

MINNESOTA

# North Star Chapter

The leading grassroots voice to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment.



# JOURNAL

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## Victory for Clean Air in Rochester

Wanda Davies

Step by step the fight for clean air advances. The latest success was the announcement of plans to close the Silver Lake coal plant owned by Rochester Public Utilities (RPU). The fight started 8 years ago. Ray Schmitz, Sierra Club member since 1972, has been speaking at public hearings and regularly sending the RPU's governing board and CEO news stories about coal plant closures in the region.



At a Sierra Club press conference last summer, Rochester residents and experts spoke in front of a giant inhaler, and the Silver Lake coal plant, about health risks from coal.

Dr. Barbara Yawn, Director of Research at the Olmsted Medical Center in Rochester, testified on the impact of air quality on asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She has been doing research under a grant from the National Institutes of Health, and her complete study will be published later this year. However, she gave the RPU board a sneak preview of her findings. While the

*"Clean Air In Rochester" continues on page 3...*



## Sierrans Celebrate "MinneSolar," Call on Xcel for Clean Energy

Stephanie Spitzer

With the comment period on Xcel Energy's long term plan coming to a close, Sierra Club members have been pushing hard to get Xcel to make solar energy a priority. We often talk about Minnesota's similar solar resource to parts of Florida, a surprising fact considering Florida's reputation as the "Sunshine State." Despite our cold weather, Minnesota gets plenty of sunshine in the winter, when solar panels actually work more efficiently. We have

been promoting that fact to support more solar efforts from Xcel and homeowners.

On Thursday, September 20, we held a premier screening of Sierra Club volunteer Jen Eichten's MinneSolar movie at the Tylon Microcinema in Minneapolis. With an excellent platter of food provided from the Craftsman Restaurant, the audience turned out to learn more about the solar energy industry in Minnesota. The video featured a solar

*"MinneSolar" continues on page 5...*

# From the Chapter Chair

Luther Dale



As I conclude my second year as the North Star Chapter's Executive Committee Chair, I'm so proud of all that we've accomplished. This year, we've continued to make progress (though not as much as I'd like) on our state priorities: clean air and renewable energy, environmental justice, land use and transportation, and

wild lands protections. And we've defended against attempts to roll back long-standing safeguards from pollution, and efforts to eliminate opportunities for public information and input. But what I'm most proud of has been how we've helped foster a sense of responsibility for Minnesota's natural legacy – and our work to pass on that ethos to a new generation of environmental leaders.

This didn't just happen on its own, however; the volunteers and staff of the North Star Chapter have grown our organization through dedication and hard work. The best part of my position has been to watch our volunteers, young and

experienced alike, grow into the amazing activists now leading our campaigns and programs. These citizen leaders shape our policies, set our priorities, and carry out the work of our campaigns: organizing communities to protect Minnesota.

Do you want to get more involved? I encourage everyone reading this to attend a New Member and Volunteer Night, committee meeting, or call the Chapter office, and find out how you can help.

Finally, please take the time to vote with the enclosed form in our Executive Committee election. The members of the Executive Committee are the elected leaders of Minnesota Sierra Club who set the strategic direction for the chapter and oversee all of our work, and we have an excellent group of candidates again this year.

Thanks for your involvement and support,

Luther Dale

## Sierra Club North Star Chapter's Annual Solstice Party & Potluck

**Sunday, December 16th – 4:00 to 7:00PM**  
**Dodge Nature Center – Education Building**  
**1701 Charlton Ave., West St. Paul**

It's a potluck, so bring a dish to share! We'll recognize outstanding volunteer leaders from 2012 and celebrate our work together and success over the past year. Friends and are family are welcome.

**To RSVP or for more info, please contact Vicki Munson at 612-659-9124 x301 or [vicki.munson@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicki.munson@sierraclub.org) or visit [northstar.sierraclub.org](http://northstar.sierraclub.org).**



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The North Star Journal

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Art Director/Production: Brian Bradshaw

Postage Coordinator: Vicki Munson,  
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The North Star Journal welcomes submissions and photographs on environmental and related issues. Articles of less than a thousand words will be given preference. E-mail submissions only. We reserve the right to edit all copy for clarity and concision. Photos can be color and should be a jpeg format of 5x7 size at 300 dpi. Please send all submission materials and requests to the editor.

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“Clean Air In Rochester” continued from page 1...

board voted to close the plant, they did not explicitly do so because of the health risks posed by emissions from the coal plant. The Sierra Club will continue to fight to make sure future utility decisions consider community health costs from poor air quality .

The board’s decision was made on bottom line economic grounds, although health concerns likely were also a factor. RPU board member Michael Wojcik said, “As a community leader I care about the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of our community. This is a rare decision that can improve all three of these legs of sustainability. It is important to the health and financial well-being of Rochester families that the Rochester Public Utilities board makes the correct decisions for this facility.”

New Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations would have required installation of scrubbers on this old plant which currently has virtually no pollution control equipment. The Sierra Club has been part of the fight to create stronger EPA regulations. Here, we see the local payoff of those more stringent regulations. The costs of the upgrades, combined with high coal prices, mean the power generated at this plant is far more costly than the competing wind power and natural gas generated power.

An additional factor is that RPU faces less demand for energy than originally forecasted, in part due to energy efficiency and conservation programs cutting more than 45 megawatts of projected energy needed over the past

decade – the equivalent of the capacity at Silver Lake’s #4 coal boiler. For this reason, along with high costs, the plant only operated for 257 hours in 2011.

“This is part of a trend of victories for health and a clean energy future,” said Ray Schmitz. “Dirty, old coal-fired power plants are no longer able to meet clean air safeguards and compete with clean energy sources like wind and energy efficiency.” Across the country 114 coal plants are being shuttered, including Xcel’s Black Dog plant in Burnsville, MN. In 2009, Xcel Energy converted both its metro area coal plants - Minneapolis’s Riverside and St. Paul’s High Bridge - to natural gas. In August 2012 Dairyland Electric Coop announced retirements of three coal plants along the Mississippi River.

The Clean Air and Renewable Energy (CARE) Committee will continue to work on pressuring utilities to retire old and dirty coal plants and replace with clean energy and energy conservation. Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Sierra Club office. Or get involved by attending one of our clean energy events posted on the Sierra Club online calendar at northstar.sierraclub.org.

