

# THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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## WISCONSIN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY SAFEGUARDS

### NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

by *Shahla M. Werner, PhD, Chapter Director*

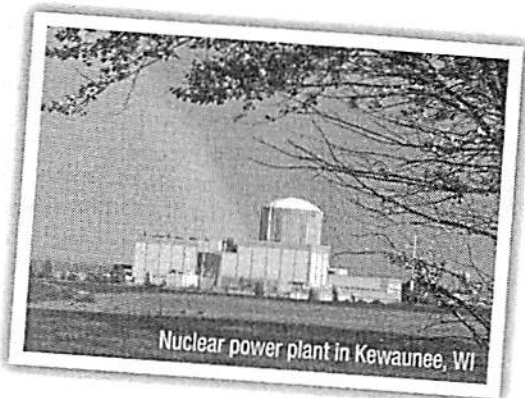
There are 104 nuclear reactors in the United States, supplying the country with about 20% of our electricity. Wisconsin is home to three nuclear reactors, a 556 MW plant at Kewaunee and 512 MW and 514 MW reactors at Point Beach, built in the 1970's. All three were recently relicensed to operate for an additional 20 years, and a 17% capacity increase was granted for the Point Beach plant in early 2011.

This fall legislators are expected to introduce energy-related legislation, and this may include altering requirements for building nuclear energy plants. Wisconsin statutes now require utilities to show that building a new nuclear plant will save ratepayers' money and that a safe, federally licensed site is available to permanently store radioactive waste. Proponents support nuclear energy due to the lack

of carbon dioxide emissions during plant operations. However, the decision to gut current safeguards must be considered in the context of the very serious problems involved with nuclear energy.

### ACCIDENTS, NATURAL DISASTERS AND TERRORISM

Nuclear energy is vulnerable to natural disasters, terrorism, and human error. This vulnerability led to meltdowns and radiation leaks following the tsunami and earthquake this spring in Fukushima, Japan, the equipment malfunction at Three Mile Island in 1979, and the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. Near disasters occurred this summer when Missouri River floods threatened two nuclear reactors in Nebraska and when the Las Conchas wildfire threatened the Los Alamos Nuclear Research Laboratory in New Mexico.



Nuclear power plant in Kewaunee, WI

Although we won't know the health effects from Fukushima for years, the accident has resulted in large releases of radiation into the Pacific Ocean, the contamination of crops and drinking water, and the permanent evacuation of the local community. The accident at Chernobyl resulted in at least 6,000 cases of thyroid cancer and the permanent evacuation of an area the size of Wisconsin. An increased incidence of thyroid cancer has also been reported in some areas of Pennsylvania near the Three Mile Island radiation release.

*Continued on Page 6*



## SIERRA CLUB FIGHTS BACK AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL ATTACKS

by *Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator*

The Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter is ecstatic about the outcome of the recall elections. The Sierra Club became heavily involved in the recall elections in response to a series of attacks on the environment. Efforts to promote a "conservation minded" legislature paid off with the election of two new Senators and the protection of three proven conservation champions that were up for recall. Wisconsin now has hope for more bi-partisan politics with greater support for legislation promoting clean water, clean air, and the creation of clean energy jobs.

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# FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair  
John Muir Chapter

"I should get more involved."

At a rally on the night of the August 9<sup>th</sup> recall election, a man came up to me (I was holding a Sierra Club Stands with Workers sign) and asked if I had an extra. As I was pulling one out he said, "I should get more involved with the Sierra Club." Not wanting to miss an opportunity, I thanked him for being a member and started sharing my volunteer "wish-list". Topping the list was the need to continue work on electing environmental champions, fundraising, preparations for the Chapter's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and north woods mining issues.

My advice to those of you feeling the same as the member who wanted to get more involved is to pick an area of interest or passion and find out how you can engage in that interest with the Sierra Club. Keeping the Sierra Club running and making it effective requires a wide range of volunteer skills. It's not just about experts on an environmental issue, although we also need those in water resources, energy and mining, but also about the various skills and enthusiasm you can bring to the cause.

Unique in the environmental movement, the Sierra Club engages its members from the ground up through local groups, a statewide

chapter and the national organization. In this structure, the Club can harness and channel the passions and energy of activists to focus on everything from building sustainable communities, to banning phosphates from state waters, and rebuilding and repowering America with green jobs and clean energy.

A great place to start getting more involved are Sierra Club outings. Outings are offered by Groups, Chapters and at the National level. I cannot say enough about the family rafting trip my family went on down the San Juan River. Not only did the kids have a blast but we also enjoyed the company of like-minded Sierrans from across the country. Outings need leaders. And leaders come from members who get trained in all the aspects of trip management. Interested? Contact me for a link to our Outings 101 online training or get on the list to attend next year's Outings Summit.

As a Sierra Club member you have the power to shape the club by voting in group, chapter and national Executive Committee and Board of Directors elections. These volunteer run, governing bodies take an active role in identifying priorities and developing budgets to fund programs and projects. You can take the first step today by voting for representatives to the John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee. Candidate biographies and ballots can be found on page 14.

Volunteers fuel the work of the John Muir Chapter and its groups. Without your energy, passion, money and time, the Chapter and its groups would wither away. Your expertise or passion may be exactly what is needed to meet

Below are a few more ideas on how you can get involved. But don't let this limit your imagination!

- Are you a foodie or a restaurateur? Organize a local outing as a social event or fund-raiser for your Local Group or the Chapter.
- Are you good at running a meeting? Offer to help facilitate a committee or run for Group or Chapter Executive Committee. Many folks are great at doing tasks but sometimes we need the person who keeps us on task!
- Are you the person with limited time to offer but wants to contribute? Both the Chapter and Groups regularly have isolated tasks that need to be done.
- Good with numbers? Groups and the Chapter are responsible for budgets and accounting. Help keep the Club financially sound.
- Are you an internet guru/social media wonk? We need your help to keep communication flowing and to be more accessible to young folks and the online community.

the challenges to Wisconsin's environment and achieve our vision of a sustainable Wisconsin.

And the Sierra Club relies on the fact that people continually step up to the plate so that others can move on. So get involved, find a niche within the John Muir Chapter and help us to grow, stay strong, have fun and achieve our common conservation goals. ☺

Ready to get more involved? Contact the John Muir Chapter office [john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org) (608) 256-0565 or watch for volunteer opportunities on our website: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/volunteer.asp>

## THE MUIR VIEW

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# FIGHTING BACK

Continued from Page 1

Sierra Club got involved early in the Budget Repair Bill debate. The Chapter took a position on collective bargaining because losing these rights risked the loss of talented public employees who protect our air, water, and land habitats and protect threatened and endangered species. In fact, Wisconsin has seen record retirement rates and a huge loss of institutional knowledge at state agencies since this law took effect. It also puts Wisconsin in serious jeopardy of losing valuable forest stewardship council certification for sustainably harvested forest products. The originally proposed bill also jeopardized over \$46 million dollars in federal transit funds needed to reduce our dependence on oil. Luckily, in this one instance, legislators amended the budget to restore collective bargaining for transit workers and eligibility for these funds remained intact.

The Budget Repair Bill was only one in a long stream of attacks on the environment. Clean energy came under fire with the suspension of the wind-siting bill and changes to our wetland protections threatened our clean water resources. Governor Walker's budget was also an assault on our natural resources with egregious attacks on transportation choices, phosphorous restrictions, stewardship funding, and even recycling. Plus, the mining bill proposed in May would have fast-tracked mining permits and undercut our clean water protections and public input.

