



The *Muir* VIEW

NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN | JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

Tar Sands Storytelling Tour Coming Soon!



In 2014, Enbridge began work to triple the amount of oil flowing through its Line 61 pipeline. By adding pumping stations along the line, Enbridge sought to expand its pipeline to 1.2 million barrels per day (bdp), making it the largest tar sands pipeline in North America. In comparison, the Keystone XL pipeline is 800,000 bdp.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) opted not to do any assessment of the impacts or any other permitting. Essentially, the DNR looked the other way as Enbridge worked on a monstrosity that would jeopardize Lake Superior, the Namakagon River, the Wisconsin River, the Rock River, and 400 other streams and rivers.

Dane County was the only place along the pipeline route that assessed the potential impacts before allowing Enbridge to

move forward. At the end of a long process filled with public input and a lot of analysis, the county required Enbridge to purchase insurance before expanding the pipeline so that if a spill were to occur, Enbridge would pay for the cleanup. Weeks later, a law was anonymously snuck into the state's 2015 biennial budget at the last minute prohibiting local units of government from requiring insurance for oil pipelines. A lawsuit ensued.

Since 2014, we've been working hard to spread awareness of the impacts of tar sands oil and tar sands pipelines and to ensure that something similar never happens again.

This year, on March 26, four years later, the Wisconsin Supreme Court heard oral arguments on the lawsuit and will determine the outcome in the next few months.

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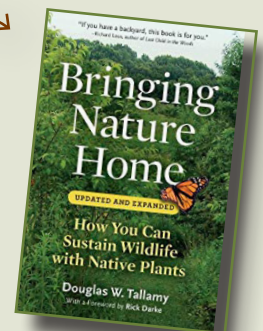
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What a Difference a Day Makes

What a difference a day makes! November 8, 2016. November 6, 2018. What else makes a critical difference is you, us, and our vision.

Vision always makes a difference – it raises our spirits, provides something positive to strive for, offers a better future, and gives us hope. At a time when too much anger and caustic dialog fills the airwaves, it is precisely what we need to offer a positive way forward.

This too is where the Sierra Club comes in. Our vision is to empower people to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.” Together, we make a difference. There are things to oppose, but most of all, through mutual respect and support, we can elevate each one of us and our environment. We indeed can be stronger together.

To make a vision a reality takes people and plans. We have the people. With more than 18,000 members and 68,000 supporters throughout Wisconsin, if we choose to step up, our’s will be a powerful voice. We also have many great volunteer leaders and an outstanding staff to offer guidance and support.

We also have a plan. It involves you and others like you who care about our future. That includes safe drinking water, ready access to nature, healthy food and good health care, strong school systems, good roads and transit systems that enable affordable and timely access to necessary places, well-paying jobs, safety in our own homes and neighborhoods and a voice our community and state. It is your voice, joining with our leaders and staff, that can create that new vision. Join us, speak up and together that change will be within our reach.

A NEW DAY

Personally, I am most gratified our new state leadership is not about supporting sides, but Wisconsin’s people and environment. I’ve met Tony Evers, Mandela Barnes and our new State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski, and truly believe they put people above partisanship. It was unfortunate our state legislature held



a special session to limit the Governor and Attorney General’s powers, and now want to blame the FoxConn boondoggle on the new Governor.

This partisanship should be a signal that further leadership changes are needed. We need leaders who care about your concerns above those of special interests. Fortunately, the new administration is appointing leaders who want to hear from their staff, listen to science and create protections and policies that serve us all. Government will be open for the business it is in – serving people, which will open doors for the rest of us.

A day can make a difference when people turn out and engage. On November 6, people engaged at the voting booth. Now, engage with your neighbors, friends, concerned citizens and leaders to have an open dialog about your vision. We are here each day to provide support and connections to make that happen. It takes one step at a time, one day at a time. Make that today.

Don Ferber
Chapter Chair

THE MUIR VIEW

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A Publication of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club

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

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Change of Address:

Send old and new addresses with mailing label (or member number) to:
Sierra Club – Member Care
2101 Webster St., Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

New Volunteer Experiences

Katie Hogan

Chapter Apprentice

I started as the Apprentice for the John Muir Chapter last June doing volunteer coordination. In the seven months since then, I've spoken with more than one hundred new and returning volunteers on the phone and in person. Meeting and working with all of them has been one of the highlights of my position, and I have learned an incredible amount along the way. Volunteers are what make the Sierra Club strong.

I connected with four new volunteers to talk about their experiences.

JANET NODORFT

Janet started volunteering with the Chapter last fall, and has become an active member of our MG&E Beyond Coal Team. When we first spoke, she was not

sure which team she wanted to join, so she tried out a couple of them and settled into the best fit.

Why did you want to get involved?

"I used to work in the environmental sector and wanted to help advocate for it."

What have you enjoyed so far?

"I felt welcome and asked tons of questions. I work with warm, friendly, kind people with like interests who are also concerned about the environment. People laugh and share and have a wonderful energy. The direction with the MGE team is positive, with lots of opportunity to get involved with various activities and flexibility in scheduling."

Did anything surprise you about volunteering with Sierra Club?

"The ability to share skills and knowledge were a big plus for me as a volunteer. People are so passionate and inclusive compared to other volunteer groups. [At other organizations, I] have been asked to sit in the back before. Those without knowledge at first were not given a say. On this team, there

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On that day, many gathered to thank Dane County for its leadership and to call on the Evers Administration to ensure that all future pipelines (and any other significant projects) be required to go through an extensive environmental impact statement (EIS) that includes a science-based analysis of the climate change impacts of the pipeline, including a cradle-to-grave analysis of dirty tar sands oil, public input and public hearings throughout all impacted areas, and a study of the impacts on cultural and sacred sites and treaty-protected resources, with full input and consultation from the tribes in Wisconsin.

All of these potential impacts will come together later this month in a visual storytelling project. Ten artists from around the state have come together to tell the story of tar sands expansion in the state of Wisconsin. Each artist painted a 2'x4' panel. All 10 panels come together to collectively illustrate the process, threats, and possible future of tar sands pipelines as they relate to Wisconsinites. This includes the devastating mining of the tar sands oil, the potential inability of tribes to hunt and fish in treaty-protected areas, the threats to our waterways, the impacts of climate-change, and more.

The opening reception for this series will take place at Clark Cultural ART Center (CART) in Neillsville on April 24. The event will be sponsored by CART, the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Youth Network (WiYN), the Wisconsin Safe Energy Alliance and additional local partners.

Following opening weekend, the installation will accompany a youth-coordinated "Tar Sands Campus Tour" through Wisconsin in the spring of 2019. The tour will be a partnership of student groups, WIYN, and community groups including Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance, 350-Madison, 80 Feet is Enough!, Save Our Illinois Land, and more!

April 24 - Opening at CART in Neillsville

April 29 - Hayward

April 30 - Marshfield

April 30 - Stevens Point

May 1 - Baraboo

May 2 - Madison

May 3 - Beloit

May 4 - DeKalb, Illinois

May 4 - Milwaukee

May 5 - Green Bay

Go to sierraclub.org/wisconsin for an updated list of events and to RSVP or contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org if you're willing to help with one of the stops.