*Wanda Davis is Co-Chair of the Clean Air & Renewable Energy Committee.*



# Looking for a fun, unique and “green” adventure?

We’re here to help! The Land Use and Transportation Committee recently produced a handy, pocket sized map of 16 great local and regional parks in the metro region that are accessible by transit. So get outside this season – and get there by going green! Leave the car at home and give transit a try.

The Transit to Parks guide is currently being printed and will be distributed widely to local parks and be available to pick up in our chapter office starting this fall. For a sneak peek, and to plan your next outdoor adventure via the bus or train, check out [TransitToGreenSpace.com](http://TransitToGreenSpace.com) today!



# 17th Annual Sierra Club Bicycle Tour

Marie Loeffelholz



Photo Jill Boogren



Photo Jill Boogren

On Saturday September 15, the Sierra Club held its 17th Annual Bicycle Tour through St. Paul's East Side. Riders explored on-street bicycle facilities and bike/pedestrian trails, enjoyed great food, and learned more about how to promote safe streets for all. This year's Tour focused on bike routes and some ongoing challenges and opportunities to improve connections to trails on the East Side.

The Tour began at the Hope Community Academy, where riders registered, picked up some cool t-shirts, and helped themselves to breakfast before the ride. Riders gathered for the first few speakers of the tour and listened to Luther Dale, Sierra Club North Star Chapter Chair; and Meleah Houseknecht and Amber Buening, Sierra Club Land Use and Transportation co-chairs; and Bill Lindeke, local bicycle advocate and University of Minnesota Ph.D. candidate in Geography. The Tour kicked off, and bikers headed to Margaret Street where ride leaders highlighted the road as a possible location for a bike boulevard. The next stop was the entrance to the Bruce Vento Trail, where riders listened to Dennis Thompson from the Lower Phalen Creek Project. The route then headed through Swede Hollow and then to Lake Phalen where the Tour stopped for lunch. Riders ate while listening to Kate Davenport of Eureka Recycling and Andy Singer of the St. Paul Bicycle Coalition speak about land use issues that affect bicyclists.

After everyone was full and rested, riders got back on their bikes and took Wheelock Parkway to the Gateway Trail while ride leaders highlighted the issues of connectivity to this trail. Next, the route took riders along the Gateway to Cayuga Street, where riders listened to Jennie Read from the Minnesota Department of Transportation speak about the Cayuga Bridge Project. Read explained that the I-35E Cayuga Bridge Project is a planned replacement of the Cayuga Street and Pennsylvania Ave bridges and adjacent railroad bridges, and the project

presents an opportunity to advance "complete streets" by including pedestrian and bicycle access as these bridges are rebuilt, which would connect neighborhoods to the Gateway Trail and other nearby routes. Ride leaders discussed some of the benefits of this project, including the extension of the Gateway Trail to University Avenue, sidewalks and trails on Pennsylvania Avenue and Cayuga Street which will connect to City and Bruce Vento trails, and linking existing trails to Trout Brook Regional Corridor extensions. The missing links of this project were also discussed, including the need for better neighborhood access to trails across I-35E and improved Gateway access from Maryland Avenue, as well as the problems associated with the East Side Gateway spur.

The route then headed to a spot overlooking the Capitol in downtown St. Paul, where riders listened to Christina Morrison from the City of St. Paul Planning Department who discussed the Central Corridor Light Rail construction and opportunities for transit oriented development. Riders finished the Tour at Yarusso-Bros Italian Restaurant, where an after party was held to celebrate the Sierra Club's work to make our streets safer and more accessible to all bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit riders.

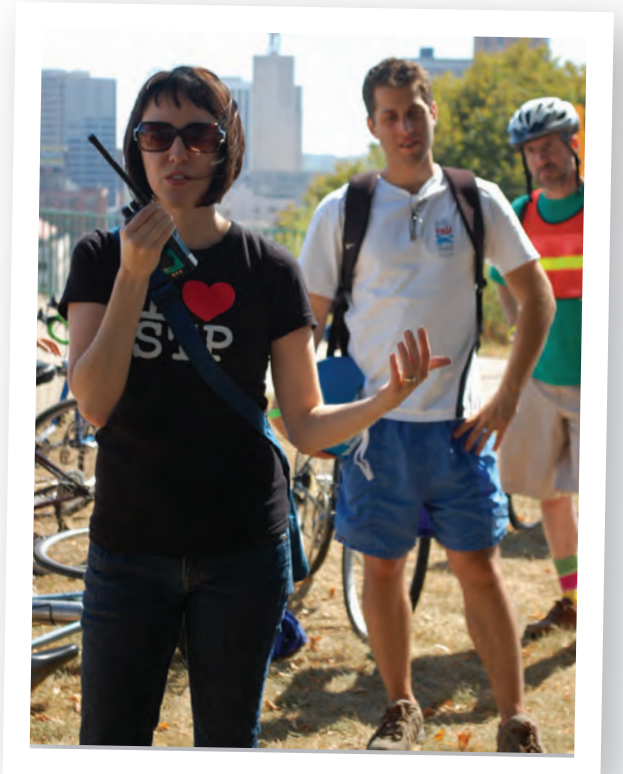


Photo Jill Boogren

*Do you want safer, friendlier streets to ride your bike? Check out the Land Use and Transportation Committee, organizers of the Tour for the past seventeen years. Contact Joshua Houdek at 612-659-9124 or [joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org) for more info!*



Photo Jill Boogren

"MinneSolar" continued from page 1

installer, teacher, and former teacher turned solar energy advocate talking about the benefits of switching to solar power. A lively discussion of solar energy followed the screening.

In addition to the premier screening, activists around Minnesota have signed up to host Solar House Parties to show their friends the MinneSolar DVD and talk about solar energy. Each house party host will ask their guests to sign a postcard calling on Xcel Energy to be a clean energy leader and invest more in solar to help us move to 10% solar energy in Minnesota by 2030.

All of these solar events are building support for solar to prepare to turn out Sierra Club supporters to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

hearing on Xcel Energy's long term energy plan (Integrated Resource Plan) this fall. We're calling on Xcel to commit to getting Minnesota on track to meeting 10% solar energy by 2030 by including 1,000 MW of solar in their plan and asking people to show their support by coming to the media event and hearing (date and time TBA).

As we head into the colder months, pay attention to the amount of sunlight we get and think about the great solar energy we are missing out on!

