



WISCONSIN Sierran

NEWS OF THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

SETTING PFAS REGULATIONS IN WISCONSIN

WATER IS LIFE.

We can agree that Water is Life -- that is, humans and all other plants and animals need water to survive and thrive. In a water rich state like ours, it's hard to understand why everyone in the Badger State does not have access to an abundant supply of clean drinking water. A state that prides itself on its hunting traditions and outdoorsy recreation opportunities surely needs safe water for fishing, swimming, hunting and boating. The Clean Water Act of 1972 aims to have waters that are "swimmable and fishable." So why don't we?

You cannot discharge pollutants that degrade water quality into surface waters without specific permits. The task of regulating what amounts of which pollutants is a difficult one, aiming to balance the needs of individual health, agriculture and industry. Once the regulations are agreed upon, enforcement procedures for violations must be written and enforced.

In Wisconsin's administrative code, Chapter NR 809, the DNR lists maximum amounts for more than 100 different substances that may be permitted in drinking water from lead (zero) to fluoride (4mg/L). Creating the regulatory standard for a new contaminant, such as PFAS, is a lengthy process. Let's look at that process, which resulted in the DNR's proposed drinking water rule.

WHAT ARE PFAS?

As a reminder, PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a family of thousands of synthetic chemicals used in manufacturing certain stain-resistant carpets and fabrics (think Scotchgard, old formula), certain non-stick cookware (formerly used in Teflon), fire-fighting foam and some fast-food packaging. Because the carbon-fluorine bonds in PFAS are very strong, they do not break down in the environment; their persistence earns them the term, "forever chemicals." They are found in water bodies and in the fish that live in them (the WDNR issues fish advisory notices). When PFAS are spread via treated manure (sewage sludge) onto farm fields and grazing lands, they enter the food chain by becoming incorporated into the crops and grasses, where they are eaten by the grazers. Then they are passed on to higher order omnivores and carnivores, including humans, where they accumulate over a lifetime. Studies are still underway, but PFAs have been linked to a number of health conditions, including thyroid and heart issues, and various cancers.

Because of their persistence, impact on our health and omnipresence in the environment, PFAS is a class of contaminants that should be regulated. While there are no enforceable federal standards for PFAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended that our drinking water contains no more than 70 parts per trillion (ppt) of PFOA and

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION GRANT MARKS A STRONG START FOR THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER IN 2022

With spring right around the corner, there is no better time to think about fresh starts. Specifically, the fresh start of new legislative districts. It is already clear that Wisconsin will not get fair maps this time around, but we did get “fairer” maps through a recent decision by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Looking at the process of how legislative maps are made in Wisconsin illustrates the importance of every election. The maps are proposed by the legislature and then either accepted by or vetoed by the governor. In the case where the legislature and governor cannot reach an agreement, the maps head to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. It is exciting news that we will have fairer maps in upcoming elections, and we can use this as motivation to vote in every Wisconsin election this year, whether it's a local or judicial election on April 5, the partisan primary on August 9 or the general election on November 8. You can learn more about what's on your ballot, register to vote, find your polling place and request an absentee ballot at myvote.wi.gov.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club is off to a great start in 2022 with

a strong volunteer fair and amazing team kick-offs. The Transportation Team received a \$12,000 grant from National Sierra Club to continue its important work opposing the expansion of I-94. Although Sierra Club's position on highways is frequently framed as “opposing expansion,” it's more important to remember what the Transportation Team is advocating for. They are advocating for cleaner air, more connected communities and a transportation system that works for everybody, regardless of age or ability. By the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) own numbers “more than 40%”¹ of the population of the City of Milwaukee are non-drivers, yet their needs aren't considered or addressed by projects that spend billions of dollars expanding highways.

Speaking of transportation, Friday, February 4, was Transportation Equity Day and there were lots of great actions and events around the state. Governor Evers along with the mayors of Madison, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Appleton, Neenah and Menasha all issued proclamations declaring February 4 Transit Equity Day. There was also

a statewide press conference and local events in Eau Claire, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Oshkosh and Viroqua. Through our continued work together, we can build a fair, equitable and climate friendly transportation network that serves us all better.

Lastly, please strongly consider nominating yourself for the Executive Committee (ExComm). The ExComm is a great opportunity to learn more about how the Sierra Club works, both within the Wisconsin Chapter and nationally. The ExComm is also a great place to meet new Sierra Club members from around the state you might not otherwise meet as well as get to know the AMAZING staff a bit better. Most importantly, as a member of the ExComm you will play a vital role in setting the direction of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Explore, Enjoy, Protect.

James Davies
Laura Lane
Chapter Co-Chairs

¹Of course WisDOT would cap the categories out at “more than 40%” they couldn't promote the narrative that in some places maybe more than 50% of the population is completely unserved by their highway mega-projects. Link to the WisDOT non-driver population: <https://wisdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a275fcc732f48be98cb9913102ae07f>

THE WISCONSIN SIERRAN

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Please submit articles by mail or email to:
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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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PFOS. After testing soils, water, fish and terrestrial wildlife, WDNR recommended a lower health standard of 20 ppt. How does that become part of the Wisconsin DNR chapter 809?

HOW ARE NEW WATER QUALITY RULES WRITTEN?

In Wisconsin, over the last several months there have been three major proposed rules on PFAS that the DNR has been working on: one each for groundwater, surface, and drinking water. Let's continue with the procedure for the proposed PFAS rule for drinking waters.

First, after determining what the new standard ought to be, in the summer of 2019, the WDNR published a five-page Statement of Scope to amend Chapter 809; during the fall they held public hearings and received comments on the Scope. After the Scope was approved, actual rule was written. Advisory workgroups and stakeholder meetings operated through the winter of 2020, writing the rule in its semi-final form. The next step was assembling the information needed for the required economic impact statement, followed by additional public hearings, which have recently been completed. Finally – coming down the home stretch -- the new rule needed to be adopted by the Natural Resources Board, approved by the governor and reviewed by the legislature. The DNR went through a similar process for the groundwater and surface water rules.

