

THE MUIR VIEW



NEWS OF THE SIERRA CLUB IN WISCONSIN

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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!



THE SIERRA CLUB JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CELEBRATES

50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

As the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary throughout 2013, we wanted to remind our members of all the ways their support, activism, and membership over the years has made the crucial difference in protecting our air, water, and unique habitats.

It's especially important to celebrate the gains we have made during the present tough political climate. This is not a comprehensive list, and it doesn't include all the conservation work that our local groups have done over the years or some of the national conservation accomplishments we contributed to (which would result in a much longer list!). But it does offer a snapshot of the impact that grassroots activism can have on issues both large and small.

Many of the victories on the list could not have been accomplished without the partnership of other organizations. Our partners have included tribal, business, and labor al-

lies as well as other environmental groups, such as Wisconsin's Environmental Decade (now Clean Wisconsin), the League of Conservation Voters, the Nature Conservancy, WisPIRG and Wisconsin Environment, One Thousand Friends of Wisconsin, RENEW, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Midwest Environmental Advocates, the Audubon Society and many others.

- 1 In 1972, we helped to make the 150-mile St. Croix River, which forms much of the border between Minnesota and Wisconsin, one of the first eight rivers protected by federal Wild and Scenic River designation.
- 2 We stopped toxic pollution at the headwaters of the pristine Wolf River when we worked for over two decades with a large coalition of tribes and environmental groups to stop Exxon's proposed copper-zinc mine near Crandon, Wisconsin.

- 3 We pushed the EPA and the Wisconsin DNR to adopt a plan requiring polluting paper mills to pay to dredge over 90,000 pounds of dangerous polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the muddy sediments of the Fox River.
- 4 We worked with local residents to halt Perrier's plans to build a water-bottling plant in Adams County, Wisconsin that would have jeopardized groundwater in 2001.
- 5 We helped pass the historic Great Lakes Compact in 2008. The Compact will help conserve Great Lakes water and prevent it from being permanently diverted to other areas.

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CLEAN ENERGY 101

by Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

Wisconsin's summer of 2012 will go on record as a scorcher. We all felt it and according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, this summer we've experienced 118 of the warmest days ever recorded. The hot weather brought droughts, road damage, crop losses, algae-filled lakes, bad air-quality days and even heat-related deaths. The unsettling weather had many residents asking, "Is this climate change and is it here to stay?" This summer had many of the predicted signs.

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FROM THE CHAIR

by Liz Wessel, Chair
John Muir Chapter

50 MORE YEARS OF CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP

Our Council of Club Leaders (CCL) delegate LD Rockwell (Southeast Gateway Group) recently attended the annual gathering of Sierra Club leaders in San Francisco. During the meeting, he introduced himself as a member of the John Muir Chapter. People were surprised – John Muir Chapter, in Wisconsin?

It's true that both the public and our own fellow Sierrans associate John Muir and his legacy with California. Muir Woods National Monument is named in honor of the great work he did in establishing protections for old growth redwoods. As a former Californian, I also associated John Muir with that state and shared his passion for the Sierras and the redwoods. But in Wisconsin, we can also lay claim to John Muir, as he spent his early and formative years here.

John Muir was born in Dunbar, Scotland on April 21st, 1838 but immigrated to Wisconsin

with his family in 1849. Muir was an inventor and an entrepreneur. A few of his inventions are housed in the Wisconsin State Historical Society permanent collection in Madison. In 1860 he won prizes for some of these inventions at the State Agricultural Fair. That same year he entered the University of Wisconsin.

A few years later, his appreciation for the natural world was heightened after an injury threatened his eyesight. Muir embarked on his first "walk with nature" and never looked back. He expressed this in his writings: "In every walk with Nature, one receives far more than one seeks." In 1892, after travels that took him from Wisconsin to Florida to California and Alaska, John Muir founded the Sierra Club.

In the 1950s, Sierra Club members living throughout the Great Lakes Chapter (including at least the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana) were drawn to canoeing and rock climbing outings in Wisconsin, their playground. The Wisconsin Section counted 50 to 75 members and was primarily organized around outings. They enjoyed exploring Wisconsin's rivers and landscapes and believed in the possibility of a grand scenic trail tracing the ice age landscape through Wisconsin. These passionate individuals, including Joe Mills, A. Norman (Norm) O'Neil and J.J. (Doc) Werner, envisioned a Wisconsin Chapter named after John Muir, the Club's founder. O'Neil carried their petition to San Francisco and the Sierra Club Council. The formation of the John Muir Chapter was granted in 1963.

The John Muir Chapter has deep roots in the conservation movement and Wisconsin's landscapes have inspired many leaders over the years. In our Anniversary year, we celebrate our past in the hope of inspiring a new generation of conservation leaders. As we remember our roots, we hope that each of you will be motivated to:

- Try something new in the Sierra Club (learn a new skill, go on an outing, attend an event).
- Deepen your commitment and ties with the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter. Invite someone to join the Club or give a gift membership, start following the chapter on Facebook or increase your donation to the chapter.
- Offer your skills as a volunteer to make the chapter stronger and more effective.
- Share your Sierra Club memories. After 50 years, we have a lot of stories to tell. Share yours through our anniversary website www.SierraWI50.org.

Throughout the year we'll be hosting events and activities to commemorate the chapter's 50 years of achievements. Details will be posted on our special 50th anniversary website www.SierraWI50.org as they become available, but following are a few dates you can mark on your calendar today:

On April 20th, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune will join us for a special evening at the Wisconsin Institutes for

THE MUIR VIEW

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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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DEADLINE FOR APRIL-JUNE 2013 ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 15, 2013

Discovery. We'll not only celebrate our past, but look to the future as Brune addresses our grassroots roll in today's world.

In October, Professor Thomas Heberlein, author of the book *Navigating Environmental Attitudes*, will be one of the featured speakers at that annual Autumn Assembly. Enjoy the great outdoors and the company of other Sierrans at this weekend retreat. Learn how to become an effective advocate on local and statewide conservation issues. Additional details will be available by spring of 2013.

There will be plenty of other opportunities to get involved in chapter activities including outings, trainings and the development

of issue teams and committees. Check the website www.SierraW150.org often and sign up to receive the chapter's monthly enews at: wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/newsletter.asp. We don't want you to miss a thing!

Finally, I want to thank the 50th Anniversary Team that has been meeting, working and planning over the course of 2012 to put together ideas, create the events, write up our stories, and help in laying the groundwork for what we believe will be 50 more exciting years of conservation leadership by the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club. Additional volunteer help will be needed throughout the year. If you're interested in getting involved contact me at lizard59sc@yahoo.com ✉

RIVER TOURING SECTION ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2013

Summit Village Hall, outside of Oconomowoc. Socializing starts at 11am. Potluck lunch at noon, followed by a brief business meeting. Our main goal is to fill our 2013 calendar with paddling adventures. We'll end with slides and entertaining stories from our members' trips this past year. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, cups, and utensils. RTS will provide beverages. For further details, contact: Gregg Riemer, 608-257-5239, duNord@sbcglobal.net



THANKS FOR VOTING

By participating in elections for the Chapter's volunteer leadership, you're taking an active role in shaping the direction and policy of the John Muir Chapter. Thanks to all who cast a vote in this year's election and to those candidates who ran for office.

As a result of this election, in January the Executive Committee will welcome Laura Menefee to its ranks along with returning members James Kerler & Liz Wessel. Each will serve a three year term.

Three at large seats will be up for re-election next year with terms to start in 2014. Watch for an invitation to apply for candidacy in the July issue of the Muir View.

