If you are looking for additional motivation to vote this year, look no further than the results from the 2017-18 Wisconsin Legislature. Continuing the trend of the last few years we saw attacks and roll backs on basic environmental protections, loss of local control and changes to governmental procedure that will make it more difficult for state government to protect its citizens from environmental harm. One of the very troubling trends we’ve seen is a shortsighted response to a complaint from a single person, local government action or court decision. We’ve seen wide-reaching bills that are meant to address a single concern that fundamentally change the role of local government, modify broad environmental regulations and reduce or completely eliminate certain protections.

**WATER:** Protection of water quality and water quantity was hit particularly hard in this session. The four most notable examples relate to high capacity wells, wetlands, navigability and dredging.

**AIR:** There were several bills related to air quality that were not only attacks on standards that protect human health but also attacks on using science to make policy. One passed. The new law seeks to remove the ozone air quality monitoring station in Kohler-Andrae State Park. This means that families will not have vital information they need to protect themselves.

**LAND:** The mining law passed to benefit Aquila Resources and other potential miners overturned our “Prove It First” requirement.
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Exercise Your Rights

 ohne caring, there is no democracy,” were linguist George Lakoff’s closing words in a PBS interview with Tavis Smiley.

Lakoff’s statement suggests that for democracy to function, it’s not our beliefs or ideology that are critical, but the emotional links that bind us as human beings. It’s the heartfelt connections we forge with each other that are vital to successfully achieving our democratic goals.

By that measure, our democracy is not currently functioning well, with money and politics often taking precedence over the well-being of citizens and the environment. When the common good and aspirations of equity become subservient to individual avarice and righteousness, and our divisions become stronger than what binds us as a nation, our very democracy is at risk.

What upsets me most is not policy disagreements or an inability to reach consensus, but the denigration of human beings and their legitimacy. Rather than unite us, our federal and state administrations are dividing and turning people against each other. We should heed Lincoln’s warning: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

It’s understandable, and perhaps appropriate, to feel angry when we hear hate, see human beings diminished, and fear our planet’s destruction. But if democracy depends on caring, how should we respond? What will bring people together, not separate us?

This November provides the opportunity for you to show you care by exercising your democratic right to vote. Voting allows us to choose representatives we think are most likely to support our values. For many of us, especially as Sierrans, that’s protecting people and the planet.

The Sierra Club endorses candidates who support environmental protections and individual rights, and will represent our collective interests. We also help organize and turn out the vote for those candidates, which provides you with another opportunity to participate and strengthen our democracy.

People may feel that one person’s vote won’t count – especially when an election outcome is reasonably assured. But that misses the point. It’s the process of voting, of participating in democracy, that is an act of caring and demonstrates that to others. In the same way, your choosing to be a member of and to support the Sierra Club is another act of caring.

Rights, like muscles, can atrophy and weaken without use. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Choose to exercise your most precious rights during the campaign and at the ballot box in November, and show that you care.

Don Ferber
Chapter Chair
Opposing the Back 40 Mine Project

The proposal to build an 83-acre open pit sulfide ore mine adjacent to the Menominee River is encountering legal headwinds. On June 4, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issued the fourth mining permit. The wetland permit was issued with 28 pages of conditions to be met before mining operations could begin.

Subsequently, the Menominee Nation filed a federal lawsuit on August 1. The lawsuit is based on the fact that the MDEQ was granted permitting authority by the EPA to review and issue mining wetland permits on inland lakes and streams, within the borders of the state of Michigan. The MDEQ does not have permitting authority on border rivers of interstate commerce. Due to the hydrology of the adjacent wetlands, the possibility exists that the mine could as well affect the groundwater of residents on the Wisconsin side of the river. The US Army Corps of Engineers should be reviewing the permit applications and looking at all the possibilities on both sides of the border -- affecting the groundwater -- before issuing the mining permits. On August 2 and 3, the Coalition to Save the Menominee River and Menominee Nation filed separate petitions to contest the issuing the wetland permit in Administrative Court in Lansing, Michigan. One issue being contested is that it was discovered upon reviewing the finding of fact and conclusion of law, that the MDEQ Water Resources Division had denied the wetland permit. Subsequently, the director of the MDEQ approved and issued the wetland permit, overriding the professionals in the MDEQ’s own Water Resources Division!

The John Muir Chapter opposes the Back 40 project because it could poison the water, hence threatening the aquatic ecosystem of the Menominee River and the groundwater surrounding the mine site. The Menominee Nation Cultural and Heritage sites on or adjacent to the mine site would be damaged as well. The Aquila Resources Back Forty project is a keystone project for further development of the Reef and Bend sulfide ore mine sites in Wisconsin.

To learn more about the Coalition to Save the Menominee River visit their website at jointherivercoalition.org. To help pay for the contested case hearing, a tax-deductible donation can be made on their website via Pay Pal or credit card. Checks can be mailed to: Coalition to Save the Menominee River, P.O. Box 475, Marinette, WI 54143.

John Engel
Sierra Club Representative in the Coalition to Save the Menominee River

and key financial provisions and more which have protected Wisconsin's environment and public health from the negative effects of metallic mining for two decades. Aquila is the developer of the controversial Back Forty mine proposal in the U.P of Michigan and has interests in two deposits here.

