

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

wisconsin.sierraclub.org

GTAC QUILTS WISCONSIN BUT MINING FIGHT NOT OVER

by Dave Blouin, Mining Committee Chair, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter

The future of the Penokee Hills, threatened by a wildly destructive open pit iron ore mine, appears to have been secured for now. Gogebic Taconite has kept its promise to abandon the proposal if legislation gutting environmental protections was not passed. GTac announced it was quitting the state the day after an amended version of the Strip Mine Giveaway bill (AB426/SB488) was rejected by the full Senate and sent back to committee where it appears to be dead for this session. In a courageous vote that bucked his GOP caucus, State Senator Dale Schultz joined all 16 Democratic Senators voting to reject the bill and we are grateful for his vote.

Since its introduction in December, the bill attracted unified opposition from virtually every state environmental and conservation organization. Widespread media coverage of the issue motivated residents statewide to mobilize against the mine and the legislation. This is a major victory for our chapter and everyone who worked so hard on the issue. The fact that GTac decided to pack up is icing on the cake. We dodged a bullet

for now, but this bill was only the first shot in what could be a longer fight to save the Penokees and Lake Superior.

The John Muir Chapter opposed the Strip Mine Giveaway bill and consistently stated that the current state regulatory program has proven capable of judging the environmental impacts of any type of mining proposal. Out-

WE DODGED A BULLET FOR NOW, BUT THIS BILL WAS ONLY THE FIRST SHOT IN WHAT COULD BE A LONGER FIGHT TO SAVE THE PENOKEES AND LAKE SUPERIOR.

rageous, stunning, and unbelievable are just a few of the adjectives used to describe the bill and the actions by GOP legislators to rush it through. The bill is Gogebic Taconite's (GTac) wish list for deregulation to make the proposed open-pit strip mine cheap, easy and dirty and we should expect to see this bill again in the next session. That the bill is likely to come



Sunrise over the Penokee Range

back underscores that this fight will continue to be a factor in upcoming recall and fall legislative elections.

The bill took a tortured and twisted path to the Senate floor before being rejected. Two weeks before the vote, Senate Majority Speaker Scott Fitzgerald detoured it with actions that stunned veteran legislators and the public. Fitzgerald disbanded the Senate Mining Jobs Committee and referred the bill to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC), where the GOP holds a strong majority of the votes.

Continued on Page 8

SUPPORT THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

On behalf of the John Muir Chapter Fundraising Committee

Each year the Fundraising Committee of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club sends letters to our donors, members and partners to raise much-needed funds to support the work of the chapter. This year, with our natural resources threatened by short-sighted environmental legislation, it's more important than ever to join the John Muir Chapter in protecting Wisconsin's air, water and wild places by responding to this request.

Continued on Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

2012 Autumn Assembly	2
From the Chair	3-4
Sierra Club National Elections	5
Great Lakes Wind Power	6-7
Mining Issues <i>continued</i>	8
Spring Conservation Congress	9
Political Committee Update	10
WI Species: Wild Celery	11
The Green Book Review	12
Spring Outings Calendar	13
River Touring Calendar	14-15

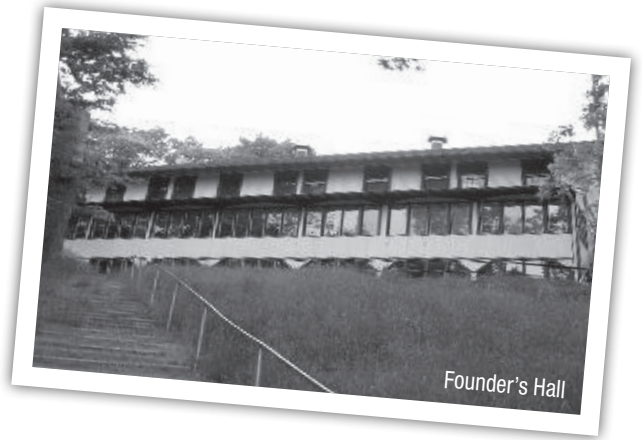
**Volume 50
Number 2**

**April -
June 2012**

2012 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

HOLIDAY HOME CAMP ON GENEVA LAKE – HOSTED BY SOUTHEAST GATEWAY GROUP

By Melissa Warner, Southeast Gateway Group Chair



Member of the Southeast Gateway Group are excited to host the John Muir Chapter at the 2012 Autumn Assembly, October 12-14. Headquarters will be at Holiday Home Camp in Williams Bay on Geneva Lake. We will share stories from Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, and present up-to-date and inspiring information about important issues like mining, renewable energy and water quality. In addition we will enjoy nature in a beautiful lake setting, and remember why we do the work we do.

Patti Loew, professor at UW Madison and documentary film producer will be our Keynote Speaker. A member of the Bad River Band of lake Superior Ojibwe, she is particularly interested in how indigenous people use the media to form identity, reconstruct the past, and assert their sovereignty and treaty rights. We expect she will address mining issues in her address.

Our Saturday night Awards Banquet will feature a delicious menu and a presentation by Aldo Leopold himself, followed by traditional songs of the Inland Seas and modern environmental numbers with Tom Kastle, a singer, songwriter, sailor, and teller of tales, based in the Great Lakes. Tom has appeared at folk venues throughout the Midwest, Northeast, and around the Chesapeake Bay as well as sea music festivals in Duluth, Chicago, Halifax and Mystic Seaport.

Field trip options will include the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy boating on the lake, hiking on the Geneva Lake Shore Path and possibly Yerkes Observatory, the birthplace of modern astrophysics. There will also be morning bird walks and evening star-gazing.

The accommodation options include camping, cabins with bunks and modern bathrooms, as well as a limited number of rooms with two single beds. In addition, there are motels available in Williams Bay.

Additional information will be posted on the Southeast Gateway group website as it becomes available. <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>



THE MUIR VIEW

222 S. Hamilton, Suite 11, Madison, WI 53703

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

Muir View Committee

Editor: Jenny Peek
Layout: Laura Anderton
Jacinda Tessmann, Shahla Werner, Emily Jones

Contributor Guidelines

Please submit articles typed, on disk, or email to:
Jenny Peek
222 S. Hamilton St., Ste. 11
Madison, WI 53703-3201
muir.view.intern@gmail.com

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.

Advertising Coordinator:

Laura Anderton: laura_anderton@tds.net

Advertising Rates:

Current advertising rates may be found on the JMC website:
<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

Deadline:

The deadline for submission of articles to the July-September, 2012 issue is midnight on May 15, 2012.

Change of Address:

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:
Sierra Club – Membership Services
85 Second St., 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

The Muir View (ISSN 199-048, USPS 499-650) is published quarterly by the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, 222 S. Hamilton, Suite 11, Madison, WI 53703.

Periodical Postage paid at Madison, WI and at additional mailing offices. Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$5.00 annually for non-members.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

Sierra Club
222 S. Hamilton, Suite 11
Madison, WI 53703



The Muir View is printed on process chlorine free recycled paper with soy-based ink. Please recycle or pass on this newsletter when you're done.