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are a lot of opportunities to learn, and I appreciate the flexibility to contribute however much time you have toward whatever you're interested in. I have learned a lot about the issue itself, especially about the political influence of companies."

Is there anything you would like potential new volunteers to know?

"Education, awareness, and understanding make a difference. It could be in your own backyard and you wouldn't know. People CAN have a difference in their own city, county, state, and hopefully inspire people to take action. Every action that is positive can make a difference."

LAURA AND ABBY

Laura and Abby, from Waunakee, started volunteering in January and have been active on both the MG&E Beyond Coal Team and on the Wisconsin Loves Parks Team. Laura is a writer and stay at home mom, Abby is a high school student.

Why did you want to get involved?

L: "I was extremely discouraged with things at the federal level, [I was] signing petitions and calling but not feeling much of an impact. I talked to people who felt more empowered by getting involved at the local level [and decided to] stop sitting on the sidelines, [and] put my passion and beliefs into action. As a mom, I've taken my kids on so many amazing outings to Kohler, Peninsula, and Governor Dodge State Parks. I feel we need to leave our natural areas for future generations."

A: "[I] grew up in nature, taking my dog camping, hiking and kayaking. I studied Aldo Leopold in school and how great it is to be outside. I want to be involved

wherever I can, and I also volunteer at the zoo."

What have you enjoyed so far?

L: "It's a great staff and group of other volunteers. [It's] so encouraging to be around like-minded people. Sierra Club has a history of grassroots organizing and activism and I've benefited as such and learned new skills. Social media is



something I didn't know anything about, but I have since learned about it and was taught by other volunteers."

A: "I get to work with like-minded people who have the same goal. I like how Sierra Club is action oriented, and I like to feel like I'm making a tangible difference."

Is there anything you would like potential new volunteers to know?

L: "I've learned so much and get to benefit from working with high school and college aged volunteers. [It's] very exciting and dynamic to volunteer with Sierra Club, doing good and having fun in the process!"

A: "[It's] nice to get straight in and doing action, great to see other high school and college-aged kids, [and] I met kids from other local environmental groups. I like how everyone gets to take action, not just one or two people dominating. It's a very welcoming and inclusive group."

KONAH

Konah, a recent college graduate, began volunteering in December and he is actively participating in both the Legislative Committee and the

Transportation Committee.

Why did you want to get involved?

"[I] graduated from college without clear goals and knew I cared about the environment, and this seemed to be a great way to get involved."

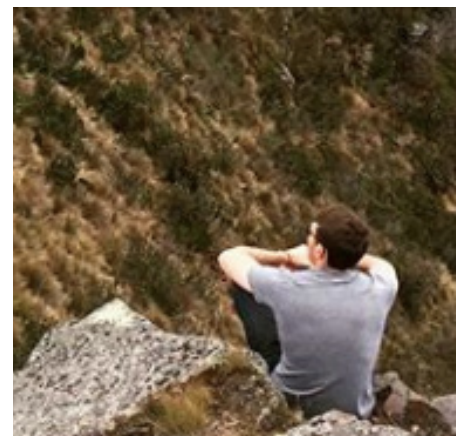
What have you enjoyed so far?

"All the people I've worked with have been kind and involved and everyone's been super helpful. I get to be involved in projects I'm interested in. Sierra Club is such a strong community with ties everywhere. It is all becoming easier to understand and I am learning. I am also excited to meet Representative Chris Taylor next month at an in-district meeting."

Is there anything you would like potential new volunteers to know?

"You can be as involved as you want to be. Any contribution you can make is worth it. Getting to work with people who share your beliefs and in solidarity with people from different struggles who all care about the same issue for different reasons."

To get involved, you can email me at kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org. We are looking for a wide variety of volunteers, including new members for the water team, event planning volunteers for the tar sands team, and volunteers to help schedule social media content. I look forward to working with you!



Coulee Region Group hosts Climate Conversation

On Saturday, January 26, about two dozen La Crosse area residents gathered at the South Community Library to talk about Our Climate Resolutions: how we've come to our way of thinking, where our community is liveable and where it's challenging, what we want for the future, and how we can start working to get there. This La Crosse group joined hundreds of others across the country in envisioning a renewable energy future and identifying steps to get there.

We discussed how our backgrounds, experiences and communities brought us to where we are now. For many, childhoods spent playing and exploring outdoors formed a deep love and appreciation for the natural world. We are lucky to have access to the natural areas surrounding our city. We realized the importance of maintaining a healthy environment when we lived or worked in more crowded, more polluted areas. We understood that without protections, some of our most precious resources, including our planet itself, may suffer irreparable harm.

Brainstorming assets and challenges here led us to appreciate the walkability and bikeability of our neighborhoods and

the beauty and accessibility of natural areas. We decided that more people need to become aware of these assets and threats and how our systems, environment, and healthy human life are interconnected. Better local and regional public transportation is needed. A reorganization of our values and priorities among elected leaders is needed. Affordable renewable systems - from rooftop solar to community facilities - are needed.

The group decided to focus on communication and education including learning effective ways to talk about these important issues; supporting educators; ensuring people know about events, groups, actions, and resources; communicating with elected leaders, neighbors, and the community; and networking with others to spread the word about the importance of working for a sustainable future.

For tips and materials to get started on your own campaign to get your city to call for 100% clean energy, contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org

Cathy Van Maren
Coulee Region Group Member

2019 Northwoods Canoe Outings

Take time to experience the outdoors with a trained outings leader. The John Muir Chapter Outings program will lead a paddling trip into the International Boundary Waters Wilderness area of Wabakimi Provincial Park, July 14 - 20. There will also be a women's paddling trip on September 20 - 22 to the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers, which is part of the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway in northern Wisconsin. Find out more and register at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/outings-events as we plan and post new opportunities. Look into all the offerings from the River Touring Section or any of the group outing offerings as well. Get out, explore, enjoy and help protect the outdoors by being an outdoor enthusiast!

Outings fees include all group supplies, equipment, food and lodging - including park permits and taxes. Not included are travel and associated costs to/from the official gathering point for starting/ending the outing, personal fishing licenses/permits and passports (if required). You supply your personal camping gear and clothing. Contact outings leaders for additional information about registration - including where to send your deposit to reserve your spot.



All outing fees allow participants to offer support for the John Muir Chapter Outings Program and its ability to continue offering these outings annually. Additional contributions to this fund are always welcome.

Sierra Club Earth Day Events

Every day should be Earth Day, but there have been annual Earth Day celebrations each year since April 1970 thanks to Gaylord Nelson, who brought special attention to the environmental challenges we face. This year, our local groups will again lead or participate in various Earth Day activities, so please join in.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUP

Gaylord Nelson Earth Green Award event, Monday, April 15, 5:30 p.m., First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire. Join the Chippewa Valley Group Sierra Club to celebrate a local environmental hero, Chris Gaetzke, director of Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership. Reception with wine and appetizers (\$25 adults, \$15 students) and a program. Contact Caryn Treiber at (715) 684-9374.

Explore the Tyrone Lower Chippewa State Natural Area, Sunday, April 21, 1 p.m. Meet at Tyrone parking area, 6 miles SW of Meridean on Meridean Road. Andrew Norman, Stewardship Manager, Landmark Conservancy, will lead the educational hike. Contact Andrew Norman at andrew@landmarkwi.org or (715) 235-8850.