FOXCONN: On top of giving Foxconn more than $3 billion in subsidies the legislature and Governor also exempted it from many environmental safeguards. For example, the facility does not have to write an environmental impact statement and is allowed to fill non-federal wetlands and straighten streams without permits.

PROCESS: The legislature passed and the Governor signed a law that requires any state agency to stop work on a rule that would cost more than $10 million dollars in any two-year period (benefits are not considered) until the legislature passes a law specifically allowing the rule. For example, if a state agency wanted to adopt a rule (which requires public notice, public participation and legislative review already) to remove lead pipes from buildings to prevent further lead poisoning of our children they would have to stop until the legislature acted.

LOSS OF LOCAL CONTROL: For the last seven years the legislature had been taking power away from local governments. There have been over 100 such laws passed since 2011. That trend continued this year with passage of a law the makes it harder for local government to manage the land within their borders by making it more difficult for them to deny conditional use permits or variance requests.

BRIGHT SPOTS
Despite all this bad news there were some bright spots including the following:

• There were no further cuts to the DNR’s budget.
• We won on a modest bill to allow local governments to create funding mechanisms for landowners to remove lead lateral drinking water pipes.
• Working in coalition with many groups, we helped kill the I-94 megaproject and got some more funding for transit and local roads in the budget.
• We helped halt another very bad bill that would have repealed administrative rules on a 9-year rolling timeframe.
• We helped stop the bill that would have prohibited the state from spending any money to manage wolves or enforce any law that prohibited killing wolves as long as they are on the federal endangered species list.

Continued from page 1
HOW DOES YOUR LEGISLATOR RATE?

Sierra Club–John Muir Chapter’s 2017–18 Legislative Scorecard reflects votes taken by the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate on environmental bills.

This scorecard focuses on bills related to the John Muir Chapter’s priority issues of reducing climate change and protecting land and water resources in Wisconsin. Use this scorecard as a guide to judge candidates in your district this election year. All 99 Assembly and half the Senate seats (odd-numbered) are up for election in 2018. Let your representatives know if you’re pleased or disappointed with their voting records.

You can find the full scorecard with descriptions of the bills used to grade the candidates at the “elections” tab of our website sierraclub.org/wisconsin.

Bill Davis, Chapter Director
Dave Blouin, Chapter Political Committee Chair

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*Harsorf resigned in Nov. 2017, Lasee resigned in Dec. 2017

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The Sierra Club Is Proud To Announce Our Endorsements For The 2018 Elections

The Sierra Club has endorsed Tony Evers for Governor, Tammy Baldwin for Senate, and Randy Bryce, Mark Pocan, Ron Kind, and Gwen Moore, Tom Palzewicz, and Dan Kohl for Congress.

At the state level, our goal of creating and increasing pro-environment majorities in both houses of the Legislature is reflected in our endorsements of 92 candidates so far for the Legislature. A record 44 state lawmakers scored a perfect 100% on the scorecard and each has been named a 2018 Environmental Champion for their demonstrated commitment to preserving Wisconsin’s environment. The names of the Environmental Champions are listed in bold in the list of endorsed candidates.

The staff and volunteers of the John Muir Chapter are very proud to announce these endorsements. These candidates are committed to maintaining clean air, clean water and the irreplaceable places that make Wisconsin unique. We urge you, as Sierra Club members, to vote for and help elect new environmental leaders and re-elect proven elected leaders.

Incumbent officials were judged based on their overall environmental voting record, public statements and activities while in office. Challengers were measured by their responses to questionnaires and interviews, environmental platforms, public service, and public statements.

The 2017-18 Sierra Club Legislative Scorecard was used in part to judge incumbent candidates. The entire scorecard with descriptions of the legislation used for grading can also be found at: sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbying-elections/political

We wish the best for the 2018 Environmental Champions who are retiring or running for new offices. They are: Senator Kathleen Vinehout and Representatives Terese Berceau, Eric Genrich, Dana Wachs, and Leon Young. Representative Cory Mason also retired and he was a strong leader on our issues and an Environmental Champion throughout his career.

If you’re unsure who your state Senator or Representative is, go to www.legis.state.wi.us/ and click on “Who represents me?” Use your favorite search engine to find their campaigns.

Additional endorsements will have been made since the Muir View was published – please go to https://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/endorsements to view the most up to date list of endorsements.
### WISCONSIN GOVERNOR
- Tony Evers

### U.S. SENATE
- Tammy Baldwin

### U.S. CONGRESS
- Randy Bryce (1st District)
- Mark Pocan (2nd District)
- Ron Kind (3rd District)
- Gwen Moore (4th District)
- Tom Palzewicz (5th District)
- Dan Kohl (6th District)

### STATE SENATE
- Caleb Frostman, D-Sturgeon Bay (1)
- Tim Carpenter, D-Milwaukee (3)
- Julie Henszey, D-Wauwatosa (5)
- Chris Larson, D-Milwaukee (7)
- Kyle Whelton, D-Sheboygan (9)
- Michelle Zahn, D-Juneau (13)
- Janis Ringhand, D-Evansville (15)
- Kriss Marion, D-Blanchardville (17)
- Lee Snodgrass, D-Appleton (19)
- Lori Hawkins, D-Bristol (21)
- Chris Kapsner, D-Boyceville (23)
- Janet Bewley, D-Mason (25)
- Richard Pulcher, D-Lublin (29)
- Jeff Smith, D-Eau Claire (31)

