



SOUTHEAST SIERRAN

News of the
Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club

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Green-Starved

From the Chair
by Tom Rutkowski

I recently learned a new word from a friend, a British term for a feeling you know well at this time of year, though you might know it by other names. We are all green-starved, waiting for buds to open, waiting for the return of those many shades of green that will soon surround us. In anticipation of that soon to return glory, let's celebrate trees and all they give.

Below is my interview with Sue Schuit, creator of *Trees We Love*, a program of our Hoy Audubon Society that features some of the more magnificent trees in our area. Blending historical narrative, literary allusion and poetry with her thoughtful, sympathetic descriptions of these trees, we can take another look from multiple angles at these trees that survive from another time and continue to enrich our lives. I encourage you to read more about these trees on the Hoy Audubon website www.hoyaudubon.org/TreesWeLove. You'll also find recommendations for some remarkable books on trees inside. If you're inspired, plant a tree on Arbor Day, which falls on April 26 this year. Future generations will thank you.

TREES WE LOVE- An Interview with Sue Schuit

Q. Aside from Doctor Seuss' *Lorax* and a few other authors, most people don't speak for trees or even listen to what they might be saying. Was there an experience or a person in your life that gave you a new awareness or appreciation of trees?

There are actually many authors, poets and artists who have been tree lovers throughout millennia. When I began writing the tree narratives I was pleasantly surprised at the sheer quantity of writings, folklore, poems, myths and legends to explore—from all cultures. But in answer to your question regarding my personal experience; I was fortunate to grow up in rural, small-town communities. I was a quiet, shy loner and a voracious reader. Reading outside was a favorite and I had the great good fortune to stumble upon J.R.R. Tolkien for the first (of many) read at about nine. *The Lord of the Rings* and in particular the land of Middle Earth was my idea of Shangri-La. Tolkien's vast knowledge of history, legends, myths; his love of language, literature, art and nature are all, IMO, beautifully, magically, and masterfully written. I was enthralled with his landscapes, his stories of powerful Ents who were beaten but not destroyed and in time, wreaked revenge on their traitor; the magical, powerful forests which were havens for elves who drew their power from their environment; Old Man



DeKoven's Black Maple

Willow, ground zero of the sleepy, slow but potent spells drawing all to his seemingly benign song; and the dark, dangerous, angry vast forests who, if one dared to enter, did their utmost to ensure that one never got out of the woods, the wonderful woods. And of course, merry, ancient Tom Bombadil, the quintessential Green Man, the all-powerful but magnanimous, humble overseer, capable of, however choosing not to, control all. He had no interest in the silly affairs of men, nor their petty dramas. He is one of my favorite characters in literature.

Q. The trees you write about seem to have distinct characters of their own. What gives a tree a unique character? What are features that stand out to you when you imagine their life?

Trees do have distinct characters. Many tree characters I have personified via my own lens of observations and experiences. Oaks are in my opinion the rulers of our realm. The massive, deeply scored trunks and long, winding branches reaching up towards the sky and down towards the earth, are the portals to our history or as a saying goes, "fairy folks live in old oaks." I've always loved the huge willows; their twisty, knobby trunks and their long-fingered branches remind me of wise wizards and they exude personality. Of course, my exposure to Tolkien's Old Man Willow at a young age may have played a large part in such personality distinction.

Three years into *Trees We Love*, my research and reading have certainly given me new insights and loves. Native Indians, naturally, have many legends and myths surrounding trees. I have been able to identify trees that I have long loved but did not know much of. Such as

Con't. on page 2

the Sycamores. I have always loved Sycamore trunks but did not know sycamores were sycamores. The trunks are exfoliating and as a result have a camouflage appearance. The Indians nicknamed them "The Ghosts in the Forest." An expression I have found in my research is "How high does a sycamore grow? If you cut it down then you'll never know." In Edinburgh there is a park owned by the Forrester family who are said to be connected, through the Knights Templar to the Sinclair family at Roslyn, where due south, there is a hill crowned by a grove of thirteen Sycamore. In the center of the grove is the ruin of a 14th century chapel where William Wallace was knighted. There is no doubt that the Sycamores were planted and it is believed the current trees are the second or even third planting. How is that for mystery, magic and majesty? The mystery of ancient secrets held. The magic of a hidden world. The majesty of a tree soaring above your head.

Q. I once had a student ask, in all sincerity, what good are trees? How would you have answered? At a time when we are less dependent on trees for immediate needs, how would you convey the value of trees in our lives?