In response to these repeated attacks, the Sierra Club launched its biggest political effort in recent memory in Wisconsin through the recall elections. Sierra Club members rallied to the cause and almost \$100,000 was raised and spent in support of the conservation champions on the ballots. Our efforts paid off. Voters elected two new conservation minded Senators and protected the three conservation champions who were up for recall.

Senator Jennifer Shilling replaced Senator Dan Kapanke. As a state representative, Jennifer Shilling earned a 100% Sierra Club voting record with votes that supported transit options, clean water, and clean air. In contrast, Senator Kapanke earned a 50% Sierra Club voting record last year thanks to his votes against energy efficiency in schools and the wind-siting rules.

Senator Jessica King replaced Senator Randy Hopper. Senator Hopper had a 40% Sierra Club voting record. Senator Hopper voted against recycling electronic waste and the hazardous materials it contains. He also voted against an Independent DNR secretary, which would have taken the politics out of protecting our natural resources. Senator King was the deputy mayor of Oshkosh and pledged to stand up for clean air, clean water, and clean energy jobs in the questionnaire she returned to us. She also spoke out in favor of clean transportation at our March rally.

Sierra Club also worked to protect Senators Dave Hansen, Jim Holperin and Bob Wirth. Senator Hansen has a history of supporting clean water and clean energy jobs with his support for an independent DNR secretary, wind-siting rules, energy efficiency in schools and clean lakes standards. As a former Secretary of Tourism, Senator Holperin understands the importance of our beautiful lands to our economy. He also fought for an independent DNR secretary. Senator Wirth has a 100% Sierra Club voting record and was instrumental in passing Great Lakes Compact legislation.

"Winning five out of nine recall elections and picking up two additional pro-conservation Senators is a huge accomplishment. Wisconsin voters



have chosen clean water, clean air, and working families over corporate special interests," said Shahla M. Werner, PhD, Director, Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter. "Although we fell one short of regaining a pro-conservation majority in the State Senate, these wins increase the chances for moderation and bipartisan cooperation for the remainder of the legislative session."

Sierra Club's greatest strength has always been our members and grassroots organization, and that didn't change during this election. Sierra Club members contributed over 1500 hours of their time calling fellow members and constituents in the districts, knocking on doors getting the word out, doing data entry work, designing postcards and ads, hosting fund-raisers, and more. "The Sierra Club mobilized our grassroots membership throughout the state to inform over 100,000 conservation-minded voters about the importance of this election for Wisconsin's environment," said former representative Spencer Black, a member of the John Muir Chapter's Political Committee

Sierra Club hosted phone banks every Tuesday and Thursday at the Madison office calling members in or near the recall districts. Sierra Club also hosted canvasses in almost all the districts and held picnics afterwards. The most successful event was the weekend before the election when Representative Black took a caravan of 35 Sierra Club supporters to Milwaukee to canvass for Sandy Pasch.

The campaign also included sending mail pieces to almost 50,000 constituents in Alberta Darling's, Luther Olsen's, and Jennifer Shilling's districts. Postcards were also sent to members in all the recall districts.

Sierra Club would like to thank all of our members who volunteered to make a difference as well as those who were able to donate money to the elections. With your help, our efforts have been successful in the face of well-funded opponents. We must keep the momentum going and strive to achieve a pro-conservation majority in both houses and the Governor's office. What comes next remains to be seen, but Sierra Club will continue to get involved and will need your help. ☺

To get involved with the political work of the Sierra Club, call (608) 256-0565 or e-mail Elizabeth Ward at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org).

*The Sierra Club would like to give a special thanks to the following people who spent hours working to elect clean air and clean water champions: Representative Spencer Black, Liz Wessel, Caryl Terrell, Dave Blouin, John Reindl, Laura Anderton, Ryan O'Leary, Elsa Nekola, Kim Andrus, Alyssa Shelstad (who hosted over a dozen phone banks), Al Lawrence, Eleanor Wolf, Chris Jenquin, Susan Baxter, Don Ferber, Melissa Warner, Carol Hardin, Rich Spindler, Caryn Treiber, Barb Thomas, and Susan Williams (who knocked on doors and collected petitions almost every weekend.)*

# WISCONSIN SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

by Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator



One of the big lessons learned during President Obama's successful presidential campaign of 2008 is that young people—especially students—can make the difference. Whether it is time, passion, or energy, students are willing to do what it takes. As a former student volunteer throughout the presidential campaign, I witnessed fellow classmates canvassing, phone banking, writing letters-to-the-editor during class, and staying up all night the night before the election to chalk campus. On Election Day, attendance in class was bleak as students were working to 'get out the vote' all day.

The Sierra Club has created the Sierra Student Coalition in order to harness this energy. In many campaigns, students have made the difference. This may be because their generation knows they have the most to lose if water resources become scarce or polluted and the worst impacts of climate change come to pass. One of the biggest Beyond Coal victories Wisconsin has seen is transitioning the Charter Street power plant off of coal. As a result, students all over the State are pushing to get their campus off of coal through rallies, movie nights,

demonstrations, leafleting, and collecting postcards. There are 13 coal plants owned by the State, including 8 campus plants at UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, UW-River Falls, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout, and UW-Superior. Using coal that comes from mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia makes these plants unique from most coal plants in Wisconsin. Our campaign to get campuses off coal is a great means for students to engage. Another is inviting students to weigh in on proposed regulations by the EPA to protect people over profits on coal by-products such as mercury, coal ash, soot and smog. Last year, students at UW-La Crosse even demonstrated mountaintop removal mining with snow!

The 2010-2011 school year has been no different. During Earth Week, students all over the state held events to highlight the horrors of mountaintop removal mining and the importance of the upcoming EPA regulations, including mercury. In Stevens Point, Jennifer Lempa and a few other students hosted a movie screening of 'Burning the Future' to show the affect of mountain-

top removal mining on communities near these destructive operations. Afterwards, Jennifer Feyerherm from the National Beyond Coal campaign spoke about the connection UW-Stevens Point has to mountain top removal, and what students can do to help, including generating comments to the EPA about mercury.

Students at UW-La Crosse, led by Jennifer Dausey and Derek Nelson, held a rally urging the school to move off of coal with speakers including Chancellor Joe Gow and LaCrosse Mayor Matt Harter. Other campuses, including UW-Superior and UW-Stout held tabling events or hung posters. In Madison, students tabled at Library Mall asking those who passed by to 'fish' from a box containing facts about mercury pollution!

Aside from their involvement in the Beyond Coal campaign, students have held successful events about a number of issues. Students and student groups were crucial allies when organizing 'Save the Train' rallies last November and rallies against Governor Walker's Budget Repair Bill and Budget. In Madison, the new Sierra Student Coalition held events including a 'Carbon Nation' movie screening and a transit outing in which they spoke about threats to the Madison Metro system. At the end of the year, students delivered Plundering Appalachia books to the Board of Regents that were signed by fellow students around the state, demanding the UW system get off of coal.