COULEE REGION GROUP

The Coulee Group is participating in a La Crosse River Marsh cleanup effort, Saturday, April 27 by picking up trash along River Valley Drive through the marsh. Check Facebook for more details, but last year's event was from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Myrick Park in La Crosse, and lunch was provided. The event occurs rain or shine, and bring gloves.

The Coulee Region Group will participate in the La Crosse Earth Fair Step Up to Green in 2019!, Sunday, April 28 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at Myrick Park in La Crosse and will have a booth covering local environmental issues. If you'd like to help, they are looking for volunteers. Watch for more info on their web page and events list, and contact Pat Wilson at pbwilson@centurytel.net regarding either of these events.

FOUR LAKES GROUP

The John Muir Chapter is again a sponsor of the UW Nelson



Institute Earth Day Conference, Imagine and Adapt, at Monona Terrace in Madison on Monday, April 22. This year's event has many noted speakers, including former Senator Russ Feingold and former Governor Tommy Thompson. More info at <https://earthday.nelson.wisc.edu>.

The Four Lakes Group is a sponsor of Forever Muir event with Muir's great-great-grandson, Robert Hanna, on Monday, April 22 at the Wisconsin Historical Society, 816 State St., Madison. Registration is at <https://groundswellwisconsin.org/page.asp?page=forevermuir>. Hanna will provide a personal, up-close view of John Muir with unique stories and many seldom seen family images at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception at 7:30 p.m.

FOX VALLEY GROUP

Fox Valley Group Earth Day Hike, Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. at the Little Lake Butte des Morts Loop the Lake Trail. Start and registration is at Arrowhead Park, 355 Millview Dr., Neenah. The 3.5-mile hike will be on a flat trail accessible for kids strollers or people with disabilities. There will also be tabling and snacks and refreshments at Fritse Park along the loop, and a free picnic lunch for volunteers. Pre-registration encouraged at www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/fox-valley. Rain date is April 27. Contact John Engel at johnwilliamengel@gmail.com.

GREAT WATERS GROUP

This year the Great Waters Group will again be celebrating Earth Day on two fronts, showcasing our service to our Mother Earth, with a focus on

water and community as part of the Milwaukee Riverkeeper's 24th Annual River Cleanup on Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. - noon. Go to www.milwaukeekeeper.org to sign up.

Lincoln Creek Cleanup, 35th and Congress, Milwaukee
Volunteers will clean up trash along a wild stretch of Lincoln Creek from 35th and Congress to 34th and Hampton. Contact Dan Buckler at daniel.c.buckler@gmail.com.

Earth Day Nearby Nature Community Celebration, Washington Park Urban Ecology Center, Milwaukee
A celebration of resources and the grassroots environmental movement in the Community. There will be service work in Washington Park from 9 a.m. - noon and a lunch for volunteers at noon. The keynote speaker will be August Ball, founder and CEO of Cream City Conservation, and there will be information tables. Contact David Thomas at david@thomerwald.net.

SOUTHEAST GATEWAY GROUP

Earth Day events will be held at Gateway College's Kenosha and Elkhorn campus, Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. with displays, workshops, hands-on activities for people of all ages, and other environment-related activities. The Kenosha campus is at 3520 30th Avenue, and the Elkhorn campus is at 400 Hwy H. The Southeast Gateway group will have a table there. Contact Tom Rutkowski at (262) 681-2988.

These are examples of the many events our Groups regularly hold or participate in to highlight and bring attention to our love of nature and support for our environmental heritage. Don't miss out on many more opportunities on May 11 when we'll have events around the state to show our support for restoring the funding our state parks need.

National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - VOTE!

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site. Your participation is critical for a strong Sierra Club.



elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. That means your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates? Members frequently say they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Each candidate provides a

statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election website for additional information about candidates: <http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

Then, make your choice and cast your vote! Voting online is quick and easy! Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than Election Day, April 24, 2019.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in

Nominate Volunteers Today

Each year the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter recognizes outstanding volunteers for their contributions to our organization, our communities and our planet. We know there is amazing work being done across our state, and today we are asking you, our members, to help us identify these very special people. We want to hear your stories about the volunteer work that you've witnessed in the past year by Sierra Club volunteers as well as community leaders and other organizations. Fill out the easy online form to nominate them today. Don't let these environmental champions go unnoticed. Here are the six award categories:

NEW ACTIVIST AWARD: Given to a Chapter activist who has participated for less than two years and who is an enthusiastic participant in issues and the organization. This recipient possesses a willingness to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues.

WILDFLOWER AWARD: Given to leaders in the Chapter who exemplify all that is wonderful in the club and acts as a mentor for new and existing activists, or an educator who promotes a positive image for the Club.

MERIT AWARD: Given to a Chapter volunteer who has been a consistent leader on an issue area and in the environmental movement. (i.e. organization leadership roles, organization builder), or one who actively carries the Sierra Club message to decision-makers and the concerned public.

LD ROCKWELL AWARD: Given to an individual who has led the Chapter's political/electoral program.

GOOD CITIZEN AWARD: Given to an organization or individual external to Sierra Club who championed an innovative environmental project.

TORCHBEARER AWARD: Given to individuals or organizations outside of the club who consistently promote environmental regulations, practices or legislation.

JJ & PAT WERNER AWARD: This is the Chapter's highest honor for leaders who have shown an undying commitment to its goals over the years.

The nomination form can be found at sierraclub.org/wisconsin/awards. The final deadline for nominations is August 1. Winners will be acknowledged at our annual Volunteer Appreciation & Awards Party in the fall. Contact Awards Chair Lacinda Athen with questions: lacinda.athen@gmail.com.

Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater Study

Drinking water contamination issues continue to surface around the state. In response, Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette counties are stepping up. They have pooled resources to fund a comprehensive study of their private wells.

The first results found bacterial and chemical contamination at rates as bad as areas in Northeast Wisconsin. Of 301 randomly selected wells tested, 42 percent exceed federal health standards for bacteria that can come from animal or human waste, or for a toxic fertilizer residue. A second round of testing involving more wells is planned for the spring, followed by a close evaluation of pathogens in the water to determine if they are the type that probably originated in dairy or swine manure, or from faulty septic systems, and to identify what could be done to address it and prevent future contamination.

The Wisconsin State Budget: We Can Make a Difference!

All eyes are on the 2019-21 state budget. With a divided government (Republican legislature and a Democratic Governor), the budget will be the biggest thing that happens in the legislature this year.

At the time of writing this article, everyone in Wisconsin is on pins and needles as we wait for Governor Evers to come out with his budget. By the time you're reading this, his budget has been out for awhile and the Joint Finance Committee (the legislative committee that oversees changes to the budget) will have started proposing changes.

Throughout the budget process, we will continue to advocate for:

- A 21st Century transportation system with more funding for transit, specialized transit (for those aging and with disabilities),

biking and walking infrastructure, and better connectivity to ensure access for work, school, medical appointments, and other necessities.

