



Protesting the Pipeline – Hope Endures

Sarah Fuelleman



A large oil pipeline from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, called Keystone XL, is pending a go-ahead from President Obama. If built, this massive pipeline will carry millions of barrels of dirty tar sands crude oil that have been steamed out of the ground in Alberta, Canada and mixed with a mixture of toxic chemicals to make it liquid enough to flow. The pipeline will cross several major rivers and their tributaries, pass over the immense Ogallala Aquifer – drinking water and irrigation source for millions of Americans – and through many sensitive natural areas.

Tar sands oil is the dirtiest oil on the planet. Because of the vast quantities of natural gas used to extract, process, and transport it, and because it destroys millions of acres of boreal forest – forest that would otherwise

absorb carbon from the atmosphere – the tar sands are a veritable “carbon bomb.” NASA’s chief climate scientist, James Hansen, has said that if the tar sands are developed to their potential, it’ll mean “game over” for Earth’s climate.

So when Bill McKibben and others put out the call for people to travel to Washington, DC to protest the Keystone XL pipeline, there was little doubt I would go. I understood action is needed – sometimes uncomfortable action – if we’re going to stop climate change.

We hoped our action would raise awareness of the damage the XL pipeline could do. We hoped to show President Obama that people, regular folks from every state, would risk

Continued on page 6

Chair’s Corner

Dave Blouin

This extraordinary summer of democracy has led to some important victories for Sierra Club legislative goals. First, committed environmentalist and Sierra Club member, Chris Taylor, was elected to replace Joe Parisi for Assembly District 48. Many great candidates turned out for this race but we truly believe Chris will be a dedicated supporter of our goals.

The Sierra Club endorsed candidates in all nine Senate recall races. While we only had one race that was in part of the Four Lakes Group area (Clark v. Olsen), the results in all the races have an impact on the Club’s work here and statewide. There is no question that gaining two Senate seats by recalling Senators Hopper and Kapanke are significant wins. The importance of moving towards balance in the state legislature can’t be overemphasized. The future treatment of our natural resources depends on changing that balance; we’re already making plans for the 2012 elections.

Dozens of volunteers from the Four Lakes Group area turned out to help the endorsed candidates in the recalls. I cannot thank all of you (and our dedicated staff) enough. Thanks to everyone who donated to the John Muir Chapter Political Action Committee and

Continued on page 7

In this Issue

Protesting the Pipeline	1
Chair’s Corner	1
Four Lakes Fall Events	2
Kick the Coal Habit	3

Four Lakes Group Outings	3
RAH	4
Cruisin’ for Cuisine	6
Four Lakes Fall Kick-Off	7
Autumn Assembly	8



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Four Lakes Fabulous Fall Events

We always try to offer great events, but this fall's line up brings a diverse set of exceptional activities you don't want to miss! Some are detailed elsewhere, but we're providing a sequenced list so you can mark your calendar and not miss a one! (* Denotes tabling opportunity. See note at end.)

Kick the Coal Habit Carnival, September 24, Brittingham Park, Madison *

See page 3 about this fun but serious family event you'll get a kick (and lick) out of.

Ride the Drive, September 25, downtown Madison *

Concerned about oil's impacts on climate change? The day after our Moving Planet coal event, you'll find us at Ride the Drive. Bike major Madison thoroughfares without fear of cars, and join us at our Sierra Club table to inform people about the hazards of oil addition and what better transit options would do. Especially timely with the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, since a major percentage of our gasoline in Wisconsin comes from the environmentally disastrous Canadian tar sands mining.

Four Lakes Fall Festivities Gathering, September 29, Brink Lounge, Madison

See page 7 about our Four Lakes fall informational social with free food and drink.

Autumn Assembly, October 7 – 9, Camp Helen Brachman, Portage County

See page ? for news of our annual gathering of John Muir Sierrans. Won't you join us?



Ian Woodall: The Tao of Everest, October 22, First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Madison

Ian, who bills himself as a motivational speaker giving lessons for leadership, will address members and the public about his extraordinary experiences during five expeditions to Mt. Everest. This special presentation will offer great photos and lessons learned.

Hayride & Bonfire with S'Mores, Sunday, October 23, Elver Park, Madison

See *Outings* for info on this fall activity, complete with chocolate and fire.

