



# WSNetwork News

March 15, 2003

*News on issues of common interest to Wisconsin's sporting, conservation, and environmental communities.*

Click on these WSN priority issue section links or scan the Acrobat bookmarks on the left:

- [Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line](#)
- [DNR Independence and PIO Restoration](#)
- [Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation](#) *NEW*
- [Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement](#) *NEW*
- [Forest Fragmentation](#)
- [Mercury Reduction](#)
- [Metallic Mining](#)
- [Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection](#) *NEW*

## WLCV releases first WI issues "Briefing Book"

Click [here](#) for information on the WI League of Conservation voters' new legislative issues briefing book and the WSN issues covered in it.

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## Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

### Namekagon paddle event planned for May 10

Celebrate Wisconsin's federally designated National Scenic Riverway! Come to the Namekagon River Gathering Saturday, May 10, 2003. The Namekagon River was designated part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in 1968. It is administered by the National Park Service. The National Park Service, in its upcoming draft environmental impact statement, can deny the American Transmission Company permission to cross the Namekagon River with the proposed Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line.

Canoeists, kayakers and friends will gather to paddle and show the ATC that they oppose building the Line. The proposed Line would cross many northern rivers along the route between Duluth and Wausau, including the Namekagon River. Impacts would include hundreds of 150' tall towers, 900 feet apart, each requiring base pilings submerged to 40' below ground.

Afterward, the public is invited to attend a public hearing by the river. Tell the National Park Service that you support them in keeping our Namekagon River Scenic for future generations! There is no charge for this event, but you must pre-register to facilitate planning. RSVP today so we'll know we can count on you! For information/directions and to RSVP, contact Lisa Goodman or

## Conservation Congress voting April 14

Some of the items on the April 14 Conservation Congress meeting ballot relate to WSN issues. Click [here](#) for more.

Claire Schmidt. This event is sponsored by Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL), River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Stewardship Network, and Wisconsin's Environmental Decade

SOURCE: Lisa Goodman (608) 441-8410, [goodman@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:goodman@wisconsinrivers.org) or Claire Schmidt (608) 251-7020, [schmidtc@chorus.net](mailto:schmidtc@chorus.net).

## SOUL provides comprehensive A-W line update, objectives

*(Though a lot longer than our usual stories in WSNetwork News, the following is a comprehensive update on recent happenings relating to the Arrowhead-Weston line. -Ed.)*

We wanted to bring you up to date regarding the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line. As you may remember the project had received approval for construction in the fall of 2001 by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), despite overwhelming opposition by local governments, like yourself, and the general public. Since that time some important things have happened. In December of 2002 the PSC issued notice that they will reexamine the 240-mile transmission line across northern Wisconsin now that its cost estimate has nearly tripled to \$400 million. PSC regulators will examine two additional issues besides the serious cost increase:

The ATC has asked the PSC to reconsider its request to hang fiber optic cable on the 345,000-volt transmission line. The PSC originally rejected the fiber because landowners feared the utilities would use the line to generate private revenue through joint projects with cable or phone companies. "Optical fiber has skyrocketed in its capacity over the past few years today just one strand can carry the communication equivalent of the world's internet traffic." SOUL believes this is yet another attempt by the utilities to use eminent domain to take private land for their own profit!

The ATC is also asking the PSC to overlook the law by requesting the right to condemn private land through eminent domain, prior to securing all necessary Wisconsin DNR permits for construction. The PSC, following state law, declared in 2001 that the project would not be validated (issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity CPCN) until the Wisconsin DNR "has issued all necessary permits and approvals that are required." To date the ATC has not even applied for a single permit from the DNR.

SOUL has urged the PSC to deny the ATC's request for a revised cost estimate and order a full scope review and evidentiary hearing of all issues related to the Arrowhead line. The ATC wanted to only review the cost aspect and requested the CPCN to be effective immediately, even though the PSC in its notice to full parties asked about the potential for review of generation projects alone as a solution to our states future energy needs. Finally the ATC told the PSC that it does not believe additional public hearings on the Arrowhead Weston transmission line should be held.