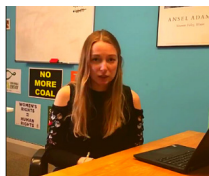
- No new highway expansions that are not only costly, but also makes congestion and pollution worse and hurts communities
- More funding for our state parks and the Stewardship Fund
- More funding for the Department of Natural Resources to ensure that they can properly protect Wisconsin's drinking water from polluters
- And more.

Go to Sierraclub.org/Wisconsin or follow us on Facebook and/or Twitter for updates on the budget and what you can do. We'll need everyone involved in order to advocate for a budget that helps, and doesn't harm, Wisconsin.

Hundreds of Wisconsinites Voice Concerns about Coal Plants' Impacts on Water



150+
people attended
Oak Creek
Hearing



530+
tweets and
Facebook posts

**Thank
You!**

700+
comments
e-mailed in



35+
organizations
spoke out



We Energies and Alliant Energy applied for updated water permits for the state's three largest coal plants, the Oak Creek and Elm Road Coal Plants (Oak Creek) in southeastern Wisconsin and the Columbia Coal Plant in (Columbia) in Pardeeville. Unfortunately, as written, the permits allow We Energies and Alliant to continue to pollute our waterways and don't adequately implement new federal rules for protection from coal plant pollution. Annually, coal plants cumulatively release 2.2 billion pounds of contaminated wastewater directly into our rivers, lakes and bays due to wet ash handling. Sierra Club members and our partners helped turn out hundreds of people to submit public comments and attend public hearings to ask the Wisconsin DNR to include the latest technological standards for treatment of coal ash waste because we deserve protection of our waterways from coal ash pollution.

Wisconsin Loves Parks: Statewide Event Coming in May

All across the great state of Wisconsin on May 11, lovers of the outdoors will converge on the state parks for a special “Wisconsin Loves Parks” event. For people of all ages who appreciate the beauty and importance of our state parks, this family-friendly day of fun will have something for everyone. The event features a wide variety of activities to choose from, with all fitness levels and ages able to engage in the good times. From hiking, trail runs and pulling of invasive species for our more active participants to relaxing picnicking and birdwatching for those looking for a low-key time, “Wisconsin Loves Parks” is the perfect event for the outdoorsy Wisconsinite.

“Wisconsin Loves Parks” will take place in state parks across Wisconsin, including Governor Dodge, Havenwoods, High Cliff, and Kohler-Andrae. These parks, and the rest under the state park system, have faced a lack of state funding. With the state government setting a new budget this July, restoration of proper funding to the state parks of \$5 million annually from general purpose revenue could be achieved. Attending one of the “Wisconsin Loves Parks” events on May 11 will demonstrate the constituents’ appreciation for the state parks, and can send a message to the government about the importance of preserving Wisconsin’s natural areas. If you would like to volunteer at one of the events or with the planning process, or if you would like to bring “Wisconsin Loves Parks” to your favorite state park or forest, please send an email to kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org.

Hey lovers of Wisconsin State Parks! We are looking for short testimonials describing your favorite experience in a Wisconsin state park, your favorite state park and why, or how state parks have positively impacted your life. Please include any relevant photos is encouraged -- just a few sentences are needed. Our favorite testimonials will be featured on social media or on our website and newsletter in the lead-up to the “Wisconsin Loves Parks” event May 11! Please send all submissions to jackler@wisc.edu. Thanks for your help!

Seeking Executive Committee Candidates

The John Muir Chapter is seeking dedicated Sierra Club members who would like to join other passionate volunteers in working toward the general and operational health of the chapter. Do you have skills in budgeting, project management, strategic planning or fundraising? Or do you have an interest and willingness to learn skills in those areas? Do you like looking at the big picture and then rolling up your sleeves and pitching in to do the work? Have you been looking for a way to put your talents to work in a way that serves your values, purpose and passion? Then consider running for a seat on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Three at-large seats will be filled in the 2019 fall election. Those elected will serve three-year terms starting in January

2020 and ending December 2023. Members from across the state are encouraged to apply. Meetings are held approximately six times per year and are scheduled for weekends and evenings to accommodate work/school schedules. Mileage reimbursement is available for travel to in-person meetings, and most meetings also offer a call-in option. The deadline for completed applications is August 1, 2019. A full description of Executive Committee member expectations is available as well as a short application form. Please contact Chapter Chair Don Ferber at (608) 217-2959 or d_ferber@sbcglobal.net to learn more about the opportunity to serve.

River Touring Section: 2019 Clinics

<http://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section>

Interested in paddling some beautiful, wild rivers and lakes with fun and skilled paddlers? The John Muir Chapter's River-Touring-Section (RTS) has just what you're looking for. RTS leads trips and instructional clinics on whitewater (Class I-IV) and quietwater/moving water that are open to Sierra Club members and the general public. Join us to perfect your skills, explore new waterways, meet other paddlers, learn from skilled volunteer leaders and have fun on the water. We offer trips and instruction suitable for families and individuals of varying ability. Pre-registration with trip leaders/registration contacts and the signing of a liability waiver is required. Trips are free, unless otherwise indicated; paddlers provide their own boats, food and gear. "Car-camp" means camping near your vehicle. "Boat-camp" means carrying all your camping gear in your boat and camping along the way without access to your vehicle. Visit our website for the most complete, updated trip list and other paddling links and information.

INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

RTS offers instructional clinics for a nominal fee, taught by skilled volunteer instructors. Clinic sizes are limited, so reserve your spot early. Fees are due in advance and are non-refundable unless the clinic is cancelled. Whitewater clinics are for experienced quietwater/moving water paddlers who want to learn or improve their whitewater paddling and safety skills. Additional canoe and kayak clinics are offered for those new to paddling or interested in improving their river paddling skills. Wilderness First Aid Clinics are typically offered in the early spring; this year's clinic was in March.

QUIETWATER CANOE CLINIC

(Solo and Tandem)

May 18: Held on lake near Madison

Clinic Fee: \$20 per person. This clinic is designed to prepare paddlers for easier and more enjoyable quietwater paddling. Topics include: safety issues, paddling dynamics, extensive practice of important paddling strokes, canoe rescue, and paddling as a team. Participants should bring their own canoe, paddle, lifejacket, lunch, and drinking water. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com.

WHITewater CANOE CLINIC

(Solo and Tandem)

June 1-2: Wolf River Class II; Car Camp

Clinic Fee: \$40 per person plus camping fees. Basic whitewater paddling skills taught to paddlers who have already mastered basic

moving water paddling skills. Emphasis on river reading, safety skills and equipment, review of paddling strokes, and practice eddying, ferrying and surfing. Participants must provide a suitable helmet, paddle, PFD, and properly equipped boat, including flotation, suitable for whitewater. Group campsite B at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort (near White Lake/ Langlade) is reserved for Friday and Saturday nights, or you can make your own lodging arrangements. Bring a dish to pass for the Saturday night potluck. Solo Leader/Registration Contact: Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com. Tandem Leader/Registration Contact: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

WHITewater KAYAK CLINIC

June 1-2: Wolf River Class II; Car Camp

Clinic Fee: \$40 per person plus camping fees. Basic whitewater paddling skills taught to paddlers who have already mastered basic kayaking skills on moving water. Emphasis on river reading, safety skills and equipment, perfecting paddling strokes, and practice eddying, ferrying and surfing. Kayaks should be rated for Class II whitewater and have pillars reinforcing the deck. Students require a suitable helmet, PFD, neoprene spray-skirt, paddle, air bags, water bottle, dry bag for clothes-lunch-incidentals, and appropriate paddling clothes for immersion. Group campsite B at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort is reserved for Fri. and Sat. nights, or you can make your own lodging arrangements. Bear Paw rents some kayaks and paddling gear. Bring a dish to pass for the Saturday-night potluck. Leaders: Jack Burton, Mari Gasiorowicz, Dave Hiller and Bruce Nelson. Registration Contact: Mari Gasiorowicz: 608-512-7394, mgasiorowicz@gmail.com. Sign up early; this clinic fills up.

