

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

wisconsin.sierraclub.org

BUDGET BILLS TAKE WISCONSIN BACKWARD

FROM TRANSIT TO RECYCLING TO CLEAN WATER AND ENERGY

by Shahla Werner & Dave Blouin

After weeks of historic protests that included hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites concerned about everything from education to medical services to the environment to labor rights, 18 State Senators and Governor Walker passed a “budget repair” bill to strip Wisconsin workers of their rights to bargain for family-supporting wages and benefits on March 9. This action came just over a week after Governor Walker introduced a state budget with drastic cuts to education and a wide range of attacks on the environment, from recycling to transit to renewable energy. The Sierra Club has grave concerns about both of these actions.

“BUDGET REPAIR”

The loss of collective bargaining rights for public employees- in place for the past five decades- risks Wisconsin’s ability to attract

and retain the most talented public employees charged with protecting our air and water, managing public lands, and protecting threatened and endangered species. Collective bargaining is also required for Wisconsin communities with unionized transit systems to qualify for millions in federal transit funding. For some cities, including Oshkosh, this could mean a complete loss of bus service. Losing collective bargaining could also put the state in jeopardy of losing valuable forest stewardship council certification for sustainably-harvested forest products.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune released this statement the day after the Senate vote to approve “budget repair”: “The Sierra Club is deeply disappointed in the Wisconsin state legislature’s shameful disregard for the struggle of working families. Perhaps



even more shameful is their willingness to trade the rights of Wisconsin workers for the favor of corporate polluters like Koch Industries. Instead of fighting over the scraps that corporations and their friends in political office would leave us, we must move America beyond reliance on dirty, dangerous coal and oil, and create millions of good clean energy jobs in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. The Sierra Club joins with our brothers and sisters in Wisconsin today and we will continue to fight for a more equitable, healthy and clean future for America.”

Continued on Page 3

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPENCER BLACK!


Longtime friend of the Sierra Club, retired State Representative Spencer Black has been appointed to the Sierra Club National Political Team. The Team is the national political committee charged with determining the Sierra Club’s federal election activities. Spencer replaces Linda Sullivan from Illinois who served for 4 years. Linda was preceded by our own Jonathan Ela who served 8 years on the Committee.



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FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair
John Muir Chapter

On February 17th, my husband and I stood in a small hall in the town of Jackson, Wyoming watching thousands of Wisconsinites pack the Capitol rotunda. We watched the single tv suspended in the corner of the room and were riveted by the signs, the people and the sheer numbers. We knew that Wisconsin was entering uncharted waters.

When I arrived home, I found that the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter had begun to act. I am proud of the relationships with workers, unions and other allies that the Sierra Club has built over the years. Now it's time to stand up with them. Many Club members have been to the Capitol to stand in solidarity with the working people of Wisconsin. Whether as a personal action or a response to one of several appeals for support – the BlueGreen Alliance, the John Muir Chapter or our statewide transportation alliance, you have showed up.

The Sierra Club founded the BlueGreen Alliance with the vision of sustainable jobs and livable wages. Every day, we work with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement to build a stronger, more equi-

table America. We work together to protect the health of our communities, to create clean energy jobs, and to advance policies that benefit working families and leave a better future for our children. Even though we sometimes disagree, we share these common values.

However, the Chapter's objection to these budget bills goes far beyond the elimination of collective bargaining and workers rights. The Governor has started to sell off and give away assets that belong to you and I in this rush for short term gain. But we don't need to sacrifice our heritage. We know that the environmental and economic interests do not have to be in conflict. Sustainable practices can produce communities with strong economies that will last into the future.

As a reminder of the important role the Sierra Club plays in this effort, I arrived home to find an action alert to protect the Wyoming Range from oil and gas drilling. This unique and irreplaceable landscape, where I had just been, contains prime moose, deer and elk habitat, blue-ribbon fisheries and unlimited recreational opportunities. I said "no" to short term gain in exchange for protecting our wild lands and heritage.

There will be many opportunities to stand up over the coming months at the local, state and national level. Communication remains vital to being informed and responding to the multitude of actions and

events challenging us. Stay engaged and stay active - we are all in this together. ♻️

Liz Wessel is the chair of the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter. She can be reached at lizard59sc@yahoo.com.



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter, you support Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. This makes you an essential part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. **Thank you.**

Mail your contributions to Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 1
Madison, WI 53703-3201

To donate electronically go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>
and click the "Donate" button.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE MUIR VIEW

222 S. Hamilton, Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703

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Please submit articles typed, on disk, or email to:
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Please include the author's first and last names, and day and evening phone numbers at the top. Acceptance of submission contingent upon availability of space and must meet Sierra Club guidelines.

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Change of Address:

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DEADLINE FOR JULY-SEPTEMBER 2011 ISSUE IS MAY 15, 2011

BUDGET BILLS

Continued from Page 1

The Sierra Club recently voted to oppose the recall of Senators who courageously fought to uphold democracy by allowing citizens and local governments to examine and speak out against this egregious bill. These Senators have demonstrated records in support of workers' rights and environmental issues and we must defend them. We applaud their actions and we will work to defend anyone who risks personal and political comfort to stand up for their local constituents and natural resources. Similarly, we thank Senator Schultz and Representatives Kaufert, Nerison, Spanbauer and Trel, for breaking ranks to oppose this bad bill.

The Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter also voted to support the recall of eight of the State Senators who supported the amended version of the budget repair bill. Their failure to respond to or carefully consider the concerns of thousands of their own constituents is extreme. In addition, voting on the stripped down "non-fiscal" version of the bill without adequate public notice in apparent violation of Wisconsin's open records law must not go unchallenged.

