

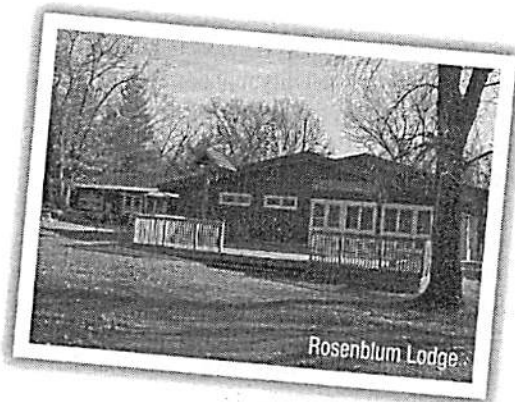
THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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2011 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY



FOCUSING ON CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS,
FROM THE LOCAL TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL

by Dale Schaber

Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber, a member of the state assembly from Appleton, will give the keynote address at the 2011 Autumn Assembly. This year's assembly will be hosted by the Fox Valley Group and will take place **October 7-9, 2011 at Camp Helen Brachman** just 15 miles west of Waupaca. The theme of this year's Autumn Assembly is "We are One Club: Working together for conservation from local groups to the statewide John Muir Chapter to the national Sierra Club."

If a weekend in a rustic natural area spent with like-minded environmentalists sounds like your ideal then you don't want to miss this year's Autumn Assembly. Each year the Autumn Assembly brings together Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin, creating an opportunity for participants to learn more about environmental issues and Sierra Club happenings. The public is welcome and invited to take advantage of this great opportunity for an enjoyable weekend of outdoor activities and learning.

Autumn Assembly activities are tailored to give both children and adults a fun-filled, memorable weekend. A presentation on wildlife rehabilitation, featuring live birds, will captivate all ages on Friday evening. Then, children (ages 5-15) can enjoy a Saturday morning, nature-based scavenger hunt complete with prizes for the most observant hunters as well as a discussion about the significance of found items to local habitats. After the scavenger hunt, a session called 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink Crafts', will teach youth about the four R's as they create unique art projects using recycled products along with items found during the scavenger hunt. After lunch, a lesson on how to interact with wildlife will include tips on avoiding dog bites and a chance to handle a live turtle!

On Saturday, keynote speaker Rep. Bernard Schaber, will discuss this year's historic struggle to prevent rollbacks of environmental protections and workers rights with her speech entitled "What's up in Madison, and where do we go from here?"

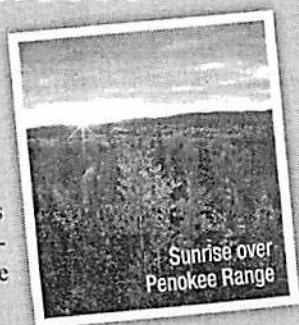
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BILL WOULD GUT STATE MINING SAFEGUARDS AND JEOPARDIZE NORTH WOODS

by Dave Blouin, Mining Committee Chair

Multiple anti-environmental bills are being fast-tracked by the legislature in an effort to get them passed in the June legislative floor period prior to the recall election tentatively scheduled for July 12. Perhaps the worst proposal of all is the new draft legislation that guts state mining law to ease the way for one mining company and its extraordinarily large mine proposal in the Penokee Range in Ashland and Iron Counties.

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Volume 49
Number 3

July -
September 2011



FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair
John Muir Chapter

You are the eyes, ears and voice of this Chapter. The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club may have its office in Madison, but we rely on you, our members, to be engaged wherever you live across the state. Wisconsin's conservation legacy is at stake. Changes proposed by the legislature and the Governor roll back much of the progress made in the state for clean air, clean water and healthy communities. We need our member's eyes to be focused, ears to be tuned in and most importantly, our 15,000 plus voices to be heard.

Here's a snapshot of what we're up against: A rollback of the phosphorus rules means a return to weeds choking our waters, fish kills and water that isn't safe to drink. Proposals have also been floated to weaken the state's storm water rules which limit runoff from farms, construction sites and urban areas. Runoff, depending on the source, contains sediments that choke waterways, oil, grease, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants.

Closed-door government moves our state away from transparency, informed decision making and democracy. Should projects like the miles long, landscape-destroying, Gogebic mine (proposed for the Penokee Range

in Ashland and Iron counties) be allowed in our Northwoods with little or no public or community input? Is the proposed open pit mine compatible with recreational activities, drinking water protection or long term economic development in the region? Shortening the permit and environmental review process, which is currently being proposed, will take the public out of environmental and natural resource decision making.

In our conversations at the Executive Committee meeting in May, it became clear that the Sierra Club needs to use all the tools in our conservation and sustainability tool box. We need our members across the state to continue to be strong stewards and protectors of the parks, forests and waterways that make Wisconsin a special place to live, work and play. Pay attention to what's happening in your community or region of the state. You can be an influential voice for the Club right there at home. Write letters to the editor, give testimony when relevant issues come before your municipal government and contact your local, state and federal elected officials to tell them what's important to you. Let your camera do the talking if you spot violations to the land and water that need to be addressed. With rollbacks on the way, we need to be able to graphically remind decision makers in Madison what is at stake.

The John Muir Chapter may also need to use a few other tools, including legal action. Where we have legal legs to stand on we need to use our resources to make sure that all decisions are made in the light of day and that the Clean Air and Water Acts are complied with. We

also need to uphold our long tradition of grassroots activism and democracy. Right now, that means mobilizing our members to vote for conservation minded candidates.

This spring, members like you, helped the Chapter staff organize very successful rallies supporting jobs and the environment in communities around the state. Members and staff met with legislators in Madison and in their home districts. Members have also given written and spoken testimony on a multitude of pending legislation. But more work is needed. Sierra Club members need to take action and they need to vote. Wisconsin's conservation legacy depends on it! ♻️



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THE MUIR VIEW

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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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DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2011 ISSUE IS AUGUST 15

RECALL ELECTIONS

OUR BEST CHANCE TO REGAIN A PRO-CONSERVATION MAJORITY IN THE SENATE AND STOP UNPRECEDENTED ATTACKS ON WISCONSIN'S ENVIRONMENT

by Elsa Nekola

Over the past few months in Wisconsin, state legislators have worked with Governor Walker to dismantle decades of environmental progress. The so-called "Special Session on Jobs," brought us new laws that reduced protections for wetlands and gave Governor Walker power over agency rules needed to protect our air and water. Rules for uniform wind siting were suspended, causing several renewable energy projects in our state to be canceled. Walker's budget repair bill hurt thousands of working families and our environment, as it jeopardized \$47 million in public transit funding that can only be awarded to systems that offer collective bargaining rights to their employees.

We are now dealing with a state budget that includes further cuts to transit along with provisions to weaken laws that protect our lakes and cuts to energy efficiency programs. The GOP's anti-environmental legislation includes a proposed bill to gut Wisconsin's mining laws that imperils wetlands, removes the public's ability to challenge permits, and fast-tracks the permits to the point of preventing proper scientific review of mining projects that will permanently alter our north woods. Since we have lost a pro-conservation majority in the state legislature and the Governor's house, Wisconsin's long history of valuing, conserving, and protecting our land has been severely threatened.

But there is good news. Because of your efforts,

enough signatures were gathered to hold recall elections for several districts in Wisconsin. It is critically important that you get out and vote if you live in one of these districts. Our strong history of environmental progress is in trouble and our best chance of stopping these attacks is by recalling the Senators that have rubber-stamped Gov. Walker's agenda.

The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter has endorsed candidates with strong environmental voting records. Our endorsed candidates are: Representative Sandy Pasch, D-Whitefish Bay who will challenge Sen. Alberta Darling for Senate District 8; Rep. Fred Clark, D-Baraboo who is challenging Sen. Luther Olsen for District 14, Rep. Jennifer Shilling, D-La Crosse will face Sen. Dan Kapanke for District 32, Shelly Moore, River Falls will face Sen. Sheila Harsdorf, and Jessica King, Oshkosh will challenge Sen. Randy Hopper.