SOUL would like to broaden the scope of the hearings to include evidence showing that the transmission line is not a cost effective means of supplying reliable energy to the public. In addition SOUL intends to show that an adequate supply and secure network can be met by in state generation, or a mix of generation, transmission and demand side management and have hired an electrical engineer to assist us in these efforts.

We agree with PSC staff electrical engineers, who stated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement on this project, that a low voltage upgrade would have a far less reaching impact on landowners and coupled with current generational upgrades, would solve many of Wisconsin's

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concerns about reliability. Unfortunately, this would allow for less of the “ancillary benefit of bulk energy sales” as testified to in the Marathon County Court by a WPS transmission engineer, summer 2002, in regards to temporary injunctions sought by the utilities for surveying.

We are asking that the Final Environmental Impact Statement be updated to include accurate comparisons of alternatives based on the revised cost estimates. With out this information being revised it is impossible to make accurate comparisons of alternatives to the proposed line.

Finally we are requesting that at least five days of public hearings be conducted in Northern Wisconsin to allow citizens an opportunity to testify regarding the impacts of the line. We also believe there should be a minimum of two weeks of technical hearings to properly access needs and alternatives.

The first for profit transmission only company, the American Transmission Company (ATC), has taken over the job of trying to construct the line. They have launched another massive media campaign in an attempt to convince northern Wisconsin that we would benefit from their line in some manner, including claims that the line is now for northern Wisconsin. Justification for the project in the first technical hearings revealed that this energy is intended to serve the needs of eastern Wisconsin and to facilitate wholesale transactions in a deregulated environment.

Late breaking news is that the ATC and PSC may have been participating in illegal private meetings concerning the Arrowhead line. If you have any questions on the subject or would like to arrange a meeting with a SOUL representative please don't hesitate to call. We would welcome the chance to attend and participate in any meetings with the ATC and your bodies of government, either town or county, as we have followed these issues very closely for the past four years. Our participation in past meetings have provided information on many subjects that both town and county governments had not been aware of.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. The decisions we make today not only regard the establishment of the largest transmission project undertaking in the United States, but also may additionally set a precedent for challenges of our local governments, and ultimately the voices of our citizens. With over 10,000 letters in opposition of this project to the PSC, and two years later, testimony taken from over 1200 citizens, the consensus has been an emphatic “NO!”

SOURCE: Tom Kreager, President, SOUL, 715-693-3143.

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## **DNR Independence and PIO Restoration**

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## **Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation**

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## Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement

### Sierra Club, others file federal suit against Bush livestock rule

Citing concerns over weakening environmental protections like the Clean Water Act, a coalition that includes Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Waterkeeper Alliance filed a challenge to the Bush Administration proposal in federal court on March 7. The suit, filed by the Sierra Club in San Francisco's Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday, argues that the Bush Administration rule illegally allows large livestock operations to pollute streams and rivers with animal waste, without the limits required under the Clean Water Act.

Waste from large livestock operations has become a major environmental and public health problem in Wisconsin. Last winter the Jon De Farm in St. Croix County dumped animal waste in the Rush River, a high quality Trout stream. The Department of Justice, spurred by complaints from local members of the Sierra Club and Izaak Walton League, is prosecuting this violation.

"We can do better than the Bush Administration's plan. If animal waste runs off into the nearest creek, the Bush Administration calls it 'agricultural stormwater' and says that's acceptable," said Caryl Terrell, Chapter Director with Wisconsin Chapter of the Sierra Club. "But what looks like de-regulation upstream looks like raw sewage downstream. The Bush Administration proposal is a step backward for communities throughout the US. Last year Wisconsin adopted new nonpoint regulations to control water pollution from farm fields, animal feedlots, and urban streets that we consider to be the strongest in the country. We are anxious that federal rules not undercut the progress we have made here in Wisconsin to protect our water resources and public health."

SOURCE: Sierra Club, [cterrell@execpc.com](mailto:cterrell@execpc.com).