The Sierra Club is mobilizing our members to recall the senators who voted for the amended budget repair bill to vote in upcoming elections. We stand in solidarity with working families who have flooded our

State Capitol and public squares throughout our state to defend their rights as union members, workers and citizens – and we will continue to fight for those rights for workers to bargain collectively for better lives for themselves and their families.

PROPOSED STATE BUDGET

The proposed state budget is a wholesale attack on the environment and contains many troubling provisions that we are fighting. Here is a list of some of the most troubling provisions.

TRANSIT: Governor Walker proposed moving public transit out of the transportation fund and into the general fund, where it will compete with other basic services also slated for drastic cuts. By increasing road spending by 15%, he is chaining us to a future in which



our state's growing population is stuck with automobiles as their only travel option. The proposed budget amounts to a triple threat for transit, when added to the bill to strip local control from communities who need to raise transit funds (by eliminating regional transit authorities) and the loss of \$47 million in federal transit aid that will result when collective bargaining provisions in the adjustment bill are enacted. It will leave Wisconsin vulnerable to gas price hikes that are all but certain to happen, with costs already approaching \$3.50 per gallon. Transit cuts proposed in the budget will also lower mobility for disabled and elderly individuals, increase traffic and air pollution, and isolate people from the places they work, shop and recreate.

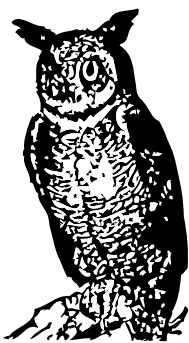
RECYCLING: The Sierra Club is dismayed at the proposal to repeal Wisconsin's successful recycling law, which has been in place for over two decades, and the elimination of recycling funds for local communities. Former Rep. Spencer Black championed this forward-thinking policy that reduced landfill disposal costs for communities, created jobs and markets for recycling and recycled products, and reduced groundwater pollution from toxins that leach from landfills.

RENEWABLES: The budget eliminates the Office of Energy Independence, and renewable energy grants and loans. Destroying clean energy jobs is no way to balance Wisconsin's budget.

WATER PROTECTION: The budget proposes to roll back rules to control non-point runoff pollution. Failing to address phosphorus pollution that leads to lakes covered with green algae during the height of Wisconsin summers will lead to lost fishing revenues, lake closures and declining lakefront property values.

On March 14, the Sierra Club held rallies in Oshkosh, Menomonie, Neenah, Sheboygan, Shorewood, Racine to speak out about items in the budget and the budget repair bill that threaten our environment, worker's rights, and Wisconsin's future. Hundreds attended these events and spoke out about how these policies affect their lives and local communities. Many went on to volunteer in support of recalls. Special thanks to all who attended, our speakers, and to Alan Lawrence, Caryn Treiber, and Melissa Warner for coordinating events in their local areas.

If the first part of the session is any indication, we will need to keep moving full speed ahead to quickly address conservation issues that come up. Go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org> and visit the Wisconsin Sierra Club Facebook page to find out what the John Muir Chapter is doing to defend environmental programs from budget cuts, and to find out how you can help return democracy to our legislature. You can also call the office any time for updates on conservation issues you care about. Thanks for all your actions to protect Wisconsin's natural resources from the onslaught of attacks we currently face! 🍀



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PLAN TO ATTEND THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S 2011 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY



FRIDAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 - 9, 2011

Wondering what to do during the second weekend of October? Why not join other Wisconsin Sierra Club members and friends at the **2011 Autumn Assembly!** This annual, statewide event, which is open to the public, will be held on **October 7-9, 2011 at Camp Helen Brachman**, located 15 miles west of Waupaca, Wisconsin. It is south of Highway 54 on County Highway A north of the town of Blaine, Wisconsin. The Fox Valley Group is hosting this year's event.

Camp Helen Brachman is located on Pickerel Lake, a small seepage lake that is surrounded by a sand beach and wooded bluffs. The website for Camp Helen Brachman is <http://www.campbrachman.org>. The Autumn Assembly features inspiring speakers and hands-on nature activities for kids of all ages! It is your chance to relax as you are informed and inspired by Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin. Saturday also features awards for our most outstanding activists and a silent auction with unique,

eco-friendly items and art work donated by generous local businesses that supports our conservation work.

The theme of this year's Autumn Assembly is "We are all one Club: working together for conservation from local groups to the statewide John Muir Chapter to our national organization." A complete schedule of programs, workshops, speakers, driving directions, and lodging information will appear in the July-September issue of the Muir View.

Updated information about the 2011 John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly can also be found on the Fox Valley Sierra Group's website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/> and the Chapter's Autumn Assembly page: <http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>

We hope to see you there. ☺

SUPPORT THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

by Shahla M. Werner, Chapter Director

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 John Muir Chapter. This year, it's more important than ever to join the John Muir Chapter in protecting Wisconsin's air, water and wild places, as well as the health of our citizens, by responding to this request.

Because we don't accept government or major corporate funding, your individual contributions make all the difference to maintaining the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's effective, grassroots advocacy campaigns.