DEADLINE FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2012 ISSUE IS MAY 15, 2012



FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair
John Muir Chapter

2012 JOHN MUIR CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

Sierra Club members make it happen! Your efforts make Wisconsin a cleaner, safer place to enjoy. You take the lead in protecting our parks, drinking water and air. Think of all the progress we have made together in Wisconsin on the environment:

- Protecting our special places through the creation of a Stewardship Fund
- Protecting our health-supporting laws to prevent dumping of toxic pollution into our air and water
- Controlling urban sprawl to protect farmland and increase the efficiency of urban services

➤ Standing up to extractive industries such as water bottling and mining and saying “No” unless they can be done without destroying our resources

Yet all of these accomplishments are threatened by the actions of the current governor and state legislature. With your help, we’re standing up to these rollbacks and we are fighting back. Members have met with legislators, written editorials for newspapers and turned out at legislative hearings and rallies to protect the rights of workers. The grassroots efforts of Sierra Club members have made a difference.

There’s another way you can help. To strengthen our grassroots legacy and continue to make progress towards a green economy, the John Muir Chapter wants 500 new members to stand with us as we write our legislators, call the governor’s office and attend hearings and rallies. We want more members to share the joy that we have found on outings and the special camaraderie that comes from being with people who share a love for the environment in Wisconsin and beyond.

I am asking each member to get ONE new member this year. Recruiting new members is easy to do! Many of us know and see people every day who care about the same issues and who want Wisconsin’s conservation legacy to be there for our grandchildren, but we need to get them involved. Here is your chance to make a difference.

- Give the John Muir Chapter a birthday present (we turn 50 next year!). Find a friend and ask them to join the Sierra Club. Send them to the chapter website, wisconsin.sierraclub.org, where they can click the “Join Now” bar on the right hand side of the page.
- Give a gift membership to a young person interested in the environment. Through the club, they can learn about issues, get leadership and activist training and enjoy outings to special places in Wisconsin as well as across the country and the world.
- Tear out the customizable membership invitation in this issue or request a few brochures from the chapter office to carry around in your knapsack, briefcase or shopping bags! The invitation and brochures detail the many great reasons

Tear this page out, and introduce someone to the Sierra Club in 2012!

Kick the year off by including a friend, family member, colleague or college student in all that the Club has to offer!



Dear _____,

I am inviting you to join the Sierra Club, the nation’s oldest environmental action group. For almost 50 years, the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club has helped members explore, enjoy and protect our special places in Wisconsin. And with your help, we can continue to do so for the next 50 years!

Why should you become a member of the Sierra Club?

Joining the Sierra Club is one of the easiest, most effective ways to support grassroots environmental action in Wisconsin.

MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE! If you care about making a positive difference in cleaning up and protecting our natural environment, you’ll find like-minded neighbors in the Sierra Club. Our statewide membership is as diverse as any 15,000 individuals can be – from deer hunters to accountants and from young mothers to field scientists and everyone in between – and we all share a deep concern for our earth. We have a reputation as a no-nonsense, law-abiding, strong and effective force that solves the most dangerous environmental threats that face us. Add your voice to ours, and we become even more effective.

LEARN MORE! You will receive Sierra Magazine, the award-winning publication of the national Sierra Club; the Muir View, a quarterly newsletter covering Wisconsin Sierra Club news, events, and outings.

You’ll also get an opportunity to attend a monthly program hosted by your local group .

GET INVOLVED! If you have a particular passion, there may be a committee, outings group or e-team that’s just what you’re looking for. Only members can serve on the Executive Committee, be an Outings Leader or join an issue team.

READY TO JOIN?

Visit our website:

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org

and click the “join now” button or read more reasons to join on page 4...



to join the Sierra Club. You never know when you will bump into the right person. Recently, I was in the grocery store and ran into an old friend. I told her about our membership drive. She responded that she intended to join a while ago and I was caught without a brochure!

Membership levels start at \$15. Once your friends join, they will enjoy the same benefits you and I do - outings, conservation updates, magazines, newsletters and action alerts on important environmental issues. They will be joining a group of dedicated individuals and families from across the state who share a common vision and commitment to democracy and the environment.

For almost 50 years, the members of the John Muir Chapter have explored, enjoyed and protected our special places in Wisconsin. With your help, we can continue to do so for the next 50 years leaving a legacy for all. Join the statewide membership drive and get one person to join the Sierra Club in 2012. (You don't have to stop with one new member; consider giving a gift membership or asking additional friends to join throughout the year.) Start now or on April 21st (John Muir's birthday) and help us reach our goal of 500 new members.

Encouraging your friends to join online has an additional benefit for the chapter. When a new member signs up via the chapter website, national Sierra Club sets aside a larger portion of that money and returns it to the chapter. Those funds support our work right here in Wisconsin. New members must join through the John Muir chapter's website for us to get this extra perk, so please encourage them to visit our website at wisconsin.sierraclub.org.

Each new member means one more voice speaking for Wisconsin's environment: One more voice to persuade legislators to stop rolling back our state's protective mining laws; one more voice to urge them to protect our wetlands and to stop sell-outs to development companies; one more voice to advocate for green jobs and clean energy. New memberships mean a stronger grassroots arm of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club.

2012 will be a critical year for Wisconsin's environment and the Sierra Club can make a difference! 🍃



Reach Wisconsin's ecofriendly residents

Muir View readers are likely to:

- buy organic or natural products
- purchase from a green company
- explore nature
- seek out eco-friendly products
- hike, bike, and garden
- take public transport
- preserve the environment

Let our readers know about your ecofriendly product or service while supporting our conservation work in Wisconsin!



Advertise in the Muir View
608-256-0565

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/involve/newsletter.asp>

Tear this page out, and introduce someone to the Sierra Club in 2012!
For a paper brochure or for more information, contact the Sierra Club at (608) 256-0565 or john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org



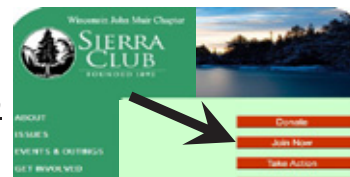
GET INVOLVED POLITICALLY! Learn about candidates records on environmental issues and watch for Sierra Club's endorsements or volunteer and make a difference in elections!

This is especially important this year with anti-environmental legislation and historic recall elections in Wisconsin.

GET ACTIVE! Adventure with a cause! Join outings – hikes, canoe trips, bike rides, and more – or work with a local group to support or organize events. Just take a peek at the activities open to you around the state wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp. The national Sierra Club outings program takes almost 4,000 people on more than 300 trips annually. Find out more at www.sierraclub.org/outings/

SO JOIN TODAY! Your first year of membership in the Sierra Club costs as little as \$15!

Please visit the Wisconsin Sierra Club site, and click the "Join Now" button on the right.



www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org

GAIN SKILLS! From orienteering, river safety, water quality testing to trail maintenance and from lobbying your legislators to leadership training, the Sierra Club can teach members the skills they need to enjoy new activities, become effective leaders, and make positive change a reality.

If you would like more information, a paper membership brochure, or have any questions, you can contact the Sierra Club at (608) 256-0565 or john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Sincerely,

Proud Sierra Club Member



A CALL TO ACTION: CAST YOUR VOTE IN THE SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL ELECTIONS

As a member of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, you will be receiving your ballot for election of the National Sierra Club Board of Directors. There are two extremely important reasons for you to vote in this election:

- ▶ Unlike the leadership of some organizations, the Sierra Club Board of Directors is a working board.
- ▶ As a working board, members take on important duties for the club: deciding policy, conducting governance, and keeping the club effective in pursuing our mission to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.” This includes involvement in conservation policy development, financial oversight, fundraising and serving on committees that directly address the needs of volunteers at all levels of the club.

For these reasons, it is critical that we elect individuals who are knowledgeable about the workings of the Sierra Club. The board will be challenged to make critical decisions about the club’s conservation priorities, the hiring of national staff and funding decisions that affect all the programs. It is up to us to choose and elect those who are most qualified -- those we believe will provide the best leadership and guidance for the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country.