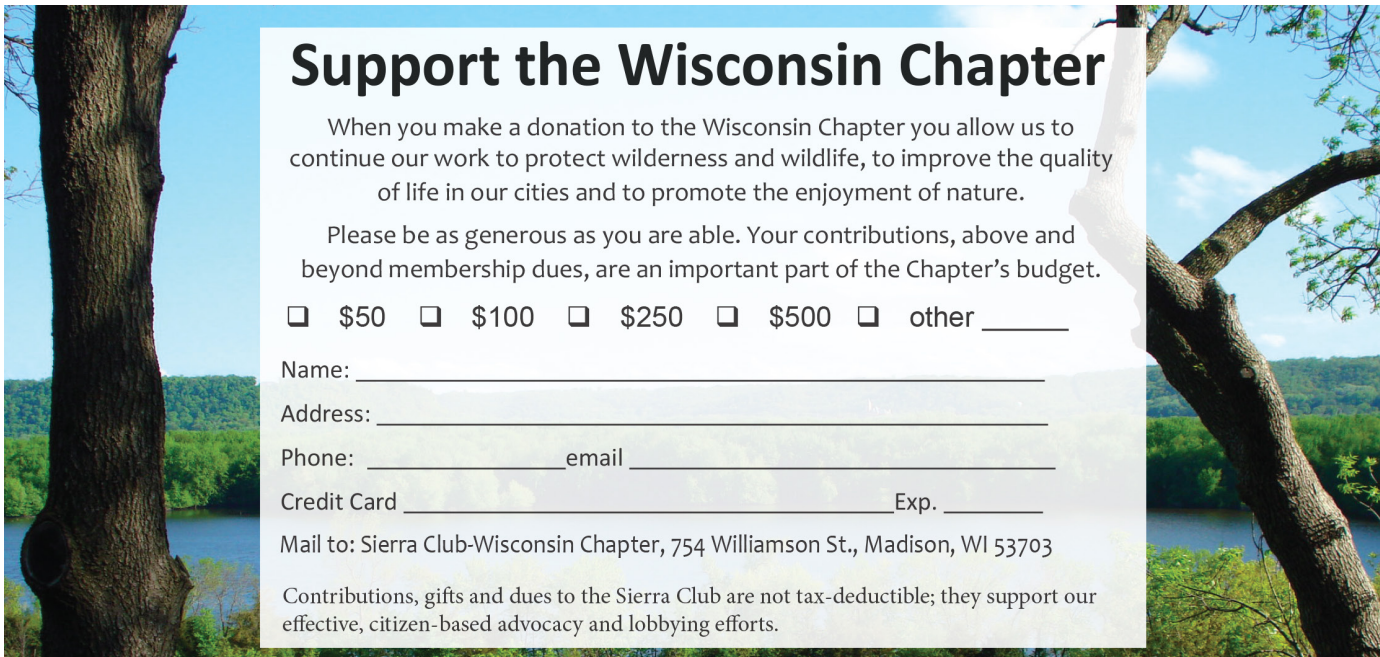
The primary opposition to adopting these new rules comes from Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC), a group that opposes almost anything they see as “creating difficulties for business.” Sometimes they say, “the science isn't adequate; DNR must do further testing.” Sometimes they say

the changes required would be “onerous to certain industries.” At the Sierra Club, we support measures that make safe drinking water available throughout the Badger State.

After years of hard, research-based work, these three rules to set PFAS limits in Wisconsin water came before the Natural Resources Board of the DNR for approval in February, where two of them hit a frustrating roadblock. While the approval of the surface water rule is encouraging, the NRB failed to approve the groundwater rule, and raised the recommended 20 ppt limit in drinking water to 70 ppt, despite more and more research indicating an even lower level may be necessary. What's more, the DNR is the only agency that regulates contaminants in groundwater, making this rule's failure even more hazardous. While several NRB members advocated for passage of all three strong PFAS rules, the majority fell back on industry talking points. Despite the missed opportunity, this process has shown that now, more than ever, we must demand clean water regulations from our leaders at all levels.

In the meantime, you can advocate for strong PFAS regulations moving forward by contacting your legislators.

Melissa Warner
Sierra Club Water Team volunteer



Support the Wisconsin Chapter

When you make a donation to the Wisconsin 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 _____

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

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

PIPELINE UPDATE

THREE MONTHS OF ORGANIZING TO #REJECTLINE5

In the later days of December 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released a draft version of its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed expansion of Enbridge’s Line 5. Specifically, this “reroute” was slated to build a new stretch of pipeline to avoid cutting across the Bad River Reservation. Though supposedly undertaken to honor the Bad River Band’s request that Enbridge remove the current Line 5 from their land, the reroute in fact cuts directly through the majority of the reservation’s watershed, a place the tribe has repeatedly and directly asked Enbridge not to encroach. The pipeline expansion would cut across 185 local water bodies of the Lake Superior water system, putting in danger Indigenous rights to water, fish and wild rice supplies, as well as natural wonders like Copper Falls State Park and the Straits of Mackinac.

We are already aware of the ecological horrors that Enbridge’s environmental tampering wreaks on Midwestern land and waterscapes. Enbridge’s Line 3 in Minnesota, the source of much contention and activism this past summer, has already proven to be unpredictable and dangerous for the people and ecosystems that surround it. One particular incident in Clearbrook, MN, took place in January 2021. While digging a trench for the pipeline, workers overshot their permitted depth by 10 feet and punctured an aquifer, eventually allowing millions of gallons of groundwater to leak to the surface.

Despite the obvious ramifications of this incompetence, Enbridge did not report the breach for months. In June 2021, independent monitors and

the Minnesota DNR eventually figured out what had occurred nearly half a year prior. It took nearly another half a year to stop the leak, but the damage was already done. It still has not been determined to what extent the aquifer breach has endangered local ecosystems, including calcareous fens nearby. The calcareous fens are a rare and biologically diverse form of wetland that relies on a steady supply of groundwater and the minerals therein to survive.

The failures and mismanagement of Line 3 have only served as a clear example of why Enbridge must not be permitted to undertake its proposed development on Line 5. Throughout the past several months, water protectors, tribal leaders, climate and environmental scientists, and concerned community members and landowners have shown up, through comments and oral testimony, to urge the DNR to deny any permits for the Line 5 expansion project.

On February 2, 167 people testified at the DNR’s virtual hearing for this Draft EIS. The vast majority of witnesses

(147 of them!) vehemently spoke out against adoption of the EIS, pointing out myriad inconsistencies, fallacies, and other problematic inclusions and omissions in the DNR’s initial document.

The DNR’s comment period, which continued into March, garnered similar responses in written form. Opponents of the pipeline have incorporated personal experience, scientific and logical reasoning, as well as appeals to environmental justice in their comments.

Running concurrently with the DNR’s comment period was the comment period for the Army Corps of Engineers’ Water Crossing Permit, which Enbridge also needs for construction. Initially, the Army Corps was looking to grant a general water crossing permit to Enbridge, which would have been done with minimal scrutiny. However, with an increase in public concern, the Army Corps decided to consider an individual water crossing permit, which requires them to gather opinion from Wisconsin residents on the project and consider every water crossing individually.

Throughout these comment periods, hundreds of Sierra Club volunteers, members and Wisconsinites across the state stepped up to help stop Enbridge by sending in comments and spreading the word to planning webinars and coordinating organizing work behind the scenes. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has contributed and made this movement to stop Enbridge and its pipelines so strong!

Grace Johnson
Organizing Project Aide



GET READY TO VOTE!



Election season is here! We're days away from the Spring elections. Polls are open on April 5, from 7am to 8pm. Make sure you have reviewed your registration and what is on your ballot by going to myvote.wi.gov.