#### More on the Sierra Club lawsuit's concerns

Other complaints regarding the final rule that will likely be raised in the Sierra Club lawsuit include:

- Allowing factory farms to write their own pollution management plans without state or federal review. *(Under Wisconsin law, the DNR and the county Land Conservation Departments review these plans and make modifications as part of the CAFO permit. The plans cover any fields used for manure landspreading, not just those owned or rented by the CAFO.)*
- Keeping these pollution management plans secret, thereby reducing the public's ability to hold polluters accountable. *(Under Wisconsin law, the public is able to review these plans at DNR offices. Neighbors concerned about odors and the timing of manure landspreading are able to comment on permit provisions.)*
- Shielding corporations that own animals from liability for the pollution they create. *(Every year, manure spills result in fish kills and fouling of drinking water supplies. Often local citizens are able to spur the Department of Justice to require spill management compliance by livestock operations that violate the Clean Water Act.)*
- Exempting animal waste spills from lagoons from the Clean Water Act by defining these spills as "agricultural stormwater." *(Wisconsin winters and freeze-thaw conditions have led to linking manure lagoons. Lagoons are currently regulated under Wisconsin regulations.)*

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## Manure a major killer of Ohio fish

A story in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* on Feb. 25 reports, “The Ohio Environmental Council released a report stating pollution spills and leaks kill 1,000 fish a week. Nearly 75 percent of the pollution is a result of improper manure management on farms. Although the group emphasizes the Ohio Division of Wildlife responds well to incidents, stiffer penalties are needed to offset the environmental costs and to penalize polluters that fail to report a spill. The report also emphasizes that the spills do not only affect the fish, but other wildlife including turtles, mussels, and waterfowl. For more information on how to deal with excessive manure in your state visit: <http://www.serconline.org/cafos.html>.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* Vol. II, No. 9, March 3, 2003.

## Iowa voters support large hog farm moratorium

In a recent survey of Iowans conducted by the Humane Society of the United States, nearly three-quarters of Iowa voters supported a moratorium on the construction of large hog farms. Nearly 65 percent of voters also supported county zoning on hog farms.

SOURCE: Center for Rural Affairs newsletter, March, 2003, [info@cfra.org](mailto:info@cfra.org).

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## Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation

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## Forest Fragmentation

## Web slide show displays WI development, fragmentation

A US Forest Service Northeast Experiment Station website at <http://www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/IntegratedPrograms/lc/> provides a slideshow of the results of a fragmentation study in the Midwest over the past 60 years. The study was conducted by the Forest Service and the UW-Madison and uses housing density to track the amount and locations of development that has occurred. The maps of increased development and fragmentation are eye-popping, especially for southern Michigan and Wisconsin. By looking at the progression of increased housing density over wide areas, a person can easily conclude that fragmentation is occurring very rapidly over large areas of all the Midwest states except Iowa. These maps show that if we don't get a handle on growth soon, most rural areas will become suburbanized with the resulting loss of open space and all of the associated environmental benefits such as wildlife habitat and clean water.

SOURCE: John Schwarzmann, ECCOLA, [eccola@newnorth.net](mailto:eccola@newnorth.net).

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## Mercury Reduction

### California mercury suit may force enforcement of other labeling laws

A story in *Fishlink Sublegals* on Feb. 14 reports, “The recent lawsuit brought by California Attorney General Bill Lockyer against five major grocery chains for not labeling fish (tuna, swordfish, shark) containing mercury in amounts requiring consumer notification under the state’s Proposition 65 has brought to light the fact that other fish products, too, are being sold without warning labels required by state or federal laws. Recent studies, for example, have found farmed salmon with excessive amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a known carcinogen, at levels approximately 10 times that found in their wild counterparts, and probably great enough to require labeling under California’s Proposition 65 for sale in that state. Farmed salmon also contain color additives, otherwise the flesh would be an unappetizing gray, and most fish farms currently used a petroleum-based dye, canthaxanthin, that can cause eye damage and recently prompted a European Union advisory calling for a limit on the use of the chemical. Natural or artificial, however, U.S. law already requires fish containing colorants to be labeled, in the retail case and on individual packages, with signs stating: “artificially colored” or “color added.” In fact, this federal law requiring notice of color additives is being ignored by local county health departments charged with enforcing the statute.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines Report* Vol. II, No. 9, March 3, 2003.

