

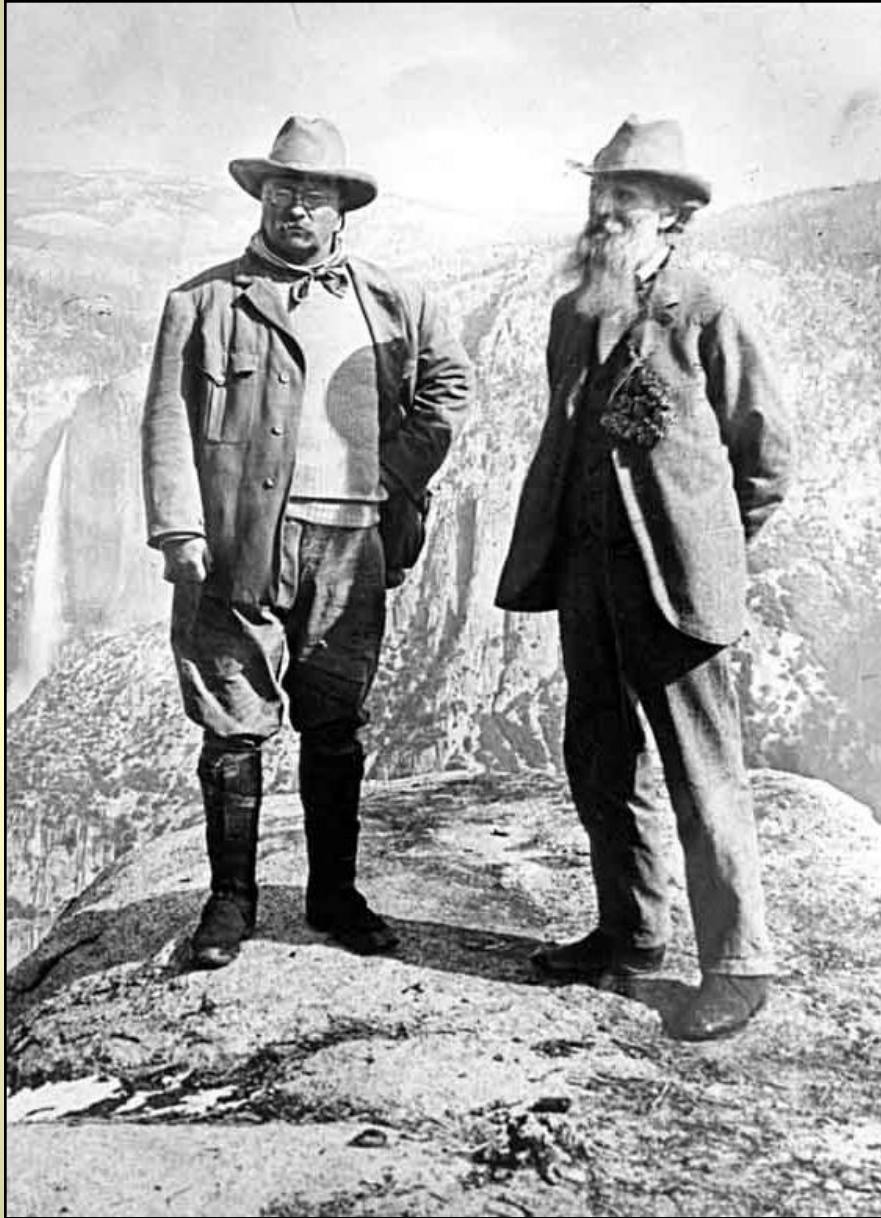
***Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter
2008 Annual Report***



***Protecting Wisconsin's Air, Water and Wild Places
for Future Generations***

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter is your statewide voice for the nation's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. Our members include 15,000 of your friends and neighbors located throughout Wisconsin, following the footsteps of legendary Wisconsin conservationists, including Sierra Club founder, John Muir, Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson and Gaylord Nelson. Inspired by Wisconsin's beautiful lakes, forests, rivers, and other natural features, we work together to protect our communities and the planet.