Wisconsin's current legislature has been working to actively oppose any action on climate change or land and water protection. In fact, the priorities of the legislature have been to undermine democracy, block the Department of Natural Resources from enacting safeguards on our water, and forcing unscientific wildlife practices.

Given the inability to make progress through the Legislature, we've seen local governments step up to the plate. One in four Wisconsinites lives in a community committed to getting to

100% clean energy. Local communities are stepping up and replacing lead pipes, investing in clean energy and expanding parks access. These decisions are made by great Mayors, County Board Executives, City Councils, Town Boards and more. The mayor of a city could be the difference between progress and roadblocks. Depending on where you live, this election could make that difference.

Make sure you make a plan to vote, research all of the candidates on your ballot (they are all available at myvote.wi.gov) and vote for the candidates that share your values. Go to <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/lobbying-elections> to see if Sierra Club has endorsed any candidates on your local ballot.

Elizabeth Ward
Chapter Director

NOMINATE VOLUNTEERS TODAY!

Each year, the Sierra Club Wisconsin Chapter recognizes outstanding volunteers for their contributions to our organization, our communities and our planet. We know there is amazing work being done across our state, and today we are asking you, our members, to help us identify these very special people!

We want to hear your stories about the volunteer work that you've witnessed in the past year by Sierra Club volunteers as well as community leaders and other organizations. Fill out the easy online form to nominate them today. Don't let these environmental champions go unnoticed. Here are the six award categories:

NEW ACTIVIST AWARD: Given to a person who has been a Wisconsin Chapter activist for less than two years and who is an enthusiastic participant in issues and the organization. This recipient possesses a willingness to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues.

WILDFLOWER AWARD: Given to Sierra Club leaders in the Wisconsin Chapter, including an individual who exemplifies all that is wonderful in the environment and the club, a mentor for new and existing activists or an educator who promotes a positive image for the Club.

MERIT AWARD: Given to Sierra Club leaders in the Wisconsin Chapter. Recipient may be an issues champion who has effectively battled environmental challenges, a consistent leader in the environmental movement (i.e. organization leadership roles, organization builder) or one who actively carries the Sierra Club message to decision-makers and the concerned public.

LD ROCKWELL AWARD: Presented to an individual who has provided exceptional service to the Wisconsin Chapter political/electoral program.

GOOD CITIZEN AWARD: Given to organizations and individuals outside

the club who are championing innovative programs or processes that protect the environment.

TORCHBEARER AWARD: Given to organizations and individuals outside the club, such as decision-makers who consistently promote legislation, regulations or practices that protect the environment.

JJ & PAT WERNER AWARD: The chapter's highest honor, given to Sierra Club leaders in the Wisconsin Chapter who have shown an undying commitment to its goals and missions throughout the years.

The nomination form can be found at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards. The final deadline for nominations is August 1. Winners will be acknowledged at our annual Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Party in the fall. Contact Awards Chair Lacinda Athen with questions: lacinda.athen@gmail.com.

SIERRA CLUB'S LOCAL GROUPS IN WISCONSIN

GREAT WATERS GROUP

The Great Waters Group is currently focused on lead pipe contamination and energy burden issues in Milwaukee, rejecting Line 5, and the expansion of I-94. On Monday, May 16th, the group will be holding an event at the Urban Ecology Center — Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Place, Milwaukee, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event, Raising a Child in Nature, will feature Matt Flower, an environmental educator at the Urban Ecology Center, who will explain how parents can ensure that their children don't suffer "nature deficit disorder." This will include taking kids to observe and feel the benefits of the natural world from an early age to begin their life-long journey of environmental appreciation. For more information, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters.

SOUTHEAST GATEWAY GROUP

The Southeast Gateway Group has been prioritizing restoration and conservation in multiple different areas. In February, the group, led by Sam Kohlmann, presented what are the current challenges facing Caribbean coral reefs, along with the efforts to preserve them. Sam spent 11 weeks volunteering with Aldeas de Paz, a non-profit organization in the Dominican Republic, working on Marine Conservation. The presentation included underwater photography and movies provided by Sam, as he was also a digital marketing volunteer for Aldeas de Paz.

In March, Alex Weyenberg hosted an online discussion called the "Homegrown National Parks Presentation," which focused on entomologist and author, Doug Tallamy. Tallamy examines our planet's biodiversity issue and explains that planting native species in our own backyards is a solution to the catastrophic loss of biodiversity that humans depend on. For more information and upcoming events, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/southeast-gateway.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUP

The Chippewa Valley Group has hosted multiple interactive events for members and other participants to attend this year. In March, the group planned an event led by Kathy Campbell, a landfill neighbor and organizer, who discussed the Seven

Mile Landfill in the Town of Seymour, followed by audience participation in discussing ways to reduce garbage. The group also held an outing that explored the Eau Claire's Pedestrian Trails as well as a post-hike stop for craft beer. Visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/chippewa-valley, for future events.

COULEE REGION GROUP

The Coulee Region Group, in March, hosted a virtual program about the Clean Water Now campaign, a county-by-county effort to pass referenda encouraging the state to establish "a right to clean water" to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin. Referenda will be on the ballot in La Crosse and Eau Claire Counties this spring. They also tabled at Viterbo University's "What's in Our Drinking Water?" science symposium on March 25th and will be participating in the La Crosse Earth Fair on April 24th. For more information, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/coulee.

FOUR LAKES GROUP

The Four Lakes Group is working hard to create a Land Equity Access Team. The team will focus on improving access to public lands, parks, and recreation sites by expanding and diversifying transportation options, addressing challenges and lowering barriers. If you are

interested in having your voice guide this campaign to support equity in the outdoors, RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/4uktejfv>

In February and March, the group made an appearance at the Garden Expo and at Canoecopia to talk with people about the Sierra Club's work and opportunities to get involved, as well as to highlight campaign work and outings.

The groups upcoming projects include getting the word out on the Every Kid Outdoors program, creating an event for the nationwide City Nature Challenge, a project with Dane County Parks supporting the Girl's Inc Adventure Club activities with backpacking and outdoor skill building and mobilizing around National Trails Day which is on June 4, 2022. For more information, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/four-lakes.

"This is not a Democrat or a Republican issue, it's a Wisconsin issue... We can't sit on the sideline and be complacent about this, we've got to demand action."

- State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, addressing the lack of legislative action to protect clean water

FOX VALLEY GROUP

The Fox Valley group has maintained a strong commitment to educational, informative programs over zoom. Some meetings in the past have included wolves, winter gardening, Back 40 Mine, CAFO's, wetlands, gerrymandering and Wisconsin Parks. In the future, the group is looking forward to hosting programs focused on butterflies, weather and edible weeds. They are optimistic about upcoming events as they hope to resume in person outings such as their ever-popular Earth Day hike. For future events, visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley>.

