



# WSNetwork News

April 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**

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## Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

### PSC expands scope of A-W line review

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin on April 4 decided to expand the scope of review of the Arrowhead-Weston transmission line to go beyond the limited review requested by the utilities proposing the project. The expanded review will include consideration of other transmission alternatives, in-state generation alternatives, and energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives that would better meet the interests of ratepayers in providing economic and reliable electricity and the interests of citizens who live in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line in preventing unnecessary environmental harm to the area.

Additionally, the Commission decided to retain an independent and impartial expert to review the reasonableness of the Arrowhead-Weston line in light of American Transmission Company's \$232 million cost increase over the amount that the Commission originally approved for the project in October 2001. The Commission noted in discussion that the utilities now project the cost to be 141% more than originally anticipated. As a result, the Commissioners expressed doubt about the "cost-benefit" of the proposal relative to other alternatives, such as increased conservation measures, new generation, and an alternative high voltage transmission route from King to Weston.

Save Our Unique Lands (SOUL) is generally pleased with the Commission's decision to look at alternatives, especially in light of the additional generation facilities that have been approved for southeastern Wisconsin and those generation facilities that are currently being considered in southeastern Wisconsin. SOUL also welcomes the Commission's decision to retain an indepen-

### WSN 2003 annual conference tapes available

The Maude Barlow, Robert Glennon, and George Kraft "WI 2003 Year of Water Forum" — plus selected conference break-out sessions — are now available for rental or purchase from the WSN. Click [here](#) for more information on which sessions were taped and how to get a copy. These tapes would be great to help your group flesh out one of your upcoming monthly meetings.

dent expert to advise it on this matter because SOUL has had serious concerns of bias or the appearance of bias by Commissioners Ave Bie and Bert Garvin.

SOURCE: Linda Ceylor, [hillsidedairyfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:hillsidedairyfarm@yahoo.com).

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## DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

### Lautenschlager asks Johnsrud to release PIO bill for vote

To p.1

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager on April 1 asked Assembly Natural Resources Committee Chair DuWayne Johnsrud to schedule a hearing on Assembly Bill 46 to restore the Office of the Public Intervenor to the Department of Justice. Lautenschlager's letter was hand delivered to Johnsrud's office. The Office of Public Intervenor was created in 1967 to serve as the public's watchdog over Wisconsin's natural resources. Lautenschlager said that for 30 years the Public Intervenor made significant contributions in protecting local governments' rights in environmental regulation, as well as the rights of private citizens on such issues as property devaluation, well contamination, leaking landfills, and underground storage tanks, among other public interest actions.

#### NOTEWORTHY PUBLIC INTERVENOR OFFICE QUOTES FROM THE PAST

"The problem is not that the intervenors are obsolete; it is that they make trouble for those who want to exploit resources unhindered. In other words, they are doing their job too well."

—Feb., 1995, *Milwaukee Journal*

"It seems to me that a rather small amount would be saved by eliminating the office, but a large amount of havoc might be created if they didn't already exist."

— WI Supreme Court Justice David Prosser, 2-15-95, quoted in the *Appleton Post-Crescent*.

Lautenschlager said the Office of the Public Intervenor was also successful in crafting and negotiating the landmark passage of laws regulating drinking water, pesticide restrictions, mining, and right-to-know laws on chemical spills.

"I believe the elimination of the Public Intervenor's office in 1995 was a mistake," Lautenschlager said. "Although this action was taken under the guise of streamlining government and eliminating duplication, I couldn't disagree more with the contention by opponents of the Office of the Public Intervenor that these critical environmental issues are being given the same resources or attention today — they clearly are not."

To p.1

SOURCE: Attorney General's office, Brian Rieselman, (608) 266-1220.

### Daily Tribune calls for PIO return

The April 2 Wisconsin Rapids *Daily Tribune* called for the return of the PIO office. The paper said, "The state attorney general has the right idea in asking the Legislature to restore the Office of Public Intervenor. ... Lautenschlager says the intervenor can be restored without spending any

additional money. If that can be done, it would be a good thing. ... We need to protect what we have now so we've got it forever. The public intervenor can play a vital role in making that happen."