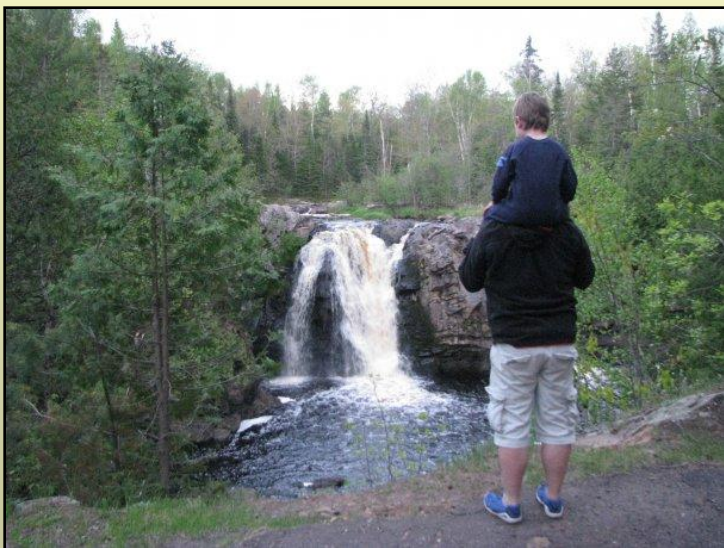
The Mission of the Sierra Club is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Priorities: Protecting Wisconsin's Air, Water & Wild Places

The two current priority issues of the John Muir Chapter are reducing global warming and protecting the Great Lakes and other water resources. Group and chapter leaders also work on a broad range of related environmental issues throughout Wisconsin, such as air quality, forestry and public lands, biodiversity and endangered species, environmental toxins, invasive species, smart growth, recycling and waste disposal, agricultural policies, and more. We are also active in local elections, since one of our best hopes for long term gains is building a strong legislative base to protect our environment.

Reducing Global Warming -

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter is working to make Wisconsin a nationwide leader in enacting policies to reduce global warming. We served on **Governor Doyle's Global Warming Task Force**, and we are working to implement policy recommendations, such as regulating greenhouse gases and expanding transportation options. We are also working with mayors in 19 "Cool Cities" in Wisconsin to implement action plans that will reduce greenhouse gases at the local level. We continue to work to move state-owned power plants away from burning coal, a major contributor to global warming and mercury pollution.

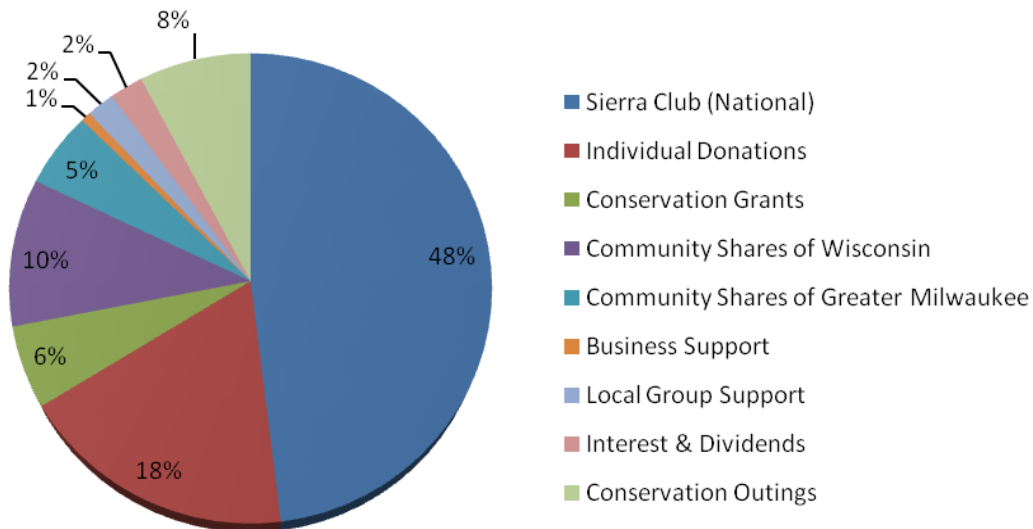


Protecting Wisconsin's Water Resources -

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter supports statewide water conservation policies for wise water use inside and outside of the Great Lakes basin. New regulations are needed to protect groundwater quantity and quality, to curb invasive species, and to protect drinking water and sensitive habitats from polluted agricultural, industrial and municipal runoff. We are also working to ensure that the Department of Natural Resources passes strong rules to implement the Great Lakes Compact.