GROUP COLLABORATION

On January 20, Sierra Club members from across the state tuned in for an online discussion of government and the environment in Wisconsin with Sarah Godlewski and Tia Nelson. The two are connected by their service on the state's Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). As State Treasurer, Sarah currently has a seat on the Board and has been its chair since 2019, while Tia served as the BCPL's Executive Secretary from 2004 through 2015. Tia resigned from her position shortly after the Commissioners banned employees

from discussing climate change while working; Sarah's first action as Chair of the BCPL was to lift that ban.

The conversation ranged from clean energy and the importance of forests to clean water and environmental justice. Common themes were holding corporations responsible for their environmental impacts, the importance of local government action and the value of public advocacy. Sarah shared the work that the BCPL has done to protect the state's forests and, more recently, to help municipalities transition to clean energy. Tia talked about how things have changed (or stayed the same) within the environmental movement. With regards to equity and justice, she feels the environmental movement "has taken too long to address issues of disparity in how pollution has affected poorer communities in this country, but I'm heartened by the resonance and strength of that movement today." Both speakers are hopeful that the government can make progress in improving environmental quality - to hear what gives them hope, watch the recording at www.youtube.com/c/SierraClubWisconsin.

SEEKING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Would you like to join other passionate volunteers in working toward the general and operational health of the chapter? The Wisconsin Chapter is seeking dedicated Sierra Club members with an interest in maintaining a strong and vibrant state chapter to run for the Executive Committee. The ExCom helps guide the chapter through governance, strategic planning, budget oversight and fundraising. If you have experience or a willingness to learn skills in those areas, and if your values, purpose and passion align with Sierra Club's mission, then we'd like to hear from you. Three at-large seats will be filled in the 2022 fall election. Those elected will serve three-year terms starting in January 2023 and ending in December 2025. Members from across the state are encouraged to apply. Meetings are scheduled for weekends and evenings to accommodate work/school schedules. The deadline for completed applications is August 1, 2022. Please contact Linda Frank at Linda@frankenvironmental.com to learn more about the opportunity to serve.

CHECK OUT ALL THE RIVER TOURING OPTIONS STARTING ON PAGE 10



JOURNALIST ISIAH HOLMES EARNS ENVIRONMENTAL HERO OF THE YEAR AWARD



Journalist Isiah Holmes received the Environmental Hero of the Year Award from Sierra Club - Great Waters Group for his work covering issues that impact communities in the Milwaukee area. As a videographer and a journalist, his articles and reports cover a broad spectrum of environmental and social justice issues as well as threats to our fundamental democratic rights. Holmes is currently a staff writer for the *Wisconsin Examiner* and his writing has also been featured in *Urban Milwaukee*, *Isthmus* and *Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service*.

David Thomas, Great Waters Group Equity Chair added: “This nomination reflects the Sierra Club’s recognition that the work of saving the planet and fighting for social justice cannot be separated.”

VICTORY! FOSSIL GAS PLANTS IN MANITOWOC STOPPED

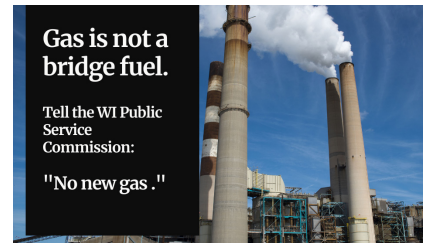
In a mid-January win for the climate, the Great Lakes Utilities abandoned plans for new fossil gas burning generators in Manitowoc. The utility sent a letter to Wisconsin’s Public Services Commission (PSC), stating its withdrawal of the application to acquire and install reciprocating internal combustion engine (RICE) units that it was planning to build. RICE units use ‘natural’ gas to generate energy, so it is fantastic news that this fossil fuel infrastructure is not being built. ‘Natural’ gas, also known as ‘fossil gas’ due to its status as a climate-destabilizing nonrenewable resource, produces detrimental health outcomes in the individuals surrounding the plant where it is burned. Far from a bridge fuel, it poses a threat to public health just as other fossil fuels do.

The money that would have been spent in constructing these RICE units will be much better spent in building energy storage units. Energy efficiency benefits low-income Wisconsinites, and the gains we make in creating a more efficient energy grid mean that we can avoid dumping money into unneeded fossil fuel infrastructure.

VOLUNTEERS START THE YEAR OFF STRONG!

On February 3, we hosted our annual Volunteer Fair. The night offered a chance to learn about our different teams, various volunteer opportunities, and to hear from current volunteers about their experiences. With more than 70 new prospective volunteers eager to get started, we are ready to make our biggest impact yet! Here’s to our growing family, and achieving more than ever before!

Existing volunteers also hit the ground running this year. The teams met in January to create campaign plans for the year. Teams set the rules for how they want to work together, identified campaign strategies, targets and began forming action plans.



GAS – IT’S NOT WHERE IT’S AT

Unlike coal, gas is only a three-letter word, but it’s just as bad for climate change. Fossil gas is primarily methane, a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO2. Yet utilities, counting only emissions from burning gas, claim it’s a bridge fuel to renewable energy. It’s not. Wind and solar are increasingly more affordable options for generating electricity versus new fossil fuel plants. Despite that, and contradicting Governor Evers 2050 goal of 100% carbon-free electricity, there are proposals for new gas storage and generating facilities – which Sierra Club has been strongly opposing. Concerned? Join us in asking the Public Service Commission to reject new gas proposals and support clean energy projects in the state! *addup. sierraclub.org/campaigns/leave-gas-in-the-past*

VICTORY! WOLVES SECURE PROTECTIONS

Last fall, we earned temporary relief for Wisconsin gray wolves when a Dane County Circuit Court judge barred the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from moving forward with a fall wolf hunt. This February, we got excellent news when a federal judge ruled that the Trump Administration illegally removed wolves from the Endangered Species List (ESL). Sierra Club was one of the plaintiffs of the lawsuit. The judge's ruling puts wolves back on the ESL and protects them unless the Biden Administration or Congress move to remove them again. This is a huge victory. We'll continue to work to ensure Wisconsin has a strong wolf management plan so that if wolves do get taken off the ESL again, wolf management will be centered around science, stakeholder engagement, and Tribal input.



BUILDING BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR OUTDOOR ACCESS

Sierra Club's Lands Team has been advocating for the federal Every Kid Outdoors pass to be accepted at Wisconsin State Parks. Through the federal program, fourth graders and their families can receive a free park pass for National Parks; this pairs well with the fourth grade science and social studies curriculum. The Wisconsin version would expand access to include Wisconsin State Parks. This program has been implemented in other states, who have noticed negligible cost impacts from the program paired with numerous benefits - most notably, connecting more kids to the outdoors! This program has received support across the state, with 92% of Wisconsin Conservation Congress voters supporting the pass. The program was included in Governor Evers' proposed state budget in 2020 and while it was removed from the budget, the program was moved forward as a bill that had bipartisan support. With pressure from Sierra Club members, the bill passed both the Senate and Assembly Committees. It is rare for a new bill to pass both house committees the first session it is introduced, so this was a huge accomplishment! Unfortunately, the bill was not taken up for a vote by the full legislature in this legislative cycle. Sierra Club continues to advocate, and we feel confident that this program will come to fruition! The public supports it, the governor supports it, legislators on both sides of the aisle support it - together, we can make it happen!