SOURCE: Wisconsin Rapids *Daily Tribune* via Jamie Annear, [jamnear@wisc.edu](mailto:jamnear@wisc.edu).

## **WWF finds broad support for independent DNR among outdoor groups**

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) has released a letter signed by 45 major hunting, fishing, and trapping organizations requesting that the Assembly Natural Resources Committee schedule a public hearing on Assembly Bill 30. The proposed bill would restore the authority of the WI Natural Resources Board to appoint the WDNR Secretary. This authority was transferred to the Governor in the 1995-97 state budget.

"Wisconsin sportsmen and women have continued to support this bill over the years by over a 90% to 10% margin at Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings. It is time to move this bill forward in the legislative process," said George Meyer, executive director of the WI Wildlife Federation.

SOURCE: WI Wildlife Federation, (608) 516-5545.

To p.1

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## **Fair Motorboat Gas Revenue Allocation**

### **Sierra Club memo addresses motorboat gas tax**

A March 31 memo to members of the Joint Finance Committee on the states' biennial state budget included the following: "We understand the tough choices the state must make during this budget process. We urge that you build on Governor Doyle's executive budget that provides such a solid basis for a balanced budget that includes needed services with limited revenues" [including] funding water regulation and river/lake restoration programs by modernizing motorboat gas tax reallocation formula to be based on 80 gallons per boat, as proposed by Senator Rob Cowles. Motorboats have increased in horsepower and the size of their impact on lake and river water quality and shoreline vegetation. Existing uses of this water funding should continue. We support using some of the increase for wetland restoration and support for county staff negotiating CREP agreements that install vegetative buffers between fields and waterways. These programs also leverage federal dollars and private sources of funds, increasing the total invested in water resources."

SOURCE: Sierra Club.

To p.1

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## Farm Manure Management & Polluted Runoff Enforcement

### Schultz, Ward float eliminating local oversight of feedlots

State Senator Dale Schultz (R- Richland Center) and Representative David Ward (R- Fort Atkinson) plan to propose legislation that would strip local control over zoning decisions regarding concentrated animal feeding operations (Factory Farms). This means that there will be no more conditional use permits or other local zoning controls on these operations.

Senator Schultz directly attacked people who have expressed concerns about these operations. He said, “Will this legislation mean the effectiveness of people hiring lawyers to fight farm expansions will be diminished? I hope so.” This is unacceptable. It also flies in the face of state required Smart Growth efforts. Local citizens have the right to determine the conditions under which they will live.

I hope you will all see fit to write the above legislators, and your State Senator and Representative, and express your opinions on this ill-conceived legislative proposal. Also, please write your local papers. This has to be stopped. You can find the addresses for our legislators at the Wisconsin Stewardship Network website at [www.wsn.org](http://www.wsn.org) and at the official website for the State of Wisconsin. Thank you, and please get busy.

SOURCE: Tom Hermann, 6278 County T, Egg Harbor, WI, (920) 743-6034, [thermann@dcwis.com](mailto:thermann@dcwis.com).

### Large vs. small farms not the right question

I agree that [the Schultz/Ward proposal] is an issue you should contact the senator and representative on, for many of the reasons that Tom Hermann pointed out in his e-mail. However, ...Tom’s claim that large animal operations cannot be safely managed in this state is subject to dispute.

It is a fact that larger operations are more profitable and will continue to be seen in Wisconsin. It is also a fact that claims that large animal operations cannot be safely operated in Wisconsin will be used by the producers to prove that environmentalists want to kill agriculture in this state. In fact, we do not. What we want is that producers start to live up to their claim to be stewards of the earth. As I’ve said many a time, anglers would much rather fish alongside a farm than some other form of development.

