



# SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

News of the  
Southeast Gateway Group  
of the Sierra Club

APRIL / MAY 2016  
VOLUME 35, No. 2

## From the Vice Chair by Judy Rockwell

Throughout 2016, the Sierra Club is celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Park Service. There will be programs, outings and conservation activities to participate in locally and state wide. Watch for more information on our website:

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

To celebrate the centennial, the Wisconsin Historical Society is providing an exhibit about John Muir called "Wisconsin's John Muir" to 25 libraries and historical societies in the state. Eight panels cover John Muir's growing up in Wisconsin, his views on various environmental issues and the movement to create national parks. The exhibit will be at the Waterford Public Library, 101 North River Street, from March 29 to April 12. It is free and open to the public. Library hours are Monday-Wednesday from 9am-8pm, Thursday and Friday from 9am-6pm and Saturday from 9am-1pm. Some other locations in southeast Wisconsin also hosting the exhibit are Oak Creek (April 12), Fort Atkinson (August 16), and Jefferson (October 25). For more information visit: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/muirexhibit>

It's beginning to feel like spring. After listening to Tim Fulton's talk on native pollinators in January, are you planning what to do in your own space and in your communities to attract butterflies and other pollinators? It will be fun to hear about your experiences. I haven't used herbicides and pesticides for years so the yard and gardens are all organic. This year I plan to let the part of the yard that is mostly clover and creeping Charlie go unmowed for part of the summer because the bumble bees love the blossoms. Last year they even had a nest there. I know creeping Charlie is invasive, but because it's already here and is so difficult to get rid of, I'll let it be. Swamp milkweed, common milkweed and butterfly weed for monarchs grow near my house. I will plant nectar flowers for both bees and butterflies in one of the raised beds in the vegetable garden. Most of my plantings this year will be native plants and host and nectar plants for butterflies.

For more information, Tim Fulton recommended the book, *Attracting Native Pollinators from the Xerxes Society*. Another book I've used is *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin* by Lynn M. Steiner. Both books are available from libraries. Garlic mustard and buckthorn have taken over my woods, so again this year that will be a top priority so that native plants will have a chance. Can't wait to get my hands in the dirt!

Walworth County members, if you would like to attend monthly meetings, but would rather not drive, please contact me about carpooling at: [jjrockwell@gmail.com](mailto:jjrockwell@gmail.com)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## APRIL

**Thursday, April 7:** Hoy Audubon Meeting featuring SEGG member Stan Rosenstiel who will share his biking and birding experience from Florida to California-and back! Kenosha Northside Library, 1500 27th Ave., 7:00 PM. (see page 5)

**Saturday, April 9:** Ice Age Trail Hike, 9:00 AM. Join Al Sommer for a 7-mile hike on the Blue Spring Lake segment of the Ice Age Trail in Jefferson County. (see page 6)

**Monday, April 11:** Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 PM, Kenosha's Southwest Library, 7979 38th Ave.

**Sunday, April 17:** Talk by Timothy Van Deelan, "Resurgent Large Carnivores of the Midwest", Gateway Technical College Kenosha Campus, 3520 30th Ave., BioSciences Bldg., Room 120 at 6:30 PM (see page 4)

**April 23 or 25:** WATERshed Project Volunteer Training, 10:00-Noon on either day (see page 3)

## MAY

**Friday, May 6:** Deadline to RSVP for SEGG Annual Dinner! (see page 6)

**Monday, May 9:** Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 PM, Kenosha's Southwest Library, 7979 38th Ave.

**Saturday, May 14:** Adopt-a-Highway Clean Up, 9:00 AM - State Hwy 38. Meet in the parking lot of Blessed Hope Church, corner of Hwy 38 and Four Mile Rd for check-in, equipment and assignments. (see page 5)

**Thursday, May 19:** SEGG Annual Dinner Event - Charcoal Grill, 8300 Washington Avenue, Racine - 5:30 PM cash bar available; 6:15 PM dinner (see page 5)



**Yes!** I want to make a difference.  
I want to be a member of the Sierra Club and help preserve the beauty of our Earth.