WISCONSIN REDISTRICTING

Huge news: Wisconsin will have fair(er) maps soon, with a recent state Supreme Court decision on redistricting. Redistricting is the process whereby state leaders redraw district lines. The hope is that these districts will ensure equal representation in the legislature that reflects the will of the people. For the past 12 years, the Republican-drawn maps resulted in guaranteed Republican majorities in the Senate and Assembly. The new maps should decrease gerrymandering in the state and make some upcoming elections more competitive.

The Sierra Club has always supported fair and equal representation - and that everyone's voice matters. To make sure that occurs, we'll organize and advocate for all our members, supporters and other civic-minded citizens to get everyone out to vote, and to have their vote count.

RIVER TOURING SECTION – SIERRA CLUB WISCONSIN CHAPTER

2022 PADDLING TRIPS AND INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section

Interested in paddling wild and beautiful waterways with other experienced paddlers? The Wisconsin Chapter's River-Touring-Section (RTS) has just what you're looking for. RTS leads trips and instructional clinics on whitewater and quiet water open to Sierra Club members and the public. Join us to have fun, explore new waterways, meet other paddlers, learn from skilled volunteer leaders and perfect your skills. We offer trips and instruction suitable for families and individuals of varying ability. Pre-registration, signing a liability waiver and sometimes completing a medical form is required for all participants. Trips are free, unless otherwise indicated. Paddlers provide their own boats, food and gear. Visit our website for the most complete and updated trip and clinic lists and other paddling links and information (link above).

Also, find us on Meetup <https://www.meetup.com/sierra-club-river-touring-section-rtis-wisconsin-chapter/>

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS offers instructional clinics for a nominal fee, taught by skilled volunteer instructors. Clinic sizes are limited, so reserve your spot early. Fees are due in advance and are non-refundable unless the clinic is canceled. Whitewater clinics are for experienced river paddlers who want to learn or improve their whitewater paddling and safety skills. Additional canoe and kayak clinics are offered for those new to paddling or interested in improving their river paddling skills.

MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC (Solo and Tandem)

May 21: River near Madison; Class I; Day trip Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. Designed for paddlers already competent on lakes but new to river paddling. We'll review the basic strokes—draws, pry's, 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 on the river. Must provide own canoe and gear. Registration Contact: Carl Zimm: 608-957-3673, beampowered-stages@yahoo.com.

WHITewater CANOE CLINIC (Solo and Tandem)

June 4-5: Wolf R; Class II; Car Camp Clinic Fee: \$40 per person plus camping fees. Basic whitewater paddling skills taught to paddlers who have already mastered basic moving water paddling skills. Emphasis on river reading, safety skills & equipment, review of paddling strokes, and practice eddying, ferrying and surfing. Participants must provide their own gear and properly equipped boats (including airbags) suitable for whitewater. Group campsite B at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort (near White Lake/ Langlade WI) is reserved for Friday and Saturday nights (\$5/person/night payable to RTS), or you can make your own lodging arrangements. Bring a dish to pass for the Saturday night potluck. Registration Contacts: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrud@rtds.net (tandem canoes) and Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com (solo canoes).

WHITewater KAYAK CLINIC

June 4-5: Wolf R; Class II; Car Camp Clinic Fee: \$40 per person plus camping fees. Basic whitewater paddling skills taught

to paddlers who have already mastered kayaking on moving water. Emphasis on river reading, safety skills & equipment, perfecting paddling strokes and practice eddying, ferrying and surfing. Kayaks should be rated for Class II whitewater and have pillars reinforcing the deck. Students require a suitable helmet, PFD, neoprene spray-skirt, paddle, air bags, water bottle, dry bag for clothes-lunch-incidentals and appropriate paddling clothes for immersion. Group campsite B at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort is reserved for Fri. and Sat. nights (\$5/person/night payable to RTS), or you can make your own lodging arrangements. Peshtigo River Outdoor Learning Center at Bear Paw may rent kayaks and gear. Bring a dish to pass for the Saturday-night potluck (if COVID-safe). We'll have multiple instructors and safety boaters. Registration Contact: Mari Gasiorowicz: 608-512-7394, mgasiorowicz@gmail.com. Sign up early; this clinic often fills up.

QUIETWATER CANOE CLINIC (Solo and Tandem)

June 18: Lake near Madison Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. This clinic is designed to prepare paddlers for easier and more enjoyable quiet-water paddling. Topics include safety issues, paddling dynamics, practice of basic paddling strokes, canoe rescue, and paddling as a team. Participants provide own canoe, paddle, PFD, lunch and drinking water. No shuttle required. Registration Contact: Carl Zimm: beampowered-stages@yahoo.com, 608-957-3673.

MOVING WATER KAYAK CLINICS

Class Q-I; Day Trip(s) Clinic Fee: \$20 per person/day. One-day

clinic offered on various locations and dates. 5-person max/clinic. River reading, basic strokes and boat maneuvering will be taught for kayakers who are already competent paddling on lakes. Safety and equipment will be covered as needed. Kayak, neoprene spray skirt and properly fitting PFD required. Registration Contact: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred) or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

July 7: Waupaca R. at Brainard's: Beginning moving water
July 13 and July 15, June 27: Bark R. at Rome: Moving water
July 18 and July 20: Lake Monona at Schluter Beach: Beginning kayakers, kid w/ adult
July 21: Yahara R: Advanced moving water
July 22: Monona Bay at Bernie's Beach: Beginning kayakers
Aug TBD: Bark R. Rome to Hwy 106: Advanced moving water

WHITewater KAYAK CLINIC

July 23: Marge Kline Whitewater Park, Yorkville, IL; Class II; Day Trip Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. Refine and improve your whitewater skills. This clinic will stress eddy turns, peel outs, ferries and river reading. The whitewater park has numerous eddies and places to practice the above skills and is suited for instruction at a wide range of water levels. You will have a chance to repeat all or sections of the whitewater course, enabling you to hone your skills. The skills and techniques you develop in this clinic will allow you to paddle whitewater rivers with greater competence and confidence. Registration Contact: Dan York: 608-345-8147, danuyork@sbcglobal.net.

Continued on page 12

NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB ELECTIONS

A DEMOCRATIC SIERRA CLUB DEMANDS GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election should have received in the mail (or email if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March.

Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club. The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. Sierra 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 Sierra Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. That means your participation is needed in the voting process.

HOW CAN I LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES?