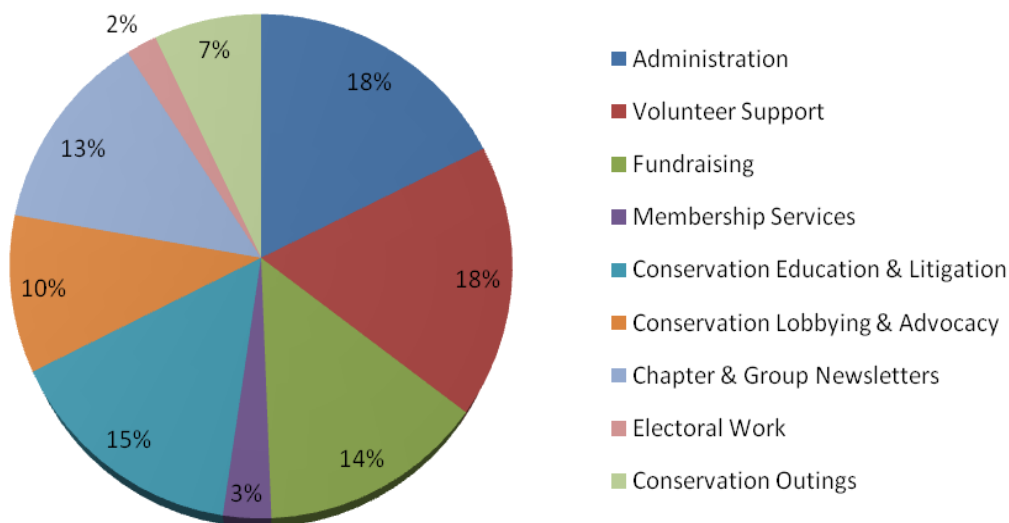
Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2008 Financial Picture

Sources of Support



Total Income: \$217,185.21

Uses of Support



Total Expenses: \$211,874.81

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2008 Activities & Accomplishments

The year 2008 included amazing accomplishments related to protecting Wisconsin's natural resources. With the support of our generous donors and Community Shares, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter worked with distinguished partners in the conservation community to achieve lasting, historic victories.

Successfully urging the Public Service Commission to unanimously deny Alliant Energy's application to construct a coal plant in Portage or Cassville, WI. This decision came after months of organizing efforts, including holding a rally at Alliant's shareholder meeting, encouraging people to submit comments to the PSC that were 10-to-1 against the coal plant, and working with our partners to send two busloads of people to testify at the Portage hearing. **This success came despite Alliant Energy's well-funded public relations campaign that included attempts to greenwash the project with dubious promises to use biomass energy.**



Celebrating the passage of the Great Lakes Compact. After galvanizing local groups around the state to urge state legislators to pass the Compact, submitting testimony to the state legislature, and working with a broad coalition of organizations and regional Sierra Club staff, Wisconsin passed legislation implementing the Great Lakes Compact on 05/15/08, and Governor Doyle signed it on 05/27/08. This historic legislation was adopted by legislatures of all eight states and signed into law by President Bush in October. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter will now push for strong versions of the administrative rules needed to implement the Compact.



Following up on the 2007 lawsuit requiring WI state-owned coal plants to comply with the Clean Air Act. After hundreds of Four Lakes Group members turned out at three public hearings, Governor Doyle announced that the two state-owned coal plants that supply energy in Madison will NOT be a part of our future. They will be replaced with plants powered by biomass or other renewable fuels. The state must now complete feasibility studies in remaining communities where their plants are located to see how they can best meet future energy needs.



Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter 2008 Activities & Accomplishments

Welcoming Fitchburg as Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's nineteenth Cool City with the mayor's signature on the Climate Protection Agreement in September. Fitchburg is already working to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions with the passage of an anti-idling ordinance and the use of renewable solar and wind energy for public buildings and parks.



