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NEWS RELEASE

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National Sierra Club Recognizes Wisconsin Leaders with Awards

Madison: The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is proud to announce that Wisconsin leaders are the recipients of two prestigious National Sierra Club Awards. **The David R. Brower Award, which recognizes excellence in environmental journalism, will be awarded to Ron Seely.** Seely spent 20 years covering science and the environment for the Wisconsin State Journal. He is a three-time winner of the Wisconsin Press Association's award for environmental reporting, as well as the recipient of an investigative reporting award from the Society of Environmental Journalists and the American Chemical Society's prestigious James T. Grady - James H. Stack Award. Since retiring from the Journal in 2013, Seely has worked as an editor and reporter at the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism, focusing on environmental issues.

“Wisconsin is extremely fortunate to have a talented environmental journalist like Ron Seely in Wisconsin, raising public awareness about critical issues like the impacts of factory farms on water resources and the intersection between mining and treaty rights, said Shahla Werner, Director, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter. [Seely will be the keynote speaker at the Chapter's upcoming Autumn Assembly, a fall retreat that will be held at Phantom Lake YMCA camp in Mukwonago, Wisconsin October 10-12, 2014.](#)

In addition to his work as a journalist, Seely has served as a senior lecturer in University of Wisconsin-Madison's Life Sciences Communication Department for the past 15 years. In 1997, he co-wrote and narrated a Wisconsin Public Television documentary titled “Love of the Land,” which focused on private landowners who have adapted Aldo Leopold's land ethic. David Brower was the first executive director of the Sierra Club and a pioneer of modern environmentalism. Previous recipients of the David R. Brower Award include Charles Kuralt, Philip Shabecoff, Molly Ivins, Thomas Friedman, David Brancaccio and Elizabeth Kolbert.

Volunteer members of the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's Fundraising Committee, including Liz Wessel, Caryl Terrell, Seth Nowak, Don Ferber, and Gary Werner, are to receive the National Sierra Club's Wilcher Award, given to a Sierra Club entity to recognize volunteer work in either membership development or fundraising, including increasing diversity of membership or donors. The Fundraising Committee earned the award for raising over \$30,000 through sponsorships and ticket sales for the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary Celebration with Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, held at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery on April 20, 2013.

“The John Muir Chapter's dedicated volunteers are our most valuable resource, helping us raise vital funds and taking on leadership roles that have made it possible for us to accomplish environmental victories in Wisconsin for over 50 years, from stopping the Crandon mine to passing the Great Lakes Compact. Our Fundraising Committee exemplifies grassroots conservation at its finest, by allowing our meager staff to raise the funds we need to support our efforts to move from coal and tar sands to clean energy and transportation; to block destructive mining; and to protect Wisconsin's water, forests, and native wildlife,” said Werner. These and other National Sierra Club awards will be presented at a ceremony in San Francisco on Friday, Nov. 21.

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Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters from throughout Wisconsin working to promote clean energy and protect land and water resources.