



WSNetwork News

March 15, 2004

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](#)
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WSN priority issues will change in the next issue of *WSNetwork News*.

WSN member groups selected new priority issues for the coming year at the WSN conference Feb. 7. Click [here](#) to review them.

Arrowhead-Weston Line

WSN issue chair: Logan Edinger, Save Our Unique Lands, edinger@centurytel.net

Small parcels being bought in Arrowhead's path

A battle is being waged over a proposed power line that is going to be built across northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. As construction of the power line begins, the fight continues.... A landowner in Proctor, MN has donated land in the proposed Arrowhead Weston power line corridor to SOUL (Save Our Unique Lands). SOUL is selling plots of this land for \$100 a pop. American Transmission Company will have to contact each and every land owner in order to negotiate the terms of the easement. This could take the company a very long time with all these new landowners! To help fight this powerline, buy your piece of the resistance and send a check to: Soul of Midway, PO Box 1134 Proctor, MN 55810.

SOURCE: EAGLE, 394 Lake Ave So. #222, Duluth, MN, 55802, jenny@eagle-ecosource.org.

DNR Independence & Public Intervenor Office Restoration

WSN issue chair: Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club —
John Muir Chapter, cterrell@execpc.com

DNR Board appointments get Senate vote

Less than an hour ago, the Senate Committee voted 2-3 against Jonathan Ela's appointment, though it will be reported out of committee. We can expect a furious Governor's office. By the way, the votes on Hassett and Christine Thomas were 5-0, and the vote on Alan Grischke was 4-1 (Sen. Kedzie opposed).

SOURCE: Rich Bogovich, River Alliance of WI.

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Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation

WSN issue chair: Peter Murray, WI Assn. of
Lakes, ptmurray@wisconsinlakes.org

Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement

WSN issue chair: Caryl Terrell, Sierra Club —
John Muir Chapter, cterrell@execpc.com

Brown County OKs fee to help pay for runoff control

An editorial in the Feb. 26 Green Bay *Press-Gazette* at http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/news/archive/opinion_14860743.shtml noted "Budget cuts and staff shortages have left some Wisconsin counties unable to put into place rules for the state's runoff pollution program, The Associated Press reported. But funding restrictions are no excuse for individual farmers failing to improve their land-management practices. Good nutrient management makes money for a farmer because soil erosion and fertilizer runoff end up hurting a farm's profitability. And the public benefits, of course, from a shared resource of clean water. Brown County is well on its way to implementing the state's agriculture runoff standards. The County Board in November approved a 50-cent-an-acre fee to pay for staff resources to implement this plan. The county sent bills to farmers this month. The average farm, 206 acres, pays about a \$100 fee."

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-3-04.

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USDA supports new conservation planning software

The Natural Resources Conservation Service announced a partnership with John Deere Ag Management Solutions to provide conservation planning software tools for producers and technical service providers. "This tool-called Conservation Plug-In-will enable producers to complete certain activities electronically, similar to e-filing tax returns. Not only will we see an increase in efficiency as part of the Administration's e-Gov initiative, but also an increase in the number and

quality of conservation plans. Conservation Plug-In, which will be available late this fall, allows producers and technical service providers to record farm and field data, schedule conservation practices, report completion of practices and attach certification documentation. Electronic assistance for developing conservation plans also will be available with the new software. By using Conservation Plug-In, producers can spend less time at their local USDA Service Center and self-certify when they have completed practices in their conservation plans. Technical service providers can manage conservation plans and cost-share agreement records for those producers using their services. Contact Jack Carlson, NRCS Information Technology Center Director, jcarlson@itc.nrcs.usda.gov or (970) 295-5455.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-3-04.

Conservation Security Program input sought

The USDA has received a record 10,000 comments on its proposed rule on the Conservation Security Program but they still need to hear from members of Congress! Please call your representative and ask him or her to sign on to a letter asking Secretary Veneman to issue a revised rule for the Conservation Security Program. The letter asks the Secretary to issue a revised rule that: 1) makes CSP available to all agricultural producers instead of those in a few selected watersheds; 2) assists producers who are addressing soil erosion, water conservation, wildlife habitat, energy conservation, and wetland enhancement, rather than restrict eligibility to those producers who are addressing soil quality and water quality; 3) provides the full base, cost-share and enhanced payments as provided in the 2002 Farm Bill; and 4) allows producers to sign-up for the CSP throughout the year. You can contact your representative by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 225-3121. Tell your representatives that they can sign on to the letter by contacting the office of Stephen King (R-IA) or Tim Holden (D-PA).

