

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

## Inflating Global Warming *by Don Ferber*

At 20 ft. tall, the inflatable coal power plant stood out at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, although not nearly as much as would Alliant Energy's actual proposed new coal power plants in Wisconsin and Iowa. And fortunately, our inflatable coal plant does not produce the drastic effects on global warming as would Alliant's coal plants – nearly a 40% increase by 2015. The shocking truth is that Alliant chose basically the most polluting coal plant technology available, claiming that using a small amount of biofuel (negligible compared with pollution from the coal) would make a difference.

On May 15, 2008 over 100 volunteers from the Sierra Club, Clean Wisconsin and other environmental organizations and activists gathered outside the Alliant Energy Center to inform people at Alliant's shareholders meeting that not only was coal unacceptable from an environmental perspective, it doesn't make sense economically either. The message was eminently clear – "No More Coal!" The protesters were revved up as Mark Kresowik, Sierra staff with the National Coal Campaign, led the crowd in chants and slogans that left no doubt about our position on the proposed power plants. They were further bolstered as about 20 bike riders arrived from the UW campus, shouting the slogan many had attached to their bikes – "No More Coal!"

A fact sheet was handed to shareholders



who were willing to consider the truth about Alliant's proposals, and the facts and risks that Alliant was not telling them or the ratepayers about. Unfortunately, not all shareholders wanted to listen to our message. One remarked that he had a lot of money tied up in coal, and there was no way he was going to listen to us. When another shareholder snubbed the handout, she was sympathetically informed that we understood her not taking it since it was scary reading, to which she definitively replied, "It's NOT scary".

Not scary? Alliant's proposal is downright frightening! It would add more mercury to the environment when Governor Doyle is asking for a much needed 90% reduction in mercury pollution. Adding global warming emissions is astonishing in a day when reputable scientists are calling for a 2% decrease in emissions per year. Alliant's proposal belies their participation in the Governor's Global Warming Task Force that is also calling for strong reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Their proposal places both the shareholders and ratepayers at risk when many major banks are questioning coal power plants as risky investments. We already have air quality advisories and violations of the Clean Air Act in Wisconsin, a situation these plants would only worsen.

Just the day before the rally the Public Service Commission stated that the proposed Wisconsin plant in Cassville "is not the least-cost option under any scenario," and also noted that "the likelihood of a carbon tax decreases the attractiveness of coal." This comes at a time when 63 out of 150 proposed new coal power plants have been cancelled in the US in the last several years due to opposition and economics, when costs are skyrocketing for new plants, and when Wisconsin's energy

demand *decreased* in 2006 due to energy efficiency measures. Furthermore, the projected cost for the Cassville plant is already at one *billion* dollars.



The rally was organized by dedicated staffers Jennifer Feyerherm of the Sierra Club and Ryan Schryver of Clean Wisconsin. But it was the volunteers who carried the banners and handed out the fact sheets to deflate Alliant's proposal. Were Alliant's claims merely inflated, it would be bad enough, but instead it's more damaging hot air from a utility who claims they need to build new coal power plants to keep the lights on. Apparently keeping the light on the truth is not part of it.

*Don Ferber, Sierra Club Life Member since 1982, lives in Madison where he is the Four Lakes Chair and Volunteer Coordinator. His special interests are energy and conservation issues, and he's a long-time volunteer with the Ice Age Trail. Don's known for frequently attacking honeysuckle, buckthorn and other invasives.*

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**IN THIS ISSUE**

From the Chair	2
V is for Victory	4
Group Spotlight	5
The Credible Consumer	6
Green Review	8
Tree Hugger's Hangout	9
Wild Flora - Memorial	10
Autumn Assembly	12
River Touring Section	14



# FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Steffens, Chair  
John Muir Chapter  
jjsteff@mhtc.net

Thanks to all of you who have donated to the John Muir Chapter this spring. We had a very good response to our March appeal, which is our primary fundraising event of the year. Although we may do targeted appeals later in the year, the March appeal is the one time during the year when we appeal broadly to our state membership for your support. You may receive other mailings this year, but only those specifically marked as being from the John Muir Chapter will directly support activities within Wisconsin. If you have any questions about this, please contact me or our Chapter staff in Madison.

As I write this, I am feeling the relief that our state legislature has finally, after much debate, approved the Great Lakes Compact, an agreement which, when fully ratified, will establish a framework for managing the water resources of the Great Lakes. All states and Canadian provinces bordering the Great Lakes must approve this agreement before it is submitted to the U.S. Congress for final ratification.

The water in the Great Lakes came originally from glacial melting at the end of the last ice age. The drainage basin of the lakes is so restricted that it takes an estimated 200 years for the water in the lakes to be replaced. Consequently, any diversions of lake water which are

not ultimately returned will, over time, lower the water level. Ratification by Congress is still a major hurdle since states far away eye this resource as a way to continue urban sprawl in an arid or desert environment. To divert water for this purpose would rapidly deplete the lakes, much as the Ogallala Aquifer is being depleted by uncontrolled irrigation in the Western Plain states. All of those large green circles you see when flying west will begin to disappear in the next 25 years and, without ratification of the Great Lakes Compact, our beautiful lakes could suffer the same fate.

We have other major conservation issues in Wisconsin for which we request your active support. The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest is the most heavily logged forest in the country. We need volunteers familiar with these forests and logging practices to comment on Forest Service logging plans to insure that these resources remain for a variety of uses, including recreation and wildlife conservation.

The city of Menomonie has just joined 17 other municipalities in Wisconsin in becoming a Cool City. Not only do we need to add another 18 cities in the state to the

Cool Cities roster, we need volunteers in each of them to monitor and promote progress towards energy conservation. It is one thing for a city to sign the Mayors Agreement on Climate Change, but the heavy lifting begins when the city or county actually begins taking concrete steps to conserve energy. If you have any questions about this, please contact our Chapter office at [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565.

*Jim Steffens belongs to the Four Lakes Group. He lives in Ridgeway.*



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## THE MUIR VIEW

222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703

A Quarterly Publication of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

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**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER  
2008 ISSUE IS AUGUST 15.**



# THE CHAPTER CONNECTION

## Looking Forward with the John Muir Chapter

by Shahla Werner, JMC Director

Since starting in late January, I have gotten the chance to observe some of the strengths, opportunities, and challenges of the John Muir Chapter. We can be proud of our outings that give members a chance to experience Wisconsin's beautiful outdoors. The *Kid's Guide to the Outdoors*, initially produced by the Great Waters Group, is a phenomenon in itself that shows how a popular idea that fills an important need can spread to other Sierra Club groups in Wisconsin and beyond. We have loyal members who generously donate substantial time and monetary support to our chapter and are dedicated to environmental conservation through all aspects of their lives. We have an amazing number of volunteer activists working on local environmental issues throughout the state. We also have a fantastic reputation of accomplishment in Wisconsin as the oldest grassroots environmental organization founded by none other than legendary Wisconsin conservationist, John Muir.

