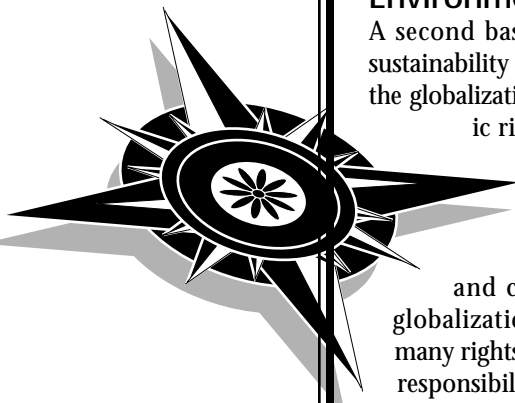




North Star Journal

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Living Green Expo

Benefit from a healthy, sustainable life
For more information,
see www.livinggreenexpo.org
See article, page 3

Sustainability: Thinking and Acting Globally

The Incredible Shrinking Planet

The events of September 11 brought home to many in a new way how interconnected and interdependent the world is. But environmentalists have long been aware of global interdependence. Whether it be global warming, habitat destruction, species extinction, bioinvasions, the exploitation of the open oceans, or other international environmental issues, we know that actions taken in far away places can have critical significance for local environments. This means that pursuing sustainability must involve actions which take the global perspective into account.

Recognizing this reality, the Sierra Club has been expanding its International Programs over the past several years. While the club's focus remains on issues within our nation and states, an ever-increasing awareness of global impacts has led to new and expanded international programs. The club now has four internationally oriented programs which operate out of the national office in Washington D.C. and which are implemented in Minnesota by the North Star Chapter's International Committee. Each is a critical piece of the sustainability puzzle. These four programs include:

Human Rights and the Environment

One of the most basic requirements of sustainability is that individuals and groups everywhere have the rights and freedoms to act in defense of their own local natural environments. These rights are not always recognized as environmentalists have been silenced, threatened, and even killed because they organized and spoke out. To protect and expand these rights, the Sierra Club has teamed with Amnesty International to conduct a "Defend the Defenders" program that identifies and addresses key areas around the world where these rights are under attack. Members are mobilized to shine the spotlight of global attention on these situations to produce change.

International Right to Know (IRTK) Campaign

Taking these rights one step further is the goal of this campaign, which seeks legislation that would require corporations based in the U.S. to report the same kinds of environmental, labor, and human rights information for their foreign operations as they are now required to do for their domestic facilities. This would place critical information in the hands of local activists who want to protect local rights. This program, also being launched in cooperation with Amnesty International, has a new web site where you can find out more information and sign a petition to President Bush advocating IRTK. (See below)

International Trade and the Environment

A second basic requirement for global sustainability is that the economic rules of the globalization game include democratic rights and protections for the environment, worker rights, and communities rather than simply protecting the rights of capital and corporate profits. Current globalization rules give corporations many rights without any corresponding responsibilities to the communities in which they operate. The Sierra Club has been a leader in the fight for fair trade

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since the battles over the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the early 1990s. Since then, battles over The World Trade Organization, The Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA), The Multilateral Agreement on Investment as well as the policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have continued. Most recently, the Congressional battle over Fast Track authority has been the key struggle. Another upcoming battle will be over President Bush's desire to quickly enact the FTAA. In challenging the current direction of corporate driven globalization, the club joins with many allies in labor, human rights groups, faith communities, indigenous peoples, etc.

Global Warming

This is arguably the most significant global threat to sustainability as it has ramifications for both human and ecological health. The club has been a leader in this area by focusing mainly on the single most effective step that the U.S. could take to address this problem: the raising of fuel efficiency standards for cars, SUVs, and light trucks. Over the past several years, this has been largely a defensive battle to prevent the rollback of these standards in Congress. But as this article is being written, an energy bill is being considered by the U.S. Senate which would significantly raise these standards. This is a critical battle for global sustainability.

Population and Consumption

The Sierra Club has long taken actions to stabilize global population and to reduce wasteful consumption. Specific strategies have been to promote family planning programs and reproductive health services; to empower and educate women and girls; and to reduce excessive consumption by encouraging people to live in ways that have less impact on the earth's resources. The club works specifically to increase U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund and to secure U.S. ratification of the International Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Study after study has shown that education, empowerment, and expanded rights for women is critical in achieving true sustainability. It is tragic that, 15 years after the UN adopted the treaty, the U.S. has still not ratified.

Think Globally

The tragic events of September 11 present the sustainability movement with a new and urgent challenge: to implement global strategies that will reduce the environmental and human degradation that is resulting from current patterns of globalization and to act on the knowledge, newly reinforced, of the interconnectedness of all life. The Sierra Club's International Programs are one way of answering that challenge. If you would like to become a part of one or more of these programs, go to the national web site (www.sierraclub.org) or the North Star Chapter web site (www.northstar.sierraclub.org) for more information and/or contact International Committee Chair Brett Smith at smithb@macalester.edu or 612/920-9569.

To Take Action

Visit the new Human Rights and Environment site at www.defendtheearth.org and click to add your name to a petition to President Bush supporting the International Right to Know campaign.