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50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Continued from Page 1

- 6** | We convinced former governor Jim Doyle to announce the retirement of Madison's downtown power plants after we turned out hundreds of Dane County residents to testify for cleaner alternatives at public feasibility study hearings. MG&E's Blount Street plant subsequently stopped burning coal in 2010.
- 7** | We won a precedent-setting legal victory against state-owned coal plants at public universities, healthcare facilities and correctional facilities that violated the Clean Air Act. This victory led the University of Wisconsin's Charter Street plant to announce that it would stop burning coal by 2013.
- 8** | We convinced 20 local units of government to implement actions to reduce climate change threats at the local level by becoming "Cool Cities" (Ashland, Bayfield, Fitchburg, Greenfield, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Menomonie, Milwaukee, New Berlin, Oshkosh, Racine, River Falls, Stevens Point, Superior, Washburn, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, and West Allis) or "Cool Counties" (Dane).
- 9** | We persuaded members of the International Codes Council to adopt new home building code improvements for the 2009 code that are a 15% improvement in energy efficiency standards over the 2006 model code.
- 10** | We secured National Historic Landmark status for and helped raise funds to purchase land for John Muir Memorial Park-State Natural Area, located in Marquette county, WI.
- 11** | We helped secure Wild & Scenic River status for the Pike, Peshtigo, Popple, Brunsweller and Totogatic Rivers.
- 12** | We connected hundreds of disadvantaged youths to the outdoors through our Inner City Outings program.
- 13** | We helped pass Wisconsin's comprehensive recycling law.
- 14** | We helped pass Wisconsin's metallic sulfide mining moratorium law, requiring mining companies to give an example of metallic sulfide operations that haven't polluted, requiring contested case hearings, and requiring payments for local communities.
- 15** | We helped elect conservation champions to local, state, and federal office, including Kathleen Falk, Penny Bernard Schaber, Spencer Black and Tammy Baldwin.
- 16** | We helped pass Wisconsin's renewable energy standards, requiring utilities to get at least 10% of their electricity from renewable sources by 2015.
- 17** | We supported the creation of Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource program, which has created over 2,400 jobs, helped Wisconsin residents and businesses save nearly \$2 billion on their energy bills, reduced emissions of mercury by 32 pounds, carbon dioxide by 5 billion pounds, sulfur dioxide by 8 million pounds, and nitrogen oxides by nearly 7 million pounds since the program's creation in 2001.
- 18** | We established a national recreational trail by lobbying Congress and the Wisconsin State Legislature to purchase glacial land formations and create the 1,000 mile Ice Age National Scenic Hiking Trail Corridor.
- 19** | We helped reduce toxic algae blooms in our lakes by supporting a law that restricts phosphorus in lawn fertilizer in 2009.
- 20** | We blocked a proposal by the Army Corp of Engineers to flood 10,000 acres in the Kickapoo Valley in order to create "Lake La Farge."
- 21** | We blocked the Open Pit Mining Bill in 2012 that would have allowed the largest mine our state has ever seen to jeopardize the Penokee Hills, the Bad River and Lake Superior.
- 22** | We supported uniform wind siting standards critical for expanding clean energy in Wisconsin.
- 23** | We helped restore collective bargaining rights for transit workers in the 2011 State Budget, preserving Wisconsin's eligibility for \$47 million in federal transit funds.
- 24** | We helped secure the establishment of the Sylvania Wilderness Area.
- 25** | We helped secure permanent protections for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
- 26** | We helped pass a law that creates safeguards on nuclear energy such that no new plants can be built in Wisconsin until there is a federally-licensed facility to dispose of high-level radioactive waste and the PSC finds that a nuclear power plant is the least-cost option for Wisconsin ratepayers.
- 27** | We helped prevent pollution in Wisconsin's waterways by supporting the passage of the strongest numerical nutrient limits in the nation and an option that allows water treatment facilities to fund efforts by farmers and others to reduce runoff pollution within their watershed to lower pollution in the most cost-effective way possible.
- 28** | We helped persuade the Mount Pleasant Village Board to approve SC Johnson's Waxdale wind turbine project.
- 29** | We helped pass the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act in 1972.
- 30** | We worked for two sessions to build support for control of sulfur dioxide air pollution from power plants. The law became the model for the federal Acid Rain Amendment to the Clean Air Act signed by President George H. W. Bush.
- 31** | We petitioned the Natural Resources Board to develop and adopt air toxics regulations, NR 161, based on federal standards.
- 32** | We helped pass the Pesticide Right to Know Act with Citizens for a Better Environment.
- 33** | We helped pass a bill to ensure proper medical waste disposal with Citizens for a Better Environment.
- 34** | We supported 1000 Friends of Wisconsin and others in passing the 2000 Comprehensive Planning Law, aka "Smart Growth," which was enacted to help curb urban sprawl.
- 35** | In 2004 we helped pass the Groundwater Protection Bill, which requires DNR to review the environmental impact of new high capacity wells near trout streams, other Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters and the 100 largest springs in the state.

- 36** Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter successfully litigated to declare unconstitutional the Ashley Furniture special provision in the Biennial Budget to fill a wetland on the Trempealeau River.
- 37** We and many others fought the “Job Creation Act,” which would have eased issuance of air permits and regulation of construction in or near navigable waters, directly undercutting the Public Trust Doctrine in the Wisconsin Constitution. After several amendments were negotiated it was signed into law by Gov. Doyle as 2003 WI Act 118.
- 38** We were active in building public support for electoral campaign financing for Wisconsin Supreme Court races. After a 10 year campaign, Impartial Justice was adopted in 2010.
- 39** We worked with the Cleaner Valley Coalition for years to call for safer air, prompting We Energies to announce that they would stop burning coal at their Valley Power Plant in Milwaukee.
- 40** Our Clean Air Act litigation prompted Dairyland Cooperative to announce retirements of 3 coal-burning units at Alma and fines of \$500,000 for Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest protection, \$2 million for developing major new solar installations, and \$2.5 million to put solar panels on schools and provide energy efficiency assistance to low-income customers.
- 41** We sued the USFS to require biodiversity to be considered in forest planning for the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest. Although the lawsuit was not successful, it did result in stronger consideration of biodiversity in forest planning.
- 42** We supported the BPA Free Kids Act, passed in 2010, which prohibits bisphenol-A (BPA), a plastic additive linked to breast and testicular cancer and other diseases, in baby bottles and children’s cups sold in Wisconsin.
- 43** We supported the creation of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Stewardship bond fund in 1990.
- 44** We supported a law banning the toxic apple orchard pesticide alar in 1990.
- 45** We helped block provisions in the “Polluters over People” bill in 2012 that would have eliminated requirements to publish public hearing notices in newspapers, decreased oversight of high capacity well permitting and allowed destructive lakebed dredging.
- 46** We worked with legislative champion Spencer Black to help pass the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Act in 1989 (and reauthorize it in 2000). This act authorizes funding to expand state parks and forests, protect wildlife habitat (including the Turtle Flambeau & Willow flowages, expansion of Kettle Moraine State Forest and Devil’s Lake State Park and construction of the 400 bike trail).
- 47** We worked with a local farmer to prompt the DNR to make changes to the permit for the Waupaca Foundry to reduce its toxic air emissions after they sought permission to modify and increase emissions from the plant.
- 48** We worked with environmental organizations and the Wisconsin Builder’s Association to pass the Wetlands Bill, which created a process designed to protect high-quality wetlands and allow for compensatory mitigation to make up for habitat loss.
- 49** We worked to pass protections for isolated wetlands (2001 Act 6) after a Supreme Court ruling left them vulnerable.
- 50** We reached a settlement with the Maple Ridge Dairy in 2002 to prevent future pollution after manure they spread on frozen ground polluted the Big Eau Plaine River.

Despite all these accomplishments, it’s important to note that environmental gains can and will be rolled back without constant vigilance. This was evident in wetlands legislation passed last session that reduces protections for some high quality wetlands. More attempts to roll back environmental protections are expected next session, including attacks on Wisconsin’s longstanding mining moratorium. Every member must be actively engaged in helping the Sierra Club protect our air, water and wild places for future generations. We look forward to working with members and collaborating organizations in the future as we look ahead to the next 50 years of conservation victories! ♻️

EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT...

HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN 2013 AND BEYOND

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

BEYOND COAL TEAM

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

BEYOND OIL TEAM

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TEAM

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

For more information contact Elizabeth Ward at (608) 256-0565 or elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org Learn more about team responsibilities online at wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/ConservationTeams.htm

AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL BRUNE

MEMBERS & PUBLIC INVITED TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SIERRA CLUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Join us April 20, 2013 as we celebrate 50 years of conservation leadership and look to the future with one of the most respected leaders in the environmental movement - Sierra Club's Executive Director Michael Brune. This signature event offers an opportunity to support the chapter, celebrate our past successes and look to the future.