As the Sierra Club continues to grow and win conservation victories, it is crucial that the Sierra Student Coalition grows with it. If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with the Sierra Student Coalition, contact Elizabeth Ward at [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org) or (608) 256-0565. ☺

## 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.

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# DON'T LET THEM FOOL YOU

## WE CAN HAVE A CLEAN, SAFE, COAL-FREE FUTURE.



by Jennifer Feyerherm, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign

Coal is on its way out. Thanks to you and thousands of your friends and neighbors, we are moving beyond coal in Wisconsin. From stopping a proposed coal plant in Cassville to getting our own Capitol off of coal, we are making progress.

Yet, there is much left to do. There are many that do not believe that we can power our state, indeed our nation, without relying on dirty coal. The plain truth is that we can. We can curb our addiction to coal -- not in some distant time in the future, but here and now. Coal supplies just 45% of the electricity in the United States. It is technologically and economically realistic to eliminate coal's contribution to the electric sector by 2030.

The transition will not be easy...but the good news is that none of us are in this fight alone.

On July 21st, the Sierra Club announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies that will effectively retire one-third of the nation's aging coal fleet by 2020, replacing it with clean energy. The partnership includes a \$50 million commitment over four years to the Beyond Coal Campaign that will fuel the Sierra Club's effort to clean the air, end the coal era, and accelerate the transition to cleaner, cost-effective energy sources.

"If we are going to get serious about reducing our carbon footprint in the United States, we have to get serious about coal. Ending coal power production is the right thing to do, because, while it may seem to be an inexpensive energy source, the impact on our environment and the impact on public health is significant," said Bloomberg. "Coal is a self-inflicted public health risk, polluting the air we breathe, adding mercury to our water, and the leading cause of climate disruption."

Bloomberg added: "The Beyond Coal Campaign has had great success in stopping more than 150 new coal-fired power plants over the past few years and is empowering local communities to lead from the front while Congress continues to watch from the back. That is why I'm pleased to support the Sierra Club and its allies, and I encourage others to do the same."

Right now, coal-fired power plants cost Americans billions in pollution-related health costs, but coal companies aren't footing the bill. Instead, they pass those costs on to families of kids with asthma. For too long, coal companies have gotten away with pumping pollution into the air -- pollution that costs American families more than \$100 billion in health costs each year. The coal industry calls this "externalizing their costs" - which is a fancy way of saying "not paying their fair share."

Coal is also not the boon for jobs that it's made out to be. The wind industry alone already provides more jobs than the coal mining industry does. What's more, America's 2.7 million workers in the clean-tech sector earn 13% more than the median U.S. wage.

Don't be fooled. It is a myth that America needs coal to keep our economy growing and prosperous. It is a myth created and perpetuated by the pseudo-scientists, lobbyists and legal teams that protect the coal industry and disguise the true costs of continuing to rely on coal. Inside the Beltway, such myths -- and such lobbyists -- can have a powerful effect on progress toward a clean energy future.

But that doesn't mean America is trapped by Congressional inaction. Because in America's towns and cities, local people like you are making a difference -- far away from K Street and partisan gridlock.

Over the last eight years, the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign has mobilized communities and allies across the nation to protect their interests when new coal-fired power plants are proposed for their communities. When the lobbyists told them there was no other way, they worked with responsible companies to develop cost-effective clean-energy plans.

As a result, 153 proposals for new coal plants have been stopped; that's three-quarters of the new coal capacity that coal developers have proposed since 2002. And that capacity has been replaced with a mixture of wind, solar, energy efficiency and other alternative, cleaner sources.

Now the Beyond Coal Campaign is pushing to retire existing coal-fired power plants. Wisconsin is on the front lines of this exciting campaign, from retiring one of Pulliam's oldest and dirtiest units in Green Bay, to the retirement of the coal units at Madison Gas and Electric's Blount Street Station and UW-Madison's Charter Street Plant. Wisconsin has begun transitioning away from coal. And the fight has picked up across the nation -- in Colorado, Texas and most recently the phase out of TransAlta's coal burning plant in Centralia, Washington. In fact, nearly 10% of America's coal capacity is already committed to be retired. But much more needs to be done.

Mary Anne Hitt, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign, observes: "We're already winning in cities across the country. Community by community, people are standing up and saying no to coal, saying that they are ready for the clean energy economy. Now we're ready to take this campaign to a whole new level."

And that's where our work continues. From supporting the EPA's efforts to protect our health with the Clean Air Act, to fighting to retire our oldest and dirtiest coal units, to installing clean energy policies and equipment, it is up to us to build our clean energy future.

Many of you have been engaged already, whether by installing solar panels on your own homes, getting on a bus to attend an EPA hearing, or helping fight the coal plant in your neighborhood. As we build our clean energy future, we continue to grow the Sierra Club and strengthen our communities.

Ending our reliance on coal will dramatically improve air quality, improve health while reducing health costs, create more family supporting jobs and expand our economy. That's a reality that America has to act on -- town by town, power plant by power plant. The fact that Washington is at a standstill doesn't mean that Wisconsin has to be, because this is a fight that we can win at the local level. ♻️

For more information or to get involved in the Campaign, contact Elizabeth Ward, 608-256-0565, [elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org)

# NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

Continued from Page 1

The potential for terrorism at nuclear plants is also a concern. Major news sources reported in 2010 that Sharif Mobley, who shot a security guard in Yemen while being held as a suspected member of al Qaeda, had worked at five U.S. nuclear plants from 2002 to 2008

## STORING RADIOACTIVE WASTE: NO SAFE SOLUTION IN SIGHT

The waste that nuclear reactors generate can be deadly for up to 250,000 years, and there is no known solution for permanently, safely dealing with this problem. Because of this, nuclear waste from plants in Wisconsin and Minnesota are in "temporarily" stored onsite in dry cask and spent fuel pools on the shores of Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. Nationwide over 75,000 metric tons of nuclear waste are piling up near 39 reactors.

The Yucca Mountain nuclear waste storage area was taken out of consideration in 2009 after discoveries led to doubts about the site's ability to safely, permanently isolate high-level radioactive waste. First, Department of Energy (DOE) researchers found chlorine-36, a radioactive isotope that resulted from nuclear weapons testing just 50 years earlier, traveling 800 feet below the mountain's surface via rainwater filtration.<sup>1</sup> This suggests that water could enter the site and break down storage containers within a matter of decades. Second, seismic events could result in cracks that would allow waste to travel long distances, and there have been more than 600 earthquakes registering more than 2.5 on the Richter scale within a 50-mile radius of the site over the past 25 years. Similar concerns about the geologic properties of Wisconsin's Wolf River Batholith previously led this site to be considered suboptimal for waste storage. But, the lack of a national waste repository and the inability of onsite storage to permanently contain dangerous nuclear waste suggest that this site could again be considered if Wisconsin's nuclear safeguards are removed.

Contrary to some popular thinking, the French have not solved the nuclear waste problem. They tout their ability to recycle their nuclear waste, but only 1% can be re-processed into plutonium (MOX) fuel. The French have also been criticized for dumping 100 million gallons of "unrecyclable" waste

into the English Channel annually.<sup>2</sup>

## NUCLEAR ENERGY: A BAD BARGAIN FOR RATEPAYERS COMPARED WITH EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLES

Nuclear power has benefited from over \$140 billion in federal subsidies over the last 50 years, from liability protection to loan guarantees. The estimated cost for just one new nuclear plant is \$10 billion dollars and new plants take around 10 years for construction and licensing. And the cost for a nuclear plant continues once the plant is built, for waste storage and decommissioning once the plants cease operations. For example, the cost for decommissioning the Vermont Yankee plant alone is estimated at over a billion dollars. A presidential Blue Ribbon Panel recently recommended allotting \$25 billion dollars in federal funding to address the nuclear waste problem.