Frankly, I would have been speechless. Where does one begin? I have created *Trees We Love* to help instill exactly what the program is about. I'll leave the science to the scientists. They can explain the obvious plethora of benefits trees provide to everything; everything. My goal is to reach hearts. Only through love can we really put our soul and energies into preservation and stewardship. Whether it be love of beauty, history, art, environment, sustainability or self-preservation, it is only when our hearts, minds and interests are touched that we will become engaged and actively work towards a goal. My goal is to instill an appreciation for and love of, the beauty, magic and mystery of trees. They are silent curators of history. In their words; our time is your time, but our time is greater. Our fate is your fate and we are all tied to nature.

Q. I learned a lot from reading your descriptions, not only about the unique trees in our area, but also about the human history that surrounded these trees as we settled in around them. Why was it important for you to put these trees in a human context?

All things view their world through their own lens of self-preservation and interests, be it a dog, a tree or we humans. That's what we do, that's who we are. It's survival of species. I wanted to broach sustainability through such a lens. As I've said there are so many scientific facts out there regarding environmental effects and causes. And right now, they are, in large part, dark, disturbing and downright terrifying. And profoundly sad. *Trees We Love* is, simply put, a love story. A simple program which speaks to the wonder of nature, the beauty of our natural world, the mystery and deeply rooted history we all yearn for—right there, outside the door. Or, to put it simply, "It's not what you look at, it's what you see" – Henry Thoreau

Q. I would imagine that in the research and writing you've done, you've learned a lot about trees and our own area. What are some of the most surprising or rewarding things you've learned?

I certainly have and really don't know where to begin or what to recount. The folks I have met, the history I have unearthed, the research I have found and the writing about such have been extremely rewarding. I'll share one of many rewards and surprises I have learned. When researching for the 2018 awardee, The Buffaloak, I felt rather touched by the hands of time. The subject of course was the oak, however I chose to approach such narrative from a buffalo perspective. The Swantz's nickname for their beloved tree was The Buffalo Oak due to a spur which is eerily similar to a buffalo head (pictured). I was surprised to learn that the last of the remaining two southeastern Wisconsin's buffalo disappeared in 1832, around the time of the Buffaloak's birth. The oak's realm is on the banks of the Fox River or the Pishtaka River as the Potawatomi named it. The Pishtaka means Buffalo River. The Swantz family were equally enthralled with the coincidence and when reading such to the entire family (mother, father, teenagers and grandmother) at the award presentation, a child stated this is getting spooky.



To continue with the thread, I was also touched when site-visiting the Buffaloak last summer, the Swantz's met us and on our walk down to view the tree, Tracy showed us a picture of, I seem to recall, her grandfather. It was an old article and picture which she had just discovered describing her grandfather as the individual responsible for cutting down the largest tree, if I remember correctly, in the state at that time. She was genuinely stricken and morosely stated that it was a different time but still... She hoped that if an award was presented, it would serve in a way to atone for the errors of the past. So many more stories, the Indian pointer tree at Pringle; the Camperdownii Elm, a civil war memorial; the gift from the Racine Historical Museum of a copy of their "tree" folder containing old articles and pictures of Racine County heritage trees.. I could go on and on.

Q. Do you already have trees in mind for the 2019 awards? How can someone nominate a tree?

There are trees I know, which I would love to see nominated. However, that is not up to me but the nominators themselves. We have not yet had a Catalpa, a lovely native tree, nor a regal Chestnut, a Hawthorne or a Cedar. Nominating a tree is easy. You can contact me, Sue Schuit, at salav@wi.rr.com to request a nomination form or one can be downloaded from the Hoy Audubon website; hoyaudubon.org. The deadline for nominations is May 31st.

Get out of the weeds, shallow roots in the soil. Get into the trees, growing up towards the light. - Sue Schuit

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEGG April Program

What's the Deal with the Green New Deal?

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 PM

Gateway Technical College, Racine Lakefront Campus, Great Lakes Room #116



Shortly after its release the Green New Deal became a lightning rod for both praise and attack. It's been called a Green Dream, the moonshot of our era, and a watermelon, red (as in communist) on the inside and green on the outside. State Representative Greta Neubauer will discuss what a Green New Deal could mean for Wisconsin. Representative Neubauer will speak about opportunities and obstacles that will arise from this admirable new goal. After graduation from Middlebury College where she worked with Bill McKibben and 350.org, Neubauer became director of the nonprofit Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network, now called the Sunrise Movement. A movement created to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process, the Sunrise Movement organized a sit-in of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office and joined Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Markey to launch the Green New Deal resolution.

