



News of the
Southeast Gateway Group
of the Sierra Club
APRIL/MAY 2013
VOLUME 32, NO. 2

SOUTHEAST SIERRA



Tim Southwick Johnson

SEGG Annual Spring Dinner

The SEGG annual banquet will take place on Thursday, April 18 at Bombay Louie's, located at 2227 60th St. in Kenosha. The buffet dinner includes beef, chicken, and vegetarian pasta, as well as soup, salad bar, and non-alcoholic beverages. Tim Southwick Johnson will entertain us. He is an accomplished performer on acoustic guitar, mandolin, tenor guitar, ukulele and harmonica. His original songs run the gamut from fun story songs to romping fingerstyle instrumentals. Tim even brings the songwriting process to the stage composing "on the fly."

The cost is \$22, which includes tax and tip. The event will begin at 5:30pm for socializing with a cash bar available, and dinner will be at 6:00pm. Advance registration is required. Checks made out to SEGG will be accepted at the banquet. To make your reservation, or if you have questions about the event, contact JoAnn Hansen at 262-554-7030 or jhansen120@wi.rr.com.

The deadline to sign up is April 13, 2013.

Join us for a fun event with great food, company and song.

CELEBRATE THE SIERRA CLUB - JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Our 50th Anniversary is here! As a Sierra Club member or supporter, you can take pride in knowing that you have made so many of our amazing successes possible - protecting the Wolf River from metallic sulfide mining, passing the Great Lakes Compact, and reducing Wisconsin's dependence on coal and oil.

Join us on April 20, 2013 to celebrate the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery in Madison. Sierra Club's Executive Director Michael Brune will deliver the keynote speech at this special event, which also features Wisconsin's own conservation champion Spencer Black. Help us set the stage for another 50 years of conservation leadership by buying your tickets today for this once in a lifetime event! We look forward to seeing you in April! But if you can't join us, please consider making an online donation of \$50 in honor of our 50th Anniversary!

Please note Michael Brune's schedule is tentative at this time (prior to the evening event), but the following is the schedule as it stands currently for Mr. Brune's visit to Madison on Saturday, April 20.

11:00 AM: Michael Brune to speak at Isthmus Green Day, Monona Terrace, Madison.

12:30 – 2:30 PM: Exclusive luncheon at a private home in downtown Madison with Michael Brune and 50th Anniversary Sponsors at the \$250 level and above.

3:00 PM: Free hour and informal opportunity to tour spots on Bascom Hill on the UW Madison campus where John Muir frequented, from North Hall to Muir Knoll to the bust of Muir located in Birge Hall.

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Sierra Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, 330 North Orchard Street, Madison featuring Former State Representative Spencer Black and Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, who will deliver the evening's keynote speech. The event will also include the chance to highlight longtime Chapter leaders, each of our local groups, and our special activity sections. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be provided between 4 and 5 pm. Regular tickets are \$50 (student tickets cost only \$15) and should be purchased by April 10. This event is open to all; and tickets can also be purchased online at <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Calendar?id=167281&view=Detail>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

April 4th, Thursday 7:00p.m- Conservation Committee Meeting at Laura Feider's home at The Concord Apartments, 4305 Erie Street, Apt #530 (second floor), Racine, WI 53402. Email Laura at Lmflowerpower@hotmail.com.

April 13th, Saturday- Bike the Badger Trail with Al Sommer. See more information on pg 5.

April 13th, Saturday 7:00pm- Green Fire: Life and Philosophy of Aldo Leopold, DVD showing at Bradford UU Church, 5810 8th Avenue Kenosha, WI 53140. Contact Barry Thomas ahead of time, for more information at bthomas6@wi.rr.com.

April 18th, Thursday 5:30pm- SEGG Annual Spring Dinner. Social at 5:30pm and dinner at 6:00pm at Bombay Louie's in Kenosha. See more information on pg 1.

