

## ECOLOGICAL THREATS TO THE ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED

by Christopher B. Beaver

Northwest Wisconsin is a landscape rich in cultural and natural history. For centuries the Ojibwe people, European explorers and French-Canadian voyageurs paddled canoes along Lake Gitchi-Gami and up the Brule River. Following this arduous journey, they portaged across a two-mile path to Lake St. Croix and then continued down the St. Croix River where they met the Namekagon and eventually arrived at their settlements throughout what is known today as the St. Croix River Watershed. Protected and managed by the women and men of the National Park Service, both the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers make up the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a freshwater system that is undoubtedly an invaluable treasure. For the Ojibwe people, the Namekagon, meaning “place of the sturgeon,” provides a suitable habitat for wild rice or *manoomin*. From a biodiversity standpoint, the Riverway provides a home for eight species of turtles, 40 species of freshwater mussels and numerous fish and waterfowl.

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway has much to offer. Open to the public for recreational and spiritual use, this



landscape is a sportsman’s paradise and a backcountry traveler’s dream. Anglers flock to the Namekagon and St. Croix in search of the coveted muskellunge and smallmouth bass. Likewise, families, adventurers, and scouting groups come from miles around to experience the backcountry solitude of the Riverway, taking advantage of the many primitive river-access campsites. Birders come to seek out the blue-winged teal and the bald eagle. Revelers enjoy the chance to float down the river on an inner tube, a tourism enterprise that brings much needed revenue to the region.

For all it provides to innumerable plants, animals and thrill-seekers, the Riverway is not immune to ecological threats. The invasive zebra mussel has

been detected in the southernmost stretch of the St. Croix, and agricultural and human-related run-off cause patches of algae to bloom in some sections of the watershed. Natural occurrences, such as the July 2016 high-water event that closed the Riverway for more than a week, are visible signs of what can happen to the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers even in spite of careful Park Service management. What lurks

beneath the rivers, though, is cause for alarm. Relatively unknown to the average Riverway user is the presence of oil pipelines that carry crude oil from Canada’s Alberta tar sands to refineries throughout the United States.

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**For more about tar sands pipeline threats in Wisconsin and what we're doing about them, see page 10 for our tar sands update.**

# FROM THE CHAIR

As current political events unfold, I am often reminded of the old Chinese curse, “May you live in interesting times.” They are indeed, and as your new John Muir Chapter chair, it is what I, and we, face.

I want to thank the members of the executive committee for having the faith in me to elect me chapter chair. But likewise, I take this position having faith in the Sierra Club and our nearly 15,000 Wisconsin members and many more supporters to be up to the challenges we face. We haven’t gotten through 125 years as the nation’s oldest and largest environmental organization without facing considerable adversity. We know sometimes mountains must be scaled to get their glad tidings. Though not without bruises, we are still growing and gaining strength and learning to change and adapt to these interesting times.

By way of brief introduction, I first got involved with the Four Lakes Group in Madison about 15 years ago. I have been the representative to the Chapter executive committee for some years, and I am also the lead volunteer on the Wisconsin Beyond Coal team. (Caution – I am somewhat of an energy geek.) A key concern in my Sierra Club activities is how we connect with more people and have our message resonate more widely. I regard that as more critical now than ever.

Despite the times we live in, I find hope in where we’re at. The recent election was not so much a vote for the Electoral College winner (but not the popular vote), as it was a desire for change — something in evidence in both major parties. The outcome we got was limited by a confined selection process and did not reflect the true change most people wanted. Many votes were more anti-the-status-quo than pro-something-they-supported.

Many feel that their voices are not being heard, they are not benefitting from current circumstances and their needs are not being met. Many others are concerned that changes they see coming are not in accord with their hopes and beliefs. But we all are looking for a better future.

Times of upheaval are also times of opportunity, and the Sierra Club can respond by providing a broad welcoming umbrella. We can show people the respect they want by getting to know them and truly listening to their concerns. The Sierra Club supports democratic access for all; well-paying

secure jobs; a forward-looking clean energy economy and a safe, healthy environment for all that we can pass along to our children. These are goals most agree with and offer a strong basis for finding common ground to move forward together.

We also provide a means of empowerment for those who already support our efforts. The Sierra Club has always depended on our members and supporters, and we provide great opportunities for you to voice your concerns and then organize to achieve our shared goals.

Just as democracy benefits from active involvement, so does the Sierra Club. Many people are already turning to the Sierra Club or other organizations to voice their concerns and learn how to enable the change they want. Think of what you care about and what you can offer, and then contact your local group or our John Muir Chapter office and ask how you can get involved. The John Muir Chapter has big plans this year with many opportunities for activism, and we will be better and stronger with you in it.

*Don Ferber* - Chapter Chair



# SO WHAT CAN I DO? A GUIDE TO PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings present an important opportunity to voice your support or opposition to legislation, items in the state budget and other decisions that impact our natural resources and environmental protections. Public hearings are one of the primary ways our decision-makers collect feedback from the citizens, but for those of us who have never attended a hearing, they can feel intimidating.

## Format of Public Hearings

Public hearings will be attended by the committee chair, committee clerk and other committee members. There will be a messenger near the door who collects hearing registration slips and who can answer questions if you have them.

After the meeting has been called to order, there will be a roll call and preliminary business, and then a bill will be introduced. Typically, the bill's author will be the first to speak; they will explain the bill's purpose and what it does. Any speakers with particular relevant expertise related to the impact of the bill will speak next. Then, the hearing will open up to those in attendance including local government officials, lobbyists and members of the public. The committee chair determines the order of speakers and will call off names of those who indicated a desire to speak on their registration slip.

Public hearings range in length from a few minutes to several hours, depending on the number of bills being discussed and the number of speakers testifying.

## The Participation Process

1. Learn about the bill and form your opinion and argument.
2. Prepare for your testimony. Because speakers are often limited to three minutes or less and because it is not required for public hearings to be recorded in the state of Wisconsin, it is advised to bring a printed copy of your testimony for each of the committee

With so many important public hearings happening around the state in the next few months (decisions around the mining moratorium and other legislation, debates in the state budget about public transit and more), we hope that Sierra Club members and supporters can feel confident in participating in this piece of our democracy.



members (20 copies for a federal assembly committee, 10 copies for a federal senate committee and local committees usually suffices).

3. Attend the public hearing and register at the door. Even if you do not want to speak, you should register in support or in opposition.