Just as important is that we cast enough votes so that we have a valid election. Club bylaws state that an election is valid only if a significant, specified percentage of the entire membership votes. If

the club as a whole does not vote in sufficient numbers, the election must be repeated. Holding one election is expensive. Holding two elections in one year would mean spending dollars that could and should be used for programs and activities that develop, promote and advance conservation.

Before voting, there are a number of ways you can review the candidate’s credentials. Brief candidate bios will be provided in the mailing you will receive. You will also find information online from questionnaires the candidates completed. The candidate’s answers can be found at the following website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2012election/candidateforum>. We strongly urge you to take the time to look at the information provided on each of the candidates and evaluate the candidate’s credentials. Once you’ve made your selections, you can cast your vote online or return your ballot by mail. Only one vote by each member of your household is valid.

This decision and election is a critical responsibility for you as a member of the Sierra Club. Please take the time to mark a ballot and vote for members to represent us on the Board of Directors.

Thank you for taking the time to vote. *✍*

The John Muir Chapter Executive Committee recommends a vote for Spencer Black (Wisconsin) and Lane Boldman (Kentucky) in the upcoming election for the Sierra Club’s National Board of Directors.

SUPPORT THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER *Continued from Page 1*

Your individual contributions make all the difference in the chapter’s ability to continue our effective, grassroots advocacy campaigns.

Your donation to the chapter supports the Sierra Club’s work in your own backyard. If you believe, like we do, that all Wisconsinites are entitled to air you can breathe, water you can drink, lakes safe for swimming and communities free from toxic waste, we hope you’ll take action and support our efforts with a donation. We’re also working to ensure that Wisconsin remains a state that encourages active participation in democracy, that holds elected officials accountable

and that values the voices of citizens. Your valuable support will help us work toward a vision for Wisconsin that sees beyond short-term profits in favor of the lasting value of clean water and clean air, intact habitats for future generations and a sustainable future for Wisconsin’s economy.

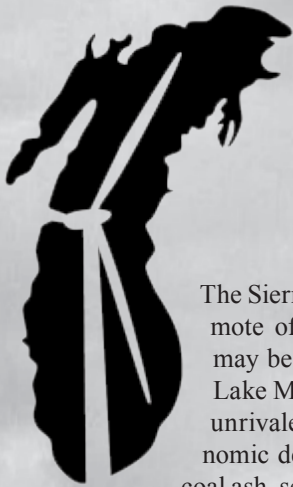
Please make your secure, one-time contribution online by clicking “donate” at wisconsin.sierraclub.org. You might also consider establishing a monthly, quarterly or annually recurring gift. These automatic gifts of \$5 per month or more helps us plan effective conservation campaigns while spreading your support throughout

the year. You may also opt to send a contribution via check made out to the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter and mailed to 222 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703.

Together we can show the tremendous value of a clean energy future, better transit and clean water to Wisconsin’s environment and our economy.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter!





GREAT LAKES WIND POWER IN WISCONSIN

by Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

The Sierra Club is launching a campaign to promote offshore wind in Lake Michigan. You may be thinking, “You want to put WHAT in Lake Michigan?” Great Lakes wind power has unrivaled potential for clean energy and economic development in Wisconsin. With all the coal ash, sewage and other pollution that goes into Lake Michigan, why not put something good in it?

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that the total gross offshore wind energy resource in US waters is over 4,000 gigawatts (GW), or almost four times the capacity of the current US power system. This number is even more impressive when you consider that the production of wind energy is cleaner than coal, safer than nuclear power and less destructive than hydro-fracking for natural gas. A number of offshore wind projects are currently in development on the east coast and other parts of the US but none are online yet. While offshore wind development is in its infancy in the US, countries around the world are already using the technology and potential of offshore wind.

The first offshore wind facility was installed in 1991 in Vindeby, Denmark. Since then, Europe has installed facilities with almost 4 GW of capacity and has a goal of reaching 50 GW (almost five times the amount of coal online in Wisconsin) by 2020 and 150 GW by 2030! Europe is also exploring new technologies, including floating turbines and an offshore pan-European grid that could balance intermittent renewable resources throughout the system. This would allow for reliable production of clean energy using a mix of renewable resources, like wind and solar, whose individual outputs can vary depending on weather patterns. Asia

has over 233 megawatts (MW) of offshore wind already installed and China is working towards 1 GW, about the energy generation capability of the coal-burning Columbia Power Plant in Portage County, over the next four years. Last November, South Korea announced its plan to build the world’s largest offshore wind farm, and Japan is experimenting with a small floating turbine project off the coast of Fukushima.

Offshore wind employs the same technologies that onshore (terrestrial) wind does, except the turbines are more efficient. On land, the wind hits buildings and other obstacles that weaken its impact before it strikes the turbines. With offshore wind, there is nothing in the way and therefore the wind blows stronger. The turbines are also much larger, allowing them to produce more electricity. Onshore farms also tend to be in large, flat, rural areas that are further away from population centers, requiring large transmission lines. The electricity generated has to travel further and some is lost. The electricity from offshore wind farms does not have to travel as far because the location of the farms tends to be near population centers that need the most energy. Some of the biggest cities in the Great Lakes area—Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Toronto, etc.—are all near large bodies of water that could host wind farms.

Although there are many kinds of offshore wind turbines, including experimental models to build the turbines on floating platforms, the traditional offshore wind turbine is in shallow water with a cement base anchoring the turbine to the ocean or lake floor. For this kind of turbine, the water depth must be less than 30 meters. This reduces the number of ideal locations that could host a wind farm but the water depth in some areas of Lake



Michigan could allow turbines to be placed as much as 10 miles offshore, making them barely a speck on the horizon. Another key siting factor is wind speed. Existing data on wind speed suggests that the Manitowoc area (north of Sheboygan and south of Door County) and the Oak Creek area (north of Racine and south of Milwaukee) are attractive options for Great Lakes wind power. Sierra Club is helping support a study of the wind resource and potential environmental impacts of offshore wind development in Lake Michigan. The results, due later this year, will help identify optimal sites within these regions that are both environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

When narrowing down the specific turbine locations, additional factors must be considered. Areas like shipping routes and diving zones must be avoided. It is also extremely important that ecological concerns are taken into account. Lake Michigan, like all the Great Lakes, is vulnerable to environmental harm. Developers need to consider factors such as the spawning season for fish and bird flight patterns before construction begins. Construction on the lake floor needs to be done carefully and with as little environmental effects as possible. When sited appropriately, offshore wind could revolutionize our energy make-up in Wisconsin.

Since offshore wind turbines are so large it's most practical that they be created near the farm location. Wisconsin, whose economy could benefit from the addition of manufacturing jobs, is poised to succeed in every level of offshore wind development: manufacturing components, building turbines, shipping and installing parts, and even maintaining the system. Some Wisconsin companies are already building components for wind turbines or could easily be retooled to create these items. For example, turbine generators are already being built in Milwaukee and concrete that could be used for the bases is manufactured in Waukesha. A Manitowoc company manufactures onshore turbines and has even produced pilings for European offshore wind turbines. Wisconsin is also home to manufacturers that create steel products who could produce the actual turbines. The surge in demand for manufactured parts could lead to the revitaliza-

tion and modernization of vacant plants like the General Motors facility in Janesville. Ports, like the Port of Milwaukee and the Port of Green Bay are well situated to receive and marshal incoming parts and to ship Wisconsin manufactured goods to other Great Lakes regions.