Encouraging building code officials to pass a measure at the International Codes Council meeting to improve energy efficiency standards for new homes by over 15%. We met with mayors of Cool Cities throughout Wisconsin to encourage them to support a more energy-efficient model code. We also held a Green Rooftop Reception to raise awareness about the need for more efficient buildings and codes in August atop an energy-saving rooftop covered with native plants at the Park East Condominiums in Madison. Next, we will work to adopt this better code statewide.

Working with the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter PAC to elect pro-conservation candidates who will benefit Wisconsin's environment for years to come. For the first time in 14 years, we attained a pro-conservation majority in the state assembly, and over fifty Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won their elections statewide. We are especially proud of former John Muir Chapter Chair, Penny Bernard Schaber, who ran an outstanding campaign and was elected to the state assembly from the Appleton area. The historic election of Barack Obama is a testament to voters' choice of a campaign based on hope rather than fear.



Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter

2008 Local Group Activities

The John Muir Chapter is organized into eight local volunteer groups, each with its own officers, activities, and local conservation priorities. We work together on statewide and regional issues, and each group appoints a delegate who is a voting member of the Chapter's Executive Committee. Groups tackle local conservation issues, host environmental educational programs, and lead a wide variety of local canoeing, bicycling, hiking, skiing, and kayaking outings. Read on to learn about Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's local group activities in 2008.

The Chippewa Valley Sierra Club Group serves the west central region of Wisconsin, including Eau Claire. In 2008, CVG awarded environmental education grants to Colfax High School, Bruce Middle School, North Star Middle School, and Ladysmith High School. Funds for these grants were generated through their annual Century Bike Ride, held on May 18, 2008. CVG hosted public educational programs on topics including geologic records of global climate change, energy conservation and alternate systems, canoeing Canada, and increasing bicycle/pedestrian access in Eau Claire in 2008. For more information on the Chippewa Valley Group, visit them online at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/index.htm>

The Coulee Region Sierra Club Group, serves southwestern Wisconsin and the La Crosse area. The CRG is a member of Coulee Partners for Sustainability, which started a Natural Step study circle in 2008. They are also involved with a Clean Energy Coalition that hosts periodic events on energy-related topics. They are also the first Wisconsin Sierra Club entity to participate in the Water Sentinel Program, and they have a water monitoring program that includes six volunteers who have been trained under the UW-Extension WAV (Water Action Volunteers) Program. The CRG hosted a light bulb walk in May 2008 on which they distributed compact fluorescent light bulbs and reusable grocery bags to local residents. In 2008, CRG also hosted public educational programs highlighting wilderness writers, native birds, invasive forest insects, edible plants, and protecting Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For more information on the Coulee Region Group, visit them online at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/index.htm>

The Four Lakes Sierra Club Group serves Madison and areas in central and southwestern Wisconsin. Their two primary campaign focuses in 2008 were "Moving Beyond Coal" and "Recycling Away from Home." Scores of volunteers turned out for public hearings to discuss the feasibility study of Madison's coal plants brought about by the Charter Street lawsuit to bring the coal plant into compliance with the Clean Air Act. Dozens also participated in activities to defeat Alliant Energy's new proposed coal plant. FLG efforts included participating in a rally at the shareholder meeting at the Alliant Energy Center, attending public hearings in Cassville and Portage, Wisconsin, and distributing NO MORE COAL signs to Madison-area residents. In 2008, the FLG also hosted the Autumn Assembly at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells. The Autumn Assembly was an inspirational weekend event that featured tours of the Aldo Leopold Nature Center and Shack and the International Crane Foundation, a keynote speech by author Eric Hansen, and workshops with a variety of presenters including Mike McCabe of the WI Democracy Campaign and UW Madison limnology professor John Magnuson. For more information on the Four Lakes Group, visit them online at: <http://www.4lakes.org/>