INTRO TO WHITewater PADDLING TWO-PART CLINIC (Kayak or Solo/ Tandem Canoe)

This mini-series of clinics is offered to help students gradually progress from flatwater, moving water, and to class I-II whitewater. For anyone new to whitewater. No prior experience necessary.

June 15-16: PART I: River Essentials;

Madison area lake and river. Day one will cover basic strokes, outfitting, clothing, safety/rescue, wet exits. Day two will be on moving water to class 1 whitewater. Skills taught include: eddy turns, ferries, peel-outs, edging/carving your boat and river etiquette.

July 20: PART II: Whitewater Basics; Yorkville IL Whitewater Park; Class I-II.

Focus on reading water and practicing skills taught in Part I. Must have completed Part I. The course at Yorkville allows for repetition and reinforcing these skills.

July 21: Optional add-on day to practice skills on water near Madison (free) Clinic fee: \$60 per person; includes three to four days of instruction. Must be able to swim and have suitable helmet, PFD, paddle, and properly equipped whitewater boat with appropriate flotation. Instructors: Dan York, Jim Tibensky, John and Mary Koeppel, all current or former ACA certified whitewater instructors. Registration Contact: John and Mary Koeppel: 608-298-7593, koeppelm@gmail.com.

MOVING WATER KAYAK CLINICS

Class Q-I

Clinic Fee: \$20 per person/day. One-day clinic offered on various rivers and dates. 5 person max/clinic. River reading, basic strokes and boat maneuvering will be taught for kayakers who are already competent paddling on lakes. Safety and equipment will be covered as needed. Kayak (any type) and properly fitting PFD required. Registration & details - Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred) or kayaker.kasy@gmail.com.

June 15, June 16: Waupaca River

June 18, June 20: Bark River

June 25: Sugar River

June 28: White River

June 30, July 1: Yahara River or alternate near Madison

All classes: Scholarships available

MOVING WATER CANOE CLINIC (tandem or solo)

June 29: River near Madison Class I; Day trip

Clinic Fee: \$20/person. Designed for paddlers already competent on lakes but new to river paddling. We'll review the basic strokes—draws, prys, sweeps, forward, back and J. We'll discuss safety, reading water, and maneuvers; ferries, side slips, and eddy turns. Then we'll practice these skills as we canoe down river. Must provide own canoe and gear, including suitable PFD. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetrode@yahoo.com.

RIVER SAFETY AND RESCUE CLINIC

Aug 10-11: Red River Class II; Car Camp.

Clinic fee: \$40/person plus camping fees. LIMIT: 10. Learn river safety and beginning rescue techniques for boats and swimmers through active instruction and practice; including use of ropes, river swimming/

crossing, strainers, and managing rescue scenarios. Become familiar with self-rescue. Requires paddling, swimming and moderate physical activity. Especially recommended to all who might lead paddling trips, including experienced leaders wishing to retrain. Provide own properly outfitted whitewater boat and gear. Group campsite B has been reserved at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Center near White Lake, WI for Fri. and Sat. nights. Registration Contact/Leader: Dan York: 608-345-8147, danuyork@sbcglobal.net. Co-leader: Mari Gasiorowicz.

PADDLING TRIPS

Visit: <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/river-touring-section/trips> for complete trip listings. All trip sizes are limited, so contact the listed registration contact early to reserve a space and obtain additional trip details.

April 13-14: Mid-WI Exploratory Class II-III; Car Camp (or motel). Rivers to be determined by water levels. This trip is recommended for skilled whitewater boaters with good self-rescue skills. Wetsuit or drysuit required. Registration Contact/Leader: Dave Hiller: 608-444-8695, dave@davehiller.com.

April 15: Mid-WI Exploratory-Extension Class II-III; Day Trip. River to be determined by water levels. Recommended for skilled whitewater boaters with good self-rescue skills. Wetsuit or drysuit required. Registration Contact/Leader: Jeff Ford: 608-767-3875, csbakery@merr.com.

April 20-21: NE-WI Rivers (e.g. Oconto, Peshtigo, Popple) Class II-III; Car Camp or Lodge. Rivers determined by water level. Recommended for skilled whitewater boaters with good self-rescue skills. Wetsuit or drysuit required. Registration Contact/Leader: Dave Skriba: 920-210-9400, screeps2017@outlook.com.

April 27-28: Grant River Class I; Car Camp. Paddle this beautiful stream as it winds through the bluffs of SW Wisconsin's driftless area. Registration Contact/Leader: Richard Betz: 608-334-4362, richard.betz@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

April 27-28: Little Wolf and nearby river Class II; Car Camp. Paddle these scenic rivers now, when spring water levels allow. Wetsuit or drysuit may be needed. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

May 4: Horicon Marsh Quietwater; Day Trip. Tandem canoes and sea kayaks are welcome on this scenic trip through a state/national wildlife refuge that is the largest freshwater cattail marsh in the U.S. Look for

nesting eagles, pelicans, trumpeter swans and other migrating birds. Bring binoculars and water-proof cameras. Registration Contact/Leader: Michael Hammer: mjhammer1@gmail.com.

May 4-5: Pine River Class I-II; Boat Camp. Join us on our 43rd annual Pine River trip. We will address the many challenges facing this wild river as we go forward. Registration Contact/Leader: Gregg Riemer: 608-216-5803, dunord@sbcglobal.net. Co-leader: Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com.

May 6-7: Pine River extension. Class II; Boat Camp with portages. Continue downstream from our traditional Pine River trip. Options to continue one or two days. See Meyers Falls, LaSalle Falls and Breakwater Falls. We will discuss the history and future of the Pine River Dam. Registration Contact/Leader: Gregg Riemer: 608-216-5803, dunord@sbcglobal.net. Co-leader: Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com.

May 11: Baraboo River Class I; Day Trip. Giese Park through Baraboo to Circus World parking lot. This section used to be blocked by three dams, now removed; allowing boaters and wildlife to return. Come see how this now free-flowing river makes a fine centerpiece to historic downtown Baraboo. Registration Contact/Leader: Carl Zimm: 608-246-0485, beampowered-tetode@yahoo.com.

May 11: Bark River Class I+ Day Trip. Paddle this clear spring-fed river made so by restored wetlands. As there are seven bridges, portaging may be needed. LIMIT: 10 boats. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kayaker.kasy@gmail.com.