*Stephanie Spitzer is a member of the Clean Air and Renewable Energy Committee.*



Photo Lori Anderson

# Bill Set to Destroy the North Woods of the Arrowhead

HR 5544, the Minnesota Education Investment and Employment Act, was introduced by 8th District Representative Chip Cravaack to authorize the exchange of an undetermined number of acres within what is now Superior National Forest for 86,000 acres of State lands within the borders of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCWA). This bill does not account for the mineral rights underlying the surface area of the trust lands, and thus leaves the door open for further reduction of Federal forest acreage.

The passage of HR 5544 by the U.S. House of Representatives on September 12 sets the stage for the dismantling of Superior National Forest, the retraction of Federal policy to preserve lands of scenic and recreational value for future generations, the negation of Federal policy requiring environmental review and public input when eliminating Federal lands, and the ignoring of Tribal treaty rights. HR 5544 facilitates turning the Arrowhead region of northeast Minnesota into a copper-nickel sulfide mining district for the benefit of multinational corporations.

Proponents of HR 5544 claim that the bill is for the benefit of Minnesota's school children when in fact there has been no accounting of the actual benefit for the school trust fund. They claim the minerals are necessary for our strategic interests when in fact the metals would be processed and sold on the global marketplace to competitors such as China. Supporters further claim that no Federal protections will be lost, when lands traded

will lose Weeks Act prohibitions against open pit mining, Endangered Species protections, and National Environmental Policy Act requirements for a public environmental review process. In addition, the legislative fast tracking of this bill ignores Native American Tribal consultation.

Rep. Cravaack claims that environmental groups have impeded the removal of state trust lands from within the BWCWA when in actuality it was Iron Range legislators who impeded a land sale in the 1990's, losing interest money that would have been generated during the past dozen years. The trust lands issue could be settled through a complete land sale of the remaining State lands within the BWCWA. This would maintain the legacy of the Arrowhead region and a healthy ecosystem for the future of our children.

Continue to call the offices of Senators Franken and Klobuchar, asking them to refrain from introducing any kind of companion land exchange bill in the U.S. Senate. Removal of lands from Superior National Forest is the taking of a public legacy intended to be passed on to future generations.

Call Senator Al Franken's office at 202-224-5641 (Washington) or 651-221-1016 (St. Paul) and Senator Amy Klobuchar at 202-224-3244 (Washington) or 612-727-5220 (Minneapolis).

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- New Electric Vehicle Discount (now available in more than 20 states!).

## The Hartford's Commitment to the Environment:

- Ranked "#1 Greenest Financial Services Company" by Newsweek in 2011 in its annual Green Rankings report.
- Ranked in the Top Ten Percent of the Environmental Protection Agency's list of Fortune 500 "Top Partners" for our use of renewable energy sources.

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# Asthma By A Dozen Smokestacks

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter's environmental justice (EJ) program has been based in North Minneapolis since 2004. Our EJ program was formed in collaboration with community groups we worked with on the Metro Emission Reduction Project to clean up Xcel Energy's Riverside coal plant. The goal of our EJ program is to address disproportionate environmental burdens and ensure all people a healthy environment – where they live, learn, work, play and pray.

Disproportionate burden is like that old adage: death by a thousand cuts. North Minneapolis has more than a dozen smokestacks spewing air pollution and higher than average rates of cancer and asthma hospitalizations. Many folks in this community do not have health care or transportation to deal with these health impacts that are related to these smokestacks. Which is why Northern Metals, a vehicle shredder on the Mississippi River, received such scrutiny and the request for additional environmental review when they proposed increasing their pollution limits. Unlike South Minneapolis which has special recognition in Minnesota state law for its disproportionate burden, North and Northeast Minneapolis residents need MPCA Citizen Board approval to require additional environmental review.

That public scrutiny has resulted in some positive changes for the neighborhood, including a new air monitor and a commitment by MPCA staff to begin addressing soot pollution from a number of facilities in the area. However, on October 1st, the MPCA Citizen Board voted 6-1 to not require additional environmental review of Northern Metals, but admitted

there was a legitimate issue of environmental justice that needed to be addressed. Board members said an Environmental Impact Statement for Northern Metal Recycling, the additional environmental review being requested, was not the right place to address environmental justice.

"I'm really trying to understand the language you all speak about environmental impact statements and assessment worksheets, but it's like another language," said Roxanne O'Brien, a North Minneapolis resident and community organizer. "I'm a mom of three kids and what I see is we have a pollution problem that's impacting our health and that's not right. So what are you going to do about it?"

"There should be a state process to work with cities to discuss environmental disparities," said Dr. Foley, MPCA Citizen Board Member. "The Environmental Quality Board should create a process to address disproportionate burden." MPCA Commissioner Stine agreed and said he would raise the question of how to address environmental justice concerns with the Environmental Quality Board.

While the October 1st decision was a setback, the larger conversation about pollution in North Minneapolis continues with the real opportunity to address the multiple sources impacting the community.

*For more information on this issue or our environmental justice program, contact Karen Monahan at [karen.monahan@sierraclub.org](mailto:karen.monahan@sierraclub.org) or 612-436-5402.*



## Star at the State Fair

This year, the North Star Chapter hosted a photo booth at the State Fair where we asked fairgoers to share what they want to protect about Minnesota! In turn, volunteers shared the conservation issues they're most passionate about and explained why they're active with the Sierra Club.

The booth was designed to connect with more Minnesotans through stories and shared values, and promote the work of our conservation campaigns to advance clean air and renewable energy, environmental justice, resilient habitats, and transportation choices.

Over the twelve days of the fair, staffed by nearly 130 volunteers and Sierra Club leaders, we collected nearly 1500 photos, and delivered them to Governor Dayton.

Kudos to all the volunteers and staff who made this year's booth a success!