Representatives Pasch, Clark, and Shilling are conservation champions whose votes have been in line with the Sierra Club's position 100 percent of the time since being elected to the State Assembly. Each has voted in favor of protecting our water from polluted phosphorus runoff, saving wetlands, supporting green building and manufacturing, improving local transit options and increasing green jobs.

Candidates Moore and King will be strong advocates for our environment and for defending the rights of workers in their communities.

Shelly Moore of River Falls is a high school teacher who cares about protecting working families, senior citizens and students. Jessica King is an attorney in Oshkosh and recently served on the Oshkosh City Council, and as Deputy Mayor.

We also must protect three Senators from the recall. Among the 14 senators who left the state to protest Gov. Walker's bill are Robert Wirth, D-Pleasant Prairie; Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay; and Jim Holperin, D-Conover. Voting for these candidates will help us regain the voice that we have lost in the Senate and help halt the onslaught of bad environmental legislation. Additional candidates may have been endorsed since this issue of the Muir View went to print. Go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/politics.htm> for the most up-to-date list of endorsements.

You can help get the word out about the recall elections by volunteering with us and encouraging our members to vote. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter will be recruiting volunteers to work in our office in Madison and around the state. Volunteers are needed to assist in phone banking on Tuesday and Thursday evenings leading up to the elections. We also need help with canvassing in these districts, and mailing information about the recall elections to our members. Contact Elizabeth in the Chapter office at (608) 256-0565 or elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org with questions or to volunteer. You don't need to live in one of the districts with a recall election to help out.

This is our opportunity to regain a pro-conservation majority in the Senate and continue on in Wisconsin's tradition of environmental protection. Wisconsin must continue on a path that moves us "forward!" – not backward. ☺

LEND US YOUR LEADERSHIP TALENTS

We need you to serve! The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is now accepting applications to serve on our Executive Committee. There are three at-large seats for three year terms (start 2012 and end 2014) that will be up for election this fall. The John Muir Chapter is the branch of the Sierra Club that takes the lead on statewide environmental campaigns in Wisconsin. The Executive Committee is made up of sixteen members – nine elected by all chapter members plus one representative from each of our seven local groups.

Strong candidates for the Executive Committee are individuals dedicated to protecting our state's natural resources, willing to meet regularly and serve on an organizational committee, and understand the need to financially support the Chapter.

All Executive Committee members are asked to engage in activities and events in areas listed below:

- Chapter general and operational health
- Membership recruitment and retention
- Strategic planning and decision making
- Fiscal and financial health, and fundraising

The next few years will define the future course of the Sierra Club and our state. In 2012, the country will have another Presidential election; Wisconsin citizens may work to recall their Governor. Wisconsin faces critical decisions on its energy future, protection of fresh water resources, and large-scale mining proposals that could permanently impact our north woods. And in 2013 the John Muir Chapter will celebrate our 50th anniversary.

The Sierra Club is the premier grassroots, democratic, environmental group in Wisconsin because people like you put in the time and energy to make it that way. A full position description for Executive Committee members is available as well as a short application form. Please contact the Chapter office at (608) 256-0565 or jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org if you are interested in serving, and a member of the Nominating Committee will provide you with more information.

Contact us soon, as all application materials must be completed by August 15, 2011. Our Nominating Committee will consider all applications received by the deadline, and place eligible names on the ballot. The ballot is included in the fourth quarter Muir View newsletter, which goes out to all chapter members the first week of October. ☺

"MAGIC BULLETS" FOR SOLID WASTE

THAT TRASH RECYCLING, RENEWABLES, AND SOUND ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES

by Shahla M. Werner, Director - John Muir Chapter

Last year the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter strongly opposed 2009's Act 406, signed into law in May 2010 by Governor Doyle. Act 406 allows the combustion of synthetic gas produced by pyrolysis or plasma gasification of waste to count towards Wisconsin's standards to get 10% of our energy from renewable sources by 2015. Carbon dioxide emissions that will result from these processes will contribute to climate change in a way that investing in renewables such as wind and solar will not.

Other groups that opposed this legislation included the Waukesha Environmental Action League, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Clean Wisconsin, Wisconsin Environment, Citizens Utility Board, RENEW WI, Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice.

One of the beneficiaries of the new law was the Oneida Seven Generations Corporation (OSGC), who is working with American Combustion Technologies Inc. (ACTI), to construct a waste-to-energy project that would operate within the city of Green Bay. Originally slated for Ashwaubenon, the project location was moved after local citizens voiced strong opposition.

The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is opposed to this project due to its possible environmental impacts, economic risks, and

potential to undermine recycling and cleaner, safer sources of renewable energy. The Alliance Federated Energy has proposed a much larger plasma gasification project for the Milwaukee area that would also benefit from this new law.

The OSGC project, estimated to cost around \$23 million dollars, will create roughly 30 jobs once operating and will generate 5 MW of electricity under best-case conditions. Funding for the project would be provided by a loan of up to \$2 million in federal funds offered through the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and up to \$584,000 from the Department of Interior, as well as a federal loan guarantee of \$19 million dollars. Alliance Federated Energy's project poses even greater economic risks, as it is projected to cost \$225 million, create 45 jobs once operating, and generate 25 MW of electricity.

No plasma or pyrolysis gasification plant has ever been successfully deployed for managing municipal solid waste in the United States. "Wisconsin should not be a guinea pig for the rest of the nation taking an expensive economic and environmental gamble on this technology," said John Reindl, a Sierra Club volunteer leader with over 40 years of experience in waste management.

Depending on the feedstock used, pyrolysis and plasma gasification plants dealing with solid waste could emit harmful levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), sulfur dioxide, heavy metals, mercury, dioxins and furans. What is not emitted into the air

could result in char, which could concentrate toxins and incur major expenses if it is classified as hazardous waste. The OSGC project is unclear about the exact feedstock that would be used, inconsistencies in their project materials describe the project as either 150 or 300 tons per day and propose either operating the facility 24/7 or operating during weekdays and then closing for weekends. Clarification is needed before emissions can truly be evaluated.

Wisconsin currently diverts 1.6 million tons of material from landfills annually through successful recycling programs, and this supports 97,000 jobs and contributes \$5.4 billion dollars to our economy. The OSGC project inappropriately describes itself as a "recycling center" and lists magazines, newspapers, and other paper products as fuel sources. But Wisconsin's mandatory recycling law prohibits the incineration of magazines, newspaper, corrugated cardboard and office paper (s. 287.07(4)). Recycling could be set back if state statutes are changed to allow materials that could otherwise be recycled to be fed into these types of facilities in order to meet operational requirements.

Despite local opposition, the OSGC proposal was granted a conditional use permit by the Green Bay City Council in March, and the DOE recently wrapped up a comment period for an environmental assessment of this project. John Muir Chapter Conservation Chair Will Stahl and local activist Rich Krieg attended local hearings and helped prepare comments on this proposal. For more information on the project's current status, please see <http://biomass.ashwaubenon.com/>

Considering the unproven nature of pyrolysis and plasma gasification, the potential for toxic air emissions and hazardous ash, and the risk of undermining recycling and renewable energy, the John Muir Chapter urges communities to invest in better alternatives to these "magic bullets" for handling municipal solid waste. More energy and more jobs can be created with projects that encourage recycling, foster real renewables, avoid land-filling and incineration, and hold producers responsible for product disposal. ♻️



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A CLEAN AIR VICTORY!

WHAT MAKES MILWAUKEE'S WIN SO SIGNIFICANT *by Emily Miota*

As you enter downtown Milwaukee on I-94, you are immediately introduced to some of the best sights and attractions the city can offer: Miller Park, the Harley Davidson Museum, Marquette University, and the Summerfest grounds right by the lake. However, along this route you also come across one of Milwaukee's biggest eyesores and polluters.

The Valley Coal Plant in the Menomonee Valley in Milwaukee is one of the most outdated coal plants operated by We Energies. The plant lacks modern pollution controls and is a significant source of soot and smog, all at a time when Milwaukee and its surrounding counties have seen an increase in the number of air quality advisories being issued by the Department of Natural Resources.