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Sierra Club's election website for additional information about candidates: sierraclub.org/board/election Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than noon EST Election Day, April 27, 2022.

GREEN REVIEW

ENTANGLED LIFE:

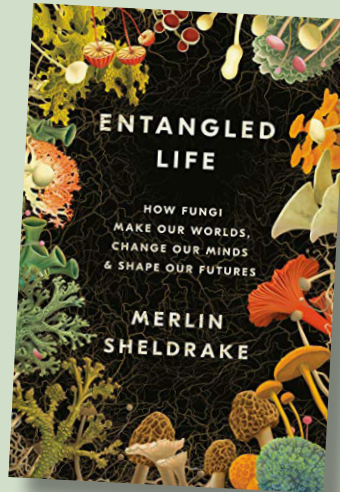
HOW FUNGI MAKE OUR WORLDS, CHANGE OUR MINDS AND SHAPE OUR FUTURES

By Merlin Sheldrake, Random House, 2021 paperback edition, 352 pages.

Every terrestrial plant and every human rely on fungal networks for existence.

There are many reasons to read Sheldrake's eloquent and ebullient

exploration of this oft-overlooked kingdom of life upon which we depend. Sheldrake oozes with celebration, intellectual fervor and a literary style that charms the reader into finding fungi as fascinating as he finds them. He makes fungi fun.



Each of Sheldrake's chapters entices with novelty and scientific acumen. Consider how a being without a brain makes lifegiving decisions as it builds connections with other organisms to thrive in environments in which each alone would likely die. Wonder about how a fungus can infect an insect and force a specific action? Zombie fungus modify their insect hosts' behavior and cause

them to clamp their jaws around a plant at a specific height and orientation to the sun. (Pictures included.) They then take over their host's body in an act as creepy as any alien movie. How does a fungus puppeteer ant movements? Scientists' investigative speculations persist. Enlarge the perception of fungi as a decomposer. Fungi also become sustainable products such as batteries, medical skin substitutes, leather substitutes and cardboard. The growing science of mycology shakes up some paradigms of how we consider living beings because fungi don't behave like plants or animals, and science has built structures of understanding that don't fit the lives and traits of fungi.

The underlying reason to read *Entangled Life* is to experience the mind of Sheldrake as he considers and reconsiders what he knows as it bumps up against what he is learning. While nations, countries, and neighbors seem to be lining up with polarities of thinking and deep trenches of opinion that form angry communities, Sheldrake serves as an example of rationality where opinions are in flux, tested against reality and readjusted as he moves through his studies. His is a beautiful mind at work that can ask if what we think we know is wrong. In his chapter 'Wood Wide Webs' he considers: "Are we able to stand back, look at the system, and let the polyphonic swarms of plants and fungi and bacteria that make up our homes and our worlds be themselves, and quite unlike anything else? What would that do to our minds?" Do read *Entangled Web* to be entertained, educated and changed.

Amy Lou Jenkins BSN MFA is the Author of *Every Natural Fact*. Contact her at AmyLouJenkins.com if you have a book to forward for review.

Continued from page 10

SEA KAYAK TOURING SKILLS CLINIC

Date/Location TBD

Sea kayak touring on rivers, lakes, Great Lakes and oceans can be exceptionally fun with good equipment and solid skills.

The goal of this clinic will be to improve paddling efficiency and to enhance safety skills for beginner and intermediate paddlers. If you are interested, please email the registration contact directly for more

information. Specific venue and schedule to be determined based on interest. Registration Contact: Michael Hammer: mjhammer1@gmail.com.

PADDLING TRIPS

Visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section/trips> for up-to-date trip listings and also Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/sierra-club-river-touring-section-rtis-wisconsin-chapter/>.

April 2-3: Robinson and Morrison Creeks; Class II; Car Camp. Runnable when the water is up in the spring, these small, scenic creeks are a lot of fun. The two drops on the Robinson can be portaged. Wet or dry suit required. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

April 2-3: Mid-WI Exploratory; Class II-III; Car Camp (or motel). Several small rivers around Merrill have dells sections that can be run with spring flows. Rivers will be selected the week before the trip based on ice breakup and water levels. This trip is recommended for skilled whitewater boaters with good self-rescue skills. Wetsuit or dry suit required. Registration Contact/Leader: Dave Hiller: 608-444-8695, dave@davehiller.com.

April 23: Bark R; Class I; Day Trip. Sugar Island Rd to Dousman. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

April 30: Bark R; Class I; Day Trip. Dousman to Atkins-Olson Memorial Park. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

May 14-15: NE WI Rivers (Wolf, Pike, Red?); Class II; Car Camp. Enjoy a late-Spring run down two of our favorite wild and scenic rivers (TBD). Paddlers should be comfortable on Class II rivers. A great trip to sharpen skills, including surfing. Wetsuit or dry suit required. Registration Contact/Leader: Mari Gasiorowicz: 608-512-7394, mgasiorowicz@gmail.com. Co-leaders: Kevin and Carol Olson.

May 15: Baraboo R; Class 1; Half-Day Trip: Giese Park or Gander Mtn parking lot to Maxwell-Potter Conservancy. This section used to be blocked by 3 dams, now removed; allowing boaters and wildlife to return. Bike shuttle may be feasible. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: 608-957-3673,

beampowered-stages@yahoo.com.

May 28-30: Bois Brule R; Class I-II; Car Camp. Paddle 3 distinctly different, beautiful sections of this northern river, ending up in Lake Superior. Campsites available at Brule R. State Campground; some reservable online; others first-come, first-served. Please share sites. Registration Contact/Leaders: Kevin and Carol Olson; 608-963-2678 or 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net. Co-leader: Pat Wilson.

June 4-5: Wolf R. Sections TBD; Class II+; Car Camp. Trip is concurrent with RTS whitewater clinics. Camping available with clinic participants at Bear Paw. Join other RTS paddlers for a reunion weekend. Sat. night potluck. Registration Contact/Leader: Kevin Olson: olsonfam44@centurytel.net, 608-963-2678.

June 11-12: Pike and Wolf R; Class II+; Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills from the recent clinics before they get rusty – or just come to enjoy these wild, scenic rivers. Pike R. on Sat; Wolf R. (Section TBD) on Sun. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net. Co-leader: Kevin Olson.

June 15-16: Upper Iowa R; Moving Water; Car Camp (or motel). Beautiful NE Iowa is in the Driftless Area so there are many rock features, high limestone walls, and springs to enjoy. Due to its popularity on weekends, this is a mid-week trip, and appropriate for all levels able to paddle about 14 miles per day/current-aided. Rec kayaks welcome. Registration Contact/Leader: Sue O'Brien, sueob1@gmail.com. Co-leader: Carol Brewton.