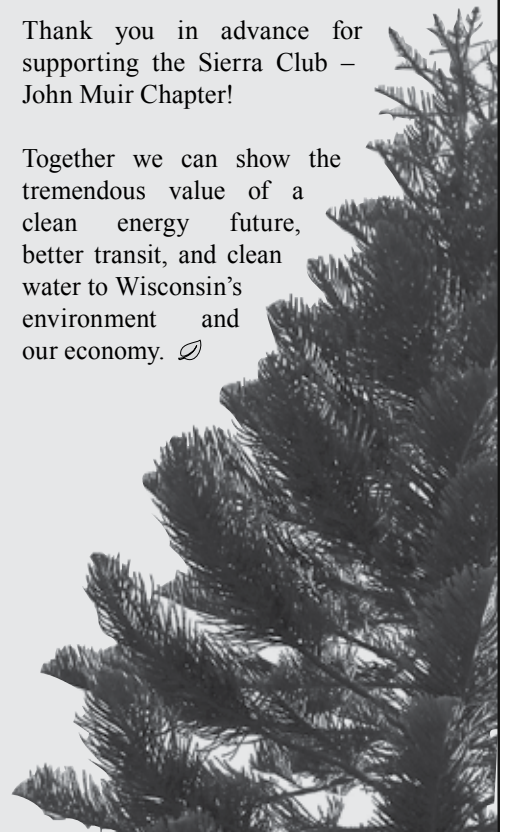
Your donation to the Chapter supports the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. Your support right now is critical as we work in the State Capitol to defend

against rollbacks on renewable energy, energy efficiency, nuclear energy safeguards, transit and wetlands protections. We are also working for vital protections for workers and our economy. 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, or a monthly, quarterly or annually recurring gift, online by clicking 'donate' at wisconsin.sierraclub.org. Your sustaining support 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 at **222 South Hamilton St, Madison, WI, 53703**.

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

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





SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES
JOANNE
KLOPPENBURG
FOR SUPREME COURT

For several years, the Sierra Club has supported legislation to provide full public financing of Supreme Court races. We celebrated the passage of this law last session, and despite court challenges, we will see the new law in action during the upcoming April 5 election that will feature Assistant Attorney General Joanne Kloppenburg against incumbent Supreme Court Justice David Prosser. The law, which will provide \$300,000 in public financing for each candidate, is intended to avoid costly, polarized court races that have plagued our state in the past. We commend both candidates for opting into the public financing for this race, even though significant spending by outside groups can still occur. Kloppenburg recently voiced her support for the new law to the media, stating “I think that the big money special interests and excesses of the recent campaigns have undermined the independence and impartiality of the court,” she said.

Assistant Attorney General Kloppenburg has been a litigator and prosecutor at the Wisconsin Department of Justice since 1989, serving under Attorneys General from both parties: Don Hanaway, Jim Doyle, Peg Lautenschlager and JB Van Hollen. Her legal experience includes constitutional law, appellate law, civil litigation, environmental prosecution and administrative law. Judge Prosser formerly served as a Republican district attorney, congressional aide and member of the state Assembly.

There is a lot at stake in this statewide election. The winner of the Supreme Court election will serve a 10-year term. With the executive and legislative branch, and even agencies like the DNR and DATCP poised to weaken environmental regulations on Wisconsin’s air, water, and habitats, the court is the last opportunity to provide a check and balance to protect natural resources. David Prosser’s campaign says he is a “conserva-

tive justice” who will be a “complement” to the work of the Republican Legislature and governor. Conservative-leaning judges currently hold a one vote majority in the body, so a neutral or progressive voice who will consider the interests of workers and our environment would make a huge difference. We need someone with the experience and dedication needed to make key decisions to protect the public interest and Wisconsin’s future. Given Kloppenburg’s qualifications and experience and the urgent need to restore balance to our state, the Sierra Club recommends that our members cast their vote for her on April 5.

You can make a difference for Wisconsin’s future with your vote. Our democracy will not thrive when only 10% turn out, which was the approximate percentage of eligible voters who participated in the February 15 primary. In addition to the Supreme Court race, critical local elections for County Executives, mayors and other races await your educated decision. Polls are open from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM and you may register at the polls on election day. Please find out where to vote at <https://vpa.wi.gov/> and remember to vote Tuesday, April 5. 🍃

PLEASE SUPPORT THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER DURING THIS YEAR’S MARCH APPEAL



Help the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club in protecting Wisconsin’s air, water, and wild places. Each year, the Fundraising Committee sends out letters to our donors, members, and partners in hopes of raising money to support the chapter’s work. Please look over your letter, which describes our recent accomplishments and plans for 2011, and consider donating to support the John Muir Chapter.

These contributions really do make a difference to the Sierra Club. They are a key part of our Chapter’s budget, and they are becoming even more important as support from National Sierra Club is decreasing. 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





COMING TO YOU SOON: **THE SIERRA CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT**

As a Sierra Club member, you will soon be mailed a ballot for the annual Sierra Club Board of Directors 2011 election. It is extremely important that you vote in this election. The reasons are two-fold, and both are important:

- Unlike some organizations, the Sierra Club Board of Directors is a working board. Yes, the members represent the Club and take part in fundraising. More importantly, however, members of the Board take on important duties for the Club, such as acting as co-lead of the Conservation leadership, acting as head of the finance committee, and serving on committees that directly address the needs of the volunteers. Thus it is critical that we elect individuals who are knowledgeable about the workings of the Club, both at the national and local levels. The Board will be making critical decisions about the Club's conservation priorities, hiring national staff, and funding decisions affecting us all. It is up to us, the members, to choose those whom we believe are most qualified to provide leadership for the largest grass-roots environmental organization in the country.
- Equally important is that enough of our members vote so that we have a valid election. What does this mean? Our Club by-laws state that an election is valid only if a certain percentage of the entire membership votes. We have achieved this in the past, but in some years only barely. If the Club as a whole does

not vote in sufficient numbers, the election must be repeated. Holding one election is not cheap. Holding two Board elections in one year means we are spending dollars that would otherwise go for program activities. Please assume that voting in the Board of Directors election is a critical responsibility of you as a member.

There are several means by which you can evaluate the Board candidates. Brief descriptions of each candidate are given in the mailing you will receive. In addition, there is an online candidates' questionnaire, in which the candidates provide answers to a set of questions. This questionnaire may be found at the following website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/candidateforum>.

Please take the time to look at this information in evaluating the candidates whom you vote for.

When the ballot arrives, please write on the envelope in prominent letters the date by which votes are due. You have the option of mailing your ballot or voting online according to the protocol described in the ballot. Only one vote by each member of your household is valid.