SEGG May Program

The Great Lakes: Problems and Challenges

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 PM

Cesar Chavez Community Center, 2221 Douglas Ave, Racine



Millions of jobs and billions of dollars each year stem from tourism, recreational boating, real estate, commercial and recreational fishing, farming, manufacturing, mining, and energy production in the Great Lakes Region. Yet this critical area is buffeted by climate change, pollution, and changing water levels. We'll learn about the potential of and challenges to this watershed from John Dickert, President and CEO of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Dickert works with over 130 U.S. and Canadian mayors from across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin to advance the protection and restoration of the resource. The Cities Initiative leads many efforts to accelerate the work to become a more sustainable region by integrating the environmental, economic, and social activities to improve the quality of life and well-being of its people.

Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming

Wednesday, April 3, 6:30 PM

Olympia Brown UU Church, 625 College Ave, Racine

Olympia Brown UU Church invites you to an intriguing discussion on a timely topic. Drawdown, Paul Hawken's recent book, is the only existing detailed plan to reverse global warming. Drawdown maps, measures, models, and describes the 100 most substantive solutions to global warming with existing technology and capabilities. Each solution reduces greenhouse gases by avoiding emissions and/or by sequestering carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere. One recent review says, "Drawdown is likely the most hopeful thing you'll ever read about our ability to take on global warming." Bruce Wiggins, a retired city planner and non-profit executive, will present the solutions in the book and the tools, available online at www.drawdown.org/the-book. Some may surprise you!

Celebrate Earth Day

Saturday, April 13, 10-2 PM

Gateway Technical College - Kenosha & Elkhorn Campuses



Gateway celebrates our environment with displays, workshops, hands-on activities for people of all ages, and other environment-related activities. The Earth Day event started on Gateway's Kenosha Campus in 2008, and was extended to the Elkhorn Campus in 2012. Hundreds of community members visit the Gateway campuses to learn and to show their support for our environment. John Berge and Joe Dubaniewicz will be tabling the Kenosha Campus at 3520 30th Avenue, while Judy Rockwell will be tabling at Elkhorn at 400 Hwy H. We will display Sierra Club materials along with Clean Power Coalition materials.

GET INVOLVED START HERE!

Hwy 38 Clean Up Dates

Saturday, May 11 - 9:00 AM

Saturday, Aug. 3 - 8:30 AM

Saturday, Oct. 5 - 9:00 AM

Meet at Blessed Hope Church at the corner of Hwy 38 and 4 Mile Rd.

Contact Jeff Sytsma for more information.
262 637-6845 or 262 497-4761
Jeff12759@aol.com

Stay Current with Monthly SEGG E-News
Email melissa.warner3@a2q.com to Sign Up



Plant a Tree for Earth Day!! April 22

SEGG encourages you to *WRITE* to your legislators on the issues you care about.
Find yours at legis.wisconsin.gov



Every Little Piece *By Jeff Sytsma*

Plastic in the oceans gets a lot of press lately. According to EcoWatch, 73% of all deep-sea fish have ingested plastic, thinking it was food. A 2016 headline in the Washington Post read, "By 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans, study says."

From the Racine Journal Times, SC Johnson has announced a new container: "In April, SC Johnson plans to launch what the company says will be the first-ever 100 percent recycled ocean plastic bottle in a major home cleaning brand: Windex Vinegar Ocean Plastic. It is made from plastic bottles that have polluted the oceans and are gathered, chipped and reconstituted into new bottles."

We've heard of the "large garbage patch" in the Pacific that consists of plastic pieces and particles that is the size of Texas. Have you considered that ocean-bound plastics start in the street in front of your house or business, or that it impacts wildlife locally and regionally before it gets to the great blue?

I noticed that there are a lot of little pieces of plastic in the sand at Racine's award-winning North Beach. The beach gets sifted daily in summer, so I wondered if some of the plastic particles would get picked up in the process? When asked, the City replied that the beach groomer can only pick up objects as small as a cigarette butt. So the answer is no, the small particles of plastic are left behind.