Sustainability: A Local Angle

While there are many ways to promote sustainability at the local level, one key strategy is to link up with other individuals and groups, inside and outside of the "environmental group" world, that are also pursuing this goal. One good place to do this is through the Minnesota Sustainable Communities Network (MnSCN) sponsored by the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance. The goal of the MnSCN is to encourage networking, information exchange, and better access to assistance. The network consists of over 1,500 individuals, businesses, and non-profit organizations interested in sustainability.

MnSCN has a "Next Step" web site at www.nextstep.state.mn.us where you can access a large number of sustainability resources and sign up for the bi-weekly MnSCN electronic newsletter. The web site and newsletter have a wide variety of resources, calendar items, job postings, funding opportunities, etc. The range of issues covered is broad, including agriculture, buildings, business, communities, ecosystems, education, energy, individual choices, land use, statewide/global, transportation, and water. Check out the "Next Step" web site and link up your Sierra Club activism with other folks pursuing similar goals.

First 'Living Green Expo' April 27 Touts Environmental Choices

First 'Living Green Expo' April 27 Touts Environmental Choices

St. Paul, Minn. – Do you yearn for the *really* good life – simple, satisfying and sustainable not just for you but for future generations? Then plan to attend Minnesota's first Living Green Expo, a free April 27 Earth Week family event exploring fun, food, earth-friendliness and future trends in workshops, exhibits and demonstrations.

The Living Green Expo, scheduled for the State Capitol Grounds and Armory, will feature information on:

- Transportation: alternative and hybrid cars, new fuels, mass transportation, biking and carpooling;
- Home energy use: energy-saving and cost-cutting energy ideas;
- Renewable energy: residential solar power, wind power and geothermal energy;
- Home building and remodeling: green design, recycled and sustainable building materials;
- Food: organic, sustainable and locally grown foods;
- Yard and garden: chemical-free gardens and lawns, landscaping for wildlife and water quality, composting;
- Recreation: hiking, biking, camping, parks and gardens;
- Household products/practices: earth-friendly cleaners, recycling, water conservation, durable goods;
- Arts and culture: visual arts, music, storytelling, fashion; and
- Sustainability concepts: voluntary simplicity, spirituality and the environment, green careers.

The Community Garden Fair and the Food and Farm Festival share the space and run concurrently with the Living Green Expo. Sponsors include state and local agencies, environmental groups (including the Sierra Club), food organizations and businesses. Exhibitors must demonstrate how products or processes reduce environmental impacts. Free event parking, as well as secure bike parking, are available for participants.

For more information, as well as updates on sponsors and exhibitors, visit www.livinggreen-expo.org or contact Ned Brooks, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, (651)296-8709. For exhibitor information, call Sam Garst, Sierra Club SamGarst@aol.com.

Major sponsors to date: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Office of Environmental Assistance, Department of Commerce, State Energy Office, Sierra Club, Twin Cities Natural Food Coops, Mississippi Market, Minnesota Food Association, Alliance for Sustainability, Minnesota Bike and Pedestrian Alliance, Sustainable Resources Center, St. Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium, Simple Nature, Celilo Group/Blue Sky Guide, American Lung Association of Minnesota, Clean Water Action Alliance, "Mpls./St. Paul" Magazine, Minnesota Public Radio, St. Paul Pioneer Press

Workplace Giving —You Can Make It Happen



The Sierra Club Foundation, the sister organization of the Sierra Club, is one of eighteen member organizations of the Minnesota Environmental Fund (MEF). This fund is the state's workplace giving program for the environment, and a critical partner in our conservation education work.

You can help. If you have the option of giving to the Minnesota Environmental Fund through your workplace giving program, please do so—and consider

designating your contributions to The Sierra Club Foundation. If you don't have the option of giving to the MEF, you can help us to get your company involved in this important program.

Spring is the time of year when the Minnesota Environmental Fund solicits new businesses to join its network of workplace giving. If you want more information about getting your workplace involved, contact Sierra Club State Director Scott Elkins (612/379-3853 or scott.elkins@sierra-club.org).

Sierra Club Launches Care for America Campaign

In the wake of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, how do we, as environmentalists, continue to draw attention to the important issues that we work on?

This is a question we in the Sierra Club have been asking for more than six months. While the news media is filled with images of foreign countries and earnest political leaders discussing terrorism and international relations, the issues that affect the quality of our environment continue to evolve. How do we keep these decisions in front of the public eye? How do we remind people that the quality of our land, water and air will have consequences for our world and our lives that will extend beyond our current international crises?

Our challenge is to reconnect people with the importance of the natural environment. To show the general public that if we hold dear the idea of America, we should also hold dear the American landscape that has molded our national character.

We're going to take our best shot at rising to this challenge in Minnesota. Very soon you are likely to see a series of media advertisements that the Sierra Club will be running in select communities around the state. Our message is "Care about America? Care for America," and over the next few months we're hoping to spread this message far and wide across Minnesota.

Our goal is to direct America's reborn sense of community and civic responsibility toward protecting our country's air, water, and land. We want to encourage Americans to assume their civic responsibilities and become engaged in the democratic process.

We hope you'll keep an eye out for these ads. Let us know what you think. If you're interested in learning more about this new initiative, or in finding out ways that you can get more involved in protecting our shared environment, contact the North Star Chapter office at 612/379-3853, or see our web site at www.northstar.sierraclub.org.

Sierra Club to President Bush: Clean Energy Now!

