

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

Join a Conservation Team and Make a Difference

by Eric Uram, JMC Conservation Chair

In August, the John Muir Chapter voted to create statewide issue teams for our conservation priorities of reducing global warming and protecting water resources. These teams were created to improve our coordination and effectiveness as we tackle immense conservation challenges over the next year. We are looking for volunteers interested in these issues to join the teams described below. People who join will receive training, attend regular meetings, write Action Alerts and editorials, participate in Conservation Lobby Day, and attend public hearings and other events as needed. They will also have the opportunity to help shape and carry out our Chapter's conservation plans.

Wisconsin is at the threshold of passing comprehensive climate change legislation and implementing the Great Lakes Compact. Decisions made now will affect our state for generations to come. Please consider helping out by joining one of our conservation teams:

Protecting Wisconsin's Climate. To reduce the threat of global warming, the John Muir Chapter pledges to work with organizational, government and private partners to ensure we all do our part to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The fastest, most economical way to accomplish this is to improve energy efficiency and conservation. We must reduce our overdependence on coal and other fossil fuels that threaten our climate and public health. We must continue to expand and develop renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, and biomass in an environmentally responsible manner. We must improve our transportation options by expanding mass transit and decreasing sprawl. We must continue to work with Labor to reinvigorate Wisconsin's economy by developing green jobs in areas such as manufacturing renewable energy components and retrofitting homes and other buildings to improve energy efficiency. We can create a clean energy future in Wisconsin that will benefit our climate and economy. But we must take action NOW to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

Enjoying and Enhancing Wisconsin's Waters. To protect our invaluable water resources, the John Muir Chapter pledges to work toward the adoption of wise use, conservation, and proper treatment and

preservation practices while balancing personal, industrial, and agricultural needs. Wisconsin is shaped by the water that surrounds it, flows through it, and lies beneath it. It is home to the headwaters of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River, over 15,000 lakes, 12,600 rivers and streams, and countless smaller creeks. Millions of people reside on the shores of the upper Great Lakes and the upper Mississippi River. Wisconsin residents have depended on clean water for thousands of years – for wildlife habitat, drinking water, agricultural irrigation, industrial applications, and recreation. Our responsibility is to sustain these water resources and what they provide for future generations.

Please contact the John Muir Chapter with any questions and let us know if you are interested in helping out by contacting our office at (608) 256-0565 or emailing eric.uram@sierraclub.org.

Eric Uram lives in Madison and belongs to the Four Lakes Group. He operates Headwater Consulting, a firm committed to improving water quality and controlling pollution.

Attend Conservation Lobby Day

Join citizens from throughout Wisconsin for Conservation Lobby Day on Wednesday, February 25, at the Monona Terrace, in Madison from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The day is sponsored by Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters which works with the Sierra Club and many other partners to shape our priorities. As a result of this process, the conservation community voted to prioritize the following four critical issues for the 2009-10 Legislative Session:

- Adopting a strong statewide plan to address global warming
- Creating standards for safe agricultural, industrial & municipal waste-spreading.
- Developing statewide standards to protect our drinking water
- Restoring independence to the DNR Secretary

This is your chance to tell your state legislators why you care about clean air, clean and abundant drinking water, and resilient habitats. (In 2008 over 500 people representing the Sierra Club and over 100 other groups traveled through a snowstorm to participate!) Be sure to identify yourself as a Sierra Club member when you register at:

www.thedatabank.com/dpg/273/personal2.asp?newsession=1&formid=lobbydaylc

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Jim Steffens, Chair
John Muir Chapter
jjsteff@mhtc.net

One cannot help but have very mixed emotions at this time. One the one hand I am elated that we have elected a President who shares many of the values and concerns of the environmental community, and who—even before assuming office—is an example to the global community that a nation can overcome racial intolerance. Senator McCain shared some of our concerns but because of a negative campaign it was impossible to tell if he would have acted out of conviction or partisanship if elected.

At the state level we have elected a majority in both houses of the state legislature who, we hope, will address some of the pressing issues that Wisconsin faces. Issues such as coming to grips immediately with the issues of global warming, dealing effectively with pressing water quality issues, and with the approval of the Great Lakes Compact, passing legislation that will protect these waters on which our state so much depends.

But at the same time, it is difficult not to

feel a strong sense of unease at the economic situation facing our nation and state, a state of affairs that will strongly color what we can effectively accomplish in the next few years. As a country we face a deficit of hundreds of billions of dollars at a time when priming the

economic pump is necessary. As a state, the projected deficit is in the neighborhood of five billion dollars; a deficit that will affect in no small measure the legislature's agenda and its ability to address Wisconsin's pressing issues.

However, as it has been said, crisis is a time of opportunity; a chance to do things in a completely new way. For example, energy conservation can become an opportunity to save money, create new jobs and address how we live and transport ourselves in ways we refused to think about only months before. It's a chance to create a whole new energy conservation-based economy that we can export to the rest of the world.

For a good description of this, I hope you will take the time to read Thomas Friedman's recent book, "Hot, Flat and Crowded." He describes the crisis that we face in terms many in the Sierra Club refuse to acknowledge, and at the same time presents the opportunity in clear terms.

Both the opportunity and the crisis affect the Sierra Club as well. We face distinct budgetary issues over the next few years. An organization dependent on the generos-

ity of its members is stretched when its members have immediate financial concerns. At the same time we can be a catalyst for the change that is necessary and provide the ideas and leadership that is needed. Can we rise to the challenge and be a beacon of hope and leadership at a difficult time? Yes we can!

Jim Steffens, John Muir Chapter Chair, belongs to the Four Lakes Group. He lives in Ridgeway.

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JMC Honors Five Award Winners at Autumn Assembly

by Lacinda Athen, JMC Awards Chair

As Awards Chair for the Chapter, one of the highlights of my year is learning about, and being inspired by, the excellent volunteer leaders spread throughout our state. Through the nominating papers submitted by their peers, I have the privilege of seeing how everyday people can bring about extraordinary change through their efforts. And for our volunteers, these efforts often feel tireless and thankless. So it is a great pleasure to shine a light on their contributions and share their accomplishments with other Sierrans. Awards were given at Autumn Assembly during dinner on Saturday October 11th. This year's winners are:

Laura Feider, for our New Activist Award

Laura joined the Sierra Club in 2006 and jumped in with both feet, joining Southeast Gateway Group's Executive Committee as Secretary, working with the Conservation Committee on their Bottled Water Education Project – emphasizing both the wasteful use of plastic and the undermining of confidence in local water supplies – and attending both the Midwest Renewable Energy Futures Conference in Madison and Sierra Club Leadership Training. Laura also encouraged the Group to enter the Racine Fourth of July parade in 2007 and helped plan and construct hand-made signs suggesting many ways that people could reduce their carbon emissions; they were carried by walkers, bikers, skaters and a hybrid car. Laura's youthful enthusiasm inspires us older folks. She also comes up with great ideas, such as creating a Southeast Gateway Group page on Facebook to bring in younger members who are so important to the Sierra Club's mission. Thank you Laura!