The Fox Valley Group serves Appleton, Green Bay, Neenah-Menasha and other nearby communities. In 2008 the FVG held two work days to clear invasive plants from the Ice Age Trail. They also held an Earth Day activity which involved making a creative display in parking spots in Green Bay to illustrate the need to decrease our dependence on automobiles. The FVG led several outings in 2008, including a snowshoe walk at Mosquito Hill, skiing near Ironwood Michigan and the Brown County reforestation camp, bicycling in Door County, canoeing the Fox River, and hikes at the Ice Age Trail near Waupun and the Thousand Island Nature Preserve. The FVG hosted monthly educational programs in 2008 that focused on the problem of illegal open burning, a sustainable Fox Valley, wild edible plants, green household cleaning products, and bats. Fundraising efforts of the FVG included a silent auction at the Bubolz Nature Preserve in May that raised over \$2000 to support the group's conservation work. For more information on the Fox Valley Group, visit them online at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>

The Great Waters Group serves the greater Milwaukee area. In 2008, the GWG's activities focused on passing the Great Lakes Compact, promoting clean energy and Cool Cities, the Blue Green Alliance, and group outings. Volunteers worked together to provide educational presentations on clean energy to the community and worked with the city of Wauwatosa to advance local action on global warming through the Cool Cities campaign. GWG volunteers played a key role in passing the historic Great Lakes Compact and in developing the Milwaukee 7 Water Council, which is a group of scientists and businesses working to make Milwaukee the freshwater hub of the nation. The GWG also conducted an outings leader training and continued their activities to engage young people in outdoor activities through distributing their *Kid's Guide to the Outdoors* and working with the A+ Community Youth Program. For more information on the Great Waters Group, visit them online at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/>

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Group Activities (Continued)

The Southeast Gateway Group serves members in the Racine and Kenosha areas. Battling invasive, alien plant species; reducing global warming; Great Lakes protection; and expanding the collection of household hazardous waste (HHW) were the four areas that the SEGG Conservation Committee selected as priorities for 2008. To this end, they held invasive plant species removal events at Colonial Park and the Pringle Nature Center, and they participated in a nationwide program with the Colorado-based National Institute of Invasive Species Science (NISS) to monitor invasive plants at these two locations. Several SEGG Conservation Committee members also participated in a WDNR listening session on NR 40 in Milwaukee, that would update Wisconsin's policies related to the identification and control of invasive species. Several members spoke in favor of passing a strong Great Lakes Compact at a hearing held in Kenosha. In addition to monthly programs on bees, rain gardens, and other subjects, the SEGG hosted a book club in 2008 which included discussions of influential conservation works including "Animal, Vegetable, Miracle" by Barbara Kingsolver and "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. For more information on the Southeast Gateway Group, visit them online at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>

The St. Croix Valley Interstate Group serves members on both sides of the St. Croix River, which is the boundary between northwestern Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. The SCVIG continued their campaign to preserve the integrity of the St. Croix River, a National Scenic Riverway, in 2008. One of the biggest threats to the St. Croix River is the proposed river way crossing, a huge bridge planned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation to replace a two-lane lift bridge in Stillwater, MN. The SCVIG works with the North Star Chapter of Sierra Club on the bridge issue, which has litigation pending in the courts. Other conservation issues the SCVIG worked on in 2008 included preventing the improper siting of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and environmentally hazardous mining. Every year the SCVIG has spring and fall roadside clean-ups along a stretch of MN HWY 95. They also do an annual river way clean up along the St. Croix, partnering with the MN-based St. Croix River Association. In 2008, the SCVIG put on three special events for Endangered Species Day and presented an Earth Day program at the Hudson Middle School. For more information on the St. Croix Valley Interstate Group, visit them online at: <http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix/>

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Special Activity Sections

The River Touring Section (RTS) is a special activity group of the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter. The mission of the RTS is to coordinate paddling trips, mostly in Wisconsin, promote on-the-water safety, and improve paddling skills, to support river conservation organizations, and to facilitate communication among members of RTS. Meg Nelson is the current chair of our River Touring Section. In 2008 the River Touring Section held instructional paddling clinics that included information on wilderness first aid, whitewater canoeing, flat-water canoeing, and river safety and canoe rescue techniques. They also held over two dozen paddling trips between March and October 2008 that brought people out to enjoy rivers, creeks, and other water bodies throughout Wisconsin. Some of the places they traveled in 2008 included the Wisconsin, Kickapoo, Wolf, Red, Upper Peshtigo, and Flambeau Rivers as well as Sylvania Wilderness area in the Upper Peninsula and Ohiopyle State Park in Pennsylvania.