Newenhouse Kit House tour, November 6, Viroqua

Interested in a really green and efficient new house you can build anywhere? Come see the prototype

Sonya Newenhouse of the Madison Environmental Group has designed that is customizable to fit your needs. This all-day tour will include a tour of the kit house, lunch in the area, and touring parts of the Driftless Area, with an optional stop for dinner, possibly in Spring Green, on the return trip. Sign up early and tell us what you want to see and do. More details in *Outings*. RSVP to Terri Gregory, gregoryedits@gmail.com

Please watch for updates in the *Enews* or on our Four Lakes web site or Facebook page.

* There's no better place to see these events from than our Sierra table. We always appreciate your joining us (no experience required), so if you can help out, please contact Don Ferber at d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or 608-222-9376. ■

Kick the Coal Habit!

Mark Saturday, September 24 on your calendars to join us for a Kick the Coal Habit carnival. The Sierra Club, along with 350.org, is sponsoring *Moving Planet: A Day to Move Beyond Fossil Fuels* world-wide day of action and attention on fossil fuels. The Four Lakes Group Sierra Club, home of the Charter St. (soon to be formerly) coal plant, invites you to our festive, but serious event, to draw attention to the dangers of coal – and to have fun. Tell the Environmental Protection Agency we want strong regulations, and we're tired of added health care costs and environmental destruction while coal companies profit from burning dirty fossil fuel. You can do that on 9/24 by joining us for this fun and family friendly educational carnival where you can help "Kick the Coal Habit" with soccer and other games, and win free ice cream and prizes.

That we need immediate action is not in doubt. Atmospheric CO2 is over 390 parts per million, and rising, and the effects of climate change are here now – and getting worse. Burning coal kills people, causes asthma and other ailments, and makes our fish inedible and air and waters unsafe. Even if we stopped adding more CO2 into the air immediately, things would get worse before they get better. We need action – NOW!

With Madison moving beyond dirty coal at Charter Street and other power plants, what better place to celebrate – and to move forward from. Event details are being finalized, but it will be at Brittingham Park from 2 -5 PM, with a rally at Charter St at 1:30 PM to march to the park and symbolize moving away from coal. We'll "Kick the Coal Habit" with soccer games or contests where you can boot coal towards "clean energy" goals. As a special feature, the 20' inflatable coal power plant will return to Madison after a 3 year hiatus, calling attention to this dirty power source. Contests and games provide opportunities to win prizes, including ice cream so you can "Give Coal a Licking." There's no more delicious way to support moving beyond coal!

We'll ask the EPA to take strong action to make coal clean up its act. (And since coal can't be clean, that means moving beyond it.) We want you there to let the EPA know you're tired of mercury in our air and waters, worsened asthma and other respiratory ailments, acid rain falling from the skies, and climate change wreaking havoc with our economy and people's

Continued on page 6

Four Lakes Group Outings Fall / Winter 2011

For all outings: Wear weather and activity appropriate clothing (layered is best) and good footwear. Bring fluids to drink, and a snack or food, and sun screen or bug repellent as appropriate. Please contact the leader to RSVP, if you have questions, or with concerns about weather and to cancel. If carpooling, please be a little early. Check our Four Lakes Group web site or Facebook page for updates or added events.

Leader Contact Info

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David Smith, 608-233-1210

Hike the Lodi Marsh Segment of the Ice Age Trail Saturday, October 1 – 10 AM

Join us for a 6 - 7 mile moderate difficulty hike on the Lodi segment of the Ice Age Trail. From Madison, take Hwy 113 northwest ~ 2 mi. past the Village of Dane to Lee Rd. Turn left for 1.2 mi. and turn right on Lodi-Springfield Rd. for .7 mi. to the parking lot on the left. Carpooling from Madison meets at 9 AM at the Hill Farms State Office Building (DOT) on Sheboygan Avenue. Bring a lunch. RSVP to David Smith.

Woodland Restoration with Brush Hauling and Burning, Festge County Park Saturday, October 15 – 9 AM

Return to the location of our summer picnic with the same great scenery and activity, but more moderate temps! We'll learn about invasives and help clear brush to give the native oaks and hickories a chance to breathe and enjoy the sun. We plan to burn brush, so wear natural fabric or old work clothes, and bring something to cook over the fire for lunch. Festge Park is 1 mile west of Cross Plains off Hwy 14 at Scherbel Rd. RSVP to Don Ferber.