### STATE ASSEMBLY
- Scott Gavin, D-Little Chute (3)
- Terry Lee, D-Green Bay (4)
- Matt Lederer, D-Appleton (5)
- Daniel Riemer, D-Milwaukee (7)
- JoCasta Zamarripa, D-Milwaukee (8)
- David Bowen, D-Milwaukee (10)
- Jason Fields, D-Milwaukee (11)
- Robyn Vining, D-Wauwatosa (14)
- Lillian Cheesman, D-Milwaukee (15)
- David Crowley, D-Milwaukee (17)
- Evan Goyke, D-Milwaukee (18)
- Jonathan Brostoff, D-Milwaukee (19)
- Christine Sinicki, D-Milwaukee (20)
- Gabriel Gomez, D-S. Milwaukee (21)
- Aaron Matteson, D-Pewaukee (22)
- Liz Sumner, D-Fox Point (23)
- Jennifer Estrada, D-Manitowoc (25)
- Rebecca Clarke, D-Sheboygan (26)
- Nanette Bulebosh, D-Elkhart Lake (27)
- Kim Butler, D-Balsam Lake (28)
- Scottie Ard, D-New Richmond (29)
- Barry Hammarback, D-River Falls (30)
- Brittany Keyes, D-Beloit (31)
- Katherine Gaulke, D-Elkhorn (32)
- Brandon White, D-Jefferson (AD 33)
- Chris Meier, D-Eagle River (34)
- Mark Martello, D-Tomahawk (35)
- Melissa Winker, D-Oconomowoc (38)
- Elisha Barudin, D-Beaver Dam (39)
- Erin Tracy, D-Weyauwega (40)
- Frank Buress, D-Westfield (41)
- Ann Groves Lloyd, D-Lodi (42)
- Don Vruwink, D-Milton (43)
- Deb Kolste, D-Janesville (44)
- Mark Spreitzer, D-Beloit (45)
- Gary Hebl, D-Sun Prairie (46)
- Jimmy Anderson, D-Fitchburg (47)
- Melissa Sargent, D-Madison (48)
- Jesse Bennett, D-Bagley (AD 49)
- Art Shrader, D-Reedsburg (50)
- Jeff Wright, D-Plain (51)
- Kevin Booth, D-Fond du Lac (52)
- Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh (54)
- Dan Schierl, D-Neenah (55)
- Diana Lawrence, D-Appleton (56)
- Amanda Stuck, D-Appleton (57)
- Dennis Degenhardt, D-West Bend (58)
- Christine Rahlf, D-Cedarburg (60)
- Gina Walkingon, D-Bristol (61)
- John Lehman, D-Racine (62)
- Joel Jacobsen, D-Burlington (63)
- Peter Barca, D-Kenosha (64)
- Tod Ohnstad, D-Kenosha (65)
- Greta Neubauer, D-Racine (66)
- Wren Keturi, D-Chippewa Falls (67)
- Wendy Sue Johnson, D-Eau Claire (68)
- Cari Fay, D-Merrillan (70)
- Katrina Shankland, D-Stevens Point (71)
- Nick Milroy, D-South Range (AD 73)
- Beth Meyers, D-Bayfield (74)
- Ali Holzman, D-Cumberland (75)
- Chris Taylor, D-Madison (76)
- Shelia Stubbs, D-Madison (77)
- Lisa Subeck, D-Madison (78)
- Dianne Hesselbein, D-Middleton (79)
- Sondy Pope, D-Verona (AD 80)
- Dave Considine, D-Portage (81)
- Erica Flynn, D-Greenfield (84)
- Allison Leahy, D-Wausau (85)
- Nancy Stencil, D-Wausau (86)
- Elizabeth Riley, D-Hayward (87)
- Tom Sieber, D-Green Bay (88)
- Ken Holdorf, D-Marinette (89)
- Jodi Emerson, D-Eau Claire (91)
- Rob Grover, D-Galesville (92)
- Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska (94)
- Jill Billings, D-La Crosse (95)
- Paul Buhr, D-Viroqua (96)

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### Meet Katie Hogan

We have a new face in the office for the next few months! Katie Hogan has joined us as an apprentice. Katie just graduated from the College of William and Mary in Virginia, and she was an intern with the Virginia Chapter. The John Muir Chapter’s new strategic plan is aimed at increasing the power of the Chapter. Building power takes good organization, and having the right people in the right places, but that can be tricky to establish. Too much structure and we become bureaucratic and unwieldy; too little and we cannot appropriately welcome and engage new activists or channel the energy of our current activists. Katie will be working with some of our teams starting with Land and Wildlife, Tar Sands and Transportation to help us find the right balance and make any necessary changes to how we are working now to help us build power over the long term.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Katie at kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org, and she will help you identify which volunteer role is best for your interests.
Educating Candidates on Transit

Over the course of the election cycle, our transportation coalition has been hard at work educating both the public and candidates running for office about transportation needs across Wisconsin. By showing up to forums to ask questions, emailing candidates and submitting letters to the editor, we shifted the conversation about transportation from exclusively about roads to including transit. While this may seem small, it is a huge victory! It shows that our candidates are hearing what we are saying and are being forced to respond. As the rest of the campaign cycle plays out, we encourage you to continue to reach out to the candidates running in your area and to ask them about their transportation priorities.