Thank you for taking the time to vote. 🌿



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.



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ALL ABOUT MADISON ICO (INNER CITY OUTINGS)

Madison Inner City Outings (ICO) is dedicated to providing positive experiences in the great outdoors to those who otherwise would not have the opportunity. We serve people of many diverse cultural backgrounds. Our goal is to help everyone appreciate natural places and develop a desire to protect them. Madison ICO trips are provided at little or low cost to our participants. We furnish the leadership, volunteers, experience, funding, and equipment to conduct safe outings. We lead dayhikes, car camping trips, winter excursions, and overnight backpacking adventures.

We are a 100% volunteer organization. Volunteer leaders are trained and certified in recreational, outdoor, first aid, and safety skills, as well as environmental education. We have over 20 volunteers who do many things to make our organization a success; they lead trips, assist on outings, welcome new volunteers, update our website, maintain our equipment sites, replenish our first aid kits, and keep track of our funds.

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer check out our website at www.madisonico.org.

WHAT HAS MADISON INNER CITY OUTINGS BEEN UP TO?

Since the New Year Madison ICO has gone cross-country skiing, ice skating, and snowshoeing. We also took fifty Goodman Center elementary-aged kids to Eagle Watching Days in Prairie du Sac, where the kids were able to observe eagles and learn about their habitat. Recently, we worked with Vera Court and the Ice Age Trail Association for some trail work, brush clearing, and a bonfire.

We are in the process of planning our spring outings and only have one on the calendar at the time of writing this publication: Saturday, April 2, Kennedy Heights will be touring Cave of the Mounds. ☺

Please contact us at icomadison@gmail.com to learn about our spring outings.



THE BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE

PROMOTING GOOD JOBS AND A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT *by Jenny Peek*

Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter members Nancy Carlson, Don Ferber, and Rosemary Wehnes joined nearly 3,000 people at this year's Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference in Washington D.C. this February.

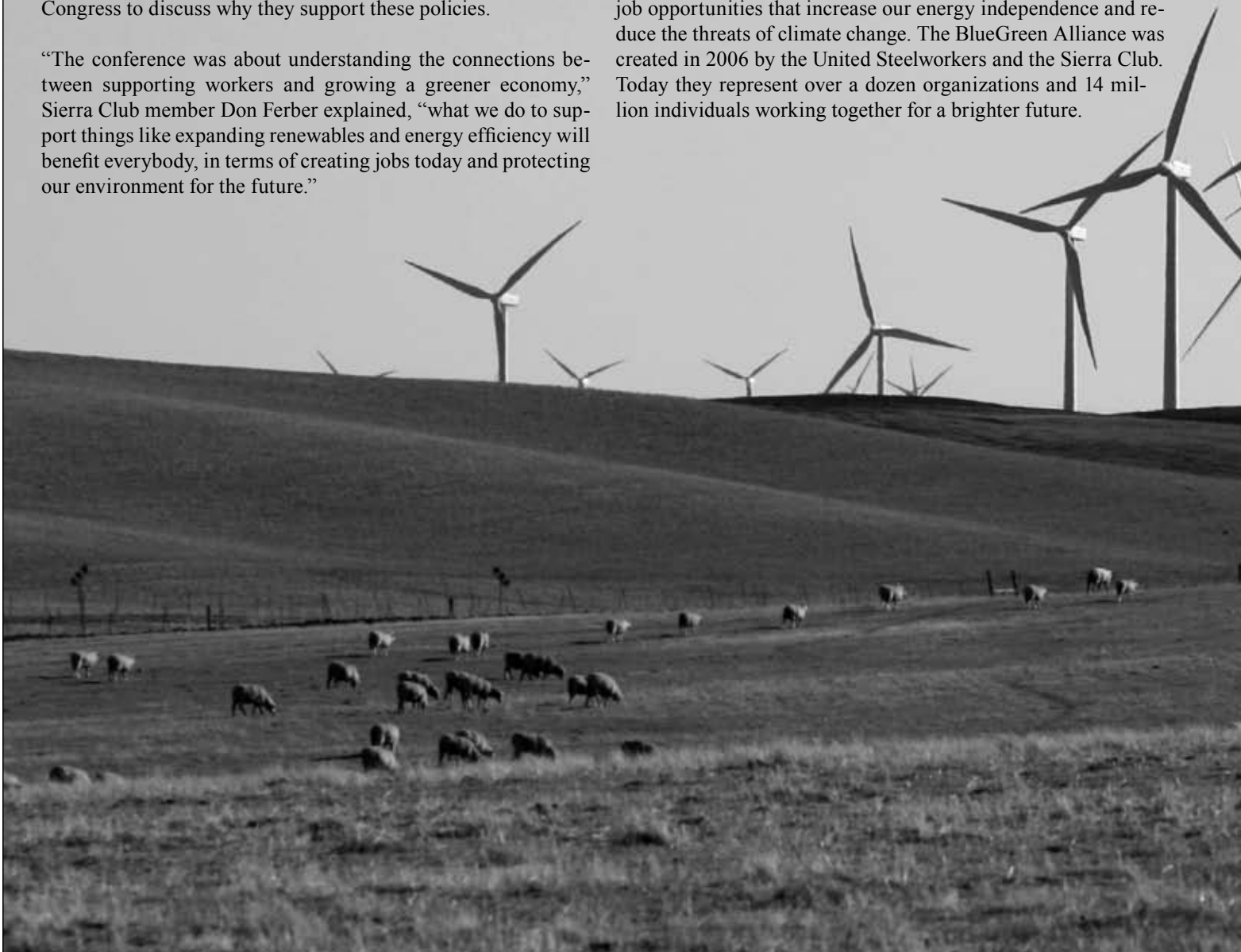
The three-day conference included informational panel discussions, engaging workshops, and inspiring speeches delivered by leaders from EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Vice President Biden's Chief Economist Jared Bernstein. Together, attendees from various fields brainstormed ways to protect the environment and the economy, a combination that has the potential to build a clean energy future and generate millions of family-supporting jobs across America. The last day also offered an exciting opportunity for participants to meet with their members of Congress to discuss why they support these policies.