Continued on page 4

RAH (RAH, RAH)

We've done Recycling Away from Home (RAH) for several years at east side Madison festivals. If we had true waste reduction (near zero) from these events, would you go RAH, RAH, RAH!? That's exactly what we're trying to accomplish if we can compost at next year's Madison east side festivals. The City of Madison has two neighborhood prototype composting efforts this year, with hopes to take this citywide.

These festivals are on Madison's socially and environmentally conscious east side. Can't we have composting at events away from home? Where's our sense of sustainability and pride? While there is some inertia to overcome, with your help we'll work with east side neighborhood organizations, businesses, and the community to implement composting. And if it occurs at these events, then next is the rest of Madison – and beyond. Reducing waste going to the current landfill would prolong its life, and reduce or put off the costs of building a new one. Plus, we'd be doing something worthwhile with what is now trash.

We're not doing RAH at this year's Willy Street Fair on 9/17 and 9/18 (RAH organizers are gone), but we plan to have a table there Sunday, and perhaps a survey asking people if they favor composting and can help. If you'd like to help and see our community take the next major step, contact Don Ferber at d_ferber@sbcglobal.net or 608-222-9376. ■



Four Lakes Group Sierra Club Contacts

on the web: www.4lakes.org
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*Executive Committee members

Outings from page 2

Baxter's Hollow Hike

Saturday, October 15 – 10 AM

One of the best places for a fall hike in southern Wisconsin is the Baraboo Hills. We'll visit The Nature Conservancy's Baxter's Hollow and talk about plants and animals and the ancient geology that created the hollow. Trails are fairly gentle but there may be water and a stream to hop across. Carpooling from Madison departs the DOT west parking lot at 4802 Sheboygan Ave. at 9:15 AM; or call for directions. RSVP to Jon Higgins.

Fall Color Hike at Blue Mound State Park

Sunday, October 16 – 10:15 AM

Meet at the Park & Ride at the corner of Old PD and Business 151 at 9:30 and carpool to Blue Mound State Park at 9:45. Or meet at the park at 10:15 at the parking lot near the pool. A State Park Sticker is required on all vehicles. Bill will be wearing a white "Life is Good" baseball hat. We'll hike several of the trails at Blue Mound State Park, about 5 miles total. Pack a lunch. RSVP to Bill Fenske.

Hayride & Bonfire with S'Mores at Elver Park

Sunday, October 23 - 5:15 PM

Get ready for Halloween by enjoying a crisp fall evening in Madison's Elver Park. Treat yourself to a unique view of a beautiful city park and a family friendly campfire. The wagon, pulled by a tractor, will take us on a scenic tour of the park and finish by the bonfire. The trip includes a 30 minute ride, and a 30 minute campfire and 'smores. (We may be able to stay longer.) Everything's included and children are welcome! Participants enter/exit the wagon using a stepladder. Limit of 24. You must RSVP to Lacinda a week in advance.

Fall Hike at Lake Kegonsa State Park

Saturday, October 29 – 10:30 AM

Join us for a beautiful late fall hike along 5 miles of trails at Lake Kegonsa State Park. Carpooling from Madison meets at 10 AM at Dutch Mill Park & Ride (Hwy 51 & Broadway Rd). Or meet at the park at 10:30 AM at the sand volleyball court. From Madison, take the Beltline (Hwy 12/18) east past Interstate 90. Turn right on Cty AB. At the T-intersection (Cty MN), turn left. Turn right on Door Creek Road to the end. A state park admission sticker is required. RSVP to Marian Holton-Manuel.

**Newenhouse Kit House tour, Viroqua
Sunday, November 6 – 8:45 AM**

Interested in a really green and efficient new house you can build anywhere? Come see the prototype Newenhouse Kit House that meets passive house and LEED standards. This all day tour includes a tour of the kit house, lunch in the area, and touring Viroqua and other parts of the area. Options include Organic Valley, Kickapoo Coffee and Cedar Grove Cheese. Optional stop for dinner on the way back. Sign up early and tell us what you want to see. Meet at 8:45 AM at the DOT west parking lot at 4802 Sheboygan Ave. RSVP to Terri Gregory by October 29.