SOURCE: *Rural Updates!*, Scotty Johnson and Aimee Delach, National Rural Community Outreach Campaign, sjohnson@defenders.org, Defenders of Wildlife, (520) 623-9653 x3.

TV stations draws attention to impaired water list

A WISC-TV (Madison) ran a piece on March on a Madison-area creek that is being added to the state's list of impaired waters. The piece cited state wildlife officials who said "sediment and phosphorus from sprawling neighborhoods is partly to blame for the addition of Nine Springs Creek along Syene Road in Fitchburg to the list."

SOURCE: WISC-TV, Madison.

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Forest Fragmentation

WSN issue chair: John Schwarzmann,
ECCOLA eccola@newnorth.net

Comments sought on statewide forest plan

A draft statewide forest plan, crafted with extensive public input over the past two years, is now available for review on the DNR web site or by requesting a printed copy. The draft plan is an effort to craft a commonly held vision for Wisconsin's forest resources and develop a strategy to achieve that vision. The plan includes goals, objectives and a partial list of example actions suggested by stakeholders and forestry professionals to achieve the common vision. State forestry planners are seeking comment on the goals and objectives, as well as ideas for additional actions to carry out all aspects of the plan.

SOURCE: WDNR, Teague Prichard (608) 264-8883.

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Mercury Reduction

WSN issue chair: Marc Looze, Clean
Wisconsin, mlooze@chorus.net

Mercury emissions at Vulcan draw lawsuit

A Feb. 19 story by Antoinette Rahn in the *Marshfield News-Herald* reports "Vulcan Chemicals Co. is one of nine facilities that could be impacted by a federal lawsuit filed Tuesday by two national environmental groups. In the suit, filed by Earthjustice, representing the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council, the environmental groups claim an Environmental Protection Agency rule passed in December doesn't curb toxic mercury emissions and that it doesn't protect public health. In a separate action, the Natural Resources Defense Council petitioned the EPA to reconsider the rule and set standards that guarantee reductions in the plants' mercury emissions."

A Sierra Club announcement said "there is no reason for these plants to continue consuming mercury to produce chlorine...." The Sierra Club questioned how the company could report one figure of mercury emitted into the atmosphere, yet have records showing they added far more to their vats. They said 135,000 pounds of mercury were unaccounted for in 2000. Read the complete story at www.wisinfo.com/newsherald/mnhlocal/298452351050271.shtml.

SOURCE: *Marshfield News-Herald*.

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Dane County requires retailers to recycle old fluorescent lamps

As you may have heard, both the City of Madison and Dane County have adopted ordinances for retailers to take back old fluorescent lamps for recycling. The reason for these ordinances is that

fluorescents have mercury in them, and the release of this mercury to the environment is harmful not only to the environment, but also to our health.

The grand roll-out of the ordinance is set for early April, but, I just talked with the manager-on-duty at Home Depot on Verona Road and they are already taking back old fluorescents for recycling at both of their Madison-area stores. Fluorescents use far less energy than incandescents, and result in both a financial savings and a reduction in air pollutants from power plants — including mercury. Now, they can be conveniently recycled as well.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Recycling Manager, Dane County, WI, Reindl@co.dane.wi.us.

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Metallic Mining

WSN issue chairs: Jim Wise, ECCOLA ecowise@newnorth.net and Claire Schmidt, Clean Wisconsin, schmidtc@cleanwiscon-

Wolf Watershed Project to meet April 3

The next meeting of the Wolf Watershed Educational Project (WWEP) will be on Saturday, April 3, at the Mole Lake Environmental Center from 10-3 on Sand Lake Road one block east of Hwy 55. We will be helping to plan an Open House at the former Crandon mine site in May, which will also coincide with the May WWEP meeting. The Open House will be a way for people to see the site, show it to public officials, to support for the Wolf River Protection Fund. Mole Lake need help to pay off its \$8 million purchase of half of the mine site. For information visit <http://www.WolfRiverProtectionFund.org> or call (715) 478-7605.