What is worse is that more than 24,000 people live within a mile of We Energies' dirty coal plant in the Menomonee Valley. When air pollution is high, our friends and neighbors suffer more frequent, more severe, and more deadly asthma attacks, heart attacks, and strokes. But the real difference between this campaign and the others being fought across the state is that this plant neighbors two low-income communities of color. With residents already struggling to pay the bills, the last thing they need is increased health costs worsened by air pollution. This is exactly what has infuriated so many of our coalition partners in Milwaukee, and has consequently led to such a broad and collaborative effort. With so much community support, it's clear that cleanup of the Valley Coal Plant is clearly long overdue.

Over the past year the Sierra Club, represented by Beyond Coal campaign staff and

Dianne Dagen of the Great Waters Group, helped build a coalition of concerned neighbors, activists and community leaders. The Cleaner Valley Coalition carried on the fight that many of its members had been involved in for years prior.

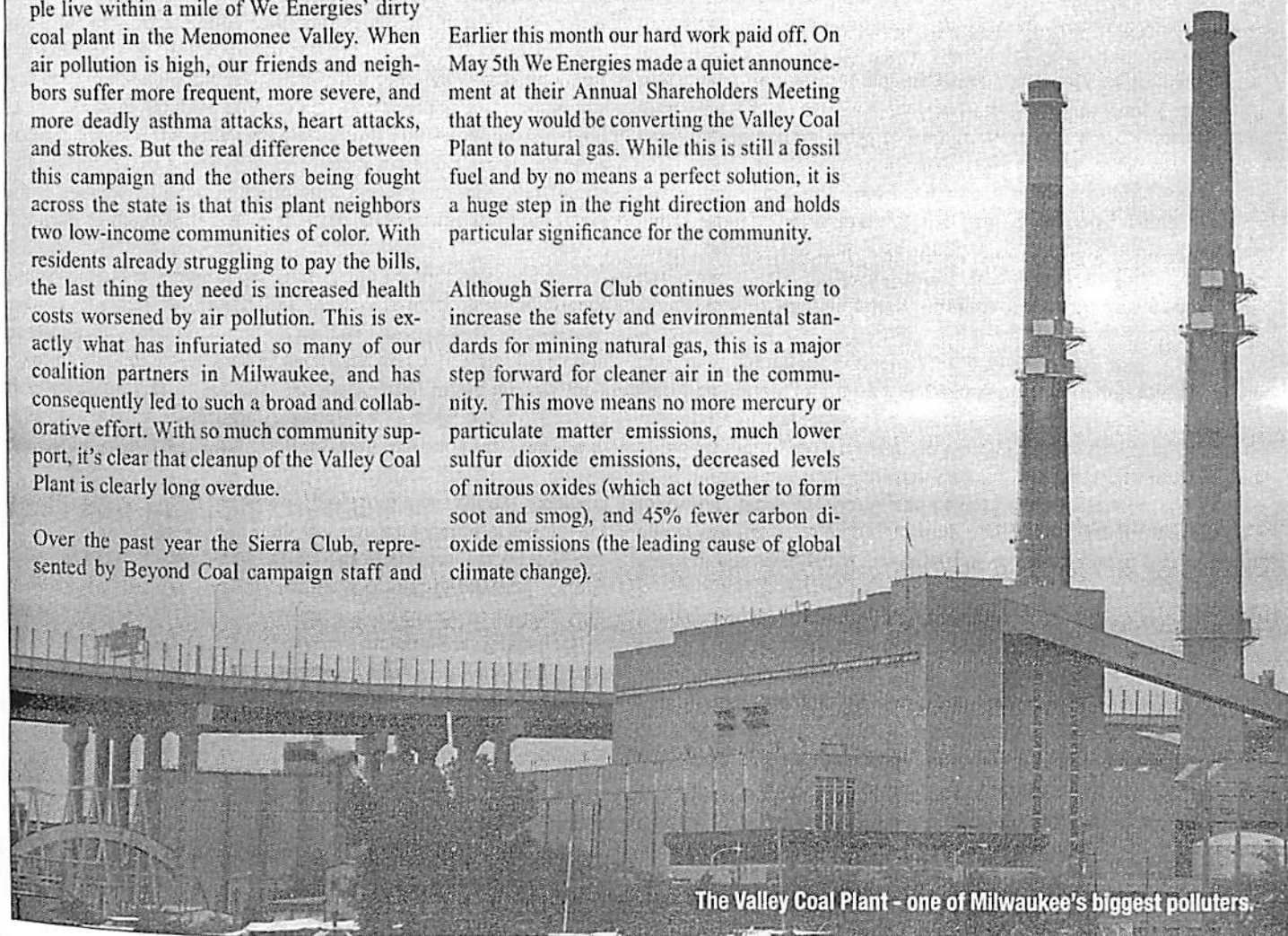
Although coal power plants are a huge focus for the Sierra Club, this is the first time that we have partnered with such a diverse coalition of community groups. The coalition has grown to include Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin (BHCW), Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition (MLHC), ACLU-WI, Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA), WI Asthma Coalition, Walker Square Neighborhood Association, Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope (MICA), Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light, Interfaith Earth Network, and Milwaukee Riverkeeper.

Earlier this month our hard work paid off. On May 5th We Energies made a quiet announcement at their Annual Shareholders Meeting that they would be converting the Valley Coal Plant to natural gas. While this is still a fossil fuel and by no means a perfect solution, it is a huge step in the right direction and holds particular significance for the community.

Although Sierra Club continues working to increase the safety and environmental standards for mining natural gas, this is a major step forward for cleaner air in the community. This move means no more mercury or particulate matter emissions, much lower sulfur dioxide emissions, decreased levels of nitrous oxides (which act together to form soot and smog), and 45% fewer carbon dioxide emissions (the leading cause of global climate change).

Virginia Zerpa of the Latino Health Coalition of Milwaukee said it best, "This is a huge step in the right direction that should be applauded. However, we must ensure that future decisions made regarding upgrades and construction to the plant continue to have the least negative overall impact on the community and that residents of those communities also benefit from any opportunities – such as job opportunities – new construction provides."

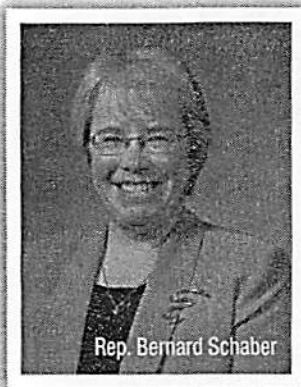
As the issue moves forward, there will be plenty of critical opportunities for the community and Sierra Club members to weigh in on the construction of the new plant to ensure that We Energies cleans up quickly and does it as thoroughly as possible. We hope that we can count on you, our dedicated members and leaders, to continue leading the fight for cleaner air in Milwaukee. ♻️



The Valley Coal Plant - one of Milwaukee's biggest polluters.

2011 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Continued from Page 1



Rep. Bernard Schaber

Rep. Bernard Schaber grew up in Mundelein, Illinois before moving to the Fox Valley, where she resides with her husband Dale Schaber. She has earned several academic degrees, including a Bachelor's of Science from Southern Illinois University, a degree in physical therapy from Northwestern University, and an Associate's Degree in natural resources from Fox Valley Technical College. Before embarking on her professional career, Penny served in

the Peace Corps at a hospital in Campino Grande, Brazil. Penny's dedication to protecting the environment led her to the Sierra Club's Fox Valley Group, where she has been very active in water protection and restoration issues surrounding the Fox River PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) clean-up efforts. Her grassroots leadership experience includes serving as Chair of the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter.

In addition to the distinguished keynote speaker, the weekend roster features a range of experts addressing various conservation issues. On Saturday David Horst, will talk about his experiences paddling the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway during a presentation on exploring and restoring the local landscape; Dave Muench will discuss Fox Valley area greenways and trails; and Scott Stein will speak about the Fox River clean-up effort. Green building and energy efficiency will be the topic of a presentation from Tom Boldt of the Boldt Company. Saturday afternoon the classroom moves outdoors, to the shores of Pickerel Lake, for a lesson on lake ecology from DNR Wildlife Biologist Jake Fries and an all-ages demonstration on water sampling from John Muir Chapter Water Sentinels leader Nancy Carlson.