The equipment needed to install these massive turbines can also provide an economic boost to the state. Barges built with specialized abilities to maintain stability will be needed. One example is a jack-up barge which has platforms that lift up and stay stable. At least two Wisconsin shipbuilders are currently equipped to manufacture these specialized barges. Wisconsin is also home to a crane manufacturer and experienced wind installers, both vital elements in any turbine project. After installation, we have industries prepared to maintain the farms. Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland (south of Manitowoc and north of Sheboygan) already has a wind technician program and could train offshore wind technicians. At a time when we are so desperate for jobs, offshore wind provides the perfect solution. The Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) extrapolated data from Europe and estimates that offshore wind will create more than 20 direct jobs for every megawatt produced in the United States.

Although Wisconsin is perfectly poised to be a leader in offshore wind, we could lose our advantage if we do not take action. Other states could build the infrastructure we have and could be leaders in offshore wind. Michigan already has a Great Lakes Offshore Wind Council and Illinois has a similar council set up. Ohio has issued a 4-year lease for a small, experimental project. Wisconsin is already slipping behind. Great Lakes Wind will produce jobs, economic development and make Wisconsin the clean energy leader it once was, but only if we use the advantage that has serendipitously landed on our laps. ☺

If you would like to get involved in supporting Great Lakes wind power or other clean energy, please contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or (608) 256-0565.



MINING ISSUES

Continued from Page 1

The “official” justification for this unprecedented move was that the GOP could wait no longer to pass the bill.

The real reason behind the move was that some Senate Mining Jobs Committee members were uncomfortable with parts of the bill and the process issues raised by lack of consultation with the Bad River Tribe and others. Most importantly, one Republican Senator, Dale Schultz, stated publicly that he would not vote for AB 426. That one vote margin proved to be the key to killing the bill.

Senator Bob Jauch worked with Sen. Schultz to introduce a substitute amendment to AB 426 that restores environmental protections for iron ore mining and deletes some of the most egregious language, such as the provision that removed contested case hearings from the process. GOP leadership promptly pronounced the Jauch/Schultz amendment dead-on-arrival and refused to take a vote on it when the bill was heard in the Senate.

Schultz and Jauch demonstrated remarkable leadership by responding to public concerns, unlike their GOP colleagues in the Assembly, and we appreciate their efforts to work in a responsible and bipartisan way. While their substitute amendment is a major improvement over AB 426, we would not be able to support the amendment due to our concerns with some aspects and our stated goal of maintaining the current regulatory protections.

Meanwhile, GTac never got around to submitting a mining permit application, which means that we are still in the dark about nearly all aspects of the proposal. This is another reason for our opposition to changes in existing standards; there is no scientific or policy justification for changing state law to benefit this proposal. The amount of money and effort exerted by GTac and its supporters, like Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce and the Wisconsin Mining Association, demonstrates that developing this deposit is a priority for them. It is very likely we will continue to see efforts to develop a mine there.

Regarding GTac’s proposal, the John Muir Chapter has asserted that only the highest and most protective standards should be used to judge the largest mine ever proposed in Wis-

consin, which would be located in a sensitive and pristine watershed feeding the Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs and Lake Superior. The sloughs are a unique and irreplaceable cultural resource for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. Due to efforts by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently designated the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs a *Wetland of International Importance*, or Ramsar site. In March of this year, the Ramsar Secretariat announced that the Sloughs were designated as America’s 31st Ramsar wetland on the list of *Wetlands of International Importance*. Thanks to Wisconsin Wetlands Association for this great work!

One update to our Environmental Track Record of Taconite Mining report: Northshore Mining, owned by Cliff’s Natural Resources in Silver Bay, MN was recently fined \$240,175 by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for air pollution violations. Announced on February 8, Northshore Mining was fined for more than 30 violations for exceeding emissions standards for fine particulate matter at its taconite processing plant between May 2010 and November 2011. Monitoring found that Northshore was generating excessive taconite dust, a federally regulated pollutant that can cause serious heart and lung ailments for both work-

ers and the public. This is just one more recent example of how modern taconite mining continues to be an unsafe and dirty industry.

Finally, huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the mining issue so far, including our staff, and thanks also to the Sierra Club members who attended the recent mining education benefit concert. We learned more about the GTac proposal and impacts from former journalist and current historian, writer and Associate professor at UW-Madison Patty Loew and heard some great music from Tom Neilson. All proceeds from the show will go to benefit education efforts on mining by the John Muir Chapter and the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin. This fight isn’t over and we must remain vigilant and involved beginning with the elections this spring and again this fall. ♪

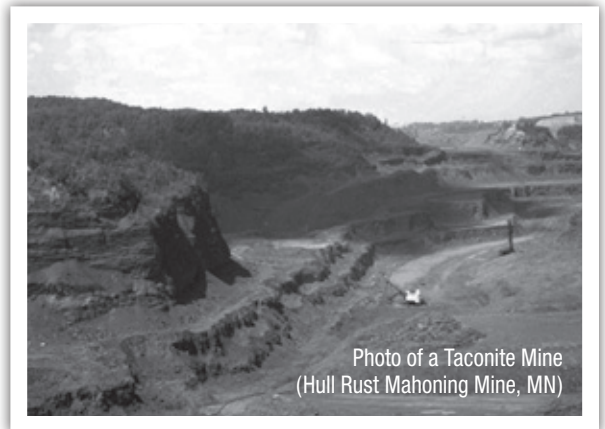



Photo of a Taconite Mine (Hull Rust Mahoning Mine, MN)



**HELP THE MUIR VIEW
SAVE A TREE**

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

If all of our members signed up to receive and read their quarterly Muir View online, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter members would save 400,000 double-sided sheets, or two tons, of paper per year.

To request the newsletter online, please send your name and e-mail address to muir.view.intern@gmail.com with your request to receive the Muir View online, or call us at (608) 256-0565.

SPRING CONSERVATION CONGRESS



ATTEND YOUR SPRING “HEARING”: CRANE AND CROW HUNT AND MORE ON BALLOT

by Karen Etter Hale, Executive Secretary of the Madison Audubon Society

The annual Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) spring hearing on fish and wildlife rules and the annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress will be held in every county of the state on Monday, April 9, at 7 p.m. This year, however, the process has changed as a result of 2011 Wisconsin Act 21, which affects the timing of administrative rule promulgation. All the questions, including those from the WDNR, will be advisory-only this year, but it's still important that you attend and weigh in on several of the questions.

Attending the spring hearings requires only a small time commitment, as you can fill out the ballot and leave if you wish. All citizens can attend and voice their opinions on each wildlife and environmental issue question. The first half of the evening will be fish and wildlife questions proposed by the WDNR. The second portion consists of Wisconsin Conservation Congress questions, many of which are forwarded to WDNR for rule consideration.

SANDHILL CRANE HUNT

Congress Advisory Question 30 asks whether a sandhill crane hunt should be established. In the mid-1930s only an estimated 25 sandhill crane pairs remained in Wisconsin, causing Aldo Leopold to lament their probable loss in “A Marshland Elegy”, a chapter in *A Sand County Almanac*. Since then, with many decades of hard work by hunters, federal and state agencies and environmental groups, including the Audubon Society, to protect and restore thousands of acres of wetlands, cranes have prospered. Is hunting warranted for every species we've brought back from the brink?