Sierrans greeted President Bush on one of his visits to the Twin Cities, calling for clean energy now! Activists Richard Oden (left) and Memory Peterson-Bauer make the connection between clean air, alternative energy and Minnesota's economy. *Photo by Jill Walker*



The Sierra Club's Clean Energy Rally was helped along by the Minnesota Soybean Growers Assn. Pictured here is Sierran Sam Garst (at right) with Mike Youngerberg, field services director for the Soybean Growers, standing in front of a familiar farm vehicle powered by a blend of 20% soybean oil and diesel fuel. Using soybeans and other oils dramatically cuts air pollutants from diesel powered engines, and helps Minnesota's economy. The chapter has been supportive of farmers at the legislature promoting 20% and greater biodiesel blends to replace straight diesel fuel. *Photo by Jill Walker.*

North Star Chapter to Develop Program for Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse

Development of resistance by bacteria to antibiotics is one of the most important problems currently facing physicians. Some problem organisms have become resistant to most or all of the available antibiotics and the development of new agents is not able to keep pace. Widespread (and often indiscriminate) use of antibiotics exerts a great pressure for selection of bacterial strains which are resistant and which eventually will become the predominant strains in the population.

The medical profession is taking major steps to limit antibiotic use to only the most appropriate situations. However, as much as 70% of all the antibiotics used in the United States are not given to patients at all, but are fed to livestock (cattle, pigs, chickens) to promote growth and prevent infections in the crowded and unsanitary conditions of confined animal feedlot operations (CAFOs). The bacteria which these animals harbor also develop resistance which is then transmitted to humans in grocery store meat products and water contaminated with waste runoff from CAFOs. Some of these bacteria are capable of causing human disease. Studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture have shown the almost universal contamination of chicken carcasses with a gastroenteritis-causing bacteria (*Campylobacter*). Indeed, 50%-70% of all *Campylobacter* infections have been attributed to consumption of chicken. Other studies have shown that similar bacteria (*Salmonella*) from chickens are resistant to one of the most commonly used antibiotics, cipro-floxacin (of Anthrax fame).

The Sierra Club has joined with 11 other organizations in a Campaign to End Antibiotic Overuse (Keep Antibiotics Working, www.KeepAntibioticsWorking.com). This coalition of concerned health, consumer, environmental and agricultural groups will be working to reduce the overuse and misuse of antibiotics, especially in animal agriculture. The North Star Chapter has been selected by the Sierra Club to develop a pilot program to participate in the campaign. The overall plan is to develop educational and informational programs for consumers, livestock producers and retail marketers. If there is consumer demand for antibiotic-free products, markets will be obliged to offer a choice and seek antibiotic free producers.

To this end, several weeks ago, Heather Cusick (Chapter Conservation Director), Dean Rebuffoni and Jon Rosenblatt met in a preliminary organizational meeting to discuss the program and brainstorm about possible directions to pursue. This group is also seeking the participation of other interested members who should contact Heather at the chapter office (612/379-3853). There is a commitment for one additional fulltime staff person for this program and our chapter group will be meeting in several weeks with national and regional representatives from the Sierra Club to further formulate plans. We also hope to partner with other local coalition groups, such as the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), whose Dr. David Wallinga has extensive experience with this issue.

Please contact Heather Cusick or Jon Rosenblatt (507-282-7911, rosenblatt.jon@mayo.edu) for further information about this campaign.

Club Activists gear up for the political season - U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone (left) chats with Chapter Political Chair Ginny Yingling. Sen. Wellstone spoke to a group of 30 activists in training about threats to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the farm bill, and the 2002 political landscape. *Photo by Jill Walker.*



Victory! North Star Chapter Helps Protect Three Natural Areas

by Sharon Stephens
Sprawl and Land Use
Committee Chair

The North Star Chapter's Sprawl and Land Use Committee has recently won victories that allow three endangered green spaces to be taken off of its top ten list of endangered green spaces.

Spirit Mountain – The DNR recently announced that it has suspended agency action towards the conversion of an old growth forest located within the city limits of Duluth into a golf course and hotel proposed by city officials and developers. The Sierra Club worked closely with city council members, the DNR, and the media to show that the project did not have public support or approval by the majority of the council.

Patrick Eagan Park – The committee worked closely with the Save Patrick Eagan Park citizen group to save an endangered 150 plus acre park from development into a championship golf course. The Sierra Club was featured in two articles in the St. Paul Pioneer Press that stated the plan did not have public support and would destroy the natural features of the park. We also worked with DNR to advise the city that the project would involve substantial time and expense to overcome federal Land and Water Conservation Fund restrictions on the park's future use. We are now working with the Parks Commission, DNR and the Trust for Public Land to develop a comprehensive open space plan that would eventually double the amount of protected natural areas in Eagan with the Patrick Eagan Park at its heart.

Birch Island Woods – The committee worked closely with The Friends of Birch Island Wood to finalize the sale of endangered county woodland to the City of Eden Prairie. The Sierra Club was recognized before the City Council for its work in supporting local activists and protecting the woods and in advocating for Birch Island Woods' continued protection from development.

While we now will direct our resources towards saving other parks and natural areas threatened by development, these three victories will be short-lived as long as our communities are held hostage to sprawl. How can we continue to ensure that our parks and natural areas are safe from development, even though they are the public lands?