After a full day of learning, guests can come together in Rogers Hall for a night of musical entertainment as they make their final bids on a range of unique, eco-friendly items and art work donated by generous businesses. All proceeds from the silent auction support the Sierra Club's ongoing conservation work. After music and bidding, if weather permits, guests can join John Rummel in a rare opportunity for pollution-free stargazing.

To kick off the final day of the 2011 Autumn Assembly, local groups will share their experiences working to achieve common goals through coalitions. Shortly after, Chapter Director Shahla Werner will discuss reducing Wisconsin's oil dependence, and Chapter Conservation Programs Organizer, Elizabeth Ward and Central Regional Office Field Organizer, Jennifer Feyerherm will discuss moving beyond coal to clean energy in Wisconsin.

Last but not least, participants will have the chance to participate in one of two fieldtrips before heading home. Enjoy beautiful trails on a four-mile hike of the Skunk and Foster Lakes Segment of the Ice Age Trail, located north of Hartman Creek State Park, or admire a state of the art facility on a tour of the Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University in Appleton. The Warch Campus Center is a LEED Gold Certified building built by The Bold Company in 2009 that sits on a bluff overlooking the Fox River.

Camp Helen Brachman offers 200 acres of open prairie, red pine plantation and upland hardwood forest. It is located on Pickerel Lake, a small seepage lake that is surrounded by a sand beach and wooded bluffs. Athletic fields, hiking trails, fishing, canoeing, games and other seasonal sports activities are available at the Camp.

Early registration for the 2011 Autumn Assembly is recommended, and those who register early will receive an early bird discount. Camp Helen Brachman offers several lodging options including the Retreat Center, the Guest House and the Bunk House. The Retreat Center has eight rooms each with four bunk beds. Family reservations will be given priority for lodging in the Retreat Center and Guest House. The Bunk House features divided men's and women's open bunk areas. Each facility offers indoor bathrooms. Guests staying indoors are expected to bring their own bedding, towels and personal gear. Earplugs are recommended for the noise sensitive if sharing a room. Tent sites are available anywhere on camp grounds, and nearby hotel lodging is also an option.

A complete schedule of events and registration form can be found on pages 14-15. We hope you'll take this opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new Sierra Club friends. Let's have some fun! ☺

For info visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>. Send questions to Dale Schaber at (920) 739-6041 or dschaber@athenet.net.



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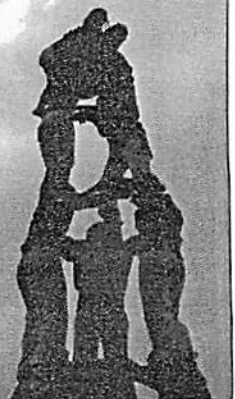
Our statewide Conservation Issue Teams are looking for dedicated members who are passionate about the issues and willing to take action & get involved. Join your skills and experience with other volunteers from around the state. Together the sky's the limit.

Beyond Coal Team: Working to move Wisconsin beyond dirty coal to cleaner energy solutions, by fighting individual coal plants, engaging in corporate campaigns, and advocating for protective regulations.

Beyond Oil Team: Leading the charge to reduce oil consumption by reducing demand (through mass transit and bicycling), promoting efficient vehicles & fuels and stopping offshore drilling and tar sands oil.

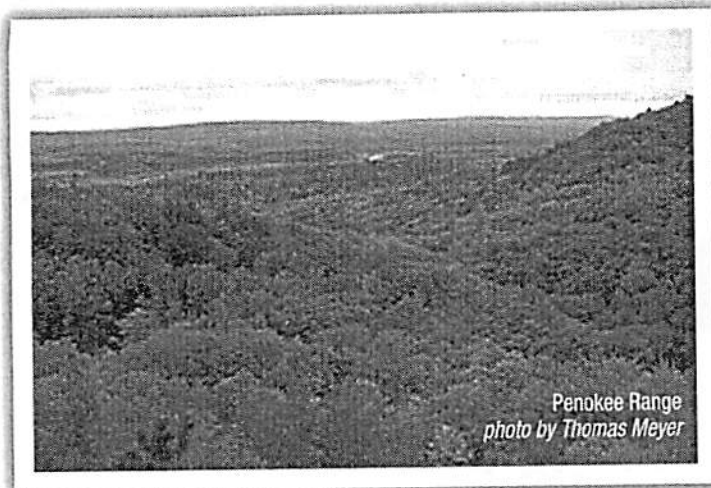
Energy Efficiency Team: Promotes reduced energy consumption in order to lessen the threat of climate change, works to promote Focus on Energy and the development of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.

For more information visit www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org or email john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org



BILL JEOPARDIZES NORTH WOODS

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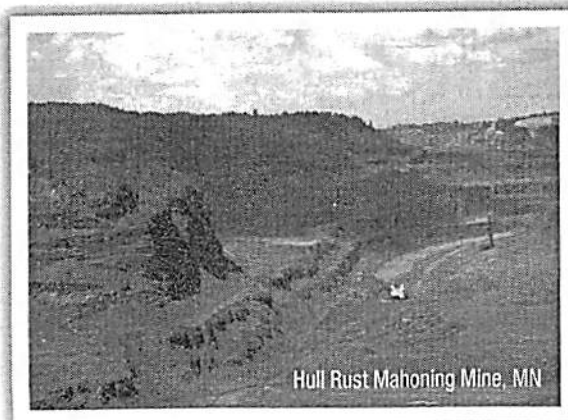


Gogebic Taconite (GTac) has proposed to build the largest mine our state has ever seen to extract low-grade taconite iron ore and process it on-site into pellets. The proposed mine would be an open pit with a first phase of mining creating a hole 4 miles long and 1/3 mile wide with massive waste and tailings dumps to the northwest of the open pit. GTac's parent company Cline Resource and Development Group purchased mineral rights lease options for 21,000 acres along 22 miles of the Penokee Range and could expand the proposal in the future to encompass all its leased acreage.

The mine proposal site is in the watershed that forms the headwaters of 700,000 acre Bad River Watershed, a critical area for lake sturgeon spawning and wild rice harvested from the Kakagon Slough. The watershed supports 137 plants and animals designated as threatened, endangered or special concern. The mine proposal also threatens Chequamegon Bay and Lake Superior.

It appears that GTac has been working behind the scenes for months to gut Wisconsin's metallic mining law to smooth the way for the proposal, even after claiming that they had no interest in changing or circumventing Wisconsin's current mining laws at a meeting with local residents in January. The draft of this bill was authored by Senator Rich Zipperer, R-Pewaukee and Representative Mark Honadel, R-South Milwaukee.

Last year, Gogebic Taconite (GTac), owned by Cline Resource & Development Group, donated \$40,000 to four candidates: Scott Walker, Mark Honadel, Jeff Plale, and Shirl Labarre. (Plale and Labarre lost their elections.) There are no other known viable iron ore deposits in Wisconsin; this legislation solely benefits Gogebic Taconite.



Cline is known for practicing long-wall coal mining in southern Illinois, where its operations have led to major subsidence issues, a problem in which the earth collapses as a result of extracting seams of coal from below the ground, destroying streams, homes and farmland in its wake. Coal dust pollutes clean air and runoff from coal piles and coal waste dumps contaminates surface and drinking water.

The John Muir Chapter has not yet taken a stand on the mine proposal as GTac has not yet filed an application or released details of the proposal. We do have grave concerns about the mine proposal based on what we know so far and we are committed to opposing the draft legislation as unneeded and unjustified special treatment for GTac.

If passed, this bill will pave the way for irresponsible, destructive mining practices by:

- Fast-tracking permits by requiring approval within 300 days, drastically reducing the time needed for scientific review of the long-term impacts that mining operations will have on our environment and public health.
- Jeopardizing fragile water resources by removing protections for high-quality wetlands as well as those under five acres in size. It also permits toxic mining waste to be deposited near rivers, lakes, streams, and floodplains.
- Removing the public's right to challenge a permit through a contested case hearing. In addition, it does not even require the mining company to get approval from local communities before constructing the mine.