Some of our challenges are similar to those experienced by many other grassroots organizations. We face the danger of volunteer burnout, as spare time is a rare commodity in our society where people are

pressed to the limit with family, work and community responsibilities. Fundraising is hampered by high energy and food prices, which are, ironically, related to Sierra Club's conservation priorities. Finally, given our limited resources and the grassroots nature of the Sierra Club, we need to focus our energy and prioritize in order to effectively address conservation issues in our state.

Addressing our challenges and creating a map to move forward is a very exciting prospect for me. I am currently working with several excellent volunteers and staff to enhance our chapter's effectiveness in the following ways:

- Creating a new website that tells a story about our chapter's mission and accomplishments and includes environmental education, opportunities to support the chapter as a volunteer, donor or online activist, and information about Sierra Club events.
- Increasing our coordination with our eight groups in the state and Sierra Club staff in our Midwest Regional and Milwaukee offices.
- Creating a detailed development plan, needed to grow our grassroots capacity to support the important work of conservation leaders around the state.
- Creating a chapter marketing plan to increase our chapter's membership and public presence through media outreach, tabling at events, and other activities.
- Updating and refining our chapter's strategic plan, which will provide a

detailed roadmap to achieving our conservation mission in Wisconsin.

- Revitalizing chapter committees, and considering the creation of statewide issue subcommittees to work on our priority issues of clean energy and global warming and restoring the Great Lakes and other water resources.
- Increasing our support of existing Student Coalitions (SSCs), and encouraging the development of new SSC groups statewide. I am pleased to see that this is already happening with the formation of the new Sierra Student Coalition at UW-Parkside.

Our goals are ambitious, but the planning, organization, and strategizing that we undergo as a chapter will be well worth the effort and hard work. It is what our members deserve and what we must do to realize Sierra Club's enormous potential in Wisconsin.

Now is the time to capitalize on the current culture of mainstream green consciousness that has been sparked by current political and economic events. Please join us in moving the John Muir Chapter forward today!

*Shahla M. Werner, Ph.D., is the JMC Director. She received her PhD in entomology from UW Madison. She lives in Madison with her husband, Andy, and two-year-old son, Darwin. She enjoys camping, hiking, swimming, reading and politics.*

## John Muir Chapter Grant Funds

With all those great projects and activities our Groups think about all the time, it often seems as if there are no funds to get these exciting ideas off the ground and into action.

But there is opportunity awaiting. The Chapter's Ron Mann Memorial Fund offers financial support to groups in the form of grants. Grants usually are in the range of \$500 to \$1000. Group c3 funds must be exhausted before a Mann Grant can be received. The project must address a conservation issue or a training or strategic planning need.

Additional information and applications to the John Muir Chapter for a Mann Grant are available by contacting the Grant Committee Chair at: [thomash@uwstout.edu](mailto:thomash@uwstout.edu). We're waiting to hear from your Group, and to help turn your great idea into ACTION!

*The Grants Committee: Rick Komperud, Eric Uram, Harriett Iwamoto, Nancy Hennessy, Barbara Thomas*



# V is for Victory!

## Great Lakes Compact Passes State Legislature

by Ashley Brenke

On May 14th, the Wisconsin State Legislature passed the Great Lakes Compact. The Compact is an agreement reached among the governors of the eight Great Lakes States setting clear limits on who can have access to Great Lakes water and sets standards for those taking water from the lakes. It also calls for water conservation throughout the Great Lakes region. This legislation was supported by a broad coalition and passed with a large bipartisan majority in the Assembly (96-1) and Senate (32-1).

The Compact is an important part of protecting the Great Lakes. We must also work to restore this important natural resource. The Great Lakes hold one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water and currently provide drinking water to over 42 million people. Yet each day our lakes are damaged economically and ecologically by untreated sewage, industrial pollu-

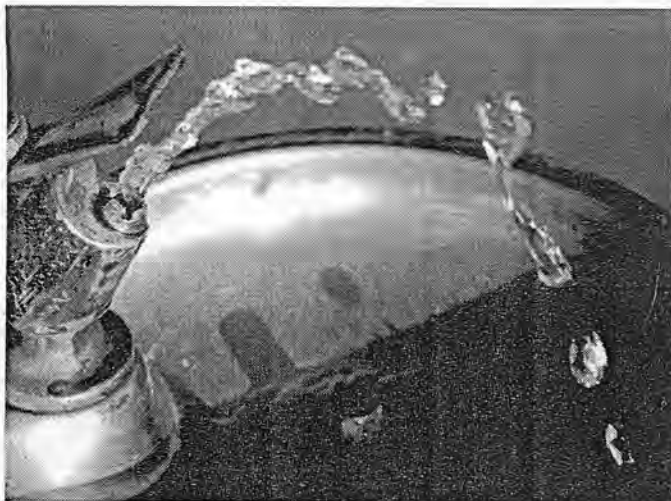
tants and invasive species. Unless we invest in a solution today, the price we will pay tomorrow will be much higher, and future generations may never experience the lakes as we know them.

Through its Great Lakes Program, the Sierra Club, along with other organizations, is working to implement solutions to ensure that future generations can use and enjoy the lakes. Sierra Club is part of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, a coalition of many regional partners working to reduce the threat to the Great Lakes. The coalition developed the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy – a comprehensive plan to protect our drinking water, economic future and way of life.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to tell your state elected officials the importance of implementing the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact. It is your phone calls, emails and letters that helped get this legislation passed. Once each Great Lakes state has passed it, the Compact goes to Congress for approval.

You can help restore and protect our Great Lakes by your involvement with Sierra Club's Great Lakes Program. To find out what you can do or to receive more information, go to [www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes](http://www.sierraclub.org/greatlakes) or email [abrenke@gmail.com](mailto:abrenke@gmail.com).

*Ashley Brenke lives in Madison, WI and works for the Sierra Club Great Lakes Program. She aspires to visit every Wisconsin State Natural Area.*



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# GROUP SPOTLIGHT

## Four Lakes

[www.4lakes.org](http://www.4lakes.org)

by Don Ferber

The Four Lakes Group continues to take on an interesting mix of challenges and opportunities. Being centered in Madison, at least numerically and functionally if not geographically, the State Capital; UW-Madison, the John Muir Chapter and the Midwest Sierra Club office offer boundless opportunities.

On the energy and global warming front, things have been going full tilt for the last year, starting with the lawsuit and actions against the UW Charter St. power plant and opposition to American Transmission Company's unjustifiable power line proposals. We have been actively involved in the feasibility study mandated by the Charter St. lawsuit settlement; the goal is replacement of all Madison's coal-fired power plants through energy reduction measures and cleaner energy sources. We've dedicat-

ed ourselves to moving beyond coal here in Madison, and will likewise be weighing in on a subsequent feasibility study for all Wisconsin's state-owned coal-fired power plants.