You can see all the photos from our booth at [www.protectmymn.org](http://www.protectmymn.org)



# Vote November 6

The best way to help our environment this fall is by getting out and voting for Sierra Club endorsed candidates!  
To find more info on where or how to vote, please visit the Secretary of State's website at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

## Endorsed Candidates

Federal	State	
<b>President - Barack Obama</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>House</b>
<b>US House</b>		
<b>CD1 - Tim Walz</b>	<b>7 - Roger Reinert</b>	<b>3B - Mary Murphy</b>
<b>CD2 - Mike Obermueller</b>	<b>20 - Kevin Dahle</b>	<b>14B - Zachary Dorholt</b>
<b>CD4 - Betty McCollum</b>	<b>40 - Chris Eaton</b>	<b>17A - Andrew Falk</b>
<b>CD5 - Keith Ellison</b>	<b>41 - Barb Goodwin</b>	<b>19B - Kathy Brynaert</b>
	<b>42 - Bev Scalze</b>	<b>20B - David Bly</b>
	<b>43 - Chuck Wiger</b>	<b>25B - Kim Norton</b>
	<b>45 - Ann Rest</b>	<b>26A - Tina Liebling</b>
	<b>46 - Ron Latz</b>	<b>28B - Ken Tschumper</b>
	<b>50 - Melissa Halvorson</b>	<b>32B - Rick Olseen</b>
	<b>Wiklund</b>	<b>36B - Melissa Hortman</b>
	<b>51 - Jim Carlson</b>	<b>37A - Jerry Newton</b>
	<b>54 - Katie Sieben</b>	<b>40B - Debra Hilstrom</b>
	<b>59 - Bobby Joe Champion</b>	<b>41A - Connie Bernardy</b>
	<b>60 - Kari Dziedzic</b>	<b>41B - Carolyn Laine</b>
	<b>61 - Scott Dibble</b>	<b>43A - Peter Fischer</b>
	<b>62 - Jeff Hayden</b>	<b>43B - Leon Lillie</b>
	<b>63 - Patricia Torres Ray</b>	<b>44B - John Benson</b>
	<b>64 - Dick Cohen</b>	<b>45A - Lyndon Carlson</b>
	<b>65 - Sandra Pappas</b>	<b>45B - Mike Freiberg</b>
	<b>66 - John Marty</b>	<b>46B - Steve Simon</b>
	<b>67 - Fong Hawj</b>	<b>48A - Yvonne Selcer</b>
		<b>49A - Ron Erhardt</b>
		<b>49B - Paul Rosenthal</b>
		<b>50A - Linda Slocum</b>
		<b>50B - Ann Lenczewski</b>
		<b>51A - Sandra Masin</b>
		<b>52A - Rick Hansen</b>
		<b>56B - Will Morgan</b>
		<b>58A - Colin Lee</b>
		<b>59A - Joe Mullery</b>
		<b>59B - Raymond Dehn</b>
		<b>60A - Diane Loeffler</b>
		<b>60B - Phyllis Kahn</b>
		<b>61A - Frank Hornstein</b>
		<b>61B - Paul Thissen</b>
		<b>62A - Karen Clark</b>
		<b>62B - Susan Allen</b>
		<b>63A - Jim Davnie</b>
		<b>63B - Jean Wagenius</b>
		<b>64A - Erin Murphy</b>
		<b>64B - Michael Paymar</b>
		<b>65A - Rena Moran</b>
		<b>65B - Carlos Mariani</b>
		<b>66A - Alice Hausman</b>
		<b>66B - John Lesch</b>
		<b>67B - Sheldon Johnson</b>

## Amendments

On November 6, Minnesotans will be asked to vote on two proposed amendments to our state's constitution. The Sierra Club North Star Chapter opposes both amendments.

**Vote NO on the amendment that would ban marriage for same-sex couples in Minnesota**

**Vote NO on the Voter Restriction Amendment**

**For this list of endorsements and more information, visit [northstar.sierraclub.org/politics](http://northstar.sierraclub.org/politics)**

Paid for the Minnesota Sierra Club Political Action Committee.



# Legislative Scorecard Reveals Troubling Performance on Environmental Issues

This month the North Star Chapter released our Biennial Legislative Scorecard. Unfortunately, the results show that the 2011-2012 legislative session was dominated by an anti-science legislature that was more beholden to special interests than to the people and communities of Minnesota.

A case in point: This fall, up to 400 of Minnesota's gray wolves will be shot or trapped in the first wolf hunt we've had in decades. Nearly 15% of the population of this iconic species will be wiped out in a matter of months – not because there have been wolf attacks on humans, or because a hunt is necessary to control the population. In fact, the wolf will be hunted for no scientific reason at all, but because of a legislative mandate.

## Unfortunately the wolf was not the only casualty of this legislature.



WRITTEN WOLF COMMENTARY TO BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 13

"It is ironic," said Brian O'Neill (shown above, testifying at the August 4 hearing at Fort Snelling), "that environmentalists in this day and age would prefer to have James Watt as protector of the wolf than Joe Alexander, but that is the case." The Minnesota DNR hopes to take over wolf management, set a 50-a-year "sport" kill, and legalize wolf pelts. DNR Commissioner Joseph Alexander denied that wolves were ever endangered in Minnesota: "You could kill all the wolves in Minnesota tomorrow, and within six months they'd be repopulated through dispersal from Ontario." Written commentary will be taken until September 13 by James Engel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Henry Whipple Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, MN 55111.

Sierra Club North Star Journal, September 1982

Anti-environment majorities in St. Paul have steadfastly opposed measures prioritized by the North Star Chapter that would protect Minnesota's environment

Taking us backwards: The legislature is fighting the battles of 30 years ago.

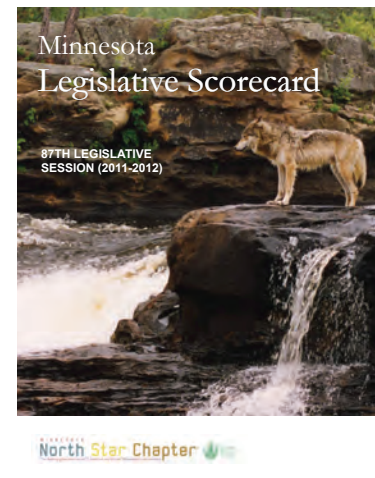
and economy – including proposals to create clean energy jobs here in our state; jobs that would help us break our dependence on foreign oil, and dirty coal.

They've pursued disproportionate cuts to transit funding, threatening vital access to transportation for commuters and jobseekers statewide. And other provisions increase the threat to Minnesota's lakes and forests from proposed sulfide mining in the Arrowhead region.

Throughout, legislative leaders have been laser-focused on rolling back almost every important environmental protection on the books – protections you and I fought for – and that Minnesotans overwhelmingly support.

So now it's time for us to stand up for the people, animals, and wild places of Minnesota! Get up to date on the issues we'll be facing this spring at the capitol by signing up for our eSierra monthly email newsletter, and come to our New Member and Volunteer night (second Tuesday of every month in the chapter office) to get involved. Finally, make sure to talk to your neighbors, friends, and family about why the environment matters to you!