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## Metallic Mining

### Wolf Watershed meeting March 22 to plan for cyanide ban bill

The next meeting of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project will be on Saturday, March 22 at the Forest County Potawatomi Community near Crandon from 10 a.m. to 3 at the Forest County Potawatomi Health And Wellness Center. It will be the same day as the tribal powwow, and we encourage people to attend the powwow afterwards! The meeting will discuss Doyle Administration moves on the public acquisition of the mine site, and our campaign to pass the cyanide ban and “no special treatment” bills. The bill to ban the use of cyanide in mining is called Assembly Bill 91, and it is now in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee chaired by Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-96 Eastman). Please contact Johnsrud to respectfully ask him for a public hearing and committee vote on the mining bills at (608) 266-3534 (fax 282-3696), toll-free at 1-888-534-0096, or PO Box 8952, Madison WI 53708, or [Rep.Johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Rep.Johnsrud@legis.state.wi.us).

Most of the attention of the legislature is focused exclusively on the budget, and the process for bills has been slow. The no special treatment bill will also be introduced very soon. At the meeting, we will plan a rally/lobby day for when the legislators are again focused on bills. For back-

ground on the cyanide bill and what to write, see the information and the many links at <http://www.alphacdc.com/treaty/cyanide.html>.

SOURCE: Wolf Watershed Educational Project, PO Box 14382, Madison WI 53714 [mtn@igc.org](mailto:mtn@igc.org).

## Mining questions on April 14 Conservation Congress ballot

Several questions relating to Wisconsin mining laws and the future of the Crandon Mine project are on this year's Conservation Congress ballot on April 14. Click [here](#) for more.

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## Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection

### TU, others seeking information on Langlade water bottling plan

Trout Unlimited members in northern Wisconsin are being asked to contact the Water and Land Use Planning Committee of the Langlade County Board of Supervisors to seek information on a proposed water bottling operation near Polar, WI. TU members are asking the full Langlade County Board to send the zoning approval granted by the Land Use Planning Committee back to that committee for further review when the full county board meets March 18.

The one letter states, "We are worried about the potentially adverse effects of this re-zoning request as it pertains to the immediately adjacent surface waters (Rabe's Pond, Krause Spring, Garski Flowage) and also what precedent such a re-zoning would cause for future applications to re-zone for the purpose of commercial spring water extractions."

Meanwhile, the WDNR has notified staff that the agency currently has no statutory means of contesting the proposed water bottling operation (see letter at right) under Wisconsin's current groundwater law.

SOURCE: WSN and Trout Unlimited.

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM	State of Wisconsin
DATE: February 3, 2003	FILE REF:
TO: Dave Herrick	
FROM: Mark F. Putra	
SUBJECT: Notice of Application for Hi Cap Approval	
Date Received: 02/03/03	
Facility: Trout Haven Hatchery/Polar Ice Water N3360 Polar Rd Polar	
Approval Requested: (1) high cap (500,000 gpd) for bottled water	
Location: SE ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 21 T31N R12E Langlade Co.	
Submitted By: Rhinelanders Well Drilling	
This is a courtesy notice for staff who may have sensitive resources or interests in the vicinity of this well. Please know that under current law the DG plan reviewer has no legal basis to prohibit or restrict a high capacity groundwater well withdrawal unless it is calculated to impact a public drinking water utility. Any objection to this project must be done by means other than DG authority, which must act on applications in 65 working days or approval is by default. Direct negotiation with project owners, consultants, citizen groups and local governments are possible means to affect this project outcome.	

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## WI attorney general to fight weakening of Clean Air Act

Governor Jim Doyle has authorized Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager to take action to protect Wisconsin's citizens by filing a legal challenge on Feb. 27 to a proposed weakening of federal Clean Air Act rules. The Governor's action will allow the State of Wisconsin to intervene against the Bush Administration's plan to weaken pollution control requirements for power plants and manufacturers that make major modifications to their facilities.