Most recently, we were actively involved in a rally at Alliant Energy's shareholder meeting to oppose two new coal power plants, one in the Four Lakes Group area in Cassville on the Mississippi River. Refer to page 1 for more details about this action.

We've been actively involved in energy campaigns to reduce Madison's carbon footprint through an energy efficiency ordinance and are working with the city on its Cool Cities Program. We also succeeded in working with the local utility company, Madison Gas & Electric, to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and they are already making progress.

Despite a lot of agreement and sympathy on these issues, finding volunteers with the time and energy to devote to our energy campaign has been a challenge. We have a

few stalwarts, but we need more hands and feet to spread the word, make contacts and enter data into HELEN. We are doing lots of tabling and, thankfully, getting a number of people willing to help with this. With the Garden Expo and Isthmus Green Day behind us, we'll be very busy spreading the Sierra Club message to throngs of people at the wonderful Dane County Farmer's Market every Saturday during the growing season, and at summer festivals and fairs coming up.

We continue to have a good number of outings, and while many people want to go out somewhere and enjoy the area, finding leaders is another challenge. We've had a good alliance with the local Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation chapter, but are in need of more partners and event leaders.

The Madison Inner City Youth Outings program (ICO) continues to be a great success and an exemplary effort headed up by Terri Felton. Terri has done such a great job that she is turning over the reins of leadership to become more involved in leading national outings along with her partner, John Rider. But one spin-off of ICO is the Four Lakes Group beginning to work on a Four Lakes Area environmental guide for kids and parents, borrowing an (*Continued on page 9*)

## St. Croix Valley Interstate

<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix/>

Our Group recently applied for and was awarded a grant from the Sierra Club Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee. We named our event "Silent

Spring? A New Threat!" It focused on endangered and threatened Wisconsin songbirds. We partnered with an environmental group called One World, One Environment, which was started by some local 6th graders.

The SCVIG will soon be doing our spring roadside cleanup on the stretch of HWY 95 north of Stillwater, MN where we are the designated picker-uppers!

We continue to be involved in the protection of the St. Croix River with outstanding leadership by our Conservation Chair, Ron Carlson. The pressure for development around here means we must be constantly vigilant if the environment of the river and the surrounding valley are to be preserved.

Chair: Carol Hardin, (715) 386-7032 or [cchardin8@gmail.com](mailto:cchardin8@gmail.com)

## Wisconsin River

This group has its membership very spread out and holding together an executive committee is proving tough. Many of the active members have moved their activity up to the national level and there is room if you want to volunteer for the group level! There is a Political/Population Committee that meets regularly. The committee chair is Ned and you can get more info at (715) 693-6095.

Chair: Richard Wentzel, (715) 687-4391 or [rwent52@yahoo.com](mailto:rwent52@yahoo.com)

## Contact Information for Other Groups

Coulee Region <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/index.htm>

Fox Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>

Great Waters <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/>

Southeast Gateway <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>

Even if there is not a Sierra Club group located near your home, you can still take meaningful action. Contact Chapter Membership Chair Jenny Persha or the John Muir Chapter office to find out how. Reach Jenny Persha at [jennypersha@gmail.com](mailto:jennypersha@gmail.com). Contact the Chapter office at [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org).

# THE CREDIBLE CONSUMER

## Just One Word: Plastics

by Sarah M. Streed

Perhaps one of the most oft-quoted lines from the movie *The Graduate* is said in the scene between Dustin Hoffman (playing Benjamin Braddock) and Walter Brooke (Mr. McGuire):

Mr. McGuire: I want to say one word to you. Just one word.

Benjamin: Yes, sir.

Mr. McGuire: Are you listening?

Benjamin: Yes, I am.

Mr. McGuire: Plastics.

Benjamin: Just how do you mean that, sir?

Plastics. I had never written about this topic, feeling that I would concentrate on more urgent problems—global warming, air and water pollution, and so on—when a friend dropped off an article her husband had found in a men's magazine. Titled "Our Oceans Are Turning into Plastic," the article told of Charles Moore who accidentally stumbled upon "a stew of plastic crap" while sailing. This stew turned out to be one of five garbage patches in our oceans, where due to high-pressure zones, plastic trash gathers. Together these zones cover 40% of the sea. Moore is now on a mission.

Nine years ago, he left his 25 year-old business to start Algalita Marine Research Foundation to spread the word on the spread of plastics.

He certainly has his work cut out for him. Plastic pollution is not just ugly; it's making its way into the food chain. More than a million seabirds, 100,000 marine mammals and countless fish die in the North Pacific alone each year from eating plastic or being ensnared in it and drowning. By weight, in a garbage patch, the seawater contains three times as much plastic as plankton.

If you think about plastic, you'll immediately identify the problem for our planet: It never really goes away. Unless you burn it (don't—it creates poison fumes) it breaks down no further than small bits, called "mermaid tears" by some. Even a single molecule is too tough for biodegradation. No one knows how long it takes plastic to biodegrade because it was only invented 144 years ago and—except for the tiny fraction that has been incinerated—it's all still here. Each year about 60 billion tons more is made. Scientists' best guess is that it will take several more centuries for it to biodegrade.

We humans are ingesting these plastic toxins constantly and it's disrupting our gene activity. Scientists are just beginning to

study how the chemicals used to make plastic interact with our bodies. One class of these is phthalates, used to make plastic soft and pliable. A billion pounds are let loose on the planet each year, mostly in the form of packaged food, cosmetics, varnishes, and the coatings of timed-release drugs. They settle into our blood, urine, saliva, seminal fluid, breast milk and amniotic fluid. California recently listed phthalates as toxic to our reproductive systems.

OK, so this is totally depressing—where's the glimmer of hope? It's in movements like that of green architect and designer William McDonough who works with Fortune 500 CEOs designing cities for the future. McDonough talks of "cradle to cradle" in which all manufactured things must be reusable, poison-free, and beneficial over the long haul. What a novel idea! To make his point, McDonough held up a child's rubber ducky, made of phthalate-laden PVC, and asked, "What kind of people are we that we would design like this?"

What can those of us who are concerned do? For one thing: Immediately stop buying plastic. Then go through your house and get rid of everything plastic. Obviously, there will be exceptions to both of these actions, but they can change our world. When I did this, my Target shopping trips completely altered: Instead of buying that brightly colored Rubbermaid container, I bought one of woven bamboo. Instead of using plastic—everything in the kitchen, I buy glass or ceramic dishes, wooden spatulas and wooden cutting boards. It may be impossible to get rid of the plastic that's already here, but we have the power to keep from adding more.

It's just one word: Plastics.