Exciting things have happened since Brune took over the helm of Sierra Club in 2010. He secured a \$50 million dollar partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies in 2011 that will effectively retire one third of the nation's aging coal fleet by 2020, replacing it with clean energy. He's also been working behind the scenes to improve Sierra Club's

effectiveness and efficiency in the areas of fundraising and digital communications, as well as offering chances for integrating grassroots Chapter work with national conservation campaigns.

In his critically acclaimed book, *Coming Clean-- Breaking America's Addiction to Oil and Coal*, (Sierra Club Books, 2008) Brune addresses global warming's causes and lays out an ambitious plan for moving America to a clean-energy economy that will generate good jobs and create a healthier planet. It also gives an inside look at how grassroots organizations can make a profound difference.

He sees leading the Sierra Club as a natural fit for the sort of far-reaching, solutions-oriented vision spelled out in "Coming Clean." "The Sierra Club's motto is explore, enjoy, and protect the planet," Brune says. "It's not just about problems. This is an organization that's equally determined to protecting the planet's last, best places and to having a great time exploring and enjoying those places. A love of nature helps inspire us to do what we must to save it." Brune regularly shares his thoughts on the state of the environ-

ment today in his blog, "Coming Clean" at <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/michaelbrune/>

Brune promises to be an engaging and insightful speaker whether you're a newcomer to the club or a long-time member and activist. The event will be held at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery in Madison, a modern, green building that provides a public forum for discussion celebrating science. Ticket information and additional program details will be announced soon on our newly launched, Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter anniversary website: <http://www.SierraW150.org>.

Sponsorship opportunities are available that provide supporters with recognition and the chance to interact with Michael Brune in an informal, intimate setting. Event sponsors will also help expand event access to students and low income individuals by offering discounted tickets that include a one year membership to the Sierra Club. Please sustain the John Muir Chapter's future conservation work by reserving your ticket with Michael Brune today! For details and updates contact the chapter at (608) 256-0565 or check <http://www.SierraW150.org>. ☞

2013 AUTUMN ASSEMBLY

CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Held October 11-13, 2013, this year's Autumn Assembly will celebrate the Sierra Club - John Muir Chapter's 50th Anniversary in Wisconsin and give us tools we'll need to remain effective as we work to enjoy, explore, and protect Wisconsin's air, water, and wild places for future generations. Although the Chapter, rather than one local group, will host this special Anniversary Assembly, we'll still offer a venue (TBA) in a beautiful, outdoor setting in order to relax and recharge our batteries. We'll also bring you an impressive lineup of guest speakers, outings and trainings designed to inspire and grow our grassroots forces throughout the state.

We're honored to welcome Thomas Heberlein as our first confirmed keynote speaker. Tom is the former chair of the Department of Community and Environmental Sociology at UW-Madison and is currently a professor in the Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies in Umeå, Sweden. He'll discuss how we can apply ideas from his recent book, *Navigating Environmental Attitudes to problems we face in Wisconsin*, from mining to wolf restoration to climate change. His work uses river reading as a metaphor to urge environmentalists to go beyond education and awareness-building tuning instead to community norms, values, and attitudes for lasting change. A Sierra

Club member since 1992, he'll provide us with insights on our past accomplishments and suggestions for continued progress in the future.

We'll also recognize conservation leaders from the chapter and community, including adding some special 50th Anniversary Awards. A silent auction to support the John Muir Chapter, will feature not only the local, eco-friendly items you've come to expect, but also some rare, entertaining Sierra Club memorabilia to honor our milestone. Be sure to add this event to your 2013 calendar and watch for more details online at www.SierraW150.org this spring! ☞

MINING MORATORIUM LAW UNDER ATTACK

by Dave Blouin, Mining Chair

I won't pull any punches - the November elections weren't kind to our conservation agenda thanks to the loss of the state Senate to a GOP majority. There is no question that the partisan divide in Wisconsin politics is making it much more difficult to find moderate Republicans to vote pro-environment. The result is we will be facing bad mining legislation plus attacks on our existing comprehensive mining law and the Mining Moratorium Law this year.

The Senate Select Committee on Mining held a series of important and informative public hearings last fall to consider making changes to mining law. The Committee approached these possible changes in a responsible way by inviting as many experts on all sides as possible and by pledging an open transparent process. By January, they should produce a bill that addresses some mining industry concerns about permitting uncertainties while maintaining environmental protections. Still, the John Muir Chapter has been clear with the Committee that we oppose any changes that diminish existing laws and any changes proposed face an uncertain future due to the changes in the makeup of the legislature.

Whether the Senate Mining Committee will even exist in 2013 is uncertain. Governor Walker and Speakers Vos and Fitzgerald have stated they expect mining reform legislation to come up quickly in the new session. We expect to see a bill identical to or very similar to AB 426, the Iron Strip Mine bill to be introduced. The Wisconsin Mining Association and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce are also advocating for the repeal of the Mining Moratorium Law.

MINING MORATORIUM LAW

We're learning that many legislators and even the public don't know about the history and rationale behind the Mining Moratorium Law. It was approved by the state Legislature by overwhelming margins (27-6 in the Senate, 91-6 in the Assembly) and signed by Governor Thompson. More than 60 organizations statewide supported the legislation and over 40,000 citizens signed petitions in favor of the law in 1998.

Prior to passage of the Moratorium Law, the mining industry was challenged to give one example of a metallic sulfide mine that had been safely operated and closed without polluting the environment. The mining industry failed to come up with any examples at that time. Similarly, state regulators searched for examples and were unable to document successful metallic sulfide operations. Wisconsin DNR staff issued a report in 1995 that stated: "There are no ideal metallic mineral mining sites which can be pointed to as the model approach in preventing acidic drainage industry-wide." Metallic sulfide ores and mining wastes cause acid mine drainage and accompanying heavy metal pollution from the lead, arsenic, mercury, zinc, copper and other toxic metals that leach out when the materials are exposed to air and water.

The law was passed due to overwhelming public support when it became clear that both the mining industry and the state of Wisconsin were unable to document successful mining operations in metallic sulfide ores such as at the Flambeau Mine and the Crandon Mine proposal. The Penokee iron ore deposit and deposits in Taylor and Marathon Counties are subject to the Mining Moratorium Law.

FLAMBEAU MINE

Mining proponents are deliberately misleading the public when citing Kennecott's Flambeau Mine as an example for future mining here. Flambeau Mining Company (FMC) was found guilty of violating the Clean Water Act in 2011 by polluting a tributary of the Flambeau River. Under the rules of the Moratorium Law, the Flambeau Mine is disqualified as an example mine to meet the law. Flambeau Mining Company was sued in federal court by citizens after state officials failed to cite the company for pollution violations from the mine. Fifteen years after closing, FMC is on its fourth attempt to remediate contamination at the mine site and the state of Wisconsin is now proposing that the polluted stream (Stream C) at the mine site be listed as a State Impaired Water due to the contamination from the mine.

The bottom line is that the need to preserve the Moratorium has only increased given new metallic sulfide proposals in Marathon and Taylor Counties and the strip mine in the Penokees. We were one of dozens of state organizations which energized tens of thousands of Wisconsin citizens to oppose destructive mining proposals and support the Moratorium and we must defend the law.

Watch your inbox and the JMC website for updated information on how to help defend the Moratorium. We expect this to be a very important campaign and will need your help and support. Contact me directly at burroak15@charter.net or 608-233-8455 for more info and check the website frequently for updates. ☺

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Founding donors to the Ela Activist fund are listed on page 13.

CLEAN ENERGY 101

Continued from Page 1

To curtail climate change, we need to look to sources of energy that emit less greenhouse gas than conventional sources like coal. The carbon dioxide, soot, smog and toxic heavy metal emissions produced by coal burning led the Sierra Club to launch the Beyond Coal campaign. Since the campaign's inception, in Wisconsin we've stopped the proposed Cassville coal plant and used legal and community activism to convert or retire coal plants across the state, starting with the Charter Street coal plant in Madison. This year we were able to solidify the retirements or conversions of Dairyland's Alma coal plant and 42 percent of Alliant Energy's coal fleet, including Nelson Dewey in Grant County and two units at the Edgewater Generation Station in Sheboygan. As we continue to move Wisconsin beyond coal, it's important that we also advocate for the best possible sources for our state's future energy generation. Some alternative options like natural gas may seem better than burning coal, but still have a number of drawbacks. The Sierra Club is ramping up its clean energy campaign to focus on energy sources with minimal environmental impacts.