April 20th, Saturday- Sierra Club- John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery in Madison. See more information on pg 1.

April 20th, Saturday- Earth Day Event at Gateway Technical College. Visit the Racine, Kenosha and Elkhorn campuses of GTC for displays and workshops to learn more about caring for Mother Earth. SEGG volunteers will be there! Contact Laura Feider if you can volunteer with SEGG on April 20 at Lmflowerpower@hotmail.com.

April 24th, Wednesday- Board of Directors Elections, the deadline for casting your ballot is by noon, Eastern Time. So be sure you carry out your membership responsibilities and vote. See more information on pg 6.

April 27th, Saturday 9:00am to Noon- Work days in Colonial Park at West High Street, Racine and Bristol Woods at 9800 160th Avenue, Bristol, map available on the SEGG website. In Colonial Park we will be planting 25 bare root oak saplings; extra shovels are welcome.

April 30th, Tuesday 5:00pm- Come join the water monitor training at Horlick Dam Park, Rapids Drive, Racine. See more information on pg 6.

May

May 2nd, Thursday 7:00p.m- Conservation Committee Meeting at Laura Feider's home at The Concord Apartments, 4305 Erie Street, Apt #530 (second floor), Racine, WI 53402. Email Laura at Lmflowerpower@hotmail.com.

May 9th, Thursday 6:30pm- ExCom Meeting at UW Parkside, Tallent Hall Room 251. Meetings are open to all. If you have items for the agenda contact anyone on ExCom.

May 11th, Saturday 9:00a.m- Highway 38 Cleanup and Potluck Lunch. Meet in the parking lot of the little church at the corner of Four Mile Road and Highway 38 for equipment and assignments. Potluck lunch at Melissa & Jay Warner's house, 4444 North Green Bay Road afterwards. For volunteering or more information call John Berge at 262-633-8455 or E-mail him at jberge35@wi.rr.com.

May 16th, Thursday 6:30pm -Program Meeting is about challenges of a changing climate, at Tallent Hall, UW-Parkside, 900 Wood Road, Kenosha in Orchard Room. See more information on pg 5.

May 25th, Saturday 9:00 to noon. Work days in Colonial Park West at High Street, Racine and Bristol Woods at 9800 160th Avenue Bristol, map available on the SEGG website.

Community Calendar For April And May

Greener Yards, Cleaner Water Workshops, free for SEGG members- learn what YOU can do to improve water quality. Topics includes, rain gardens, rain barrels, composting, lawn care, native plant landscaping, storm water trees. For more information and registration go on rootpikewin.org.

April 4 5:30 7:30 Oak Creek Community Center.

April 13 10:00 to noon SC Johnson IMEC (CATI).

April 13 10:00 noon Kenosha Public Museum.

April 20, 10:00 noon Gateway Technical College Kenosha.

April 17th, Wednesday 5:30pm- 7:30pm- River Bend Nature Center Adult Lecture Series. SEGG members might also be interested to learn about..."Aquatic Invasive, Climate Change and Coastal Community Resiliency". Wisconsin Sea Grant is poised to help communities in managing storm water and protecting water quality in the face of the challenges of aquatic invaders and climate change.

May 23th, Thursday 5:30pm-7:30pm- Pike River Restoration Planning Group, Village Hall Mt Pleasant, 881 I Campus Drive.

Root River Restoration Planning Group Public Stakeholder Meetings.

May 29th, 10:00am-Noon- SC Johnson iMET Center, 2320 Renaissance Blvd, Sturtevant, WI update and Summary of Root River Plan, Special Topics:

-Teleost and Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Survey Results Fish and Bugs, Craig Helker, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

-2012 Study of Native Freshwater Mussels in the Root River, Jason Dare, Dare Ecological Consulting.

FROM THE CHAIR



SEGG 2013...and Beyond...