Our 2011-2012 Legislative Scorecard is now available for download at [northstar.sierraclub.org/scorecard](http://northstar.sierraclub.org/scorecard)



Thanks to your support, Sierra Club members attended meetings with their legislators in-district and at the Capitol.

Every year, thousands of Sierrans across Minnesota send in their membership renewal cards, pledging their support for the important work done across the state by the Sierra Club North Star Chapter. Your membership gives us power – to show legislators and policy makers that Minnesotans stand united behind policies that protect and preserve our environment and wild places.

While your membership dollars are important to support the Sierra Club's work on local, regional and national campaigns, and fight anti-environment interests in Washington, D.C., you have the option to also donate directly to the North Star Chapter. 100% of your additional contribution to our Chapter stays here in Minnesota – to work locally on issues that you care about such as clean air and renewable energy,

## You can Support the North Star Chapter

forest protection, toxic sulfide mining, transportation and bicycling, and more.

We are grateful that hundreds of members like you donate directly to the North Star Chapter each year. While all types of support are appreciated, individual gifts give us the greatest flexibility in responding to state-specific concerns and needs. Thank you for helping us protect Minnesota for generations to come!

**You can support the North Star Chapter directly with a donation or monthly pledge, and tax-deductible giving options are available. For more information, please contact State Director Margaret Levin at 612-659-9124 ext. 306 or [margaret.levin@sierraclub.org](mailto:margaret.levin@sierraclub.org)**

# Fall and Winter Outings

Hi,

Another season is upon us. We have another exciting calendar for the fall, winter and spring seasons! Take a few minutes to look at what we have to offer. Sierra Club outings are free, but our ski outings will require a DNR pass and the State Parks require a parking pass; some regional parks may require a different pass for a nominal fee; rental equipment is available at some of the areas. If a cross-country ski is scheduled, it will automatically become a hike if there is no snow.

Please make sure to contact the leader, via email, by Friday if you would like to attend.

I invite each and every one of you to join us on our outings. They are fun and a great way to socialize and meet others of like mind. In the true spirit of John Muir, let's get out and Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet!

Warm Regards,  
Joyce Icardo



For details please call the leader as listed for each individual outing, you will be instructed as to what you need to bring, meeting location and time. As much as possible, the Sierra Club encourages car pooling.

We generally limit our group size to 12 people. Miles are recorded as "Round Trip." We are excited about our new schedule and looking forward to seeing you on our outings!

**For updates visit our web site at [northstar.sierraclub.org/outings](http://northstar.sierraclub.org/outings)**

**Saturday, November 3, 2012**  
**Bike Ride, Pace 12-15 MPH, 30 Miles**  
**Hopkins to Victoria**

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

**Saturday, November 10, 2012**  
**Bike Ride, Pace 12-15 MPH, 30 Miles**  
**Gateway to Stillwater**

Leader: Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com, (651) 245-9133

**Saturday, November 17, 2012**  
**Hike/Bike, Hike 5-7 miles, Bike 30 Miles**  
**Battle Creek**

Leader: Rebecca Nyberg, reb.nyberg@gmail.com, (612) 239-8231

**Friday, November 23 - 25, 2012**  
**Back Packing**  
**BWCA on Lake Superior Trail**

The idea is to walk not snowshoe and I will choose a trail with not much snow. The plan is to cover about 15 miles in 3 days.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, December 1, 2012**  
**Ski, 7 - 10 Miles**

**Lebanon Hills Regional Park**

Rentals available

Leader: Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com, (651) 245-9133

**Saturday, December 8, 2012**  
**Ski, 5-7 Miles**

**Lake Elmo**

No rentals available

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

**Saturday, December 8 - 9, 2012**  
**Beginner Winter Camping**  
**Banning State Park**

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, December 15, 2012**  
**Ski, 5 - 10 Miles**  
**Regional Park**

Leader: Rebecca Nyberg, reb.nyberg@gmail.com, (612) 239-8231

**Saturday, December 22, 2012**  
**No Outing, Happy Holidays!**

**Saturday, December 29, 2012**  
**Ski Clinic, 5 miles**  
**Tamarack Nature Center**

Learn to ski or just brush up on your skills! Rentals available.

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

Leader: Rebecca Nyberg, reb.nyberg@gmail.com, (612) 239-8231

**Saturday, December 29 - January 1, 2012**  
**Winter camping**  
**Gunflint in BWCA**

We will snowshoe or ski about 2-3 miles in, then we will set up a base camp. We will take day trips to other lakes. This is traditionally one of the coldest weekends of winter. Experience Required.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, January 5, 2013**  
**Ski, 5 - 10 Miles**

**Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve**

No rentals available

Leader: Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com, (651) 245-9133

**Saturday, January 12, 2013**  
**Ski**  
**Cable, WI**

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

Leader: Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com, (651) 245-9133

**Saturday, January 12 - 13, 2013**  
**Beginner Winter Camp and Cross County Ski**  
**Gooseberry State Park**

We will camp in the car campground. I can help you with your equipment and clothing choices.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, January 19, 2013**

**Ski**

To be Announced

Rebecca Nyberg, reb.nyberg@gmail.com, (612) 239-8231

**Saturday, January 26, 2013**

**Ski, 5-10 Miles**

**Sun Fish**

No rentals available

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

**Friday, February 1 - 3, 2013**

**Ski**

**National Forest Lodge**

National Forest Lodge is a quaint resort with about a dozen cabins located on Gegoka Lake near Ely, MN. The resort has miles of ski trails in the beautiful woods of Superior National Forest. There is a wood-fueled sauna on the lake and an open air hot tub all for shared use. There are also some trails for snowshoeing. The trip will cost about \$190 per person, which includes two night's lodging and 6 meals - Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Full list of participants is required by December 17th. Full payment due January 4th.