What You Can Do

1. Support the passage of the Public Land Right to Know Act, which provides 120 days notice to the public before the sale or change of use of public land that is undeveloped, green space, or parks. Mayors, City Council members, and Planning Commissions joined with Sierra Club to advocate for this bill and successfully passed this legislation through the Minnesota Senate's State and Local Government Committee.

After the legislative session, the Sierra Club, elected officials, the DNR and associations affiliated with cities, townships, and counties agreed to be a part of the Public Land Right to Know Task Force. Each has agreed to work on specific language on how to bring better notice to the public well before these projects are considered for approval. We will bring the bill back to the legislature for passage in 2003. Educate your legislator about the bill and let them know that you will expect them to support it when it comes before them next year.

2. Let your city council members, park commissioners, and planning officials know that you care about the decisions they make today that define how your community will look tomorrow. Attend planning commission meetings and get to know who is proposing to develop in your community. Ask, "Does this proposal make the best use of the land or does it continue the pattern of sprawl?"

3. Attend a Sprawl Buster and Endangered Green Space Workshop. This year we are teaming up with chapter's Legal Committee, elected officials and a staff member of Sierra Club's National Challenge to Sprawl Committee to share how you can successfully advocate for better land use choices in your community. More information about these workshops can found on the website in late March, and in the e-Sierran, the chapter's new e-mail newsletter update.

4. Contact Sharon Stephens, Sprawl and Land Use Committee chair, at 952/941-4719 for further information.

Through your involvement, we can make a difference — for our families, and for our future.

Minnesota Still Connected to Manitoba Hydro's Destructiveness

by Diane J. Peterson and
Steve Birchler

Last April, Sierra Club members demonstrated support for the Xcel Energy shareholder resolution outside the utility's front door [see photo]. That resolution demanded a change away from Xcel's relationship with Manitoba Hydro, which, for three decades, has been destroying the rivers and indigenous communities of northern Manitoba, particularly the Pimicikamak Cree Nation of Cross Lake, Manitoba. While Xcel keeps profiting along with Manitoba Hydro, ratepayers are tied into a distasteful collusion with an unacceptable energy source.

Concerned shareholders reintroduced their resolution this year to push Xcel into corporate responsibility. However, Xcel petitioned federal government regulators, arguing that it should not be compelled to put this resolution to a shareholder vote at its annual meeting on April 18. As of press time, the regulators had not yet ruled on this matter.

The North Star Chapter renewed its official support of the shareholder resolution by letter. Please send your own letter to Xcel. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Harmful Hydro Campaign at 612/379- 3853.

February 22, 2002

Mr. Wayne H. Brunetti
President and CEO
Xcel Energy
800 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2023

Dear Mr. Brunetti:

The North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club supports the shareholder resolution filed for the 2002 shareholder meeting about Xcel Energy's electricity purchases from Manitoba Hydro.

Manitoba Hydro asserts that the environmental, social and economic concerns of Pimicikamak Cree Nation [PCN] will be resolved in a timely manner. Xcel Energy has continued to depend on the assertions of Manitoba Hydro— your company's public comments to American media, elected officials, and at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission demonstrate this dependence.

But Pimicikamak Crees have recently told Minnesotans that a satisfactory resolution to their concerns is not happening—the treaty they signed with Manitoba Hydro 25 years ago has never been implemented. We support the Pimicikamak Crees goals of:

- Environmental Clean-up: Compel Manitoba Hydro and the Governments of Canada and Manitoba to clean up the environmental mess from existing hydro projects.
- Prevention of Further Harms: Prevent further destructive hydro developments that affect PCN territory (such developments are being proposed now).
- Cleaner Options: Encourage the development of cleaner alternatives, such as conservation, wind, biomass and solar energy sources.
- Human Rights: Ensure full respect for PCN human rights and aboriginal rights laws.

In response to this situation, I ask you to take all necessary steps now to ensure that Xcel Energy's electricity contracts, both present and future, will greatly reduce or end the adverse impacts experienced by Pimicikamak Cree Nation. We appreciate your willingness to visit PCN last summer to view the situation first hand.

We hope to focus on positive, solution-based ideas that will improve the lives of future generations in Manitoba, Minnesota and around the world.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Birchler
Harmful Hydro Campaign Coordinator

ENERGY SOURCING POLICY

WHEREAS Xcel Energy has been required by Minnesota state law to give preference to renewable resources in meeting its needs for new power supply (Statutes 216B.2422).

WHEREAS electric industry restructuring has led several states to establish mandatory standards for renewable energy content, and that less than 1% of Xcel's existing energy supply will qualify under the Renewable Energy Objectives established by 2001 Minnesota law (Statutes 216B.1691).

WHEREAS Xcel's 12 state service territory contains abundant biomass resources and the best wind energy potential in North America ("Repowering the Midwest", Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest, Chicago, 2001).

WHEREAS the Minnesota Department of Commerce reports that wind "is the fastest growing energy production method in the world, renewable or otherwise, having a overall growth rate in 1999 of 36%." (Energy, Policy & Conservation Report 2000, p. 57).

WHEREAS Xcel purchases electricity from Manitoba Hydro which accounts for approximately 4 percent of Xcel's 2000 energy portfolio (Xcel Energy Annual Report, 2000, p. 9).

WHEREAS Xcel regards Manitoba Hydro as a future energy option and is negotiating additional purchasing contracts.