Because the Congressional Budget Office assumes that 50% of loans to nuclear power projects will default, Wall Street will not finance nuclear energy. As a result, the nuclear industry is seeking 100% federal loan guarantees for 80% of capital cost for new plants. Why should taxpayers be asked to take a risk Wall Street isn't willing to take?

In 2007, the CEO of General Electric expressed his doubts about nuclear energy's economic viability to the Financial Times, stating "I don't have to bet my company on any of this stuff. You would never do nuclear. The economics are overwhelming."

The federal government estimates that a major accident at one of Wisconsin's reactors could cost over \$40 billion in property damage alone. Unfortunately, the Price-Anderson Act caps the limit on liability for a nuclear accident at just \$12.6 billion dollars, meaning that taxpayers would be on the hook for the remainder of the damage.

The challenge of addressing baseload power needs can be met more easily than overcoming the drawbacks of nuclear energy. We can expand energy efficiency and customer-generated distributed energy; we can back up daytime solar with nighttime wind, geothermal and biomass; and we can upgrade to a smart power

grid that can store energy and allow consuming devices to talk to producing devices. But don't take the Sierra Club's word for it. In 2009, when asked about new coal and nuclear plants, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Jon Wellinghoff said, "we may not need any ever." He added, "People talk about, 'Oh, we need baseload.' It's like people saying we need more computing power, we need mainframes. We don't need mainframes, we have distributed computing."

In August 2011, the University of Wisconsin Madison was awarded \$5.6 million from DOE to research nuclear reactor technology. At best, this research could lead to safer cooling systems and more economical designs for nuclear reactors. At worst, it won't lead to solutions for the most daunting problems posed by nuclear energy, and it will tie Wisconsin's future to an energy source that is risky, costly, and too slow to effectively address climate change. With all of our country's current economic woes, we can't afford to bet on the wrong horse. We need to move toward cleaner, safer alternatives, including expanding successful energy efficiency programs and renewable wind, solar, and biomass, and we need to start today. ☺

<sup>1</sup><http://www.state.nv.us/nucwaste/yucca/nyt01.htm> <sup>2</sup> *Alternet*, 03/23/09, Linda Gunter. *The French Nuclear Industry Is Bad Enough in France; Let's Not Expand It to the U.S.*



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# IS YOUR COMMUNITY A WATER STAR?

by Suzanne Wade, UW-Extension Natural Resources Educator

Conservationists wanting to honor Wisconsin municipalities that go above federal and state regulations -- and encourage them to do even more to protect water quality -- have a new program to turn to: Wisconsin Water Star. One year after its start on Earth Day 2010, Water Star is shining a spotlight on the innovative steps many Wisconsin communities are taking to conserve and protect water resources.

Using a self-paced on-line application process, Water Star invites municipalities to answer questions about all aspects of their operations that touch water, including public works, engineering, planning, public lands management, emergency management, drinking water, public health and wastewater treatment. The program then formally recognizes those communities that have taken significant steps to protect surface water and groundwater, such as strengthening storm water controls, ensuring water quality, protecting habitats and encouraging residents to conserve water.

Twenty two Wisconsin municipalities have been named either a gold, silver or bronze Water Star Community since the program kicked off including Ashland, Bayfield, Beloit, Bristol, Brown Deer, Dane County, Darlington, DeForest, Egg Harbor, Fitchburg, Grafton, Manitowoc, Menomonee Falls, Middleton, Mukwonago, Plymouth, River Falls, Stevens Point, Sun Prairie, Waukesha County, Weston and Whitewa-

ter. "It's pretty amazing to me the breadth of actions that have been taken all around the state," said Water Star Coordinator, Suzanne Wade. "It certainly shows how different the challenges are that Wisconsin municipalities face and how creative they are in meeting those challenges. Water Star is one way for them to share their good work."

## WATER STAR EXAMPLES

City of Fitchburg Engineering and GIS specialist, Felipe Avila, said it's nice to have a program that recognizes the steps Fitchburg has taken to more rigorously protect local waters. He said Fitchburg has established regulations prohibiting septic tanks, limits development to areas that can be served by gravity-fed sewer systems, is installing a stormwater basin to protect marshlands from pollution and trash, and is planning to irrigate the municipal golf course with wastewater effluent to conserve water.

Darlington, one of the smallest Water Star municipalities, has tightened up its sewerage system to limit leaks and other problems that can result in water contamination. The city's efforts have been so successful that Darlington's Public Works Director traveled around the state to give presentations on the municipality's work.

Manitowoc was recognized in part for its public outreach effort, including stormwater

drain stenciling programs, rain garden and rain barrel demonstrations and educational paddling trips. Manitowoc stormwater aid, Janet Sosnosky, said their educational programs created a big demand for rain barrels resulting in a waiting list. Sosnosky said she's always looking for help convincing alderman the city could do more to protect water resources and would be pleased if Water Star could include even stronger incentives such as points that could be used toward earning grants.

To help guide future municipal efforts Water Star is hosting a series of "webinars"—web-based seminars—featuring speakers from state cities, villages and towns that are making improvements under challenging circumstances. The archived webinars, presentations and other information can be found at: <http://www.waterstarwisconsin.org/webinars.cfm>

## BE A WATER STAR

Does your community deserve recognition as a Water Star? To learn how they can qualify please visit the Water Star website at <http://www.waterstarwisconsin.org/>, or contact the Water Star Coordinator at 414-256-4631.

Water Star is sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Cooperative Extension, MSA Professional Services, Town and County RC&D, Rock River Coalition, the UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center, Dane County, Natural Resources Consulting Inc.(now Stantec), Ruckert-Mielke, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. ☺

## APPLY FOR JOHN MUIR CHAPTER GRANTS

by Barbara Thomas, JMC Executive Committee

What good deeds could your local Sierra Club Group accomplish with some extra money?

Imagine the possibilities! You could bring in a speaker on a hot topic, support a local school project, create a walking path in your neighborhood, or provide books for an after-school environmental reading group. Any of these projects, or others on your Group list of "Great Ideas," may qualify for funds from the Chapter Grants program.

It's best to first run your idea by our Chapter treasurer. Some group money must be already spent before grant money can be received from the grant fund. Then, just fill out an application and mail or e-mail it to the Committee Chairperson Barbara Thomas at [thomash@uwstout.edu](mailto:thomash@uwstout.edu).

Requests can be made at any time—there are no deadlines. Your Group does need to plan ahead however, because in addition to having your Group's approval, you also need the Chapter Treasurer's review of the Group's

finances, the Grants Committee approval, and Chapter Executive Committee approval. The whole process may take a few months. But don't let that stop you from making your great ideas become a reality! The funds are just waiting to be put to good use, so figure out what good deeds your group could do with this extra money. ☺

To request an application email Barbara Thomas [thomash@uwstout.edu](mailto:thomash@uwstout.edu) or call the Chapter Office (608)256-0565.