Solar Homes Group Buy Going Strong

It’s not too late to get in on the Chapter’s 2018 Solar Homes Group-buy. In fact, now might be the perfect time. With over 114 kw of solar already scheduled to be installed, all participants will receive a rebate of at least $100 per kw based on the system size installed. That savings comes on top of our partner SunVest’s already competitive pricing. Plus, SunVest has pledged to donate to the John Muir Chapter for each system installed through the program. You’ll feel great knowing that your home or business is powered by clean, solar energy.

Sign up for a free solar assessment to find out if your home is right for solar at sunvest.com/programs/sierraclub. Then attend an informational session on October 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Three Rivers House, 724 Main St, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Wisconsin Loves Water

In July, we partnered with Elite Sports Clubs on a water awareness campaign and fundraiser. Through a social media awareness campaign, Pools & Brews fundraiser events and generous donations from Elite Sports Clubs, over $6,000 was donated to us for our work protecting Wisconsin’s environment and waterways. Thank you to Elite Sports Clubs and to all of our members who participated in one of the events or the social media campaign!

Land and Wildlife

The volunteers on the Chapter’s Land and Wildlife Team have been working hard to crystalize the Chapter’s position on grey wolves. The presence of the wolf in Wisconsin is important for several reasons. From a biological and ecological point of view, wolves make our forests healthier, and they are the best control there is for stopping the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease, which is moving north into wolf range. From a cultural point of view, the Anishinaabe Tribe views the wolf as a brother, not an adversary. There have been recent efforts at the state and federal levels to remove all protections from the wolf population in the state. If that happens, management falls to the state of Wisconsin, and unfortunately, the state has shown absolutely no interest in managing the wolf based on science nor with respect to its role and function in the state. Our policy lays out the conditions, guidelines and parameters that should be established at the state level to manage wolves well when and if they are removed from protected status.

Evaluating Candidates on Transit

Over the course of the election cycle, our transportation coalition has been hard at work educating both the public and candidates running for office about transportation needs across Wisconsin. By showing up to forums to ask questions, emailing candidates and submitting letters to the editor, we shifted the conversation about transportation from exclusively about roads to including transit. While this may seem small, it is a huge victory! It shows that our candidates are hearing what we are saying and are being forced to respond. As the rest of the campaign cycle plays out, we encourage you to continue to reach out to the candidates running in your area and to ask them about their transportation priorities.

River Touring Section

There are still a few ways to get involved with paddling trips this year and early 2019! For more information please visit our website sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section or contact Kevin Olson, RTS Chair: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

Oct. 27 - 28 - Wolf R., Class II+ Car Camp Annual Halloween Trip. We’ll paddle Section 3 of this wild, scenic river on Saturday and Section 2 on Sunday. Wet/dry suit required. Potluck dinner on Sat. night. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@ads.net

Jan. 12, 2019 - RTS Annual Meeting, 11 a.m. to ~3 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St, Baraboo, WI. Potluck at noon, followed by business meeting, trip list formation and slideshow/videos of 2017 trips. Advance registration not required. For details, contact: Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net

Jan. 28 - Feb. 8, 2019 - Florida Rivers, Class I+ Car Camp Take a break from winter and enjoy the unique flora and fauna of Florida’s rivers. Occasional small rapids, deadfall hazards, and up-river paddling. Space limited and advance campground reservations required, so inquire early. Contact: Kevin & Carol Olson: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net. Co-leader: Katy Golden.
Beyond Coal Campaign

A lot has happened since our last update! In the spring, coal dust repeatedly blew into neighborhoods north of the Oak Creek coal plants, sparking outrage from residents. The Clean Power Coalition of Southeast Wisconsin held a listening session at the Oak Creek Public Library, where residents and concerned customers were invited to voice their concerns to the utilities who co-own the plant: We Energies, MGE, and WPPI. After the event, We Energies, the majority owner and operator of the plant, committed to putting up an air monitor in the neighborhood, temporarily putting their biggest coal pile out of service, and putting in additional windbreaks to reduce dust transmission. These were major victories for the coalition, as We Energies had previously denied air monitoring requests. However, despite these promises, residents have continued to find new coal dustings in their neighborhood, and the air monitor is still not in place. In early August, the coalition held a “Ride for Renewables” bike event around the plant to raise awareness of the problems with coal. Participants saw the plants up close and heard from concerned local residents.

Meanwhile, a growing coalition in Madison has been working on a grassroots campaign to pressure MGE into more substantial renewable energy goals. Although MGE claims to be making strides in this direction, its projected shift to renewable energy is negligible, and as of yet there is no real plan in place for significant coal reduction. Two-thirds of MGE’s energy continues to be from coal. Therefore, the team of activists has been finding ways to elevate these concerns about coal and other fossil fuels. The team will host activities to draw in adults, young adults and children alike, such as participating in local fairs and festivals. One example of this was the Willy Street Fair, which the team “took over” with petition drives by costumed volunteers, face painting, and even a flash mob! With interests piqued by the fair, the team will continue to draw in supporters working to transform their community’s energy mix from coal to clean energy.