Clean energy in Wisconsin can mean a lot of different things. But to get to a place where clean energy in any form dominates the market, one thing is key: energy efficiency. The easiest and most cost-effective option is to reduce the amount of energy we use and use the energy we need efficiently. This can mean a number of different actions, from replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact-fluorescent light bulbs to insulating your home and caulking your windows to limit excess energy leaks. Tackling Climate Change in the U.S., a report completed by the American Solar Energy Society, found that the consistent use of energy efficient practices, technology and products could replace 25 percent to 27 percent of energy emissions, including greenhouse gas, mercury, and other heavy metal emissions by 2030.

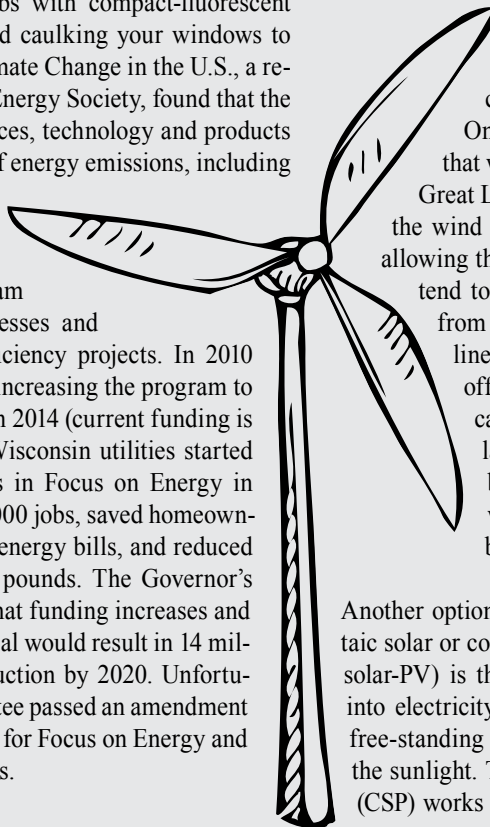
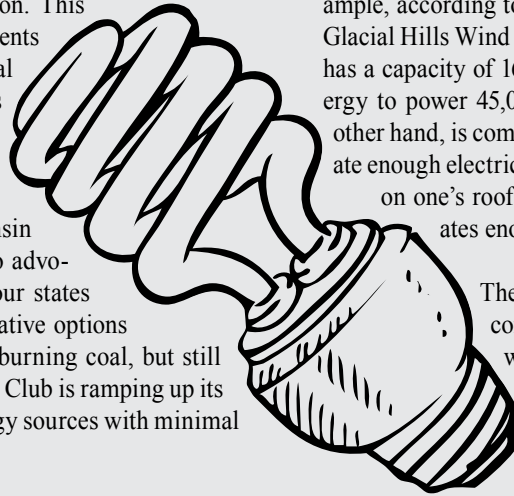
Focus on Energy, a Wisconsin program funded by utilities, works with businesses and home-owners to help fund energy efficiency projects. In 2010 the Joint Finance Committee approved increasing the program to \$120 million in 2011 and \$256 million in 2014 (current funding is around \$100 million per year). Since Wisconsin utilities started investing 1.2 percent of their revenues in Focus on Energy in 2001, this program has created over 16,000 jobs, saved homeowners and businesses nearly \$2 billion on energy bills, and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 5 billion pounds. The Governor's Task Force on Global Warming found that funding increases and a 2 percent per year energy reduction goal would result in 14 million metric tons of carbon dioxide reduction by 2020. Unfortunately, last year's Joint Finance Committee passed an amendment in the state budget to wipe out increases for Focus on Energy and cap funding at 1.2 percent of utility sales.

After reducing electrical demand through energy efficiency, we need to replace our electrical generation with clean, renewable energy. Clean, renewable energy comes in many forms, including wind, solar, geothermal, and sustainable biomass and at two different multitudes: utility-scale or distributed. Similar to the way fossil fuel plants create electricity in quantities that can fuel multiple cities; utility-scale renewable energy involves large systems that can fuel big areas. For example, according to a recent Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, the Glacial Hills Wind Farm, owned by We Energies in Columbia County has a capacity of 162 megawatts (MW) and can produce enough energy to power 45,000 homes. Distributed renewable energy, on the other hand, is comprised of much smaller systems designed to generate enough electricity for smaller areas. This can include solar panels on one's roof or a community wind- or solar- farm that generates enough electricity for a neighborhood.

The most common form of renewable energy in Wisconsin is wind energy. Wind energy works by using wind to turn blades which spin a shaft connected to a generator which makes electricity. The biggest differences in wind power come from varying the size of the turbine. They can range from small wind turbines for homes around 100 kilowatts (kW) up to 5MW (5000 kW). In 2011, Wisconsin had 469 MW of installed wind energy leaving us far behind our neighbors, such as Iowa (5,000MW), Illinois (2,743MW), and Minnesota (2,518MW). According to the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Wisconsin has 103,757 MW of wind potential.

In Wisconsin, our biggest wind resource is on Lake Michigan, where offshore wind turbines could generate power more efficiently than on land. On land, the wind hits buildings and other obstacles that weaken its impact before it strikes the turbines. With Great Lakes wind, there is nothing in the way and therefore the wind blows stronger. The turbines are also much larger, allowing them to produce more electricity. Onshore farms also tend to be in large, flat, rural areas that are further away from population centers, requiring larger transmission lines to transport the electricity. The electricity from offshore wind farms does not have to travel as far because the location of the farms tends to be near population centers that need the most energy. Some of the biggest cities in the Great Lakes area - Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland and Toronto - are all near large bodies of water that could host wind farms.

Another option, solar energy, can be generated through photovoltaic solar or concentrated solar power. Photovoltaic solar power (or solar-PV) is the process in which cells convert sunlight directly into electricity. Solar panels can be mounted on roofs or can be free-standing off the ground, with trackers that can move with the sunlight. The second type of solar, Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) works a little differently. CSP uses tilted mirrors to direct



the sunlight to heat liquid, which boils water and then turns turbines to make electricity, similar to the way fossil fuels are burned to create steam to turn turbines. The heat from sunlight can also be harvested for heating and hot water systems.

After the Fukushima tragedy, Germany set a goal to phase out nuclear power and limit fossil fuel power by 2022. As a result, they are investing in renewable energy and at the end of last year had installed 7.5 gigawatts (GW) or 7,500 MW of solar energy. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Wisconsin has better solar radiation or potential than Germany, yet has less than 13MW of solar power installed. Currently, the biggest obstacle to making solar more common is cost. However, “peak-demand,” or when the most electricity is being used, usually occurs on the hottest days in Wisconsin when air conditioners are running. These days also are the sunniest and at these times, the price for solar becomes very competitive with traditional fuel sources, including natural gas.

A less common form of renewable energy is geothermal energy. Natural heat, including hot water and steam, is stored within the Earth. Geothermal renewable energy is generated when this heat is “mined” to drive generators and produce electricity. Geothermal energy can also be used to heat facilities and provide hot water. Currently, Wisconsin does not have any major geothermal energy generators online, but has 82 GW of potential capacity according to NREL. Ball State University in Indiana is creating the largest district geothermal energy system in the United States to heat and cool 47 buildings on the campus.

For Wisconsin to achieve its renewable energy potential, certain policies will need to be enacted to encourage its development. The first and most common renewable energy policy is a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) or Renewable Energy Standard (RES). An RPS requires the utilities in the state to get a certain proportion of their energy from renewable energy. Illinois has an RPS that requires utilities to get 25 percent of their energy from renewable resources by 2025. Minnesota has a 25 percent RPS by 2025, with a 30 percent RPS for Xcel Energy, as the biggest utility in the state. In Wisconsin, we have a 10 percent RPS by 2015. Although we created our RPS early on and most utilities in the state have already met it, we are now falling behind. An enhanced RPS in Wisconsin would reinvigorate the renewable energy sector, create jobs, and clean up our air.

While an RPS would help increase utility-scale renewable energy, a net-metering policy would encourage distributed renewable energy. After people hook their renewable energy system (solar panels on their roof, for example) to the electrical grid, the utility is required to measure how much power the customer uses and how much the renewable energy system produces. If the system produces more energy than the customer used, net-metering requires the utility to pay the customer for it.