At our last meeting we learned about the opposition by Menominee and Trout Unlimited to the Polar spring water pumping proposal. Since then, the project owner has dropped the permit! See www.alphaadc.com/treaty/polar.html. We also learned about the threat of nuclear waste dumping in our granite bedrock. Nevada's Yucca Mountain dump will be full in 2037, so by 2007 the Dept. of Energy has to choose a new site. In the 1984-85, maps and studies identified our Wolf River Batholith as a proposed potentially acceptable Site for a high-level radioactive crystalline repository.

SOURCE: Wolf Watershed Educational Project, c/o Midwest Treaty Network; Box 1045, Eau Claire WI 54702; (715) 833-8552/882-4800 mtn@igc.org.

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Groundwater Protection Act passes legislature

On March 11 the Wisconsin legislature passed (by 99-0 in the Assembly and 32-1 in the Senate) the 2004 Groundwater Protection Act. Co-authors of the legislation, Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) and Representative DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman) worked with the Administration of Gov. Jim Doyle, the DNR, and a broad spectrum of environmental-conservation, agricultural, municipal, industrial and development-oriented interests to enact this compromise legislation — legislation that we believe that while far from “perfect” significantly advances water quantity management in the Badger State. The process producing this new legislation was bipartisan, open and relatively inclusive — a far cry from the enactment of Act 118, the so-called “Jobs Creation Act” — and the authors of the bill deserve substantial credit for their leadership and collaborative approach.

Groundwater quantity management — particularly after the Perrier/Mecan River/Big Springs battles — was Wisconsin Trout Unlimited’s highest legislative priority. The new legislation is a far cry from the ideal outlined by Born and coauthors in *Modernizing Groundwater Management in Wisconsin* (University of Wisconsin-Extension, 2000). That approach included many recommendations, including statewide regulation of all high-capacity wells using expanded permit criteria to preclude significant adverse environmental impacts to any important aquatic resources from groundwater pumping. However, the final legislation represents a big step forward in many ways, and provides mechanisms to continually examine groundwater management and make improvements over time.

SOURCE: Steve Born, UW-Madison.

Clean Water Coalition outlines support and improvements to groundwater bill

A March 10 memo to the State Assembly from the Clean Water Coalition supported passage of the Groundwater Protection Act and outlined the coalition’s positions on several bill amendments. The memo read, “AB 926 is a good first step toward needed comprehensive management of Wisconsin’s buried treasure —

CLEAN WATER COALITION MEMBERS

The following groups and organizations were part of the Clean Water Coalition advising the legislature on the Groundwater Protection Act:

Clean Wisconsin, Friends of Jump River, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Madison Audubon Society, Midwest Environmental Advocates, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Trout Unlimited-Wisconsin State Council, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin Audubon Council, Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group, Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

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groundwater. It empowers local governments in Brown and Waukesha counties to look for solutions. It empowers DNR to review and condition or deny permits for high-capacity wells near 8% of Wisconsin's most treasured water resources. Very importantly, AB 926 directs an advisory committee to make recommendations to a future legislature on expanding groundwater resource protections for the future."

The CWC memo addressed several bill amendments. To review the coalition's positions on the amendments in play leading up to the bill's adoption, visit <http://www.thewheelerreport.com/releases/Mar04/Mar10/0310sierra926.PDF>.

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Current landfill legislation outlined

As noted in an earlier legislative update, AB 915 would ban the landfilling of sludges in landfills. A hearing on this bill was held in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee last week, with a newspaper story on the hearing found on the Internet at http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/local_14989567.shtml. The *Oshkosh Northwestern* praised the local legislator for her sponsorship of this legislation, calling it a "shining moment," saying she "may have placed her name on the best legislation she has ever backed in her political career." The editorial of the newspaper is at http://www.wisinfo.com/northwestern/news/archive/opinion_15045111.shtml.

In addition, the local township is moving on the legal front to stop this landfilling, with a newspaper story at http://www.wisinfo.com/postcrescent/news/archive/local_14936270.shtml. Although it is expected that this legislation will die at the end of this floor session on Thursday, this issue is probably going to come back next session, which begins in January, 2005. This issue may also carry over into the subject of computers and other electronics, since the brominated flame retardants used in electronics are chemically similar to PCBs and have been found in landfill leachate. It may also open the larger question of the decomposition of all waste in landfills, which is the subject of the stability work group of DNR's Technical Advisory Committee for the 1200' leachate lines.