"The conference was about understanding the connections between supporting workers and growing a greener economy," Sierra Club member Don Ferber explained, "what we do to support things like expanding renewables and energy efficiency will benefit everybody, in terms of creating jobs today and protecting our environment for the future."

The conference covered a range of topics, from renewable energy to recycling to green transportation. It also touched on state and local initiatives, economic development, and youth education. This broad agenda resulted in a successful, well-rounded event that offered something for everybody.

"The conference provided attendees with a great chance to network with partners from around the country," Ferber said, "We connected with people in the environmental community and also gained a better understanding of the worker's perspectives."

The Good Jobs, Green Jobs National Conference is presented by The BlueGreen Alliance, a national partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to increasing job opportunities that increase our energy independence and reduce the threats of climate change. The BlueGreen Alliance was created in 2006 by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club. Today they represent over a dozen organizations and 14 million individuals working together for a brighter future.



BlueGreen Alliance Regional Program Manager for Michigan and Wisconsin, Sue Browne, explained that the group was created to make people aware of the benefits of working together. “We are fighting for worker’s rights and we are also working to reduce toxins in the workplace and the surrounding community,” Browne said.

“Some time ago labor groups and environmentalists were pitted against each other, but at the end of the day we realized that we have a lot in common,” Browne said, “the same people that were attacking labor were attacking the environment as well.”

Since the creation of the BlueGreen Alliance members have worked on outreach to labor organizations through presentations, workshops, and more. “We did over 350 presentations focusing on clean energy legislation as well as three hour workshops where attendees strategize how to mobilize others on what we’re working on,” Browne explained, “we’ve passed over 400 local union resolutions on clean energy, sent over 100,000 letters of support to elected officials, filed hundreds of voter pledge cards, and even sent labor union members to Washington to lobby.”

With change on the federal level growing increasingly difficult, the BlueGreen Alliance has increased its focus on the states. “At the state level, we’ll be able to make more of a difference and that’s the work we’ll be doing to move forward,” said Browne.

“The very reason we joined together was because the same people that are attacking the environment are attacking jobs,” Browne explained, “even though we may not see eye-to-eye on everything we can be a stronger force working together on the things we do agree on.”

With a growing need for jobs and an increasing need to protect the environment, it is inevitable that the two would collide, creating opportunities for growth and improvement. Environmental organizations and positive business choices go hand-in-hand, and the success of the BlueGreen Alliance is just one example of that. ☺

For more information on the BlueGreen Alliance, please visit their website at www.bluegreenalliance.org.





WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

LITTLE BROWN BAT

The little brown bat is one of three Wisconsin bat species in the genus *Myotis*. Its back is dark brown to tan, and the ventral (abdominal) side is lighter. This bat is small (5.5 - 12.5 grams), and average adult wingspread is 8-10 inches. The members of the genus *Myotis* require close inspection to distinguish between species. Acoustic call, habitat preference and appearance can be used to identify little brown bats. Characteristics such as toe hair length, and ear shape are most commonly used while the bat is in-hand.

In the summer, little brown bats commonly roost in human-made structures such as barns, attics, bridges and bat houses, but also roost under tree bark and in hollows and crevices in mature trees. Females often form large maternity colonies of hundreds of bats. These colonies prefer hot temperatures of sometimes over 100 degrees, which are thought to aid in the maturation of the young. Male little brown bats usually roost alone, but sometimes form small colonies. Both males and females prefer to roost near water, which offers some of the best foraging grounds.

In the winter, little brown bats make long-distance local migrations to caves and mines where they hibernate. In Wisconsin, these winter residences offer constant temperatures of 45 to 50 degrees, and humid conditions. Wisconsin is home to three of the largest little brown bat hibernacula in the Midwest: Neda mine, Bay City mine and Maiden Rock mine, which house over 300,000 little brown bats in winter.

The yearly cycle for little brown bats begins in April when they emerge from hibernation and migrate to summer roosting and foraging habitats. Upon emergence from hibernation, female bats fertilize themselves with sperm stored in the uterus over the winter. The gestation period is around 60 days. Usually a single pup is born

in late May or early June. Mothers leave their young at the roost nightly to forage yet return often to nurse. Pups take about one month to mature and begin flying on their own. After pups mature, females will often leave the maternity roost site for other foraging grounds. In late August and September, little brown bats will swarm around the entrances of potential hibernacula, where they engage in mating behaviors.

Little brown bats are long-lived for their size, often living up to 15 and 20 years. They are insectivores, and can eat half their body weight in insects each night. Little brown bats eat mainly aquatic, soft-bodied insects such as moths, gnats, mosquitoes and crane flies.

CONSERVATION CONCERNS:

One of the greatest threats to this species and other cave-hibernating species of bats is White-nose syndrome. White nose syndrome is a disease associated with a fungus called *Geomyces destructans*, which grows on the face, wings, tail and forearms of affected bats. The disease was discovered in 2006 in hibernating bats in New York State and has shown mortality rates of over 90% in affected hibernacula. In just 5 years, White-nose syndrome has spread to 16 states and 2 Canadian provinces. Insert: According to Bat Conservation International, this devastating disease is causing “the most precipitous wildlife decline in the past century in North America”, and at the current rate of spread, it could reach Wisconsin and its regionally significant hibernacula in as little as one year. The fungus associated with White-nose syndrome is transferred by bat to bat contact, from hibernacula to bat, and possibly also among hibernacula on caving or research equipment, or clothing that has been worn in an infected cave or mine.