WHEREAS hydropower can be a renewable source of energy, megaprojects such as those of Manitoba Hydro cause extensive ecological and social destruction, and do not qualify under the Renewable Energy Objectives and Portfolio Standards adopted in Minnesota and several other states.

WHEREAS the traditional lands and burial grounds of Pimicikamak Cree Nation and other indigenous peoples have been flooded or in other ways rendered inaccessible; means of livelihood have been damaged and food supplies poisoned as a result of Manitoba Hydro's power production.

WHEREAS Manitoba Hydro faces over 100 legal claims alleging adverse effects and claiming damages (Northern Flood Agreement Arbitrator's Office, Winnipeg, Canada), and a lawsuit seeking \$100 million in damages for contaminated drinking water (*Winnipeg Free Press*, 1/23/01).

WHEREAS concerns about the adverse environmental, socioeconomic and human rights impacts upon Pimicikamak Cree Nation and other indigenous peoples stemming from Manitoba Hydro's electricity production are being raised at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, in legislation filed in the Minnesota state legislature, by religious and political leaders, human rights and environmental organizations, the media and consumers.

WHEREAS a 1999 Canadian Interfaith Church Inquiry into northern hydro development concluded that the situation faced by the Pimicikamak Cree Nation and other indigenous peoples is an "ecological and moral catastrophe."

WHEREAS it is the opinion of the proponents of this resolution that Xcel's continued reliance on power purchases from Manitoba Hydro make our company increasingly vulnerable to charges of environmental racism, potentially costly litigation and a negative public image – all of which can jeopardize long-term shareholder value.

THEREFORE be it resolved that: The shareholders of Xcel Energy recommend to the board of directors that it develop and implement policies and practices requiring that our company obtain future power supplies from increased efficiencies and renewable resources that do not have undue adverse environmental, socioeconomic and human rights impacts upon Pimicikamak Cree Nation and other indigenous peoples.

Conservation is Conservative

by Dennis Sanders
Republicans for Environmental
Protection

I can already hear you say, "Yeah, right. You're the guys that want to rollback all of this nation's environmental laws. You just want to make money, while our water is poisoned, our air is polluted, and every tree is chopped down to build your precious strip malls. Conservation is Conservative? Give me a break."

I can understand your cynicism. There have been a lot of people who claim to be conservative and yet spoil on our earth. But you need to know that conservatives have a great tradition of caring for the environment. Take Teddy Roosevelt. As president he protected over 230 million acres of land from development, so that future Americans like us can enjoy our national treasures. Or what about Dwight Eisenhower, who set aside land in Alaska to create what became known as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge? And we can't forget Richard Nixon. Under his watch, some of our most important environmental legislation of this century, like the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act, became law. He also created the Environmental Protection Agency. If it wasn't for Nixon, then we might have lost our greatest national symbol, the bald eagle, to extinction. For these great conservatives, conservation was tied up with patriotism and love of country and the great natural resources we've been blessed with.

So now you ask, "Okay. So you had all these presidents who helped do some good. But what happened? How did you go from Teddy Roosevelt to James Watt?"

Good question. There has been a group of people who started to think that care for the environment was at odds with a growing economy. They also saw conservation as a liberal agenda and it didn't help that some in the environmental movement saw it that way too. So then you had people like Watt and Newt Gingrich who sought to rollback all of the great laws that were passed. It hurt the GOP so much that a survey of Republicans found that they no longer trusted fellow Republicans with care for the environment.

"So, it looks like the anti-conservationists won. What happened to the so-called green Republicans? Did they become Democrats?"

Heaven forbid! No, we decided to stand and fight. In 1995 three feisty Republican women formed a group called Republicans for Environmental Protection, or REP America. REP is a grassroots organization with members in 48 states. We work with elected officials and other environmental groups on many issues. This summer we worked with the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club on an ad urging Vice President Cheney to consider a clean energy policy using renewable resources such as wind. We publicly applaud GOP elected officials who are environmental leaders and we hold the feet to the fire of those who don't. You might say that we are the green conscience of the GOP, bringing it back to its conservation-minded roots.

You still look like you have a question. "So why do you say that conservation is conservative?" Oh yes, the motto that I started with. Well, to be a conservative means that we hold dear the values and traditions that have kept our society going, like the family or the church or the military. We believe that all these things allow for a society to be healthy and strong. A true conservative knows that a healthy ecosystem is important to a society as well. In fact, if the environment is damaged all the other values will be dysfunctional as well. If we mow down every forest and prairie for development, we contribute to urban sprawl, which translates into more auto traffic and longer commutes away from family and friends. If we rely solely on oil from a dangerous part of the world and not try to conserve it, we run the risk of having to send our sons and daughters out to protect needed supplies. And no conservative is worth their salt if they say they love God and yet destroy the world that God created. That's why conservation is conservative.

You seem to accept my argument. "Okay, so how do I find out more about REP?"

Well, you can go to our website (www.repamerica.org). You will find all you will need to know about us and our position on many issues. You can also get a copy of our newsletter, *The Green Elephant*. It's a valuable resource.

Republicans for Environmental Protection? Yes, Virginia, we do exist.

Dennis Sanders is Minnesota State Coordinator for Republicans for Environmental Protection. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the website at www.repamerica.org, or talk to Dennis directly at denminn_2000@yahoo.com.

Forestry Committee

Update on the Superior and Chippewa National Forests Management Plans

The previous 15 year Forest Master Plan is expired. The Chapter is participating in this process by making direct comments to the Forest Service and influencing public opinion. (The Club is supporting this effort via EPEC financing.)