# WATER SENTINELS CONNECT TO PROTECT WATER

by James Kerler, JMC Executive Committee

Mid-July is a great time for paddling and for connecting with important water resources, so on the 16th of July sixteen Sierra Club Water Sentinels spent a day canoeing and kayaking the Crawfish River in Jefferson County. Guided by Gregg Riemer of the club's River Touring Section, we put in at Aztalan State Park, 25 miles east of Madison.

Aztalan is arguably Wisconsin's most significant archeological site, so we started with a brief tour led by Bob Birmingham, retired State Archeologist. A leading author and interpreter of Aztalan's "Mississippian" culture, Bob told us about the people who inhabited a walled city here, with pyramid mounds, beginning around 1100 A.D. Once home to 300-500 people, the site has adjacent springs and provided access to the Crawfish and Rock River corridors, as well as nearby Rock Lake. This meant abundant clean water, fish, clams, waterfowl and deer, and a route to the major ancient city of Cahokia on the Mississippi River near St. Louis. During low water a rock weir for spearing fish is still visible in the Crawfish River at Aztalan. Mississippians left Aztalan around 1250 A.D., likely in

response to prolonged drought.

The story of Aztalan seemed to emphasize our own dependence on water resources and a livable climate. We began paddling through wooded farm country bottomlands, and enjoyed turtles, herons, eagles, cranes and ducks. The trip reaffirmed our need to protect Wisconsin's life-giving waters.

During lunch on an island, Jim Kerler described being a "citizen water monitor" in Wisconsin's Water Action Volunteer (WAV) program. Volunteer monitoring is critical for collecting local water quality data, and is a key component of Sierra Club Water Sentinels partnerships nationwide. Liesa Lehmann of the Wisconsin DNR gave an overview of the Rock River "Total Maximum Daily Load" (TMDL) project. This coordinated, multi-year effort is analyzing sources of excess phosphorous and sediment in the Rock River basin, a majority of which is from farm runoff. It is also developing plans to reduce those pollutants. The

huge Rock basin spans the Madison Lakes East to Waukesha County, and from Horicon Marsh South to the Illinois border. A similar TMDL is underway for downstream portions of the Rock River.

Do you want to help protect a lake or stream in your part of Wisconsin, or take action on a water issue? Contact the John Muir Chapter office for more information (see last page of this issue) and link up with the Water Sentinels! ☺



## AUTUMN ASSEMBLY REMINDER



Rosenblum Lodge

Don't forget this year's Autumn Assembly! If a weekend in a rustic natural area spent with like-minded environmentalists sounds like your idea of fun then you don't want to miss this opportunity. Highlights of the October 7-9 event, include exciting talks includ-

ing a keynote speech by Representative Penny Bernard Schaber, 57th Assembly District, WI. The weekend will also include wildlife presentations, children's programs, a silent auction, early riser hikes, a late night star gazing adventure, and more.

Located just 15 miles west of Waupaca, Camp Helen Brachman offers 200 acres of open prairie, red pine plantation and upland hardwood forests as well as the sand beaches of Pickerel Lake. Each year the Autumn Assembly brings together Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin, creating an opportunity for participants to learn more about environmental issues and Sierra Club happenings, see the registration form for more information and sign up today to be a part of the special weekend.

A complete schedule of events can be found online at [wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Event/aa.asp](http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Event/aa.asp) or call the chapter office (608) 256-0565.





## WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

# GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER

by Dr. Stanley A. Temple, Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison

Photo by Hans Hillewaert

**Common Name:**  
Great Crested Flycatcher

**Scientific Name:**  
*Myiarchus crinitus*

**Appearance:**  
About the size of a Red-winged Blackbird with a gray head, olive back, rufous wings and tail, and a bright yellow belly.

**Behavior:**  
Forages for insects from perches in the middle to upper levels of mature trees.

**Habitat:**  
Mature deciduous forests.

My life-long fascination with phenology (the study of the timing of seasonal events) has taken on sobering implications as global climate change has forced many species to cope with challenges imposed by warmer temperatures earlier in the spring. One of these species is the Great Crested Flycatcher. It nests in the eastern deciduous forests of North America but spends the winter in Central America and South America, making it a true "long-distance migrant," one that migrates many hundreds and even thousands of miles.

Like most long-distance migrants, Great Crested Flycatchers time their migratory movements using annual changes in photoperiod (daylength) which is a very accurate indicator of

the changing seasons. On the other hand, short-distance migrants that travel only a few hundred miles or less, adjust the timing of their migratory movements to the local climate, especially temperature.

We know from analyzing historical records from naturalists, such as Aldo Leopold, that the spring arrival of Great Crested Flycatchers in Wisconsin has remained remarkably consistent throughout the 20th century, even as spring temperatures in some parts of the state have risen by as much as 3°F since 1950 (see [www.wicci.wisc.edu/](http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/) for details). Each year, the flycatchers arrive within a day or so of May 1, exactly as expected since annual cycles of daylength have remained unchanged, even as temperatures have climbed.

When flycatchers return to Wisconsin in spring they must compete for a very limited supply of naturally occurring nesting cavities, typically in a rotted limb or holes excavated by other species (or even a properly placed nest box). Such birds are called "secondary cavity nesters" in contrast to "primary cavity nesters," such as woodpeckers, that can excavate their own nesting cavities. Because existing cavi-

ties are in limited supply, they are hotly contested by many species of secondary cavity nesting birds, as well as mammals, such as squirrels and bats, and insects, such as bees. In such competitions, one of the most successful strategies is to take possession of a cavity early in the season and defend it against later arriving species.

With warmer, earlier springs, secondary cavity nesters that are short-distance migrants have been able to get an edge on the competition by arriving and occupying available nesting cavities several weeks earlier than in the past. Some of the Great Crested Flycatcher's most aggressive nest competitors, such as European Starlings, are short-distance migrants. They have already occupied the best cavities and actually have young in the nest by the time the flycatchers arrive.

This disadvantage has big consequences for the flycatchers as they are denied access to the best nests, or any nest at all. Since the North American Breeding Bird Survey began tracking the status of our breeding birds in 1966, Great Crested Flycatchers in Wisconsin have declined by about 30%. Climate change creates winners and losers among species, and unfortunately the Great Crested Flycatcher seems to be among the losers. ☺

*Stan Temple has been recording observation of birds for most of his life and has encouraged others to do likewise. He created the long-running Wisconsin Checklist Project to provide a way for Wisconsin birders to make their observations available for scientific analysis. That program was an inspiration for eBird (see [www.ebird.org/wi](http://www.ebird.org/wi) for details), an online citizen science program administered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where Temple did his graduate studies before occupying the professorship once held by Aldo Leopold at the University of Wisconsin. Since retiring from academia, he has been a Senior Fellow at the Aldo Leopold Foundation, where he continues his fascination with how birds are adjusting to climate change.*

### A NOTE ABOUT GIANT PUFFBALLS (FROM PREVIOUS MUIR VIEW)

The Giant Western Puffball (*Calvatia booniana*) and the Giant Puffball (*C. gigantea*) are different which was not clearly stated in the previous article. The photo printed is a Giant Western Puffball which is edible (as are all puffballs as long as the interior is solid white). The Giant Western Puffballs are textured on the outside and occur in the west, while the Giant Puffball which has a smoother exterior is the one we are more likely to encounter in Wisconsin. Both are considered fine edibles.



# FALL 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, OCT 1: ICE AGE TRAIL HIKE-A-THON

Ice Age Trail Hike-A-Thon. Visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/iceage.html> for more information.