May 11-12: Wolf/Peshtigo or similar Class II-III; Car Camp. Rivers to be determined by water levels. Paddlers should be comfortable on Class III rivers and have a combat roll (if kayaker). Wetsuit or drysuit required. Group campsite B has been reserved at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Center near White Lake, WI for Fri. and Sat. nights. Registration Contact/Leader: Dan York: 608-345-8147, danuyork@sbcglobal.net.

May 19-20: Root River, Minnesota Class I; Car Camp. Enjoy paddling this fine river in unglaciated SE Minnesota near Lanesboro. Dolomite cliffs overlook the valley which has many spring-fed tributaries and abundant wildlife. Camping is free. Registration Contacts/Leaders: Sue O'Brien: 507-858-5290, sueob1@gmail.com, or Carol Brewton: 507-454-7187, cbrewton@hbci.com.

May 25-27: Bois Brule River Class I-II; Car Camp. We'll paddle three sections of this

beautiful river; each different in character from the others. Helmets required for Class II rapids on Sun. Campsites available at Brule R. State Campground south of Brule; some reservable online; others first-come, first-served. Busy weekend, so please share your site. Registration Contact/Leaders: Pat and Bobbie Wilson: 608-788-8831, 608-397-2531, pbwilson@centurytel.net. Co-leaders: Kevin and Carol Olson.

June 1-2: Wolf River Class II+ Car Camp. Paddle Wisconsin's most popular whitewater river and learn a bit of its geologic history. Trip is concurrent with RTS Whitewater Clinics on this river, so we can mingle with clinic participants evenings and at the Sat. night potluck. Registration Contact/Leader: Kevin Olson: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.

June 8-9: Pike and Wolf Rivers Class II+ Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills from the recent clinics before they get rusty; or just come to enjoy these wild and scenic rivers. Pike R. on Sat; Section 2 of Wolf R. on Sun. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

June 22-23: Mekan River Class I; Car Camp. The Mekan is a premium trout stream with crystal clear water, that can require precise maneuvering around narrow, tight bends or dead fall. We will paddle a section above Germania Marsh on Sat. and below the marsh on Sun. Registration Contact/Leader: Leo Hummel: 608-322-7014, dhummel@centurytel.net.

June (21) 22-23: Wolf and nearby rivers Class II; Women-Only; Car Camp at Bear Paw. Have fun and build skills, confidence and sense of community among women paddlers. Sat. evening potluck and music around the campfire. Friday afternoon (optional): review skills, wet exits and strokes on a nearby lake or run the Red River. Registration Contact/Leader: Mari Gasiorowicz: mgasiorowicz@gmail.com, 608/512-7394. Co-leader: Carol Olson.

June 24 (Mon): Wolf River Section IV Class III-IV; Day Trip This challenging trip through the Menominee Indian Reservation requires permits and is limited to skilled whitewater boaters with good self-rescue skills. Registration Contact/Leader: Jeff Ford: 608-767-3875, csbakery@merr.com. Co-leaders: Sandra Newbury, Dave Hiller.

July 4: Red River Class II; Day Trip. This beautiful, dam-controlled river provides lots of opportunities to practice your whitewater skills. Registration Contact/Leader: Marianne McEvilly: 715-250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com. Co-leader: Kasy Culbertson.

International Scale of River Rating Difficulty

Temperatures below 50° F typically increase a rating to the next higher level.

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

Class II: Easy rapids with waves up to 3 ft. and wide clear channels that are obvious

Class III: Rapids with high, irregular waves often capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages that can 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/ self-rescue.

Classes V and VI: RTS does not offer trips at these levels.

July 13-14: Black River Family Trip Moving Water; Boat-Camp. This kid-friendly trip is offered to encourage young families, adults with kids, and the young-at-heart to join us on the water. We'll take it slow, stop to play and explore, cook-out and sleep in tents on a sandbar, and engage in creative outdoor play. Registration Contact/Leaders: Kevin and Carol Olson: 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net. Co-leaders: Pat and Bobbie Wilson. Assistants: Eric and Renee Bend.

July 13-14: Red and Waupaca Rivers Class I-I+; Car Camp. These scenic rivers provide ample opportunities to practice your moving water and whitewater skills. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred) or kayaker.kasy@gmail.com.

July 22 to ~Aug 2: Montana Whitewater Class II-III; Car Camp. Join experienced paddlers on classic whitewater rivers in Montana. Must feel comfortable on rivers like the Wolf Section III. Will include opportunities to practice skills such as eddying, ferrying, surfing and navigating holes and waves. Hiking options available. Join us for all or part of this trip. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

July 27-28: Paddle and Play Class II+ Car Camp. We'll paddle short sections of rivers like the Wolf or Red to find play features where we'll take our time to play---surfing, spinning and shredding. Paddlers should be comfortable on Class II+ water and have a reliable roll (if kayak). Group campsite B reserved at Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Center for Fri. and Sat. nights. Registration Contact/Leader: Dan York: 608-345-8147, danyork@sbcglobal.net.

Aug. 3: Kids on the Red River Class I-II +portages; Day Trip-with camping options. For kids accompanied by adult(s). Teaching on the easier rapids. Carefully managed river running. Opportunities to swim. Designed to be fun for kids. Approval by trip leader is required. Registration Contact/Leader: Paul Janda: 608-622-9534, pauljanda@mail.com. Co-leader: Dan York.

Aug. 22-23: Namekagon River Class 1; Car camp. Join us Thursday and Friday on the middle section of the Namekagon, between Hayward and Trego. This is an optional add-on to the weekend trip listed below. Registration Contact/Leaders: Sue O'Brien: 507-858-5290, sueob1@gmail.com, or Carol Brewton: 507-454-7187, cbrewton@hbci.com.

Aug. 24-25: Namekagon River Class 1; Car camp. Beginner and experienced paddlers welcome. Paddle the lower section of the Namekagon, which is designated as part of the 200-mile St. Croix National Wild & Scenic Riverway and National Park. Great entry-level trip! Canoes/kayaks welcome (10' minimum). See also trip above. Registration Contact/Leaders: Sue O'Brien: 507-858-5290, sueob1@gmail.com, or Carol Brewton: 507-454-7187, cbrewton@hbci.com.

August 24-25: Flambeau River Class II; Boat Camp. Refresh your soul on the North Fork of this scenic river in NC WI. Registration Contact/

Leader: Rich Krieg: 920-660-3557, richkrieg@new.rr.com.

Aug. 31: Wolf River Class II+ Day Trip. Join us on a beautiful river where wildlife and rocky rapids abound. Registration Contact/Leader: Marianne McEvilly: 715-250-3891, rivermouse369@yahoo.com. Co-leader: Kasy Culbertson.

Sept. 5-10: Boundary Waters Canoe Area Quietwater with portages; Boat Camp. Spend four nights in the BWCA during early fall, with fewer crowds and beginning fall colors. Option to add days if interest. Plan for wide variation in weather. Learn about efforts to restrict proposed mining in area. Well-behaved dogs allowed with permission of trip leader. Registration Contact/Leader: Katy Golden: 414-378-1053, katyrenny@yahoo.com.