If there are areas of fractured bedrock close to the surface, karst geography, sandy soils with little buffering capacity, etc., then restrictions should be imposed on the use of fertilizers, including animal-derived fertilizer or manure. At the same time, we need to start to work to find solutions to these problems — manure digesters, for instance. There are several efforts underway to look for these solutions, and this legislative proposal, should it be introduced, will just make that task more difficult.

I’m aware there are many bad actors out there on the land, as there are in all parts of society. That’s why we need rules and regulations. At the same time, there are some very responsible producers who really do want to do right by the land - and they aren’t all small farmers. Considering

To p.1

To p.1

the political lay of the land in this state, we'll get a lot farther working with these folks than against them.

If you do write your legislator or Senator Schultz and Rep. Ward, I urge you to remind them that agricultural producers are important to this state, just as clean air and clean water. We need to find ways to have both, and removing local control is the wrong solution.

SOURCE: Bill Pielsticker, President, Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, BS, Agronomy, Univ. of Illinois, 1978.

## May 8-9 meeting to address Green Bay nonpoint runoff

To p.1

The Remedial Action Plan for Green Bay identified excess sediment and phosphorus as the main impairment to the bay. Scientists have indicated that the majority of that problem comes from nonpoint sources from throughout the entire 6,400 square mile Fox-Wolf River Basin. There is no one answer to this problem but any solution offered will impact everyone.

On May 8-9, we have scheduled a water quality summit for the Fox-Wolf Basin to address phosphorus and sediment in our water. We have invited people from EPA, DNR, major universities and other agencies to share information with us, and more importantly, to listen to what we have to say. We need people with opinions on who should pay and how should that amount be determined? Are stricter regulations the only answer or can some of the improvements be incentive driven?

We want to make our own decisions for the Fox-Wolf Basin. This is a chance for you to get involved in the discussion and learn about the tools. This is a chance to tell decision-makers what will work here — how we want to do this — rather than someone at the top making a decision for us. If you have an opinion, now is the time to voice it. We will be recording all of the discussion and creating a report to give to DNR, EPA and others. If your viewpoints are not in the report, they won't be shared and we can't make them part of the solution. Attached is an updated program and registration form or visit us on line at [www.fwwa.org](http://www.fwwa.org). Sign up today!

SOURCE: Linda Stoll, Executive Director, Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Inc., PO Box 1861, Appleton, WI 54912-1861, (920) 738-7025, [foxwolf@fwwa.org](mailto:foxwolf@fwwa.org), [www.fwwa.org](http://www.fwwa.org).

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## Forest Fragmentation

To p.1

### Draft Chequamegon-Nicolet forest plans released

We're happy to let you know that the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests have been published and are available for your review and comments. The comment period will begin on April 11, 2003, when the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register and will extend to July 11, 2003.

All the related documents and a Planning Newsletter are now posted on the web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/cnnf>. All documents can be viewed and downloaded.

SOURCE: Sally Hess-Samuels, [shesssamuelson@fs.fed.us](mailto:shesssamuelson@fs.fed.us), (715) 362-1384 Forest Plan Revision Team, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

## Chequamegon forest plan to affect ATVs, old growth

A story by John Myers of the Duluth *News Tribune* reports that the Forest Service's proposed plan for the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forests would hold some changes for all-terrain vehicles and old-growth lands. According to the story, "One major change would be ending cross-country travel for all-terrain vehicles in the Chequamegon forest. That travel already is banned in the Nicolet. Under the plan, travel would be allowed only on trails posted as open for ATVs. Miles of ATV trails and connector trails in the two forests could increase from 284 to 419. ... Other aspects deal more with what the forest will look like 15 years and more into the future, with more emphasis given to biological diversity."

Myers' story also quoted the Forest Committee Chair of the Wisconsin John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club, David Zaber, who said, "I'm really disappointed they picked Alternative 5. This really keeps it business as usual with too much logging and not enough focus on biodiversity."

SOURCE: Duluth *News Tribune*.