**FREE GIFT**  
with any new membership

New Member or Gift Member Recipient Name(s)

Address

City State Zip

Phone (optional)

Email (optional)

From time to time, we make our mailing list available to other worthy organizations. If you prefer your name NOT be included, please check here.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (Check One)

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	---
Regular	<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"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
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 and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine plus \$1 for your chapter's newsletter.

### PAYMENT METHOD: (Check One)

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Your Name(s)

Address

City State Zip

Phone / Email (optional)



Enclose payment and mail to:  
Sierra Club  
PO Box 42041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

**Thank You!**

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## The WATERshed Project

by Nancy Carlson

The WATERshed project introduces 4th and 7th grade students to how their daily activities affect the Root-Pike watershed and Lake Michigan. Many Racine students are missing out on a meaningful watershed experiences at home and at school. In fact, when asked, many students have never seen nor had anyone actually taken them to the Great Lakes.

Even though Lake Michigan provides drinking water to all Racine residents, students have limited or no opportunity to learn about this precious resource during the school year. With this project, the young people of Racine are ensured to grow up into knowledgeable citizens capable of making informed decisions that keep our watershed healthy.

Each year the WATERshed Program introduces over 3,000 Racine Unified 4th and 7th grade students to how their daily activities affect the Root-Pike Watershed. Students discover what goes into storm water discharge and where it ends up. The WATERshed Program is geared to help students connect with Lake Michigan, and to motivate them to make personal decisions which will impact our watershed in a positive way.

**This year we are looking for volunteers who are willing to assist with a two-hour field trip at Zoo Beach in Racine during the month of May. If you're interested in the Great Lakes, community development and educating Racine's youth - then this is a program for you!**

### Commitments include:

- Attend a two hour training session at Zoo Beach on April 23 **or** April 25 at 10 AM
- Become trained in use of simple water sampling tools
- Willingness to follow program guidelines
- Motivated to make a change in our community
- Ability to work outdoors

To be part of this unique project, please contact Nancy Carlson at [nacarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:nacarlson@hotmail.com)



# Lions! and Wolves! and Bears! Oh My!!

## *Resurgent Large Carnivores of the Midwest.*

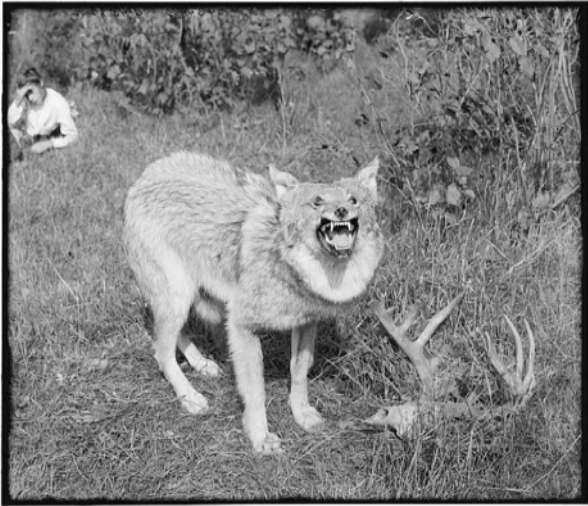


Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress

The Great Lakes Region of North America is experiencing a resurgence of large native predators following extirpation or near-extirpation during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This resurgence has revived and inflamed debate about how humans can live together with animals that may negatively impact human interests.

In this area the impact of coyotes extends into our own backyards. At the same time, large carnivores have unique values for the ecosystem and the humans who like knowing about them. The challenges of living with predators lie at the core on the development of Wildlife Management as a scientific discipline and in the development of Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic.

**Join us on April 17** as Tim Van Deelen reviews the story of carnivore recovery for the big four-coyotes, wolves, black bears, and cougars-from the point of view of a professional wildlife conservationist with emphasis on the developments in Wisconsin. We'll be meeting at 6:30 PM in room 120 of the BioSciences building on the Kenosha Campus of Gateway Technical College - 3520 30th Avenue.