RPS and net-metering help encourage renewable energy, but some technical legislation is needed first in order to allow all forms of re-

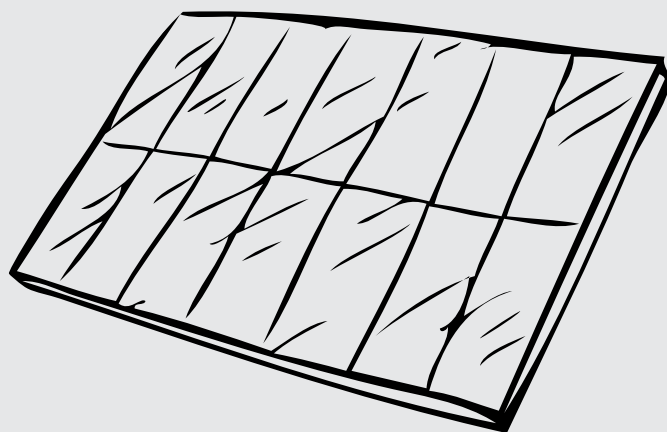
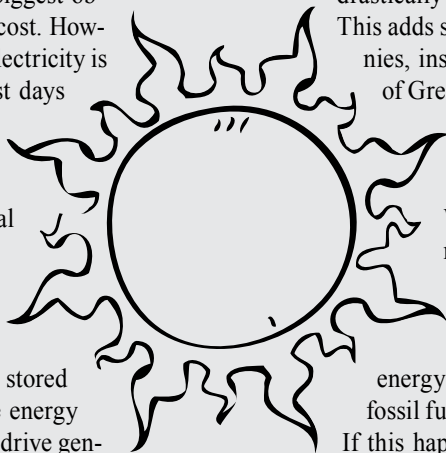
newable energy in the state. Clean Energy Choices or Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) legislation allows third parties to own renewable energy systems on someone else’s property. For example, a small business could create an agreement with a solar company in which the solar company owns solar panels that are installed on the business’s roof. The business could use the energy generated and pay the solar company a monthly fee. This practice is not currently allowed in Wisconsin unless the solar company is regulated as a utility. Clean Energy Choices makes this practice legal. Wisconsin also needs interconnectivity standards, which standardize the requirements and systems for all forms of energy. Currently, one utility could require a drastically different and more expensive connection than another.

This adds stress and unexpected costs to renewable energy companies, installers, and customers. Lastly, to allow the installation of Great Lakes wind, Wisconsin needs legislation to allow and guide permitting wind turbines in Lake Michigan and siting requirements for the installations.

We also need to maintain existing legislation that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy. This includes our current RPS and Focus on Energy, as well as the Production Tax Credit (PTC). The PTC is a federal policy that helps maintain affordable wind energy and helps to level the playing field of wind energy with fossil fuel energy. The PTC is set to expire at the end of the year. If this happens, approximately half of all existing US wind jobs could be compromised. In Wisconsin, 30 businesses and 6,000 workers manufacture wind turbine components. The loss of the PTC could jeopardize those jobs.

Wisconsin has vast amounts of renewable energy potential; with new technologies and advancements the potential grows every day. Harvesting some or all of this potential will allow us to convert off of fossil fuel energy. Investing in clean, renewable energy will create jobs in Wisconsin, curtail carbon dioxide emissions, clean our air by reducing mercury, arsenic, and asthma-causing soot and smog emissions and reinvigorate Wisconsin’s economy. Missing out on Wisconsin’s clean energy opportunities will only leave us falling further behind our neighboring states. ☺

To learn more or get involved with Sierra Club’s Clean Energy Solutions campaign, contact Elizabeth Ward at (608) 256-0565 or by e-mailing Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org.



ELA ACTIVIST FUND CREATES CONSERVATION LEGACY TO COMMEMORATE JONATHAN ELA

By Shahla Werner, PhD, Chapter Director

In late October the Sierra Club mourned the loss of Jonathan Ela, a lifetime Sierra Club member and environmentalist, who dedicated his life to preserving ecosystems and protecting water and land for future generations. Ela spent a number of years as a Sierra Club staff member. He was assistant conservation director under Michael McCloskey from 1969-1971 and Midwest representative in Madison, Wisconsin, from 1971-1983. He founded the Sierra Club's Midwest Office, covering 11 states at the time of its inception. The founding of the regional office brought a stronger Sierra Club presence to the Midwest, expanding the organization's reach beyond only the two coasts. He also served as a specialist on the Mississippi River, and wrote the book, *Faces of the Great Lakes* with photographer Tony King.



The Ela Activist fund was launched in July 26 with a touching event held at Olin Park to celebrate both Jonathan's lifetime of accomplishments and his 30th Wedding Anniversary to his partner, Trish Stocking. Over 150 guests turned out that inspiring night, including family, friends and colleagues of Jonathan from the Sierra Club and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board. Together, they generously contributed over \$13,000 for the fund, which was immediately put to use this year supporting the chapter's conservation work. You can read more about that event in the fall issue of the Four Lakes Group newsletter, and you can donate to the Ela

Activist Fund any time to support the next 50 years of conservation leadership by visiting the Sierra Club- John Muir Chapter's website at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>. Click on donate and select Ela Activist Fund from the dropdown menu for gift designation.

Jonathan also contributed much to the Sierra Club's conservation work as a volunteer. He played a key role in electing pro-conservation leaders to public office and enacting strong policies to protect natural resources. As Political Chair and Vice President for Politics, Jonathan Ela helped steer the Sierra Club to electoral victories in 2006 and 2008. He served as a director of Sierra Club's Independent Action political initiative following the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision. In 2009, Jonathan Ela received the William Colby award for "outstanding leadership, dedication, and service to the Sierra Club." Ela was also a member of the National Sierra Club Board of Directors, serving from 2011 until the time of his death.

Jonathan's passing is an irreplaceable loss to all who knew and loved him, and to the entire conservation community. We will treasure his memory every day as we remember his amazing contributions to our earth as we work to carry on his legacy of protecting Wisconsin's environment. ☺

Jonathan also worked outside the Sierra Club for environmental protection. His career in conservation began in 1968 when he went to work for Senator Gaylord Nelson. Jonathan Ela was appointed to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board in 2003. While serving on the board, Ela helped protect public lands, adopted strong mercury controls, and approved the country's strongest rule to restrict phosphorus to reduce algal growth on lakes, rivers and streams.

Upon learning of his illness this year, instead of despairing, Jonathan Ela decided to take a positive step to create a lasting legacy for conservation by creating the Ela Activist fund. This fund is designed to support future victories for Wisconsin's air, water and wild places by supporting the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter's work to recruit the next generation of members and activists, to elect environmental champions, and to lobby for clean energy, clean water, and habitat protection in the Wisconsin State Capitol. We are honored and touched by Jonathan's generosity in setting up the fund, which will sustain our work to call people to action to fight for lasting protections for natural resources that will continue to be under extreme attack in Wisconsin's current political climate.

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Actress and comedian Lily Tomlin once said, "I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." That insight sums up the grassroots philosophy of our Sierra Club activists and volunteer leaders. They realize that change requires action and that it starts with each of us as individuals. Each year, the John Muir Chapter strives to identify and recognize those "somebodies" whose actions championing environmental protections can set an example for us all.

This year's awards banquet was held during Autumn Assembly on Saturday, October 13. The John Muir Chapter presented six awards honoring outstanding volunteers and community leaders.

The **2012 Torchbearer Award** was presented to **SC Johnson: A Family Company**. SC Johnson actively works to reduce climate change. They have been a visible advocate for expanding transit services for years and implemented an efficiency initiative to combine customer orders and products in the same truckload, allowing them to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 1,882 tons, use 2,098 fewer trucks and cut fuel use by 168,000 gallons. They demonstrated particular commitment to sustainability and local jobs in 2011 with their proposal to build two 400 foot wind turbines at their Waxdale manufacturing facility in Mount Pleasant, WI. This project will allow them to generate 15% of the electricity needed to operate Waxdale with clean renewable energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by six million metric tons each year. Chapter leaders hope the project will also serve as a positive example for other businesses and inspire policymakers to invest in cleaner solutions for Wisconsin's future.