By Melissa Warner

What draws members to join Sierra Club? And why do they become active in our local group? Discussion on these questions launched our 2013 Planning Day. We decided that SEGG was the best way to be involved with global environmental issues, to work on local projects, and to enjoy the company of like-minded friends. Here's hoping that

even more of you will become active with SEGG this year.

Program is of paramount importance to SEGG members. It's how we educate our membership and the community. New ExCom member Wendi Schneider heads up the 2013 Program Committee, and with the team of Lynn Gransee, Donna Peterson and Jo Ann Hansen will coordinate our monthly program meetings. If you know of topics or speakers that we should hear, then Wendi wendiannette@yahoo.com is the one to contact. And many thanks to Nancy Hennessy and Jessica Merwin who have carried that responsibility for the last several years. Dana Huck is coordinating snacks for meetings, so members will stay and chat. Willing to bake cookies or bring a kringle? Contact dhuck1105@wi.rr.com. Our Book Group is another way to become knowledgeable on a topic. We gather for a potluck supper, and then discuss the book's ideas. If you have a book to suggest, or are willing to host a session, you are invited to contact MaryAnn Ortmayer maortmayer@gmail.com

Conservation Committee with Laura Feider, Chair, continues to have a strong influence in our community. We work on controlling invasive plants in Bristol Woods and Colonial Park and improving monarch habitat by planting appropriate flowering plants. We monitor water quality in the Pike and Root Rivers. (See your opportunity to join Water Sentinels in this issue). Another long-standing conservation project is the Adopt-A-Highway litter cleanup on Hwy 38 three times a year (see the SEGG calendar). If you'd like to help, contact John Berge jberge35@wi.rr.com. Conservation also follows food issues, including sustainable agriculture, GMOs and CAFOs. You are invited to join this committee! Lmflowerpower@hotmail.com

Outings and Field Trips. Al Sommer plans to do two bike rides this summer, so get your bike tuned and warm up those leg muscles! See Al's invitation to join him on the Badger Trail in April. Many thanks to Dana and Jeff who led outings in 2012.

Our Political liaison, Betsy Georg will keep us informed and

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

up-to-date on state issues with an environmental impact, such as the mining bill. The group has decided not to endorse candidates for municipal offices because we aren't able to be adequately informed on the multitude of local issues, and so it's difficult to make a fully informed evaluation.

We have a new emphasis on Communications.

Himani Gupta is doing such a great job with the newsletter! We invite members to write on topics of interest. Webmaster Rebecca Eisel keeps our website/calendar up to date, and is waiting (still!) for improved software to arrive from national.

Expect a new look on the website sometime this year. (I know, they said that last year). Meanwhile, LIKE our Facebook page! Rebecca keeps our posts brief and topical. And when you receive a post, please share it – that's how we spread the message about our programs and activities through the community. A new addition to our communications menu is a monthly E-News Update, a quick reminder of our programs and other events. If you would like to receive our E-News, let me know at melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net

Financial matters are critical if we are to carry out our Program and Conservation agendas. Jeff Sytsma continues to keep our income in balance with our outgo, and directs fund-raising activities, notably our sales of rain barrels and cranberries. We are indebted (no pun intended) to Jeff for his service to SEGG.

SEGG is the local face of the Sierra Club, the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental group. We bring national issues to the local level, and have fun doing it.

Please join us by filling out the membership form above or on SEGG website.

SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

YES! I want to be a member of the Sierra Club and help preserve the beauty of the Earth. **FREE GIFT**
WITH MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBER NAME(S): _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
TELEPHONE (OPTIONAL): _____
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Start now or later. We make our mailing list available to other like-minded organizations. If you are not interested, please check here.

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Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$78
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2000
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. They support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$2.00 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

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CONSERVATION CORNER

Idle No More!