SOURCE: John Reindl, Reindl@co.dane.wi.us

Wisconsin Lakes Convention April 15-17

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Keep the future of lakes in good hands...yours! Do you care about Wisconsin lakes? Would you like to sit down and talk to someone that can give you some straight answers about your lake and water challenges? Are you interested in what is new around the state regarding research, water policy, regulations and rules? Would you like to have your voice heard on courses of action for Wisconsin lake management? Do you enjoy seeing old lake friends and catching up? If you are thinking "YES!" to these questions, you owe it to your lake to attend the 26th Annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay this April 15-17.

Friday and Saturday's convention lineup includes committee reviews of Wisconsin's shoreland management program, budget cuts that may impact your lake, how to engage in statewide protection programs, and lessening the impact of lakeshore development. The Convention is hosted by

the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a nationally recognized and successful collaboration of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), UW- Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Speakers include: Governor Jim Doyle, Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett, and Department of Tourism Secretary Jim Holperin. See WAL's page at www.wisconsinlakes.org/convention/WIlakesconv04.htm for details.

SOURCE: WAL, One Point Place, Suite 101 Madison, WI 53719-2809 (608) 662-0923 phone 608-833-7179 fax www.wisconsinlakes.org

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AG settles Osseo water pollution case

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager announced today that the Wisconsin Department of Justice has settled an environmental enforcement lawsuit against the City of Osseo.

According to the complaint, filed in Trempealeau County at the request of the Department of Natural Resources, the city's discharges of treated wastewater to the Buffalo River exceeded the limits in its WPDES (water pollution discharge elimination system) permit approximately 130 times in 2002 and 2003.

SOURCE: Brian Rieselman, Dept. of Justice, RieselmanBJ@DOJ.STATE.WI.US.

NRB approves DNR stormwater rule changes

The NR Board approved the proposed ch. NR 216. This proposed rule will now be sent to the legislature and will be assigned to 2 committees which will have 60 days to review it. So likely in May we will receive the legislative committees' response/action. If the rule passes legislative committee review then it has passed all the hurdles but it still takes an additional 1-4 months for it to become effective. (Review the changes at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/nps/rules/nr216/nr216_revisions.htm).

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-3-04.

WAV water monitoring events set

See the Upcoming events section of the WAV website about training sessions for stream monitoring and two local events (<http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav/events.htm>). If you know of other upcoming events, drop me an e-mail with the details. If you or someone you know is interested in attending the full day Train the Trainer event at Beaver Creek Reserve May 7th, please let me know. Contacts for these are listed on the website.

Here's a summary of the upcoming local training:

- April 17, the Shoups (Waupaca area)
- April 17, Beaver Dam area
- April 20, Maywood Environmental Park, Sheboygan. (evening training)

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- May 7, Train the Trainer* - Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall Creek
- May 8, Sugar Creek, Prairie du Chien area
- May 8, Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall Creek
- May 15, Black River Falls May 15, Edgerton area
- May 22, (Tentative) Friends of Mill Creek (Stevens Point area).
- May 22, Waukesha

Contact: Kris Stepenuck 608-265-3887 Water Action Volunteers/ Volunteer Stream Monitoring Coordinator

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 3-3-04.

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Wisconsin Academy publishes *Wisconsin Waters* book

Now available is *Wisconsin's Waters: A Confluence of Perspectives*, edited by Curt Meine, Director of the Waters of Wisconsin initiative, and reflects the many viewpoints and pools of knowledge on Wisconsin's Waters. Authors included Waters of Wisconsin co-chair, Steve Born, on groundwater policy, tribal attorney Glenn Reynolds on a Native American Water ethic, and attorney Paul Kent on water and the public trust. Authoritative but never dry, the book serves as the newest edition of *Transactions*, the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters' peer-reviewed journal dating back to 1872. The volume may be purchased for \$8.00 plus \$2.50 shipping and handling. To order a copy e-mail contact@wisconsinacademy.org or call (608) 263-1692 x17.

SOURCE: Shaili Pfeiffer, Wisconsin Academy, smpfeiffer@wisc.edu.