The Chapter has a number of short and long-term goals in achieving forest protections. The Chapter is working to win support for the adoption of the Sierra Club's Alternative D in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests' Land Management Plans (Forest Plan). It is the goal of this campaign to be mobilized and prepared to assure public involvement in development of the Forest Plan and to provide substantial detailed comments within the administrative comment periods urging the adoption of Alternative D by the Forest Service. This Forest Plan will protect and restore fifty percent more acreage than under the current forest plan.

Alternative D would make a transition away from commercial logging towards restoration and recreational use of our national forests. It provides for increased natural variation in age classes and tree species diversity. In a direct success for the Sierra Club, the Forest Service agreed to consider Alternative D as one of seven Forest Plans to be considered. This management plan ties directly to the national campaign to End Commercial Logging on our federal public lands.

To achieve this goal the campaign will focus on public education, growing a network of volunteers to hold the Forest Service and elected officials accountable, and media and event coordination. We will work for strong coalitions with hunters, hikers, and birding groups, as well as other environmental advocacy organizations. The backbone of our efforts will be the creation of a network of experts and activists capable of providing review and analysis of the benefits of Alternative D.

An interim goal is to increase citizen participation and agency accountability through expansion of the Sierra Club North Star Chapter Forest Watch program. Appeal strategic timber sales in the Superior and Chippewa and reduce volume of timber sold by 5% through 2003 and to protect late-successional forests.

The long-term goal is to persuade the U.S. Forest Service to end commercial logging in Chippewa and Superior National Forests through forest protection, restoration, and increased recreation and other values.

In summary, we want the public to demand the return of the public forests for use for and by the public instead of managing for the use by forest extractive industries. U.S. Forest Service needs to select the Sierra Club's Alternative D "Natural Forest and Recreation Alternative" Forest Plan and enact ECL (end commercial logging).

The Forest Service has had many public comment meetings during the past couple years. The Chapter, Chapter membership, and Forestry Committee members have participated and made verbal and written comments during the meetings. As the Forest Service refines alternative plans, it has been conducting additional public comment meetings. It also solicits written comments. Please stay tuned for future Chapter announcements for when you can help again in the future. The Forestry Committee appreciates letter writing and participation from Chapter members who have already been helping in these activities.

Sierra Club Sues to Protect Wolves

Once again, debate rages in Minnesota over wolves. This time from an unexpected quarter, our only National Park.

Since 1992, Voyageurs National Park (VNP) has closed several bays in the park to snowmobile use, after research indicated snowmobile activity might cause wolves to avoid those areas. Wolves frequently use frozen lakes and bays, where the snow is wind-packed, to travel and chase down prey.

The courts briefly re-opened the bays in 1996, but the park superintendent closed them to ALL human activity while additional studies were done. In effect, the bays are considered open, unless posted closed. The long-awaited study was completed last year. Before the results were even made public, park managers decided not to close the bays.

The study is very inconclusive, but raises some serious concerns. For example, compared to wolves at Isle Royale National Park, where no motors are allowed, wolves at VNP show an aversion to using bay and shoreline areas.

It was difficult for the study to reach any definite conclusions because nine of the eleven radio-collared wolves that were tracked to determine pack behavior either died or

disappeared. While high levels of mortality are not uncommon within wolf populations, the loss of so many study subjects casts serious doubts on the interpretation of the data.

The study also examined stress hormone levels in the wolves blood. They found wolves at VNP have higher stress hormone levels than those at Isle Royale. Also, during one season when snowmobile use dropped significantly, the VNP wolf stress hormone levels dropped by approximately 30 percent. Many factors affect stress levels, but the researchers found it highly suggestive that snowmobile use may be affecting the wolves and said further study was needed.

The researchers also re-evaluated earlier aerial monitoring of snowmobile and wolf usage of the bays. They found no correlation between human and wolf usage of the bays during any single season, but they detected a long-term, negative correlation. They concluded snowmobile use may result in long-term avoidance of the bays by wolves.

All of the elements of the study resulted in either no clear conclusion or an indication that snowmobile use of the bays may have an adverse impact on wolves in the park. Still, the Park Service decided not to close the bays because no population level impacts were detected.

Our national parks should meet a higher standard than simply not allowing species to disappear. While providing for appropriate use by visitors, their main mission is to preserve the land and wildlife in as natural a condition as possible. With more than 110 miles of snowmobile trails in the park, the eleven bays in question are not needed. But closing the bays to human use may be needed to protect the wolves. Sierra Club has joined Voyageurs National Park Association and other environmental groups to sue the Park Service to close the bays in the next snowmobiling season. This becomes all the more imperative as the US Fish and Wildlife Service expects to initiate delisting of the wolf in 2003. If delisted, the state will take over wolf management under a plan that amounts to little more than an open season. Without any guarantees for the stability of the wolf populations outside the park, we shouldn't take any chances with the wolves inside the park.

What You Can Do

1. Write a letter to the editor expressing your opinion about the re-opening of the bays at Voyageurs National Park
2. Call Sens. Paul Wellstone and Mark Dayton and urge them to contact the U.S. Park Service regarding this issue.