The main argument for establishing a hunt is to help farmers who suffer crop damage from cranes. Cranes are very good at going down corn rows and pulling out each kernel or young plant. Hunting, however, would only shift the birds to other farmers' fields. A more effective solution, which has been available for several years, is to coat the kernels with nontoxic anthraquinone (AQ), which tastes bad and deters cranes from eating corn – in any fields. Sandhills may still be in the fields, but eating waste grain, insects or rodents instead. The International Crane Foundation has conducted years of research on this solution. For more information, visit <http://www.savingcranes.org/crop-damage-discussion.html>.

CROW HUNT CHANGE

Congress Question 34 proposes shifting the winter crow hunt that runs from January to mid-March to a later time when there are “more favorable temperatures”. Nest-building has been observed as early as February 9, with birds incubating by mid to late March (*Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Wisconsin*). When crow hunting was established in Wisconsin in 1995, Sam Robbins, author of *Wisconsin Birdlife*, urged that the season close even earlier than mid-March.

LEAD FISHING TACKLE

WDNR Question 20 asks whether anglers should be required to use non-lead sinkers, weights, jigs and hooks if they are less than 1-inch length in any dimension and less than 1-ounce in weight on several lakes in Vilas County in order to protect loons and other water birds. Voting yes on this question will be a small, but important step in the right direction.

WETLANDS, STORMWATER & EROSION CONTROL

Congress Question 3 would transfer shoreland and isolated wetland protection responsibilities to the state of Wisconsin, taking permitting out of the hands of local communities. Question 4 would consolidate stormwater management permitting, and Question 5 would do the same for erosion control regulations. Until we know what impacts the streamlining of permits might have on our wetland resources, it would be hard to support these recommendations.

Please attend your spring hearing if possible. The Dane County hearing will be at Monona Grove High School; Columbia County at Portage Junior High School; Dodge County at Horicon City Hall; Iowa County at Dodgeville High School; Jefferson County at Jefferson County Fairgrounds; Richland County at Richland County Courthouse; and Sauk County at UW Baraboo Campus, Baraboo.

To view the entire spring hearing ballot, including each county meeting location, visit the DNR website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/nr-board/congress/>. The 2012 questionnaire will be under “Spring Hearings.” ☺

For information, call Karen Etter Hale at the Madison Audubon office at (608) 255-BIRD (2473).



JMC POLITICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Dave Blouin, John Muir Chapter Political Committee Chair

We just passed the one year anniversary of the day Governor Walker “dropped the bomb” in the form of his “Budget Repair” bill which stripped public workers of their collective bargaining rights and started what was arguably the most divisive year in Wisconsin’s political history. As we reported last year, Budget Repair was just the first in a series of bad public policies enacted by the Walker administration endangering our environment and conservation resources including rejecting federal transit funding, cutting recycling and stewardship funding.

Add the current anti-environmental legislation such as the Wetlands Destruction bill (SB 368) which was passed over the objection of every major conservation organization statewide and the Open Pit/Strip Mining bill (with similar strong opposition) clearing the way for destructive taconite mining and it becomes clear that this administration has become the most environmentally destructive in memory. See page X for more on mining issues.

So, 2012 should prove to be a pivotal year in Wisconsin politics with major state and federal elections coming up. On the federal side, the Sierra Club will be making candidate endorsements for President, Senate and Congressional races while on the state side, the entire state Assembly and half the state Senate are up for election. This year, the even-numbered Senate Districts will hold elections for four-year terms.

It now seems likely that recall elections will take place for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and possibly in four Senate Districts (Scott Fitzgerald, Senate District 13; Pam Galloway, SD 29; Terry Moulton, SD 23; Van Wanggaard, SD 21). At the time of drafting this article, none of the recall efforts had yet resulted in a certified recall election so it’s unclear which races we will become involved in. The Sierra Club supported the recall of both the Governor and Lt. Governor based on the Governor’s terrible environmental track record. In the case of the four potential Senate recalls, all four incumbents have voted

against our goals and in favor of environmental deregulation of wetlands and mining.

Many Sierra Club members contributed generously of their time and energy to collect recall petition signatures for Governor Walker and Lt. Gov. Kleefisch. You were responsible for gathering at least 5,000 signatures and huge thanks to all who helped out!

Once the final list of candidates for these offices is known (and assuming the recalls are certified), we will assess whether to endorse candidates in the recall elections. Watch for more information on the John Muir Chapter website at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/political/>. We will be working hard this year to change the makeup of these bodies and stem the tide of terrible policymaking but as always more help is needed. Contact the Chapter office at 608-256-0565 or john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org to volunteer or learn more about our political efforts. ♻️

BECOME A CO-TREASURER FOR TREE-HUGGERS

Here’s your chance to join the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States as the Volunteer Co-Treasurer!

- Gain valuable experience and training
- Training trip to San Francisco, CA, beginning March 2013 (airfare paid)
- Develop financial leadership skills
- Work with “green” (\$) for a “green” organization

The Sierra Club’s John Muir Chapter Executive Committee needs your part-time financial and bookkeeping skills.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Provide financial leadership and vision within the chapter and groups
- Prepare financial statements and guide the development of programmatic budgets
- Protect the financial integrity and stability of the chapter and groups
- Participate in long range planning

- Assist in allocation of financial resources in a manner consistent with the opportunities, abilities, and commitment of the chapter and groups
- Monitor, question, and evaluate club activities requiring expenditures
- Maintain financial records for the chapter and provide them to auditors and other regulatory agencies when necessary
- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend Finance Committee meetings and general meetings
- Contribute to a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

If you are interested in this position, please contact Jacinda Tessmann, Chapter Coordinator at (608) 256-0565, Jacinda.tessmann@sierraclub.org. If you would like to discuss the job duties, please contact Joan Quenan, Treasurer at jquenana@merr.com.





WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

WILD CELERY

by Tracy Hames

Loved by waterfowl, often cursed by boaters, wild celery (*Vallisneria spiralis*) is one of Wisconsin's most interesting native wetland plants. The story of this species' life cycle and success is one full of quirks and irony.

Wild celery is a submersed macrophyte, meaning that it grows beneath the water's surface. The plant consists of long, ribbon-like leaves. The leaves have a prominent central stripe and a cellophane-like consistency. As a dioecious plant, wild celery individuals are either male or female.

Wild celery grows in wetlands and shallow lake habitats. Healthy beds depend on several factors. Clean, clear water allows light to penetrate to the depths where wild celery grows. Protection from wind and wave action allows the celery to persist. Seasonal water level fluctuations stimulate the plants to produce rhizomes (horizontal underground stems) and expand their numbers. A disruption in any of these factors can trigger a decline in the beds.

The reproductive process of wild celery represents one of the strangest of the Wisconsin wetland plants. Each summer the female plant sends a flower on a stem, or pedicel, to the surface of the water. The male plant releases a stamen to the surface to float freely. This boat-like structure, with sail included, drifts along until it contacts a flower. Nature takes its course and the flower is pollinated. Successful pollination triggers a mechanism that causes the pedicel of the flower to coil. The coiling pulls the flower under water so that seed development can take place in a safe location. The matured seeds eventually drop into the sediment to wait next year's growing season.

As fall arrives and water temperatures cool, the lush, green leaves begin to transfer their energy downward. The plants develop beautiful, spike-like tubers (root structures) in the wet-

land sediment. These tubers allow the plant to survive a winter under the ice. As springtime temperatures warm the water, the tubers sprout into mature plants and the cycle continues.