How the fungus causes mortality is not fully understood. The disease may dehydrate affected individuals when the wings are eaten away by the fungus – bats use the large surface area of their wings for metabolic and hydrological balance. Another hypothesis is that the fungus wakes the bats during hibernation, causing them to burn up valuable fat reserves. Every time a bat is woken from hibernation it burns up to 60 days worth of fat reserves.

The behavior of affected bats changes dramatically. They are commonly seen flying during the day, flying in the middle of winter, returning to summer roosting habitats too early, or dying in large numbers at entrances to hibernacula.

The Wisconsin DNR has initiated a proactive response to this disease, creating rules which may help slow its spread and protect Wisconsin's bats. In September 2010, four cave bat species were emergency listed as threatened and the fungus associated with White-nose syndrome was listed as a prohibited invasive species. The Department presented a rule to the Natural Resources Board which included a prevention plan for all known bat hibernacula (private and public), decontamination of equipment and clothing prior to and after every visit to a cave or mine in Wisconsin, and authorization by the Department for entrance into sites. The rule was passed unanimously by the board.

With limited knowledge of White-nose syndrome, this deadly disease cannot be prevented from reaching Wisconsin's bat populations, but the rules set in place will hopefully help slow the spread so more research can be done and perhaps a cure can be found. Wisconsin's bats need all the help they can get. Find out how to help at <http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats>. ☺

THE GREEN REVIEW



By Amy Lou Jenkins

THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS OF RALPH WALDO EMERSON

by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Modern Library; 2000 Modern Library Pbk. Ed edition, 560 pages. (Emerson's essays are also available as free downloads at the kindle store and public domain websites and other eBook sites)



Reading Emerson might make readers slightly sad (more about that later), not that Emerson expresses gloom in his most influential essays: Nature, The Divinity School Address, and Self Reliance. His words reflect the optimism he felt for the power of the individual to understand how they fit into the world and how they might serve their community and country. A child of the American Revolution, he and his audience lived with parents and grandparents who had fought the revolution and still carried the stigma of being less civilized than residents of England and the other mother countries. The United States' citizenry must have reveled in national pride when reading that wisdom did not depend on the dogma of the old country.

When Emerson says, "Why should not we also enjoy an original relation to the universe? Why should we grope among the dry bones of the past," he aptly draws the reader into a contemplative state. We readers are easily convinced that we are capable of a reasoning life and original thoughts. We can go on walks, escape the salesmanship of civilization, and figure out our place in the world. We reflect along with Emerson as he enjoys his happy catharsis. "In the presence of nature a wild delight runs through the man, in spite of real sorrows...Nature, in its ministry to man, is not only the material, but is also the process and the result." Our

reasoning mind traces Emerson's thoughts. His ideas seemed chiseled into fine points. These essays were refined during sermons, and the author noted where the audience was captivated, provoked, or disinterested. We can almost hear the "Amen," after the deep and simple aphorisms that punctuate Emerson's essays:

A hero is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver five minutes longer.

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could.

None of us will ever accomplish anything excellent or commanding except when he listens to this whisper which is heard by him alone.

God enters by a private door into every individual.

Emerson appeals to the reader's ego, and he appeals to those who think a nature walk is the best place to plan and examine a life. He says: "In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts, they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty." He cleverly opens our minds to his ideas. Whenever his thoughts have a familiar edge, we think, ah yes, the genius of my mind has also nibbled on this idea. We feel as if we are letting Emerson complete the thought that we began. Borrowing his genius, and imagining it as partially our own, is quite gratifying. Rereading Emerson, a decade or so after your first reading is also satisfying.

Why the sadness mentioned earlier? Reading Emerson, and his constant theme of individual thought and the sanctity of nature and

the human mind, leads us to believe that humanity can be brought to a higher level when each individual exploits his or her own mind and acts according to his or her own ethics. Emerson can so convince the reader of the highest aspirations of the human potential that we expect to look up from his text, written in the 1830's, and find a nation with his brand of self reliance the prominent theme of the land. Instead, the rugged individualism, which makes up much of the character of our national culture, seems more selfish than enlightened, more imbued with aggressive foreign policy, excesses of capitalism and consumerism, exploitation of natural resources, and predatory business practices than influenced by an Emersonian philosophy. This philosophy could be interpreted as: let every person find their own best self by reflecting in and upon the harmony found in Nature. The mere fact that we believe Emerson's words should have created a more perfect society speaks to the power of his prose over our thinking. Yet, to some extent, his words still live, still change minds, and still guide his readers. His words may yet convince the nation "It is the vulgarity of this country to believe that naked wealth, unrelieved by any use of design, is merit."

Emerson's optimism, now churning in many despite a measure of sad skepticism, can make us believe in our power within our own sphere. A thoughtful reading of any of his essays reveals words and ideas with sensitivities towards peace, social justice, and stewardship. Emerson essays are essential. ☺

Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*, May 2010. Her Essay "Close to Home" appears in the April 2010 release *Wild with Child*.