By Laura Feider

A friend invited me to an Idle No More Round Dance Flash Mob event. I had never heard of Idle No More, so I did what most people would do and Googled it. According to their website (link at end of article), it's a movement begun by four indigenous women from Canada who shared a vision of bringing people together to create ways to protect "Mother Earth, her lands, waters and people." These women discussed legislation that affected the environment and indigenous people. They began with taking action on the Bill C-45, which attacked the land base that had been reserved for the Canada's indigenous people. These women worked to empower other communities to stand up to this bill, and in doing so created the movement now known as Idle No More.

Idle No More's mission, according to their website, "calls on all people to join in a revolution which honors and fulfills Indigenous sovereignty which protects the land and water. Colonization continues through attacks to Indigenous rights and damage to the land and water. We must repair these violations, live the spirit and intent of the treaty relationship, work towards justice in action, and protect Mother Earth. On December 10th, Indigenous people and allies stood in solidarity across Canada to assert Indigenous sovereignty and begin the work towards sustainable, renewable development. All people will be affected by the continued damage to the land and water and we welcome Indigenous and non-Indigenous allies to join in creating healthy sustainable communities. We encourage youth to become engaged in this movement as you are the leaders of our future. There have always been individuals and groups who have been working towards these goals- Idle No More seeks to create solidarity and further support these goals. We recognize that there may be backlash, and encourage people to stay strong and united in spirit."

I participated in the Racine Round Dance Flash Mob on February 17. The focus was on the mining bill and the effects



Round Dance Flash Mob event for Idle No More at Racine Regency Mall

a mine in the Penokee Range would have. We met in the parking lot of Target, where the man who had organized the meeting informed us of how things would be run. He told us that, as soon as mall security asked us to leave, we would immediately stop. He said if we could not comply with this important rule, we should not participate. We then made our way to the Regency Mall food court area, and we remained inconspicuous until we heard the drumming. When men began playing the Native American drum and chanting, we gathered around them and began to dance in a circle with our signs, flags, or just ourselves. There were passersby that inquired as to what we were doing, so it was a great opportunity for participants who were on the perimeter to explain what we were doing. We lasted only a few minutes before being asked to leave, and we all complied. It was a very rewarding experience and I plan to keep updated on their activities in the area. The people involved were very kind and I felt like I was part of something bigger. I left that event feeling like I had at least brought some more of the spotlight to the mining issue. I made a sign that said, The iron would leave Penokee, but the damage will not! You can find more information about the movement at their website-<http://idlenomore.ca/>

Jeff Sytsma wins spark plug award

At the January SEGG planning meeting, Jeff Sytsma, Group Treasurer was presented with the Spark Plug Award by LD Rockwell. This traveling trophy is emblematic of the recognition the Group gives to a member who has sparked greater activity and leadership in the programs of the Southeast Gateway Group. The awardee is chosen each year by the previous recipient and his or her name is added to the base.

"Your response to the call for returning to the duties of Treasurer (and) for all that you do with fundraising and the 'rain barrel project' we respect your accomplishments," said Rockwell in making the presentation. "Thank you for your many talents and accomplishments." Sytsma has for years also organized the cranberry sales in the autumn, including driving over to Austin or Madison to pick up the cranberries directly from the producer. With fewer dollars coming down from the Chapter and the Sierra Club dues, fund raising and careful budgeting by the Treasurer are most critical.



LD Rockwell presented Jeff Sytsma, Group Treasurer, the Spark Plug Award

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

By Lila Berge

Our Sierra Club Group (SEGG) is a great place to meet interesting married couples like Barb Meyocks and Dennis Flath who have served us over the years on the Executive Committee in various offices and committees. Meet Barb and Dennis, two now retired Kenosha science teachers!