These provisions in the bill are only some of the ways that GTac and its legislative friends have proposed to subvert state mining and environmental regulations. In short, the bill creates an entire new set of less stringent standards for iron ore mining.

GTac has implied that the impacts of this type of mining are minimal compared to metallic mining, and that it should be exempt from Wisconsin's current mining regulations because of this. In fact, taconite mining in adjacent states has permanently impacted vast tracts of land in those areas. Moreover, the scientific work necessary to prove these claims has not been done.

Your help is needed to fight this legislation and track the mine proposal should it move forward. For more information on how to help oppose this legislation, go to our legislative tracker at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/tracker/>. To learn more about the mine proposal and our efforts to protect the Bad River watershed, contact Dave Blouin at bur-roak15@charter.net or 608-233-8455. ♻️

WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

GIANT WESTERN PUFFBALL

Common Name:

Giant Western Puffball

Scientific Name:

Calvatia booniana

Appearance:

Large, white mushroom with no stalk. Edible when interior is firm and white.

Habitat:

Pastures, lawns, gardens, and other sunny areas with composted soil.

Giant white orbs, suddenly appearing as if by magic. Cursed by those who maintain manicured lawns, prized by those who know a good thing when they see it, *Calvatia booniana*, is a favorite for those who forage for wild edibles. A large specimen can provide many meals and though some find it to be a mediocre mushroom, if prepared correctly, Puffballs can be a fine addition to any meal.

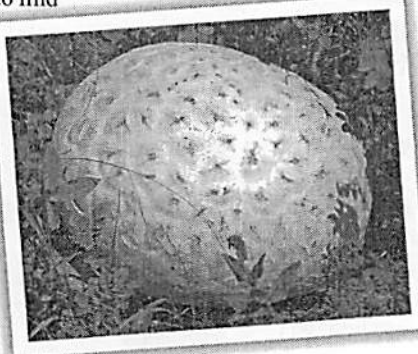
The Giant Western Puffball can reach a remarkable size. Since there are no poisonous mushrooms that share their characteristics, Puffballs make ideal wild mushrooms for beginners. Giant Puffballs prefer grassy areas with some sunlight and are fond of pastures and lawns. It is not uncommon to find

them in gardens as well, peeking out from under your Hostas. Sometimes they get as large as a human head or even larger! This will supply a creative cook with ample opportunity to enchant and enhance their meals.

When cooking with Giant Puffballs you are only limited by your imagination. I like to slice fresh puffballs in one-inch slices, dip them in a slightly beaten egg mixture with seasoned breadcrumbs and fry lightly in Olive Oil until browned. Then I let them drain on a paper towel and top with smoked mozzarella and fresh tomato sauce. Another option could be to top them with tomato sauce, some paper-thin Pepperoni and shredded Parmesan. You could also serve the patty hot covered with a thin layer of hummus and place it on a bed of lettuce with grape tomatoes and olives on the side. Giant Puffballs can even make their way into Mexican cuisine, with avocado, shredded cheddar, salsa and tortilla chips. Use puffball patties instead of English muffins in eggs benedict or as an alternative to chicken breast in casseroles. The patties can be frozen for later use as well. Aside from freezing Puffballs also do well dehydrated and can be added to soup, stew, chili, meatloaf, stuffing, and even bread.

There are several different kinds of Puffballs that are edible and they come in all different shapes and sizes. The Giant Western Puffball is the most recognized of the bunch but there are other worthy of the harvest basket. Although the Pear-shaped Puffball is diminutive, it is frequently abundant. The Diamond Studded Puffball is small as well but also appears in quantity. Though most puffballs are white on the outside, some are brownish. The common trait that tells the edible Puffballs from those that are not is a solid white interior. There are some poisonous mushrooms that begin in a "button" stage so care must be taken when harvesting the smaller types to assuring that its interior is solid white. As puffballs mature and prepare to discharge their spores the interior takes on an olive hue so these should be avoided as well. In order to lessen the chance of insects, harvest only the top two-thirds leaving the portion connected to the ground intact.

This summer, while walking through the fields and glens, keep your eyes open for the Giant Puffball and consider yourself fortunate when you find them. They are tasty, nutritious and totally wild!



It is important to note that certain individuals may have an adverse reaction when eating wild mushrooms, especially when consuming a large quantity. Different people have different sensitivities. Be careful whom you share with. Always consult a guidebook even with those that seem familiar. Always avoid gluttony. 🍄

LeslieJo has been collecting and eating wild mushrooms for over a decade and began teaching classes four years ago. Add a guidebook on Mushrooms and Fungi to your collection especially if your interest is culinary. A great first guidebook is Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America by David Fischer and Alan Bessette. It has an easy manner with a conversational tone as well as an excellent recipe section and great photos. (Check out their recipe for Puffball Parmesan). I take the National Audubon Society Field Guide to Mushrooms of North American with me every time I forage. It is packed with information, has lots of photos and is the perfect size to carry in the field.

THE GREEN REVIEW

THIS ONE IS FOR KIDS!

By Amy Lou Jenkins

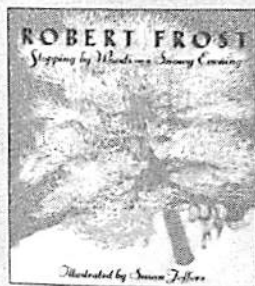


GREEN WISE KIDS

by Jean A. Gagnon Clausen (contributing authors Michel C Tigan and Lawrence E Clausen), Beaver's Pond Press, 2010, 40 pages, ages 4-8.

Wisconsin author Jean A. Gagnon Clausen begins Green Wise Kids with the statement "Our Earth needs fixing." The rest of the book seeks to empower kids to "do" the fixing. Children understand their own power as they read short poems about green-wise living that were written by children.

Some of the poems advise on conservation, others encourage youngsters to love and explore the natural world. Younger children will enjoy searching for the frogs on each delightfully illustrated page; older children will appreciate the kid-friendly appendix of resources in the "Interesting Information" section at the back of the book. Children are also offered an opportunity to share their Earth-changing ideas with the author. The book is so colorful and fun, a child is likely to close the cover with an empowered enthusiasm to head outside to enjoy and protect their Mother Earth.



STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

by Robert Frost, Susan Jeffers (Illustrator), Dutton Juvenile, 32 pages, 2001, ages 9-12.

This book is recommended for grade-school children, but there is enough depth here to take anyone through each decade of their life. While a toddler shouldn't handle this book and risk tearing the artwork, the pentameter and loveliness of the words are suitable for any age. A classic poem, frosty vellum cover, and striking artwork make this book feel sacred. Even more than the sum of its parts, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening does not try to promote environmentalism. It is an extension of the artist's nature-loving soul. Frost's poem brings to life the mysticism of being outdoors. Children should learn the rhythm of beautiful words. For youngsters, the clean frosty images and a white-bearded man in the illustrations may evoke thoughts of Santa Claus. Adults may consider what it means to grow old and keep promises. This is a book to read over and over so that when a child has grown they will recall these words some snowy night when they look into a dark white world and recite aloud "Whose woods these are I think I know..."



BEGINNING BIRDWATCHER'S BOOK: WITH 48 STICKERS

by Sy Barlowe, Dover Publications, 2000, 32 pages, ages 9-12

Although this easy-to-read, fact-filled book helps young birdwatchers record sightings, the publisher-listed age category seems a bit old. Some twelve year olds are less motivated by stickers than a seven year old. That said, Beginning Birdwatcher Book gives adult and child a fun structure to encourage nature interaction. Readers find 48 common North American birds, among them the blue jay, American crow, ruby-throated hummingbird, mourning dove, barn owl, and red-headed woodpecker. Each page includes space for a sticker image of a bird, plus information on size, habitat, nesting and eating habits, number and color of eggs, and range.

Children and adults are sure to find that this book cannot capture the wonder of all the winged beauty a habitat might hold. Isn't that great! Start with the stickers and this book's log, and you might just create a bird-watching addict who needs a more in-depth field guide.

Amy Lou Jenkins BSN MFA is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*, the winner of this year's Council for Wisconsin Writers' Ellis / Henderson Award in Outdoor Writing. The essay collection explores wild Wisconsin and the questions each generation must ask anew. She writes from Milwaukee, WI.