Manual for interpreting aquatic macroinvertebrate data available

Are our streams healthy? That's one question the WDNR staff members strive to answer when they collect annual macroinvertebrate samples from hundreds of sites around the state. The resulting data can be used for watershed appraisals, basin assessments, stream classifications, pre- and post assessments of pollution sources, other water quality assessments, and ongoing monitoring. A new reference published by the Bureau of Integrated Science Services

Contents of *Wisconsin's Waters: A Confluence of Perspectives*:

- Preface Curt Meine
- Foreword Pat Leavenworth
- Contributors
- 1. Waters of the World Al Miller
- 2. A Primer on Water Randy Hunt
- 3. Wisconsin's Waters and Climate: Historical Changes and Possible Futures John J. Magnuson, James T. Krohelski, Kenneth E. Kunkel, and Dale Robertson
- 4. The Public Trust Doctrine in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities Paul G. Kent
- 5. Groundwater Policy in Wisconsin: Milestones and Future Directions Stephen M. Born
- 6. Managing Stormwater at the Source Kenneth W. Potter
- 7. Recreational Water: Microbial Contamination and Human Health Greg Kleinheinz, Colleen M. McDermott, and Reynee W. Sampson
- 8. Wisconsin Agriculture and Water Pete Nowak
- 9. Compensatory Mitigation for Damages to Wetlands: Can the Net Losses Be Reduced? Joy Zedler
- 10. Valuing Water Resources: An Elusive But Critical Input into Public Decision-Making David Marcoullier
- 11. A Native American Water Ethic: The Roots of Sustainability Glenn Reynolds
- 12. Earth, Air, Water & Ethics Michael Nelson

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entitled *Macroinvertebrate Data Interpretation Guidance Manual* (PUB-SS-965 2003) has been designed to assist researchers in understanding the biological significance of various macroinvertebrate indicators.

Specifically, the report provides detailed descriptions of each biological metric, a simplified explanation of the significance of each metric, and instructions as to how and when each metric should be applied. A comprehensive list of references provides access to the literature for those who wish to explore the topic further. The authors also provide some perspective on the evolution of the metrics by including a short history of the development and use of macroinvertebrate indices in Wisconsin. The manual is online and can be downloaded as a .PDF file at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/misc.htm> by choosing either “Guidance Documents” or “Reference Publications.” Print copies of the report can be ordered online or by contacting Science Communications Manager Martin Griffin at Martin.Griffin@dnr.state.wi.us.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 3-3-04.

Partially treated sewage action options outlined

Only months ago, we alerted you about a new policy proposed by the EPA that would allow partially treated sewage to be released directly into rivers and streams. Thousands of river advocates sent letters in opposition to the “sewage blending” policy. To date, the EPA has not decided whether or not to implement this environmentally devastating policy.

Now, you have the chance speak up and secure funding to improve outdated sewage treatment systems — the fundamental problem and reason behind the ill-advised sewage blending policy in the first place. This week, the U.S. Senate is debating the \$814 billion budget resolution for fiscal year 2005. Senators Crapo (ID), Sarbanes (MD), and Jeffords (VT) will propose a \$5.2 billion amendment to the budget to help communities improve their antiquated water and sewage treatment systems. Please take action today and urge your Senators to take a step forward for clean rivers by supporting this budget amendment. Click here to contact your Senators today. <http://amriversaction.ctsg.com/ctt.asp?u=28802&l=21099>. Thank you for taking action. Together, our voices are making a difference.

SOURCE: Rebecca Wodder, President, American Rivers.

Help sought for fall WAL Rhinelander rivers and lakes meeting

This is Ezra Meyer with the Wisconsin Association of Lakes writing to invite you to join us on a committee to plan for, and assist in carrying out, a workshop on lakes and rivers to be held in the Rhinelander area this August or September. The exact workshop topic is yet to be determined (that’s part of the committee’s job), but it will relate to some aspect(s) of lake and river protection, rehabilitation, use, management, etc. deemed to be appropriate, timely, and relevant by the committee (in conjunction with WAL’s and River Alliance’s office staff in Madison).

Please respond and let me know if you are interested in joining the planning committee, or if you are interested in being kept in the loop on workshop planning but don’t want to be on the commit-

tee. I'll follow up with you very soon to hopefully set up a first meeting in late March or early April in the Northern region.