## SATURDAY, OCT 1: HWY 38 CLEAN-UP AND LUNCH

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Location: Hwy 38 & 4 Mile Rd, Caledonia, WI 53126, USA Meet at the church parking lot at 4 Mile Road and Highway 38 at 9:00 a.m. Bring good walking shoes and gloves. The other equipment will be supplied. We will have lunch afterward at The Meadows Restaurant, 10615 Northwestern Ave (HWY K). Leader: John Berge: 262-633-8455 [jberge35@wi.rr.com](mailto:jberge35@wi.rr.com) [SE]

## SATURDAY, OCT 1: PARADE OF COLORS HIKE

The Ice Age Trail at the Chippewa Moraine is one of the most spectacular in Wisconsin. Add fall color to sparkling lakes to a cool day, and you have the perfect hike! You'll be shuttled to your start, 6 miles or less (you choose) from the Visitor Center, and find refreshments at the end. Start between 9 and 11 AM at the Visitor Center, 7 miles east of New Auburn on Co. M. Richard Smith 715/967-2164 or [chapter@iatchippewa.org](mailto:chapter@iatchippewa.org) [CV]

## MONDAY, OCT 3: FORUM ON FRACK SAND MINING

The Blue Hills Solidarity Network will be hosting a public forum about the impacts of sand mining on our health, our environment, and our quality of life. This meeting will be on Monday, Oct 3, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 204 in Ritzinger Hall on the UW Barron County campus in Rice Lake. For more information, please e-mail [BlueHillsSolidarityNetwork@gmail.com](mailto:BlueHillsSolidarityNetwork@gmail.com) or call Joshua at 715-931-7449 [CV]

## OCT 7-9: AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

Statewide gathering of Sierra Club members and friends in the Annual Autumn Assembly. Different groups host this event each year. This year our group is hosting the event at Camp Helen Brachman. Please see the Autumn Assembly web link for more information.

## SUNDAY, OCT 16: 10:15AM: FALL COLOR HIKE AT BLUE MOUND STATE PARK

We'll meet at the Park & Ride at the corner of Old PD and Business 151 at 9:30 and carpool to Blue Mound State Park at 9:45. You can also meet us at the park in the parking lot near the pool at 10:15. A

## 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.

## CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE DINNER SERIES

Enjoy the company of fellow Madison area Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine. 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](mailto:lacinda.athen@gmail.com) or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Meeting time provided when you RSVP. [4L]

### TUESDAY OCTOBER 11

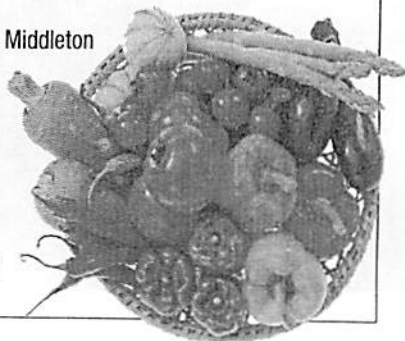
Appetizers at Louisianne's  
+ Pie at Hubbard Avenue Diner  
7464 and 7445 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton

### TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15

Tempest Oyster Bar.  
120 E. Wilson, Madison

### TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

The Bayou.  
117 South Butler Street, Madison



State Park Sticker is required on all vehicles entering the park: annual \$25.00 daily \$7.00. Look for me wearing a white Life is Good baseball style hat. We'll hike several of the trails at Blue Mound State Park, about 5 miles total. Wear weather-appropriate clothing, sturdy hiking boots and pack plenty of water and a lunch. For more information and to RSVP contact Bill: duh.guru@att.net [4L]

### **SATURDAY, OCT 22: BLUE HILLS CANYON HIKE**

Expect a colorful day in the woods, critters in abundance and exploring features of glacial and pre-glacial times in several canyons in the southwest portion of the Blue Hills. Hikes to various points range in round trip time from 20 minutes to 2 hours. Total hiking path distances range from 2 to 5 miles. Meet at 9 AM at the Blue Hills Inn at the intersection of CTH W and O north of Weyerhaeuser. Good hiking boots are essential for small-rock-filled terrain. Bring a lunch. Jim Connell 715-234-8883 or james.connell@uwc.edu. [CV]

### **SATURDAY, OCT 22: WEED OUT! - PRINGLE NATURE CENTER**

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Location: Pringle Nature Center, 9800 160th Ave, Bristol, WI 53104-9206 Help save Pringle Nature Center from invaders! Invasive species are choking out the native plants in many of our parks, nature preserves, and even our backyards. Weed Out! is a volunteer program that aims to maintain the biodiversity of our public spaces and native areas by stopping the spread of invasive species. Bring your own sturdy pruning loppers, saws and gloves if you have them and help preserve southeastern

Wisconsin's native plants. Leader: Barry Thomas 262-859-2960 bthomas6@wi.rr.com [SE]

### **SATURDAY, OCT 22: WEED OUT! RACINE**

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Location: Colonial Park, Racine, WI 53405, USA Help save Colonial Park from invaders! Invasive species are choking out the native plants in many of our parks, nature preserves, and even our backyards. Weed Out! Racine is a volunteer program that aims to maintain the biodiversity of our public spaces and native areas by stopping the spread of invasive species. Bring your own sturdy pruning loppers, saws and gloves if you have them and help preserve southeastern Wisconsin's native plants. Group Leader: Melissa Warner: 262-639-0918 melissa.warner3@sbcglobal.net [SE]

### **SUNDAY, OCT 23 - 5:15 PM: ELVER PARK HAYRIDE & BONFIRE WITH S'MORES**

Get ready for Halloween by enjoying a crisp fall evening in Madison's Elver Park. The event will treat you to a unique view of one of our city's beautiful parks and a family friendly campfire. The wagon, pulled by a tractor, will take us on a scenic tour of the park and we'll finish up around the bonfire. The hayride trip begins at 5:15 and is one hour: 30 minute ride, 30 minute campfire and 's'mores. (we may be able to stay longer, we don't know yet) All supplies are included and children are welcome! Please note that participants will need to enter/exit the wagon using a step ladder. Limit of 24 participants. You must contact Lacinda to RSVP a week in advance at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870. [4L]

## *Join the Team...*

*Our statewide Conservation Issue Teams are looking for dedicated members who are passionate about the issues and willing to take action & get involved. Join your skills and experience with other volunteers from around the state. Together the sky's the limit.*

**Beyond Coal Team:** Working to move Wisconsin beyond dirty coal to cleaner energy solutions, by fighting individual coal plants, engaging in corporate campaigns, and advocating for protective regulations.

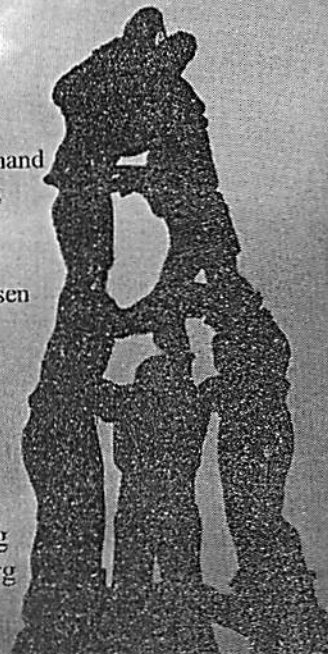
**Beyond Oil Team:** Leading the charge to reduce oil consumption by reducing demand (through mass transit and bicycling), promoting efficient vehicles & fuels and stopping offshore drilling and tar sands oil.