The lawsuit is aimed at preventing the federal EPA from weakening the New Source Review (NSR) provisions of the Clean Air Act provisions that regulate emission of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, lead, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and soot. At least 12 other states, including Illinois, California and several northeastern states, have also filed notice to prevent these weaker rules from taking effect.

SOURCE: Gov. Doyle's office, Jessica Erickson, (608) 261-2156.

## WI residents invited to 1st annual Groundwater Festival

Take part in hands-on activities, presentations, exhibits, kid's tent, food and fun revolving around groundwater on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UW-Stevens Point campus. More than 700,000 private and municipal wells withdraw about 570 million gallons of water daily! How much do you know about this precious resource? The 1st Annual *Wisconsin Groundwater Festival: Get WET and Energized* invites you and your family to take part in learning about groundwater, surface water, energy, and human connections to these resources. Along with valuable presentations and activities, the UWSP Water & Environmental Analyses Lab will offer tours of their water testing facility. Tom Pease will provide entertainment during the noon hour, and food will be available. Come have some fun and learn, too, at this free event!

If you would like to volunteer for the festival, be a presenter or exhibitor, sponsor the event, or need more information, forms can be found on the web at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/fest.htm>.

SOURCE: Denise Kilkenny-Tittle at (715) 346-2722 or [gwguardian@uwsp.edu](mailto:gwguardian@uwsp.edu).

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## CCN's Argo, Kanno present at science teacher event

Steve Argo and Arlene Kanno made a presentation at the WI State Science Teachers Annual meeting on March 9 before an enthusiastic crowd of educators. Several of the attendees had previously obtained the video and discussion guide for *Wisconsin's Blue Gold* from the WSN. Steve discussed the global aspects of water using as his text Maude Barlow's book *Blue Gold*. Arlene discussed the local fight to preserve our spring waters.

They also conducted a taste test with the teachers. A double blind test sample of three different water sources was done. One was from Arlene's rural well in the Town of Newport, another from the resort, and another was from Ice Mountain (Perrier). 64% of the teachers preferred Newport water, 14% the resort water, and 22% Ice Mountain (Perrier).

SOURCE: Hiroshi and Arlene Kanno, [HiroK8@aol.com](mailto:HiroK8@aol.com).

### Hiroshi & Arlene Kanno representing CCN, WSN at Kyoto

Arlene and Hiroshi are enroute to the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan, where they will represent Concerned Citizens of Newport and the WSN. Since being on the front lines of the fight against Perrier two years ago, the Kannos have become increasingly concerned about the broader Midwest, national, and international aspects of water use, shortages, and the added threats from water commodification and privatization.

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## River Alliance, MEA to hold Clean Water Act training

The River Alliance of Wisconsin and Midwest Environmental Advocates are currently developing Clean Water Act training opportunities for individual watershed organizations. They will be available this spring. Please contact me if your organization is interested in receiving assistance and training in any of the following Clean Water Act tools:

- drafting comments for a proposed pollution permit,
- monitoring existing pollution permits to ensure permit holders are complying with the law,
- reclassifying your local waterway so that it receives more protections, and
- listing your local waterway as impaired.

SOURCE: Diana Toledo, River Alliance of Wisconsin, [diana@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:diana@wisconsinrivers.org).

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## Lakes and River grants workshop April 17

Are you fishing for solutions to local water resource problems? If so then, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, the WDNR, and the UW-Extension Basin Educator Program have a workshop for you! These event sponsors are offering grant-seeking and application information at two Northern Wisconsin locations:

- **Rhineland** — Thursday, April 3, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and
- **Rice Lake** — Thursday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For 2003 Lake grant guidelines and application, visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/Ef/forms/PubCF007Final.pdf>. For 2003 River grant guidelines and application, visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/EF/forms/RiverGuidelines03.pdf>.

