



News of the
Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015
VOLUME 34, NO. 4

SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

AN APOLOGY AND A SUGGESTION

by John Berge

There were a few complaints, and a lower than usual turnout at the Group's picnic this year, due to the delay in getting the previous newsletter into the hands of our membership. As "distribution manager" (an unofficial title for just one of the many volunteer positions involved with producing our newsletter), I wish to apologize sincerely to our members for its lateness and give a bit of explanation.

Our writers are usually pretty good at getting the material to the editor on time or giving notice of a legitimate reason for being late. Then the editor lays out the material in the format that you receive, checks for accuracy and the need for additional information, then gets it to the proof readers in a timely fashion. After final proofing and adjustments, the pictures, usually submitted as color jpg's, are converted to half-tones and the final layout is sent to the printers sometime around the tenth of the month. In May, the printer was finished with it on the morning of the 18th. I picked it up from them, a few volunteers assembled and folded it, and I delivered it to the mail house on that Friday afternoon.

Because of very unusual circumstances that probably never will happen again, the electronic file of addresses was not available and the newsletters sat for a week until I told the mail house to use the previous issue's file. Interrupted by the Memorial Holiday, they did the final fold, attached the required seals, printed the addresses and delivered the sorted newsletters to the post office on June 3rd. We received our copy in Racine on June 13, the afternoon after the picnic. Up to a ten-day delay for bulk mail at each post office it passes through is legal by their regulations. I have no idea when those members in Kenosha and Walworth Counties received theirs.

Now for the suggestion: The members with access to the internet and who would like their newsletters more promptly via the internet, send your request with your e-mail address to the editor, Dana Huck at dhuck1105@wi.rr.com. By doing this, you assure that you:

- (1) will get your copy electronically around the middle of the month prior to the items in the Calendar,
- (2) will see the photographs in color, and
- (3) will save the Southeast Gateway Group the cost of printing and mailing your copy.

Depending on whether you wish to print out the entire issue or just the calendar page, you can also be saving paper! The latest issue and numerous back issues are also available on our website, printed on the bottom of every page.

Some organizations are switching to only electronic distribution of their newsletters. We want to be sure that every member receives our newsletters, whether electronically or by "snail mail". We can't be sure you read it, but we can be sure that it is on your computer promptly or in your mailbox eventually.

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

August 22nd, Saturday, 9:00 am - noon, Invasive Species Work Day in Colonial Park and Bristol Woods. Contact Barry Thomas, bthomas6@wi.rr.com, (Bristol Woods), or Melissa Warner, melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net, (Colonial Park) for more information.

August 31st, 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)

SEPTEMBER

September 10th, 5:45 pm, Cruisin' for Cuisine, at Envi, 316 Main St., Racine. Tour and dinner. RSVP to Melissa Warner, melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net or 262-639-0918. (See article on p. 5.)

September 17th, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Program meeting, *A Wilderness Icon: Utah's Red Rock Canyonlands*, at the SCJohnson/Gateway Technical IMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant. (See article on p. 4.)

September 19th, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Highway 38 Cleanup. Meet in the parking lot of Blessed Hope 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!

September 26th, Saturday, 9:00 am - noon, Invasive Species Work Day in Colonial Park and Bristol Woods. Contact Barry Thomas, bthomas6@wi.rr.com, (Bristol Woods), or Melissa Warner, melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net, (Colonial Park) for more information.



**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 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

1608

F94Q W 1

OTHER EVENTS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

August 14th, Friday, 9:30 am - 11:00 am, Celebrate Lake Michigan Day at Pringle Nature Center, 9800 Co Hwy MB, Bristol. For more information go to <http://www.pringlenc.org/Events.html>

August 14th, Friday, 9:30 pm - 11:00 pm, Perseids Meteor Shower Viewing at Pringle Nature Center, 9800 Co Hwy MB, Bristol. For more information go to <http://www.pringlenc.org/Events.html>

August 29th, Saturday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Leave No Child Inside: Come & Explore at Pringle Nature Center, 9800 Co Hwy M B, Bristol. For more information go to <http://www.pringlenc.org/Events.html>.

September 19th, Saturday, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm, Fall Fun Fest and Bird City Festival: Restore Habitat, Restore Birds, at Pringle Nature Center, 9800 Co Hwy M B, Bristol. For more information go to <http://www.pringlenc.org/Events.html>

FROM THE CHAIR

By LD Rockwell



So here we go again! As I organize another Group letter, another pipeline ruptured and has spilled some twenty-one thousand gallons of oil with more to come. We are assured by the powers that be that precautions will be in place to protect the responders' health and limit environmental pollution. IF they were actually interested in protecting health and the environment, they would discontinue the use of fossil fuels and start working towards clean energy. So for now we must proceed with a clean-up paid for by money from our wallets and continue not only paying exorbitant prices when we gas up our automobiles to drive to work, but let Congress give away our tax money to big oil.