4. If you would like to testify and indicated so on your registration slip, wait for your name to be called. Once you are called, you can hand out your printed testimony to the committee members, take the witness stand and present your testimony.

## Tips for an Effective Testimony:

- Come prepared and speak confidently!
- Be brief but effective. Public hearings can be very long; some of the most impactful speakers get to the point quickly and powerfully.
- Don't repeat what other speakers have said.
- Speak from the heart and share why you personally are concerned.
- If you cannot stay for the whole hearing, let the messenger know. The clerk may be able to call you early.
- If committee members ask you questions, they may come off more as statements. You do not need to respond to their questions or comments, but you may take the time to speak more.
- Be respectful.

## Where Can I Learn About Environment-Related Public Hearings?

The Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter will be keeping our blog and legislative tracker up-to-date on our website ([sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)) with relevant legislative briefs, talking points about the legislation, dates for public hearings and other ways to get involved. In this edition of the *Muir View*, there is information about the mining moratorium and the state budget as it relates to the Department of Natural Resources, water and transportation. Finally, the chapter frequently posts information about public hearings on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Like or follow Sierra Club Wisconsin to stay up to date.



# TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

*By Elizabeth Ward, Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator*

## **Arrived to Success at Arrive Together!**

In December, we brought all of the stories we heard, many of the people we met and the things we learned in a state-wide summit called Arrive Together! It was the state's first-ever summit dedicated to developing a 21st Century transportation system that works for everyone in Wisconsin. The day included a listening session, keynote addresses by Sierra Club President Aaron Mair and U.S. Department of Transportation Civil Rights Director Leslie Proll, and break-out discussions about how to approach business and other leaders about these issues, Aging and Mobility for All, and Civil Rights and Transportation. This helped create excitement launching into this year's budget debate.

## **Highway Program Audit**

In January, the independent Legislative Audit Bureau released the results of its year-long investigation into the state's highway program. While Sierra Club has always known that highways are expensive, the audit found that highways are even more expensive than projected. The audit found that the

Department of Transportation (DOT) underestimated costs for 16 highway projects by a total of approximately \$3.1 billion. There were a number of other findings, including that many times the public comments were ignored when it came to the DOT processes for project selection.

## **Governor Walker's Budget Proposal: Good and Bad**

The Transportation Budget proposed by Governor Walker is a mixed bag. On the one hand, the budget begins to recognize the history of emphasizing freeway expansions over prioritizing local roads and transit. The budget cuts funding from the highway expansion budget and gives more funding to local road maintenance—which is desperately needed. Unfortunately, it doesn't increase transit aids, which are critical to provide access across the state and reduce fossil-fuel use.

## **Support Transit Now!**

The Sierra Club and partnering organizations across the state have been working hard to advocate for more transit funding in the state budget. With the support of members serving on local coalitions, we can demonstrate power through surveying businesses, collecting transit riders' stories,

researching effective transit, coordinating press events, attending public hearings and more. If you have a passion for transit and want to become involved in this advocacy work, contact Cassie Steiner at [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org).

Can't commit to regularly participating in the transportation team? Be sure to attend a public hearing on the budget and voice your support for transit!

Both the audit recommendations (including a proper cost-benefit) and the budget will be debated this spring and into the summer. Tune into our blog at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin) and follow us on Facebook (Sierra Club Wisconsin) and Twitter (@SierraClubWI) to stay up-to-date.



## THE MUIR VIEW

754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

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*Please include the author's first and last names and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.*

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### **Advertising Rates:**

Current rates are available at the JMC website: [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

### **Deadline:**

The deadline for submission of articles to the July-September issues is midnight on May 15, 2017.

### **Change of Address:**

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:  
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# STOPPING DESTRUCTIVE MINING

By Dave Blouin, Chapter Mining Committee Chair

John Muir Chapter members were instrumental in helping to pass the landmark Mining Moratorium Law in 1998. The “Prove It First” law does not ban mining, but requires a company wishing to mine dangerous metallic sulfide ore to demonstrate examples of mines that have safely and successfully operated in North America before being allowed to operate in Wisconsin. This law is now under attack by state Senator Tom Tiffany who earlier this year announced his intention to repeal these common sense permit requirements.

Metallic mining proposals, whether for iron, base or precious metals, are the largest, most complex and destructive land uses considered for the state. Nearly all of these ore deposits in Wisconsin are bound up in metallic sulfides that inevitably cause toxic acid mine drainage to surface and groundwater.

Before the Moratorium Law was approved, the mining industry was challenged to give one example of a mine in metallic sulfides that had been safely operated and closed without polluting the environment. To this day, the mining industry has not documented a single proven example.

Similarly, state regulators were tasked by the Natural Resources Board to search for examples and were unable to document successful metallic sulfide operations. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff issued a report in 1995 that stated, “There are no ideal metallic mineral mining sites which can be pointed to as the model approach in preventing acidic drainage industry-wide.” This conclusion by the state confirmed the industry’s failed environmental track record of mining metallic sulfide ores.

Sen. Tiffany has cited the closed Flambeau Mine near Ladysmith as a successful mine. This claim is simply false.

Flambeau Mining Company has been far from a model mine operator; it is a proven polluter that has failed multiple attempts at cleaning up the site. The failure of those cleanup attempts and the subsequent refusal by the state of Wisconsin to cite the company for violations resulted in the federal lawsuit proving that the

mine continued to pollute. Flambeau Mining Company (FMC) was found guilty by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb of 11 counts of violating the Clean Water Act in 2012 by polluting Steam C, a tributary of the Flambeau River.

Subsequently, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed an investigation of water quality at the Flambeau Mine site and placed Stream C on its list of impaired waters for “acute aquatic toxicity” caused by copper and zinc contamination. The U.S. EPA concurred and listed the stream as impaired in 2014.

The John Muir Chapter will be closely monitoring for legislation to repeal the law. Sen. Tiffany may introduce a stand-alone repeal bill or may introduce policy language into the state budget that has the same result.