Tuber development is a common over-wintering strategy of submersed plants. Enough energy needs to be stored in the root structures to allow the plant to re-grow after ice-out, until photosynthesis can kick in. This compact form of stored energy, however, does not go unnoticed. Diving ducks, especially canvasbacks, have adapted their winter foraging strategies to take advantage of this energy source. The dependence of canvasbacks on wild celery is so strong that their scientific name (*Aythya valisineria*) is derived from that of the celery plant.

RECENT HISTORY OF WILD CELERY IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Several decades ago, wild celery beds were on the decline in Wisconsin. Much effort was spent harvesting tubers in areas containing healthy beds for transplantation projects around the state. The healthiest beds during these years occurred in the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River, especially Lake Onalaska near La Crosse. This, however, was not always the case.

Historically, wild celery beds were not at all common in the Upper Mississippi River. The story of its rise is filled with irony. During the early and mid twentieth century, an extensive series of locks and dams was installed in the river to facilitate the movement of barges between fertile Midwestern agricultural areas and markets to the south. Management of these locks and dams created extensive backwater systems with relatively stable water levels. The Upper Mississippi River, in effect, was transformed from a free-flowing river to one that resembled a series of connected lakes. This lake- and marsh-like habitat allowed the

native celery plants to colonize. Ironically, as the celery beds were increasing in this new artificial environment, they were declining in the natural lake and marsh habitats in other parts of Wisconsin.

In the last few decades, exotic and artificial influences have continued to change the Mississippi River. Invasive species, such as the zebra mussel, are now prevalent. The feeding habits of these small, abundant mollusks have increased the amount of light reaching the celery plants. Additionally, new human activities have ironically had a positive impact on the celery beds: dredging has created more open substrate, island construction has reduced wind and wave action and late summer water level drawdowns have stimulated rhizome growth. The increase in the size and number of wild celery beds in the Upper Mississippi River has caused direct increases in the use of the this area as a migratory stopover for canvasbacks. In 2011, peak migration counts of canvasbacks showed nearly three-quarters of a million.

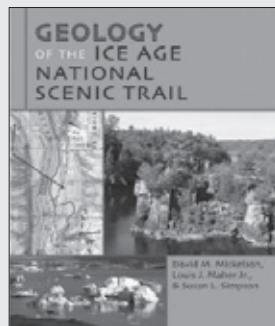
Today, wild celery beds are abundant in the Upper Mississippi River and on the rise throughout the rest of Wisconsin. Though it is unusual to see native plants respond positively to exotic infestations and artificial alterations in an ecosystem, the story of wild celery in the Upper Mississippi River is testimony to the complex interactions that exist in nature. ☺

Tracy Hames is the new Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association. He studied wild celery transplantation techniques in the Wisconsin River as a part of his Master's thesis at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point in the late 1980's. He has spent the past 20 years restoring wetlands with the Yakama Nation in south central Washington State, where there is no wild celery. He plans to re-acquaint himself with this wonderful plant in the coming months now that he is back in Wisconsin.

THE GREEN REVIEW

BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

By Amy Lou Jenkins



GEOLOGY OF THE ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

by David Mickelson, Louis J. Maher Jr and Susan L. Simpson, 2011 University of Wisconsin Press, 2011, 408 P.

Wisconsin hikers who traverse the Ice Age Trail are sure to find scenic beauty, but until recently they didn't have access to a scientifically based overview of the region's geology. The Ice Age Trail, one of eleven National Scenic Trails in the United States, is a thousand-mile footpath highlighting Wisconsin's world-renowned Ice Age heritage. Hikers have a new type of escort for the trail: *Geology of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail*. It's part guidebook, part resource text and part tribute to the trail.

Anyone who understands the intense satisfaction of learning to read a landscape, of discovering the eons of story hidden in the texture of land forms, will love this guide. Geology nerds will discover enough scientific depth to satisfy their quest for a comprehensive study. Wannabe geology nerds can access information that is richly supplemented with pictures and graphs that unlock the secrets of the land. Readers can find general information on the glacial periods and specific forces and impacts. They can also find exacting information such as where the hiker can find the best spot to view dramatic or fascinating formations.

This is not a book that children are likely to use, but adults will find a metaphoric treasure map to entice the youngsters. Mickelson, Maher and Simpson offer comprehensive coverage of the specific segments of the trail, so adults and guides can read about a section before hiking and then lead the family to fun in the field. For example, you can find a big ball-like rock called a grinder that formed by spinning in an underwater pothole. Hike to Turtle Rock: yes—it looks like a giant turtle. Find rippled rocks that embody ancient waves. These earthy wonders make an imprint upon children and adults even before they [we] begin to make sense of them. The experiences help us learn to love our Earth.

Readers can make sense of scientific geologic realities that could lead to informed stewardship of the land. Once readers understand Karst topography, for example, they access richer insight into the corresponding vulnerability of groundwater. After readers understand the eons of alchemy in creating fertile farmland, they might better cherish this resource. This comprehensive guide adds fun and credible insight to any undertaking of Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail.

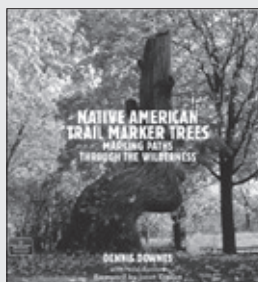


SAND COUNTY SONGS

by Tim Southwick Johnson, a CD, January 2012

Sand County Songs offers a new way to explore the themes of Aldo Leopold's famous book, *A Sand County Almanac*. Johnson layers acoustic instruments including mandolin, guitar and harmonica with vocals to create songs based on specific essays by Leopold. Johnson plays all the parts.

Music played an important role in the Leopold family. When the Leopolds packed up to spend the weekend at the shack, they always brought along the guitars. It's easy to imagine these songs among the family playlist, so the music adds an element of intimacy to the act of loving *A Sand County Almanac*. The hour of music includes ballads and instrumentals with folk and bluegrass influences. Johnson's veneration for Leopold's words is evident in every track. A portion of each sale benefits the Aldo Leopold Foundation.



Native American Trail Marker Trees: Marking Paths Through the Wilderness

by Dennis Downes with Neal Samors, Chicago's Book Press, 2011.

We reviewed Downes impressive book in the last issue, but failed to provide an accurate cover photo. Thank you to those who emailed and called to point out the error. This gives us another opportunity to call your attention to the only extensive study on the topic of *Native American Trail Marker Trees*, written over decades with care and reverence for these ancient signposts.

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*, winner of USA Best Books of 2011 in the environment category. Contact her at www.AmyLouJenkins.com to submit a book, movie or CD for review that would be of interest to Sierra Club members. Publishers provided copies of all items reviewed in this column.