Barb grew up on farms in Iowa and Wisconsin. Dennis lived in Escanaba, Michigan as a youngster. Barb says that her parents' loving care for all growing things in nature, taking her to gather watercress in clear flowing streams, and gathering wild berries in the edge of fields influenced her to study science. Dennis remembers working in the woods with his father as a major factor in his choice of career. Another major influence was his high school biology teacher, Mr. Franz, who had a great influence on his love for biology and enjoyment of the natural environment.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Barb taught general and environmental science, chemistry and physics at Bullen Junior and Tremper High schools in Kenosha for 26 of her 34 years as a teacher. There they met, fell in love and married. Barb received an award for a study project on the Pike River and she served on the Board of Hawthorne Hollow Nature Center. She is currently working on establishment of a memorial wayside park on the Des Plaines River, honoring long time SEGG activist Jean McGraw. Barb was inducted into the Southeast Wisconsin Educators Hall of Fame in 2004. She and Dennis were our SEGG Co-Chairs in 1992; Dennis served as Vice Chair in 2004. That year they presented a program at our regular meeting on January 20th about their travels in Africa. They also enjoyed visiting countries in Central America on another trip. Dennis retired from teaching environmental science and AP biology at Tremper High School, but has been an adjunct instructor at Carthage for the past nine years. He developed the lab manual currently used for the non-major biology students.

Barb and Dennis have helped SEGG with fund raising, served on group nomination, election and political committees. They are frequent participants in our environmental book discussion group and regular attendees at third Thursday general meetings.



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

Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Climate

The task of meeting the challenge of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to those impacts that are already unavoidable is daunting. The Congress is jammed up, international negotiations under the UNFCCC are pedaling hard but going nowhere, and changing that incandescent to an LED won't be enough. What to do in this time of impending climate emergency? How can we keep our blue-green planet a place we'd like our children to inherit? On May 16th, Program Meeting, Ross Astoria, Sierra Club member and the local group leader for Citizens Climate Lobby, will speak about the policy options available at both the state and federal level for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. He will also speak about his experience as a citizen lobbyist pushing for legislative action in the Congress.



Bike the Badger Trail

If you like to bike, join Al Sommer on an educational and recreational ride over part of the Badger Trail in Green County on Saturday, April 13. We may also do the Sugar River State Trail, also in Green County. We will meet for carpooling in Burlington at 10:00am, the location to be determined.

The Badger State Trail is mostly crushed limestone. It is an old railroad bed converted to a bike/hike/horse trail, which goes through some pretty country, several old RR tunnels and several small, rural Wisconsin towns. Pack a lunch or we can eat at a local restaurant.

Please contact Al Sommer for more details at 262-716-6955 or sommerallan4@gmail.com. Please use the phone on the day of the trip since he is not likely to pay much attention to e-mail that day.



Bloodroot

Water Sentinels

By Kari Olesen

Over the past few years, SEGG members have participated in monitoring our local rivers in efforts to help protect them. Members participated in monitoring the health of the Root and Pike Rivers at a few sites on both rivers. Participants monitor such things as dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, water clarity, macroinvertebrates, stream flow and habitat. I love stream monitoring because it is a great way to get out and enjoy the beauty of our local rivers and streams while helping to protect them. Knowing all the data is sent to the DNR and is used in decision making for restoration and other watershed/river projects makes the hours incredibly rewarding. If you're interested in becoming a water monitor for the 2013 season, please plan on attending training on Tuesday April 30th at 5pm at the Horlick Dam.

For more information contact Nancy Carlson at nacarlson@hotmail.com



Water Monitors Kari Olesen and Nancy Carlson

Voting for Board of Directors

By LD Rockwell

Southeast Gateway Sierra Club members: it is once again time for Board of Directors elections and it is very important that we vote. The Board has the responsibility and authority to oversee all the Club staff and volunteer activities, to establish the Club's conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adapt and implement our annual budget.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune says, "I hope you will take this opportunity to exercise one of the most important responsibilities of your membership and vote for the Sierra Club Board of Directors. It will take only a few moments of your time, but the impact to our organization, our mission and our planet will be far reaching."