The Green Review will return to adult selections in the next edition. Contact Amy Lou at www.AmyLouJenkins.com if you have a review suggestion.

SUMMER OUTINGS

The Sierra Club, as an organization, serves a dual purpose. John Muir's vision for an environmental group was not just one of education and legislation. He felt very strongly that the best way to empower people to want to protect the wild places of the earth was to get them out to enjoy them. Therefore the Sierra Club has always fostered a strong outings program to go along with our conservation ethic. To that end, there are many local events available to hike, bike, camp, ski etc. To see the latest information, visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp>

Outings are open to all members of the John Muir chapter and to the general public. Note that all outings are subject to change. PLEASE contact trip leaders ahead of time so they know you are coming and can contact you in case of cancellation or other changes.



JULY 16, 2011: PADDLING FOR WATER PROTECTION ON THE CRAWFISH RIVER!

Join members of Sierra Club's Wisconsin Water Sentinels as we team up with trained River Touring Section leaders for a fun and informative trip down the Crawfish River from Aztalan State Park to Jefferson, Wisconsin. Participants on this day-long quietwater trip will have the opportunity to learn about the archeological significance of Aztalan State Park, the ongoing TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study designed to reduce nutrient pollution in the Rock River, and a demonstration of basic water monitoring techniques. Up to 15 participant canoes or kayaks will be allowed. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, dunord@sbcglobal.net. To register, visit <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Calendar?id=154921&view=Detail> or call the Sierra Club office at (608) 256-0565. Sign up deadline is Wednesday, July 13. Hope to see you there!

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, AUGUST 20-21: CLASS II, CANOE CAMP THE FLAMBEAU RIVER.

Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com [FV]

OCTOBER 7-9: AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Statewide gathering of Sierra Club members and friends in the Annual Autumn Assembly. Different groups host this event each year. This year our group is hosting the event at Camp Helen Brachman. Please see the Autumn Assembly web link for more information.

OUTING INFORMATION

Host group is indicated in brackets

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

Liability Waiver & Carpooling

In order to participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE DINNER SERIES

Enjoy the company of fellow Madison area Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine. We try to mix locations and price points, so hopefully we'll hit a spot you like! Open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you want.

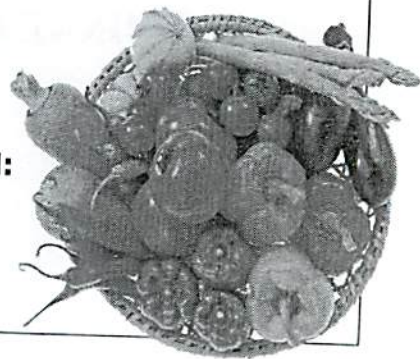
Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Meeting time provided when you RSVP. [4L]

TUESDAY, JULY 12TH:

Captain Bill's Outdoor Patio,
2701 Century Harbor Rd
Middleton

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16TH:

Sardine Outdoor Patio,
617 Williamson St
Madison



2011 QUETICO CANOE TRIPS

Hearing the loon's cry while watching the sunset from a remote lakeshore invites the wilderness into your heart and soul. Just as the salmon and swallows return, people need to connect with the wild. Since 2004, when Sierrans were first invited by Bill Moore to join on a wilderness paddle in Ontario's incomparable Quetico Provincial Park, dozens have shared the joy of Quetico wilderness travel by joining one of the annual John Muir Chapter outings into the area. This year is no exception as trips are being announced for the following dates.

Besides the sheer joy of escaping "civilization," the trips include many educational themes. From experiencing cultural history through Ojibwa pictographs and following the trails of the French voyageurs, to wilderness trip planning, packing and meal preparation, to map reading, orientation and navigation as well as much more, participants can expand their wilderness experiences. Participants share camp chores as well as the camaraderie of group activities at mealtimes and around evening campfires. These moderate to strenuous trips combine muscle-challenging paddle and portage days with relaxing lay-over days. Travelers enjoy plenty of opportunities for swimming, fishing, stargazing, photography, day-hiking, berry picking, cooking or just meditation. In the tradition of the first trip, these are designed to minimize costs and include canoes, group equipment, meals, necessary lodging, and park usage fees. Associated costs for individual permits and licenses (as well as passports) are not included. Costs are generally half of what outfitters charge. Travel to the base/starting point is not considered part of the trip, though carpooling is encouraged and often coordinated by participants.

All trip leaders have completed Sierra Club outings leadership training emphasizing group safety as well as Wilderness First Aid courses. While experience is not a requirement, good physical fitness and a good attitude are essential. Interested Sierra Club members should contact the trip leaders directly about registering. All trips are limited to 9 participants. A required \$100 deposit begins the process. Travel arrangements to/from the starting point, passports, personal permits and licenses are the participant's responsibility. Call trip leaders for more information.

JULY 29TH - AUGUST 6TH

Contact info: Mike McQuilkin, 253-219-9208 and Scott McQuilkin, 253-988-4394

Trip itinerary: Meeting July 29th in International Falls, MN. Canoeing July 30th to August 6th, from Pickerel Lake, Atikokan, Ontario.

Trip cost: \$525.00

Trip overview: Paddling 7 to 10 miles a day, portaging 42lb canoes and about 60lb packs, with 3-4 layover rest days for fishing, swimming and exploring. We will traverse about 15-20 different lakes during the week with a like number of portages that vary from 100 yards to ½ mile.

AUGUST 6TH - 14TH

Contact info: David Thomas, david@thomerald.net or 414-344-1044.

Trip Departure Point: Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base, east of Ely MN

Trip Cost: \$450

Trip Differences: On the water 7 days, 6 nights with emphasis on light weight travel to accommodate all ages and fitness levels.

AUGUST 13TH - 21TH

Contact info: Eric Uram, Eric.Uram@Sierra-Club.org or 608-233-4120.

Departure Point: Likely Nym Lake, Canada.

Trip Cost: \$500

Trip Differences: 7 days, 6 nights with emphasis on "gourmet" food and fishing.

AUGUST 22ND - 31ST

Contact info: Bill Mathias, wj.mathias@gmail.com or 920-339-0437

Departure Point: BSA Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base, 10 miles east of Ely

Trip cost: \$525

Trip differences: Men's multi-generational (father/son; uncle/nephew; mentor/mentee) crew with a base camp emphasis and time for conversation about the value of wild places. Individuals and mutigen teams welcome to apply.

AUGUST 27TH - SEPTEMBER 5TH

Contact info: Frank Remfrey, fremfrey@wi.rr.com or 262-542-0176, **Co-leader:** Bill Moore; environ1@sbcglobal.net or 262-785-9022.

Departure Point: Northwestern Quetico via Beaverhouse Lake .

Trip Cost: \$525

Trip Differences: On the water 8 days, 7 nights. Trip leaders share extensive knowledge of area history and outdoor photography.

TRIP COSTS: \$100 reservation fee holds a potential spot for you on any of the offered trips. Sierra Club reserves the right to ensure the safety and well-being of all crew members by screening candidates for their suitability to participate. Included are park fees, food and equipment rental. Personal equipment and permits are the responsibility of the individual. While leaders do not organize transportation, crewmembers can arrange for carpooling at a crewmember meeting held after the trip has filled.

REQUIREMENTS: You should be in good physical health, able to withstand continuous exertion and carry 50 pounds or more for a distance of up to one mile. Experience is not a requirement, but a good attitude is. Appropriate footwear is required.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION:

Call the trip leaders associated with the date you want to go (see above for contact details). Reservation checks should be made out to the Sierra Club and sent to the trip leader of your preferred trip with your availability for all trips. These trips are sponsored by the John Muir Chapter, Great Waters Group, and Four Lakes Group of the Sierra Club. Maximum personal weight 240 pounds. Passports may be required.

SUMMER AND FALL RIVER TOURS

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

RTS is affiliated with the Sierra Club, but our trips are open to everyone. We want to get you on rivers. We hope that you grow to enjoy paddling and to love rivers and support groups that work to protect them such as the Sierra Club and the River Alliance of WI. For more information, please visit our website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/>



JULY 9 - 10: OCONTO RIVER

Quietwater; Car Camp. We'll paddle quietwater stretches from Hintz to Pulcifer on Saturday and from Cty BB to Oconto Falls on Sunday. Learn how Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law impacts the state's forests. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net.