**Moonlight Hike – Prairie Moraine County Park
Wednesday, November 9 – 6:30 PM**

Enjoy an evening hike at Prairie Moraine County Park in Dane County. We'll hike through prairies and forest at one of Dane County's glaciated areas near Verona on the night before the full moon. Families are welcome! To get to Prairie Moraine Park, take Hwy 18/151 southwest of Madison to exit 79 (Cty PB). Turn left on PB and go .7 miles south to Prairie Moraine County Park and park in the lot. Meet by the IAT kiosk. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon.

**Trail Maintenance/Clearing, Verona segment,
Ice Age Trail
Sunday, November 13 – 9 AM**

Help the Dane County Chapter of the Ice Age Trail work to clear and maintain the trail across from Prairie Moraine County Park. We'll slay more invasives and perhaps work on the trail itself a bit to improve it for hikers. Meet at Prairie Moraine County Park parking lot. (See Nov 9 hike.) RSVP to Don Ferber.

**Devil's Lake Rim Hike
Saturday, November 19 – 10 AM**

Hike both east and west bluff rims at Devil's Lake and learn about the geological forces and glaciers that shaped this place. Hiking varies from easy to challenging and involves some rocky, steep and potentially slippery trails. Carpooling from Madison departs the DOT west parking lot at 4802 Sheboygan Ave. at 9 AM. If driving, take S Lake Rd west off Hwy 13 to the

Devil's Lake South Shore parking lot. Meet at 10 AM by the concession. A state park sticker or day pass is required for cars. Bring a lunch. RSVP to Jon Higgins.

**Restoration/Brush Burning – Table Bluff segment,
Ice Age Trail
Saturday, December 17 – 9 AM**

Join in the continued restoration efforts along this wonderful section of trail in the Driftless Area. It's a great way to burn off some calories between Thanksgiving and Xmas! With snow cover or the right conditions, we'll not only cut invasive brush, but burn it. Take Hwy 14 just west of Cross Plains to Cty KP, turn right for ~ 2.5 miles to Table Bluff Rd., and left for 0.2 mi. and park on area on left off the road. RSVP to Don Ferber.

**Pre-Winter Solstice Bonfire – Picnic Point
Sunday, December 18th – 6:30 PM**

Come to our annual Winter Solstice bonfire beginning at 6:30 PM located on the farthest fire pit area out on Picnic Point. Bring warm liquids for yourself and a snack to share. Don't forget a hat, warm gloves/mittens, and boots. Feel free to bring cozy Holiday stories to share or holiday songs to sing. Picnic Point can be accessed along the north side of the Picnic Point peninsula, just off the Lake Mendota Lakeshore Path. RSVP to Kathy Mulbrandon.

**Snowshoe/Hike at Blue Mound State Park
Sunday, January 1 – 11 AM**

Start the New Year right with a snowshoe (or hike) through forests and ravines on the north side of Blue Mound and learn about winter forest life and the geology of the Driftless Area in southwest Wisconsin. Snowshoes are strongly recommended, but we'll hike if there isn't enough snow. Be prepared for several miles of snowy trail and physical exertion. Carpooling from Madison departs the DOT west parking lot at 4802 Sheboygan Ave. at 10:15 AM. If driving, meet at the trailhead parking lot by the pool at 11 AM. A 2012 state park sticker or day pass is required for cars. RSVP to Jon Higgins. ■



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Autumn Assembly

Oct 7-9, 2011

Camp Helen Brachman, Portage Cty

details page 8



FORWARD from page 1

arrest to stand up for what was right. We hoped to give him some political cover, as well, to remind him of the statements he made as a candidate in 2008 and let him return to the person of those promises.

My boyfriend, Rick, and I were both arrested during the protests, but on different days. On the day he was arrested, I went to the White House, took some pictures and talked with passersby who wondered what the protest was about. Those conversations were among the best I've had around climate change issues and I began to understand the bigger picture of the protest. I realized, finally, that the protest was not just about those who stood up to be arrested. It was about the media and the PR machine, yes, but it also was about engaging the people, from all over the world, who travel to Washington to take in that particular picture-postcard view. (The location was chosen for that very reason.)