Voting commences upon receipt of your ballot. Ballots are sent electronically and/or through the mail to qualified members when voting commences. The electronic vote requires two numbers that are registered to each member. So, it is not feasible to provide a link that will work for all individual members. It is however of great importance for all members to vote! So you are able to make an evaluation of the candidates, an online candidate forum has been developed to help members to get to know the candidates and make informed choices. If you have any questions about voting online, please contact Election Services Corp. by email at sierraclub@electionservicescorp.com or call toll-free 1-866-720-HELP (4357), 9:00 am- 5:00 pm, Eastern Time.

The deadline for casting your ballot is 12:00 noon, Eastern Time, Wednesday, April 24, 2013. So be sure you carry out your membership responsibilities and vote.



White Trillium

How to Get Facebook to Show You SEGG's Status Updates

By Rebecca Eisel

Are you on Facebook? If so, we hope you've already "Liked" us or will "Like" us at <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubSoutheastGatewayGroup>. You can also find us by putting "Sierra Club Southeast Gateway" in the search box.

Even if you have "Liked" us, you may not see many status updates from us. We are posting, but Facebook isn't letting you see it most of the time. They have an algorithm that decides what shows up in your news feed, and it limits posts from pages you've Liked.

There are three ways to fix this:

1. Put your cursor over the "Like" button near our name. In the drop-down menu select "New List" and create an interest list, or add us to an existing list. You'll find all of our posts in your interest list on the left side of your home page.
2. Put your cursor over the "Like" button near our name. In the drop-down menu select "Get Notifications". From now on, when we post, you will get a notification.
3. When you see something from us, or if you visit our page, "Like" what you see or comment on it. The more you interact with our page, the better the chance we will show up in your News Feed the next time. It also helps us to track which posts our Facebook fans are actually seeing. This method isn't as reliable and is best used with either the first or second method.

When you do see a post from us, please Share it! Sharing will help raise awareness about who we are and what we do, and hopefully encourage more people to connect with us.



SEGG Welcomes New Members	
Delavan	Elaine Jennison
East Troy	Jean Delimat
Kenosha	Lee Stauder, Blanche McCormick, Randy Merten, Jessa Forster, Joel Trentadue, Heidi Delposen
Lake Geneva	Sandra Deren
Mt Pleasant	Susan Petersen, Rhonda King
Pleasant Pr	Cathy Peterson, Michael Leitch
Racine	Carrie Tonkinson, Karen Wick, Russ Schwartz, Kim Bydalek, Douglas Mahnke, Karen Smith, Jennifer Wenzel, Angeline Adamow
Twin Lakes	Darlene Snyder, Arlene Czuma, Zena Blom
Waterford	Shannon Olson, Michaelene Cortesi
Williams Bay	Glenda Moeller
Wind Lake	Lawrence Slowinski, Dusty Thew

What do you think about the new look of the newsletter? Send your comments and suggestions to the newsletter editor at himanigupta@gmail.com

Explore, Enjoy And Protect The Planet

SEGG Leadership SEGG Executive Committee

- Melissa Warner (Chair).....melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net
 Kari Olesen (Vice Chair).....(262) 995-4455
 Laura Feider (Sec/Con).....Lmflowerpower@hotmail.com
 Wendi Schneider (Program).....wendiannette@yahoo.com
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The newsletter of the Southeast Gateway Group of the Sierra Club is published six times each year by the Group newsletter staff. Please send articles, photographs of group activities, letters, calendar items and/or corrections and comments to the newsletter editor Himani Gupta at:

himanigupta262@gmail.com

Check out the newsletter in color, calendar updates and much more at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>

**SIERRA CLUB - SOUTHEAST GATEWAY GROUP
STAY CURRENT WITH EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE/JULY 2013
ISSUE IS MAY 1ST 2013**