## Counties to get federal aid for monitoring Lake Michigan beaches

Door, Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Racine, and Sheboygan counties have the largest number of “high priority” beaches warranting frequent testing, and those counties will get the biggest share of federal money to help them monitor their beaches this summer, according to a state list of beach testing priorities. The WDNR released the beach priority list on March 4, in advance of submitting it to the federal government as part of a state beach testing and notification plan under development since 2001. Under the federal Beach Act of 2000, Wisconsin and other states with coastal waters are required to submit a state beach monitoring and notification plan, and in turn will receive federal money to help counties implement the state plan at their beaches.

### BACKGROUND: WI beach closings

The WDNR says there are no good tallies now of the number of beach closings statewide due to unsafe swimming conditions because counties aren't required to monitor. But in 2002, Door County, Milwaukee County, and a number of other Lake Michigan coastal counties closed down some of their beaches, drawing statewide headlines. High levels of E. coli bacteria in water prompted warning signs to be posted a record number of times at three Milwaukee beaches.

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SOURCE: WDNR, Toni Glymph, (608) 264-8954.

## WI Wetland Association starts alert action network

In an effort to keep concerned citizens informed on important wetland-related issues in Wisconsin and at the national level, Wisconsin Wetlands Association has established the *Wetland Alert Action Network*. The network is a simple e-mail list serve. Participants can easily subscribe or unsubscribe to the list at <http://www.wiswetlands.org/alerts.htm>.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Wetlands Assn., [derek@wiswetlands.org](mailto:derek@wiswetlands.org).

## UN releases major water threats report

For the first time, 23 United Nations agencies and convention secretariats have combined their efforts and expertise to produce the most comprehensive and up-to-date report on the state of the world's freshwater resources. The *World Water Development Report* was presented to the media in Tokyo, and will be officially launched at the occasion of World Water Day, March 22, during the Third World Water Forum. You can download the report's Executive Summary at [http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/ex\\_summary/](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/ex_summary/). (NOTE: This report will be on the WSN's 2004 conference CD.)

SOURCE: United Nations.

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## TU, NEW Land Trust training water monitor April 26

Water monitors will be trained at the Reeve Reserve on the Little Wolf River just upstream from the Big Falls Millpond on April 26 from 9 a.m. until about 4 p.m. This training is open to anyone who is interested in water monitoring. The training is being sponsored by the Central Region of Trout Unlimited and the North East Wisconsin Land Trust. Training will consist of chemical test sampling and procedures, macroinvertebrate sampling and identification, and how they relate to water quality. For more information or to register contact Jim Hlaban.

SOURCE: Jim Hlaban, Trout Unlimited, 920-244-7456, [wiscpr@wolfnet.net](mailto:wiscpr@wolfnet.net).

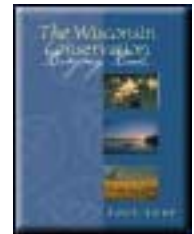
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WLCV releases first *WI Conservation Briefing Book*

The first-ever *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book* was unveiled last week at the state Capitol. The *Briefing Book* details the most important conservation issues facing legislators this session. The 52-page document provides comprehensive background information on a variety of conservation issues followed by detailed policy recommendations and resource directories. The *Wisconsin Conservation Briefing Book* will be produced every other year. To view a complete copy of the book, please visit [www.conservationvoters.org](http://www.conservationvoters.org).



The *Briefing Book* has sections covering all of the WSN's eight statewide priority issue areas. Information on our member-selected issues can be found in the book on the following pages:

- Pg. 5 — Mercury reduction,
- Pg. 14 — Motorboat gas tax adjustment,
- Pg. 16 — DNR Secretary appointment by NR Board,
- Pg. 19 — PIO Office restoration,
- Pg. 21 — Metallic mining,
- Pg. 26 — Shoreland zoning protection,
- Pg. 34 — Farm manure runoff, and
- Pg. 44 — Arrowhead-Weston line.

(NOTE: the Briefing Book has been downloaded and will be on the WSN 2004 conference CD.)

SOURCE: WLCV, Anne Sayers, (608) 850-4585, [anne@conservationvoters.org](mailto:anne@conservationvoters.org).