Jan Moldenhauer, for the Wildflower Award

Jan has been a Sierra Club member for at least 20 years, and has also been actively involved with Trout Unlimited, Audubon and Greenpeace. She enjoys being outdoors and is not afraid of protesting. She says her brother frequently tells her (jokingly) not to get jailed as a result of her activism. Jan is an active letter writer and attends many public hearings, often finding opportunities to make a statement. Several years ago Jan went to Washington, D.C. as a volunteer lobbyist for the Alaska Coalition, and was able to tell Congressional representatives why it is important to protect Alaska and its rainforest. She made it personal by telling people about the link between the forests and the medicine that helped her recover from cancer.

Jan also leads or participates in recreational and service outings and serves as a member of the Fox Valley Group's Executive Committee, providing useful insight and doing important leadership work. Their monthly programs are mostly the result of Jan finding speakers and convincing them to be guests, usually for free. And their annual fundraising auction and holiday social, though the work of many, would be much diminished without Jan's involvement. The Sierra Club and other organizations have benefited from Jan's interest in the outdoors. She has personally contributed a lot. And she is also a catalyst, helping countless others to be active. Thank you, Jan!

Jeff Sytsma, for the Merit Award

Jeff has been the Southeast Gateway Group Treasurer since 2004 and began the Group's rain barrel program in 2007 with the intention of keeping the group solvent and benefiting the environment at the same time. He purchases the rain barrels from Keep Milwaukee Beautiful, modifies them as needed, and resells them to the community, including delivery and optional installation. In addition, Jeff has negotiated with the Racine Public Works Department for the City to offer 200 rain barrels to residents at a subsidized price. The Group again provides delivery and optional installation. This helps make environmental options more available to low-income residents. He also runs the annual cranberry sale and is a go-to person to raise funds for such things as the Group's Education Outreach and Fourth of July Parade participation. He has set up the Southeast Gateway Group as a fiscal agent to collect and hold grant money for projects of other organizations. He is a stalwart volunteer in the Group's ongoing (Continued on page 11)

Dave Blouin Receives National Award



It is with great pleasure that the John Muir Chapter congratulates Dave Blouin, the Chapter's Mining Committee and Political Committee Chair, for receiving a Special Service Award from the national Sierra Club for his successful work over many years.

Dave was presented his award by Club President Allison Chin at the national awards banquet in San Francisco on September 20. This is the second year in a row that John Muir Chapter members have been recognized on the national level for their service to the Club.

This award acknowledges Dave's dedication and hard work in shepherding the Chapter's activities on mining activities, particularly his Herculean efforts on the Crandon Mine in northern Wisconsin.

Dave has taken on a new role as John Muir Chapter Political Chair. With Dave's capable guidance, we look forward to a new day in Wisconsin with a more progressive legislature and continued majority support for progressive national politics.

Whether it is at the National, Chapter or Group level, it is vitally important that we acknowledge our volunteers for their efforts in support of the Club. Please take a moment to consider the volunteers in your area and how best to acknowledge their work.

V is for Victory!

No New Coal Campaign Wins Again!

by Eric Uram, JMC Conservation Chair

It finally happened: The Wisconsin Public Service Commission met a coal-fired power plant proposal they didn't like. After rubber-stamping two previous coal plants, one in Racine for We Energies, and another near Wausau for Public Service Corporation of Wisconsin, Alliant Energy's proposed Cassville coal-plant expansion was denied.

The power plant, touted as state-of-the-art by the utility, included greenwashing the proposal by using biomass for fueling a small fraction of the generating capacity.

Led by Wisconsin Clean Energy Campaign Director Jennifer Feyerherm, the John Muir Chapter played a pivotal role in the decision reached on November 11 by the PSC. At a time when we need to reduce our impacts on the climate, the Sierra Club and supportive members of the public saw this proposal as counter-productive.

In fighting the addition to the power plant, the Chapter argued, and the PSC agreed, that the plant would actually increase

Wisconsin's carbon footprint, be more expensive than any other energy alternative including solar or conservation, and ultimately force customers to pay to feed a fossil fuel power plant for years to come instead of improving other energy needs.

When announcing the decision, all the PSC Commissioners talked about the pressing need to reduce global warming pollution. Two of them talked about the need to increase our reliance on biomass, but this project was the wrong way to do it. Commissioner Meyer said that in terms of CO₂, this plant "is certainly a loser." Commissioner Callisto noted that Alliant's so-called "Carbon Reduction Plan" relied on things they were already doing. Indeed, Commissioner Azar described it as "smoke in mirrors."

In all, there were 4,672 comments generated in opposition to the plant and only 465 in support. Once again, grassroots power-in-numbers trumps corporate dollars. Congratulations to all who played a role in stopping the proposal!

See Sierra Club's National Coverage on Scrapbook: www.sierraclub.typepad.com/scrapbook/2008/11/coal-plant-scrapped-wisconsin-chapter-celebrates.html and participate in the blog about Sierra Club achievements: www.sierraclub.typepad.com/clubhouse/2008/11/coal-plant-rejected-in-wisconsin.html

Eric Uram is on the Sierra Club's National Toxics Team and is the John Muir Chapter Conservation Chair. He lives in Madison.

Wisconsin's Environment Wins in Fall Election

Sierra Club–John Muir Chapter Celebrates Pro-Conservation Candidates

The Sierra Club–John Muir Chapter celebrates President-elect Obama's victory and victories by dozens of Sierra Club-endorsed candidates for U.S. Congress and the Wisconsin State Legislature. "Although we know this is just the beginning of the work that needs to be done to address global warming and to protect and restore our Great Lakes, electing Barack Obama is a step in the right direction. This election provides hope for implementing measures like reducing greenhouse gas emissions, supporting renewable energy and creating green jobs to reinvigorate our economy," said Shahla Werner, Sierra Club–John Muir Chapter Director.

The election of a strong environmental President and pro-conservation majorities in the Senate and Congress are critical and timely victories for our environment. "The

new administration's commitment to federal environmental laws will make our job of protecting Wisconsin's environment less of an uphill battle," said Dave Blouin, Sierra Club–John Muir Chapter Political Chair.

In the Eighth Congressional District, we congratulate Steve Kagen in his successful reelection campaign. "Voters in the Eighth voted for the candidate who wants real energy solutions like investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy rather than political pandering to solve our energy crisis," said Werner.

The Sierra Club is grateful to voters for their strong support of pro-conservation candidates for state legislature. "We have attained a pro-conservation majority in the Assembly for the first time in 14 years, greatly enhancing our chances of passing several key pieces of environmental legislation," Blouin said. "We hope to see the implementation of the recommendations by the Governor's Global Warming Task Force to address the critical issue of global warming in Wisconsin." said Werner. "We are also very excited about the prospect of passing a statewide ban on unnecessary phosphorus lawn fertilizer that is polluting

our lakes and passing e-waste legislation to coincide with the switch to high definition television signal in 2009."

The Sierra Club is especially proud of former Sierra Club Chapter Chair, Penny Bernard Schaber (D-Appleton), who ran an outstanding campaign and has won the race for Assembly District 57. Sierra Club members volunteered their time and energy to campaigns across the state and are celebrating wins by many John Muir Chapter-endorsed candidates for Senate and Assembly, including Jim Holperin (Senate District 12), Fred Clark (AD 42), Kim Hixon (AD 43), Phil Garthwaite (AD 49), Kristin Dexter (AD 68), Chris Danou (AD 91) and Jeff Smith (AD 93). The 2008 election ushers in a unique opportunity for significant progress on the Sierra Club's conservation and environmental goals.