SPRING 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11: PRAIRIE/WOODLAND RESTORATION – LODI MARSH SEGMENT, ICE AGE TRAIL

Do you know glacial geology, or native and invasive plants? This is a great opportunity to learn about all of the above as we work with the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail to help restore prairie and woodland areas along the Lodi Marsh segment. You’ll get to see classic glacial valleys while helping cut and haul invasives and make room for the native plants. Burning brush is likely if conditions permit, so bring something good to roast. Take Hwy 113 north out of Madison and turn left on Coyle Rd. ~2.5 miles north of Dane, then right at the “T” at the end. Park on the left. Contact Don Ferber at 608-222-9376 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net for more info. [4L]

SATURDAY, APRIL 3: SPRING HIKE – NEW GLARUS WOODS STATE PARK

Join us for a 4 mile hike through prairies and forests at New Glarus Woods State Park. The hike is moderate with rolling hills and ravines and a great opportunity to see spring ephemerals just starting to bloom and as trees are just budding out. Carpooling from Madison meets at 9 AM at the western Hill Farms State office parking lot, 4802 Sheboygan Ave. Otherwise, meet at the parking lot off State Hwy 69, 2 miles south of New Glarus at 10 AM. A State Park sticker is required for cars at New Glarus Woods. Lunch option at a local Swiss restaurant afterward if interested. Contact David Smith at 608-233-1210 for more info. [4L]

SATURDAY, APRIL 14: WOODLAND RESTORATION – FESTGE COUNTY PARK

Learn about before and after comparisons of overgrown vs. restored prairie and woodland areas. We’ll be cutting and hauling brush, and likely burning at this fine county park in Wisconsin’s Driftless region, site of last summer’s Four Lakes picnic. Take Hwy 14 ~2 miles west of Cross Plains to Scherbel Rd., turn right up the hill to the park, and drive in towards the overlook. Contact Don Ferber at 608-222-9376 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net for more info. [4L]

TUESDAY, MAY 1: WAXING MOON SPRING HIKE – ICE AGE TRAIL VALLEY VIEW PRESERVE

Join us for a 3-mile hike on the Ice Age Trail through the prairie and woods at Valley View preserve. We should have a beautiful sunset, and then a nice moonrise. We’ll hike around some trail loops and read the interpretive signs along the way. Meet at the IAT kiosk on Mound View Rd. Take Mineral Point Rd. ~2.3 miles west of the Beltline, turn left on Pioneer, then right on Valley View which turns left and becomes Mound View. Go another .5 miles to the kiosk on the right. Bring a flashlight or headlamp. Contact Kathy Mulbrandon at 608-848-5076 or kmulb@charter.net for more info. [4L]

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.



WILDERNESS FIRST AID CERTIFICATION COURSE

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 23-24

The Sierra Club-Madison Inner City Outings and Wilderness Medicine Institute will host a Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course. This is a great course to extend your skills beyond basic CPR as it addresses “back country” real-life situations and scenarios. This fast paced, hands-on training is designed to meet the needs of trip leaders, camp staff, outdoor enthusiasts and individuals working in remote locations. It will introduce you to caring for people who become ill or injured far from definitive medical care. Classroom lectures and demonstrations are combined with realistic scenarios where mock patients will challenge you to integrate your learning. At the end of the course, you’ll have the knowledge, skills and ability to make sound decisions in emergency situations.

Taught by seasoned instructors in a two day format, learning takes place both in the classroom and in outdoor settings regardless of weather conditions. Come prepared for wet, muddy, cold or hot environments. The training will be held at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center in Black Earth on June 23-24. The course fee is \$200. Camping/lodging is also available for a small additional fee. Questions? Contact Terri Felton at tfelton@tds.net or download an application at: <http://www.4lakes.org/monthly-programs>

RIVER TOUR CALENDAR



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/rt/>

INSTRUCTION CLINICS

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

WHITewater CLINIC FOR SOLO OR TANDEM CANOES JUNE 2 - 3 WOLF RIVER

Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person; Camping Fee, \$9 per person per night.

RTS whitewater clinics are for reasonably experienced moving water (river) paddlers who want to learn whitewater skills and novice whitewater paddlers who want to improve their skills. This is for open canoes, not kayaks. Paddlers must provide their own properly equipped canoe. Except for some classroom sessions, separate instruction will be provided for solo and tandem participants. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night for clinic participants, instructors, and RTS paddlers. Please bring a dish to share.

We've reserved a group campsite at the Wolf River Nicolet Forest Campground for camping Friday and Saturday nights. If you prefer other lodging arrangements, there are many options available. See the Wolf River Territory website (www.wolfriverterritory.com) for information.

For information and registration, contact:

Registration (Solo or Tandem): Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com.

Solo Clinic Leader: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026

Tandem Clinic Leader: Pat Wilson, 608-788-8831

WHITewater CLINIC FOR WHITewater KAYAKS JUNE 2 - 3 WOLF RIVER

Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person; Camping Fee, \$9 per person per night.

Kayak clinic is limited to 10-12 participants. RTS whitewater clinics are for reasonably experienced moving water (river) paddlers who want to learn whitewater skills and novice whitewater paddlers who want to improve their skills. NEW this year is a clinic for whitewater kayaks. Paddlers must provide their own properly equipped whitewater kayak, which means a bulkhead OR air bags behind the seat AND a properly fitted neoprene spray skirt. (And of course life jacket and helmet.) Except for

some joint canoe/kayak classroom sessions, separate instruction will be provided for kayakers. There will be a potluck dinner Saturday night for clinic participants, instructors, and RTS paddlers. Please bring a dish to share.

We've reserved a group campsite at the Wolf River Nicolet Forest Campground for camping Friday and Saturday nights. If you prefer other lodging arrangements, there are many options available. See the Wolf River Territory website (www.wolfriverterritory.com) for information.

For information and registration, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-576-4226, kasy99@gmail.com.

MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC JUNE 30 BADFISH CREEK NEAR MADISON

Class I. Clinic Fee: \$25 per person. Confident and competent on lakes, but not ready for rivers? Then this canoe clinic is for you. We'll review the basic strokes—draws, prys, sweeps, forward, back and J. We'll discuss safety, reading water, and maneuvers—ferries, side slips, and eddy turns. Then we'll practice these skills as we canoe Badfish Creek. To register or get more details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com

PADDLING TRIPS

MARCH 31 - APRIL 1 ROBINSON & MORRISON CREEKS

Class II; Car Camp. When the water is up in spring, these two small, scenic creeks are a lot of fun. Although the Robinson has a couple of drops, they can be portaged. Trees often need to be portaged as well. As always, we'll pick up spring thaw trash as we go, leaving the streams in better shape for those who follow. Wet/dry suit required for this early season trip. For details, contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrud@tds.net.

APRIL 14 - 15 LITTLE RIVERS EXPLORATORY

Class III; Car Camp. Based on water levels, we'll select two or more small rivers in central or northern Wisconsin that can only be paddled in spring. Learn about river restoration and preservation. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. Note: Depending on water levels, we may change the date of this trip. For details, contact: Dale Dean 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com or Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com.

APRIL 21 - 22 SOUTH FORK FLAMBEAU RIVER

Class III; Car Camp. If water levels cooperate, we'll run the South Fork of the Flambeau or the Upper Jump River. We'll move to a later date if the water is too low. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. We'll discuss mining proposals, regulations, and issues in the area. For details, contact: Dale Dean 608-302-5744, daleink55@gmail.com.

APRIL 22 BARK RIVER NEAR DOUSMAN

Class 1+; Day trip. Join us for a paddle on a clear stream made so by restored wet lands. As there are 7 bridges, portaging may be needed. Weather and water level dependent. Limited to 8 participants. For details, contact Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com.

APRIL 28 -29 POPPLE, UPPER PESHTIGO

Class II-III; Car Camp. Catch one of Wisconsin's 5 state-designated Wild Rivers, the Popple, at a nice level.. Learn of the history and challenges facing the Wisconsin's Wild Rivers. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. For details, contact: Larr Zibell 715-546-2131.

MAY 5 - 6 PINE RIVER

Class II; Canoe Camp. Join us for the 35th annual Pine River weekend! We plan to paddle from Highway 55 to Chipmunk Rapids in Forest and Florence Counties. This is a terrific opportunity to canoe and camp on one of Wisconsin's designated "wild rivers." There will be time to reflect and discuss the challenges and changes facing this river. For details, contact: Walt Ruben, 262-573-4852, walt_ruben@yahoo.com. Co-leader: Larr Zibell, 715-546-2131.