Interested in getting involved? Email Miranda Ehrlich at miranda.ehrlich@sierraclub.org to learn more about the Clean Power Coalition of Southeast Wisconsin and Cassie Steiner at cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org to learn more about the MGE Campaign Team.
The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man’s Love Affair with Nature

BY J. DREW LANHAM, MILKWEED EDITIONS, 2017, 212 PAGES

Personal identity prescribes much of how we build our lives. Professor Lanham’s distinctiveness as a Black naturalist places him as an outlier in wild places. Why doesn’t he see more people who look like him in the field? Is nature-loving in the realm of the privileged? Many of the essays in this book pull that thread through the collection. His childhood allowed for time and connection, and his brother owned a copy of Leopold’s Sand County Almanac. That was a good start.

These interconnected essays render years, history and geographies into a claimed identity. What is most beautiful about the collected effect of these stories of a life is how the interaction of land and chosen values builds humanity. Lanham chooses his values carefully, claiming some beliefs as bedrock and recognizing the peril in others. He rejects the church teachings that equate education with a rejection of God. One of the strengths of the narrative is the layering of insight and experience, as he looks back from his vantage as a professor, a father, a husband.

The term “colored” in the subtitle might give a reader pause. But Lanham writes from a perspective of one who sees nature as his guide – a place beyond Black and white, a place accessible to all. Lanham seems to see ties between races as biologic, not only because of genetic identity, but because our relationship to the natural world reveals our common interdependencies.

Insight comes in layers that we build. While working at the Department of Natural Resources in the rural south, Lanham experienced fear based on historical realities: “I was a strange stranger, and maybe not the person locals would think should be working with a white woman. Kate was a super-observant naturalist, who noticed the slightest nuances in tooth pattern or fur color — but was, I think, oblivious to the threat I perceived.” He didn’t discuss his perceptions with Kate.

The Home Place is a beautiful beginning to a much-needed discussion about identity that is attained through nature, culture and power structures. It subtly asks how we might build a more just and verdant life — a more just and verdant world.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the editor of the new anthology, Corners: Voices on Change. If you would like to send a book for possible review, contact her through JackWalker-Press.com.

Volunteers are the foundation of the Sierra Club. Whether it’s helping with mailings, tabling at events, making phone calls, joining a committee or running for a group or chapter leadership position, it is the energy and enthusiasm of our volunteers that moves our campaigns forward. The John Muir Chapter staff would like to say thank you and honor our volunteers statewide. Everyone is invited to join the celebration on Saturday, November 17 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., at Threshold, 2717 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI. We’ll also be presenting the chapter awards.

Not a volunteer yet? This is a great opportunity to find out how to get involved and socialize with other volunteers and chapter leaders.

ENBRIDGE GETS GREEN LIGHT THEY’VE BEEN WAITING FOR
The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) voted to approve the Certificate of Need for Enbridge’s proposed Line 3 tar sands pipeline. This decision was devastating and ignored the unprecedented opposition to the pipeline, including 13 “youth climate intervenors” who opposed the project on the grounds that it would jeopardize their future, every impacted tribe in Minnesota, dozens of environmental groups, landowners along the pipeline, and more. It also greenlights more oil to flow into Superior, Wisconsin. Given that oil has to move somewhere, it drives the need for another tar sands pipeline, the Line 66 Pipeline, through Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, we jumped right into action, responding to the news with a dozen other organizations to condemn the approval. A coalition formed that vowed to work to stop another pipeline in Wisconsin. In August, many of our members and partners participated in a “downstream call-in day,” calling on Governor Dayton to step in and stop the Line 3 pipeline.

ENBRIDGE IN WISCONSIN
While Enbridge continues to deny any “immediate plans” to build the pipeline, landowners throughout the state have been receiving calls and letters for “surveys.” As the Wisconsin Easement Action Team (WEAT, a group created by landowners to work together to strengthen their power against Enbridge) explains:

It is clear the survey is targeting landowners along the pipeline route, even new landowners who would be in the next pipeline path. This is yet another sign that they are continuing to move forward on the new Line 66 Pipeline.

Enbridge’s questions appear to be geared for three goals:
1. Determine our strength.
2. Learn what kinds of messages will work to turn public opinion in favor of Enbridge and against us.
3. Collect information on each landowner to figure out who to go after first.

Sierra Club and our partners responded to these surveys, and will work together to thwart Enbridge’s plans to divide and take advantage of landowners and communities. Instead, landowners and community members are building partnerships that will stop the pipeline.

ORGANIZING ALONG THE LINE
Given Minnesota’s approval of the Line 66 Pipeline despite unprecedented opposition, we know we will have to work harder than we imagined to stop it from coming here. The Sierra Club is a founding member of the Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance, an alliance of groups forming coalitions along the line throughout Wisconsin to work to inform our local communities about the risks and impacts of another pipeline and call for strong reforms. Each group is made up of current easement holders, environmentalists, property rights advocates, and more. In Columbia County, the local WiSE group defeated a proposal to relax zoning laws making it easier for Enbridge to get a pipeline through the county. Jefferson and Clark counties became the fourth and fifth counties to pass resolutions calling for eminent domain reform to stop Enbridge from taking land for their projects. A new group formed in Rusk County. We also solidified the partnership between WiSE and Save Our Illinois Land (SOIL) and the Sierra Club chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois to make sure we are working together to stop the pipeline.