Leader: Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com, (651) 245-9133

**Saturday, February 2 - 3, 2013**

**Winter Camp**

**Ely district of BWCA**

We will drive up on Friday evening and ski/snowshoe at Midnight 1/2 mile to the campsite.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, February 9, 2013**

**Ski, 5 - 10 Miles**

**Lebanon Hills Regional Park**

Rentals available

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

**Saturday, February 16, 2013**

**Ski, 5 - 10 miles and Crock Pot "Pot Luck"!**

**William O'Brien State Park**

No rentals available

Leader: Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

**Saturday, February 16 - 18, 2013**

**Winter Camping**

**BWCA**

Leader: Basil Loney, (651)774-2640

**Saturday, February 23, 2013**

**Ski, 5-10 Miles**

**Lake Maria**

Leader: Rebecca Nyberg, reb.nyberg@gmail.com, (612) 239-8231

**Saturday, March 2, 2013**

**Ski**

**Banning State Park**

Margaret Elkins, margaret.elkins@gmail.com, (651) 245-9133

**Saturday, March 2 - 3, 2013**

**Winter Camping**

**Benson Lake in Crosby Manitou State Park on the North Shore.**

The purpose of the trip is to trout fish for splake at Benson Lake. There are trails to ski and snowshoe.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, March 9, 2013**

**Ski 5-10 Miles**

**Cable, WI**

Joyce Icardo, ladyhiker123@juno.com, (307) 690-7161

Saturday, March 16, 2013

To be announced

Check the web site for details.

**Saturday, March 16 - 18, 2013**

**Winter Camp and Trout Fish**

**Gunflint area of the BWCA.**

The days are warmer and longer during the month of March.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Saturday, March 23, 2013**

**To be announced**

Check the web site for details.

**Saturday, March 30, 2013**

**To be announced**

Check the web site for details.

**Friday, March 29 - 31, 2013**

**Winter Camp and Trout Fish**

**Three days of winter camping/trout fishing in the Gunflint area of the BWCA.**

The days are warmer and longer during the month of March.

Leader: Basil Loney, (651) 774-2640

**Month of April 2013**

**Bike Riding**

Check the web site for details.

For updates visit our web site at [northstar.sierraclub.org/outings](http://northstar.sierraclub.org/outings)



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Hours: Friday 2-9:30; Saturday 9-6:30; Sunday 10-5 ■ PLUS: Thursday, Nov. 15 for Pre-Expo Sale 5-9  
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# Monthly Committee Meetings



Please see [northstar.sierraclub.org](http://northstar.sierraclub.org) or call the Chapter Office at 612-659-9124 for committee contacts and to confirm meeting times, dates and location.

Most meetings are held at the Chapter Office at 2327 East Franklin Ave, Minneapolis.

If a regularly scheduled meeting falls on a holiday, please contact us for rescheduling information.

Refer to contact list on p. 13 for more information.



**Clean Air Committee:** 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm.

**Communication Committee:** Varies, contact Chair.

**Executive Committee:** 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm.

**Foodies Committee:** Varies, contact Chair.

**Forests Committee:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm.

**Fundraising Committee:** Varies, contact Chair.

**Inner City Outings:** Varies, contact Chair.

**Land Use and Transportation:** 1st Monday of the month, 6:00pm.

**Mining Committee:** 3rd Monday of the month, 7:00pm.

**Political Committee:** Varies, contact Chair.

**St. Croix Valley Interstate Group:** 4th Tuesday of the month, 7:00pm. Location varies.

**Wetlands and Water Committee:** 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00pm.



## *JOIN MINNESOTA SIERRANS AND SUPERSTAR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS!*

Northland Sustainable Solutions invites Sierrans of Minnesota and other citizens who are concerned and active around the issues of climate change and global justice to the Annual Northland Bioneers Conference. Hear the rebroadcast of **National Sierra Club Executive Director Mike Brune's** plenary speech given mid-October at National Bioneers in California. **MN State Director Margaret Levin** will join a discussion on **ending our dependence on coal-generated electricity.**

*7th Northland Bioneers Conference, Macalester College, Sat. Nov. 10, 2012, 8 AM-6 PM*

*Registration and Schedule: [sustainablenorthland.org](http://sustainablenorthland.org)*

A PROUD MEMBER OF



**The Sierra Club benefits from workplace contributions to the Minnesota Environmental Fund. If you don't have an MEF giving option in your workplace, please contact Ed Marek at 651-917-1876 for more information.**

## North Star Chapter Office

2327 E Franklin Ave, Suite 1  
Minneapolis, MN 55406  
(612) 659-9124  
northstar.sierraclub.org



## Chapter Leaders

CHAPTER CHAIR/NATIONAL COUNCIL  
DELEGATE  
Luther Dale  
651-483-3862  
lutherdale@hotmail.com

VICE CHAIR  
C. Scott Cooper  
651-260-9950  
mcscootish@aol.com

SECRETARY  
Katie Eukel  
612-208-1674  
katie@fourthsectorconsulting.com

TREASURER  
Don Janes  
651-429-0016  
dljanes@yahoo.com

CONSERVATION CHAIR  
Mat Hollinshead  
651-698-0260  
mathews.hollinshead@mac.com

LEGAL CHAIR  
Michelle Weinberg  
mweinberg@faegre.com  
612-766-7729

FUNDRAISING CHAIR  
Don Janes (Interim)  
651-429-0016  
dljanes@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR  
Don Janes  
651-429-0016  
dljanes@yahoo.com

POLITICAL CHAIR  
Ryan Kennedy  
763-772-2654  
kenn0334@gmail.com

OLDER, WISER & LIVELIER SIERRANS  
Glen Hambleton  
651-315-3412  
Hamb1001@comcast.net

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR  
Katie Eukel  
612-208-1674  
katie@fourthsectorconsulting.com

EDITOR – NORTH STAR JOURNAL  
Jeremy Stahl  
651-249-9986  
editor@northstar.sierraclub.org

ART DIRECTOR – NORTH STAR  
JOURNAL  
Brian Bradshaw  
brian@bradshawdesign.com

WEBMASTER  
Kurt Indermaur  
952-938-9061  
kurt@indermaur.com

INNER CITY OUTINGS (ICO)  
Joe Walz  
minnesotaico@yahoo.com

ST. CROIX VALLEY INTERSTATE GROUP  
Carol Hardin  
715-386-7032  
cchardin8@gmail.com

## Issues Contacts

CLEAN AIR AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
Wanda Davies  
davies767@gmail.com  
Rebecca Corruccini  
corruccini@hotmail.com

FORESTS  
Lois Norrgard  
952-881-7282  
lnorrgard@lnmn10.com

MINING  
Lori Andresen  
andres01@charter.net

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION  
Amber Buening  
amber.buening@csh.org  
Meleah Houseknecht  
meleah.houseknecht@gmail.com