Sarah Streed lives in Stoughton, Wisconsin with her husband and children. To read more of her work, go to **Write Stuff Works** [www.writestuffworks.com](http://www.writestuffworks.com). To suggest future topics, email her at [smstreed@sbc-global.net](mailto:smstreed@sbc-global.net)



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# Happy Reminiscence

by Peter Muto

Recently I read that the California quarter, minted in 2005, has the image and name of John Muir on it. I consulted my spouse, Helen, who is collecting a complete set of state quarters. The coin was a wonderful surprise. Not only does it show a full-length figure of John Muir but it also shows and names Yosemite Valley! This coin revived a memory of a delightful occasion.

The event was a Spring Assembly of the John Muir Chapter in honor of John Muir's 150th Birthday. The time was April, 1988. The place was the John Muir Memorial County Park in Marquette County, 10 miles North of Portage on County Highway F.

The guest speaker was the Regional Director of the National Park Service. He was there because this is the spiritual birthplace of the National Park System. (The Regional Director was headquartered in Omaha, so he had to come a long way to give that heart-warming talk to us.)

This is the site of John Muir's farm home where, as a "teeny-bopper," he rejoiced and said that America should have places "to pray and to play!"



Now, fast-forward over 50 years. John was a grown man and our President was Theodore Roosevelt. The event was the dedication of Yosemite National Park. Old "TR" was the guest speaker. Naturally John Muir was there to greet him, but John also had a pair of horses all saddled-up, ready to go for a ride. The President accepted John's offer of a ride into the mountains nearby. The President of the United States left behind members of Congress, park officials, various "fat cats" and "stuffed-shirts" to enjoy the company of John Muir. Imagine, for several hours no one knew the exact whereabouts of the President of the United States!

Patrea Wilson, a very friendly voice at the end of my telephone line, did some research for this article. She found that the birth date of John Muir was, April 19, 1838. *The Muir View* article I read in the May-June, 2004, issue was authored by Bruce Hamilton, then Director of Conservation out of the "Frisco Apparat."

*Peter Muto lives in River Falls and has been a Sierra Club member for 33 years. He's a past JMC Chapter Chair, SCVIG Group Chair, and is the current Environmental Education Chair of the SCVIG.*

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Workplace giving programs at 608-256-1066

[www.communityshares.com](http://www.communityshares.com)

# GREEN REVIEW

## Books relevant to Wisconsin Sierra Club Members

by Amy L. Jenkins

 *The Life of the Skies: Birding at the End of Nature*, by Jonathan Rosen. 300 pp. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.


The obvious audience for a book about birding may appear to be those who habitually look skyward for winged beauty. Rosen casts a much broader literary net. The birder will be seduced from the first chapter with a search for the ghost bird – the ivory-billed woodpecker. This search weaves its way throughout the entire collection of essayistic ruminations. Those interested in even one of the threads of the national culture, science, philosophy, poetry, environmentalism, history, spirituality, or literature will find an entry point into the fabric of these entertaining tales.

This is not a book to read quickly. Each chapter is dense with information and odyssey, so that the reader feels as if they borrow a bit of Rosen's erudite sensibility. Consider, with Rosen, his early birding experience of seeing the migrating flocks of ibis, snow geese and egrets against a Manhattan skyline dominated by the Twin Towers. At the time, the migrators seemed ephemeral and the Towers seemed more permanent.

Explore the changing culture of birding, from the time American birders collected

with a gun, to the modern-day Israeli birder who watches with binoculars but carries a shotgun over the shoulder. Rosen explores the words and adventures of Audubon, Darwin, Thoreau, Whitman and more. He travels to Louisiana, Arkansas and other sites of probable ivory-billed sightings. His sojourns also include Central Park, Manhattan, Israel, and even Graceland.

Readers may wonder if Rosen was correct when he proclaimed that birding tends to be a male, or male-brain-type, activity. Perhaps his maleness should be considered in this assertion. Readers will consider the meaning behind the shared experience of bird-watching; what does this activity have to do with being human? Like all good literature, Rosen's ideas resonate beyond the experience of the text. *Life of the Skies* will likely evoke thinking, but will certainly urge all to look skyward to find remnants of a seductive wilderness.

 *GreenGreenerGreenest: A Practical Guide to Making Eco-Smart Choices a Part of Your Life*, by Lori Bongiorno. 286pp. Perigee.

While it is time for big changes – governments and corporations must radically shift their ways of doing business to include engineered solutions to care for an ailing planet – individuals still ask, *What can I do?* Small-scale changes not only add up to big-scale results, they also empower the individual.

Those who are concerned about the state of the planet are the likely market for this

book, but even those who care for the earth may not be able or willing to change everything about the way they live in one fell swoop. *GreenGreenerGreenest* examines many aspects of living and consuming, including food and beverages, personal care, babies and children, home building, energy and water conservation, furniture and apparel, cleaning, backyard and garden, transportation, and recycling and garbage.

Lori Bongiorno examines these aspects of living and then considers changes from a practical viewpoint. For most areas she offers a range of ideas that consider graduated measures of change. Even those who are overwhelmed with other demands of life can easily adapt to some of the changes. Everyone is not ready for a thirty-thousand-dollar photovoltaic roof. They might consider take-out and restaurant leftovers, *Goodness I never thought of bringing my own containers; or local breweries, Oh yes, I can buy local beer and save the fossil fuels used in shipping imports – that I can do right away.* Other fun ideas include hosting a healthy-cosmetics spa party or household-cleaners party with money-saving, make-at-home recipes.

Most of the options presented in *GreenGreenerGreenest* include credible web sources that expand the presented information and will likely keep the book a current source of information. Also included in many chapters are ways to “get active” in urging government and corporations to go green. Once the reader is personally empowered by small-scale, sustainable changes, they may be ready to push for big changes and long-term thinking.

Amy L. Jenkins writes from Wauwatosa.  
[www.AmyLJenkins.com](http://www.AmyLJenkins.com)  
Editor: [www.AnthologiesOnline.com](http://www.AnthologiesOnline.com)

## Call for Nominations to the JMC Executive Committee

by Cheri Briscoe, Nominations Committee Chair

The Nominations Committee will accept nominations for members wishing to stand for election as At Large Delegates to the Executive Committee of the John Muir Chapter. At Large delegates serve for a term of three years, beginning in January of 2009. There are three openings for the upcoming election. You may nominate yourself, or someone else with his or her advance consent.

Nominations should be sent to Cheri Briscoe at [cherib@wi.rr.com](mailto:cherib@wi.rr.com) no later than July 18, 2008, and should include name, address, telephone number, email address, group affiliation, and a short biographical statement suitable for publication in *The Muir View*.



# Tree-Hugger's Hangout

## Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area

by Barbara Thomas

In the beautiful rolling hills just east of Menomonie you'll find the 600 acres of preserved space that is Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area. It's where the grandkids always want to explore when they come to visit, where church groups enjoy outdoor gatherings every summer, and where our son and his wife were married.