SOURCE: Ezra Meyer, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Inc., ejmeyer@chorus.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Gaylord Nelson bio to be published April 22

The University of Wisconsin Press will celebrate Earth Day, April 22, 2004, with the publication of *The Man from Clear Lake*, a biography of Gaylord Nelson, former U.S. senator and founder of Earth Day, who continues to be one of the nation's leading environmentalists. Author Bill Christofferson, a former journalist who has worked in local and state government in Wisconsin, is a political campaign consultant based in Milwaukee. Christofferson and Senator Nelson will appear together for events in Milwaukee and Madison to launch the book. We would appreciate your help in spreading news of the events, both of which are free and open to the public. Details follow:

- Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 pm, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee, 414-332-1181
- Thursday, April 22, 7:00 pm Barnes and Noble, 7433 Mineral Point Road, Madison, 608-827-0809.

SOURCE: Deidre Woods, Publicity Manager, (608) 263-0734, deidrewoods@wisc.edu.

Spanish added to CSWAB web site

In order to better serve Spanish-speaking members of our community, we are pleased to announce a new web page that has been translated to Spanish. Please visit <http://www.cswab.org/enespanol.html> click on en español on our front page at www.cswab.org.

SOURCE: Laura Olah, Executive Director, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger.

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“Marsh Melodies” series set at Horicon Marsh

Come cure your spring fever by heading to Horicon Marsh, the 32,000 acre setting for “Marsh Melodies.” Enjoy five spring weekends packed with outdoor family events designed for all ages from April 24-May 23. This internationally famous wetland, located just an hour north of Milwaukee, will be overflowing with more than 260 species of birds, other wildlife, and visitors. For more information, or a complete schedule of events, contact (920) 485-4663 or check out our website at: www.marshmelodies.com.

Proposed FES rules might redefine nonprofits as ‘political committees’

Today, in a 5-1 vote, the Federal Election Commission proposed new rules that will potentially redefine many nonprofits as political committees. If these rules are adopted, nonprofits that engage in certain activities defined in the proposed rules—including legitimate advocacy activities—could be classified as political committees under federal election law. Political committees have to register and report to the Federal Election Commission, and are subject to funding restrictions that prevent them from accepting contributions from corporations, labor unions, foundations, and individual donations above \$5,000. As an example, the proposed regulations would consider...the following group [a] political committee: a 501(c)(3) environmental organization that places an ad during this election year criticizing President Bush for weakening regulations on toxic mercury emissions from coal-fired plants.

The Alliance for Justice intends to participate in this very important rulemaking, and we encourage all nonprofits-advocacy organizations and foundations alike—to voice their concerns with the FEC by April 9, 2004. For more information, including a link to the FEC new rules and information on where to send your comments, visit our website at www.afj.org/nonprofit/public_policy/campaign_finance_reform/fec_rule527.html

SOURCE: Liz Towne, Alliance for Justice, (202) 822-6070, ltowne@afj.org.

Co-signators sought to stop open PCB burn at Badger

The U.S. Army at Wisconsin’s Badger Army Ammunition Plant is seeking an exemption to federal law that prohibits open burning of PCBs greater than 50 ppm — Badger has levels as high as 22,000 ppm — more than 400 times the federal limit. If approved, this proposal will set a national precedent, opening the door for similar proposals from industry and military sites everywhere! Please join us in OPPOSING this exemption and add your organization or tribe to the following letter to the EPA. The sign-on deadline is MARCH 20!

SOURCE: Laura Olah, www.cswab.org.

River Advocates Fundraising Guide available

As Spring fast approaches, River Network is pleased to announce a new publication, *The River Advocate’s Fundraising Guide*. Be sure to find out more about this publication, as well as fundraising and training opportunities in the latest issue of The River Fundraising Alert at http://www.rivernetwork.org/library/fra2004_v10n4.htm. And, as always, don’t forget to look in the Alert, for upcoming funding deadlines. If you have any questions and/or would like to request a hard-copy of the publication, please contact Katherine Luscher at kluscher@rivernetwork.org or (800) 423-6747.

SOURCE: River Network via Lisa Goodman, Northern Coordinator, Local Group Assistance, River Alliance of Wisconsin, 306 E. Wilson, 2W, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 257-2424 (x110) goodman@wisconsinrivers.org.