The **JJ & Pat Werner Award** was presented to **Spencer Black**, a former state legislator and stalwart environmental champion who currently serves on the Sierra Club's national board and political team. He also plays an instrumental role on the John Muir Chapter's state political committee. While serving in the state legislature, Black authored and helped

pass scores of groundbreaking environmental laws and programs, including the sulfide mining moratorium law, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, the country's strongest, most comprehensive recycling law, the groundwater protection law, the endangered species matching grant program and others.



Upon learning of Spencer's retirement from the state legislature, former state representative Joe Parisi (currently Dane County Executive) said, "Spencer Black is leaving the legislature at the top of his game and with a legacy that most elected officials dream about but rarely achieve. He has earned a place alongside Aldo Leopold and Gaylord Nelson as one of the giants of Wisconsin's environmental movement. You don't replace someone like Spencer Black; rather, you look to him and his career for inspiration."

The **Good Citizen Award** seeks to recognize organizations outside of the Sierra Club whose innovative programs or processes protect the environment. This year's award was presented to the **Town of Mount Pleasant** for the Pike River Restoration Project. Reconstruction of the headwaters has helped reduce flooding and improve water quality. The proposal also included ecosystem restoration, in-stream fish habitat including pools and riffles, native wetland and prairie plants, as well as pedestrian and bike trails that connect to others in Racine County.

Planned in nine phases, construction began in 2001, and is scheduled to be completed sometime after 2015. The Pike River Resto-

ration Corridor now includes over 400 acres and a stream distance of 5.2 miles. Wildlife has rebounded in the area, with salmon and steelhead present in migration runs. Turkey, deer, turtles, snakes, mink, and bats as well as a wide variety of insects have been spotted in the area. It has become a haven for songbirds, waterfowl and raptors. The area is widely used by walkers, runners, bikers and wildlife watchers. In addition, many homes are no longer in the 100-year floodplain, and their owners have seen lower insurance premiums. In short, the Village has converted a swampy eyesore that caused flooding into a conservation gem and model for other communities.

A longtime group leader and active club member, **Charlie Paine**, of the Fox Valley Group was recognized with the **2012 Merit Award**. As group outings chair, Charlie made all newcomers feel welcome and encouraged membership and participation in the club. He has organized many outings over the years and participants have benefited from his love of silent sports and his eagerness to share. Charlie's giving nature extends beyond the Sierra Club as well. He and his wife Caroline help the community as reading tutors in an elementary school and by volunteering at ReStore.



Nancy Carlson was honored with the **Wildflower Award** for leaders, mentors and educators who promote a positive image for the club. A Sierra Club member since 2009, Nancy serves on the John Muir Chapter Executive Committee as the delegate for the Southeast Gateway Group. Nancy has been

teaching water quality programs to hundreds of school children for over five years. She also conducts trainings for the Water Action Volunteer (WAV) program in Racine and Kenosha. She brings her experience with WAV, ephemeral pond monitoring, teaching and developing water programs, and lobbying for water conservation to the John Muir Chapter's Water Sentinels Team and to the Executive Committee. Nancy also leads various educational Outings for the Sierra Club, including one that involves tagging monarchs and tracking their migration from Wisconsin to Mexico.

The **New Activist Award** recognizes new members who are willing to leap into new roles and champion environmental issues. **Berenice Wiecki** of the Four Lakes Group received that honor this year. Berenice happily stepped in and took over the difficult role of group treasurer. In addition to getting all records up-to-date and reconciled, Berenice worked with the state-wide treasurer and na-

tional Sierra Club staff to upgrade the group to an online bookkeeping system. Berenice is also active on the Four Lakes Group Communications Committee, helping spread the word about events, outings and activism.

The John Muir Chapter is proud to recognize these individuals and organizations for their willingness to take action and get involved. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the countless volunteers, leaders and members who take action throughout the year on the club's behalf. Each and every one of you makes a difference. For details on how to nominate a conservation champion for recognition in 2013 visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/awards.asp#Awards>

Or, if you're ready to get more involved consider joining one of the chapter's committees or teams: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/volunteer.asp> or contact your local group leaders for other opportunities. ☘



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Please keep these generous businesses in mind as you shop throughout the year!

We also thank John & Lila Berge, Nancy Hennessy, Jessica Merwin, Bernice Popelka, Jay & Melissa Warner, Kimberlee Wright, Jeff Sytsma for donations.



WISCONSIN NATIVE SPECIES

WOLVES IN WISCONSIN

by Adrian Treves, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, UW-Madison

Readers may have trouble avoiding news stories about Wisconsin's wolves these days. But the history, biology, and human dimensions of wolf recovery rarely get a full treatment in the sound-bite press. So I agreed to provide a larger meal that covers those topics based on research done mainly at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Gray wolves (formerly called timber wolves) recolonized Wisconsin in the late 1970s after almost 20 years of absence caused by centuries of Euro-American persecution. Wolves returned to Wisconsin from Minnesota without direct human intervention (conspiracy theories notwithstanding). Wolves recovered thanks to their adaptability, recovery of deer and forests, and the landmark protections of the Endangered Species Act enacted by a society more tolerant of wild animals. Unlike wolves that were purposefully reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park, Wisconsin's wolves achieved this recovery on their own terms without wilderness and despite poaching taking 10–20% of their population. That makes wolf recovery in Wisconsin more informative and applicable worldwide than wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone because vast national parks with little human influence are exceptional globally.

In the early years of recovery, no one expected Wisconsin's wolf population to exceed 100. Indeed, wolves struggled into the early 1990s as human causes of mortality took their toll along with diseases—canine distemper, parvovirus, and sarcoptic mange probably transmitted from domestic dogs and other wildlife. Adult wolves most often died from poachers or vehicle collisions, whereas wolf pups were particularly vulnerable to disease. In late winter before pups are born, Wisconsin's wolves are found in packs averaging approximately 4 members. Packs are composed of an alpha female and alpha male plus their yearlings and

possibly unrelated wolves waiting for a breeding vacancy to open. If the alphas breed successfully in January or February, pups emerge from dens in May or June, coincident with their preferred prey, white-tailed deer fawns. Although wolf diet in Wisconsin is over 90% deer, experts estimate that all of Wisconsin's wolves cannot hunt down more than 25,000 deer per year in total, including fawns. Our cars kill twice that many by state estimates. Hunters and farmers in Wisconsin take almost twenty times that number. The costs and benefits of wolves to the deer population are unclear still because wolves can kill smaller predators (and even black bears), all of which also prey on deer.

As wolf pups mature they are often relocated from dens to rendezvous sites, where the widely separated pack members reunite for socializing and feeding the pups, in July and August. Although the pack is foraging and moving as singles or pairs, they defend their pups fiercely from any trespassers. Such defense is needed because wolves from neighboring packs or free-running hounds can and do injure or kill wolves and their pups particularly in the late summer and early fall.

In early winter, a Wisconsin wolf pack travels more and more cohesively, hunting yearling and adult deer. If the wolf packs survive their peak mortality periods during the November deer-hunting season and the newly implemented wolf-hunting season that began in October 2012, then the wolves may survive into the snow-covered months of relative plenty and safety. If snow is deep and air is cold, many weakened bucks, starving does, and yearling deer will fall prey to the coursing packs.

Winters with poor snow cover can make for a lean season, but the colder temperatures also mean fewer people are out so human-caused mortality diminished in the past. Wisconsin's

new wolf hunting season is slated to run from October 15 through February so danger will persist into the breeding period when the alphas mate and renew their pair bond.

In the 30 years since wolves returned to Wisconsin, this annual cycle resulted in a population of close to 850 wolves, according to the state's late winter estimate. For over 15 years the state has depended heavily on a dedicated group of volunteer trackers to cover hundreds of kilometers of snow-covered roads, ditch lines, and fire lanes to gather these numbers. Future counts may prove difficult, however. Over 150 volunteer trackers expressed safety concerns to the state managers and legislators about possible confrontations with packs of 6 hounds running off-leash while the volunteers are following wolf tracks. The count may also be less accurate because hunters may take a wolf after it has been counted, given the overlap in the hunting season and the wolf census. So Wisconsin's uncontrolled experiment with wolves continues.