Madison Inner City Outings is part of the national Inner City Outings (ICO), an outreach program of the Sierra Club. ICO offers hiking and camping trips, boating and skiing outings, and other outdoor adventures to underprivileged youth in the Madison area. Ann Catlett is the Chair of the Madison ICO group. Madison ICO works with several partnering agencies Centro Hispano of Dane County, the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Bridge Lake Point Waunona Neighborhood Center, and the Dane County Shelter Home to accomplish their mission. In 2008, the ICO had over a dozen outings that served over 100 youth, including campfires at Picnic Point, and hiking, canoeing, and snowshoeing trips. The ICO had a very special backpacking trip in the Kettle Moraine in summer 2008 with 6 kids from the Vera Court Neighborhood Center. The ICO has several trained volunteer trip leaders and they hold monthly meetings to plan their upcoming outings and outreach efforts. The ICO has recently developed a partnership with the Goodman Community Center. They have dreams of developing a core group of teens who will, over time, develop into leaders on outings with younger kids who participate in Goodman's programs!

The Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) is a broad network of high school and college-aged youth from across the country working to protect the environment. The SSC is the youth-led chapter of the Sierra Club. In 2008 Wisconsin had active SSC branches at UW Madison and UW Parkside. The UW Madison Coalition forged a partnership with MG&E and encouraged students to sign up for the Green Power program. They created organic t-shirts as part of this campaign. UW Madison SSC chair Emily Fricke also worked with regional Sierra Club staff person Jennifer Feyerherm to push Governor Doyle to increase Wisconsin's investments in clean, renewable energy. The SSC at UW Parkside received a grant for their efforts to install green rooftops and solar panels on campus. Cody Young came on board as a regional SSC staff person in 2008. His efforts last year focused on promoting clean energy and green jobs.

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter Staff and Chapter Leaders

2008 Executive Committee

Officers and Members

James Steffens, Chair, Ridgeway, WI, jjsteff@mhtc.net
Jennifer Persha, Vice Chair, Madison, WI, jennypersha@gmail.com
Eric Uram, Conservation Chair, Madison, WI, eric.uram@headwater.us
Dana Huck, Secretary, Racine, WI, dhuck1@wi.rr.com
Harriet Iwamoto, Treasurer, Brookfield, WI, hsiwamoto@hotmail.com

Cheri Briscoe, Milwaukee, WI, cherib@wi.rr.com
Don Ferber, Madison, WI, d_ferber@sbcglobal.net
Rick Komperud, Holmen, WI, energy1@charter.net
Diana Lynn, Neillsville, WI, dlynn@tds.net
Peter Muto, River Falls, WI, pmuto79@aol.com
Will Stahl, Neenah, WI, wrsy55@sbcglobal.net
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Barbara Thomas, Menomonie, WI, thomash@uwstout.edu
Melissa Warner, Racine, WI, melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net
Richard Wentzel, Edgar, WI, rwent52@yahoo.com
Gary Werner, Madison, WI, nattrails@aol.com

2008 Executive Committee Meetings:

January 19, 2008, First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo
March 8, 2008, First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo
June 14, 2008, Conference Call
September 2, 2008, Conference Call
November 8, 2008, First United Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo
December 9, 2008, Conference Call



Sierra Club- John Muir Chapter Staff:

Shahla M. Werner, PhD, Chapter Director, shahla.werner@sierraclub.org
Patrea Wilson, Chapter Coordinator, patrea@execpc.com

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Philip Barnett by Elaine Magidson Barnett ♦ Wai Cheng by Anonymous ♦ Florence Crawford by Lauren C. Zarder ♦ Brian Parrot by Anonymous
A workplace donation in honor of Mike Rugotska was made by Kathie Burman of Telephone & Data Systems

Thank you for commemorating the Sierra Club with your gifts!

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