Green Teen

by Liv Harder

Earth Day is coming up. The perfect opportunity to get involved! There are tons of events that are going on throughout the country as well as right here in Minnesota Earth Day in Minnesota is organized by one amazing teen. Everett Law is a junior in high school and he and the environment have both benefited a lot from his volunteer work. Everett was awarded the Dr. Joe Barbosa Award for Environmental Leadership and received a \$500 scholarship. Everett is just one example of what a teen can do to help the environment and make a difference. A few of the events that are going on in Minnesota that youth can participate in are:

Chanhassen: Earth Day Every Day- April 21

Minneapolis: Earth Day Operation's 4th Annual Conference and Event - April 18

St. Cloud: Earth Day Half Marathon - April 19 and April 20

St. Paul: Living Green Expo - April 27

You can also bike down to your local community center and sign up for some activities there. If they don't have any events going on then walk down to a local lake or park with some friends and pick up trash. Get a bunch of friends together and have fun. You can also get involved with organizations like the National Youth Leadership Council and Minneapolis Youth Council.

Earth Day began when the Secretary General signed the Earth Day Proclamation in 1971. This is the 31st Earth Day and it's still going strong.

When Earth Day comes, get out there and help make a difference. Let's get more teens involved!!!

Key Facts About Dirty Diesel Emissions from School Buses

by Paula Maccabee,
Sierra Club Air Toxics Campaign
Coordinator

Why is the Sierra Club working to reduce emissions from school bus diesel?

- Diesel contains 40 toxic chemicals and 15 substances identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as carcinogens. Diesel emissions cause cancer, asthma and lung disease.

- Federal regulators estimate that 125,000 cancer cases nationwide are due to diesel emissions. In Minnesota, asthma is the leading cause of school absenteeism.

- A recent Yale University study found that children inside school buses were exposed to from 5 to 15 times as much soot particle pollution as on nearby streets. Exposure was worse when buses were idling.

- The California School of Public Health calculated that diesel inside school buses exposes children to from 23 to 46 times the level of cancer risk deemed significant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- By preventing school bus idling, improving bus maintenance, and using cleaner fuels and technologies, we can markedly reduce the risks to Minnesota children caused by diesel fumes.

What can you do to help reduce dirty diesel?

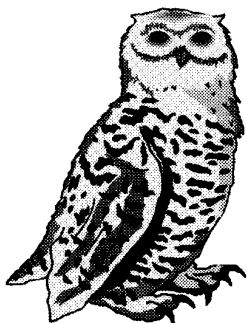
- Go to the Sierra Club North Star Chapter web site to learn more about the campaign to protect children from diesel emissions.

- Go to the Sierra Club's Student Zone <http://minnesota.sierraclub.org/studentzone.htm> to download a petition and start organizing in your school or your child's school.

- Contact Air Toxics Campaign organizer Michelle Rosier at 612/379-3853 or michelle.rosier@sierraclub.org to hold a learning session in your school, PTA or community group and begin to protect our children from diesel pollution.

Over 100 high school students came to the State Capitol on Feb. 21 campaigning to clean up dirty school bus diesel. Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe accepted petitions from over 950 students and teachers and Sen.

Sandy Pappas and representatives Geri Evans and Kathy Tinglestad shared concerns about protecting student health. Pictured here are (l. to r.) Alex Sauser-Monig, Rose Schwab, Cooper Sheehan, Nadia Maccabee, Anna Peschel, Sonia Hazard and Amir Nadav. *Photo by Jill Walker*



O.W.L.S.

(Older, Wiser, and Livelier Sierrans)

For more than a decade, a group of metro-area, retirement-age Sierrans has been getting together each month for weekday outings and occasional overnight trips. We hike, canoe, swim, ski, and snowshoe in season, but at a gentler pace than the usual Sierra outings, and with distance options geared to our varying physical abilities. Outings may include nature study or volunteer conservation activity, with a bag lunch, pot luck, or restaurant meal for added socialability.

We welcome your inquiry.

Call Ida Davies, (651)484-6404, for more information.

Membership Notes

Membership Notes

Chapter Executive Committee

The Chapter Executive Committee meets on the 4th Wed. of each month at 6:30 pm. Meetings are open to all club members. Meetings are held in the U-Tech Center, 1313 5th St. SE, Rm 320, Dinkytown, Mpls. For more information, contact Judy Chucker at 612/546-4429.

Chapter Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 p.m. the first Wed. of each month at the U-Tech Center. Look for signs at the entrance for meeting location, or come to the Sierra Club office, rm #323. This committee oversees and coordinates all of the chapter's issue work, including campaigns in urban sprawl and wolf protection. Attending a committee meeting is a good way to see the variety of activities underway. All are welcome. For further information call 612/379-3853.

Forestry Task Force

The task force meets the first Wed. of each month at 6 p.m., before the Conservation Committee meeting (see above for location). Agenda items should be submitted to Don Janes at 651/429-0016, or by e-mail to dljanes@yahoo.com.

Sprawl and Land Use Committee

Henceforth, the Urban Sprawl Task Force will be known as the Sprawl and Land Use Committee, and meetings will take place the first Wed. of the month at 6 pm at the U-Tech Center. Please call Chair Sharon Stephens at 952/941-4719 for details.