Sept. 7-8: Wolf and TBD Class II; Car Camp. Practice rescue skills early Saturday morning as a volunteer safety boater for the Wolfman Triathlon (short Sec. 2). Fine opportunity to support the local paddling community. Paddle Sec. 3 in afternoon, and Pike or Red River on Sunday. Registration Contact/Leader: Kevin Olson: 608-356-8992; olsonfam44@centurytel.net or Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

Sept. 15: Kickapoo River Class I; Day Trip. This narrow river winds through the heart of Wisconsin's driftless area. Perfect river to practice moving water skills and enjoy the tall sandstone cliffs, Great Blue Heron and other natural delights. Multiple camping options in area. Registration Contact/Leaders: Carol Olson: 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net or Meg Nelson: prairiesmoke2@gmail.com.

Sept. 21-22: NE WI Rivers (Pike, Red or Wolf) Class II-II+ Car Camp. Enjoy the fall colors on these classic whitewater rivers. Registration Contact/Leader: Kasy Culbertson: 608-222-0746 (preferred), or kayaker.kasy@gmail.com. Co-leader: Richard Betz.

Oct. 26-27: Wolf River Class II+ Car Camp. Annual Halloween Trip. We'll paddle Section 3 of this wild, scenic river on Saturday and Section 2 on Sunday. Wet/dry suit required. Potluck dinner on Saturday night. Registration Contact/Leader: Phillip Johnsrud: 715-572-9884, johnsrudp@tds.net.

Questions/Comments? Please visit our website or contact Carol Olson, RTS Chair: 608-356-8992, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

General Trip & Clinic Participant Requirements (see RTS website for details).

- Preregistration is required for all trips and clinics. Contact the person listed for each trip/clinic to obtain details, determine if you have the abilities and equipment needed for the trip, and to register.
- Participants are responsible for providing their own boats and gear, whether owned, borrowed or rented. Boats and gear must be appropriate for the type of trip planned. This includes a properly fitted PFD (life-jacket) on all trips and a helmet, flotation (and spray skirt for kayaks) on whitewater trips. Food, lodging and transportation are also typically the participant's responsibility, although we can help identify people who need rides and who have space in their cars.
- All participants are required to sign a liability waiver prior to the trip or clinic and to abide by decisions made by the trip leaders. Parents/guardians must sign for anyone under age 18.
- Glass containers and alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the water. Non-paddlers are not allowed on the water without permission of the trip leader. Pets are not allowed unless the trip description/leader specifies otherwise.

BRINGING NATURE HOME: HOW YOU CAN SUSTAIN WILDLIFE WITH NATIVE PLANTS

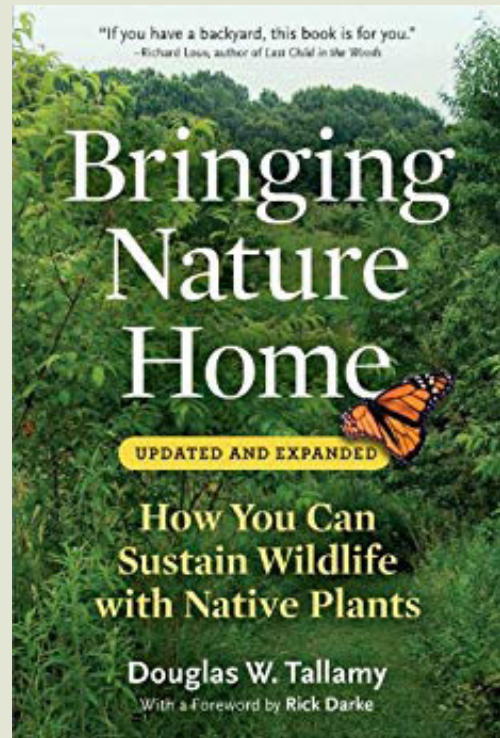
BY DOUGLAS W. TALLAMAY, TIMBER PRESS BOOKS,
UPDATED AND EXPANDED EDITION, 2018, 358 PAGES.

For everyone who might choose a plant or tree for a garden, Tallamay wants you to be part of saving the world. He means this literally and will draw you into the fold of those who plant and lobby for a world that isn't plummeting to mass extinctions. There are so many terrible problems in the world, the call to learn about native plants that are bound to thrive in your garden seems very easy compared with most of the nation's challenges. "We have taken and modified for our own use between 95 and 97 percent of all land in the lower 48 states ... As far as our wildlife is concerned, we have shrunk the continental United States to 1/20th its original size ... Unless we modify the places we live, work, and play to meet not only our own needs, but the needs of other species as well, nearly all species of wild-life in the United States will disappear forever. This is not speculation." The opening chapters lay out a grim possible future.

Every statement and analysis is buoyed by cited research. While the weight of the research is daunting, that which is required to reverse the trajectory of loss is simple. Plant native trees, bushes, plants and vines. Enlarge gardens. Statistics and research offer hope and motivation. Plant an oak tree and support up to 534 species of butterflies and all the birds who eat those caterpillars. Consider the buttonbush, a native bush that, unlike the non-native butterfly bush, will offer food for all stages of life of over three dozen kinds of butterflies. Lists at the back of the book provide regional suggested plants and trees to begin the conversion.

Tallamay aptly seeks to convert every reader to understand, plant, and spread the native species fervor. His background as a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology affords him the chops to understand and teach his subject with advanced critical thinking. As a persuader, the book is rich in logic and ethics, yet it misses some opportunities for an emotional connection because of the author's focus on insects. Dozens of full-color pictures emphasize the rich cycle of insect life that will live and support other wildlife in a biodiverse yard. Pictures of diverse birds, and tidy and beautiful native gardens hosting butterflies might have enticed those less enamored with essential and endangered bugs. Tallamay has a rich understanding of how insects build the Edenesque ecosystems that sustain life, and he aptly explains the possibilities and probabilities. He's drawn to insects, so his pictures emphasize the mostly hidden workings of a garden, even though that may not be the most effective marketing plan. There's a charming nerdish and intelligent quality to this approach, which won't diminish usefulness of the book or the bird, butterfly, and blossom count in your native garden.

Comforting advice and answers make the conversion to sharing our land with local wildlife seem easy. Gardeners don't have to dig out all their non-natives, just begin planting and replacing and enlarging with natives. Are hybrid improvements of natives okay to plant? In most cases, yes. Can a small yard make a difference? Absolutely, and



even more so when nearby yards and public green spaces provide even more native habitat. A new world is promised: Monarchs on the Asclepia, Waxwings feeding on the dogwoods, and perhaps a Walking Stick near the oak. Tallamay convinces with details.

Resource lists in the back of the book provide native plant lists for regions across the United States. Many local garden centers and landscapers do not promote nor understand how to use natives. They even discourage native plants. Gardeners can't depend upon their local nursery or pop-up plant store to be their source for knowledge of native plants. Bringing Nature Home is required reading for those on the side of a healthier planet. There is something you can do for the planet. It will help, and it will be fun. Tallamay wants you to go wild.

Amy Lou Jenkins BSN MFA latest book is *Corners: Voices on Change*. Contact her through JackWalkerPress.com if you would like to send a book for possible review.

You Deserve a Seat at Wisconsin's Spring Conservation Hearing on Monday, April 8!

Wisconsin's Spring Conservation Hearings on the second Monday in April (April 8) at 7 p.m. are a long standing tradition – and an opportunity! These joint meetings are held in each county of the state on the same day and time each year. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) solicit input from citizens in attendance.