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## Hubler bill would give nonprofits share of park sticker sales

Rep. Mary Hubler has proposed a bill to help nonprofit organizations increase revenues for the Wisconsin State Parks System while helping themselves financially. Hubler's bill would allow the WDNR to designate nonprofit organizations to sell resident annual park stickers for \$22, or two dollars more than what they cost when purchased from the DNR. The nonprofits would send \$20 to the state and keep \$2 for every sticker sold. According to Hubler, only one percent of park visitors buy annual stickers.

SOURCE: Rep. Hubler's office, (888) 534-0075, [Rep.Hubler@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Rep.Hubler@legis.state.wi.us).

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## Dombeck speaking at Milwaukee, Madison bookstores

Mike Dombeck, co-author of the new book *From Conquest To Conservation: Our Public Lands Legacy*, and will be speaking at Schwartz Books at 4093 N. Oakland Ave, Shorewood, WI, on March 20 at 7 p.m. *From Conquest To Conservation* examines the history of America's public lands and considers the most pressing environmental and social problems (grazing, endangered species, damming of rivers, timber harvest, wilderness, and roadless areas) facing them. Dombeck will also be appearing in Madison May 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 7433 Mineral Point Road.

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*WSNetwork News* is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of Wisconsin hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and other groups interested in protecting and preserving Wisconsin's natural resources.

The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Brown County Conservation Alliance, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, Madison Audubon Society, Muskies, Inc., Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State B.A.S.S. Federa-

tion, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, plus individuals who serve as at-large members.

The WSN's mission is to build a cooperative network that strengthens Wisconsin's stewardship ethic for the betterment of its people and natural resources.

Editorial contributions to this e-newsletter are welcome. Send news of your group's activities relating to the WSN's priority issues to WSN Exec. Director Todd Hanson at [wsn@chorus.net](mailto:wsn@chorus.net).

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## April 14 Conservation Congress ballot asking questions about mining and high-capacity wells

The questions below will be on the Conservation Congress ballot at a location near you across Wisconsin on April 14. Go to <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/congress/index.html> to find the location nearest you.

Environmental Practices Committee

### Question 69 - State Purchase of the Crandon Ore Deposit

The 55-million ton zinc-copper deposit in Forest County is again for sale. Discovered in 1976, the proposed underground mine has created controversy over possible ground water contamination after mine closure. The State of Wisconsin considered, and rejected, purchase in late summer of 2002, having received two appraisals, one for \$52 million and the other for \$94 million. Some feel the state's decision not to purchase did not consider possible contributions from other sources. Every year at Spring Hearings, resolutions are introduced pertaining to the Crandon Mine. The Environmental Practices Committee believes there is a need to gauge response to a proposed public purchase of this resource.

Should the State of Wisconsin, using public dollars, in whole or in combination with other interests, purchase the Crandon ore deposit in Forest County?

69. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### Question 70 - Expand DNR Authority over High Capacity Wells

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources can deny a permit for a high capacity well, only if it will affect a municipal water supply. Many high capacity wells are established for agriculture irrigation, but could also be used for commercial sale of water. The Environmental Practices Committee feels added authority is needed by the DNR to deny high capacity well permits that may have adverse or undesirable impacts on wetlands, ground and surface waters.

Should the Wisconsin DNR seek added legislative authority to be able to deny high capacity wells that could have adverse or undesirable impacts on wetlands, ground and surface waters?

70. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### Question 71 - Request DNR to strengthen the Mining Irrevocable Trust Rule

The Mining Irrevocable Trust rule was established to have funds available for emergency cleanup of unexpected mining spills, especially if a mining company declares bankruptcy. The legislature recommended that \$2 per ton be set aside for waste back-filled in the mining operation. The DNR dropped this to 25-cents per ton for wastes going into landfills, and five-cents per ton for waste back-filled underground. Later, the DNR reduced both amounts to zero. Other groups recommended \$5 per ton deposited up front for emergency cleanup and remediation. The Environmental Practices Committee also believes funds should be placed up front.)

Should the Mining Irrevocable Trust rule be modified to require a deposit of \$5 per ton of anticipated waste be placed in trust prior to the start of a hard rock mining operation?

71. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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