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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2: HIKE AT NEW GLARUS WOODS STATE PARK

Join us for a 4 – 5 mile spring hike through prairies and forests at New Glarus Woods State Park. The hike is moderate with rolling hills and ravines. Meet at the parking lot off State Hwy. 69, 2 miles south of New Glarus at 10 AM. Carpooling from Madison meets at 9 AM at the western Hill Farms State office parking lot, 4802 Sheboygan Ave. State Park sticker is required for cars. Bring water and a snack. Lunch option at a local Swiss restaurant afterward if interested. RSVP to David Smith at 608-233-1210. [4L]

TUESDAY, APRIL 12: CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE AT BUNKY'S CAFE

Bunky's Cafe, 2425 Atwood Avenue, Madison. Enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine and participating in a thought-provoking educational discussion. We try to mix locations and price points, so hopefully we'll hit a spot you like! Open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you want. Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Dinner time will be provided when you RSVP. [4L]

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 9AM: TRYONE WORK DAY

Join us as we work hard, have fun, and restore native prairie habitat. Duscham Creek near Rock Falls contains several rare prairie-dependent species, including plants and insects. Xcel Energy is working with TPE and the WDNR to restore this dry hill native prairie. The Prairie Enthusiast. Matt McFarlane 715-737-2434 [CV]

SATURDAY, APRIL 23: EARTH DAY

Earth Day will not be held in Eau Claire this year, but you are invited to spend some of it at Beaver Creek Reserve. A "World Drum" event for peace and the environment by the Norwegian Sami (Lapps) will occur, and you may be able to get a reservation by contacting Lee Hilfiker: www.sacredway.net [CV]

SATURDAY, APRIL 23: JOHN MUIR/EARTH DAY HIKE

Celebrate Earth Day and learn about the legacy of John Muir with a hike at John Muir Park in Marquette County. The park is near the site of Sierra Club co-founder John Muir's boyhood home. The hiking will be easy. Bring a good pair of shoes, lunch, water and weather-appropriate clothing. We'll meet at 10:30 AM in the parking lot at John Muir Park, along County Highway F in Marquette County, about 11 miles north of Portage. A Madison carpool will leave at 9:30 AM from the south parking lot at Olin Park, off John Nolen Drive. For more information and to RSVP contact Jon Higgins at 608-345-5997 or wisconsinhiker395@gmail.com [4L]

SUNDAY, APRIL 24: ROUGHNECK BIKE RIDE

A 22 mile bicycle ride in the hills SE of Mondovi. It's challenging, with long hills and short "gnarlies" Meet 9:30 AM at Western Dairyland Community Center located east of Mondovi on Hwy 10, then south on Hwy BB 1 mile to the Center. John and Libby Stupak 715-833- 1941 or stupaks@hotmail.com [CV]

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 9AM: TABLE BLUFF TRAIL BUILDING

Learn sustainable trail building techniques from trained volunteers with the Ice Age Trail on this scenic segment in the driftless area west of Cross Plains. You'll also see restoration in progress and the remnant prairie in early spring bloom. Tools and training provided. Meet at 9 AM. Take Hwy 14 just west of Cross Plains to Cty KP. Turn right for .2 mile and then left on Scheele Rd. to the base of the bluff. Contact Don Ferber for more info at (608) 222-9376 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net [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.

SATURDAY, MAY 14: BIKE THE CAPITAL CITY TRAIL

9:30 AM Enjoy the ~23 mile Capital City Trail loop trip as it winds through the countryside and into Madison. We'll start at Eagle School and ride east towards Lake Farm Park, north into Madison and return via the Southwest Bike Path. Meet at 9:30 AM at Eagle School, 5454 Gunflint Trail at intersection of PD and Fish Hatchery Rd. (Ride 1 block north on Fish Hatchery to Glacier Valley Rd., take a right and go to Gunflint Rd., then turn left and go two blocks to the school. Bring a lunch/snacks and plenty of liquid for breaks along the way. Don't forget a water bottle and helmet. A Wisconsin State Trail Pass is required. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon at kmulb@charter.net. [4L]

MAY 15 – 20: WOMEN'S NORTHWOODS SERVICE NORTHERN HIGHLAND STATE FOREST, BOULDER JCT, WI

Join us for four days of work with WI DNR staff removing exotic invasives, refurbishing lakeside campsites, and helping with various projects. Stay in a lakeside cabin with canoes at the door; bird and hike during off hours. This trip is sponsored by the Central U.P. group. Cost is \$25 plus you bring an evening meal for six. For details call or email Sherry Zoars 906-358-1110 zoars@copper.net. Please let me know your full name and mailing address when you email.

SATURDAY, MAY 21: ICE AGE TRAIL WORK DAY

The Fox Valley Sierra Group will do trail work on the Ice Age Trail in Waupaca County on May 21. The FVSG has been a long-time supporter of the Ice Age Trail. Be sure to put this date on your calendar. This service project assists the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the National Park Service, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in supporting and maintaining this eventual thousand-mile footpath tracing Ice Age formations across Wisconsin. Darrel Ruechel, r7dairl@yahoo.com [FV]

SAT/SUN, JUNE 25-26 - WILDERNESS FIRST AID

This Wilderness First Aid (WFA) course is a joint effort between the Sierra Club's Madison Inner City Outings and Wilderness Medical Institute (an institute of the National Outdoor Leadership School). The 2-day course will cover a wide range of wilderness medicine topics for people who travel in the outdoors and is ideal for trip leaders, camp staff, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Training will be held 8-5 each day at the Aldo Leopold Center in Black Earth. Cost is \$185, camping/lodging and meals extra. Lunch is included for everyone. For more information, please contact Terri Felton, 608-663-8874 or tfelton@tds.net.

2011 QUETICO CANOE TRIPS

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

JULY 29TH - AUGUST 6TH

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

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

Trip cost: \$525.00

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

AUGUST 6TH - 14TH

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

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

Trip Cost: \$450

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

AUGUST 13TH - 21ST

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

Departure Point: Likely Nym Lake, Canada.

Trip Cost: \$500

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

AUGUST 22ND - 31ST

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

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

Trip cost: \$525

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

AUGUST 27TH - SEPTEMBER 5TH

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

Departure Point: Northwestern Quetico via Beaverhouse Lake .

Trip Cost: \$525

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

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

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

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

SPRING RIVER TOURS

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

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



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.