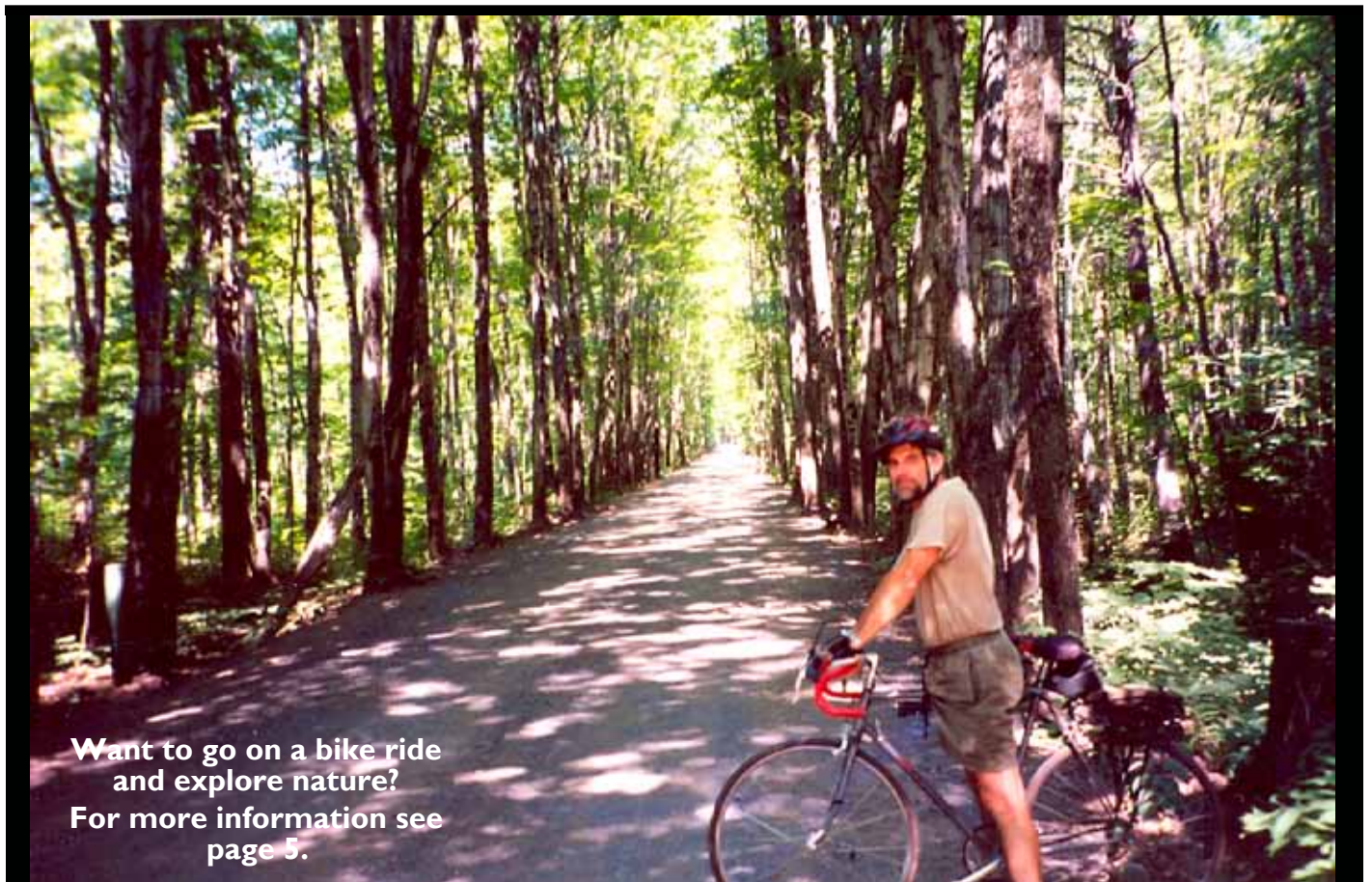
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**Want to go on a bike ride
and explore nature?
For more information see
page 5.**

Al Sommer enjoying the bike ride on a nature trail.