MAY 12 - 13 WHITewater RIVERS OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN/EXPLORATORY

Class II-III; Car Camp. Rivers to be determined by water levels. Possibilities include Little Wolf, Eau Claire, Big Rib, etc. We'll discuss storm water runoff and how to control it as we paddle these exciting wild rivers. Wet/dry suit and helmet required. For details, contact Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com.

MAY 19 - 20 BRULE RIVER (WI/MI BORDER)

Class II; Canoe Camp. The Border Brule features a few class I-II rapids, wooded shorelines, and a true sense of wilderness. You can expect to see eagles and other wildlife and practically no houses. We will cover 12-14 miles per day and space might be limited due to campsite size. This is a great chance to learn about canoe camping. For details, contact: Leo Hummel, 608-322-7014, dhummel@centurytel.net.

MAY 23 - 28 BATCHAWANA RIVER, ON, CANADA

Class II; Canoe Camp with portages. Join us as we paddle the Batchawana River through the beautiful Algoma Highlands north of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada. We'll board the Algoma Central train in Sault Ste Marie for a 3-hour, 80-mile train ride to our put in. We'll spend the next 4.5 days paddling to our takeout where the river enters Lake Superior. Along the way, we'll paddle numerous class I and II rapids. We'll also get to portage around 4-5 spectacular waterfalls. Although the portages aren't particularly long, a couple of them are steep and rugged. One of the days will be a layover day where you will have the choice of a leisurely day in camp or a hike to the top of

nearby Batchawana Mountain. All trip costs will be split evenly. Estimated cost is \$125/person (does not including transportation to/from SSM). A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to hold your spot. For details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net .

MAY 26 - 28 BOIS BRULE

Class I-II; Car Camp. Join us for three day trips on the Bois Brule. Saturday we'll paddle from County S to Highway 2. Sunday we'll paddle from Pine Tree Landing to Highway 13 - this section includes a series of Class II rapids. Monday we'll paddle from Highway 13 to Lake Superior. We'll learn about the work to protect this trout stream. Helmets required for rapids. Camping available at the DNR Campground south of Brule WI in Douglas County. The trip leader will reserve as many sites as possible. This is a busy weekend so please share your site with fellow Sierrans. For details, contact: Phil Olson, 715-682-3434, 715-292-5202 (cell), philole@centurytel.net.

JUNE 16 - 17 BEGINNERS WISCONSIN WHITEWATER

Class II-II+; Car Camp. This trip is designed for paddlers learning the art of whitewater paddling—there won't be any rapids rated above Class II+ on this trip. We'll paddle rivers in northern Wisconsin, with the choice of rivers dependent upon water levels and the groups' interest/experience. Likely candidates include the Pike, Oconto, Wolf (Sections I and/or II) and Peshtigo (Section II). This is a great opportunity to build skills and confidence with the support of other paddlers. For details, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com or Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com.

JUNE 16 - 17 WISCONSIN RIVER

Moving Water; Canoe Camp (on sandbars or shore). The Wisconsin River is rich with history and wildlife. Within an easy drive from the Madison area we can enjoy great river paddling, sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines, and a reasonably wild area. We will paddle 10 to 15 miles a day depending on water levels and winds. We will find a suitable sandbar for our primitive overnight camp. Meals and clean-up will be done cooperatively. Since we will be coordinating our food, participants must contact the leader before June 8. For details, contact: Dan Wallace, 608-835-5144 preferred, danwallace@src.wisc.

edu. Co-leader: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net

JUNE 23 - 24 MECAN RIVER

Class I; Car Camp. This trip is for those that like to paddle small rivers. We will paddle a section above Germania Marsh on Saturday and a section below the marsh on Sunday. The Mekan is a premium trout stream with crystal clear water. It maintains a steady current and at times requires precise maneuvering around tight bends or dead fall. This river is not recommended for beginners struggling with boat control. Come learn about the threats and impacts of irrigation and proposed bottled water facilities. For details, contact: Leo Hummel, 608-322-7014, dhummel@centurytel.net .

JUNE 23 -24 WOLF RIVER PADDLE AND BIKE TRIP

Class II+; Car Camp. Section II of the Wolf on Saturday. Section I on Sunday. Bike the new and endangered rail-to-trail Wolf River State Trail, then paddle back to a camp fire and pot luck. Learn about the struggle to preserve this river corridor. Shuttles provided. Donations to help the county with signage optional. For details, contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrud@tds.net.

JULY 8 - 10 SYLVANIA WILDERNESS AREA. MI

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. Family-oriented trip. 5 paddlers maximum. \$10 non-refundable deposit due by June 6th. This includes 3 night camping fee. Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com.

JULY 14 - 15 WOLF AND RED RIVERS

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

JULY 21 - 22 LOWER WISCONSIN RIVER

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbars). This two day, one night canoe camping trip on a remote, peaceful section of the lower Wisconsin River features inviting sandbars, sandy beaches, towering bluffs, and craggy rock out-

croppings. We'll put in near Prairie du Sac and take out near Spring Green. We'll learn about the importance of these habitats. For details, contact: Carl Wisler at 262-542-9593, carl.wisler@att.net .

JULY 28 - 29 QUIETWATER RIVERS OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN/EXPLORATORY

Quietwater - Class I; Car Camp. Dogs allowed. Rivers to be determined by water levels and group interest. Possibilities include Bark, Mekan, Lemonweir, Sugar, etc. We'll explore the geography of central and southern Wisconsin and discuss how human impacts affect water quality and ecological diversity. For details, contact Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com.

LATE JULY - EARLY AUGUST PADDLE AND DAY HIKE IN MONTANA

Class II-III; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on some classic western rivers. Car camp, paddle, and day hike in northwest Montana. The trip will be flexible in order to meet the needs of participants. Paddlers must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Join us for all or part of this trip. For details, contact: Phillip Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrud@tds.net.

AUGUST 4 - 5 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 11 - 12 CHIPPEWA RIVER

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbars). The Chippewa River features sandbars, sandy beaches, wooded shorelines, and a wild appearance. 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

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 flotation 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/rt/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairies-moke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2012 SPRING EXCOM MEETINGS


- May 5, 10am** First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo
June 16 MREA Conservation Hall of Fame (9:30 a.m.)

2011 EVENTS

- April 3** Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary
April 21 John Muir's Birthday
April 21 Isthmus Green Day: Sustainability celebration featuring Mark Bittman, New York Times columnist and author. Monona Terrace, Madison 9am-5pm
<http://www.thedailypage.com/green/>
April 22 Earth Day
May 4-5 Making the Connection 2012: Environment & Health in Wisconsin hosted by Wisconsin Environmental Health Network at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Contact jennifer.feyerherm@sierraclub.org
June 15-17 23rd Annual Midwest Renewable Energy Fair, Custer, WI
<https://www.midwestrenew.org/energyfair>
October 12-14 2012 Sierra Club Autumn Assembly (see page 4)

Check the John Muir Chapter website, or e-mail or call the Chapter office for updated information.

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




This Earth Day **support** your Sierra Club

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd by helping the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club in protecting Wisconsin's air, water, and wild places. Your donation really does make a difference to the Sierra Club, and is a key part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the sustainability of our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you can; and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood. You can also donate online at wisconsin.sierraclub.org or by sending a contribution to us to the address below. Thanks in advance for your support of the Sierra Club and for all you do for Wisconsin's natural resources.

Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter
222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892