It's a favorite place to cross-country ski, to hike up the hill and on up to the top of the 60 ft.-high observation tower, or to just sit on the benches and take it all in. The wooded hills, wetlands and prairie, and scads of birds invite visitors.

This land was originally "rail-road" land during the westward expansion. Some was eventually homesteaded, but the dry 1950s ended most farming. Dick Hoffman's grandfather lived on some of that land, and, as time went on, Dick and his wife acquired additional land and donated it to the state. The DNR preserved more acreage and all that land is now Hoffman Hills State Recreation Area.



The view from the observation tower at Hoffman Hills.  
STEPH WALKER

Dick's intent, as the homesteads have passed on, is to preserve this space as a memento to the land and its ecology and to the settlers and the history of their travails – and for the enjoyment of future generations. Dick is thankful for the generosity of the citizens in the Menomonie area who responded to his requests to create a fund; the interest from it is used for ongoing work in the park, replacing the usual entrance fee (There is a small fee for cross-country skiers over 16 years old). He also lauds the local Optimist Club for raising the money for the observation tower and the Seabees and Army for construction help. We who love Hoffman Hills honor Dick and his family for providing this gem of a space for our wonderment and enjoyment.

*Barbara Thomas lives in Menomonie and is the Chippewa Valley Group Chair.*

## Keep In Touch

Please update your emails with Patrea Wilson, office administrator, at the Chapter Office. Having your email available saves us money on mailings and lets us contact you on short notice for activist opportunities. We have also begun supplementing our quarterly *Muir View* with monthly or weekly e-news depending on your area.

Phone Patrea at (608) 256-0565 or email her at [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org)

*(Four Lakes continued from page 5)*  
idea from the best, Harriet Iwamoto.

In addition, we're hosting the Autumn Assembly October 10-12 at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in The Dells. We're planning a fun-filled and informative assembly, with some great field trips, where we hope to see many of our fellow Sierrans from around the state.

*Don Ferber lives in Madison and is the Chair of the Four Lakes Group.*

**Save the Date: 2008 Autumn Assembly**  
October 10-12, 2008 • Wisconsin Dells • Hosted by the Four Lakes Group

# WILD FLORA - MEMORIAL



## *In Celebration*

**Janice J. Stiefel**, age 72, of Bailey's Harbor, died peacefully in the presence of her family and went to be with her Lord Tuesday evening March 18, 2008. She was married to John Stiefel on September 7, 1957 and they just celebrated 50 years together in 2007. She was the loving, caring, mother of their two children Kay and Mark and is further survived by other relatives and friends.

Janice was born in Chicago, and lived with her parents on the prairies of Skokie where she learned to love all the little critters that resided in the grasslands of that community. She was a self-taught naturalist and photographer who dedicated her life to raising her kids as a stay-at-home mom. She learned everything she could about the flora and insects that thrive around us; which the rest of us just take for granted.

Janice shared her incredible knowledge, observations, and enthusiasm through many speaking engagements in which she presented a small sampling of her many photographs of mosses, mushrooms, flowers, moths, butterflies, and caterpillars. She also edited numerous publications and continued as editor of The Wisconsin Entomological Society up to the present. She was an accomplished and prolific author of articles that provided yet another outlet to share her love of nature. Her regular column, "Wild Flora of the Month," appeared in each issue of *The Muir View*.

(Online guestbook and information: [www.caspersonfuneralhome.com](http://www.caspersonfuneralhome.com). A memorial fund has been established at Baylake Bank in Sister Bay.)

### **Fireflies in the Meadow**

by Janice Stiefel ©

Little lamps of the twilight, flying low through the air,  
Illuminate the meadow and all creatures living there.  
Gazing through our window, we often wonder why  
They light up for a moment, then disappear into the sky.  
Are they rehearsing for greater flights way beyond the blue,  
To return to us as shooting stars in every sparkling hue?

Used with permission of author's family.





# The Future is Theirs: Nurturing Young Environmentalists

## One World, One Environment

by Mirjana

The *One World, One Environment Club* started in 5th grade. One girl was very passionate about animals and the environment, and really wanted to help them, so she gathered a group of people that loved animals, and they started meeting at her house. They now have six members.

Last summer they participated in their first event, *Step it Up 2007*. They organized a protest with music, and people that had biked from River Falls. All over the U.S. people were protesting against global warming, urging Congress to lower greenhouse gases. They sent in their photos of the event to the *Step it Up* website and to their state's legislatures. That summer, they also counted around 625 Zebra Mussels, an invasive species, in one hour on the St. Croix River.

Later, a teacher started to help them, and they began meeting at school. They participated in the *Amur Leopard Project*, where they raised money and awareness for Critically Endangered Amur Leopards. Just recently, they completed a project that they worked on with the Sierra Club, called "Silent Spring? A New Threat," an Endangered Species Day event that focused on Wisconsin songbirds.

The *One World, One Environment club's* goal is to involve people, especially kids, in helping the environment in other ways than just donating. (Though that is also strongly encouraged!!!) They want to increase awareness everywhere about the importance of nature, and the dangers that nature faces today.

Their website was created last September, and they continue to working on it. In the last month, they've had visits to this website from eight different states, one from France, and one from Japan. So their website has been a success.



Their website is:  
[www.environment101.wetpaint.com](http://www.environment101.wetpaint.com)  
Their email is: [environment.habitat@gmail.com](mailto:environment.habitat@gmail.com)

*Mirjana is in 6th grade and attends local Sierra Club meetings as often as her school schedule allows. She enjoys a variety of outdoor activities with her family, and especially loves going dogsledding and exploring the Boundary Waters.*

## Honoring Volunteers, One Award at a Time

by Lacinda Athen, JMC Awards Chair

One of the challenges of coordinating a grassroots organization like ours is finding, keeping and honoring our volunteers. One great way to motivate and maintain members is through public recognition of their efforts. The Chapter offers a range of awards for Sierra Club volunteers, members of the business or political community, or other local heroes. We strongly encourage you to honor your volunteers in this way, whether they are excited new activists or a long-term workhorses. We want to let them know how much their commitment means!

Award nominations forms, our Award Categories and a list of past winners are available on our web site at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>.

Please select what you feel is the most appropriate honor for your nominee and submit the appropriate forms by August 1st. The Awards Committee will review all nominees and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee, who must approve winners. This timeline is designed to offer enough notice to recipients so they can plan to attend the Awards ceremony.

Awards will be presented at our Autumn

Assembly Saturday evening dinner. If someone from your Group is available, we would love to have you offer a personal introduction of the winner, giving some background about the work he or she has done to prompt the recognition. If for some reason the honoree cannot attend, we will make arrangements to deliver the award.

If you have questions about the Awards program, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are hoping to increase the number and types of awards we give out, to remind volunteers how important their work is!