JULY 16 - 17: WOLF AND RED RIVERS

Class II; Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills from the WW clinics before they get rusty. Paddle the Red River, a favorite of many paddlers. For details, contact: Pat or Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.

JULY 23 - 24: CHIPPEWA RIVER

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbars). The Chippewa River features sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines, and a wild appearance. You can expect to see eagles, osprey and other wildlife while paddling on the stretch from Dunnville on the Red Cedar River to the Mississippi. We will cover 10 to 15 miles a day and paddle through both the Dunnville and Tiffany State Wildlife Areas. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. For details, contact: Carl Wisler at 262-542-9593, carl.wisler@att.net.

JULY 30 - 31: BLACK RIVER

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

AUGUST 5 - 7: SYLVANIA WILDERNESS AREA (MICHIGAN)

Quietwater; Canoe Camping with portages. Explore some of the 34 clean, clear lakes in a wilderness setting. Learn about what others have done before us to make this a special place for plant, animal, and human interaction. Moonlit/dawn paddles plus portage loop. 6 paddlers maximum. \$25 non-refundable deposit due by July 6th. This includes 3 night camping fee. Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com.

AUGUST 13 - 14: UPPER IOWA (IOWA)

Class I; Car Camp. This spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest - beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about the unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. Dogs are allowed on this trip. For details, contact Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com

AUGUST 20 - 21: FLAMBEAU RIVER

Class II; Canoe Camping. Refresh your soul on the Flambeau by participating on a trip that has become one of our finest traditions. We'll learn about the importance of protecting rivers within our State Forests. For details, contact: Rich Krieg, 920-660-3557, eddyout@gmail.com or Dale Dean, 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 10 - 11: KICKAPOO AND WISCONSIN RIVERS

Quietwater; Canoe Camping. We'll put in at Plumb Creek Landing on the Kickapoo, camp on a sand bar on the Wisconsin, and take out at the bridge at Highway 18 at Bridgeport. The camping is primitive - no facilities. This quietwater trip is a great way to study the early fall bird migration in the Plumb Creek unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway. For details, contact: Carl Wisler at 262-542-9593, carl.wisler@att.net.

SEPTEMBER 17 - 18: WOLF (SECTION IV) PLUS SECOND RIVER

Class III+; Car Camp. Fall color and good whitewater. We'll canoe the Wolf and another river based on water levels. Learn about the challenges of autumn whitewater. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details, contact: Judd Lefebber, 608-412-1631, jenniferkicker@att.net.

SEPTEMBER 17 - 18: ROOT RIVER (MINNESOTA)

Class I; Car Camp. Enjoy a fall weekend paddling the Root River in unglaciated SE Minnesota near Lanesboro. Dolomite 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. For details, contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-452-3164, sueobl@gmail.com. Co-leader: Pat Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 25: WISCONSIN WHITEWATER (RIVERS TO BE DETERMINED)

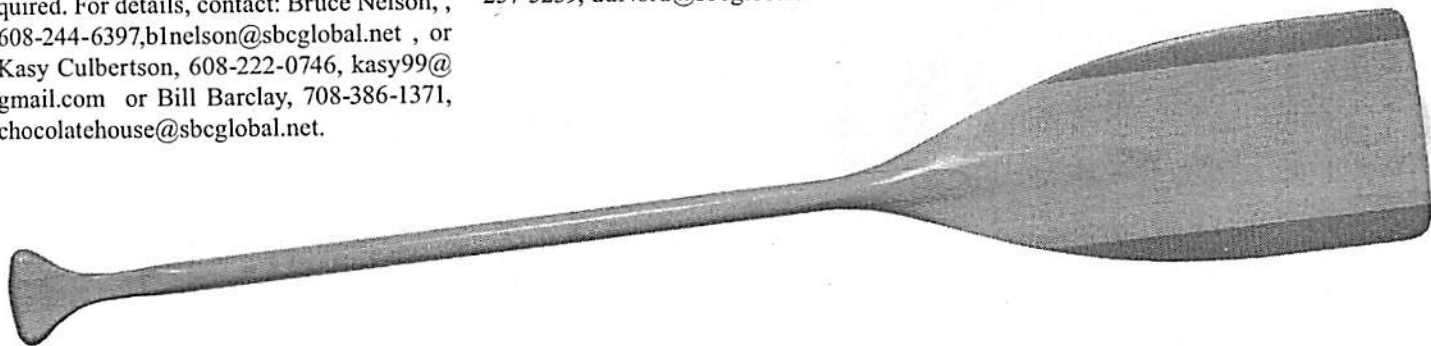
Class II-III; Car Camp. Another beautiful fall weekend (if we're lucky). Depending on water levels, paddlers' interest, and weather, we could paddle the Pike, Red, or Wolf. This is a chance to improve paddling skills learned earlier this year in the clinics or on other rivers. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. For details, contact: Bruce Nelson, 608-244-6397, b1nelson@sbcglobal.net, or Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com or Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net.

OCTOBER 15 - 16: MECAN RIVER AND NEENAH CREEK

Quietwater; Car Camp. This is another trip for those that like to paddle small rivers. Although there are no rapids, both of these central Wisconsin streams maintain a steady current and at times require precise maneuvering around tight bends. Come observe fall colors and migrating waterfowl. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

OCTOBER 29 - 30: WOLF RIVER (SECTIONS II & III)

Class II-III; Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section III on Saturday and Section II on Sunday. Let's leave the river looking good for winter by picking up trash as we go. Wet/drysuit and helmet required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. For details, contact: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrud@tds.net.



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

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

All participants **MUST** wear a properly fitted and securely fastened life jacket on all the trips and in the clinics. For Class II and higher whitewater, participants should wear a life jacket designed for whitewater, a whitewater helmet, and have a boat that is properly outfitted with floatation and thigh straps. These items may be required for some Class II trips (see trip description and talk to the trip leader) and are absolutely required for Class III and higher water.

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

means you need to carry all your equipment with you in your canoe. "Canoe Camp with Portage" means you'll have an opportunity to carry all of your gear at some point on the trip.

CLASSES OF WATER: We want your RTS experience to be fun. We also want it to be safe. The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water and will help you decide if a trip is appropriate for you and your skill level. Many of these trips are suitable for paddlers with solid flatwater canoe skills. Trip leaders are always happy to discuss the nature of the river with you.

LIABILITY WAIVER & REQUIREMENTS: All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip and abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. If you would like to read the liability waiver form before you sign up for a trip or clinic, please see: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of CA.

TRANSPORTATION: You are responsible for providing your own transportation to and from the river. We can identify people who have space in their car and people who need rides, but we do not make transportation arrangements.

OTHER: We do not allow non-paddlers, pets, glass containers, or alcoholic beverages on our trips while we are on the water.

INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER RATING DIFFICULTY

Your guide for assessing the difficulty of a stretch of water. Some rivers will not clearly fall into a neat system. Temperatures below 50 F should change a rating to be one class more difficult than normal.

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

CLASS II: Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels that are obvious.

CLASS III: Rapids with high, irregular waves capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require 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.