"It's hard to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding," Upton Sinclair.

On June 6th I participated in the Enbridge Pipeline rally, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Hopefully the presence of several thousand participants (reports say 5,000),



Elizabeth Ward's oil balloon & signs to establish clean energy Photo by L.D. Rockwell

will change opinions. The rally was led by Native Americans from across Minnesota and Wisconsin.

As Bill Hudson of WCCO-TV, St. Paul, Minnesota reported, "Saturday's 'Tar Sands Resistance March' was led by a large contingent of the region's indigenous people. Native Americans fear that transporting more oil in underground pipelines only threatens sensitive tribal lands. In addition, they argue that burning more fossil fuels will further exacerbate climate change and a warming planet. Others came as indignant protesters — angered over the recently approved Sandpiper oil pipeline that would cut through Minnesota's lakes region and the Mississippi headwaters. The 90-minute march ended at the state capitol where speakers, including the national Sierra Club president Aaron Mair, called on politicians and big oil to stop stalling cleaner, safer energy alternatives."

On June 13th, we spent a day at Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge (HWLR) for our annual picnic. Although attendance was low, we did enjoy the company and the beauty that is Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge. Harry Knipp and his daughter Jessica spent time kayaking on the Nippersink, with Mary Ann shuttling their vehicle.

For the SEGG, our group will be short another person. With Kari Olesen departing Wisconsin, we will miss her and the many abilities she provided to SEGG. So now we must find a replacement for the membership chair. Dana Huck has agreeably accepted the responsibilities of monitoring the newsletter mailing list and working with John Berge to ensure timely

Continued on p. 5



2015 Year-End Picnic at Hackmatack Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Judy Rockwell



A WILDERNESS ICON: UTAH'S RED ROCK CANYONLANDS

America's red rock canyonlands wilderness, located in southern Utah, draws pilgrims from across the country and around the world. It is the largest network of undesignated wilderness lands remaining in the lower 48 states – at its heart lies the Greater Canyonlands region surrounding Canyonlands National Park.

Clayton Daughenbaugh, conservation organizer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will tell us about efforts to preserve this unique area at 6:30 pm on September 17th, at the SCJohnson/Gateway Technical IMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd., Sturtevant. The program includes “Wild Utah”, a multi-media presentation documenting citizen efforts to designate public lands in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. This 15-minute journey through red rock splendor, narrated by Robert Redford, encourages viewers to help protect these unique lands. It was made possible through the generous donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahans who wish to pass this heritage on to future generations.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and its partners in the Utah Wilderness Coalition seek to gain local support for the “Citizens’ Proposal” to protect wilderness areas in Utah’s red rock canyonlands. Comprehensive legislation is pending in Congress and administrative decisions by the White House and the Department of Interior are ongoing.

Daughenbaugh also serves as the volunteer Chair of the Sierra Club’s National Wildlands Committee and as Vice President for its Grassroots Network.

NOTE: This program was originally scheduled for October 2014.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORK DAYS

Our attention in the fall returns to removing honeysuckle and buckthorn. These mid-story shrubs and small trees leaf out early in the spring and stay green later in the fall, shading the forest floor so that native ground layer plants fail to thrive. While birds do eat the berries, they have an emetic effect, resulting in - well - diarrhea, which is not healthy for the birds. Some research indicates that buckthorn produces a toxin in the soil that harms amphibians. Because they grow thickly, they reduce both physical and visual access to the river.

In Colonial Park, we will be working on both sides of the river pathway. Come join us on August 22nd and September 26th! As always, wear long trousers with sturdy shoes and socks. We have tools.

Cruisin' for Cuisine

By Melissa Warner

Envi is a green-themed restaurant and lounge at 316 Main Street in Racine. I'm curious about what makes a restaurant "green," and maybe you are, too. I checked their web site, and a Journal Times article (Mick Burke: July 20, 2011) and I learned some interesting stuff. Much of the material used was recycled from other places, such as a wall from Nike that was discarded because "they didn't like the color." The flooring is cork or bamboo, toilets and faucets are all rated for low flow, and even the coasters are cork-flooring samples. In addition the menu has many items labeled "local," "organic" or "sustainable."