### FOREST PLAN OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULED

Several public open houses are scheduled where people can ask questions about the Chequamegon plan:

- May 20, 3-8 p.m. at the Great Lakes Visitors Center, Ashland, and
- May 21, 3-8 p.m. at the Country Inn and Suites, Hayward.

To p.1

## Minnesota Legislature moving on ATV 'compromise' bill

A story in the April 1 Duluth *News Tribune* reports, "A bill that strikes a compromise between protecting public lands from the degradation caused by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and preserving places in which ATV users can ride was approved by the MN Senate's Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee last week. The bill establishes at least 1,500 miles of trails for ATV use, gives both local governments and the DNR authority to open or close roads to ATV use, and establishes a vehicle surcharge, the proceeds of which will be used to repair damage done by ATVs. While neither environmental advocates nor riders are completely happy with the bill, both are supporting it." For more information on how your state can encourage responsible ATV use, see <http://serconline.org/orv/index.html>.

SOURCE: SERC *Wildlines* report, [info@serconline.org](mailto:info@serconline.org).

To p.1

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## Mercury Reduction

### CNN story documents dangers of mercury in fish

A major story on mercury in food fish is available on CNN at <http://www.msnbc.com/news/894457.asp?0sl=-44&cp1=1>. The April 4 story notes, “Eat plenty of fish, the American Heart Association and the American Dietetic Association advise. Two seafood servings per week, they say, provides a low-fat source of protein that could prevent heart disease, cancer, and many other illnesses. But an April 1 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association says consuming fish tainted with mercury may be dangerous for women and children, a finding that adds strength to past warnings.”

SOURCE: CNN.

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## Metallic Mining

### Crandon Mine bought by Laona group

The April 12 Appleton *Post-Crescent* reports, “The new owners of a proposed underground zinc and copper mining site in northern Wisconsin pledge to forge ahead with the project. Northern Wisconsin Resource Group LLC bought Nicolet Minerals Co. and its rights to 4,850 acres, including the mine site just south of Crandon, company owner Gordon P. Connor said Friday. ‘It is a good project,’ he said. ‘It can be done in a manner that is great for Wisconsin and northern Wisconsin. ... We are going to push as hard as we can to get this permitting done. They have been dilly-dallying around with this thing for a long time.’”

SOURCE: Appleton *Post-Crescent*.

### New mine owners looking for outside mining expertise

A story in the April 16 Green Bay *Press-Gazette* notes, “The lumber company that now owns a proposed underground zinc and copper mine is negotiating with established mining companies to join it as partners in the multimillion-dollar project. ‘We have had some serious conversations with two,’ said Gordon Connor Sr. of Northern Wisconsin Resource Group LLC. ‘We are trying to find the best fit for us. Both of these companies are excellent companies.’”

#### WSN POSTS MORE ON MINE BUYOUT

Visit <http://www.wsn.org/mining/NewCrandonOwner.html> to read a comprehensive story by author Will Fantle on the latest developments on the Crandon Mine’s sale.

Connor declined to disclose the names of the companies that may become partners in the mine project but promised the names are well-known.”

SOURCE: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*.

## **Wolf Watershed Educational Project to meet April 27**

The Wolf Watershed Educational Project will meet on Sunday, April 27 IN Shawano from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 125 South Sawyer, in the Community Center at the SW corner of the City Hall/ Police Building, across from the Public Library, just south of Hwy 47/29.

We will be discussing not only the Connor logging family’s bizarre purchase of Nicolet Minerals Co., but the public acquisition of the Crandon mine site, and the two mining reform bills (call Rep. Johnsrud for an Assembly committee hearing on the cyanide ban bill AB-91 at 888-534-0096), but also the proposal for springwater pumping in Polar (Langlade Co.) and a proposed Menominee River mine (Michigan-Wisconsin border).

SOURCE: WWEP.