Contact your legislators to ask them to preserve the Mining Moratorium Law. Remind them the Flambeau mine is a failed example and that the law does not ban mining. There is nothing to stop any company from applying for mine permits unless they are unwilling or unable to demonstrate an example mine. Please also ask legislators to oppose any effort to slip policy language repealing the law in the state budget. For more info, go to the chapter mining webpage, [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/issues/mining](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/issues/mining)



# SPEAK OUT FOR AIR AND WATER PROTECTIONS AT THE CONSERVATION CONGRESS

By Elizabeth Ward, Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator

The Conservation Congress is an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board, which advises the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It offers policy suggestions on fishing bag limits, hunting rules and other issues that impact our natural resources. The Conservation Congress also advises on the process of making permitting decisions and legislation that should be supported.

Every year the Conservation Congress hosts Spring Hearings in April where people answer questions to help the Conservation Congress delegates make their decisions. Attendees are also able to introduce resolutions that the attendees vote on and could be asked in all counties on should be in the following year.

**The Spring Hearings will be held on April 10 at 7:00 p.m.** There is one hearing in every county (the venue often changes, so make sure to double check the location at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)).

This year there are a number of really important questions on the questionnaire including questions about our water policy, the DNR permitting process, state parking funding and more. There are also questions about a moratorium on frac-sand mining permits and repealing the law permitting mining in Northern Wisconsin, otherwise known to environmentalists as the Bad River Destruction Act.

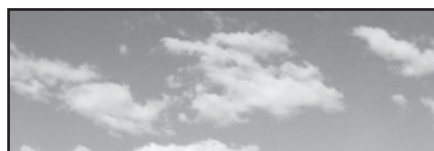
You can show up and fill out the questionnaire and leave, but if you stay, there will be an opportunity to stand and speak in support or opposition of any of the questions.



You also have the opportunity to vote for delegate for your county to serve on the Conservation Congress. You must bring your ID to show you are a resident of that county if you want to vote for the delegate for your county.

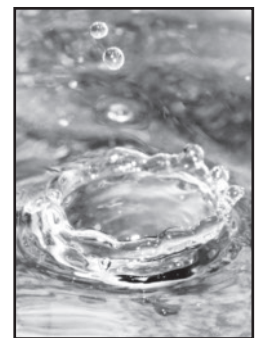
We are looking for someone who is willing to speak on behalf of one or more of the important resolutions in each county. We are also looking for someone in each county to introduce a resolution opposing the repeal of Wisconsin's Mining Moratorium. If you are able to do either of these, please contact Elizabeth Ward at [Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or call (608) 256-0565.

The results are forwarded to the full Conservation Congress, which votes on its position at the annual conference in May. Those positions are formally forwarded to the Natural Resources Board. Although the resolutions and results are non-binding, they are an important indicator of public opinion for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the media and legislators to consider. You may introduce up to two resolutions. The hearings are also a great opportunity to educate the audience (many of whom may not know about the impacts of the proposals).



Here is a list of the questions the Sierra Club has taken a position on:

- 63. Frac-sand mining permit moratorium: YES
- 64. Encouraging more milkweed: YES
- 65. Lead reclamation: YES
- 66. Address Wisconsin's water issues: YES
- 67. Work with legislature to address water issues: YES
- 68. Repeal the Bad River Destruction Act: YES
- 69. Authorize suspension of factory farm permits: YES
- 70. Require public notice for highcap wells: YES
- 71. Authorize suspension of highcap wells: YES
- 72. Oppose proposed Enbridge tar sands pipeline: YES
- 73. Establish a dog training license: YES
- 75. Reduced license fees for veterans: YES
- 76. Fund state parks: YES
- 78. Fund Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund: YES
- 80. Begin research to develop a hunting season for sandhill cranes: NO
- 84. Support railroad safety measures: YES



For details on the questions, the process, and how to get involved, visit [sierraclub.org/Wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/Wisconsin), e-mail [Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or call (608) 256-0565.

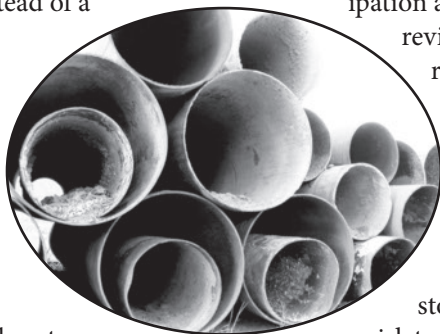
# STATE BUDGET THREATENS DNR, WATER PROTECTIONS AND HEALTH

By Bill Davis,  
Chapter Director

There is an old adage, “if you find yourself at the bottom of a deep hole the first thing to do is stop digging.” A cursory review of Governor Walker’s proposed budget would lead one to believe he had finally learned that lesson. However, on deeper analysis it is apparent that he is still digging, just perhaps with a shovel instead of a backhoe.

The most problematic items in the budget are policy provisions that shouldn’t be in the budget in the first place. The first would require any state agency to stop work on a rule that would cost more than \$10 million in any two-year period until the legislature passes a law specifically allowing the rule. Why is this so bad? State government protects public health in myriad ways; it does that by setting rules that we all have to abide by. Take lead contamination as an example. Wisconsin still has a problem with lead pipes in buildings;

over 176,000 homes or businesses have lead pipes, and in some parts of the state 4.5 percent of children have lead poisoning. A rule that would address this would certainly cost more than \$10 million – the City of Madison’s successful program to remove lead alone cost more than that – but the benefits are worth it. Under this provision 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, it would have to stop until the legislature acted. Given the vagaries of the legislative process, this is madness.

The second policy provision requires a study of moving the environmental regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) from Department of Natural Resources to Department of Agriculture. These are the

facilities that are a large source of the groundwater contamination problems in Kewaunee and elsewhere around the state. All I will say is does “fox guarding the chicken coop” ring a bell?

In addition, the budget cuts 43 more positions from the Department of Natural Resources, cuts county conservation staff, eliminates the Department of Natural Resources magazine and makes it harder for schools to do energy efficiency upgrades, to name a few.

On the upside, the budget leaves alone the Stewardship program, does not advocate selling off more public land and adds \$800,000 for non-point cost share, which helps landowners implement pollution control practices.

For these many reasons, Sierra Club members must show up for public hearings on the state budget and voice their concerns. At the time this article was written, the hearing dates had not been released. Watch the Chapter blog at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin) for more information.

## Support the John Muir Chapter



When you make a donation to the John Muir Chapter, you allow us to continue our work protecting wilderness and wildlife, to improve 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# ISSUES AT A GLANCE

## National Sierra Club Elections are Underway

The 2017 election for the Sierra Club national Board of Directors will be held on April 26. There are a total of nine candidates running for five open seats.