WETLANDS AND WATER  
Bill Barton  
651-699-5478  
bartonwf@yahoo.com

## Minnesota Staff

STATE DIRECTOR  
Margaret Levin  
612-659-9124 x306  
margaret.levin@sierraclub.org

CHAPTER COORDINATOR  
Vicki Munson  
612-659-9124 x301  
vicki.munson@sierraclub.org

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION  
PROGRAM MANAGER  
Joshua Houdek  
612-659-9124 x307  
joshua.houdek@sierraclub.org

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY  
COORDINATOR  
Justin Fay  
612-659-9124 x310  
justin.fay@sierraclub.org

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER  
Alex Tsatsoulis  
612-659-9124 x314  
alex.tsatsoulis@sierraclub.org

SENIOR ORGANIZING MANAGER  
Michelle Rosier  
612-659-9124 x304  
michelle.rosier@sierraclub.org

ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE  
Joshua Low  
612-659-9124 x311  
joshua.low@sierraclub.org

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
ORGANIZER  
Karen Monahan  
612-436-5402  
karen.monahan@sierraclub.org

CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR - NATIONAL  
BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN  
Heather Cusick  
612-659-9124 x303  
heather.cusick@sierraclub.org

REGIONAL ONLINE ORGANIZER  
Sarah Vig  
612-659-9124 x313  
sarah.vig@sierraclub.org

DIRECTOR OF GRASSROOTS  
EFFECTIVENESS – SIERRA CLUB  
Scott Elkins  
612-659-9124 x302  
scott.elkins@sierraclub.org

ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE  
Jessica Tatro  
612-659-9124 x309  
jessica.tatro@sierraclub.org

TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR, SIERRA STUDENT COALITION  
Tim Harlan-Marks  
612-659-9124 x308  
tim.harlan-marks@sierraclub.org



# Department of Natural Resources Considers Discontinuing Extended Rotation Forests

Jim Hawkins

Extended Rotation Forests (ERF) is a forest management tool that guarantees that some forest plots that are older than normal rotational or “biological” rotational age are set aside within even-aged areas otherwise managed mainly for harvest. These areas of older forest are intended to eventually be cut, but at much older ages than usually would be the case. ERF serves many conservation values. Older and mature forests are so important to preserve and increase in Minnesota because most of our forest species that are at risk from population declines require larger patches of undisturbed old growth forest for their survival. ERF has assured that at least some older forest was widely distributed in all state forest regions.

The DNR has had a goal of 12% ERF areas. We have always considered 12% too small a percentage. Due to the decline in demand for forest product over the last two decades many of the ERF areas were never sold or if sold were never cut. Thus, currently there is more 12 % of the forest in ERF status.

But now the DNR is considering discontinuing ERF temporarily until demand for forest product returns to some predetermined level. (Remember, in forestry language, temporary can mean decades.) Part of the forest industry has always opposed ERF and now the DNR is required to manage the School Trust lands, about half (!) of all forest lands, for maximum economic gain. So the DNR set up a task force to review ERF policy and make recommendations to senior management. The Sierra Club was offered an opportunity to comment on the review. Since ERF, we believe, contributes to environmental interests without, we believe, compromising industry interests, we supported continuation of ERF on all lands including the School Trust lands.

Another part of the review proposed identifying all existing ERF areas, developing a philosophy for managing older forest areas, and ongoing monitoring of these areas regardless of other decisions that might be made. We supported this and expressed the hope that such monitoring could lead to an expansion of the number of acres permanently removed from harvest by transferring them to the Old Forest, HCVF, or other conservation categories. We also supported the DNR finding ways to “buy out” their obligation to manage the Trust lands for maximum income. This would permit the DNR to continue to manage all State forests for multiple purposes, as they have always done.

*Jim Hawkins is a member of the Forests and Wildlands Committee.*



**Katie Eukel**  
Minneapolis, MN  
612- 232-1795, keukel@gmail.com

It would be an honor to continue serving on the executive committee. I started working with the North Star Chapter when I served as the communications director at Transit for Livable Communities. My concern about our state's transit/biking/walking systems grew into a passion for environmental advocacy, as I learned about the impact of transportation on greenhouse gas emissions. I became an active Sierra Club volunteer because I cared—it's as simple as that.

In addition to serving on the ExCom, I chair the Chapter's communications committee. In my professional life, I head up Fourth Sector Consulting, a strategy and communications consultancy focused on changing public conversations about our nation's most pressing issues. I work with clients across multiple sectors, on an array of issues including climate change, health, sustainable agriculture, racial equity, media innovation, the arts, and more. All share a passion for making our world a better place to live. These experiences inform how I approach my work as an ExCom member—I know that one of the most effective ways to win hearts and minds is to tell powerful, personal stories and then work together for change.

I appreciate your support in continuing to serve on the executive committee!



**Jason Bender**  
Minneapolis, MN  
215-266-4049, bende194@umn.edu

Many thanks for this nomination. I am a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. My doctoral research, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, is in two areas: hypersonic aerodynamics and biofuel combustion chemistry. I earned my B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University in 2008.

From 2006 to 2010, I worked at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where I helped design the Mars Science Laboratory "Curiosity" rover, currently exploring the surface of Mars.

An avid backpacker and canoeist, I became involved with the North Star Chapter in 2010. I joined the Campus Beyond Coal student group and led its Research Committee for almost two years. Volunteering with the Sierra Club, MPIRG, and Environment Minnesota has shown me how powerful student leadership and activism can be.

Scientists, I believe, play a vital role in public discourse on the environment and on urgent challenges like climate change. My passions for science and the environment spring from the same core value: love of the natural world, as something worth understanding and preserving for future generations. I would bring to the ExCom unique perspectives from student organizing on sustainability issues and from my ongoing work in the scientific community.



**Ken Bradley**  
Minneapolis, MN  
651-238-5376, kbradley1965@gmail.com

I first served on the North Star Chapter Executive Committee back in the late 1990s and have served on various committees and as treasurer and chair. I was re-elected to office three years ago and it has been a pleasure to witness the Chapter grow into one of the most influential environmental groups in our state.

The Sierra Club has played a critical role on land-use and open spaces, transportation, environmental justice, clean air and renewable energy and their work has resulted in numerous victories. The commitment the North Star Chapter has made in engaging our members and our community has been essential to these victories.