Tim Van Deelen is the Beers-Bascom Professor in Conservation (UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Tim also worked as the research specialist for deer for the Wisconsin DNR and as a Research Ecologist specializing in large mammals for the Illinois Natural History Survey. Tim is a certified wildlife biologist with degrees from Michigan State University (Ph.D.), The University of Montana (M.S.) and Calvin College (B.S.).

Tim has been conducting research on white-tailed deer and their predators since 1991 when he arrived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to begin conducting research in deer mortality and migration for his dissertation. Tim has had the privilege of working with the best graduate students in the field and consequently is author/co-author of 64 peer-reviewed publications and is co-editor of a book on the recovery of wolves in the Great Lakes region. Tim teaches courses on Animal Population Dynamics and Deer management and recently taught an on-line course on hunting and the Land Ethic that reached over 5,000 people in 111 different countries.

## Start Collecting Now!

### SAFE Electronics, Appliance & Computer Disposal

Caledonia will host two collection drop-off days for appliance and electronics recycling.

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**When:**

Saturday, June 25, 10 - Noon  
Saturday, September 17, 10 - Noon

**Where:**

Caledonia Yard Waste Site,  
6900 Nicholson Rd.

**What:**

Refrigerators  
Water Coolers  
Stoves  
Dishwashers  
Freezers  
Air Conditioners  
Washers  
Dryers  
Microwaves  
Dehumidifiers  
Water Heaters  
Car Batteries  
Computers (\$5 charge per monitor)  
Fax Machines  
Vacuums  
Laptops  
Toasters  
Stereos  
VCRs  
Scanners  
Power Tool Batteries  
Televisions (\$20 charge per set)  
Copy Machines  
Keyboards  
Cordless Phones  
ipods & MP3 Players\*

**For more information:**

Refrigerant Depot 414-627-1152  
Legacy Recycling 262-920-4228

\*Please consider donating your ipods and MP3 players to your local *ipods for Alzheimers* program.

*We are most enthusiastically invited to Hoy Audubon's April 7 meeting featuring SEGG member Stan Rosenstiel, sharing his biking and birding experience from Florida to California - and back! We'll find Stan at the Kenosha Northside Library, 1500 27th Avenue at 7:00 PM.*

*Here is a preview of his adventures:*



### Trip Across the Southern United States by Stan Rosenstiel

Circumstances lined up for me this year that allowed me to ride my bicycle across the USA from San Diego to St. Augustine, Florida. This took me through the arid and semi-arid southwest. The high desert of New Mexico and Arizona are beautiful! I went through many areas I would never have gone to otherwise.

Some opportunities for birding were mainly at the places I camped. Nonetheless, I was able to identify over 140 species of birds, including 15 life birds.

These are Oak Titmouse, Bullock's Oriole, Gambel's Quail, Crissal Thrasher, Sage Thrasher, Phainopepla, Olive Warbler, Lucy's Warbler, Abert's Towhee, Zone Tailed Hawk, Hutton's Vireo, Rufous Crowned and Cassin's Sparrow, and Snowy and Wilson's Plover.

In terms of cycling, I went 3,000 miles in 51 days. I mostly camped in a tent. I had four flat tires and in the small towns of California, New Mexico, and Texas, food could be hard to find. It was difficult, yet rewarding.



### HIGHWAY 38 CLEANUP

This year marks the 26th year that the Southeast Gateway Group has been cleaning up a three-mile stretch of State Highway 38, between County Highway K and Five Mile Road in Racine County.

The Group was approved for the state-run Adopt-A-Highway program in 1990 and we started the following year. The first of the three dates for this year is Saturday, May 14, starting at 9:00 AM. The other two cleanup dates are July 23 (8:30 start) and September 17. Please mark these dates on your calendars-either those beautiful Sierra Club calendars or your favorite electronic device.