I hope you are curious enough to join us for a tour on Thursday, September 10th. Owner Doug Nicholson will show us every nook and cranny, from the bar and dance floor on the first level to the patio upstairs. We'll gather at 5:45 pm (buy a drink if you like) and tour from 6:00 to 6:30. And of course we'll stay for dinner. Check out their interesting menu at <http://www.enviultralounge.com/food-drink> Please RSVP (melissa.warner@sbcglobal.net or 262 639-0918) by September 6th so we can make reservations as a group. You are welcome to join us for dinner even if you can't make the tour. (Alert: no elevator to second floor.)



Mighty Acorns students planting native prairie plants at Bristol Woods County Park. Photo by Barry Thomas

SEGG Receives a Mann Grant

Kenosha County Conservation Committee Co-chair, Barry Thomas, recently received a Mann Grant from the John Muir Chapter. The Ronald Mann Endowment Fund is a bequest of \$50,000 to the Sierra Club Foundation. Management of the endowed fund is to provide ongoing support for the charitable activities of the Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter for the protection and preservation of the environment.

The grant for \$829 was to purchase a rototiller and native prairie plants for use in a prairie restoration project in Bristol Woods County Park. Kenosha Dimensions of Learning students who participate in Chicago Wilderness's *Mighty Acorns Program* helped with the planting in May.

The *Mighty Acorns Program* connects urban youth with nature through experiential education. The students make three seasonal study trips to Bristol Woods County Park during the school year, each with a slightly different focus covering topics such as adaptation, interdependence, competition for resources, and diversity. Students also engage in active restoration of the park by collecting seeds from native plants in the fall, removing invasive shrubs in the winter, and sowing native seeds in the spring. This fall they will collect seeds from their May plantings.

In this ever-increasing digital age of internet and social media, this project allows the children to connect with nature through multiple, sustained interactions with the natural world, thus fostering future generations who care enough for natural communities to preserve and protect them in perpetuity.

Chair, *Continued from p. 3.*

mailing of the newsletter. Judy Rockwell has agreed to take care of the annual calendar sales. We still need a person to lead the nominating committee. Their task will be to find candidates to serve on the ExCom.

Thanks to all that voted in the national Board of Directors balloting. Spencer Black won another term. As noted above there is a new president. Aaron Mair will lead the BOD.

Thanks L.D.

YEAR-END PICNIC

By Mary Ann Ortmyer

It has been a tradition for the past years to end our Southeast Gateway meeting year with a picnic before we break for the summer months. We gather up our picnic baskets, hiking shoes, kayaks/canoes, good recipes or whatever else might be useful and head out. This year we visited our newest National Wildlife Refuge Hackmatack at Harts Road Shelter on Saturday, June 13th. The name Hackmatack is an Indian word meaning “tamarack.” Hackmatack started with just 12 acres of land in 2012. SEGG was instrumental in sponsoring hearings and support to grow these wetlands, prairie and oak savanna into the 11,200 acres it will become. The core of the refuge is made from the Glacial Park Conservation District of McHenry County, Illinois. This wonderful facility includes the Lost Valley Visitor Center, a Research Field Station and a Research Library, the Wiedrich Barn built in 1902 and the Powers-Walker Homestead from 1858. The Park includes interpretive nature trails where one can visit the seasonal plant communities, wildlife including endangered Blanding turtles, Northern Harriers and Forster’s terns. The geology aspects encountered on the trails include large hills called “kames”, “kettle” marshes, bog wetlands and sedge meadows containing popular plants such as Spotted Joe-Pye weed and Michigan Lily.

Running through the Reserve in a West-East direction is the Nippersink Creek where one can spend part of the day navigating the meanders in a rented canoe or kayak (or providing your own). Using one of four boat landings in the immediate vicinity this year we put in at Pioneer Road Landing and paddled the 2-1/2 hrs to the next downstream landing. What is so wonderful about our new Hackmatack is you do not have to be a wilderness scout or have a scout badge for canoeing to enjoy this newest refuge. As we heard some new enthusiasts on the 100 ft wide Nippersink say “I have never seen a cow so close up” in reference to one in an adjoining pasture some 1000 ft away! Remember the refuge is for the endangered species which includes 49 birds, five fish, five mussels, one amphibian, two reptiles and 47 plants. As the refuge grows it will provide education, observation and wildlife opportunities to millions of people in nearby metropolitan areas.