Since 2009, I have been the Director for Environment Minnesota, working to preserve and protect our air, water and open spaces. Prior to joining Environment Minnesota, I was State Director for Clean Water Action, overseeing the organization's programmatic and political work. I spent six years working as Senior Policy Associate for Fresh Energy, a non-profit working toward a clean, efficient and fair energy system.

I live in the CARAG Neighborhood in Minneapolis with my wife, Crystal, and our dogs Lucy and Tim and our cat Libby. I enjoy gardening, composting, biking, traveling and yoga in my spare time.



**Marty Cobenais**  
Bemidji, MN  
218 760-0284, martyc@ienearth.org

Boozhoo (Hello), my name is Marty Cobenais, Red Lake Ojibwe, and I live in Bemidji, MN with my 2 teenage kids.

I have worked with Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) as the office manager/bookkeeper/pipeline organizer. As the pipeline organizer, I have had the privilege to work with people across the U.S. against the Canadian Tar Sands. In the State of Minnesota I have worked against the Alberta Clipper Pipeline, the proposed Polymet Mine, and the high voltage power line between Grand Rapids to Bemidji.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club's North Star Chapter Executive Committee for the past year and have enjoyed my time on this committee. I think that I bring experience and a strong background in organizing to the Committee.



**John Hottinger**  
St. Paul, MN  
651-269-8860, jchnorthstar@gmail.com

I've had the privilege of serving on the Sierra Club Executive Committee for six years including two years as Executive Committee Chair. I'm driven by a passion for combatting the bad policy and practices which have led to accelerating global warming, but I have also been very involved in Club efforts to transform our energy usage, to protect our beautiful natural resources and to promote wise development decisions starting with expanded mass transit and people-centric land use and transportation planning. As Chair, I was especially focused on expanding the outreach of the Chapter to communities of color, non-Metro Minnesotans and youth. I am a big believer that ordinary persons can serve extraordinary volunteers and leaders if given a chance to display their talents, passions and enthusiasm – an approach that has been fundamental to the Sierra Club's value and impact over the years. That belief is one of the reasons I pushed for an expansion of the Executive Committee to include more members and supported efforts to open more opportunities for leadership within the Club. That's also why if I win another term, it will be my last one since I believe regular turnover of volunteer organization leadership is healthy.



**Ryan Johnson**  
Plymouth, MN  
612-492-7160, rjohnson@fredlaw.com

Thank you for the opportunity to run as a candidate for the North Star Chapter's Executive Committee. I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Sierra Club's mission and I am committed to doing all I that can to help protect Minnesota's precious environmental resources.

I have been an active outdoorsman my entire life, spending many weeks canoeing with my family in the Boundary Waters. I have also spent considerable time volunteering for nonprofit organizations, including service on several nonprofit boards and committees (capital campaign, policy, legislative, and executive committees). I believe these experiences provide me with skills, insights, and knowledge that would help me advance the North Star Chapter's goals as a member of its Executive Committee.

I am a member of the North Star Chapter's Legislative Committee and current Chair of the Frac Sand Mining Task Force. When I'm not spending time outdoors with my family or volunteering for nonprofit organizations, I practice law at Fredrikson & Byron, P.A. and teach at the University of Minnesota Law School. I would be honored to serve on the North Star Chapter's Executive Committee, and I would greatly appreciate your support.



# Please Vote for your Chapter Leaders

## Deadline for voting is Wednesday, January 2, 2013

The Executive Committee (ExCom) is the governing body of the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, with responsibility for overall activities, budgeting, and strategic planning of the Chapter.

There are fifteen elected members of the Excom, elected by members of the Sierra Club in Minnesota for rotating three-year terms.

Members reflect a diversity of backgrounds and talents, brought together by their common interest in environmental protection, and a commitment to help the Sierra Club's North Star Chapter thrive and grow in its work as the leading grassroots voice for Minnesota's environment.

Current members of the North Star Chapter ExCom:

<b>Term expires 2012</b>	<b>Term expires 2013</b>	<b>Term expires 2014</b>
Ken Bradley	Luther Dale	C. Scott Cooper
Marty Cobenais	Mat Hollinshead	Joyce Icardo
John Hottinger	Javier Morillo-Alicea	John Doberstein
Don Janes	Lois Norrgard	Christy Newell
Katie Eukel	Greg Schlichter	Colette Routel

Please take the time to read the statements and mark and return a ballot. Your vote is important regardless of your level of involvement in Chapter activities.

### Voting instructions:

To vote by mail:

1. Your member number is included with your mailing address on the back of the ballot. This will be used to verify membership; however, your vote will be kept confidential.
2. Please read the candidate statements provided.
3. Vote for up to five candidates of your choice by clearly marking "X" in the box next to their names on the ballot, or by writing in a non-listed candidate's name on the line provided. Multiple votes for one candidate will disqualify the ballot (except, of course, for a joint membership in which each member votes for the same candidate). The five candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve three-year terms on the North Star Chapter Executive Committee.
4. Place your ballot in an envelope and mail it by Wednesday, January 2, 2013 to:

Elections Committee  
Sierra Club North Star Chapter  
2327 E Franklin Avenue #1  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

To vote by email:

1. Locate your 8-digit membership number included with your mailing address on the back of the ballot. Your vote will be kept confidential, but this number is required to verify membership.
2. Please read the candidate statements provided.
3. Vote for up to five candidates of your choice by listing them on an email message to [ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org). You may write in one non-listed candidate's name. Multiple votes for one candidate will disqualify the ballot (except, of course, for a joint membership in which each member votes for the same candidate). The five candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve three-year terms on the North Star Chapter Executive Committee.
4. Send your email message to [ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org](mailto:ballot@northstar.sierraclub.org) before Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 5 p.m.



## Election Ballot for North Star Chapter Executive Committee 2013

Please vote for up to five candidates:

	Members vote here	Joint members vote here	
Katie Eukel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jason Bender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Bradley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marty Cobenais	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Hottinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-ins:			
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MINNESOTA

# North Star Chapter

The leading grassroots voice to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment.



# JOURNAL

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## Fall & Winter Outings Schedule Inside

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## 17th Annual Sierra Club Bicycle Tour

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**WILD & SCENIC** FILM FESTIVAL  
where activism gets inspired

**Saturday, December 1, 2012**  
watch film previews and get tickets now  
[northstar.sierraclub.org/filmfest2012](http://northstar.sierraclub.org/filmfest2012)  
films to change your world

OSPREY CLIF BAR patagonia Mother Jones

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