## **Forest County Potawatomi react to mine sale**

The Forest County Potawatomi Community Attorney General released the following statement in response to the Connor family purchase of the proposed Crandon mine site:

“This purchase has been rumored for some time. The fact that the Connor family has purchased the site is not surprising news to those of us who have been following the Crandon mine story. What is new, is the statement that the Connor’s will attempt to go forward with BHP Billiton’s effort to actually mine the site.”

“BHP Billiton is the world’s largest mining company with net assets of \$22.5 billion dollars. We do not understand how the world’s largest mining company with all of its might, can not develop this mine, but the Connor family is going to be able to safely extract minerals in this environmentally sensitive area at the headwaters of the Wolf River.”

“FCPC has retained over 20 environmental and mining experts that have all raised significant concerns with the Crandon mining proposal. We look forward to having the Connor family respond to our reports that raise numerous questions about the safety of the proposed mine. In fact, this purchase confirms the concerns we have been expressing to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) for months. Namely, how can the permit process continue when the experience and financial capability of the new owners is unknown? To our knowledge, the Connor family has no mining experience.”

SOURCE: Tom Krajewski, (608) 259-1212.

To p.1

To p.1

## Mining test drilling reported in Michigan's UP

A story by John Dipko in the Green Bay *Press-Gazette* reports, "The Menominee River separates Wisconsin and Upper Michigan as its waters flow into the bay of Green Bay. It also separates Wisconsin from drills that have been poking for months around Lake Township in Menominee County, Mich., thanks to mining explorers who are studying zinc, copper, gold and silver.

A partnership calling itself the Back Forty Joint Venture has pooled resources including mineral-rights claims to thousands of acres on both sides of the river to perform test drilling on Upper Michigan properties. These are parcels where mineral and surface rights have been secured by purchase, lease or options to lease or buy.

Thomas Quigley, president of the company doing the exploring work, cautioned that talk of a mine is premature."

SOURCE: Green Bay *Press-Gazette*.

To p.1

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## Shoreland Zoning & Water Protection

### Florence County Wild Rivers zoning ordinance change delayed

On April 1, the Florence County Zoning Committee held what was expected to be a final hearing to consider the county's Wild Rivers Zoning ordinance. Members of the Florence County Lakes and River Association (FCLARA) played an instrumental role in garnering a strong turnout at the meeting, and a strong response in way of letters of support. Meeting administrators spent more than one hour hearing oral testimony and reading into the record letters from those unable to attend in person. The Committee read 30 letters, of which 3 supported rescinding Wild Rivers Zoning, and 27 favored keeping the protective zoning ordinance. The large turnout, and attendees' comments also indicated strong support for the ordinance.

Ultimately, a Zoning Committee decision and vote on the issue was delayed, with a motion to table the issue, and to establish a study committee and a series of working meetings to "clean up" the County's zoning ordinances. This decision drew many questions from those attending. According to Zoning Administrator, Rich Wolosyn, this process may take more than six months to complete. FCLARA members plan to provide input, and will continue to keep abreast of developments. To get on FCLARA's e-mail update list, please contact Ruth Cassens at [rcassens@net-net.net](mailto:rcassens@net-net.net) or Joe Bachman at [jbachman@athenet.net](mailto:jbachman@athenet.net).

SOURCE: River Alliance of WI C.A.N.O.E.

To p.1

### Ho-Chunk nation entering bottled water business

A story in the Portage *Daily Register* on March 26 reports, "The Ho-Chunk Nation, which operates casinos and bingo halls in Wisconsin, is moving into the movie theater and bottled water

businesses. ... The Ho-Chunk Nation is...introducing its own brand of bottled water, called Ni Sini — which means “cold water” in the Ho-Chunk language.

The tribe, in partnership with Reinhart Food Service of La Crosse, will provide troops training at Fort McCoy with the new private-label spring water. The first order of 1,512 cases is being bottled. The nation hopes to land additional military and government contracts for its water. It will also distribute the bottled water through its convenience stores, casinos, hotels and bingo halls.”