Blessed Hope Church at the corner of Highway 38 and Four Mile Road has graciously allowed us the use of their parking lot to meet, assign people to half-mile stretches and pass out equipment, including bright colored safety vests, bags for trash and recyclables, and pointed sticks for pickup. There are also gloves for those who forgot to bring them. Weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes, gloves and insect repellent are recommended.

Twelve volunteers are desired to cover the length of SEGG's assigned area in teams of two. "In case you haven't noticed," said cleanup coordinator, John Berge, "our team is a year older than when we last did the cleanup."

To add your name to his call list, contact John at 262-633-8455 or [jberge35@wi.rr.com](mailto:jberge35@wi.rr.com). It is only a commitment of maybe two hours on one to three Saturdays a year, but a load of satisfaction! Because of dropping interest, the after cleanup potluck is being discontinued this year, which also shortens the commitment.

*You're Invited!*

### SEGG Annual Dinner Event

Thursday, May 19, 2016

5:30 cash bar ~ 6:15 dinner

The Charcoal Grill - 8300 Washington Ave., Racine  
\$26.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity)

*Featuring Guest Speaker, Nancy Lazzaroni,  
with a presentation on the Ice Age Trail.*

Menu choices: Rotisserie Chicken (1/2 chicken), Teriyaki Salmon or Vegetable Stir Fry (served on a rice blend, no potatoes)

Dinners include House Garden Salad, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, and Garden Blend Vegetables and unlimited coffee, tea or soda.

RSVP with your menu choice by May 6 to:  
Dana Huck - [dhuck1105@wi.rr.com](mailto:dhuck1105@wi.rr.com) or 262-865-4283

# Kenosha County Conservation Committee Report

by Barry Thomas

Kenosha County Conservation Committee Co-chair

This past year we focused on three areas:

## Ecosystem Management

We continued to work in Bristol Woods County Park on the fourth Saturday of each month, April through November, removing garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and buckthorn. We received an \$800 Mann grant from the John Muir Chapter to purchase a Mantis rototiller and native plants to establish a pollinator garden. We also applied for and received recognition as a Monarch Way Station. Future plans include burning and reseeding the prairie this spring while applying for grants to develop a comprehensive management plan for Bristol Woods and to purchase additional loppers and work gloves for our volunteers. Al Sommer coordinated the efforts of our volunteers composed of Sierra Club members, scouts, college students, and church groups.

## Event Recycling

Another concern we worked on was the lack of event recycling in Kenosha. The city of Kenosha provides garbage cans for public events but does not provide recycling containers. Using SEGG's portable recycling containers, we provided recycling at the Greener by the Lake event and the Peanut Butter and Jam Concert. We received many positive comments from the public for our efforts and we continue to talk with alderman and mayoral candidates about the need for the city to take over this responsibility. Sierra Club member Trudy Farrell coordinated these activities.

## Community Outreach

In order to spread our message to the community, I scheduled public screenings of two videos: *Wild Versus the Wall* and *Planeat*. *Wild Versus the Wall* emphasized the environmental impacts of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. *Planeat* dealt with the impact of our dietary choices on our health and climate change. I also gave a presentation to an interfaith group about what faith communities can do to reduce their carbon footprints.



I have a site license for *Planeat* if anyone else would like to have a public screening. Barbara Brattin has expressed interest in using it at the Kenosha Public Library.

## Seven Mile Ice Age Trail Hike - April 9

Please join Al Sommer for a 7-mile hike on the Blue Spring Lake segment (approx. ½) of the Ice Age Trail that is in Jefferson County. On this trip we will walk by native prairie remnants and a massive granite erratic<sup>1</sup> known as the Stone Elephant, which was considered a sacred area by the native Prairie Potawatomi Indians.

We will park in the parking lot for Bald Bluff, a point 200 feet higher than the surrounding area and one of the highest points in Jefferson County. Native Americans also used this as a lookout and for ceremonial dancing. It was a landmark during the pursuit of Sauk Chief Black Hawk during the Blackhawk war.