WOLVES CONTINUED

Since the 1990s, public opinion surveys have shown state residents, including mainstream hunters, support wolf recovery and conservation of all native wild animals. Surveys indicate that this coexistence should be on our terms, including lethal control by authorities when wolves attack domestic animals (depredations) and including a regulated, public hunting or trapping season if annually sustainable and if depredations become unmanageable. Nevertheless, we have seen a consistent thread of minority rule in wolf politics.

Anti-wolf interest groups charge that national groups litigating in federal court for animal welfare have slowed the resumption of state authority for wolf management. Pro-wolf interest groups charge that extremists out of touch with fair chase principles and conservation goals are pushing legislation and rules that will decimate the wolf population. Scientists from many disciplines, myself included, have criticized the legislature for usurping the role of professional experts and criticized the design of current wolf policies. State courts have been involved and for the first time the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission has rejected state wolf policy. Tem-

pers are frayed but I try to keep in mind that most states still have no wolves. Wisconsin has come a long way. ☞

For further reading, see (Thiel 1993) and for the latest science see <http://nelson.wisc.edu/people/treves/wolves.php>

LITERATURE CITED

Thiel, R. P. 1993. The Timber Wolf in Wisconsin: The Death and Life of a Majestic Predator. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

FALL 2012 POLITICAL RE-CAP: VICTORIES, LOSSES, AND PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD

By Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator

By now you have had time to celebrate the re-election of President Obama and the election of Wisconsin's first female Senator, Tammy Baldwin. These victories showed that when Wisconsinites vote, we want progressive, pro-environment candidates to represent us on a national scale. President Obama's success gives us a chance to stop the Keystone Pipeline project permanently and solidify soot protections that will protect families across the country from asthma and other respiratory illnesses. Senator Baldwin's election proved that when candidates reject their formerly moderate practices for extreme stances Wisconsin will support the candidate that stands for them. Tammy Baldwin stood up for Wisconsin families and protected clean air and water as the representative from Wisconsin's 2nd District, and we look forward to seeing her do the same in the United States Senate.

Unfortunately, due to gerrymandering and unprecedented amounts of money emptied into the elections, we did not have as much success in other races. We were very ambitious and endorsed 105 candidates for Congress, state Senate and Assembly combined. We worked hard to win a few more seats in the House of Representatives by focusing on Pat Kreitlow's (CD-7), Jamie Wall's (CD-8), and Rob Zerban's (CD-1) races. We had hoped to maintain the Senate majority by focusing on re-electing Jessica King (SD-18), Dave Hansen (SD-30), and electing Susan Sommer to retiring Jim Holperin's seat (SD-12). Un-

fortunately, the money spent in these districts ensured victories for Tom Tiffany and Richard Gudex, who beat Jessica King with less than 600 votes. We were able to protect Senator Hansen, leaving the Senate with only an 18-15 Republican majority. In the Assembly, 37 out of 75 of our endorsed candidates were elected, leaving the Assembly with a 60-39 Republican majority.

Prior to election day, Sierra Club members were out in force reminding voters that the environment was on ballot. National Sierra Club's Victory Corp program sent three staff members from other parts of the country to help in some critical Wisconsin races. Nicole Ghio was deployed to Milwaukee to help lead Baldwin to success, Amy Plovnick to Green Bay to help with Jamie Wall's campaign and Justin Uebelhor to Wausau to assist Pat Kreitlow's campaign. Throughout the campaign season, Sierra Club members from across the state spent countless hours volunteering for local, state and national campaigns in a testament to the power of grassroots activism. The Political Committee would like to recognize the following volunteers for the help they provided to chapter and national staff: Edward Anderson, Joann Bachar, Adrien Bennett, Cheri Briscoe, Cindy Carter, Connie Connour, Joyce Ellwanger (who hosted Nicole) Ned Grosnickle, Chris Jenquin, Al Lawrence, Robert Miller, Trish Miller, Erik Pettersen, Joan Quenan, Stephen Ryhner, Jim Servais (who hosted Amy for part of her stay), and Christine Zapf. A special thanks to

Political Chair, Dave Blouin, who helped coordinate volunteers, endorsements, and our state-wide strategy.

We kicked off this election season by offering a training led by members of Sierra Club's national political team. They shared tips about messaging, organizing, campaigning, and the latest insights about which races mattered most for federal and state-wide elections. Members who attended the training were able to put their new skills to use this season ensuring Sierra Club and environmental issues had a presence in this election.

In 2013 we hope to expand this program by hosting seven trainings around the state, making them more accessible to all members before the Midterm elections in 2014. We'll bring new and veteran political activists together to make sure we are ready to begin working our way towards regaining a pro-environmental legislature and governor. The goal of the trainings will be to pave the way to long-term success by identifying leaders that will represent the Sierra Club and help engage more members in crucial races. This will translate to close relationships with legislators that care about the environment once elected. ☞

To get involved with the Political Committee or to participate in or help plan a training near you, please contact Elizabeth Ward at elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org or by calling (608) 256-0565.

THE GREEN REVIEW

BOOKS RELEVANT TO WISCONSIN SIERRA CLUB MEMBERS

by Amy Lou Jenkins. Amy Lou Jenkins is the award-winning author of *Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Parenting*. She writes from Wauwatosa, WI. Contact her at www.AmyLouJenkins.com if you have a review suggestion.



BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL: TROUBLE AND JOY IN A LOST HIMALAYAN PARADISE

by Bob Shacochis, 77 pages, Byliner Books, 2012. Electronic

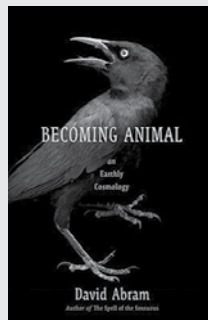
“There is so little left of the world where men and women live their lives in the luminous presence—and ominous throb—of its physical sacredness, and I was wondering...if any place remained where the sublime continued to exist unviolated—where with some assurance, people could invest their spirit into the world without battling the adulterations.” —Bob Shacochis

Can we invest our spirit in an unadulterated landscape and find sacredness? Bob Shacochis’s new travel adventure explores this question within a community of travelers. The Nepalese district of Mustang fosters the original Tibetan culture and, at the time of the author’s travels there, was about as undeveloped as any place that harbors ancient culture can be (a highway has since cut the region). This seems to be the place where one would be able to explore the human connection to wilderness. Yet it is the focus on the people acting in response to the raw places, more than the place itself, which reveals the sinuous threads of meaning.

Shacochis and his band of 14 travelers do seek to find meaning in this place, yet they are also bound to each other with both strong and tenuous bands. It may be counterintuitive, but the dimension of the human connections seems magnified within this undeveloped land. It’s a diverse group: Friend, photographer and journalist Thomas Laird, who was the first westerner ever to walk legally through the Himalayas of Western Nepal to Mount Kailash, travels with his wife and harbors high expectations of warm reunions with landscapes and people. A couple of party boys hope to dry out. Local guides lead the excited band. Shacochis, recognizing the range of dangers in their travels, divides his attention between the experience and his wife Cat’s safety. She’s certainly no wimp, but the dangers are real.

As the story unfolds, Shacochis and his relationship with Cat become even more fascinating than the grand landscapes, violent geography and suspenseful travels. His experiences in the journey all captivate – his softness and crusty confrontations, his care for Cat, his drinking with the recovering alcoholics and his sorrow that Laird’s reunion is far from sweet. As Shacochis responds to the adventure, his cogent rhetoric captures a dimension of the Western male and illustrates the complexity of their inability to cast off ethnocentrism despite any in-

tended altruism. He offers a fresh insight into the archetypal American alpha male who sprung from wide-open, wild spaces. All that straight-backed bravado isn’t necessarily ego gone amuck. We see the intense feelings, the loving care-taking, and the need for competence and the willfulness to choose to sacrifice. That emotional circuitry and inner softness calls for a heavily-armored exoskeleton. The weight of feeling expressed at the end of reading this narrative is so intense and raw, you won’t want to finish the book where a public display of emotion would be uncomfortable.



BECOMING ANIMAL: AN EARTHLY COSMOLOGY

by David Abram, 310 pages, Vintage, 2011. Print.