SOURCE: Portage *Daily Register* via Hiroshi Kanno, [KANNO8@aol.com](mailto:KANNO8@aol.com).

## Fox River PCB “Record of Decision” released

The first Record of Decision is out for the Fox River. We are awaiting the Record of Decision for the rest of the River. I have attached a letter drafted by Sierra Club, Citizens for a Better Environment, and Clean Water Action Council for sign-on. League of Conservation Voters has agreed to sign as well. The letter notes the problems we had with the first Record of Decision and asks that they not be repeated in the second.

Please review and let me know as soon as possible if your organization will sign on. I know a lot of you have signed on to Sierra Club comments in the past; I am hoping we can keep the unified front in order to get a solid cleanup for the most contaminated stretch of river. For those of you that were a part of the RI/FS/Proposed Plan comments, this letter does not really ask for anything new, except that we avoid a loophole that appeared in the first Record of Decision. If you need any more info or background, please let me know.

[NOTE: Contact Jennifer Feyerherm for a sample letter you can submit on behalf of this matter.]

SOURCE: Jennifer Feyerherm, [mw.wi4@prodigy.net](mailto:mw.wi4@prodigy.net), Sierra Club Great Lakes Program, 214 N. Henry St. Suite 203, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 257-4994.

## UW-SP Nibi water symposium featuring Rep. Black, others

We now have a web page with more details about the *Nibi: The Spirit of Water* symposium. You can find us at <http://biology.uwsp.edu/faculty/dpost/nibi>. We now have a luncheon speaker, Spencer Black. People can register for the luncheon online. The day’s events are free but the luncheon does cost \$10.00. Other speakers besides Rep. Black include:

- Ken Fish - Menominee Nation
- Ed Garvey - Garvey and Stoddard law firm
- Jonathon Gilbert - Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Jennifer Hill-Kelly - Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
- Arlene Kanno - Concerned Citizens of Newport
- George Kraft - UWSP Professor of Water Resources
- Michael Nelson - UWSP Associate Professor of Philosophy and Natural Resources
- Sue Nichols - Bad River Band of Ojibwa
- Melissa Scanlan - Founder and Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates (MEA)

- Jack Utter - Navajo Nation
- Tom George - UWSP Chancellor
- Justus Paul - UWSP College of Letters and Science Dean
- Victor Phillips - UWSP College of Natural Resources Dean
- Gerard McKenna - UWSP College of Fine Arts and Communication

SOURCE: Annie Rozumalski, [Anna.H.Rozumalski@uwsp.edu](mailto:Anna.H.Rozumalski@uwsp.edu).

## **S.U.R.E. Hwy. J/164 federal case hearing May 7**

To p.1

I have great news for everyone! On Wednesday, May 7, at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 222 (U.S. Courthouse, 517 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin), our federal lawsuit to stop the Highway J/164 four-lane expansion project in Waukesha and Washington Counties (including the Ackerville Bridge/Lovers Lane Reconstruction Project) will be heard by Judge Charles Clevert.

At this federal court hearing our attorney (Robert Corris) and state-certified soil and water scientist (Dr. John Thresher) will be providing important testimony to convince Judge Clevert to stop these unnecessary, fiscally irresponsible and environmentally destructive road and bridge projects. This federal court hearing is our big opportunity to win this battle for our respective communities and all of you are cordially invited to join us at this important, long-awaited event! We hope to see all of you on Wednesday, May 7th at the federal courthouse in Milwaukee.

Between now and May 7th (the date of the federal court hearing), we must raise approximately \$8,000 to pay our group's attorney and expert fees in preparation for this crucial hearing. Now more than ever, we need your help to pay these necessary expenses. For those of you who have donated, please help us again by sending us another donation before May 7th so we can win this federal court hearing. If you have not yet donated to our group, it is even more important that you join your many neighbors and support this organized community effort. Let's all work together and win! It's the only way! All donation checks should be made payable to HIGHWAY J CITIZENS GROUP, U.A.