**Energy Efficiency Team:** Promotes reduced energy consumption in order to lessen the threat of climate change, works to promote Focus on Energy and the development of an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard.



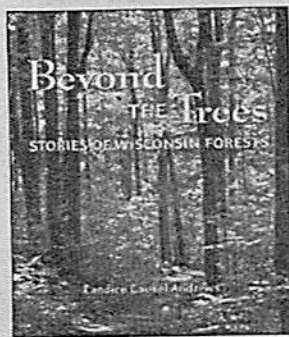
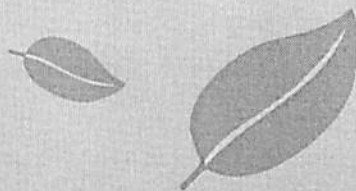
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FOUNDED 1892

For more information  
visit or email:  
[www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org)  
[john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org)



# THE GREEN REVIEW

By Amy Lou Jenkins



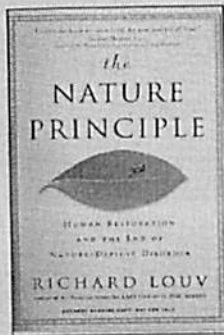
## BEYOND THE TREES: STORIES OF WISCONSIN FORESTS

by Candice Gaukel Andrews, Wisconsin Historical Society, 2011, 336 pages.

There are many ways to explore a Wisconsin forest; Andrews succeeds at all of them. She explores history of the land, folklore, evolutionary history, and sets out on foot to each of the fourteen forests celebrated in *Beyond the Trees*. While the present-tense treatment of the personal exploration may not be the favorite syntax choice of this reviewer, this style issue is a small note in the overall harmony of a book that accomplishes so much.

In about 300 pages the reader gains a wide-view connection and up-close experience with these treasured spaces. Informative and experiential stories are illustrated with contemporary and archival photographs and maps. Readers will find informational sidebars to slake the curiosity of their inner nature nut. Learn about ferns, discover the courage of turkeys, and celebrate the Oneida tribe's reverence of the White pine. Find prairies in the southern Wisconsin Havenwoods State Forest of Milwaukee. Walk the Brule River State Forest and Northern Highland-American Legion Forest located near the popular up-North Minocqua area. Travel West to Governor Knowles State Forest and East to Point Beach.

The arm-chair trekking afforded by a reading of *Beyond the Tree*, doesn't just prod the reader to visit the forest. Readers are likely to deepen their connection to the natural wonders of each forest. This connection is the root of the survival of each biotic community. Each of these plots of shared resource exists as a forest because some people loved the natural areas enough to save them. Forests were and are under extreme pressure to exploit the rich resources that define them. If we are to manage these State and National Forests for the long-term health of the forest, we must love, understand, and transfer them intact to future generations. Andrews' stories of these lands serve as a gateway to an intimate relationship with our cherished Wisconsin forests.



## THE NATURE PRINCIPAL: HUMAN RESTORATION AND THE END OF NATURE-DEFICIT DISORDER

by Richard Louv, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 288 pages.

When Richard Louv visited the Milwaukee Urban Ecology center recently, he acknowledged a truth about nature-deficit-disorder. When he wrote *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, many adults felt a bit slighted. Yes, the kids do need time in nature, but what about the grown-ups? Even rickety-old-folks need their nature fix. *Last Child in the Woods* provoked legions of pale and weak families to get their kids outside. Adults who said "we need nature too," inspired Louv's current release.

The *Nature Principle* displays Louv's skill in braiding the best of a scientific literature review into an eloquent narrative. He travels into the neurons of the brain, vitamins in the bloodstream, and into philosophy of the ages. This is a thorough and very readable treatise for living a life that fulfills the yearnings of the human animal. Louv challenges us to rethink our communities, jobs, meals, home, car, leisure, and purpose. Our connection to the natural world is the connection to our authentic selves. This authenticity forms the foundation for better living. Louv's optimism forecasts a hopeful version of the future: "We can, in fact, build a new nature movement, a people-and-nature movement...As it grows, health care professionals will prescribe green exercises, and other nature experiences. Developers and urban planners will create homes, neighborhoods, suburbs, and cities that are nature-inclusive—and they will pursue nature based urban and suburban renewal. This movement will dramatically increase the amount of nearby nature, resulting in greater biodiversity and increased food production closer to where we live" (p 258). Let's hope Louv's prognostication skills are as proficient as his rhetorical prowess. ☞

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Amy Lou Jenkins is the author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. See an excerpt of her next book project in the *Leopold Outlook Magazine*. If you have a book or film you'd like Amy Lou to review, contact her through her website at [www.AmyLouJenkins.com](http://www.AmyLouJenkins.com).

# 2011 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FORM

Adult Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child(ren)'s Name(s) and Age(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION THRU SEPTEMBER 26

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (14 and up) X \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # Children (5 to 13)\* X \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## REGISTRATION AFTER SEPTEMBER 26

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (14 and up) X \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # Children (5 to 13)\* X \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## LODGING

Cost for both adults (14 and up) and children (5-13) Bunk beds with mattresses. Bring own bedding/sleeping bags, towels, etc. Flashlights recommended. Ear plugs if noise sensitive, and sharing. Lodging cannot be guaranteed for late registrations or walk-ins.

**Retreat Center** Primary indoor lodging. 8 rooms; four bunks per room; bathrooms in hallways. The charge is \$52.00 per room. Please advise us if you are sharing a room, and with whom.

\_\_\_\_\_ #room(s) Friday night X \$52 per room = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #room(s) Saturday night X \$52 per room = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

May we assign someone to share with you? yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_  
 I prefer to share with (attendee name): \_\_\_\_\_

**Bunkhouse Overflow lodging.** Once Retreat Center is filled, we will use the bunkhouse. Divided Men's and Women's open bunk areas. One bathroom located on each side.

Persons will be charged \$13.00 per person per night.

**Tents** Tenting allowed anywhere on camp grounds. Toilet and shower facilities in separate building, close to Rogers Hall.

\_\_\_\_\_ #person(s) Friday night X \$7 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #person(s) Saturday night X \$7 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Lodging = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Questions:** Contact Maureen at (920) 468-7252, [birkmr@yahoo.com](mailto:birkmr@yahoo.com)

\*Children's registration Saturday's children's programs and materials. No programs for children under 5.

## MEALS

Children under five are free. Meals cannot be guaranteed for late registrants or walk-ins.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of persons wanting vegetarian meals.

Special dietary needs: \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday Breakfast:

\_\_\_\_\_ #adults X \$6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #children (5-13) X \$4.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday Lunch:

\_\_\_\_\_ #adults X \$7.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #children (5-13) X \$6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday Dinner:

\_\_\_\_\_ #adults X \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #children (5-13) X \$8.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sunday Breakfast:

\_\_\_\_\_ #adults X \$5.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #children (5-13) X \$6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Sunday Sack Lunch:

\_\_\_\_\_ #adults X \$6.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ #children (5-13) X \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Total for Registration, Lodging and Meals = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ # of people wishing to hike the Ice Age Trail, the Skunk and Foster Lakes Segment, on Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ # of people wishing to tour the Warch Campus Center at Lawrence University on Sunday.