VIDEOS SHOWCASE IMPACTS
In September, our partners launched a video series that will go through the end of the year. Each video has landowners telling their stories about what it’s like to live with a pipeline and the threat of another one threatening their homes and livelihoods. Check out our Facebook page to see the videos. Please share!

If you’re interested in getting involved in the work to stop the Line 66 pipeline, contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or call (608) 256-0565.
Executive Committee Election

Yes, it is time for YOU to elect new John Muir Chapter leadership. Each year, members are asked to choose three volunteer leaders from a slate of candidates. These three leaders will serve as at-large delegates to the Executive Committee for a three-year term starting in 2019 and finishing in 2021.

The John Muir Chapter Executive Committee is your volunteer leadership team, made up of nine at-large members and six appointed local group delegates. The Executive Committee provides direction to the Chapter on fiscal matters, policy, fundraising, and prioritizing issue work, and ensures that the Chapter evolves with the times and remains an effective organization.

After reading the candidates’ statements, use the ballot below. Each member can VOTE FOR UP TO THREE CANDIDATES!

Candidates for the Executive Committee were asked these questions:

1) Discuss when and why you joined the Sierra Club, and describe any leadership or volunteer activities with the Club or other non-profit groups that will help you fulfill your role.

2) What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background (fundraising, legal, accounting, communications, Board, political) will you bring to the Chapter Executive Committee?

3) Looking forward over the next two to five years, how do you think the Chapter needs to grow and change to be effective on our issues?

4) The Chapter’s current priority issues are: Protecting Our Water Resources, Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy, Moving Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation, Protecting Habitats from Destructive Mining, Protecting Native Forests and Wildlife. Of the Chapter’s priority issues, which one are you most passionate about and why?

Thank you for your interest in the future success of the John Muir Chapter!

Vote Today! Fill out the ballot on page 15 and mail your ballot to Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter., Madison, WI 53711-1429. Ballots must be mailed or postmarked by November 15 to be counted.

The Nominating and Election Team

John Muir Chapter-Executive Committee
ELECTION BALLOT 2018

Instructions: Read the candidate statements on the preceding page. Select up to three candidates. Indicate your choices by marking the appropriate box. Only ballots from mailed copies of The Muir View with legible membership numbers on the back are valid. One vote per member. “Voter 2” column for use in households with a “joint membership.”

Voter #1:

☑ Steve Bower
☑ Laura Donovan
☑ Andrew Knutson
☑ Write In:

Voter #2:

☑ Steve Bower
☑ Laura Donovan
☑ Andrew Knutson
☑ Write In:

Ballots must be postmarked by November 15, 2018
Mail to: Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter, Madison, WI 53711-1429
1) Joining the Sierra Club years ago was a natural fit for me. By continuing in the footsteps of Leopold, Muir and Nelson and walking shoulder to shoulder with like-minded people, will make the difference for us and those to follow. Protecting our shared natural resources is a commitment I have worked toward for decades.

For thirteen years having lived on a Madison Audubon Society sanctuary, my volunteer activities have been many and varied. They include but not limited to prairie burns, seed collecting, brush management, and winter planting parties.

During the last four years the local Citizens Climate Lobby group, of which I am a member, have written letters to and called our Congressional and Senate members, visited their offices and attended town hall meetings advocating for a reduction in CO2 emissions.

As treasurer for Citizens Advocates for Public Education for five years, I have advocated for all public schools. I feel it is vital that children are provided the best education, our communities thrive, and we attract and retain the highest quality professionals.

2) For 34 years I taught earth science and physics in Wisconsin. Professional development for myself and others was always high on my priority list. Through work with the UW-Geology Museum I helped write a grant and co-lead four years of paleontology field work for teachers in Kansas and Colorado. Subsequent to that I organized and lead eight student trips digging dinosaurs in the western states.

In 1999 I undertook writing grants to install a 5-kW photovoltaic system on Waunakee High School. This was completed in 2002. Other grants include the Toyota Tapestry Grant for Teachers, two Wisconsin Environmental Education Board grants and others.

Since 2011 much of my time has been focused on electing candidates to state and national office who have a strong commitment to environmental ethics. Canvassing and knocking on doors, making phone calls and hosting fund raising house parties for like minded candidates has been a priority.

I currently serve on the board of the Jefferson County Democratic party.

3) A continued emphasis on our core values is critical. As an organization, the Sierra Club must strive to include a diverse and vibrant membership. People from all walks of life, with an eye on younger members will help us sustain an awareness and importance of our shared natural resources. Without our ongoing efforts we will see a continued erosion of environmental standards and loss of local control.

Member advocacy is vital. We must all talk to our neighbors, share our concerns in letters to the editor, call our legislators and stand tall when the going gets tough. We have all seen the rollback of clean water and air standards, underfunded regulatory agencies, and an attack on science itself at the State and Federal levels. We can and must make a difference.