Some people were not convinced. Others took the postcards and promised to visit www.tarsandsaction.org to learn more. Some others expressed anger that people were being arrested for protesting and used the action as a civics lesson for their children, explaining the right to assembly, the right to free speech, etc. Some people wanted to call Obama right away, and tell him "no pipeline."

I've argued with folks about the results of the protest. As I write this, we don't know what the president will decide. The State Department has said the pipeline will cause minimal risk to the environment. Maybe it wasn't worth it to go to Washington. Maybe I wasted my time and energy, but I don't think so.

I've heard lots of talk about hope in the environmental movement. Some

NASA's chief climate scientist, James Hansen, has said that if the tar sands are developed to their potential, it'll mean "game over" for Earth's climate.

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people say we should not rely on hope. I'm not relying on hope anymore but by taking action I've given myself *more* hope. When you are arrested with dozens of like-minded people, who also are scared but take a stand, who also find shelling out \$100 to be a financial stretch, and when you look out and see dozens more supporting your efforts, you know we have the power to make change.

When you're called to step up, at whatever level you can, I hope you'll do it. It's an incredibly empowering action. And it might even give you hope.

(Read Rick's account of why he chose to take action at www.climatechronicle.com) ■

COAL from page 3

lives. It's time the true costs of coal are revealed and we move to clean energy solutions that will help our environment, our economy, and our health.

This is a family friendly event open to all. If you want to help out or have questions about the event, contact Emily Miota at 608-257-4994. Watch for updates on our web site and our Facebook page.

It's time to move beyond coal. Won't you join us on 9/24? You'll get a kick out of it! ■

Cruisin' for Cuisine Dinner Series

Enjoy the company of fellow Sierrans while sampling fine local cuisine. We try to mix locations and price points, so we hope we'll hit a spot you like! Open to members and non-members alike, so bring a friend if you'd like. Please RSVP a week in advance to Lacinda Athen at lacinda.athen@gmail.com or 608-274-7870 and she will make reservations for the group. Meeting time will be provided when you RSVP.

Tuesday October 11

Appetizers at Louisianne's,
7464 Hubbard Avenue;
Pie at Hubbard Avenue Diner,
7445 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton.

Tuesday November 15

Tempest Oyster Bar.
120 E. Wilson, Madison.

Tuesday December 6

The Bayou.
117 South Butler Street, Madison.

Tuesday January 10

Lao Laan Xang.
1146 Williamson St, Madison. ■

Four Lakes Fall Festivities Gathering

When: Thursday, September 29

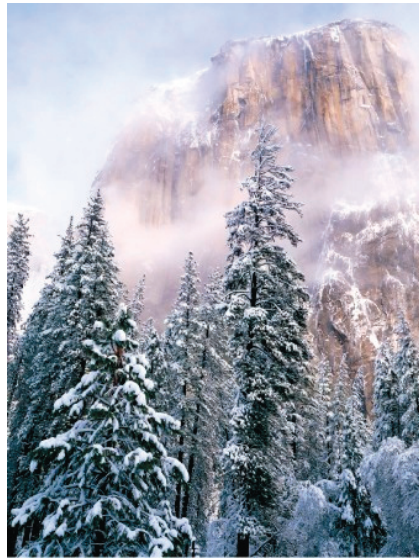
Where: The Brink, 701 E
Washington, Madison

Who: YOU!

Why: (Top ten reasons to attend)

1. You didn't think it was possible to get this many friendly Sierrans into one place.
2. How many other chances do you get to talk to all the Four Lakes leaders?
3. You want to learn more about the Four Lakes Sierra Club and our activities.
4. Free food!
5. The Brink is on your way home from work anyhow (that evening).
6. You can share why you support the Sierra Club and what you want us to be doing.
7. Because it's a great opportunity to learn how you can contribute and feel good.
8. Nobody listens to your great ideas – and we promised we would.
9. Free drinks!
10. We're a lot more fun than spending another evening with your Aunt Myrtle. ■

2012 Sierra Club Calendars Are Here!



Way early for holiday giving and for new year planning, 2012 Sierra Club calendars are available now from the Four Lakes Group. Contact Beverly Speer at 608-241-8979 or bjsmadison62@gmail.com for more info. Information will also be posted on the Four Lakes web site.