“The body is a place where clouds, earth-worms, guitars, clucking hens, and clear-cut hillsides all converge, forging alliances, mergers, and metamorphoses.” —David Abram

David Abram’s quest for the animal within is a cognitive and sensory journey in thirteen essays. His leaps of philosophy range from poetically introspective to nearly absurd. The judgment of absurdity might be connected to this readers’ estrangement from earthly elements. I might have rolled my eyes, but my eyes circled back to the text, and I kept reading.

His essays set in different locations advance and investigate a philosophy of metamorphosis of blood and bone as connection to the earthly and the cosmic. He seeks the healers and shape shifters near Katmandu. He ponders the weight of his changing shadows in a mountain forest. In the high desert of New Mexico, he and his partner become a new family of three. In a kayak and on walks he considers his voice as conveyor of sound rather than word.

Some of Abram’s themes seem to weigh heavy on the quirky scale. Yet Abram won this reader with his investment in deep studies and wiliness to wrestle heavy thoughts with an amazing degree of sensitivity and concern our living planet. We are a part of that planet as a cell in our body is part of us. His patient ruminations address issues with intellectual richness. Abrams attempt to reunite our physical bodies with our reflective selves’ calls attention to an overlooked duality that has diminished the quality of our lives. Recommended to those open to new ways to consider what it means to be.



WINTER OUTINGS

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. To see the latest information, visit <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/outings.asp>

THURSDAY, JAN 17: CRUISIN' FOR CUISINE

Merchant - 121 South Pinckney Street, Madison
Join your fellow diners for an evening of conversation, camaraderie and fabulous food. We do separate checks, so you can order what you like, and this is open to non-members, so anyone can feel free to join us and bring a friend. Please RSVP a week in advance to lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 to hold your seat. *Four Lakes Group*

SATURDAY, JAN 26 2013, 10:00AM 10TH ANNUAL SNOWSHOE HIKE

Join us in the winter wonderland for a snowshoe trek. Don't have your own snowshoes? We can offer some suggestions. We may hike on the Ice Age Trail or at a DNR station. Beginner to intermediate. Join us afterward for potluck with chili. Contact Janet 414-258-5624 *Great Waters Group*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19: EAGLE DAYS

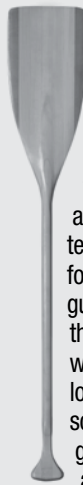
We'll meet at the Ives Grove Park & Ride at 8:00 a.m. to carpool to Prairie du Sac/Sauk City for the Annual Eagle Days Celebration. We'll attend the Live Birds of Prey Show at the River Arts Center. We'll see the release of a rehabilitated bald eagle, have lunch in a local restaurant and enjoy wine tasting at the Wollershiem Winery. Please contact Dana Huck at dhuck1105@wi.rr.com or (262) 865-4283 to sign up. *Southeast Gateway Group*

THURSDAY, FEB 21: VOLUNTEER PARTY

Once a year, we like to make a fuss over our volunteers by getting everyone in one room for a celebration! We encourage new interested volunteers to attend too, so you can meet the movers and shakers and learn all the different ways YOU can get involved. 5:30 to 8:30 pm, at Brocach Irish Pub on the square downtown. Beverages and appetizers provided, along with some raffle prizes and volunteer awards! RSVP to lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 by February 15th. *Four Lakes Group*

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.



2013 QUETICO CANOE TRIPS

Quetico Provincial Park in Ontario, Canada offers truly the most unique and premier canoeing experience anywhere in the world. You've heard, read and dreamed about these Boundary Waters and now you can experience them for a fraction of the price under expert guidance. Paddle, portage and camp in this pristine wilderness with new friends who share your spirit of adventure and love of nature's wonders. Expect to see some of the same wildlife that the voyageurs, trappers and ancient Ojibway saw as you travel the same waterways that they traveled in centuries past. Learn

the history of this storied land as you revel in its clear, drinkable waters, star-lit skies and deafening silence. A minimum of two layover days are planned for swimming, photography, fishing, hiking, exploring or just plain relaxing. These are trips you will talk about for many years to come.

All Quetico trip leaders are experienced veterans of the area with Wilderness First Aid training. Experience is not a requirement, but a good attitude and physical fitness are essential. All trips are 8 days, put-in through take-out. Crews are limited to nine participants. Travel to and from the base/starting point is not considered part of the trip although carpooling is encouraged and coordinated by participants. Fees include canoes, group equipment, meals, necessary lodging and park permits and taxes. Not included are pre/post trip travel, passports, personal permits and fishing licenses. Contact trip leaders for additional information, including registration, which will include a \$100 deposit.

JULY 20 - 28: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leaders: Mike McQuilkin, 253-219-9208, sumcqu@comcast.net

Scott McQuilkin, 253-988-4394, lo86blazer@aol.com

D. Point: Camp Quetico, Atikokan, Ontario

Cost: \$600

Participants will traverse the park from North to South emphasizing Quetico's world-class fishing for bass, walleye, and northern pike, and the spectacular scenery of the area's lakes.

AUGUST 2-11: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leader: Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com

D. Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN

Cost: \$600

Participants will cover a shorter distance and incorporates double portaging to keep pack weights down. Trip features include multi-day base camps with ample fishing opportunities and delicious home-cooked, lightweight meals including camp-baked treats.

AUGUST 9-18: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leader: Jane McMillan, 815-543-2756, janellmcmillan@sbcglobal.net

D. Point: Moose Lake - Ely, Minnesota

Cost: \$600

Participants will enjoy pictographs, waterfalls, two layover camps, voyageur history, laser-lit stargazing, and excellent fishing opportunities.

AUG 24 - SEPT 2: 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS

Leader: Bill Moore 262-785-9022, environ1@sbcglobal.net

D. Point: Moose Lake - Ely, MN area.

Cost: \$600

Participants get to choose from a variety of routes that will include Bill's famous fire-baked bannock bread but vary in the lakes, streams, wildlife, waterfalls, Ojibway pictographs, fishing opportunities and lengths. All have unparalleled scenery and two restful layover days at gorgeous wilderness campsites.

SEPTEMBER 19-22

Leader: Nancy McDermott 608-238-1421, njmcderm@gmail.com

D. Point: Trego, WI

Cost: \$125

Enjoy the autumn colors on a leisurely float on a women-only trip covering 35 miles of the National Wild and Scenic Namekagon River in Northern WI. Limited to 6 participants.

JOHN MUIR CHAPTER CALENDAR

2013 EXCOM MEETINGS

January 12 Executive Committee Meeting
Methodist Church, 615 Broadway, Baraboo, 10:00 AM

2013 EVENTS

January 5 River Touring Section Annual Meeting
Summit Village Hall, Oconomowoc @ 11am
RTS Chair Greg Riemer, duNord@sbcglobal.net

January 11 RENEW Energy Policy Summit, UW Madison Pyle Center
tinyurl.com/RENEWenergysummit

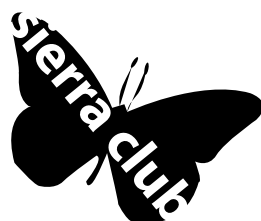
January 14 Sierra Club Capitol Update for Southwest WI Area Progressives,
Mount Horeb Community Center, 105 Grove St., 7pm

April 20 Anniversary celebration with Michael Brune
Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery, Madison, WI
Details to come at www.SierraWI50.org

October 11-13 Autumn Assembly
Celebrating 50 years of conservation in Wisconsin
Location to be determined, www.SierraWI50.org

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

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



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		Avg. no. copies each issue during the preceding 12 months	No. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date
15a	Total no. of copies (net press run)	12,465	12,387
15b1	Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	12,135	12,057
15b2	Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS form 3541	0	0
15b3	Paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS	0	0
15b4	Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	5	5
15c	Total paid distribution	12,140	12,062
15d1	Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d2	Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS form 3541	0	0
15d3	Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS (e.g. first-class mail)	3	3
15d4	Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail	286	205
15e	Total free or nominal rate distribution	289	205
15f	Total distribution	12,429	12,267
15g	Copies not distributed	36	120
15h	Total	12,465	12,387
15i	Percent paid	97.67%	97.38%
16	Statement of Ownership will be printed in the January/February/March issue of this publication.		
17	Signature and title of editor, publisher, business manager, or owner		<i>Jacinda Tessmann</i> Jacinda Tessmann Chapter Coordinator