SOURCE: Jeff Gonyo, Highway J Citizens Group, U.A., (262)-644-8334, [jmgonyo@execpc.com](mailto:jmgonyo@execpc.com).

## **WPDES permit announcements now available by e-mail**

To p.1

If you are interested in being added to the new distribution list that sends out an e-mail message every week announcing the proposed WPDES permits that have come open for public comment, please contact Keri Behm of the DNR at [Keri.Behm@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:Keri.Behm@dnr.state.wi.us).

SOURCE: Heidi Fassnacht, Local Group Assistance Program Intern, River Alliance of Wisconsin, 306 E. Wilson St., Ste 2W Madison, WI 53703.

## **Author Vileisis speaking on wetlands April 28**

Award winning author and environmental historian Ann Vileisis visits Madison for the first time to deliver a lecture and slide presentation on the history of America's wetlands, their exploitation

and value. Vileisis is best known for her book, *Discovering the Unknown Landscape: A History of America's Wetlands*, for which she won Environmental History Book of the Year Award and Independent Historian of the Year.

Don't miss this very special lecture on Monday, April 28, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at UW-Madison, Birge Hall, room 145 (on Bascom Hill). This FREE event is sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association Student Chapter — Madison, the UW Sea Grant Institute, Associated Students of Madison, the UW Center for Limnology, the Milwaukee Public Museum, and the UW Arboretum.

To p.1

## American Wetlands Conference May 1-4

Have you registered for the American Wetlands Conference, May 1-4, 2003, in Minneapolis? Check out the up-to-date agenda on our web site at [www.iwla.org/sos/awm/conference](http://www.iwla.org/sos/awm/conference) and register today. This is the most comprehensive national conference on wetland conservation. Volunteers, landowners, government agency staff, nonprofit organization staff, business professionals, scientists, educators, students and consultants from across the country have already signed up — and you need to be there, too.

SOURCE: Leah Miller, American Wetlands Program Coordinator, Izaak Walton League of America, Inc., 707 Conservation Lane Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (301) 548-0150 ext. 219 [leah@iwla.org](mailto:leah@iwla.org).

## Clean Water Act changes comment period April 16

For those of you who have not yet submitted comments on EPA's plan to limit the scope of the Clean Water Act, time is running out. The comment deadline is MIDNIGHT April 16. Go to [www.savethecleanwateract.org](http://www.savethecleanwateract.org), where you can send a short message to the EPA docket and to your members of Congress on the proposed rulemaking.

SOURCE: Ryan Hamilton, [cleanwaternt@igc.org](mailto:cleanwaternt@igc.org).

## EPA updates federal funding sources listing

EPA has recently updated the *Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection*. This catalog is now online as an easy to use, searchable Web site. The Web site provides information for watershed practitioners and others on 84 Federal funding sources that may be available to help fund various watershed-related projects. The Web site updates EPA's *Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection* (EPA 841-B-99-003) which was previously published in 1999. This Web site was developed by an Office of Water Finance Work Group with representatives from staff in the Office of Water. EPA plans to update the Web site on an ongoing basis. We also prepared a one-page flyer to publicize this new Web site which is available at no charge from NSCEP at (800) 490-9198 (please ask for the flyer called *Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection*, EPA 841-F-03-001). See <http://www.epa.gov/watershedfunding>.

To p.1

SOURCE: NPSInfo of EPA via WDNR "Basin Briefs," 4-10-03.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **WWA open house April 21 in Madison**

Join us for an Open House on April 21st from 5-7 p.m. co-sponsored by our officemates: Sierra Club John Muir Chapter, Madison Audubon Society, Trout Unlimited, RENEW, and Sustain Dane. See our new offices, meet the staff and enjoy FREE WINE, CHEESE and light snacks. Our offices are on the ground floor of the Threlfall Building, 222 S. Hamilton St. #1, at the corner of S. Henry, S. Hamilton, and W. Wilson streets in Madison.