JUNE 4 - 5: WHITEWATER CLINIC FOR SOLO OR TANDEM CANOES

Wolf River/Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort
Class II; Car Camp. Clinic Fee: \$30 per person; Camping Fee, \$5 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 have reserved the group camp site at Bear Paw 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.

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

Solo Leader: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026

Tandem Leader: Pat Wilson, 608-788-8831

JUNE 18: MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC **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, beam-powered-tetrode@yahoo.com

JUNE 26: QUIET WATER CANOE CLINIC **Lake Wingra, Madison**

Quiet water. Clinic Fee: \$15 per person. This clinic is designed to prepare paddlers for safer and more enjoyable quiet water paddling. Minimum age: 12. Clinic topics: safety issues, paddling dynamics, basic paddling strokes, extensive practice of important strokes, canoe rescue and paddling TOGETHER. Solo and tandem paddlers welcome. Participants should bring their own tandem or solo canoe (rentals may be available, but check with trip leader), paddle, pfd, lunch, and water. To register or get more details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, beam-powered-tetrode@yahoo.com

PADDLING TRIPS

APRIL 2 - 3: ROBINSON AND MORRISON CREEKS NEAR BLACK RIVER FALLS

Class II; Car Camp. When the water is up in the 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: Phil Johnsrud, 715-445-4777, johnsrudp@tds.net.

APRIL 9 - 10: 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 16 -17: 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.

APRIL 23: BARK RIVER NEAR DOUSMAN

Class 1+. Join us for an early spring 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 30 - MAY 1: WHITEWATER RIVERS OF CENTRAL WISCONSIN

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 7 - 8: 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: Jim Servais, 920-434-0740, jimserv@gmail.com. Co-leader: Larr Zibell, 715-546-2131.

MAY 14 - 15: BRULE RIVER (WI/MI BORDER)

Class II; Canoe Camp. The Border Brule, as it's sometimes called, 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 21- 22: PINE RIVER EXPLORATORY

Class I; Car Camp. We plan to paddle the river upstream of Highway 55. This is an exploratory trip that will involve some downed trees, beaver dams and up to a half day of upstream travel. Learn about the protection of the headwaters of the Pine firsthand. For details, contact: Bill Beverly, 920-994-2048, wdbeverly@gmail.com.

MAY 22: BADFISH CREEK

Class I. Day trip. Badfish Creek meanders through scenic woodlands a few miles South of Madison. Not only is it a pretty little gem, but it also features a surprising amount of fast moving riffles and class I. Come along and practice your paddling strokes, maybe learn some new ones and learn about how and why this little river provides reliable flows and clean water. For details, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com.

MAY 28 - 30: BOIS BRULE

Class I-II/Bois Brule. Class III-IV/Kettle; Car Camp. Join us for three day trips on the Bois Brule (with an option for the Kettle River on Saturday). On Saturday, we'll paddle from County S to Highway 2 (with an option of paddling the Kettle from Banning State Park to Sandstone MN). On Sunday, we'll paddle the Bois Brule from Pine Tree Landing to Highway 13—this section includes a series of Class II rapids. On 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 on the Kettle and Bois Brule. Camping is 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, or Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@gmail.com.

MAY 28 - 30: WOLF PLUS TWO OTHER RIVERS

Class III+; Car Camp. Memorial Day weekend trip. We'll paddle the best whitewater in northern Wisconsin, probably Section IV of the Wolf, Roaring Rapids of the Peshtigo, and/or whatever else is running high. Learn about the challenges of whitewater. Helmet and other appropriate safety gear required. For details, contact: Judd Lefeber, 608-412-1631, jenniferkieker@att.net.

JUNE 11 - 12: 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. 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 18 - 19: WHITEWATER FOR BEGINNERS

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 Bill Barclay, 708-386-1371, chocolatehouse@sbcglobal.net.

JUNE 19 (SUNDAY): BARABOO RIVER

Class I; Day trip. This stretch of river is shallow and rocky with a nice current. Good for plastic and Royalex canoes or kayaks. Shallow gravel sections would be hard on nice kevlar or fiberglass boats. Helmets required for kayakers and solo canoes. This section used to be blocked by three dams, which have been recently removed, allowing boaters and wildlife to return. Come see how this now free-flowing river makes a fine centerpiece to historic downtown Baraboo. For details, contact: Carl Zimm, 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetode@yahoo.com

AUGUST 5-7: SYLVANIA-UP CANOE CAMP

Quiet water with portages. Explore some of the 34 clean, clear lakes in a wilderness-like setting. Learn about what others have done before us to make this a special place for plant, animal, and human interaction. Moonlit and dawn paddles plus portage loop. Six paddlers maximum. \$25 non-refundable fee due in July. This includes the 3 night camping fee. For details, contact: Kasy Culbertson, kasy99@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF RIVER RATING DIFFICULTY

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

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

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

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

CLASS IV: Long, difficult rapids and constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scout from shore often necessary and conditions make rescue difficult. Canoeists and kayakers should have the ability to roll.

From the American Canoe Associate Web Site.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS? Visit wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rts/ or contact: Meg Nelson, RTS Chair, at: prairies-moke2@gmail.com, 608-242-8633.


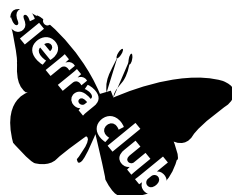
JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2011 EVENTS

- April 5** Spring Election
Please vote! <https://vpa.wi.gov/>
- April 22** Earth Day
- May 7** JMC Executive Committee Meeting, Baraboo
- June 17-19** 22nd Annual Midwest Renewable Energy Fair
7558 Deer Rd., Custer, WI
http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php
- October 7-9** Autumn Assembly, hosted by the Fox Valley Group
Camp Helen Brachman, Almond, WI

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



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. It is a key part of our Chapter's budget, and is becoming even more important as support from National Sierra Club is decreasing. 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

