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for seeking talented, qualified candidates for the fall election to the SEGG Executive Committee. Interested parties should contact L.D. Rockwell at bsrrocky@gmail.com.



Explore, Enjoy And Protect The Planet

SEGG Leadership

SEGG Executive Committee

LD (Red) Rockwell (Chair; Conservation, Walworth Co.).....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 Ortmayer (Hospitality).....maortmayer@gmail.com
 Rebecca Eisel (Webmaster).....SeggWebAdmin@gmail.com
 Kari Olesen (Membership).....(262)995-4455
 Barry Thomas (Conservation, Kenosha Co.)..bthomas6@wi.rr.com
 Vickie Stellato (Conservation, Racine Co.).....gik@wi.net

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
 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015 ISSUE IS
 JULY 1ST 2015**

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Releasing adult monarchs with Kendall Lokay, Melissa Warner's granddaughter. See article on p. 1 to learn how you can help these beautiful butterflies. Photo by Jay Warner.



Please join us for the Highway 38 (from Hwy. K to 5 Mile Rd.) Cleanup on July 25th at 8:30 am. Contact John Berge at 262-633-8455 to sign up. Potluck at Warners follows.