*Lacinda Athen belongs to the Four Lakes Group. 608-274-7870, [lathen@farin.com](mailto:lathen@farin.com), 4909 Sherwood Road Madison, WI 53711*

**Check Out the Solve Global Warming Wisconsin Website**  
[www.solveglobalwarmingwisconsin.org](http://www.solveglobalwarmingwisconsin.org)

## Join Us at the Autumn Assembly this October!

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter will be holding our annual Autumn Assembly October 10-12, 2008 at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells. The Autumn Assembly is an educational and enjoyable weekend gathering featuring workshops, speakers and hands-on nature activities. This year's event, organized by the Four Lakes Group, offers a diverse array of presentations, exciting outings and even camp naturalists to help keep the kids entertained. Our Saturday evening keynote speaker will be Eric Hansen, an inspiring author and traveler who has contributed regularly to Backpacker magazine and written guidebooks on hiking in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Camp Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center was chosen for our Autumn Assembly for its scenic beauty and ample outdoor recreational opportunities (for more

info see: <http://4h.uwex.edu/uphamwoods/>). Located across from Blackhawk Island on a branch of the Wisconsin River on Hwy N just northwest of the Dells off I-90/94, the camp is part of UW Extension. The camp has cabins and dorm rooms, with tent camping as an option. A small nature center is also on site, with naturalists available during day time hours to provide learning activities for children.

The Autumn Assembly will kick off on Friday afternoon with a chance to tour the lands and learn the legacy of one of Wisconsin's patron saints of the environment - Aldo Leopold. We'll do an afternoon tour of Leopold Reserve, the shack and the new zero net energy use Aldo Leopold Reserve Legacy Center. Later that evening, attendees will have a chance to enjoy educational films, hike under the stars, and gather around the bonfire.

Saturday will begin with an early morning bird-watching hike. After breakfast, John Muir Chapter Chair, Jim Steffens, and our new Chapter Director, Shahla Werner, will introduce themselves and welcome attendees. UW-Madison Emeritus professor of

limnology, Jim Magnuson, will provide us with his expert take on climate change in Wisconsin. We will also hear from local groups, national Sierra Club Board member, Barb Frank, Natural Resources Board member and past Sierra Club leader, Jonathan Ela, and others who will discuss conservation issues and actions participants can take to make a difference in their communities. The afternoon will include a choice of hiking or canoeing and a presentation on protecting eagle habitat from the Ferry Bluff Eagle Council. Just before dinner, we will introduce our first Autumn Assembly silent auction fundraiser to benefit Sierra Club's work to reduce global warming and protect Wisconsin's Great Lakes and other water resources. We hope you will make bighearted bids on the many unique, eco-friendly items generously donated by businesses and local groups! Noted outdoorsman, conservationist and author Eric Hansen will capture people's imagination during the keynote dinner presentation, as he describes eclectic stories about people and places encountered during his extensive trekking experiences. Dinner will be followed by chapter awards, and then participants will have more time to bid on silent auction items while enjoying a photo presentation, bluegrass music and social time.

On Sunday we have more sessions on fundraising, effective communications and supporting our conservation efforts. Our Autumn Assembly will wrap up with a talk about habitat restoration efforts at the Badger Army Ammunition plant - which will be a great lead-in to the afternoon outing at the plant.

Stay tuned for updates on [www.4lakes.org](http://www.4lakes.org) and <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>, and watch for the October issue of *The Muir View* for the detailed schedule of events. Contact Don Ferber at (608) 222-9376 or [d\\_ferber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d_ferber@sbcglobal.net) if you have silent auctions items to contribute, want to volunteer, or have questions about the Autumn Assembly. This event is open to all Sierra Club members and the public, so please tell your friends, fill out a registration form (on page 13) and mark your calendars with plans join us this year!

*Don Ferber, Sierra Club Life Member since 1982, lives in Madison where he is the Four Lakes Chair and Volunteer Coordinator. His special interests are energy and conservation issues, and he's a long-time volunteer with the Ice Age Trail. Don's known for frequently attacking honeysuckle, buckthorn and other invasives.*

## John Muir Chapter Calendar

### 2008 ExCom Meetings

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| September 2 | Conference Call Meeting                |
| November 8  | First United Methodist Church, Baraboo |

### 2008 Events

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| September 9     | Vote! Statewide Primary Election   |
| September 10-12 | Great Lakes Restoration Conference<br><a href="http://www.healthylakes.org/08conference">www.healthylakes.org/08conference</a> |
| October 10-12   | Autumn Assembly in Wisconsin Dells<br>Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center<br>Sponsored by the Four Lakes Group                 |

Check out the new John Muir Chapter website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>. Thanks to Lacinda Athen for all her work on this great new site!

### John Muir Chapter

Website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>  
Phone: (608) 256-0565  
E-mail: [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org)



# Autumn Assembly 2008 - John Muir Chapter

October 10-12, 2008 • Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center • N194 County Road N, Wisconsin Dells  
(Early Registration is recommended due to some program limits.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ cell#: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended Autumn Assembly before? Yes or No

## Registration fee (Before September 13<sup>th</sup>)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults (over age 12) x \$ 20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ # of Children (age 12 and under) x \$ 10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Late Registration (After September 13<sup>th</sup>)

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults (over age 12) x \$ 30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ # of Children (age 12 and under) x \$ 15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Overnight Accommodations:

### Dorms Friday + Saturday

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults over age 12 (no linens) x \$ 22 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults over age 12 (w/linens) x \$ 25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children age 12 and under (no linens) x \$ 14 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children age 12 and under (w/linens) x \$ 16 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Cabins Friday + Saturday

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults over age 12 x \$ 20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children under age 12 x \$ 12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Tents Friday + Saturday

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Adults over age 12 x \$ 18 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children age 12 and under x \$ 10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Adult Meals:

\_\_\_\_\_ Sat. Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Breakfast x \$ 5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sat. Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Lunch x \$ 6 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sat. Dinner x \$ 7 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Children's Meals: (age 12 and under @ \$5/meal)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sat. Breakfast, \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. Lunch, \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. Dinner, \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Breakfast, \_\_\_\_\_ Sun Lunch = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total Enclosed:** = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Four Lakes Group Sierra Club  
Mail to: Jenny Persha, 3041 Maple Valley Dr Apt 101, Madison, WI 53719

Number of persons wanting vegetarian meals: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact us ASAP for any food allergies.

Do you plan to attend the Friday afternoon outing to the Aldo Leopold Reserve? \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)  
Do you plan to attend the Sunday afternoon outing to the Badger Ammo Plant? \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

A full refund will be given to any cancellations received by 9/22/08  
Visit our website at: 4lakes.org for more details & site photos.  
Questions: Don Ferber at (608) 222-9376 or d\_ferber@sbcglobal.net

# RIVER TOURING SECTION OF THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

## 2008 Paddling Trips and Instructional Clinics

Interested in paddling some great water with fun and skilled paddlers? If so, the River Touring Section (RTS) is the group for you. Every year, our members lead paddling adventures ranging from half-day trips on quiet water to multi-day trips on advanced whitewater. We also lead several instructional clinics to teach you paddling and safety skills.