Individuals eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website. Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10 percent of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5 percent is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore your participation is needed in the voting process. To find out more, visit [www.sierraclub.org/board/election](http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election)



## People's Climate March

In September 2014, more than 500,000 people attended the People's Climate March in New York City. It was the largest environmental mobilization in history, and brought together climate activists, frontline communities and environmental justice advocates from the far corners of the globe. A few days later, world leaders passed the Paris Climate Agreement, committing every major nation to greenhouse gas emission cuts and

steps to combat our changing climate as a united global effort.

We now have an administration that threatens to pull the U.S. out of its leadership role on climate action. But we won't go quietly into the night. The second People's Climate March will take place on April 29 in Washington, D.C., and promises to be another massive event focusing on challenging the climate deniers and inactivists in the halls of our nation's government.

It's important to take our fight to Washington, but it's equally important to remember that climate action can happen here at home. In Madison, thousands are planning to march on April 22, on our very own home-grown Earth Day, to demand that Wisconsin reclaim its legacy as the home of environmental leadership. We'll be merging our march with a local March for Science and others looking to make a difference for the planet. And besides shouting our demands to a recalcitrant governor and legislature, we'll be taking our march to the headquarters of Madison Gas and Electric company to demand that their new CEO listen to the communities that they serve and commit to replacing all their coal-powered plants with clean energy.

This Earth Day, let's take the power back. Join us by RSVPing for one or both events through our events calendar at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin). Make a difference for the planet.

## Water Campaign Steps Up

In early March, the John Muir Chapter Water Team more than doubled in size and began to engage in water advocacy with legislators and with the press. The Water Team is looking for more volunteers to help address this growing concern. Contact Cassie Steiner at [cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org](mailto:cassandra.steiner@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565 if you would like to join the team and watch our blog for updates.



## Wisconsin Sierra Club

### Members Lead

### National Outings

Mountain Medley, Tahoe National Forest, California

National Outing 17220A

July 9-15, 2017

Cost: \$995

Co-leaders: Bill Baurecht and Helen Bannan-Baurecht

Hike. Kayak. Swim. Enjoy a lakeside performance of a hilarious “whodunit” with Sherlock Holmes, a comic “Hound of the Baskervilles” performed by the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival. This outing features a unique medley of activities. Our hikes will explore centuries of pathways through the eastern gateway of the High Sierras. We’ll hike along Lake Tahoe and kayak on Donner Lake. Climb atop the China Wall and enter tunnels dug through granite by immigrant laborers to complete the Transcontinental Railroad after the Civil War, an event as significant in American history as the creation of

the Internet. We’ll cross a bridge over the first national highway, the Lincoln Highway. Our visits to the Donner Memorial Museum and Tahoe Science Center will enhance our understanding of the human impact on the area and conservation efforts to preserve water quality in the watershed.

We’ll stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge, the Sierra Club’s historic, rustic lodge located at 7,000 feet in the lofty pine forest above Donner Pass. We’ll eat breakfasts and dinners there and pack lunches each morning for our day hikes and excursions. Evenings we’ll share stories around a campfire, hear a reading from Mark Twain who lived in the area in the 1860s, and have time to relax in the commons room, read in the library, or soak in a hot tub.

For a detailed description, go to [content.sierraclub.org/outings/trip-search](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/trip-search) and enter Trip 17220A or select Lodge outings and find Mountain Medley.

**Just for Grandparents/Grandkids, Tahoe National Forest, California National Outing 17249A**

July 16-21, 2017

Cost: \$695/Child and \$795/Adult

Leader: Angela While

Assistant leaders: Bill Baurecht and Helen Bannan-Baurecht

Spend five days with your grandchildren in the Eastern Sierras, staying at Sierra Club’s historic Clair Tappaan Lodge, located above Donner Pass among lofty pines at 7,000 feet. We’ll hike, swim, and explore with your grandkids, and if the Truckee River’s flow is sufficient, enjoy a leisurely float through the wooded canyon that drains Lake Tahoe. Food and lodging and all admissions are included in the five-day trip price.

The trip is almost filled so go to [content.sierraclub.org/outings/trip-search](http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/trip-search) and enter Trip 17249A or search by the trip’s name to find a detailed description and to register.

## We’re Mad for Clean Energy

Historic goals are moving forward for the City of Madison! At the time this article was written, the 100 percent clean energy goals had passed the Sustainable Madison Committee and the Committee on the Environment. The goals move to the full City Council for a vote on March 21. By the time this *Muir View* hits your mailbox, we should know if the goals have passed. Please check our blog for updates: [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-musings](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-musings)

## Your Vote Makes a Difference in Wisconsin’s Spring Election

Your vote in the Spring Election this year is vitally important. With our legislature and federal government threatening many of our protections, elections for the Wisconsin Supreme Court and local races mean even more. For example, while the legislature stalls clean energy and clean transportation initiatives, local communities are funding bus

systems and setting ambitious clean energy goals. Decisions at the local level will move Wisconsin forward despite the actions of the state legislature.

Your vote on April 4 could make the difference. Check our website to learn where each candidate stands on the issues. To find out what’s on your ballot, where to go, and how to vote (voter ID’s are required!), go to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or call us at (608) 256-0565.

*St. Croix River continued from page 1*

Pipeline company Enbridge installed these pipelines, known as the Line 61 corridor, in 2007 to carry oil from Superior, Wisconsin through the state and down to Illinois. Today, in what is becoming a seemingly continuous attempt to cover the United States in pass-through oil transfer systems, Enbridge is proposing an additional pipeline, Line 66, that would transport even more crude oil beneath the surface of this beloved freshwater stream system.

The possibility of a pipeline rupture is real and the repercussions of an oil spill in the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers could mean disaster for endangered freshwater mussels, wild rice beds and the native turtles and frogs — arguably one of the most threatened groups of species in the world today. With two pipeline ruptures in Saskatchewan in the past six months, it is only a matter of time before a disastrous tar sands spill takes place in Wisconsin, such as it did in Marshall, Michigan in 2010. For those who seek the solitude of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway or who just appreciate the inherent cultural history and biodiversity of the watershed, it only makes sense to resist any further expansion of Enbridge’s pipeline system.