Hornberg TU fly fishing workshop June 5

The Frank Hornberg Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be holding its annual Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop on June 5th at the Rising Star Mill, on the Tomorrow River in Nelsonville, WI. The workshop includes instruction in casting techniques, gear basics, stream entomology, fly pattern rational and more, and is limited to 20 students. Cost for the one-day workshop, including lunch, is \$100. For more information, or to sign up, contact Stu Grimstad at (715) 677-3454, or sgrim@triver.com.

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Environmental ethics conference Nov. 13 in Rockford

A group of organizations in northern Illinois are planning a “Midwest Environmental Ethics Conference” for the date of Saturday, November 13 in Rockford, Illinois. I am emailing you to inquire about submitting an asking for presenter and papers for that event in your newsletter and/or website to allow as many with an interest to present, to know about this opportunity.

SOURCE: Don Miller, Severson Dells Education Foundation, sevdells01@sprynet.com.

“Zero Energy Homes” workshop April 21

A workshop and panel discussion will be held Wednesday, April 21, from 8:30-2:00 at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center entitled “On the path to zero energy homes.” Combining energy-efficient design and construction with renewable energy technologies can result in homes that meet most or all of their own energy needs. Join other building and energy professionals and learn to begin moving Wisconsin’s homes on the path toward Zero Energy. Panel participants include construction pioneers:

- **Alden Hathaway**, whose EcoPower project will build 15 Zero Energy Homes in Chicago this year
- **Tom Brown**, award-winning architect of some of the most energy efficient homes in Wisconsin
- **Mark Klein** of Gimme Shelter Construction builders of highly efficient solar homes
- **Mark Burger** of Spire Solar, manufacturers of solar electric systems in Chicago

To register, call Katie at (608) 831-1127 ext. 310. Registration is \$20, which includes lunch, materials, and a tour of the Audubon Nature Center. Cosponsored by We Energies and DOE Million Solar Roofs Initiative. Register by March 31.

SOURCE David Ciepluch, David.Ciepluch@we-energies.com.

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WSN Member Groups

Get connected...join the WSN

Aldo Leopold Audubon Society
 Aldo Leopold Foundation
 Anishinaabe Nijjii/ Protect the Earth
 Badger Fly Fishers, Inc.
 Brown County Conservation Alliance
 Central WI Chapter of SOUL
 Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Citizens for a Scenic Wisconsin
 Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger
 Clean Wisconsin
 Concerned Citizens of Newport
 Coulee Region Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Door County Environmental Council
 EarthWINS
 Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland
 Areas (ECCOLA)
 Families and Friends for Social Responsibility
 Family Farm Defenders
 Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Frank Hornberg Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Friends of the Jump River
 Friends of Milwaukee's River
 Green Bay Area Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
 Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Groundwater Guardians
 Habitat Education Center
 Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Inland Sea Society
 Izaak Walton League of America - WI Division
 John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club
 Kickapoo Valley Stewardship Alliance
 Lake Superior Alliance
 Lake Superior Greens
 Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Madison Audubon Society
 Menomonee Valley Partners
 Midwest Environmental Advocates
 Mining Impact Coalition of WI, Inc.
 Muskellunge Club of WI
 Neighbors Standing United
 Northern Thunder
 Pheasants Forever - Sugar River Valley Chapter
 Plover River Alliance
 Random Lake Association
 Ripley Lake Association
 River Alliance of Wisconsin

Rock River Coalition
 Rusk County Citizen's Action Group
 Save Our Unique Lands
 Shaw-Paca Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Smallmouth Alliance Southern WI Chapter
 SOUL of Kennan/Catawba
 SOUL of Lake Superior
 SOUL of Rusk County
 SOUL of Sawyer County
 Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
 Twin Lakes Conservancy
 Waterkeepers of Wisconsin
 WI Association of Lakes
 WI Conservation Voters Institute
 Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association
 WI Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG)
 WI Resources Protection Council
 WI Sharp-tailed Grouse Society
 WI State B.A.S.S Federation
 WI State Council of Trout Unlimited
 WI Wetlands Association
 Winnebago Audubon Society
 Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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WSN Network News is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of 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, Clean Wisconsin, Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Izaak Walton League of America, Madison Audubon Society, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., Musky Club of WI, 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. Federation, 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.

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