From the American Canoe Associate Web Site.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Visit wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

2011 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

If you need general information about the 2011 Autumn Assembly, contact Dale Schaber by phone at (920) 739-6041 or by email at dschaber@athenet.net or check the event website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011

- 6:00-10:00** Registration and Check In, View Silent Auction Items
- 8:00-8:15** Welcome and Introductions
- 8:15-9:15** Rebekah Weiss, Aves Wildlife Alliance
- 9:30-10:00** Refreshments and Socialization

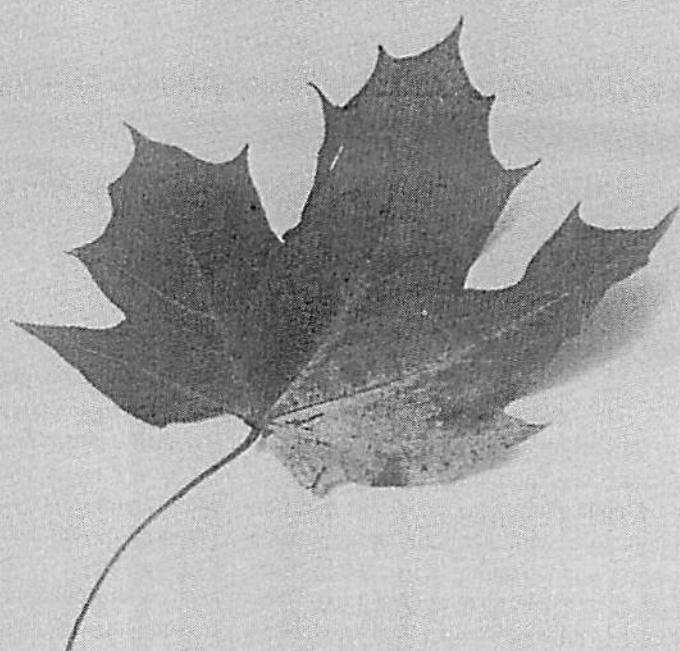
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2011

- 7:00** Early Morning Hike
- 7:45-8:30** Breakfast and Announcements
- 8:00-9:00** Registration and Check In
- 8:45-12:00** Children's Program
- 8:45-9:45** Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber, Keynote Speaker
- 10:00-11:00** David Horst, Paddling the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway in 2010 and 2011
- 11:15-12:15** Tom Boldt, The Bolt Company, Green Building and Energy Efficiency
- 12:15-1:00** Lunch
- 1:15-3:15** Children's Program
- 1:15-2:15** Dave Muench, Fox Cities Greenways, Inc., Trails in the Fox Cities
- 2:30-3:30** Scott Stein, Fox River Cleanup Group, Fox River Clean-Up
- 3:45-4:45** Jake Fries, DNR Wildlife Biologist, Pickerel Lake ecology and Nancy Carlson, John Muir Chapter Water Sentinel Leader, water spring at Pickerel Lake
- 4:45-6:00** Break Time, Explore Cp Helen Brachman, Group Chair and Group Conservation Chair Meetings, Shop the Silent Auction
- 6:00-7:00** Dinner
- 7:00-7:45** Chapter Awards and Children's Presentations
- 8:00-9:30** Musical Entertainment
 - 8:45** Close of Silent Auction, S'Mores Around the Fireplace, Refreshments
 - 9:00** John Rummel, Exploring the Night Sky at Camp Helen Brachman

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2011

- 7:00** Early Riser Hike
- 8:00-8:45** Breakfast and Announcement
- 8:45-9:15** Pack-up camp, tents
- 9:15-10:00** Group Updates: Sharing Examples of Coalition Building (i.e., faith/labor/business) for local Conservation Campaigns
- 10:00-10:30** Jennifer Feyerherm, Sierra Club Staff-Central Regional Office, and Elizabeth Ward, Coal and Rail Programs Apprentice, Breaking Wisconsin's Oil Addiction with Transit, Cleaner vehicles (including bicycles), and Cleaner fuels
- 10:30-11:15** Shahla Werner, John Muir Chapter Director, Moving Beyond Coal to Clean Energy in Wisconsin: Coal, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Sources and a Note on Nuclear Power
- 11:15-NOON** Clean up facility (sweep cabins, remove displays, etc.)
- NOON-12:30** Lunch and Travel to Ice Age Trail for hike
- NOON-1:30** Lunch and Travel to Lawrence University, Appleton, WI for tour

Handwritten note: Lunch for me



2011 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FORM

Adult Name(s) _____
 Child(ren)'s Name(s) and Age(s) _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 City/State/Zip Code _____
 Telephone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ E-mail _____

REGISTRATION THRU SEPTEMBER 26

_____ # Adults (14 and up) X \$25.00 = \$ _____
 _____ # Children (5 to 13)* X \$15.00 = \$ _____

REGISTRATION AFTER SEPTEMBER 26

_____ # Adults (14 and up) X \$40.00 = \$ _____
 _____ # Children (5 to 13)* X \$20.00 = \$ _____

Registration Total = \$ _____

LODGING

Cost for both adults (14 and up) and children (5-13) Bunk beds with mattresses. Bring own bedding/sleeping bags, towels, etc. Flashlights recommended. Ear plugs if noise sensitive, and sharing. Lodging cannot be guaranteed for late registrations or walk-ins.

Retreat Center Primary indoor lodging. 8 rooms; four bunks per room; bathrooms in hallways. The charge is \$52.00 per room. Please advise us if you are sharing a room, and with whom.

_____ #room(s) Friday night X \$52 per room = \$ _____
 _____ #room(s) Saturday night X \$52 per room = \$ _____

May we assign someone to share with you? yes ___ no ___
 I prefer to share with (attendee name): _____

Bunkhouse Overflow lodging. Once Retreat Center is filled, we will use the bunkhouse. Divided Men's and Women's open bunk areas. One bathroom located on each side.

Persons will be charged \$13.00 per person per night.

Tents Tenting allowed anywhere on camp grounds. Toilet and shower facilities in separate building, close to Rogers Hall.

_____ #person(s) Friday night X \$7 per person = \$ _____
 _____ #person(s) Saturday night X \$7 per person = \$ _____

Total Lodging = \$ _____

MEALS

Children under five are free. Meals cannot be guaranteed for late registrants or walk-ins.

_____ # of persons wanting vegetarian meals.
 Special dietary needs: _____

Saturday Breakfast:

_____ #adults X \$6.00 = \$ _____
 _____ #children (5-13) X \$4.50 = \$ _____

Saturday Lunch:

_____ #adults X \$7.00 = \$ _____
 _____ #children (5-13) X \$6.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner:

_____ #adults X \$10.00 = \$ _____
 _____ #children (5-13) X \$8.00 = \$ _____

Sunday Breakfast:

_____ #adults X \$5.50 = \$ _____
 _____ #children (5-13) X \$6.00 = \$ _____

Sunday Sack Lunch:

_____ #adults X \$6.00 = \$ _____
 _____ #children (5-13) X \$5.00 = \$ _____

Total Meals = \$ _____

Total for Registration, Lodging and Meals = \$ _____

_____ # of people wishing to hike the Ice Age Trail, the Skunk and Foster Lakes Segment, on Sunday.
 _____ # of people wishing to tour the Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University on Sunday.

Questions: Contact Maureen at (920) 468-7252, birkmr@yahoo.com
 *Children's registration Saturday's children's programs and materials. No programs for children under 5.

Make check payable to **Fox Valley Sierra Group** and mail to:
 Maureen Birk
 3381 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-7205

JOIN US FOR THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S

2011 Autumn Assembly

October 7-9, 2011 @ Camp Helen Brachman | Early-bird registration ends September 26!

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2011 EXCOM MEETINGS

September 13 Conference Call

2011 EVENTS

- July 8-9 EcoFair 360, Walworth Co. Fairgrounds
<http://ef2011.ecovisionslc.org/>
- July 16 Paddling for Water Protection on the Crawfish River
(RSVP today, See pg. 10)
- July 21 Locally Grown Sierra Club Fundraiser, WECC, Madison
- July 30 Organic Valley's Kickapoo Fair, La Farge, WI
<http://www.organicvalley.coop/kickapoo>
- September 17 Fighting Bob Fest, Alliant Memorial Colliseum, Madison, WI
<http://www.fightingbobfest.org/index.cfm>
- September 17 Keeping up the Good Fight Sierra Club Fundraiser
Home of Bill & Winnie Bean, Eau Claire
- October 7-9 Autumn Assembly, hosted by the Fox Valley Group
Camp Helen Brachman, Almond, WI

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR JOHN MUIR CHAPTER GROUPS

Chippewa Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/>

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

Four Lakes <http://www.4lakes.org>

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

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

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

St. Croix Valley Interstate
<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix/>

Even if there is not a Sierra Club group located near your home, you can still take meaningful action.

Contact the John Muir Chapter office to find out how.

222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703-3201

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



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