I can easily pick up 30 pieces of plastic, large or small, on my morning two-block walk to and from the coffee shop. From catsup packets, water bottles, candy wrappers, car parts and, ugh, the coffee shop cup with plastic cover, it's all there. Plastic becomes poison for fish, other aquatic beings and birds and it lasts forever in some form.

I pick up every little piece because I know where it's going if I don't. Little me doing a little stretch of my street is not going to do a lot to solve the problem of plastic waste in our waters. But if we all try to pick it up when we see it, we can make a difference. Inspiring others to act when they don't feel affected is a challenge. So, let's try to inform everyone about where that plastic trash goes. Tell them it goes into the fish we eat, the birds we admire and every living thing that is part of the world of which we are a part.

Editor's Note: Consider joining us on May 11 to pick up garbage along Hwy 38. See box above.



150+ Pack DNR Hearing Room To Protest We Energies' Mercury Pollution in Lake Michigan

On February 11, over 150 people attended a DNR hearing regarding a proposed draft permit for We Energies' Oak Creek facility. Those in attendance expressed opposition to several provisions of the permit, including a proposed mercury variance that would allow We Energies to discharge mercury into Lake Michigan at up to three times the safe standard. The permit as written would also allow We Energies to continue a dirty, outdated process for treating coal ash until 2023, the latest possible date under federal EPA rules. One hundred percent of the spoken comments were in opposition to the permit as written.

"My whole family lives next to the coal plant. The lake has always been our friend. We fish, we play; we do everything there. Recently, I heard about this permit. I thought it was a joke. And then I was appalled when I heard they were actually going to put three times the legal amount of mercury into the lake. It's a brain poison!" exclaimed Frank Michna, a neighbor of the plants and a long-time fisherman. "I'm sick and tired of We Energies. We need to get rid of coal. Renewables are the only way."

Sister Janet Weyker, another neighbor of the plant, agreed. "The DNR, along with the EPA, should be upholding and strengthening safe standards rather than weakening them. If the water permit is granted as it is written now, it would be telling us that the DNR cares more about the economic well-being of the dirty energy companies than about the health of people living around the Oak Creek plant and those who drink the water and eat the fish from Lake Michigan."

The hearing received a significant amount of media coverage. The Clean Power Coalition hosted a press conference, which, along with the hearing, was widely covered in the local press. All four TV stations, TMJ4, CBS 58, WISN 12, and Fox 6 did stories that day. CBS 58 did a follow-up story later in the week that framed the struggle against the coal plant as a David vs. Goliath battle. The hearing was also covered in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Kenosha News, Oak Creek Patch, the Milwaukee public radio station, statewide Wisconsin Public radio, and the Racine Journal Times. It was even picked up by the Associated Press. Carl Lindner, a volunteer, had his Op-Ed published in Urban Milwaukee and Natalie Chulew, Janet Weyker, and Ashley Thompson had letters to the editor published in a variety of publications.

Local community leaders spoke strongly in favor of clean, renewable energy. "We Energies seems to think we live in 1919. The rest of us are in 2019. Portugal already meets over half of its energy needs from renewables," stated Steven Shea, Milwaukee County Supervisor. "Denmark plans to have 100% renewable energy sources by 2030. In December, Germany closed its last coal mine. Where is We Energies' plan and timeline to move to 100% renewables?"

State Senator Chris Larson also spoke in favor of renewable energy, saying, "Wisconsin has an internationally recognized, proud heritage of conservation. It is part of who we are to preserve clean air, clean water, and clean land for the next generation. While We Energies and the partners involved in this power plant are moving in the right direction, delaying this process should be unacceptable. The longer they delay in moving to a renewable model, the longer neighbors have to put up with unsafe levels of mercury and the mounting problems of coal ash. Wisconsin can do better."

Rick Banks, Political Director for Black Leaders Organizing Communities (BLOC) and a member of the Milwaukee Water Council, added, "Water pollution and coal disproportionately impact people of color, so that's why I believe it is very important for us to be here to stand in solidarity today and say out loud that we don't want any more coal. We don't want any more mercury or lead in our water."

Faith leaders also called on We Energies to clean up their act. Reverend Jonathan Barker, the pastor at Grace Lutheran in Kenosha, proclaimed, "In the 8th century B.C.E. the prophet Amos denounced those willing to do anything to squeeze out a little more profit (Amos 8:4-6). I am sure if Amos were here today with us he'd prophesy against We Energies poisoning our water with mercury to make their bottom line a little better."