# TAR SANDS UPDATE

By Elizabeth Ward, Chapter Conservation Programs Coordinator

The new year has been filled with new reports of pipeline spills and other concerns. No surprise, Enbridge pipelines are a steady part of these stories. Since January 1, a pipeline jointly owned by Enbridge spilled more than 15,000 barrels of crude oil in Texas due to a Department of Transportation subcontractor driving a bulldozer into the pipeline, more than 15,000 gallons of light oil that spilled in Missouri is still being cleaned up a month later and more than 50,000 gallons of crude oil leaked in Saskatchewan from a pipeline that was purchased from Enbridge last year. Additionally, 200,000 liters of oil condensate spilled from Line 2 (one of the pipelines that brings oil into Superior) in Alberta.

At the same time, there is growing awareness about the dangers of Enbridge's existing pipeline network. Earlier this year, the Journal Sentinel printed an in-depth series about Enbridge's Midwest system, including the proposed Line 61-twin (AKA Line 66); concerned citizens have been writing opinion editorials and letters to the editor and an engaged activism is spreading across the state.

## Bad River Tribe Denies Line 5 Easement Renewal

Line 5, the pipeline that travels from Superior over Northern Wisconsin through the Upper Peninsula and under the Straits of Mackinac into Michigan also goes through the Bad River reservation in Northern Wisconsin. In early January, the Tribal Council passed a resolution not to renew the easement for Enbridge and called for the decommissioning of it.

## Landowners Continue to Speak Up

After a successful crowd-sourcing campaign, 80 Feet is Enough! raised over \$20,000 to put up billboards across Wisconsin. The billboards are up! These will help increase awareness about the potential for eminent domain abuse.

The billboards launched a campaign to reform our eminent domain laws. [80FeetIsEnough.org](http://80FeetIsEnough.org) now includes the "Top 6 Reasons to Change our Eminent Domain Laws," a petition and a way to contact your legislators. Visit [80feetisEnough.org](http://80feetisEnough.org) to learn more.

In March, the Wisconsin Easement Action Team (WEAT) hosted a handful of meetings from Whitewater to Minong for landowners along the Line 61 corridor with information about what landowners should know when negotiating with Enbridge about the new pipeline.

## Student- and Youth- Led March Against Pipelines

On March 4, students and other youth led a March Against Pipeline Expansion. The Wisconsin Youth Network (WiYN) marched through downtown Whitewater, demanding climate action in the state and called on Enbridge

to commit publicly to not building another pipeline in Wisconsin and to decommission the dangerous ones that it has. Speakers included students and a local landowner.

## April 5: Panel on Pipeline Safety

The federal regulator, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, has agreed to join a panel in Lake Mills on April 5. The panel will include the emergency response manager for Jefferson County and an invitation has been extended to Enbridge. The panel will focus on the safety of the current pipelines, beginning with three minutes for each speaker, followed by questions and answers from the audience.

## Local coalitions are forming!

Local coalitions are forming along the line to educate people about the threats of the pipeline, engage local leaders and call on the Department of Natural Resources not to permit the pipeline.

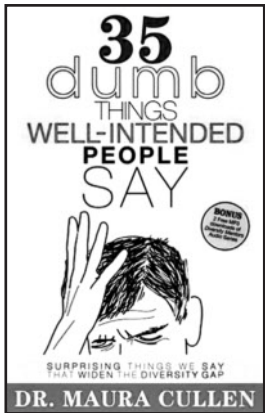
If you would like to learn more or get involved, contact Elizabeth Ward at [Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or call (608) 256-0565.



# GREEN REVIEW - Books of interest to Sierra Club Members

By Amy Lou Jenkins

**35 Dumb Things Well-Intended People Say: Surprising Things People Say that Widen the Diversity Gap**, by Dr. Maura Cullen, Morgan James, 2008, 140 pages.



The political climate may seem to indicate that the days of worrying about “saying the right thing” are over, yet Cullen’s guide remains relevant. While many people are exposed to these diversity concepts in workplace or college settings, everyone can benefit by expanding skills involved in communicating with and respecting others. Resistance is common—who needs to be afraid to open their mouth? Those fears have their roots in a very human tendency to “clump” with similar kinds of people. Even in the diverse U.S., the common experience is to be estranged by some degree from those who are different.

Yes, those who offer opinions related to diversity or who are brave enough to discuss racism are likely to be subject to criticism. Hence, there is a resistance to engage and understand those who live adjacent to one’s own immediate social circle. Even without an intent to harm, accidentally standing on another’s foot or uttering hurtful remarks still does cause pain. As we work to a more inclusive society, Cullen’s advice is likely to help avoid some naive statements and may help readers to consider their own motivations.

Divided into four main parts, Cullen’s book sets the stage by limiting

the scope of the guide. This isn’t an exhaustive textbook but rather a more personal sharing of lessons. Part two goes lightly into the theory of using accessible language and personal examples. Part three tackles the dumb things we may say. These range from some of the obvious “some of my best friends are...” or “I know exactly how you feel” to some common statements that are not as frequently considered, including calling older people “cute” or saying “what you do in your own bedroom is your own business.” The final section offers additional strategies to help readers be awake to the impact of their own words and to the need to be good listeners.

One of the most surprising aspects of this book could be the comments on Goodreads and Amazon. Quite a few folks complained that the writer was biased. Some thought the references to “white privilege” were evidence that Cullen was prejudiced against white people (despite her Caucasian author picture). Others thought the book dealt with imaginary problems. Cullen’s guide isn’t going to solve every communication issue, nor does it replace a need to listen to and establish relationships. Yet, if some can’t even see the problem—whoa—we really need this book.

*Questions for discussion in our online book club at [facebook.com/groups/SierraClubBooks](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SierraClubBooks)*

Have you ever used any of the “dumb” sayings?

Can you forgive those who say “dumb” and hurtful things? Why or why not? Does the word “dumb” bother you? Would this book be helpful if a student or employee is “forced” to read it? Do you know anyone who denies the status quo of white privilege? How do they deny?

Which of your beliefs or communication habits were challenged by this

book?

How could some of the lessons offered in this book apply to environmental advocacy?

**The Lost Art of Reading Nature’s Signs: Use Outdoor Clues to Find Your Way, Predict the Weather, Locate Water, Track Animals -- and other Forgotten Skills**, by Tristan Gooley, The Experiment, 2014, 359 pages.