For a full list of endorsements see: www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/PDF/MVOct08Final.pdf and the JMC website for Sierra Club-endorsed candidates who won in contested races: <http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Great Waters

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

by Cheri Briscoe

In 2005 the Great Waters Group applied for a Ron Mann grant to sponsor the work of the Urban Wilderness Project, created by member Eddee Daniel to educate and promote the preservation of rivers as wild places in urban areas. The project included presentations with photos and discussions in Wisconsin and nearby states, culminating in a book written and illustrated by Eddee. Here is my review of this beautiful new book, part of the Center Books on American Places series of the Center for American Places.

Urban Wilderness: Exploring a Metropolitan Watershed, by Eddee Daniel. 288 pages, 145 color plates, 2 color maps. Center for American Places, 2008.

Have you ever seen a river and wondered where it starts, where it flows, what its story is? Eddee Daniel did that with the Menomonee River watershed in the Milwaukee metropolitan area. I had known about his photographic talent and looked forward to seeing his pictures in print. I had forgotten that Daniel also has a talent for writing with prose that paints pictures as eloquently as his eye composes them with a camera.

No matter where you live, you will never look at a swamp, wetlands, riparian forest,

or engineered, concrete-channelized river in the same way after you read this book with its sensitive writings and photographs of the Menomonee River watershed. Even the most anti-urban dweller will find the poetic intimacy of this book alluring.

When Daniel is exposing urban degradation, his creative lens turns it into a colorful composition with artful contrasting textures and shapes. His metaphors and similes create sometimes painful pictures of environmental assaults to our urban rivers and wetlands. They are countered by haunting passages such as the one he wrote while hiking a path in tall grasses: "Each brush shakes loose a delicate cloud off in a mist from the panicle, or cluster of flowers. Before long I am dusted with the blessing of pollen. It is like walking down the aisle of a gloriously illuminated cathedral with an entire congregation of priests shaking censers over me as I pass. A holy spirit pervades the air, shimmering like sunlight through smoke." There must be a little bit of John Muir in Eddee Daniel.

As I explored the Menomonee River watershed through Daniel's words and photos I was also reminded of Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*. In both books I found myself drawn into the passion that was felt by the writer for his surroundings and the interconnectedness of the particular parts of our earth that were being observed.

Daniel writes "The tensions of urban wilderness coexist like intermingled pieces of different puzzles: agricultural, industrial,

residential, private, and public. But the challenge is not to disentangle and separate the diverse images: it is to find a way to fit together all of the pieces into a new and harmonious whole."

Interspersed with his own observations are many quotes by environmental sages that have influenced Daniel's passionate desire to help us understand the need for cities to preserve and protect their wild places. This book is both an adventure and a plea for all of us to connect with our "urban wilderness."

Eddee Daniel has taught art and photography in the Milwaukee area since 1980, including at Carroll College, Mount Mary College, and the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha. His photographs have been published in "Popular Photography," "The Photo Review," and "Art in Wisconsin." They have also been exhibited at the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Haggerty Museum of Art at Marquette University, and the Aberdeen Gallery in Washington, D.C.

For more information about the Urban Wilderness Project go to <http://www.eddeedaniel.com>. The book is distributed by the University of Chicago Press, www.press.uchicago.edu. Copies are available from local Milwaukee area book stores, Amazon.com, and Milwaukee Riverkeeper, www.mkeriverkeeper.org.

Cheri Briscoe, who's retired from Milwaukee School of the Arts, was Chair of the Great Waters Group from 2002-2007. She currently serves as Chapter Delegate and Group Political Chair.

Contact Information for John Muir Chapter Groups

Chippewa Valley

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

Coulee Region

<http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/index.htm>

Four Lakes

www.4lakes.org

Fox Valley

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

Great Waters

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

Southeast Gateway

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

St. Croix Valley Interstate

<http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org/about/groups/st-croix>

Wisconsin River Country

Contact Rich Wentzel: (715) 687-4391 or rwent52@yahoo.com

Even if there is not a Sierra Club group located near your home, you can still take meaningful action. Contact Chapter Membership Chair Jenny Persha or the John Muir Chapter office to find out how. Reach Jenny at jennypersha@gmail.com. Contact the Chapter office at john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org.

Great Lakes Should Top National Priorities

by Susan Michetti

The lack of proper attention to one of our major natural resources—the Great Lakes—requires immediate correction. Scientists describe this urgent situation as a “widespread ecosystem meltdown” with “dead zones” and “crashes of the food web.” The Great Lakes are at an irreversible tipping point that must be addressed now. People must become engaged in the process to ensure that these vital concerns are heard as concerns of the people.

The Great Lakes are a significant part of the economic engine of our nation. For example, the Great Lakes bring Wisconsin \$6 billion in spending on tourism, fishing and hunting each year. Nationwide, these natural treasures generate \$55 billion in economic activity annually. Significantly, various industries outside the Great Lakes region depend on goods that pass through the Great Lakes, ultimately affecting manufacturing and business in every state. Protecting the health of the Great Lakes must become one of our nation’s top priorities for this highway of commerce to remain viable.

The Great Lakes, with 20% of the world’s fresh water, provide drinking water for 42 million people. We need to be able to eat fish from the Great Lakes. Fish need clean

water and air, and to achieve that we need a 90% reduction in mercury emissions and decreases in nitrous oxide and sulfur oxide emissions. Solutions are needed to solve the problems caused by invasive-species introduced by dumping water ballast from globe-traveling ships and through other pathways.

Contaminated toxic sediments are a long-term issue, and the US/Canada corrective strategy is at a critical stage. The newest generation of chemicals of concern requires assessment. Lakewide Management Plans assess and revitalize near-shore Remedial Action Plans with adjusted nutrient targets, but in New York, some 20,000 loons died from Type B botulism near shore.

A working group of the EPA Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office provides information about grant programs. Over 3 years, 52 projects were funded with a total of \$9 million. One-third was federal funds and the rest matching funds or private grants. But the Great Lakes need federal investment of at least \$20 million each year beginning now to bring the lakes back to a healthy state.

This cannot be put on hold. The Great Lakes are at a point of no return. Any delay will rapidly escalate the costs, and failing to address the problems in a timely way also risks that consequences will become irreversible. Delay is unacceptable. We need to demand that Congress and President Obama authorize significant funding to immediately attack water pollution, air quality and invasive species problems. This

should be one of the urgent items addressed in the first 100 days of the next Congressional session. The new EPA administrator needs to be dedicated to Great Lakes restoration in the same way that Carol Browning fought to save the Florida Everglades. The Interior Secretary needs to share that dedication. The President needs to appoint a Great Lakes Czar to orchestrate restoration and protection efforts and respond to climate change needs.