Linda Flashinski, a resident of Racine, had a plea for the DNR representatives making the decision. "If you and your children and your grandchildren lived in this area, if you and they breathed our air and drank our water, how would you decide?" Flashinski asked. "We deserve to have clean water, clean air, and clean soil. Allowing more effluent at this time is unfair and unjust to the people of this area, our children, and future generations."



The Clean Power Coalition meets monthly on the third Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Eco-Justice Center, 7133 Michna Road, Caledonia, WI 53402. Questions? Email Miranda Ehrlich at miranda.ehrlich@sierraclub.org.

MONARCHS!

by Jane Agazzi



It feels like winter here in the midwest, but the monarchs in Mexico have started leaving their roosting spots where they have rested all winter. Area residents report seeing thousands at a time heading north. Monarch numbers in Mexico this winter were 144% higher than they were last year. This is great news for monarch enthusiasts, but experts warn that while these numbers are promising, we are not out of the woods.



Even with the large increase this year, we are still down 90% from the 1 billion that roosted in Mexico two decades ago. With higher than normal temperatures expected this year, it could be bad news for the roosting population next winter. Ryan Norris, an ecology professor from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, said it would be dangerous to think the improved coverage in their wintering grounds meant the butterflies were out of the woods. "It buys us time, but that's the best it does", said Norris.

Mexico has nearly halted illegal logging in the forests that monarchs roost. The problem comes when monarchs start to migrate north and they don't find enough viable milkweed to lay their eggs on. The rapid decline is mainly due to the skyrocketing use of glyphosate (Roundup) and other herbicides along highways and cropland. Oklahoma is responding to this vulnerable butterfly by changing their roadside cutting along I-35 and I-51. They plow two safety strips on the side of the highway during monarch breeding season and the rest is left wild.



Our family has been raising and releasing monarchs for 15 years. While we enjoy doing it and teaching others of the important role monarchs play in our ecosystem, the most important thing we can do is spread the word about growing milkweed and other nectar sources--especially late season blooming nectar sources.



Many nurseries are now including different varieties of milkweed in their greenhouses. When you are at a nursery this spring, ask about native milkweed. If they don't carry it, encourage them to start offering it.

Raising and releasing monarchs is fun to do, but the most important thing we can do is educate and encourage others to grow milkweed. Summer will be here soon enough. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to seeing the little magic flashes of orange in my yard. Every fall, I worry that it could be the last time I see magnificent monarchs. Please help in the fight to keep this migration alive.

Curtis Strange School Receives Sierra Club Green Award

SEGG Awards Chairman, Barry Thomas, recently presented the Sierra Club Green Award to Curtis Strange Elementary School. The award comes with a \$200 stipend to support environmental initiatives by the school.

Principal Jon Bar-Din and fourth grade teacher Alison Iglehart have been very active and integral in the City of Kenosha's recycling efforts. They have worked with Keir Powell, Kenosha Waste Superintendent, to introduce the responsibilities of the Waste and Recycling Division to students at Curtis Strange. Student visits to the Waste Division site as well as bringing staff and trucks to the school has created a special relationship between Public Works and the staff and students of Curtis Strange.

Unique to this school is a pilot program developed with the Waste and Recycling Division regarding the reuse of tires. After a discussion with the students about recycling, they started coming up with amazing ideas of what can be done to reuse tires (planters, sandboxes, sculptures). Mr. Bar-Din, Ms. Iglehart and Keir Powell came up with a plan to implement their ideas. Waste supplied the tires and paint. Curtis Strange supplied the artists. With the help of Waste staff, planters and a light house were constructed out of tires. These will be on display at the site at 1001 50th street.

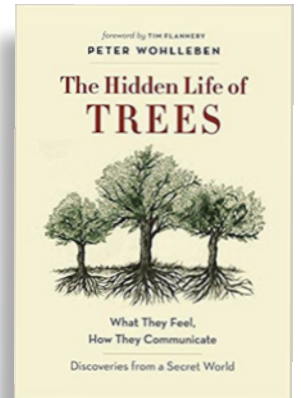
The hope is, through this cooperative effort, Public Works can establish a relationship with KUSD to get other schools involved and turn this into a program that might be used next summer in the downtown area similar to the painted piano project of last year.