Tristan Gooley never gives us a hard time for not understanding nature’s signs, yet the reader quickly understands how much the landscape has to say, and how estranged

we are from all that it offers. Give the average person a complicated web page and they are likely to be able to understand and navigate the page. Put the average person in a ravine a few miles from their car and bet a bundle that the wilderness rescue squad will be suiting up.

Gooley sees the clues that we miss. He generously shares how to move through natural and even some civilized spaces and experience layers of relationships hiding in plain sight. He is the global expert on natural navigation, finding his way around the world using nothing but natural clues. His discovery made on a sailing expedition to Iceland that “if when at sea, you see more than 10 birds in any given five minute window this means you are within 40 miles of land” is part of the British military’s survival guidance.

While the book is fun to read, it’s most

*continued on page 14*

# RIVER TOURING SECTION

## 2017 PADDLING TRIPS AND INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

Interested in paddling some wild and beautiful rivers with fun and skilled paddlers? Sierra Club's River Touring Section (RTS) has just what you're looking for. RTS leads trips and instructional clinics on whitewater and quietwater that are open to Sierra Club members and the general public. Join us to perfect your skills, explore new waterways, meet other paddlers, learn from skilled volunteer leaders and have fun on the water. Trips are free, unless otherwise indicated.

Visit our website [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section) for the most complete, updated trip list and other paddling links and information.

### INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS offers instructional clinics for a nominal fee, taught by skilled volunteer instructors. Clinic sizes are limited to maintain low student-to-instructor ratios, so reserve your spot early. Fees are due in advance and are non-refundable unless the clinic is cancelled. RTS whitewater clinics are for reasonably experienced paddlers who want to learn or improve their whitewater paddling and safety skills. Additional clinics are offered for beginning canoe and kayak paddlers.

#### QUIETWATER CANOE CLINIC (Solo and Tandem)

**May 20, Held on one of the Madison Lakes**

Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. This clinic is designed to prepare paddlers for easier and more enjoyable quietwater paddling. Topics include: safety issues, paddling dynamics, extensive practice of important paddling strokes, canoe rescue, and paddling as a team. Participants should bring their own canoe, paddle, life jacket, lunch, and drinking water (equipment rentals may be available in town, but check with trip leader). Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: [beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com](mailto:beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com), 608-246-0485.

#### WHITewater CANOE CLINIC (Solo and Tandem)

**June 3-4, Wolf R., Class II; Car Camp**  
Clinic Fee: \$40 per person plus camping fees. Basic whitewater paddling skills

taught to paddlers already comfortable canoeing on rivers: river reading, safety skills and equipment, review of paddling strokes, and maneuvers such as eddying, ferrying and surfing. Tips for honing your canoe-camping skills will be included for tandem paddlers. Participants must provide their own gear and properly equipped boats, suitable for whitewater. The group campsite at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort (near White Lake/Langlade, WI) is reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, or you can make your own lodging arrangements. Bring a dish to pass for the Saturday night potluck. Solo Leader/Registration Contact: Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, [richkrieg@new.rr.com](mailto:richkrieg@new.rr.com). Tandem Leader/Registration Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net).

#### WHITewater KAYAK CLINIC

**June 3-4, Wolf R., Class II; Car Camp**  
Clinic Fee: \$40 per person plus camping fees. Basic whitewater paddling skills taught to paddlers already comfortable kayaking on rivers: river reading, safety skills & equipment, paddling strokes, and maneuvers such as eddying, ferrying and surfing. Kayaks should be rated for Class II whitewater and have pillars reinforcing the deck. Students also need their own helmet, PFD, neoprene spray-skirt, paddle, air bags, water bottle, dry bag for clothes-lunch-incidentals and appropriate paddling clothes for immersion. The group campsite at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort is reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, or you can make your own lodging arrange-



ments. Bring a dish to pass for the Saturday-night potluck. Leaders: Bruce Nelson and Jack Burton. Registration Contact: Jack Burton: 608-393-9793, [burtonjack48@gmail.com](mailto:burtonjack48@gmail.com).

#### MOVING WATER KAYAK CLINICS June 20, 23, 27 and/or 29 and Adult/ Child Class June 27, Bark R. at Rome, Class I

Clinic Fee: \$20 per adult per day. River reading, strokes and boat maneuvering will be taught for kayakers who are already comfortable paddling on lakes. Safety and equipment will be covered as needed. Kayak and properly-fitting life jacket required. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746, [kayaker.kasy@gmail.com](mailto:kayaker.kasy@gmail.com).

#### MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC June 24, Koshkonong or Badfish Creek near Madison, Class I.

Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. Confident on lakes, but not ready for rivers? Then this canoe clinic is for you. We'll review the basic strokes—draws, prys, sweeps, forward, back and J. We'll discuss safety, reading water, and maneuvers: ferries, side slips and eddy turns. Then we'll practice these skills as we canoe Badfish Creek or Koshkonong Creek. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: 608-246-0485 [beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com](mailto:beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com).

#### RIVER SAFETY AND RESCUE CLINIC

**July 8-9, Red R., Class I-II; Car Camp.**

Fee: \$40/person plus camping fees. Limited to 10 people. Learn river safety and beginning rescue techniques for boats and swimmers through active instruction and practice including use of ropes, river swimming/crossing, strainers, rescuing pinned boats and managing rescue scenarios. Become familiar with self rescue. Requires swimming and moderate physical activity. Recommended to all who might lead paddling trips, including experienced leaders wishing to retrain. Registration deadline is June 26. Registration contact: Doug Robinson: 608-334-8026, [dougknu@gmail.com](mailto:dougknu@gmail.com).

### **PADDLING TRIPS**

Visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section/trips> for additional trip listings

**April 1-2, Robinson & Morrison Creeks near Black River Falls, Class II; Car Camp.** Runnable when the water is up in the spring, these two small, scenic creeks are a lot of fun. There are two drops on the Robinson that can be portaged. We'll pick up spring thaw trash as we go, leaving the stream in better shape for those who follow. Wet or dry suit required for this early season trip. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net).

**April 22, Red R., Class II-III; Day Trip.** Get back on the water. Watch for wildlife such as deer, blue heron, mink and trout. Wet or dry suit required. Contact: Marianne McEvilly: 715-250-3891, [rivermouse369@yahoo.com](mailto:rivermouse369@yahoo.com).