This hike will be strenuous, on an unpaved trail and a lot of climbing and descent of substantial hills. Be sure to wear good hiking boots (already broken in) and weather appropriate clothing. There will be some effort made to carpool to the parking lot. The hike will take most of the day so please eat a good breakfast, bring a good lunch and plenty of water. A standard Sierra Club liability waiver will be required.

The parking lot for Bald Bluff is just north of Young Road on Highway H. Most people will be taking Route 12. Highway H goes north from 12 in the little burg of La Grange. The Bald Bluff parking lot is about 3 miles north of La Grange. **We will have several cars park at the other end of the hike (Horserider's Camp on Little Prairie Road) so some people will have the option to hike one way or about 3.5 miles. This part will include the Stone Elephant.**



Please call or email Allan Sommer, 262-716-6955 or [sommerallan4@gmail.com](mailto:sommerallan4@gmail.com) to sign up or to inquire and to plan for carpooling, if desired. We will meet at the trail head at 9:00 AM or at a carpool site TBD.

1. a rock or boulder that differs from the surrounding rock and is believed to have been brought from a distance by glacial action.

# SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATORS

Senate District	Assembly District	County	Name	edress
11		Walworth/Whitewater	Stephen L. Nass	Sen.Nass@legis.wisconsin.gov
11	31	Walworth/Clinton	Amy Loudenbeck	Rep.Loudenbeck@legis.wisconsin.gov
11	32	Walworth/Lake Geneva	Tyler August	Rep.August@legis.wisconsin.gov
11	33	Walworth/Mukwanago	Cody Horlacher	Rep.Horlacher@legis.wisconsin.gov
21		Racine/Racine	Van Wanggaard	Sen.Wanggaard@legis.wisconsin.gov
21	61	Kenosha/Salem	Samantha Kerkman	Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov
21	62	Racine/Caledonia	Tom Weatherston	Rep.Weatherston@legis.wisconsin.gov
21	63	Racine/Rochester	Robin Vos	Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov
22		Racine/Kenosha	Bob Wirsch	Sen.Wirsch@legis.wisconsin.gov
22	64	Kenosha/Kenosha	Peter Barca	Rep.Barca@legis.wisconsin.gov
22	65	Kenosha/Kenosha	Tod Ohnstad	Rep.Ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov
22	66	Racine/Racine	Cory Mason	Rep.Mason@legis.wisconsin.gov

## NATIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

President	US	Barack Obama	<a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/</a>
WI Senator	WI	Ron Johnson	<a href="http://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact">www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact</a>
WI Senator	WI	Tammy Baldwin	<a href="http://www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact">www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact</a>
Representative	1st Congressional Dist.	Paul Ryan	<a href="http://paulryan.house.gov">http://paulryan.house.gov</a>

SEGG encourages you to contact your legislators on the issues you care about. Telephone numbers and "snail" mailing addresses are available on the legislators' websites.



## Explore, Enjoy And Protect The Planet

### SEGG Leadership

#### SEGG Executive Committee

Tom Rutkowski (Chair).....natom@wi.rr.com  
 Betsy Georg (Secretary).....bgeorg@hotmail.com  
 Judy Rockwell (Vice Chair).....jjrockwell@gmail.com  
 Allan Sommer (Outings Chair).....sommerallan4@gmail.com  
 Barb Brattin.....bb81435@gmail.com  
 Karen Hermansen.....ehermansenjr@wi.rr.com

#### Other Group Leaders

Jeff Sytsma (Treasurer).....Jeff12759@aol.com  
 Melissa Warner (Program Chair).....melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net  
 MaryAnn Ortmyer (Hospitality).....maortmyer@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 any articles, photographs of group activities, letters, calendar submissions, corrections and comments to:

Nicole Reid  
 nreid23@wi.rr.com

**DEADLINE FOR  
 JUNE/JULY ISSUE:  
 MAY 1, 2016**



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

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

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