Books on Trees / Trees on Books

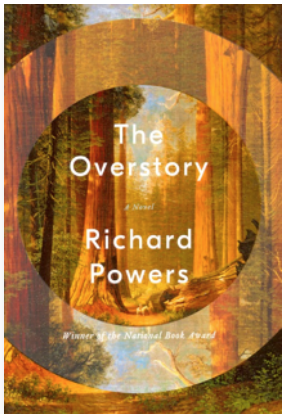


Trees are certainly older and possibly much wiser than we are. If trees, in general, know things, then trees in Beth Moon's photographs know everything. In an earlier work, *Ancient Trees/ Portraits in Time*, Beth Moon traveled the world in search of the oldest trees. In her new work, she travels to some of the world's darkest places to photograph these trees at night. From sequoia and bristlecone pines in the US to olive and oak trees in Europe and quiver trees and baobabs in Namibia and Botswana, *Ancient Skies, Ancient Trees* captures the majesty of trees enhanced by luminous celestial backgrounds. You can view photographs at bethmoon.com

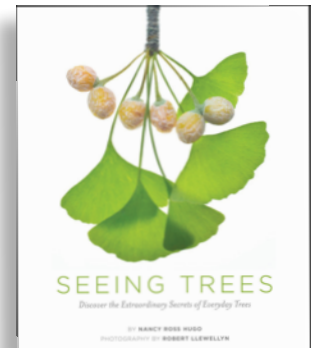
Who knew that trees have electrical signals that travel at the speed of a third of an inch per minute? Who knows how trees remember when to open their buds and when to lose their leaves? How can trees communicate with others through "olfactory, visual and electrical signals" to warn of pests or even share nutrients? Trees are so familiar yet few of us understand how they function and interact with each other. With the recent discovery of the "wood wide web", that network of fungal mycelium that connects tree to tree and acts as a "gigantic redistribution mechanism", scientists are beginning to see that trees are social beings. Peter Wohlleben's book, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, will give you a deeper understanding of trees and how they interact.



The Overstory by Richard Powers begins with nine seemingly independent descriptions of individuals or families over time and their relationship with a single tree. Throughout their lives, they all learn to see trees as social creatures capable of communicating, responding, and learning. Five of these characters come together as environmental activists using the tactics of Earth First and the Earth Liberation Front to protect trees in the Pacific NW. One character, a botanist, beautifully describes how trees communicate with each other as written about in Peter Wohlleben's *The Hidden Life of Trees*. (see above) Throughout the novel we face the sad history of our short sighted policies in relation to the natural world. We're left to wonder why defenders of the natural world are viewed as terrorists while those who destroy the natural world for profit are defended by our institutions. In this book, trees thrive in the past and survive into the future while humans increasingly threaten their own survival.



Get closer. There is a slow motion firework display about to take place on the branches above our heads. To save you the trouble of getting out your ladder, the author, Nancy Ross Hugo, and the photographer, Robert Llewellyn have captured all the budding and unfurling and flowering soon to happen with these intimate portraits of trees in their book, *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees*. "Using software developed for work with microscopes the photographer creates incredibly sharp images by stitching together eight to forty- five images of each subject, each shot at a different point of focus." You can view these photographs at robertllewellyn.com



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The newsletter of the Southeast Gateway Group is published quarterly by Group members.



Please send any articles, photographs, letters, calendar submissions, corrections and comments to:

Nicole Reid - nreid23@wi.rr.com

Please use subject line: *SEGG Newsletter*

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Bison at Nachusa Grasslands, Illinois. Photo credit: www.nachusagrasslands.org

In This Issue:

April & May Programs:
***The Green New Deal &
Great Lakes Cities Initiative***

Trees We Love

Coal=Mercury

Monarchs!

SEGG Green Award

Hwy 38 Clean Up

A Plastic Problem

...and more ways

You Can Get Involved!

Nachusa Grasslands Outing Recap *by Allan Sommer*

On a cold day last February, with both snow and rain in the forecast, three hardy souls drove out to Oregon, Illinois, in the hopes of seeing some bison at the Nachusa Grasslands, a Nature Conservancy preserve including over 3,400 acres of beautiful rolling hills and restored native prairie. In 2014, 30 bison from South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri were introduced to Nachusa Grasslands. Every year since, many calves have been born bringing the population at Nachusa up to 100 today. Thankfully, when we got to the Conservancy, the weather cleared up and we spotted a small herd of bison grazing through a snow cover. We capped the outing with a bag lunch and craft beers at a local bar in beautiful downtown Oregon, where we all vowed to repeat this trip when the landscape is green instead of icy white.