Gorgeous as always, the engagement calendar measures a useful 6 1/4" x 9 1/4". Both engagement and wilderness wall calendars are spiral bound and both come in a mailing box.

Engagements are \$14 and wall calendars are \$13. ■

CHAIR from page 1

special thanks to John Reindl and Caryl Terrell who continue to give generously of their time and energy despite retirement and former state Representative Spencer Black who not only matched donations to the PAC but who also graciously stepped up to serve on the Political Committee, recruit volunteers and work in the contested districts to get out the vote. Spencer also serves on the Sierra Club National Political Team.

I'd like to address any lingering concerns over why the Sierra Club became involved in the recall elections. I believe Sierra Club members understand how important electing progressive environmental leaders is for accomplishing our goals. We worked hard to defend proven environmental leaders from being recalled and worked to recall legislators who voted to roll back environmental protections. Moreover, the attacks on public workers and unions have real impacts on environmental protection. We can't afford to lose dedicated public professionals whose union protections help them stand up to political assaults on our environment. Support for unions is nothing new for the Club; we co-founded the BlueGreen Alliance with the United Steelworkers in 1996 (bluegreenalliance.org).

Please join us the evening of Saturday, October 22 for a really special program by world-famous climber Ian Woodall. Ian has graciously offered to waive his speaking fee and address members and the public about his extraordinary experiences during five expeditions to Mt. Everest. See details on page 4.

As always, you can find more info on our website at 4Lakes.org and I look forward to your messages with questions or concerns at: burroak15@charter.net or by phone at (608)233-8455.

Dave Blouin, Chair Sierra Club – Four Lakes Group ■



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<http://4lakes.org>

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Newsletter and Enews

Our goal is environmentally responsible, cost effective communication with all of our members. Our primary modes of communication are this newsletter, the Four Lakes Enews, and the 4lakes.org web site. We mail newsletters to members for whom we do not have email addresses or those who request a hard copy. Others receive an email notice and can download the latest issue from our web site. You can help save trees and reduce use of print materials and inks that use energy and can have harmful environmental effects. It also saves funds we can use toward our essential missions. Please consider sending us your email address to receive your newsletter electronically. An added advantage is that you can get our Enews newsletter that is sent out 2-3 times a month and will keep you connected and more up to date on what's happening. Please contact Don Ferber:

- By email to d_ferber@sbcglobal.net
- By phone at (608) 222-9376
- By mail at 4700 Allis Ave., Madison, WI 53716

Autumn Assembly

Autumn and Assembly. Two words that go together like peas in a pod, at least for John Muir Sierrans. What also go well together are the Sierra Club and environmental concerns. Especially with the current political climate in Wisconsin, that's all the more reason to attend this year's Autumn Assembly. Whether your interest is in exploring, enjoying or protecting the environment – or all the above – there are plenty of reasons to congregate at this year's annual gathering October 7 – 9 at Camp Helen Brachman in Portage County.

The theme of the Assembly is "We are One Club: Working together for conservation from local groups to the statewide Chapter to the national Sierra Club." This weekend provides a host of things to do, see, and experience, whether it be attending a wide variety of presentations, participating in a tour or hike, bidding on items in the silent auction, enjoying music or a campfire, exploring the night sky, learning how you can get involved, or just hanging out with fellow Sierrans. And there will be activities for children as well as adults, so bring the whole family.

A special Assembly highlight will be a keynote speech by

State Representative Penny Bernard Schaber, a long time Sierra activist and former John Muir chair, who will give insight into the working of the state legislature, attempts to roll back environmental safeguards, and where our support will be needed. That's only one of many special and varied presentations. You'll have the opportunity to hear about restoring a wildlife area for birds, learn about trails and greenways as well as river clean up efforts in the Fox Valley region, and delve into what's new in green building technology.

You'll also hear about the latest on our coal campaign, learn more about Wisconsin's oil dependence, and hear from groups around the state on their activities. Saturday evening has its own special activities with chapter awards and a terrific band in addition to the silent auction, a campfire, and night sky exploration. The sky really is the limit for this event!

All the information you need and a downloadable registration form are available at <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>. You can also contact Dale Schaber by phone at 920-739-6041 or by email at: dschaber@athenet.net.

Be part of our club and we'll see you there! ■