**April 23, Bark R., Class I+, Day Trip.** Join us for an early spring paddle on a clear spring-fed river made so by restored wetlands. As there are seven bridges, portaging may be needed. The Upper Rock River at CW is the fall-back choice, if weather or water levels are a problem. LIMIT: 10 boats. Contact: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746, [kayaker.kasy@gmail.com](mailto:kayaker.kasy@gmail.com).

**April 29-30, Whitewater Rivers of NE Wisconsin, Class II-III; Car Camp.** Lodge or car camp near Cran- don, WI. Rivers determined by water

level. Saturday we hope to paddle the Peshtigo, Sunday the Oconto. Wet/dry suits required for these early spring runs. Located in the northern lakes and forest region of Wisconsin. Explore these headwaters and discuss the nature of each as they flow to the southeast. Contact: Dave Skriba: 920-210-9400, [screeps2017@outlook.com](mailto:screeps2017@outlook.com) or Bruce Nelson: 608-609-9978, [b1bnelson@att.net](mailto:b1bnelson@att.net).

**May 6-7, Pine R., Class I-II; Canoe Camp.** Our 41st annual Pine River trip. We will address the many challenges facing this wild river as we go forward. Contact: Gregg Riemer: 608-216-5803, [gregg.riemer@gmail.com](mailto:gregg.riemer@gmail.com) or Jim Servais: 920-217-6284

**May 13, Baraboo R., Class I; Day Trip.** Hatchery Road through Baraboo. This section used to be blocked by three dams, now removed, allowing boaters and wildlife to return. Come see how this now free-flowing river makes a fine centerpiece to historic downtown Baraboo. Contact: Carl Zimm: [beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com](mailto:beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com), 608-246-0485.

**May 13-14, Whitewater Rivers of Central WI - Exploratory, Class II-III; Car Camp.** Rivers to be determined by water levels. Learn about control of water run-off in the region's forest transitional landscape. Contact: Dave Hiller: 608-444-8695, [dave@davehiller.com](mailto:dave@davehiller.com).

**May 20-21, Pike R., Class II-III; Car Camp.** Paddle a designated 'Wild River' while viewing wildlife and picking up any trash found on the river. On Saturday, paddle from Highway 141 to-or-through Yellow Bridge Rapids. On Sunday we'll either paddle from Hardwoods Road. to/through Yellow Bridge Rapids or we'll paddle from just below that rapids to the Menominee River. Bring wet/dry suit for cool spring temperatures. Contact: Larry Zibell: 715-546-2131, [lzibell@gmail.com](mailto:lzibell@gmail.com).

**May 20-21, Root R., (Minnesota) Class I; Car Camp.** Enjoy a weekend paddling the Root River in unglaciated SE Minnesota near Lanesboro. Dolo-

mite cliffs overlook the valley which has many spring-fed tributaries and abundant wildlife. Learn about the region's early history and its effect on the river valley. Camping is free. Contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-858-5290, [sueob1@gmail.com](mailto:sueob1@gmail.com) or Carol Brewton: 507-454-7187, [cbrewton@smumn.edu](mailto:cbrewton@smumn.edu).

**May 27-29, Bois Brule R., Class I-II; Car Camp.** Three day-trips on the Bois Brule. Saturday: County S to Hwy 2. Sunday: Pine Tree Landing to Hwy 13—(includes a series of Class II rapids that can be portaged). Monday: Hwy 13 to Lake Superior (includes fairly constant Class I rapids). We'll learn about the work done to protect this trout stream. Helmets required for rapids. Camping available at the DNR Campground south of Brule in Douglas County. Campsites can be reserved online through the DNR website. This is a busy weekend so please share your site with fellow paddlers. Contact: Pat & Bobbie Wilson: 608-788-8831, 608-397-2531, [pbwilson@centurytel.net](mailto:pbwilson@centurytel.net) or Kevin & Carol Olson: 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).

**May 30, Montreal R., Class III.** Hike to overlooks at Saxon Falls, then put in below the falls and paddle through Montreal Canyon, a beautiful gorge with sheer cliffs on both sides. Learn about the geology and iron mining in the nearby Penoque Range. This trip is a good add-on to the immediately preceding Bois Brule Trip for those with advanced whitewater skills. Contact: Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).

**June 3-4, Wolf R., Class II; Car Camp.** Paddle Wisconsin's most popular white-water river and learn a bit of its geologic history. River sections to paddle will be based on participant interest and ability. This trip is concurrent with the RTS Kayak and Canoe Clinics on the Wolf River, so we can mingle with clinic participants and leaders evenings and at the Saturday night potluck. Contact: Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).

# HELP US GROW!

By Hannah Hathaway, Chapter Membership Intern

This spring Sierra Club is encouraging growth in membership so it can continue to make an impact in protecting Wisconsin. We encourage you to help us grow by renewing your membership or by giving the gift of membership to a loved one.

The Sierra Club has been a long-time leader in environmental advocacy since its founding over a century ago. To be the most effective, local, grassroots leadership from members is vital. Through the reach of national, statewide and local work, the Sierra Club provides meaningful opportunities for those who truly cherish environmental advocacy. In addition to contributing to the preservation of nature, members experience a range of opportunities unique to the Sierra Club.

Members of the Sierra Club have opportunities to surround themselves with peers who value conservation and environmental justice. Group meetings, local and national outings, film screenings, an online book club and issue teams provide opportunities to socialize with like-minded individuals.

Additionally, the Sierra Club believes in activism and has proven successful in this work. The organization would not have seen the success it has if it had relied on being reactionary. Sierra Club members have led marches against pipelines, organized a summit advocating for more equitable transportation, coordinated a public meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency about water protection, challenged threatening public policy and collected petitions advocating for clean energy solutions. Members will have countless chances to share their voices and fight for the protection of Wisconsin's wild places.

The Sierra Club has participated in important campaigns that not only protect the environment and wildlife but also people who are unjustly impacted by environmental threats.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP & HELP US GROW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_


**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:**

Gift Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>SPECIAL OFFER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35



**SIERRA CLUB**  
JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support are effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.  
**Enclose a check and mail to** Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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Not all peoples are affected equally by lack of or poorly enforced environmental regulation, and the Sierra Club serves as a growing advocate against environmental racism and classism.

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail, you are already a Sierra Club member. Thank you for your support and your contribution to protecting the planet and Wisconsin. If you want to give a gift membership, you can do so by filling out the form above or go online to [vault.sierraclub.org/ways-to-give](http://vault.sierraclub.org/ways-to-give) and clicking "gift membership."