These lakes, all natural wonders of global importance, will rapidly deteriorate in the next 2 years without proper attention. Within the eight Great Lakes States, 95% of legislators have voted in ways that show a strong agreement about the importance of protecting the Great Lakes. President Obama and Congress need to apply major resources to control invasive species, eliminate pollution from untreated sewage and toxic waste, and re-establish wetlands and threatened habitat. Sustainable infrastructure improvements are also needed. All these problems require federal funding, effective laws and strong enforcement, as well as elevation to the top of the national priority list.

Wisconsin’s Governor Doyle said, “This is a critical time when so much depends on how political leadership has prioritized the Great Lakes.” That determines if the Great Lakes are just forgotten or discussed, or rise to the top of the national agenda. But simultaneously with various polls putting environmental protection among the top 10 citizen concerns, *(Continued on page 10)*



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter’s budget.

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 quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

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

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

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

by Peter Muto, WCHOF delegate

The WCHOFF Board of Directors met in Stevens Point on November 1, 2008. We elected: Herbert F. Behnke, Martin Hanson and Charles H. Stoddard to the WCHOFF. We plan to conduct an induction for these three heroes on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Our Plan for this event provides for an hour for registration and refreshments at 9:00 a.m. and ceremony at 10:00 in the Sentry Theater where we plan for an optional banquet at a cost of \$20.00 per meal.

HERBERT F. BEHNKE (1925-)

Herbert was born at Lena, WI. He graduated from Lena High School. He was the youngest of ten children of Reinhold and Julia Behnke. He remained on the family farm during World War II. In this, he was an exception in our generation; and missed action in the "Good War" (Terkel.)

Mr. Behnke left the farm to work at Shawno for an animal breeding service. He worked up to the position of vice-president of his company, Cooperative Services International.

Herbert was very involved in civic activities. In fact, it appears that he has received awards from more conservation clubs that make up the WCHOFF Than any of our inductees during my time of reading the biographies from Bill Berry!

Mr. Behnke served in the Wisconsin Board of Natural Resources (then the WCC) from 1967 to 1972 and later from 1989 through 2006. He was chairman of this board for four of those years. During this service he tried to balance the needs of both the fishermen and the hunters, on one hand, and the preservation of our natural resources on the other. (Editorial, ahead!) Let us remember there will be times ahead when we will need the support of our "hook and bullet" people to gain success for the environmental causes of us purists in Sierra Club! Herbert Behnke was one of the conservationists who helped to put us on the proper road to a sustainable America.

CHARLES H. STODDARD (1912-1997)

Charles was born in Milwaukee, the son of a physician who owned a 340 acre tree farm at Minong. While growing up in Milwaukee; it was the tree farm with: trout stream, ponds and wet lands that supplemented his education. He went on to the University of Michigan where he earned a B.S and M.S. Degrees in Forestry.

During WW II he served as a navy Officer in the Pacific. While on the Solomon he discovered a new species of trees: The Mastixiodendron Stoddardii.

Stoddard was the author of a textbook, Essentials of Forestry Practice, which was used in Universities for about 40 years.

Politics captured his mind in 1948, when he ran for the Wisconsin Senate as a Democrat. In 1960 Stoddard worked in the Humphrey campaign for the presidential nomination. After Kennedy won that political race; Stoddard became an advisor in the successful presidential election. He served in various jobs in Kennedy's Administration, and became Director of the Bureau of Land Management in 1963. He advocated: improvement of a grazing soils and forests, he became well hated "out West"! Stoddard was, also, an early instigator of the "Reserve Mining Case:, which dragged in our federal courts a long time. He served our state and nation with distinction.

MARTIN HANSON (1927- 2008)

Mr. Hanson was born into a very wealthy family at Oak Park, IL in 1927. He was educated at Oak Park and attended Northwestern University for three years. World War II came into his life in 1944. He did not finish his education (very unlike so many veterans in our generation).

In early 1926 Martin's father bought 1,240 acres (Holy cow, this is about two square miles!) of land which had a stream and a lake. Martin' spent his summers there. He learned to love: forests, streams, hunting and fishing. He developed an unusual skill, film-making which he used to advance his drive toward environmental education of the general public. Martin never did go back to college, but he gained conservation education through hands-on-experience in; forests, wetlands, lakes and streams. Hanson accumulated a large library of books in his home near Mellen (Ashland County).

Once Mr. Hanson took President Kennedy on a helicopter ride over the Apostle Islands, and aroused the president's attention to the beauty of the area. By seven years later, Senator Nelson had provided the impetus for legislation for the Apostle Island National Lake Shore. This legislation provided for federal protection of 20 islands in Lake Superior.

Martin's great virtue was perseverance. He stuck with many environmental issues, such as: Opposition to nuclear-powered electric plants, federal designation of the Scenic protection for the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, the ban on DDT in Wisconsin and protection for the Apostle Islands. Mr. Hanson spent three years on the study of beavers on his own private and secret pond, directly and quietly observing the animals.

I am sad to report that only nine days before we, Board of Directors, elected Mr. Hanson to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation Mr. Hanson was found dead outside his log cabin near Mellen.

For more information about WCHOF visit the website: www.wchf.org/index.html

Peter Muto, with Dale Schaber, represents the John Muir Chapter on the Board of Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. Peter is past Chair of the JMC and the St. Croix Valley Interstate Group. He lives in River Falls.

John Muir Chapter Calendar

2009 ExCom Meetings

January 10 First Congregational Church, Baraboo

2009 Events

January 10 River Touring Section Annual Meeting
Summit Town Hall, Oconomowoc 11 a.m.

February 25 Conservation Lobby Day (See front page)

Check the John Muir Chapter website, or e-mail or call the Chapter office for updated information.

John Muir Chapter

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


Phone: (608) 256-0565

E-mail: john.muir.chapter@sierraclub.org

GREEN REVIEW

Books relevant to Wisconsin Sierra Club Members

by Amy L. Jenkins


 **“Indian Creek Chronicles: A Winter Alone in the Wilderness”** by Pete Fromm, Picador.

Readers have shown interest in the role of wilderness in coming of age stories. Jon Krakauer’s “Into the Wild” has been appearing on the New York Times best-selling hardcover and then paperback lists for over a decade. While the character of Christopher Johnson McCandless evokes empathy, the tragic Alaska journey unites the disenchanting and escapist with wilderness. Krakauer’s moving book does deserve much of its acclaim, yet the protagonist is not a poster boy for a healthy relationship with wilderness. Look elsewhere.

In Pete Fromm’s tale of a solitary wilderness sojourn, he is not running away; he’s diving into adventure. There is blood but no tragedy. “Indian Creek Chronicles” is a story about a young man who falls in love with the mystique of Jim Bridger and Jeremiah Johnson and thinks it could be cool to spend the winter alone guarding salmon eggs in an Idaho snowed-in wilderness. The paltry \$200 monthly salary doesn’t dissuade Fromm. He is naive about his invincibility, but he is rational. The crystalline honesty and humor of the wiser Fromm looking back on his decision to leave his University of Montana scholarship to spend the seven coldest months of the year alone in a canvas tent high in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is not to be missed. The first-person account brings the reader to the clarity that comes often, once on a winter night when the stars radiate from a dark sky over a herd of elk huffing up a terrestrial cloud. The reader laughs with Fromm when he describes the sleeping dilemma of where to place his nose — out of the sleeping bag exposed to the cold night temperatures in the tent — or tucked within assaulted by a warm body reeking with a genuine mountain-man tang.