4) Moving beyond coal to clean energy seems to be the key to managing the planet’s future. By promoting wise state renewable standards that put us in the lead instead of constantly trailing our mid-west neighbors is wise. Wisconsin should be the industrial juggernaut when it comes to solar and wind manufacturing. Thousands of family supporting sustainable jobs are at our fingertips, in this manufacturing state.

Home grown energy production is the wave of the future. Wisconsin cannot continue to import well over half of our energy (coal), and expect to set any standard, let alone lead.

By unleashing the innovation potential of the University system in solving storage issues such as batteries and imagining smart grids to better use our limited resources will help make Wisconsin a world leader. This will take leadership we currently do not have and the way forward is through the ballot box. It will take member advocacy and a steady and determined effort by all of us.

LAURA DONOVAN

1) I first got involved with the Sierra Club through the Sierra Student Coalition’s Summer Program (Sprog), a week long training program for and by young people about organizing for environmental and social justice issues. While at Sprog, I learned about Seize the Grid, SSC’s renewable energy campaign, and organized a campaign at UW-Stout and in the UW System to get more campuses on board and achieve system level change. I also co-directed this year’s Midwest Sprog program. With our team, we planned trainings, recruited attendees, fundraised to support travel costs, and facilitated trainings and activities to build community and push each other to grow our understanding and practice of anti-oppressive work.

Outside of the Sierra Club, I am a founding member of the Wisconsin Youth Network (WiYN), which connects people
across the state to work together on various campaigns and share strategies and resources. As a member of WiYN, I have helped plan in person meetings and retreats, facilitated conference calls, took part in creating the first bylaws document of the network, and helped guide the elections process for our first operations team.

I am also involved with the Sunrise Movement, whose strategy centers on making climate change an urgent social and political topic, which is achieved by talking to people about climate change, and targeting our representatives to ensure that they stand with us, not with fossil fuel CEOs. I held roles as a hub leader, trainer, action coordinator for Wisconsin’s Day of Dedication in the fall of 2017, fundraiser, and a trainer coach. These roles helped me to connect to others and gave me practice in holding political leaders accountable.

2) I worked in the Sustainability Office on our campus, and designed and conducted surveys about the bus service and walking safety, both of which supported decisions to improve the service and implement safety measures. I also re-wrote our contract with the county transit operator to ensure there were ways that both parties could hold each other accountable and added more clarity to our expectations for our working agreement. As I was wrapping up my time at UW-Stout, I compiled information and resources for everything I worked on that could be passed on to the next person in my role.

In addition to being organized and thorough, I thrive on creativity, which is important in both daily operations and in art making. On a regular basis, it is necessary to think creatively to meet our needs in ways that use less resources. Art making, while not necessarily present in Executive Committee operations, is vital to community health because it can bring people together and communicate ideas in ways that meetings and announcements cannot. My commitment to creativity will help me identify solutions and resources with the Executive Committee and chapter leaders, and center the importance of art in community building and in the movement.

3) I think accessibility is extremely important, and shows up in different ways, such as geographic, financial, physical ability, and in norms that may be more accessible to some than others. For example, geographically, it might be difficult for someone in Platteville to get involved with their local chapter which mainly operates in La Crosse, unless they have access to a car and can afford the gas and time to drive to meetings. This also impacts the connectedness someone might feel to volunteering in a town that they don’t call home. Financially, it can be difficult for someone to be a member if they cannot afford the annual membership fee. While the Sierra Club is a non-profit that is centered on volunteerism, it is a privilege to be able to volunteer one’s time. When thinking about physical ability, a lot of daily activities are not accessible, let alone movement work - for example, door knocking, marches, sometimes even attending a meeting. Finally, spaces often uphold norms that they don’t realize might be inaccessible to some people. For example, norms that are common in one generation might make it difficult for someone in another generation to participate and feel welcomed in a space.

I think it’s important to make Chapter activities as accessible and as easy to get involved as possible. There is a lot of work to be done, and we need as many people as possible to be a part of the work. Removing barriers to participation is vital to success. I don’t have all the solutions to making Chapter activities more accessible, and look forward to working with the Executive Committee and chapter leaders to bring in as many people as possible.

4) I am most passionate about clean transportation. I grew up in Platteville and went to school in Menomonie, both of which are small rural towns with little access to public transportation in town, let alone to other towns, let alone clean transportation. It is an expectation that people have a car, because the cities are built and connected to each other in a way that make cars a necessity. This setup can extremely hinder people’s access to basic needs, such as food, health care, and a job. It can also contribute to a sense of isolation. Transportation, especially clean and accessible transportation, is necessary to healthy and strong communities.

ANDREW KNUTSON
1) I joined the Sierra Club soon after my children were born. Knowing that I had a responsibility to look after them and their future made it impossible to remain a passive observer when threats arise to the air, water, and land that they’ll depend on one day. Since then, I’ve gone on to earn a masters degree in public policy from Duke University, and volunteered with the Sierra Club and other organizations like the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, and the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation.