SOURCE: Wisconsin Wetlands Association, (608) 250-9971 for more information.

To p.1

### **Environmental leadership training event comes to WI this September**

This year, an LCVEF training event is being scheduled for Wisconsin the week of Sept. 14-19. The Environment Leadership Institute (ELI) is a rigorous and demanding but highly effective program for strengthening individual leadership potential. Participants actively engage in the learning process through a challenging simulation exercise. During the five-day training, workshops are given covering a variety of topics. Each night participants utilize the workshop skills during their group simulation work. Over the course of the week, the participants work in teams to produce comprehensive campaign plans, based on various fictional political scenarios. Through the group project work, you will acquire hands-on experience with strategic planning, message development, public speaking, group dynamics and a myriad of other valuable skills.

In our experience, the simulation component significantly enhances the impact of the learning, internalizing the information for greater retention. Because of the intensity of the program we recommend that participants come well rested and do not plan to do any other work during the week. There is a \$100 fee for the ELI, which is due upon submission of an application to LCVEF.

SOURCE: League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, [www.voteenvironment.org](http://www.voteenvironment.org).

### **Natural areas conference September 24-27 in Madison**

The 30th annual conference hosted by the Natural Areas Association and the Wisconsin DNR features presentations on natural area identification, protection, restoration, and management. Also planned are a day-long invasive plants symposium and symposia on landscape ecology, large river systems, fire ecology, and private lands protection. Visit [www.naturalarea.org](http://www.naturalarea.org) for conference updates.

SOURCE: Thomas Meyer, (608)266-0394, [thomas.meyer@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:thomas.meyer@dnr.state.wi.us).

To p.1

## GRN seeks development coordinator

The GrassRoots Recycling Network ([www.grrn.org](http://www.grrn.org)) seeks a highly motivated, creative development professional with broad-based fundraising experience to guide and execute the organization's funding diversification strategy. The GrassRoots Recycling Network is a North American network of waste reduction activists and recycling professionals pushing corporate practice and public policy beyond recycling through the principles of producer responsibility and Zero Waste. GRRN's current campaigns target Dell Computer and the consumer electronics industry, Coke and Pepsi, and Dow Chemical. GRRN utilizes classic activist strategies to achieve corporate accountability for and public policies to eliminate waste, and to build sustainable communities. Applications (resume, cover letter) should be sent via e-mail to [david@grrn.org](mailto:david@grrn.org).

SOURCE: David Wood, Co-Director, (608) 232-1830, [david@grrn.org](mailto:david@grrn.org).

**NEXT PAGE: WSN CONFERENCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ON TAPE**

To p.1

To p.1

## WSN 2003 CONFERENCE TAPES AVAILABLE

Tapes of selected WSN 2003 annual conference programs and breakout sessions are now available. The conference was held Feb. 21-22, and UW-Stevens Point students and others taped many of the conference events. The following VHS tapes are available, each of which contain several sessions:

### TAPE 1

- Forest fragmentation issues in Wisconsin,
- Rating the WLCV legislative scorecard,
- WI motorboat gas tax revision in Wisconsin, and
- Next steps in Wisconsin's fight against CWD.

### TAPE 2

- How to speak with and influence your legislator,
- Water Follies (featuring Robert Glennon), and
- WSN priority issue selection issues selection process (various issue presentations).

### TAPE 3

- "WSN 2003 Year of Water Forum" featuring Maude Barlow, Robert Glennon, and George Kraft. Includes both the panel discussion and audience Q&A.

Some programs are also available on DVD courtesy of WSN board member Dave Wisniewski. The WSN has not set a fixed price structure for these tapes, but we ask member and nonmember organizations to contribute something to either buying or renting these tapes to underwrite their production and distribution. Call or e-mail WSN Member Services Director Chris Nehrbass at the WSN office at (608) 268-1218 or [cnehrbass@chorus.net](mailto:cnehrbass@chorus.net) to discuss your needs.

To p.1

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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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To p.1