Fromm chronicles a goofy somewhat irresponsible kid, falling in love with a place and growing up. His love is imbued with a respect and an awareness of his maturing wilderness ethic, which seems too authentic to be merely a metaphor for learning to

know him. The West has claimed this writer who now resides in Montana, but Fromm never abandons his Midwest sensibilities. Readers from the heartland will recognize the soul of this Wisconsinite, crying as he reads a letter from his little brother, hiking dozens of miles in sub-zero temperatures at the chance of seeing family, and relishing the gift of cheese sent by his aunt. Fromm was never broken, yet the wilderness made him whole.

 **“Flight of the Hummingbird: A Parable for the Environment”** by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas with Wangari Maathai and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, GreyStone.

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas is not a traditional writer. He’s an artist, but not a traditional artist. He has developed a new genre — Haida Manga — a style evolved under the sway of indigenous and colonial heritages. Passion for social and environmental justice and influences from his Pacific Rim island home also feed the muse of this artist.

“Flight of Hummingbird” melds an ancient parable with original art. Parables persist for centuries because they hold meaning beyond the sum of their words. This little parable, with origins in the oral traditions of the Quechua-speaking people of South America, is told in only about a dozen pages of illustrations with just a sentence or two per page. It’s colorful and suitable for small children, yet the message has enough depth for any PhD-holding philosopher.

The lessons of the parable are expanded by short essays by the author and two Nobel Prize winners: Wangari Maathai and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Maathai’s personal story is parallel to the hummingbird’s. The Dalai Lama writes with such compassion and common sense it is hard to deny his wisdom, even if readers do not recognize him as their spiritual leader.

The parable, this time-tested truth, requires interpretation. Some will find it heartrending; others will find hope in the power of the individual. All will ask the question: Is the hummingbird powerful?

Amy L. Jenkins writes from Wauwatosa. Her essay “One Hundred and Twenty-Five Miles,” appears in the 2008 Seal Press Anthology “The Maternal is Political.” www.AmyLJenkins.com



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Transit Poised to Take a Bite Out of Global Warming

by Kerry Thomas, *Transit NOW*

Picture yourself speeding along on a train or modern bus, relaxing on your way to work and chatting with friends or catching up on emails. There's a smile in your heart, knowing that you saved a few bucks and are doing your part to reduce your carbon footprint. That pleasant dream could become reality if policy makers choose the high road on transit decisions in 2009.

Good policy decisions will dramatically improve our transit networks, our environment, and the economic vitality of families, neighborhoods, and cities. Transit is a powerful energy conservation tool that will shrink our energy burden and reduce unhealthy smog and greenhouse gases. It gives people a way to lower their cost of living and increase their available income. More travel choices reduce traffic congestion and help control sprawl.

In 2009, watershed decisions will be made on providing a stable, adequate, and sustainable funding source for local bus systems and modern commuter rail, such as Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee Commuter Rail (KRM) in SE Wisconsin. KRM is a proposed 33-mile line between Milwaukee and Kenosha that would connect with Chicago's Metra trains to link 9 Wisconsin stops in the Milwaukee-Chicago economic corridor with 25 communities and Chicago in NE Illinois. Nearly one million jobs are located within a mile of train stations between Milwaukee and Chicago. There are 14 weekday round trips planned, and 1.71 million annual passenger trips are projected.



Dedicated funding sources are the key. Transit systems have been financially starved, resulting in fare increases and service cuts that are reducing affordable access to jobs, education, health care, and opportunity—and severely restraining our ability to address global warming. In the Milwaukee-Waukesha area alone, cuts over the past

seven years have resulted in 40,000 jobs becoming inaccessible by transit, a number that will soon increase to 100,000 without new funding.

Although more people are riding transit now than ever before, bus systems in Wisconsin are struggling with sharply increasing costs and flat or decreasing revenues from local, state and federal sources. Metropolitan Milwaukee is one of the few major metro areas in the US without a dedicated source of transit funding, and one of a few without rail transit or regional transit coordination. While cities throughout the U.S. are reaping the rewards of their investments in transit, SE Wisconsin's economy and environment are suffering because of its antiquated transit systems. New dedicated funding sources for transit are crucial, and urgently needed.

Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) can serve as the framework for creating dynamic, multimodal regional transit networks now lacking in SE Wisconsin and across the state. Local communities should be assured of having the tools needed to support, coordinate, and operate vital transit connections by empowering local communities to create RTAs. An example is the temporary Southeastern Wisconsin RTA created to serve Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee

Counties by recommending a dedicated funding source and regional structure for local transit operations and KRM Commuter Rail. The RTA recently made bold recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to support a 0.5 % sales tax to fund transit and to remove funding by property taxes. A State Legislative Council Study Committee is tackling RTAs and developing a bill that would allow municipalities across the state to jointly create RTAs for funding and operating transit. Once finalized, the bill will need legislative approval.

Adequate dedicated local funding sources and RTAs can reverse recent slashes in local bus services and provide the necessary foundation to support well-coordinated



regional transit networks—and take a bite out of global warming.

Resources:

State Legislative Council Study on RTAs: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2008/RTA/index.htm

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority: www.sewisrta.org

KRM Commuter Rail: www.krmonline.org

Dane County Commuter Rail Transport 2020 Study: www.transport2020.net/

Please visit Transit NOW for more information: www.transitnow.org, or contact Kerry Thomas, kthomas@transitnow.org, 262-246-6151

A Sierran for decades, Kerry sees the dramatic impact that transportation policies have on the environment—and how transportation drives our economy, directly influences the nature of how we develop, and profoundly affects our quality of life.

(Lakes continued from page 6)

inadequate federal attention was given during the Bush Administration. It remains a political issue that will be resolved in a political way.

Susan Michetti was awarded the most outstanding volunteer activist in the JMC in 1994 for her Great Lakes work. She is a former Chair of Southeast Gateway Group, a former SEGG representative to JMC in the 1980's and 1990's, and a former member of the Sierra Club's Bi-National Great Lakes program. She lives in Mt. Horeb where she's a member of the 4 Lakes Group.

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board *by Peter Muto*

My acquaintance with the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) began with the arrival of a postcard inviting me to serve as a grant reviewer. I replied affirmatively, and that elicited a letter with an invitation to come to a meeting at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on a blustery, cold February day. There I met 28 fellow grant reviewers. Among our peers, I recognized Steve Magyar, an old Sierra Club workhorse from the Chippewa Valley Group. We spent that day on briefings, a discussion about our roles, and practice in evaluating some applications for grants.

We came back on a nice day in March to establish grades for a total of 114 proposals, requesting over \$700,000. We were divided into four-person groups; ours got ten proposals for forestry projects to review and score. Other project categories were: General, School Forests, and Energy, the latter new for this year.

Our group was later combined with another with whom we exchanged applications to examine each other's evaluations. Finally, we approved 17 of our combined 20 proposals. In summary, WEEB granted \$495,000 to 66 proposals of all types. Ten proposals in the new Energy category were funded with a total of \$36,000.