RTS is affiliated with the Sierra Club, but our trips are open to everyone. We want to get you on rivers. We hope you grow to enjoy paddling, love rivers, and support groups that work to protect them, such as the Sierra Club and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

### PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

Each trip and clinic includes the name and contact information of the trip leaders. You must call the leaders before the trip to register and get the logistics, (when and where it departs.) Trip leaders can provide information about the trip or clinic and help you assess your abilities to participate. Trip leaders reserve the right to limit participation based on the number of people registered, participant skill levels, trip difficulty, and other reasons.

**TRANSPORTATION AND GEAR:** You are responsible for providing your own transportation to the river. You are also responsible for providing all of your gear: boat, paddles, life jacket, bail bucket, and so on. You'll also need to provide weather-appropriate clothing. This means a wet or dry suit for early and late season runs and for whitewater, as well as gear to minimize sun exposure such as a hat and sunglasses.

All participants **MUST** wear a properly fitted and securely fastened life jacket on all the trips and in the clinics. For Class II and higher whitewater, participants should wear a life jacket designed for whitewater and **MUST** wear a whitewater helmet. Proper floatation and thigh straps are also desirable for Class II whitewater; both are required for Class III and higher water.

You are responsible for providing all of your camping equipment: tents, sleeping bag, food, etc. Trips marked "Car Camp" means you'll return to a camping site for the evening. "Canoe Camp" means you need to carry all your equipment with you in your canoe. "Canoe Camp with Portage"

means you'll have an opportunity to carry all of your gear at some point on the trip.

**CLASSES OF WATER:** We want your RTS experience to be fun. We also want it to be safe. The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty (see box) is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water and will help you decide if a trip is appropriate for you and your skill level. Except for the occasional flatwater/quietwater lake trips, all of our trips are on moving water rivers which qualify on the ACA scale as Class I. Many of these trips are suitable for paddlers with solid flatwater canoe skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

### LIABILITY WAIVER and REQUIREMENTS:

All participants are required to sign a liability waiver before the trip or clinic and abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. We do not allow glass containers or alcoholic beverages while we're on the water. If you would like to read the liability waiver form before you sign up for a trip or clinic, please see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>.

### TRIP AND RIVER ISSUE UPDATES:

For trip updates and periodic updates about river issues from the River Alliance and the Sierra Club, please check our web site:

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>.

**PADDLING RESOURCES:** Wisconsin guidebooks include: Paddling Northern Wisconsin, Paddling Southern Wisconsin, and Whitewater; Quietwater. In addition, you'll find information about safety and about other issues on the following web sites: American Canoe Association: <http://www.americancanoe.org>. American Whitewater: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org>. The latter includes current water levels for many Wisconsin rivers.

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?** Please contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: [prairiesmoke2@gmail.com](mailto:prairiesmoke2@gmail.com), 608-242-8633.

## INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS members offer several instructional clinics for a nominal fee. These clinics are a great way to gain skills and confidence. Because we strive to maintain a low student to teacher ratio, typically 4 to 1 or fewer, we can offer highly individualized instruction. The clinics fill up early. To avoid missing out on the clinic you want to take, reserve your spot now by calling the clinic instructor and sending in your fee (non-refundable). All of the clinic teachers volunteer their time. Fees cover supplies and refreshments. RTS donates the remaining funds to conservation and river protection groups.

The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water. Some rivers will not clearly fall into a neat system. Temperatures below 50 °F should change a rating to be one class more difficult than normal.

**Class I** - Moving water with few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.

**Class II** - Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels that are obvious.

**Class III** - Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require some scouting from shore.

**Class IV** - Long, difficult rapids and constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scout from shore often necessary and conditions make rescue difficult. Canoeists and kayakers should have the ability to roll.

(Note: The scale includes two additional Classes - V and VI - but since RTS is not offering trips at that level, we didn't include that information.)

*From the American Canoe Association Web Site.*



**River Safety and Rescue Clinic.** July 26-27. Red River. Class I-II; Car Camp. Fee: \$20/person, plus camping fees. Limited to 12 people. Through active, hands-on instruction, you will learn many river rescue techniques, including how to throw and receive a rope, swim a rapid, release pinned boats, and manage rescue scenarios. Note that you will be required to swim in the river as part of the workshop. On both days, we will also paddle the Red River, continuing our rescue instruction and offering informal paddling instruction to those who are interested. To register or get more details, contact: Judd Lefebber and Jen Kiecker, 920-261-6413, jenkiecker@hotmail.com. You can also get information from Chuck Patrick, 262-895-3667, cpatrik@Bioformmedical.com.

## PADDLING TRIPS

**July 12. Badfish Creek and Yahara River. Class I.** We'll spend two hours on Badfish Creek and then travel down the most scenic section of the Yahara. The surprising Badfish features Class I riffles and reliable water thanks to the Madison Sewerage District. Learn about how sewage treatment impacts Badfish Creek. Contact: Rick Kark, 608-233-1989, karkra@uwec.edu.

**July 12-13. Wolf and Red Rivers. Class II; Car Camp.** Practice whitewater skills before they get rusty, from the WW clinics. Paddle the Red River, a favorite of many paddlers. Contact: Pat or Bobbie Wilson 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.

**July 17 (eve) - 20. Sylvania Wilderness - Watersmeet, Michigan. Class I; Canoe camp with portage.** On early Friday morning, we'll embark on a 3-day loop, exploring some of Sylvania's clean, clear lakes in a wilderness setting. The trip includes dawn and moonlight paddles. Enjoy the call of the loons! Learn what others have done before us to make this a special place of plant, animal, and human interaction. Limited to 6 paddlers. \$25 non-refundable deposit is due by July 12 to cover the 3-night camping fee. For details, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 5202 Schofield St., Monona, WI 53716, 608-222-0746, kasy9@juno.com.

**August 9-10. Black River. Class I; Canoe Camp.** Life's a beach on this section of the Black River! We'll canoe camp on a sandbar in this beautiful quietwater section of the river downstream from Black River Falls. Children are welcome on this family-oriented trip. Learn how to canoe camp with children. For details, contact: Pat or Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.

**August 9-10. Lower Black River. (Limited to all-wood canoes and kayaks.) Class I, Car Camp.** Woodies! Get your coffee-table canoe on your car and head out to the lower Black River. On day 1, we'll put in at North Bend and take out at Hunters Bridge on Highway 53. On day 2 we'll go from Highway 53 to near New Amsterdam. This is through the Van Loon Wildlife Area, home to Wisconsin's threatened Massasauga Rattlesnake and the Red-shouldered Hawk. Learn about river bottom forest; the habitat for these species. We'll camp at Sandman's Campground. For details, contact: Paul Withington, 608-442-5364, spwithington@webtv.net.