The Wisconsin Bicycle Federation has also given me the opportunity to meet with state and local legislators to talk about the issues facing our state’s cycling community. The Bike Fed aims to eliminate the barriers which might keep people from getting out and enjoying the great cycling opportunities Wisconsin has to offer. My involvement with the Bike Fed included lobbying legislators to ask for increased funding for cycling infrastructure projects, and to promote legislation designed to increase mandatory penalties on drivers convicted of injuring or killing cyclists and pedestrians through negligent or impaired use of a motor vehicle.

2) As a student at Duke, I learned the skills necessary to
communicate effectively and concisely, both in written documents and oral presentations. Our instructors meant for us to learn how to convey information to lobbyists, legislators, and other elected officials in a way that tells them what they need to know, without taking any more of their time than necessary. However, politicians are not the only people with lots on their plate, and efficiency is always the key to effective communication, no matter who your audience is.

My job as the Sales Manager at Budget Bicycle Center has also taught me skills in accounting and finance. At the time I took over management of the shop, there was no system in place to track our sales and expenditures, and the only data we had to gauge our performance was poorly organized and generally inaccessible. I took it upon myself to develop an extensive system of accounting for our sales and receipts, as well as consolidating all the data from past years so that we can more accurately track important trends over time.

3) In the coming years, I believe it will be more important than ever for the Sierra Club to reach out to rural areas and small towns in Wisconsin. The Club will need to work on developing local leadership in areas where residents are more likely to trust the people they know and live with. Farmers in Wisconsin are dependent on many of the same natural resources as anyone who lives in a city, but without a more thorough understanding of their needs and goals, it will be difficult to convince them that we are on the same side. Without trusted local leadership, the Sierra Club is just another far-away group trying to tell people how to go about their business.

Moreover, I believe that the current administration’s attempts to undermine environmental safeguards present an opportunity for the Sierra Club to experiment with different messaging strategies. There are plenty of examples from history where a lack of environmental regulation and stewardship has led to public health disasters, or the erosion of rights and protections for vulnerable populations. Instead of providing examples of things that may happen, there are places where it may be more effective to provide examples of what has already happened.

4) Of the John Muir Chapter’s priority issues, I would have a hard time choosing only one to be passionate about. Given that transportation is one of the leading contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in the US, I believe that moving Beyond Oil is of critical importance. Having spent the last 8 years working with cyclists and their bikes, I have a good working knowledge of both the needs of the cycling community, and the barriers that exist which keep people driving their cars. Alternative transportation has a massive potential in Wisconsin, not only to reduce our state’s carbon footprint, but also to contribute to a healthier, happier population, and all the benefits that go with it.

However, on a more emotional level, I believe in the importance of preserving the wild places in our state. Exploring the outdoors, watching wild animals, hiking, canoeing, are the activities which helped me develop an enduring interest in what happens outside the world of people and their things. These are the experiences which create new generations of environmentalists, and which teach us just what the stakes are in the fight to protect our world. Without Wisconsin’s wild places, it will become more difficult to teach our children that there’s so much more to value in nature than what we can extract from it.

Support the John Muir Chapter

When you make a donation to the John Muir Chapter you allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Please be as generous as you are able. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter’s budget.

- $50  - $100  - $250  - $500  - other ___

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Phone: ______________________ email: ________________________________
Credit Card ______________________ Exp. ________

Mail to: Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703
**CALENDAR**

**WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS: ENBRIDGE PIPELINE VIDEO PREMIERE,**
**WISCONSINSAFEENERGY.ORG**

**OCTOBER 6**
*Little Pink House showing and Pipeline Panel*
Portage, WI.
facebook.com/columbiacountywise

**OCTOBER 16**
*Solar Group Buy info session*
6:30 p.m.
Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House,
724 Main St, La Crosse, WI

**OCTOBER 19-21**
*Wisconsin Youth Network*
*Fall Gathering*
Eau Claire
facebook.com/WisconsinYouthNetwork

**NOVEMBER 6**
*Fall General Election*
myvote.wi.gov

**NOVEMBER 10**
*JMC Executive Committee Meeting*
location to be determined

**NOVEMBER 15**
*Executive Committee Election Ballots Due*

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**Algunos artículos del Muir View están disponibles en español.**
Se sitúan en la red:
sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter
Select articles from The Muir View are available in Spanish. They are found online:
sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter

**NOVEMBER 17**
*Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Celebration*
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Threshold
2717 Atwood Ave
Madison, WI

**JANUARY 12**
*River Touring Section Annual Meeting*
11:00 - 3:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church
615 Broadway ST
Baraboo, WI
Details: Kevin Olson
608-963-2678
olsonfam44@centurytel.net

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**OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION**

Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter members participated in Peoples Climate March events across Wisconsin.

On the left, Clean Energy Super Heros fight off Dirty Fuel Villians at a street theater before the march and rally in Milwaukee. Thank you, Kaja Rebane, for the great costume designs. Sierra Club joined 50 other organizations in planning the Southeast Wisconsin Peoples Climate March in Milwaukee, making it one of the largest Peoples Climate March planning coalitions in the United States!

On the right, almost 100 people gathered in Minocqua. Chapter Director Bill Davis was one of the featured speakers. In addition to the events in Milwaukee and Minocqua, several other cities including Appleton, La Crosse, Platteville, Madison, and Monona also held events.