Now, to go beyond my limited experience with WEEB, it

was established by state law in 1989 and is funded by dedicated taxes on private property in designated Wisconsin forests. WEEB formulates all the rules for funding the various grant proposals. Membership is listed in the *Wisconsin Blue Book*. Only one member represents environmental education organizations on the 15-member board. I have had only two friends in that role, our own revered and late Jean McGraw, and our friend, the recently deceased Bill Buckley of Wisconsin Wildlife Federation fame.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Cindy Landers, a 7th grade life science teacher at Hudson Middle School, was awarded a \$5,000 WEEB grant to develop an education plan for the Hudson Middle School Forest. Carol Hardin, St. Croix Valley Interstate Group Chair, and I were escorted by Ms. Landers and her school group of Young Naturalists through the 10-acre site of the Hudson School Forest. We have offered her whatever assistance we can from the SCV IG.

For more on WEEB, contact Ginny Carlton, Administrative Specialist, WEEB, Room 110 B CNR, UW-SP, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or weeb@uwsp.edu

Peter Muto, lifelong educator, lives in River Falls and is the Environmental Education Chair, St. Croix Valley Interstate Group.

(Awards continued from page 3)

work on invasives in Colonial Park, Racine's 75-plus acre natural area, and is active in the Green Sanctuary Committee of his church. His work is recognized in the community as well; he is now co-chair of Racine's Green Congregations, a loose coalition of churches seeking to be more environmentally sensitive. As if that weren't enough, he volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Habitat ReStore, Weed Out! Racine, Root River Council (boat launch subgroup), Racine Recycles, and the Eco-Justice Center. And he has a new rain garden! Good job Jeff!

Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network, for the Good Citizen Award

In 2008, the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network (RP WIN) launched its Rain Garden Initiative, designed to improve water quality in the watershed with the goal of completing 25 rain gardens. Through generous funding from sponsors, they were able to hold four workshops, subsidize 50-100% of the cost of appropriate water-loving plants, arrange for free mulch, and assist participants in siting and planning their rain gardens. RP WIN's enthusiastic approach and careful planning and publicity resulted in the creation of 32 raingardens in one year alone, with 7,320 plants in 7,320 sq. ft., exceeding their goal by almost

30%. RP WIN will monitor each raingarden for three years and provide more free plants and advice to ensure that the gardens are functioning as intended. This is an important environmental program that will have lasting effect on reducing stormwater pollution and improving water quality. They have inspired people to take individual action to help the planet, instead of waiting for "someone else" to do it. They also plan to track the raingardens on RP WIN's website: www.rootpikewin.org and click on the Rain Garden Initiative logo.

Epic Systems Corporation, for the Torchbearer Award

Epic Systems creates healthcare software and electronic patient records, helping to reduce inefficiency and paper use in hospitals and clinics. But they should be lauded too for their attempts at being a "green" local business. When they built their new campus in Verona, Wisconsin, it was purposely located close to a bike path, and they installed bike lockers and shower rooms for staff to encourage cycling to work. They also funded a direct bus to their new facility from Madison's Westside carpool transfer point, in a cost-sharing arrangement with the Madison bus system.

Their new facility utilizes geothermal technology to assist with heating and cooling. It

is one of the largest corporate geothermal installations in the country. Epic's site also features underground parking ramps instead of asphalt lots, storm drains for natural infiltration, and lawns designed for a mostly no-mow campus. In addition, the majority of their 400 acres will be left undeveloped, though they do plan a large garden to introduce more locally-sourced natural foods into their subsidized staff cafeteria. They are also considering adding a dry-biomass plant that would produce methane from fermented garden waste, lake weeds, grass and other digestible matter to further offset their electricity usage.

In addition, Epic has always taken its role as a positive corporate citizen very seriously, and part of that pledge involves charitable giving. They offer each employee an opportunity to select a local charity at the end of each year, to which Epic donates \$300, up from their original \$100. With their staff increase from 150 to almost 3,000 over the past ten years, this has funneled tremendous amounts of money into local community groups.

Lacinda Athen is a member of the Four Lakes Group where she is Chair of both the Recycling Away from Home and the Awards Committees. She's also "The Muir View" Advertising Coordinator.

An Inspiring Autumn Assembly

by Shahla Werner, JMC Director

The 2008 Autumn Assembly was hosted by the Four Lakes Group and held at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in the Wisconsin Dells on October 10-12. The event kicked off Friday with an unforgettable tour of the Aldo Leopold Legacy Center in Baraboo. It was a sunny afternoon, and the prairie surroundings were buzzing with the last remnants of Indian summer. Attendees toured the LEED certified, carbon neutral facility with 198 solar panels, buildings constructed with local wood and stone, a rain garden stocked with native prairie species, and many other eco-friendly features. Afterwards, we got a chance to tour the Aldo Leopold shack featured in his classic book, "A Sand County Almanac."



Touring the LEED certified Aldo Leopold Legacy Center.

gave an interesting discussion on climate change in Wisconsin, and Ferry Bluff Eagle Council representative Jeb Barzen spoke about eagle recovery. The beautiful afternoon was further enjoyed by many folks canoeing on the Wisconsin River and exploring the island.

On Saturday evening Awards Committee Chair Lacinda Athen presented awards to several of our outstanding volunteers. (See Chapter Awards article on page 3.) Guests later enjoyed listening to inspiring author and traveler Eric Hansen discuss Sierra Club's work to stop the Exxon mine near Crandon, WI, and upcoming threats in the Upper Peninsula posed by mining interests. This includes possible uranium mining that may be fueled by the resurgence of interest in nuclear energy.

Afterwards we went out to the fire pit to enjoy a lovely evening of bluegrass music with the band, Down from the Hills. Attendees also had a lot of fun bidding on unique items donated by various members and local businesses during our silent auction, which raised almost \$1,300 to support chapter and group conservation efforts! (See the sidebar for auction donors.)

The wonderful weekend wrapped up Sunday morning with a stirring talk by Mike McCabe from the WI Democracy Campaign about how money and politics affect our environment. In the afternoon there was an enlightening tour of the International Crane Foundation.

The John Muir Chapter thanks the following sponsors of our 2008 Autumn Assembly: Ho-Chunk Nation, Green Concierge Travel, Community Pharmacy, Mark E. Saunders Financial Planning, Inc, Heartland Credit Union, Seventh Generation Energy Systems, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Community Shares of Wisconsin. **Special thanks to volunteers Liza Peckham, Jenny Persha, Lacinda Athen, Melissa Warner and Don Ferber** who helped make the 2008 Autumn Assembly such a success! Thanks also to Sean, Kristin, and the rest of the Upham Woods staff who made sure we had everything we needed for a successful event.

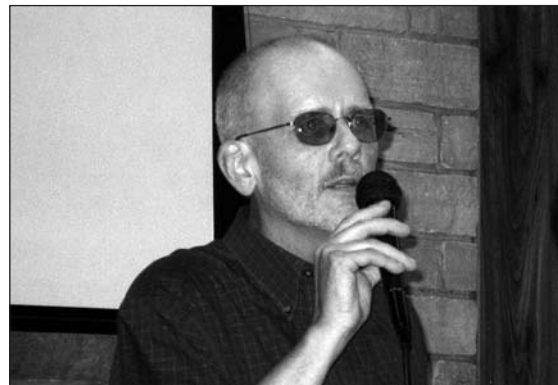
Shahla Werner, PhD., lives in Madison with her husband and preschool-aged son. She enjoys camping, hiking, swimming, reading and politics.