Make check payable to **Fox Valley Sierra Group** and mail to:  
 Maureen Birk  
 3381 Nicolet Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-7205

## JOHN MUIR CHAPTER 2011 EXCOM CANDIDATES

Please read the following candidate statements for election to the Executive Committee as at-large delegates. Vote for your choices by using the ballot form on the next page.

### L.D. ROCKWELL

*Please list any previous leadership or volunteer experience you have with the Sierra Club or other groups that will help you succeed in this role.* I currently serve on the ConsCom. Committee with the SEGG Sierra Club, working with our group to promote the Hackmatack Wild Life Refuge being considered for southern Walworth County and northern McHenry County in IL. Currently serve as Vice President of Veterans for Peace of Milwaukee. Served as Treasurer for the Walworth County Democrats.

*What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background will you bring to the Sierra Club – John Muir*

*Chapter's Executive Committee?* I like to talk to people and get involved in projects. In my professional career in the military I learned to lead and set standards for young enlistees.

Keeping with that theme in my career as a purchasing agent for private companies I was able to help sustain the companies profit with decisions in purchasing.

*What conservation issue(s) are you most passionate about and why?* Clean water;



The U.S. House is proposing to cripple the Clean Water Act, Water is one of the most vital necessities in our life's! We need water to maintain life and it must be pure and clean. In addition water is important for our enjoyment; it promotes tourism and fishing for the State of WI, in general it is life. Land conservation, more green space (i.e. parks wild life preserves and natural habitat) less strip malls and home construction. ♪

### JANE SCHLEY

*Please list any previous leadership or volunteer experience you have with the Sierra Club or other groups that will help you succeed in this role.* I'm one of founders of Chippewa Valley Chapter – Sierra Club; coordinator of the local group's annual fundraiser – a Bird Seed sale for approximately 10 yrs; helped organize and select recipients of chapter "Earth Green Awards" (recognizing local business and community members for environmental leadership/projects) – approximately 10 yrs; helped organize and select recipients of Environmental Education Awards (award grants to area schools for environmental projects:



school forest; butterfly gardens; birdhouse and bat house projects; etc); helped educate and organize letter writing campaigns on current environmental legislation.

*What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background will you bring to the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee?* I ran my own insurance agency for 32 yrs.; I am not shy and tend to speak my mind when an issue needs addressing; I am a good diplomat... getting people to cooperate and see both sides of an issue is important to me; I am not a single issue voter... everyone needs to see the good and bad in both sides and choose our battles carefully so as to not burn ourselves or anyone else out; I am a good listener and good at "peeling the onion" so that everyone looks deeper; people know I am passionate about Mother Earth and they seem to respect that; I complete my tasks.

*What conservation issue(s) are you most passionate about and why?* Nuclear power is not viable until we get the fuel rod issue resolved; Alternative energy (wind; solar; hydro) but we must be mindful of risks with each of these, namely WIND as it applies to bats. Bat Conservation Int'l is working closely with energy companies on sonar and speed equipment to keep bats from flying into rotors and being killed. Radio towers are another killing field for migratory birds.; Wild lands; forest management; endangered animals and plants; keeping the Great Lakes Initiative on the books; clean water and air; working together with small business, farmers, hunters and fishers to keep our environment healthy and strong for future generations (find common ground and work on making that larger by working toward a common good- a safe and healthy Mother Earth.) ♪

### ERIC URAM

*Please list any previous leadership or volunteer experience you have with the Sierra Club or other groups that will help you succeed in this role.* I currently serve as Outings Chair and head up the persistent bio-accumulative toxics (PBT) campaign for the Sierra Club's National Toxics Committee. I also serve as the toxic metals expert for Sierra Club and Sierra Club of Canada on international issues. I previously served as Chapter Chair and Conservation chair for the John Muir chapter and would like to continue my involvement with another term on Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee.



*What unique skills, experience, or perspective from your personal or professional background will you bring to the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter's Executive Committee?* I'm the Executive Director for SafeMinds, a non-profit organization that advocates to end Mercury-related neurological disorders. I previously served as the owner and CEO of the company, Headwater LLC, where I worked successfully as a consultant to advance the non-profit community's efforts to help solve the global mercury dilemma. Prior to that, I

worked at the Sierra Club's regional office for ten years advocating to reduce the legacy of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes.

What conservation issue(s) are you most passionate about and why? I've been an avid angler since childhood, and fishing has given me a glimpse into the need to protect water resources. This passion led me to become active in the Chapter's Water Sentinels, where I previously assisted by testifying in support of water protection legislation and the call for increased factory farm oversight. I also lead the annual Sierra Club Outings to Quetico Provincial Park where participants have the chance to enjoy and explore this remote, beautiful area of the Boundary Waters. ♻️

**VOTE**



In the  
JMC  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE  
ELECTION

Use the ballot on the right to cast your vote.



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CLUB**

FOUNDED 1892

**JOHN MUIR CHAPTER  
2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ELECTION BALLOT**  
Vote for no more than 3 candidates

**Ballots must be postmarked  
by Nov 5, 2011**

**Voter #1:**

L.D. Rockwell    Jane Schley    Eric Uram

Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

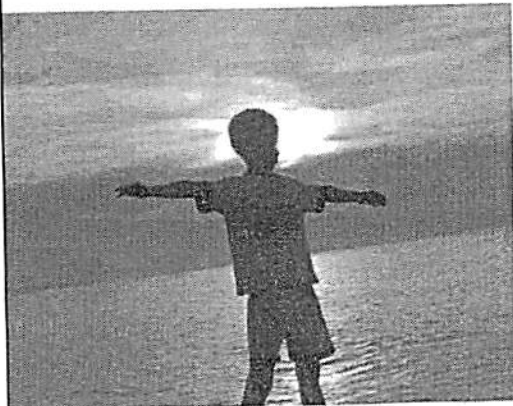
**Voter #2:**

L.D. Rockwell    Jane Schley    Eric Uram

Write In: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Liz Wessel, 546 Woodside Ter., Madison, WI 53711

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JOIN US FOR THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER'S

# 2011 Autumn Assembly

October 7-9, 2011 @ Camp Helen Brachman |

## JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

### EXCOM MEETINGS

- November 5 10 am at the First United Methodist Church, Baraboo  
January 14 10 am at the First United Methodist Church, Baraboo

### 2011 EVENTS

- October 7-9 Autumn Assembly, hosted by the Fox Valley Group  
Camp Helen Brachman, Almond, WI  
October 13 Capturing Wisconsin's Clean Energy Future, Lakeshore  
Technical College, 1290 North Ave., Cleveland, WI For  
more information, contact Elizabeth.Ward@sierraclub.org!  
October 25 Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance Energy Expo,  
11:30am, Madison, Best Western Inn on the Park  
November 5 Excom ballots due

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR JOHN MUIR CHAPTER GROUPS

- Chippewa Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/chippewa/>  
Coulee Region <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/>  
Four Lakes <http://www.4lakes.org>  
Fox Valley <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/foxvalley/>  
Great Waters <http://www.sc-gwg.org/>  
SE Gateway <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/segg/>  
St. Croix Valley Interstate  
<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix/>

Even if there is not a Sierra Club group located near your home, you can still take meaningful action.

Contact the John Muir Chapter office to find out how.  
222 S. Hamilton St., Suite 1  
Madison, WI 53703-3201

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



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