**August 10-11. Youghiogheny River, Pennsylvania. Class 3+; Car Camp.** Paddle the lower "Yough" in western Pennsylvania. This joint canoe trip with the Appalachian Mountain Club is an opportunity to paddle reliable and challenging whitewater in summer conditions with skilled canoers. Learn about the importance of this river to the region. Combine trip with visits to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob. Make own camping reservations for Ohio State Park (pick Juniper sites #205-#209) 1-888-PA-PARKS. Register early; group size is limited. \$5 deposit required for launch permits. For details, contact: Gary Leander, 570-401-6335, gleander@charter.net.

**August 16-17. Flambeau River. Class II; Canoe Camping.** Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. For details, contact: Rich Krieg, 920-497-8004, eddy-out@gmail.com or Dale Dean, 608-879-9280, daleink@juno.com.

**August 23-24. Quiet Rivers of Southern Wisconsin. Class I; Car Camp.** Explore one or two quiet water rivers in Southern Wisconsin. River choice will depend on water levels, possibilities include: Lower Wisconsin, Sugar, Mecan, Lemonweir, or

Platte. Plan to pick up trash along the way and explore the varied geography in southern Wisconsin. Contact: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@charter.net.

**August 23-24. Wisconsin Whitewater. Class II - III; Car Camp.** Practice whitewater skills before they get rusty, from the Whitewater Clinics. Possible rivers include the Wolf, Pike, Red River, and the Wausau Whitewater Course. For details, contact: Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net.

**September 20-21. Kickapoo & Wisconsin River. Class I; Canoe camp.** We'll put in at Plumb Creek Landing on the Kickapoo, camp on a sand bar on the Wisconsin, and take out at the Highway 18 bridge. The camping is primitive; no facilities. This quiet water trip is a great way to study the early fall bird migration in the Plumb Creek unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. Contact: Carl Wisler, 262-542-9593, cwisler@wi.rr.com or Don Lintner, 414-764-4812, dlintner@earthlink.net.

**September 27-28. Wolf (Section IV) plus second river. Class III+; Car Camp.** Fall color and good whitewater. We'll canoe the Wolf and another river based on water levels. Learn about the challenges of autumn whitewater. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net.

**October 4-5. Wisconsin Whitewater (rivers to be determined.) Class II-III; Car Camp.** Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Depending on water levels, paddlers' interest, and weather, we could paddle the Pike, Peshtigo, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details, contact: Bill Barclay or Peg Strobel, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net or Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy9@juno.com.



### Nature Buffs - Enjoy a Unique Vacation

No place like it. Haven for nature lovers - look to the outdoors to see or study nature. Very private, lush forest. Virgin pines over 275 years old. Crystal clear lake. Hike, swim, fish. 3 cabins furnished for 4 persons each. 270 miles north of Chicago. Available by the week, Sat. to Sat.; Memorial to Labor Day. For details and reservations, write or call private owner: R.R. Roth, 531 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068; 847-823-4785.

# SUMMER OUTINGS

**July 12, Saturday: *Bike Along the Fox River.*** Learn about and experience the environment along the Fox River. Ride from the Thousand Islands Nature Center to Wrightstown, returning via the Fox River rail-trail. Charlie Paine, (920) 739-1900, Menasha [FV]

**July 19, Saturday: *Photography Excursion.*** Stimulate your photographic imagination using traditional film or digital photography, as you learn about the pleasing views of Spring Valley dam, lake, river, and the town. Meet at 10 a.m. at the parking lot at McKay and Third Streets (across from the Cenex Station), Spring Valley. Paul Ebel, (651) 335-8759, paulebel44@yahoo.com or Caryn Treiber, 632-2055, ctreiber@discover-net.net. [CV]

**August 2, Saturday: *Kayak the Red Cedar River.*** Come along on a trip down the gorgeous Red Cedar River and learn about it's environment. We'll put in at the STH 29 bridge in Menomonie, and float down to Irvington, or optionally to Downsville. Meet at 10 a.m. at the put-in parking area, STH 29 bridge. Zachary Konkol: 834-4099 or gregory.konkol@ubs.com [CV]

**August 2-11. *Boundary Waters/Quetico Canoe Trips.*** Join eight other modern-day voyageurs on this special adventure into the timeless and pristine wilderness of

Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. Two 9-person crews will traverse the park one way, one crew beginning at an Ely, MN base and the other at Atikokan, Ontario, meeting along the way in a grand rendezvous. Expect to see wildlife and ancient Ojibway pictographs, travel the routes of the trappers and voyageurs and have the opportunity to fish and swim in drinkable lakes. Experience is not required, but good physical fitness and a positive attitude are essential. Shared costs will be \$475, including canoes and packs. A deposit of \$100 will hold your reservation. Trip leaders: Mike Prausa (Atikokan to Ely) (414)-305-0052, mprausa@wi.rr.com and Bill Moore (Ely to Atikokan) (262)-785-9022, environ1@sbcglobal.net. [GW/4L/JM]

**August 9, Saturday: *Bike from Manitowoc to Point Beach State Forest.*** Approximately 30 miles round trip. Much of the route is on off-road trails along the Lake Michigan shore and through the Point Beach Forest, with the remainder on city streets. Along the way we'll stop at a museum to learn a bit of the history of the area, and perhaps to get some ice cream. Bring a bike, helmet, sun block, and water. Dress for the weather. Charlie Paine, (920) 739-1900, Menasha, [FV]

**August 29 - September 7: *Boundary Waters/Quetico Canoe Trip.*** Experience the life and land of the French voyageurs,

Ojibway Indians and British trappers on this classic adventure into Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park. Beginning from a base near Ely, MN, you'll roam through the best of Quetico's granite wilderness with opportunities to fish, swim, view ancient pictographs and wildlife and learn about this historic land. Experience is not required, but good physical fitness and a positive attitude are essential. Shared costs will be \$475, including canoes and packs. Reservation deposit: \$100. Trip leader/guide: Bill Moore. Call (262) 785-9022, environ1@sbcglobal.net. [GW/4L/JM]



Outing host group is indicated in brackets [ ]:

[CV]	Chippewa Valley Group
[4L]	Four Lakes Group
[FV]	Fox Valley Group
[GW]	Great Waters Group
[SCVI]	St. Croix Valley Interstate Group
[JM]	John Muir Chapter

**Liability Waiver & Carpooling:**

In order to participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see the Chapter's web site: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/outings> In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

**Outings Coordinator:**

Charles Paine  
N8172 Firelane 13  
Menasha, WI 54952-9650  
920-739-1900 Email: chasp0@peoplepc.com

**Register Now for the 2008 Autumn Assembly**

October 10-12 at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center, Wisconsin Dells. See pages 12-13.