Awards Chair Lacinda Athen presents the Torchbearer Award to the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative.



Fox Valley Group Chair Alan Lawrence introduces Wildflower Award winner Jan Moldenhauer.



Author Eric Hansen discusses threats in the Upper Peninsula posed by mining interests.



Laura Feider receives the New Activist Award.

**The 2009 Autumn Assembly is October 9-11,
hosted by the Chippewa Valley & St. Croix Valley Interstate Groups.**

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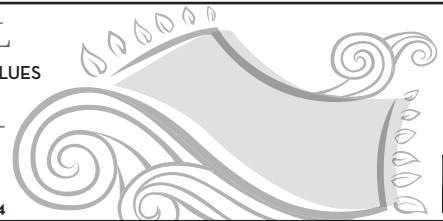
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These donations were made from November 1, 2007 through October 31, 2008. Workplace-giving donors from 2007 are included as well. Thanks also go out to our many contributors who prefer to remain anonymous. We try to acknowledge every donor; if your name is not listed, please know that we greatly appreciate your support.

RIVER TOURING SECTION OF THE JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

The River Touring Section (RTS) will hold its Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 10, 2009, at the Summit Town Hall in Oconomowoc. This is a great opportunity to meet paddlers and get involved with a statewide paddling group. Doors open at 11:00 am. The potluck lunch starts around noon (please bring a dish to share). After lunch, we'll review last year's trips and clinics, plan for 2009 activities, and watch slides of past paddling adventures. It's a great way to beat those "the water's too hard to paddle in blues."

If you're interested in paddling some great water with fun and skilled paddlers, then RTS is the group for you. We want to get you on rivers. We hope that you grow to enjoy paddling, to love rivers, and to support groups that work to protect them! All paddlers are welcome. Although most of our activities focus on river canoeing, we welcome the kayakers who occasionally join us too.

Every year, our members lead paddling adventures on quiet-, moving-, and white-water. To promote on-the-water safety and improve paddling skills, we also host several

instructional clinics in May and June that are geared to new, beginning, and intermediate paddlers. Detailed information about our trips and clinics is available on our website, www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/rtts/, and in *The Muir View*. We also send previous trip and clinic participants a list of the season's upcoming trips along with our annual report.

RTS supports conservation organizations by providing financial support to the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, American Rivers, and American Whitewater.

For more information, contact RTS Chair Meg Nelson at prairiesmoke2@gmail.com.

'09 PADDLING TRIPS

July 29 - Aug. 8: Boundary Waters/Quetico Canoe Trip. Join eight other modern-day voyageurs on this special adventure into the timeless and pristine wilderness of Canada's Quetico Provincial Park. Two 9-person crews will traverse the park one way, one crew beginning at an Ely, MN base and the other at Atikokan, Ontario, meeting along the way in a grand rendezvous. Expect to see wildlife and ancient Ojibway pictographs, travel the routes of the trappers and voyageurs and have the opportunity to explore from wilderness camps, fish and swim in drinkable lakes, learn about Quetico's natural and cultural history and stargaze in crystal-clear skies. Experience is not required, but good physical fitness and a positive attitude are essential. Shared costs will be \$475, including canoes and packs. A

deposit of \$100 will hold your reservation. Southbound dates are July 30-Aug. 8. *Trip leaders: Mike Prausa, 414-305-0052, or mprausa@wi.rr.com and Bill Moore 262-785-9022, environ1@sbcglobal.net. [GW/4L/JM]*

Aug. 29 - Sep. 7: Boundary Waters/Quetico Canoe Trip. Experience the life and land of the French voyageurs, Ojibway Indians and British trappers on this classic adventure into Ontario's Quetico Provincial Park. Beginning from a base near Ely, MN, you'll roam through the best of Quetico's granite wilderness with opportunities to fish, swim in drinkable lakes, view ancient pictographs and wildlife, stargaze and learn about this historic land. Experience is not required, but good physical fitness and a positive attitude are essential. Shared costs will be \$475, including canoes and packs. Reservation deposit: \$100. *Trip leader: Bill Moore, 262-785-9022 or environ1@sbcglobal.net. [GW/4L/JM]*

Sep. 25 - Oct. 4: Boundary Waters/Quetico Canoe Trip. Join us on an adventure into the timeless and pristine wilderness of Quetico Provincial Park. Autumn's quiet beauty rewards paddlers who travel when the air is crisp and fall colors start. On our journey, we paddle a shorter distance over our eight days in the land of the voyageurs so you can spend more time sharing in opportunities to fish, explore, relax and reflect. Experience is not a requirement, but good physical fitness and a positive attitude are essential. Shared costs will be \$475, including canoes and packs. Reservation deposit: \$100. *Trip leader: Eric Uram, eric.uram@headwater.us or 608-233-4120 [GW/4L/JM]*



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The International Scale of River Rating Difficulty is a 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 often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May require some 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.

(Note: The scale includes two additional Classes - V and VI - but since RTS is not offering trips at that level, we didn't include that information.)

From the American Canoe Association Web Site.

WINTER 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., as well as national and international outings which are listed in "Sierra," the magazine of the Sierra Club or on the website: www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/

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.

January 16-19, Friday-Monday: *Cross Country Ski Trip to Afterglow Lake Resort, Phelps.*

Discover and learn about the winter ecosystem while you stay for 3 nights and ski for 4 days at Afterglow Lake Resort 18 miles north of Eagle River. A side-by-side duplex cabin is reserved. Each side has wood burning fireplaces, full kitchens and three bedrooms (2 double beds and 2 bunks.) Bring your own sheets/sleeping bag and towels. The diagonal/classic and skate skiing tracks and separate snowshoe trails are excellent. Other trails are close by. Tubing and ice-skating are also available. There is a whirlpool, sauna and a hole in the water for the polar plunge if you're so inclined! For more resort info go to: afterglowresort.com. Bring your own breakfasts & lunches. Friday night you're on your own. (There are several nearby supper clubs.) On Saturday night there'll be wine/beer and cheese tasting followed by pot-luck. Please bring something that goes with chili, such as salad or bread and bring your own wine/beer/beverage and cheese to share for the tasting. For Sunday dinner there will be leftovers or you may choose to go out. Lodging is about \$120/person for all 3 nights, including a \$5 trip fee. A non-refundable (unless we are able to replace you) deposit of \$100 is due to reserve your spot. *Nancy Brown-Koeller; evening: 920-830-6625, weekends: 715-524-2293. Appleton [FV].*