*Green Review continued from page 11*

fun when read in small doses followed by time in the out-of-doors practicing and noticing.

Every page is full of tips about what it is possible to see and experience. Understand what the vegetation, lightening, horizon, light, smoke, starts, wind, clouds, contrails, puddles and waves are telling you. The book is so packed with helpful insights, it could become

your best hiking buddy for the rest of your life.

*Questions for discussion in our online book club at*

[facebook.com/groups/SierraClubBooks](http://facebook.com/groups/SierraClubBooks)  
How does the experience of being in nature change when informed about nature's signs?  
How did we lose the relationships with natural clues?  
If not in the U.K., did Gooley's location

outside of your home country distance you from the landscapes he wrote about?

Gooley describes some lore related to nature. What natural lore has remained in your family?

*Amy Lou Jenkins BSN, MS, MFA is an award-winning writer. If you have book you'd like considered for review, contact her through [JackWalkerPress.com](http://JackWalkerPress.com).*

**June 10-11, Mekan River, Class I; Car Camp.** The Mekan is a premium trout stream with crystal clear water. It maintains a steady current and can require precise maneuvering around narrow, tight bends or dead fall. We will paddle a section above Germania Marsh on Saturday and below the marsh on Sunday. Come to enjoy this beautiful river and learn about the impacts of irrigation and proposed bottled water facilities. Contact: Leo Hummel: 608-322-7014, [dhummel@centurytel.net](mailto:dhummel@centurytel.net).

**June 10-11, Pike River/Wolf River, Class II+, Car Camp.** Practice white-water skills from the recent clinics before they get rusty. Or just come to enjoy these Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Pike on Saturday; Section 2 of the Wolf on Sunday. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net).

**June (23) 24-25, Wolf River/ Red River, Class II; Women-Only Car Camp.** Have fun, build skills, confidence and sense of community among women paddlers. Optional gentle yoga and music around the campfire. Friday afternoon (optional): review skills, wet exits and strokes on a nearby lake. Saturday: paddle Wolf River Section 3 (short). Sunday: Paddle and play on the Red River. Contact: Mari Gasiorowicz: [mgasiorowicz@gmail.com](mailto:mgasiorowicz@gmail.com) or 608/512-7394. Co-leaders: Marianne McEvilly, Carol Olson.

**July 8-9, Wolf River, Sections 3 & 4, Class II-III+, Car Camp.** Come to enjoy beautiful scenery and some of the most challenging whitewater in Wisconsin. We will paddle Section 4 on Saturday (\$35/person fee to Menominee Tribe to paddle this Class III+ section), and a short Section 3 on Sunday (Class II). This is an intermediate-level trip and above. Contact: Jack Burton: 608-393-9793, [burtonjack48@gmail.com](mailto:burtonjack48@gmail.com) or Bruce Nelson: 608-244-6397, [b1bnelson@att.net](mailto:b1bnelson@att.net).



**July 13-16, Namekagon River, Class I; Women-Only Canoe-Camp.** Enjoy warm summer days on a leisurely paddle covering 35 miles on the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. Learn about how designation as a National Scenic Riverway protects these beautiful rivers. John Muir Chapter trip. \$150/person fee. Food and boat rental included. Contact: Vicki Christianson: 715-827-0379, [vicki.christianson@yahoo.com](mailto:vicki.christianson@yahoo.com).

**July 15-16, Black River, Quietwater; Family Canoe-Camp.** This favorite kid-friendly paddling trip is being resurrected to encourage young families, families with kids and the young-at-heart to join us on the water. We'll take it slow, stop to play/explore as frequently as desired, cook-out and sleep in tents on a sandbar, and engage in creative outdoor play. Contact: Pat or Bobbie Wilson: 608-788-8831, 608-397-2531, [pbwilson@centurytel.net](mailto:pbwilson@centurytel.net) or: Kevin & Carol Olson: 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net).

**Jul 24-Aug 2, Montana Whitewater, Class II-III; Car Camp.** Join experienced paddlers on some classic rivers in Montana. The trip will be flexible to meet the needs and skills of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-445-4777, [johnsrudp@tds.net](mailto:johnsrudp@tds.net).

If you have questions, comments or want to see the full list of trips, please visit [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section) or contact Kevin Olson, RTS Chair: 608-963-2678, [olsonfam44@centurytel.net](mailto:olsonfam44@centurytel.net)

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

#### **General Trip & Clinic Participant Requirements (see RTS website for details).**

Preregistration is required for all trips and clinics. Contact the person listed for each trip/clinic to obtain details, determine if you have the abilities and equipment needed for the trip, and to register.

Participants are responsible for providing their own boats and gear, whether owned, borrowed or rented. Boats and gear must be appropriate for the type of trip planned. This includes a properly fitted PFD (life-jacket) on all trips and a helmet, flotation (and spray skirt for kayaks) on whitewater trips. Food, lodging and transportation are also typically the participant's responsibility, although we can help identify people who need rides and who have space in their cars.

All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip or clinic and to abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. Parents/guardians must sign a special for anyone under age 18.

**International Scale of River Rating Difficulty** Temperatures below 50° F typically increase a rating to the next higher level.

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

Class II: Easy rapids with waves up to 3 ft. and wide clear channels that are obvious

Class III: Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that can 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/ self-rescue.

Classes V and VI: RTS does not offer trips at these levels.



## 2017 JOHN MUIR CHAPTER EVENTS CALENDER

**April 4:** Wisconsin Spring Election, polls are open  
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)

**April 10:** Conservation Congress Hearings, 7:00 p.m.,  
Various Locations, [dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC](http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC)

**April 18:** Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference,  
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monona Terrace Community  
and Convention Center, 1 John Nolan Drive,  
Madison, [nelson.wisc.edu/events](http://nelson.wisc.edu/events)

**April 22:** People's Climate March in Madison,  
[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

**April 26:** Sierra Club National Board of Directors Ballots  
Due, [sierraclub.org/board/election](http://sierraclub.org/board/election)

**April 29:** People's Climate March in D.C.,  
[sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

**June 16 - 18:** Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, Custer, WI,  
[theenergyfair.org](http://theenergyfair.org)

**June 23 - 25:** People on the Pipeline, time and locations to be  
determined, [sierraclub.org/wisconsin](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin)

**Algunos artículos de *Muir View* están disponibles en español.**

Se sitúan en la red: [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter](http://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](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter).

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