The best way to prepare is to obtain a copy of the meeting questionnaire from your nearest WDNR office or online at <https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>. There you will find your county's meeting location. Take some time to read through the booklet in advance and jot down notes or questions that come to mind. Note that this year, for the first time, you will be able to fill out a ballot even if you cannot attend the meeting in person. Generally these hearings are well attended by people who are hunters, fishers and even trappers, but all Wisconsin residents are welcome. Sierra Club members should take advantage of this opportunity to learn about wildlife issues, express opinions and listen to what others have to say.

Here's an overview of what to expect and how you may influence outcomes at the meeting:

The Conservation Congress represents citizens in advising the WDNR on natural resource concerns. When you sign in at the door, you will receive a pencil to mark the ballot and a small ballot slips for electing county delegates to two- and three-year terms on the WCC. Use this to vote on WDNR Wildlife & Fisheries-proposed rule changes, any Natural Resources Board (NRB) advisory questions and WCC advisory questions. Page 2 of the ballot is used to vote on citizen resolutions introduced on the floor during the meeting. These often cover important

issues and you may wish to submit a resolution for consideration. If so, be prepared to persuade other attendees on supporting your resolution!

The agenda is printed at the beginning of the booklet for the meeting.

A WDNR representative presents proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations. Many of these are local issues and may not interest you. It's fine to leave questions blank on your ballot. For questions that do interest you, you will want to give consideration to the background and rationale included by the WDNR. Listen to questions and comments others may make, and don't hesitate to ask questions of WDNR staff attending the meeting.

After that, attendees nominate and elect county delegates to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. There may not be much competition for some of these positions, but you can encourage the leader to ask candidates to describe why they're interested in serving. And remember that you can run for a delegate position yourself!

Proposals to measure and influence public opinion can be presented as citizen resolutions, which should be ready to hand in at the check-in table before the meeting. There is a good description of the process, resolution requirements and a sample resolution in the questionnaire and at the web page mentioned above. Sometimes, Sierra

Club or other organizations will ask our members across the state to present a resolution, so contact the John Muir Chapter office (608-256-0565) well in advance if you are willing to present a resolution in your county. Prepare yourself to describe why the resolution deserves a favorable vote from attendees at the hearing. If you take advantage of this opportunity, consider the audience and appeal to shared conservation values such as clean air, clean water and diverse, healthy ecosystems.



Finally, WCC questions, developed from past citizen resolutions and refined by statewide delegates and committees, are presented for your vote. There may also be questions from the Natural Resources Board which oversees WDNR. Again, skip any that don't interest you. Ask relevant questions before voting.

If you cannot attend the hearing, for the first time, you will also be able to vote online (<https://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/>). The results are typically processed quickly and reported by news media all over Wisconsin, and this is one reason they are important.

Continued on page 15

Sierra Club's Conservation Congress Voter Guide

2. Do you support the placement of traps, snares, colony traps or cable restraints at any time on or within 15 feet of any beaver dam found on public and private land, with written permission from the landowner?

No. This would expand use of the types of traps Sierra Club already opposes.

3. Do you support switching to a bag limit/quota system for river otter?

No. This does not accurately track harvest numbers.

7. Do you favor simplifying weapon regulations by eliminating minimum caliber requirements for pellet guns for hunting hare, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat or unprotected wild animals?

No. This would allow for unforeseen and potentially inhumane small calibers to be used.

50. Do you favor the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board and the state Legislature to increase the distance from agricultural fields to streams and rivers to 30 feet, and encourage vegetation?

Yes. The current five-foot stream buffer requirement is insufficient to prevent runoff.

52. Do you favor conducting a pilot CWD Payment for Positives program to

test if CWD testing rates and removal of CWD-positive deer can be increased from infected areas?

No. While we applaud the attempt to get serious about addressing CWD we recommend that Sierra Club members not vote on this and instead comment to the audience that it sounds well-intentioned but payment levels seem too high. These levels may fuel taxpayer opposition and could encourage over-harvest of non-infected deer and are not sustainable statewide.

56. To protect the health of our wild deer population, would you support a statewide ban on baiting and feeding of deer?

Yes. The current allowance of baiting and feeding ignores scientific evidence of the harm it is likely to cause to the deer population.

70. Would you support the Conservation Congress working with the Natural Resources Board, state legislature and the people of the state to provide adequate budgetary finances to maintain, manage and develop public lands to their full potential for the benefit of the residents of Wisconsin?

Yes. For the reasons stated in the second paragraph introducing the question.

76. Would you favor making it illegal for a person younger than 10 years old to obtain a hunting license?

Yes. This is a public safety matter.

77. Would you favor returning state statute to require only one firearm between a mentor and the mentee?

Yes. This is a public safety matter.

85. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement a ban on lead ammunition? This would exclude ammunition used in target shooting and could be phased in over time.

Yes. For the reasons stated in the questionnaire and to prevent lead poisoning in humans who consume wild game.

86. Do you support the Conservation Congress working with the DNR, Natural Resources Board and state legislature to implement a ban on lead fishing sinkers, lures and tackle weighing 1 ounce or less? This could be phased in over time.

Yes. For the reasons stated in the questionnaire.

Jim Kerler, State Parks Committee Member



Support the John Muir Chapter

When you make a donation to the John Muir Chapter 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. Your contributions, above and beyond membership dues, are an important part of the Chapter's budget.

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 other _____

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Mail to: Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, 754 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.



SIERRA CLUB

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

754 Williamson Street

Madison, WI 53703

Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper

CALENDAR

APRIL 2

Nonpartisan Spring Elections

myvote.wi.gov

APRIL 8

Conservation Congress Spring Hearings

dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc

APRIL 22

Earth Day!

Visit page 6 for information about events near you. Earth Day events are happening between April 13 and April 28 all around the state!

APRIL 24

National Sierra Club Board Ballots Due

<http://www.sierraclub.org/board/election>

APRIL 24 - MAY 5

Tar Sands Storytelling Tour

MAY 9

International Joint Commission Water Quality Board

Green Bay

MAY 11

Wisconsin Loves Parks! Statewide Day of Action for State Parks.

Contact kathryn.hogan@sierraclub.org for information.

MAY 18

Hands Across the Sand

handsacrossthesand.org

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Algunos artículos del Muir View están disponibles en español.

Se sitúan en la red:

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter

Select articles from The Muir View are available in Spanish. They are found online:

sierraclub.org/wisconsin/muir-view-newsletter

JUNE 1

National Sierra Club Awards Nominations Due

www.sierraclub.org/awards

JUNE 1

National Trails Day

JUNE 21 - 23

MREA Energy Fair in Custer

www.theenergyfair.org

AUGUST 1

Chapter Executive Committee Nominations/Applications Due

AUGUST 1

Chapter Award Nominations Due



OUR MEMBERS IN ACTION



Sierra Club and allies gather for a full-day meeting on tactics to achieving our goals in the state transportation budget (above).

Sierra Club volunteers and community members testify at a public hearing on the Oak Creek Coal Plant's water permit. More than 150 people attended the hearing, and an additional 300 people submitted public comments (below).