Therefore, it is my recommendation to announce the year-end picnic for June 2016 at Hackmatack once again. Let us hike the Loop Trails of Glacial Park, canoe/kayak the Nippersink for three hours from Keystone RD landing to Pioneer RD landing and picnic

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

2015 Autumn Assembly

By Judy Rockwell

John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly will take place October 2-4 hosted by the Four Lakes Group <http://www.4lakes.org> at the Perlstein Resort and Conference Center in Lake Delton. <http://www.gojcc.org/perlstien-resort>. This is a fun family event with activities for all ages.

The theme this year is Local Acts - Statewide Impacts. Keynote speakers are James Edward Mills, Mike McCabe and Scott Wittcopf.

James Edward Mills, a freelance journalist, independent media producer and author of *The Adventure Gap* will discuss connecting more people with nature and lead a workshop on expanding the reach and appeal of our outings.

Mike McCabe is author of *Blue Jeans in High Places* and former Executive Director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. He is one of Wisconsin’s leading whistleblowers and political money trackers and will help us see the connection between environment and democracy.

Scott Wittcopf of the Forward Institute and www.frame-thefuture.com will discuss how to frame progressive campaign messages and in breakout sessions will provide help with messaging for our issues or campaigns.

There will be lots of activities to enjoy Friday through Sunday including early morning bird walks Saturday and Sunday, canoeing on Lake Blass, films and campfires.

Friday before the Assembly there will be tours of the International Crane Foundation and Aldo Leopold’s Legacy Center and “shack”. Saturday evening is dinner, silent auction, and chapter awards. Sunday afternoon there will be a presentation by UW geologist, David Mickelson, followed by an Upper Wisconsin Dells boat tour and hikes led by David.

Register online today <http://action.sierraclub.org/Calendar?id=177581&view=Detail>. Registration deadline is September 13, 2015. Contact the John Muir Chapter office with questions john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org or 608-256-0565

at Kettle Lot. And if you want a guaranteed wonderful “outdoor” experience plan to join us! Let’s beat the drum for this newest US Wildlife Refuge. For more information about Hackmatack see www.fws.gov/refuge/hackmatack or call 815-273-2732 or MCCDistrict.org, 815-338-6223.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Burlington	Lloyd Andresen
Darien	James Wooldridge
Delavan	Dori Block, Don Branton, Don Lesak, Evelyn Schulz
Elkhorn	Angela Bullock, Deborah Loeding, Diane Schroeder
Kenosha	John Gustin, Richard Jahnke, Josephine Kolner, Dennis Moccardini, Amanda Petrovic, Susan Wolf
Lake Geneva	Shawn Ricci
Mt. Pleasant	Nancy Holmlund, Mike & Susan Lorber
Racine	Lee Bradley, Brianna Wilkinson
Silver Lake	Phillip Wentland
Waterford	Dean Bender, Paul Dittman, G Wisniewski
Whitewater	Joan D Maasz
Williams Bay	Julianne Macarus

THE GREEN AWARD GOES TO....

SEGG awards chairperson Barry Thomas presented the 2015 Green Award at the annual dinner on May 21st. The award was given to the Westosha Central Environmental Club for their effort to promote recycling in their school. The problem at Westosha Central like many high schools is that recyclables get mixed in with trash and then everything ends up in the landfill. To help out in the lunchroom they are building a recycle bin made out of bottles collected at the school. They are making posters to hang around the building and are meeting with classes to emphasize the benefits of recycling as well as the consequences of not recycling. A video to promote recycling awareness is also in the works. The club has been trying to raise money to get a water bottle refill station placed in the cafeteria and they are about half way to meeting their goal. We hope our donation will allow them to realize their dream.

RAISING MONARCHS SEE PHOTOS ON P. 8

By Dana Huck

On June 14th, my grandson, Ian, age 12, and I built a Monarch box with some help from Jeff Sytsma and Melissa Warner. Ian was able to find some milkweed with some VERY tiny caterpillars to start the process. He took the box home and watched as those VERY tiny caterpillars became beautiful Monarch butterflies.

By Ian Huck

The butterfly experience was cool. It amazed me how fast the caterpillars ate and grew. It took almost 2 weeks until we had to get milkweed from my Grandma's house. Apparently, the milkweed had more caterpillars on it. In the end I has a total of 6 caterpillars. Four have made chysalises, and 2 have emerged so far. Altogether it was fun and cool.



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
 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
OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE IS
SEPTEMBER 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>



See article on p. 7
Photos by Melissa Warner (left) and Hillary Huck (below)



Westosha Central Environmental Club,
2015 Green Award Recipients. See article
on p. 7. *Photo courtesy of the Club*