June 25-26: Mekan R; Class 1; Car Camp. Premium trout stream with crystal clear water. Can require precise maneuvering around narrow, tight bends, or deadfall. Will paddle sections above and below Dakota. Possibly paddle upper Mekan on June 24. Sat. night potluck (if COVID-safe). Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy

Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

June 24(?), 25-26: Wolf and nearby rivers; Class II-II+; Car Camp. For women and non-binary paddlers. Camp at Bear Paw. Have fun and build skills, confidence, and sense of community. Sat. evening potluck (if COVID-safe) and music around the campfire. Fri. afternoon (optional): review skills, wet-exits and strokes on a nearby lake or run the Red R. Registration Contact/Leader: Mari Gasiorowicz: 608-512-7394, mgasiorowicz@gmail.com.

July 6: Red R; Class II; Day Trip. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

Date TBD: Black Earth Cr; Class 1+; Half-Day Trip: Bike shuttle feasible. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: beampowered-stages@yahoo.com, 608-957-3673.

July 9-10: Waupaca R. and Chain of Lakes; Class I; Day Trip. Camp at Hartmann Creek SP. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

July 8 or 11: Plover R. (Jordan Park to Deer Rd) or Waupaca Cr; Class I; Day Trip. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

July 16-17: Black River Family Trip; Moving Water; Boat Camp. This kid-focused trip is offered to encourage young families, adults with kids, and the young-at-heart to join us on the water. We'll stop to play and explore, hike up a hidden waterfall, cook-out and sleep in tents on a sandbar. Registration Contact/Leaders: Justin & Beth Piggush: 608-797-3989, jpiggush@gmail.com. Co-leaders: Bobbie & Pat Wilson, Carol & Kevin Olson.

Late July to early Aug: Montana Whitewater; Class II-III; Car Camp. Join

experienced paddlers on classic whitewater rivers in Montana, possibly incl. North Fork Flathead, Middle Fork Flathead, Blackfoot, Gallatin, Boulder, Yellowstone and Stillwater. Must feel comfortable on rivers such as Wolf R. section 3. Opportunities to play, practice skills and hike. Join us for all or part of this trip. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net. Co-leader: Kevin Olson.

Aug Date TBD: Bark R. (Rome to Hwy 106) and Mauneshia R. (Waterloo to Fireman's Park; Class I; Day Trip. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

August 17-18; Namekagon River; Class I; Car Camp. The Namekagon is designated as part of the 200-mile St. Croix National Wild and Scenic Riverway. We'll paddle the middle section of this river if there is sufficient water; otherwise, the lower section. Its popularity is high, thus a weekday trip. We'll paddle about 14 miles per day, current-aided. Camping is free. Registration Contact/Leader: Sue O'Brien, sueob1@gmail.com. Co-leader: Carol Brewton.

September 5-10: Boundary Waters Canoe Area; Class Q; Canoe Camp. Experience the BWCA after Labor Day, fewer groups. Trip includes paddling and portaging. Limit 9 people, 4 boats. Well behaved dogs allowed

Questions/Comments? Please visit our website or contact Kevin Olson, RTS Chair: 608-356-8992, 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

if approved by trip leader. Registration Contact/Leader: Katy Golden: 414-378-1053, katyrenny@yahoo.com.

Sept 10: Wolf R; Class II; Wolfman Safety Boat Volunteers; Car Camp (free at Scout Camp). Practice rescue skills early Sat. morning as a volunteer safety boater for the Wolfman Triathlon (short section 2). Must be a solid Class II+ paddler. Good opportunity to support the local paddling community. Registration Contact/Leader: Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net. Co-leaders: Dan York and Justin Schmitz.

Sept. 10-11: Wolf R. Section 3; Class II+; Car Camp. Paddle Wolf R. Saturday after the Wolfman and again Sunday. Section 3 for sure; possibly another Section TBD. Registration Contact/Leader: Dan York, 608-345-8147, danuyork@sbcglobal.net. Co-leaders: Kevin Olson and Justin Schmitz.

Sept 17: Badfish Cr; Class 1; Half-Day Trip: Old Stage Rd to Casey Rd. Bicycle shuttle feasible. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: beampowered-stages@yahoo.com, 608-957-3673.

Sept. 22-23: Kickapoo R; Class 1; Car Camp. Celebrate the first days of fall on this narrow, scenic river that winds through the heart of Wisconsin's driftless area. Practice moving water skills as you maneuver past

sandstone cliffs and around occasional downed trees. Group campsite reserved at Wildcat Mountain State Pk. Paddle one or both weekdays. Registration Contact/Leaders: Carol and Kevin Olson, 608-963-2688, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.

Sept. 24-25: Pike and Red R; Class II+; Car Camp. Enjoy the fall colors on these classic whitewater rivers. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kasy.kayaks@gmail.com.

Oct. 29-30: Wolf R; Class II+; Car Camp. Annual Halloween trip. We'll paddle section 3 of this classic whitewater river on Sat. and section 2 on Sun. Wet suit or dry suit required. Indoor potluck dinner (if COVID-safe) on Sat. night. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

Annual Meeting: Jan. 7, 2023; 11 AM to ~3 PM. Location: First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway St., Baraboo, WI. Potluck at noon (if COVID-safe; otherwise BYO bag lunch), then business mtg, 2023 trip and clinic planning and slideshow of 2022 trips. Bring your dish to pass and table service. Pre-registration NOT required. For details, contact: Kevin Olson: 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.

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 (lifejacket) 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 and possibly a medical form prior to the trip or clinic and to abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. Current Sierra Club COVID-19 precautions must be adhered to. Parents/guardians must sign for anyone under age 18.

Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the water. Non-paddlers are not allowed on the water without permission of the trip leader. Pets are not allowed unless the trip description/leader specifies otherwise.

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. |

WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR APRIL 11 & VOTE TO PROTECT WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES!

You can make a big impact in only 30 minutes this April by just giving your opinions. Starting on April 11, there will be an annual survey about Wisconsin natural resources. Open for 72 hours, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) survey allows your voice to be heard. The questions cover many areas such as wildlife, water, land use and many other natural resource issues. Questions could include:

- **Should Wisconsin avoid investing in fossil fuels?**
- **Should Wisconsin ban wildlife killing contests?**
- **Are you concerned about nitrates in our water?**

This online survey, referred to as the “Spring Hearing” is conducted by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress every year.

WHAT IS THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS? It is a state-funded statutory group focused on collecting citizen input and serves as an advisory partner to the Natural Resource Board and works with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. In fact, it is their mission to “gather and convey the wisdom and influence of Wisconsin citizens in the formation of natural resource policy, research, education and conservation.”

WHY IS VOTING IN THE ONLINE “SPRING HEARING” SO IMPORTANT? You can weigh in on important state issues, showing public support (or not) for things that the DNR could ultimately influence or change here in Wisconsin. Additionally, Wisconsin lawmakers and the media look at the overall results in reporting and when drafting bills and reference local results in the counties they represent when voting in the Wisconsin legislature throughout the year. We’ve seen some examples of how important the Conservation Congress vote is in the last few months. In the environmental analysis of the Line 5 pipeline, the DNR referenced the Conservation Congress vote as an indication of the public thoughts of this bill. In February, at a hearing on the Every Kid Outdoor bill, Senator Jacque used the Conservation Congress vote to describe the vast public support for the program.