January 17, Saturday: *Eagle Watching at Sauk City.* Join Bill on a DNR guided bus tour to learn about eagles at watching sites near Sauk City. This is an educational kid-friendly event. Carpool from the Panera Bread parking lot on Junction Rd. Meet at 8:30 for breakfast or arrive by 9:15 to carpool. The bus leaves Sauk City for the tour at 10 AM. After the tour we'll check out some educational displays or presentations in town and then stop for lunch before heading back to Madison. Bring binoculars & cameras. *For more info or to RSVP: duh.guru@att.net. (The schedule for this has*

not been posted yet; so info may change. Updates will be made as necessary.) [4L]

January 18, Sunday: *Family Sledding at Indian Lake County Park.* Bring the kids and sleds and join us for a 2-hour family outing at Indian Lake Cty Park. We'll sled down a gentle slope suitable for all ages. Warm up with hot chocolate and snacks in the warming cabin and finish up with a fun educational activity. Please note that this is a fun and educational outing for both kids and parents. Meet at 1 PM in the Indian Lake parking lot, approx. 15 miles northwest of Madison. Take Hwy 12 west, turn left on Hwy 19, go about 2 miles and turn left into Indian Lake Cty Park. There is no fee for sledding. (Tell the parking lot attendant that you came just for sledding.) If you want to ski there's a \$7 trail pass for anyone 16 or older. *For more info or RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon: 608-848-5076 or kmulb@charter.net. [4L]*

January 22, Thursday: *Cruisin' for Cuisine to Imperial Garden.* In keeping with our "Best of Madison in the 'Burbs'" we'll go to Middleton to enjoy perennial favorite: Imperial Garden. (www.imperialgarden.com) If you've never eaten there, then you haven't had Chinese done right. The ambience is old-school Chinese restaurant: dark woods, hanging lanterns, red lacquer... the works. (Not to mention the best sizzling rice I've ever had.) *RSVP by Jan. 16: [Lacinda: lathen@farin.com](mailto:Lacinda:lathen@farin.com) or 608-274-7870. [4L]*

February 7, Saturday: *Candlelight Ski at Blue Mound State Park.* Join us for a candlelight ski/hike/snowshoe. This is one of the candlelight events hosted by the DNR and park friends groups held each winter. After enjoying the trails and learning about the area's winter ecosystem, sit by the warm fire with a steaming cup of hot chocolate. We'll meet at 6:30 PM in the parking lot next to the hay bales surrounding the fire pit. A park

sticker is required for all cars. Carpooling will depart from the Military Ridge Trail parking lot, corner of Verona Rd and Hwy PD, on the east side of Verona at 6 PM. *For more info or to RSVP: Kathy Mulbrandon: 608-848-5076 or kmulb@charter.net. [4L]*

February 22, Sunday: *Snowshoe walk at Mosquito Hill Nature Center, New London.* Noon-2 p.m. Learn about the season's natural world on an easy walk through lowland forests and along the Wolf River. Snowshoe rental available (if renting, please arrive by 11:30). Meet in the warm Nature Center building. *Nancy Brown-Koeller: 920-830-6625; 715-524-2293 [FL]*

February 27-28, Saturday/Sunday: *X-C Ski/Snowshoe in Ironwood, MI & Hurley, WI.* Lodging for two nights at "The Inn" (a B&B) in Montreal, WI. It's a classic foursquare built in 1913 as the Montreal Mining Company office. The company town of Montreal is on the National Register of Historic Places. Options for families, couples or solo travelers. Skiing at ABR on Sat., a family operated, full service touring (classic, skate & snowshoe trails; lessons) area located on over 500 acres of varied terrain along the Montreal River. Sunday ski options include the city of Montreal's nearby trail with historical markers along the way or the Wolverine Trails at Big Powderhorn. About \$45/person/night plus trails fees and dinner at local restaurants. (Famous Liberty Bell pizza Fri. night!) See you in Big Snow Country where you'll learn about the area's environment while having some winter fun! *\$90 deposit due with reservation to Nancy Brown-Koeller: 920-830-6625, 715-524-2293 [FV]*

Outing host group is indicated in brackets:

[CV]	Chippewa Valley Group
[4L]	Four Lakes Group
[FV]	Fox Valley Group
[GV]	Great Waters Group
[SCVI]	St. Croix Valley Interstate 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.

Outings Coordinator:

Charles Paine
N8172 Firelane 13
Menasha, WI 54952-9650
920-739-1900
Email: chasp0@peoplepc.com

Planning a Legacy of Protecting our Environment

by Melinda Gustafson Gervasi

The John Muir Chapter was named after famous conservationist John Muir, who was born in Scotland but spent his youth on a farm near Portage, Wisconsin. He later attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison before trekking west to form the Sierra Club in 1892.

Our Chapter works every day to continue Muir's legacy of enjoying and protecting our unique species and ecosystems. Planned giving offers you the opportunity to be an integral part of the Muir legacy in Wisconsin. It means we can continue our mission to develop a well-trained grass-roots network dedicated to protecting our state's environment and realizing our vision to create a clean-energy future.

Contrary to popular opinion, you don't need to be a Kennedy or Rockefeller to make a planned gift—anyone, even those of modest means, can designate money or property to a cause that is important to them. A planned gift can either be a percentage of your net worth, a specific piece of property, or a spe-

cific dollar amount. Additionally, planned giving allows you to make a gift either during life or at death, creating flexibility if your financial situation is uncertain.

Besides providing diverse ways for you to invest in a cause you care about, planned giving may also generate tax benefits. Talk to your attorney, tax advisor or accountant before taking action.

Here are some of the most common types of planned gifts:

- **Bequest in a Will** – Name a non-profit organization in your will. It is possible to amend an existing will to include a non-profit organization. Here are two examples of bequests:
 - * I leave \$1,000 to Non-profit X.
 - * I leave 10% of the residue of my estate to Non-profit Y.
- **Life Insurance Policy** – Designate a non-profit organization as either a primary, secondary or final beneficiary of a current policy.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust** – Transfer ownership of property to a trust. You can be a beneficiary now, and upon your death the remaining balance is paid to a named non-profit organization.

- **Charitable Gift Annuity** – Create a contract between yourself and a non-profit organization. You make a gift to the organization, and in return they agree to pay income generated by the gift to you for the rest of your life or for a set period of time.
- **Beneficiary of a Retirement Plan** – List a non-profit organization as a beneficiary.

As the New Year approaches, it is a wonderful time to think about what causes are important to you and consider how you can support them. If protecting the environment has been an important part of how you live your life, perhaps the best legacy you can leave others is a wild and healthy planet. Can you amend your will to leave ten percent of your assets to The John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club? Whether you're planning a bequest of \$100 or \$100,000, your gift will amplify the work of thousands of volunteers who care about the environment.

Attorney Melinda Gustafson Gervasi specializes in estate planning and probate issues, and is the Deferred Gifts Representative for the Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter. She can be reached at Melinda@gustafsonlegal.com or 608-274-7192.



A Green Wedding

When we planned our wedding, we wanted to show our love for the planet as well as our love for each other. The invitations included wildflower seeds impregnated in the outer sleeve. At the reception, instead of glass clinking to call for the bride and groom to kiss, we requested that our guests offer a donation to the Sierra Club. These small gestures, while not world-changing, were meaningful to us and may help inspire our family and friends to think globally and act locally.

Thanks to Anne and Chris Meyer, Madison, for the creative way they shared their special day with the John Muir Chapter.