PACE YOURSELF AND COME PREPARED. The full survey can take up to 30 minutes to complete. There is a Sierra Club voting guide that you can review prior to voting. Check out the voter guide on page 15 or go to sierraclub.org/wisconsin to view the guide. This will help ensure that the questions are easily understood and save you time. Some of the questions can be tricky and the guide can help!

GET OUT THE VOTE! It is important that you make your voice heard in this survey. In fact, encourage your family and friends to participate as well. We want the survey response to be inclusive of all natural resource users. Anyone old enough to read the questions, is encouraged to participate. (Multiple family members per household can respond.)

RSVP AT SIERRACLUB.ORG/WISCONSIN AND WE’LL MAKE SURE YOU GET A REMINDER WHEN VOTING OPENS ON APRIL 11.

Amy Mueller
Wildlife Team member

Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Create a legacy that protects and restores the natural world for future generations by naming Sierra Club’s Wisconsin Chapter in your will or trust. Or, name Sierra Club Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement plan for the benefit of your local chapter and leave less highly taxed assets to your loved ones.



To learn more about the advantages of making a planned gift and to become a member of the Rachel Carson Society, please contact us.



Julia Curtis • (800) 932-4270 • giftplanning@sierraclub.org • myplan.sierraclub.org

2022 CONSERVATION CONGRESS VOTER GUIDE

Voting will be open from April 11 at 7:00 p.m. to April 14 at 7:00 p.m. This is a small sampling of questions. For the full voter guide, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2022ConsCong>

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD QUESTIONS

Do you support having the Wisconsin DNR undertake a 2-year pilot project to test if offering a **healthy herds incentive payment to landowners and hunters** can increase the testing rates and remove CWD+ deer to levels effective in reducing prevalence and slowing disease spread?

VOTE YES

WCC QUESTIONNAIRE

Would you support **additional testing for PFAS levels in drinking water** across Wisconsin?

VOTE YES

Would you support the DNR continuing to advocate for **strong PFAS protections and clean-up** to ensure that everyone has access to clean drinking water and safe consumption of fish?

VOTE YES

Support **wolf population goal of 350 or less wolves**

VOTE NO

Do you support the Conservation Congress work with the DNR and legislature to **develop a permitting and regulating process for hunting contests**, similar to what they already do for fishing contests?

VOTE YES

Do you support having all of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation **support the passage of Recovering America's Wildlife Act** in this session?

VOTE YES

Would you support **banning the use of dogs from hunting wolves in Wisconsin** should wolves get delisted again?

VOTE YES

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the WDNR to **develop and support a ban on all wildlife killing contests**?

VOTE YES

INTRODUCED RESOLUTIONS

These could be in your county; Not all of these resolutions will be in every county – but look for them!

Funding for WI Farmers for Non-Lethal Predator Prevention Programs

The WCC, WI DNR and legislature need to act to secure funding for long-term solutions for Wisconsin's farmers. Do you support funding for farmers for non-lethal preventative measures to mitigate livestock and poultry depredation?

VOTE YES

Avoid All New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Do you support the Wisconsin Conservation Congress directing the Natural Resources Board and Department of Natural Resources to avoid all new fossil fuel infrastructure?

VOTE YES

Every Kid Outdoors Program

Do you support the Conservation Congress encouraging the DNR to register in support of proposed legislation for the DNR to accept Every Kid Outdoors passes at state parks in Wisconsin?

VOTE YES

Support for Clean Water

Do you support strong enforcement to reduce contamination of drinking water from improper manure management at factory farms?

VOTE YES

Eliminate Compensation for Hound Owners

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the state legislature to end the payments to Hound Owners for dogs killed or injured by wolves while training or hunting bear?

VOTE YES

Oppose Sandhill Crane Hunting

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress needs to formally oppose SB 620 and the creation of a recreational Sandhill Crane hunt. Do you support the WCC taking a formal position against a Sandhill Crane hunting season in WI?

VOTE YES

Remote Voting

Do you support the WCC changing their Code of Procedure (COP) to require online voting for WCC delegates to ensure voting for WCC delegates takes place each year?

VOTE YES

Stewardship Fund

Do you support continuation of longstanding state policy to preserve Wisconsin's public, protected lands forever, and affirm the integrity of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program that was designed to do so?

VOTE YES

Getting Politics out of Conservation

Do you support having the Conservation Congress work with the public and conservation organizations and businesses to draft legislation that will reduce the political parties influence on the conservation of our natural resources?

VOTE YES



SIERRA CLUB

WISCONSIN CHAPTER

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

CALENDAR

APRIL 6

Wisconsin Spring Elections

myvote.wi.gov

APRIL 11-14

Conversation Congress Spring Hearing

dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing

APRIL 21

Nelson Institute Earth Day Conference: Water on the Rise

earthday.nelson.wisc.edu

APRIL 22

Earth Day

MAY 16

Raising a Child in Nature, featuring Matt Flowers

Urban Ecology Center- Great Waters Group event
6:30 p.m.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/great-waters>

JUNE 24-26

MREA Energy Fair

theenergyfair.org

Volunteer at the Fair. Free bus on June 25 from Madison - bus information is available as a June 25 event on our calendar:

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar

AUGUST 1

Chapter Awards nomination deadline

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards

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AUGUST 9

Partisan Primary

myvote.wi.gov

SEPTEMBER 17-18

Willy Street Fair - Table with Four Lakes Group

Contact Don at d_ferber@sbcglobal.net

NOVEMBER 8

General Election

myvote.wi.gov

RECURRING EVENTS:

April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. – **Monthly Volunteer Night** (online!), sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar

Book club: May 3, July 12, September 6, November 1 at 7:00 pm, sierraclub.org/wisconsin/blog/2022/01/sierra-club-book-club

For the **most up-to-date event information**, visit our website at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/calendar

CORRECTION: FOR JANUARY 2022 WISCONSIN SIERRAN

In the article “Coal, Gas and Clean Energy: Wisconsin’s Changing Electric Sector” read “The Elm Road Generating Station, Wisconsin’s largest power plant, produced 7.27 metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2020.” This should have read “7.27m metric tons.” That’s right – 7.27 million. Thank goodness we are seeing retirement announcements on these coal plants!



OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION

Local Sierra Club members joined others from the local community around Enbridge’s proposed Line 5 expansion to hear about how the tar sands pipeline threatens local water, ecosystems, farming, fishing, economy and safety. Treaty rights and climate change are top line issues that the movement to #RejectLine5 brings up.

16 SIERRACLUB.ORG/WISCONSIN