International Issues Committee

This committee supports campaigns on global warming, fair and green trade practices and others. Anyone with an interest in working on these or other international environmental issues is welcome. We have an e-mail member list and meet regularly to plan and educate ourselves. Meetings are the third Tues. of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the U-Tech Center. For information about the committee, contact Brett Smith at 612/920-9569 or e-mail smithb@macalester.edu. For details on the shade-grown coffee project, contact Rick Charboneau at 612/722-4942 or e-mail charb002@maroon.tc.umn.edu.

Air Toxics Activists Committee

The chapter is gearing up for major campaigns on cleaning up dirty coal plants, reducing persistent bioaccumulative toxins (like mercury and dioxin), and alerting schools and parents to the threats contained in diesel schoolbus exhaust. We now have two staffers working on this issue, Paula Maccabee and Michelle Rozier, but we need your volunteer energy to guide and implement this campaign. If are interested, contact acting Air Toxics Committee Chair Brett Smith at 612/920-9569 or e-mail to smithb@macalester.edu.

North Star Chapter Book Group

The book group meets at 7 p.m. the last Wed. of each month at the home of Gary Becker, 5201 Fremont Ave N., Minneapolis. For information about the book group and/or directions, call Gary at 612/522-5142 or Sue Lamoureux at 651/699-8961.

April 24

Teaching a Stone to Talk by Annie Dillard

May 29

Ecology of a Cracker Childhood by Janisse Ray

Twin Cities Group

The Twin Cities Group welcomes interested people in the Twin Cities area. Please come to their meetings if you are interested in environmental affairs, even if you have little knowledge of them. You will learn about the Sierra Club, and meet others who want to protect the environment.

General Meeting Information

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Location: U-Tech Center, 1313 5th St. SE, Rm 102B

According to our new format, the first twenty minutes of the meeting will be devoted to presentations from the North Star Chapter Director Scott Elkins, Chapter Conservation Committee Chair Clyde Olson, and representatives of chapter issue committees. Don't miss this opportunity to find out how the chapter is working to protect the environment and how you could plug into this effort!

In addition, at 6:30 p.m. before each meeting (at the same meeting room), we invite new members or old members to get information about the Sierra Club. Are you a new member who would like to understand the ins and outs of the Sierra Club organization from local to national, about committees to join, about a whole variety of volunteer jobs? Would you like to learn Sierra Club speak? Then come hear Scott Elkins, Chapter Executive Director extraordinaire, lead a discussion on these matters.

Wednesday, April 3

This program features Annette Odren, landscape architect. Her topic will be "Beautiful Sustainable Landscapes." Ms. Odren gave a bang-up presentation at Earth Day festivities last year. Don't miss this exciting program!

Wednesday, May 1

Please welcome Darby Nelson who will speak on "Porcupine Caribou Homeland." The 130,000 member Porcupine caribou herd is caught in the middle of the fight over oil and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). We know they go to ANWR's coastal plain to give birth, but where do they spend the rest of the year? In this slide show, we'll take a 700-mile wilderness canoe trip through the heart of their subarctic homeland to find out. Along the way we'll meet the Gwitch'n people and see how we "southerners," who may never personally visit the far north, leave footprints on this land.

As a longtime environmental activist, avid wilderness paddler, and college biology and environmental science teacher, Mr. Nelson has been creating and presenting slide show talks on environmental topics for years. Please come to this compelling program which deals with one of the pressing news stories of the day.

Wednesday, June 5

For this program we have Bruce Watson, consulting meteorologist, whose topic will be "Global Warming: Affects on Twin Cities Region." Dr. Watson has been engaged in weather research all of his life, and is Minnesota's foremost expert in climate and climatic change over the period of 1819 to the present.

ExCom News

At the February ExCom meeting, Bob Pollock was appointed chair of the Twin Cities Group Conservation Committee and Twin Cities Group representative to the Chapter ExCom, while Bruce Watson was appointed vice chair of the Twin Cities Group Conservation Committee. Ron Williams remains as chair of the Twin Cities Group ExCom, while Pat Dreese was appointed treasurer and vice chair of the same committee.

Volunteers Needed

Many of you would love to volunteer for the Sierra Club, but the thought of doing conservation work really turns you off. We have good news for you, since we now have volunteer activities which do not involve conservation work. One is to sell and organize others to sell Blue Sky Guides as a fund raiser for Twin Cities Group. If you sell at least 44 of these books at \$20 each, the group would get to keep \$8 (or 40%) from each book

sale. Consumers can learn how to protect our environment with Blue Sky Guide's educational tips, resources and lower-impact products and services.

The Twin Cities Group also needs someone to help with membership participation. In particular, we would like some people to call those who have attended our monthly meetings in the past and tell them about upcoming meetings. We would also like to have people help with arranging speakers for our monthly membership meetings. This could be done by one person or by a committee. We are looking for a program chair for 2003, so this would be a good time for people to get trained in this activity, a vital function for the group.

With regard to feedback on any of the above, please contact Ron Williams at 763/533-3065 or ronald.williams@usbank.com. Thanks!

Big River Group

Meetings take place at the St. Cloud Heritage Park Nature Center, 225 3rd Ave. S. the first Wednesday each month. Please call Kim Hellier, 320/259-1142, for further information.

Northern Lights Group

Please call Karen Johnson 218/525-0283, for further information on this group.

Wasioja Group (Rochester Area)

Please contact Jon Rosenblatt, 507/284-3050 for information on this group.

St. Croix Valley Interstate Group

Call Jim Blau at 651/430-8022 for the date and location of the next meeting, or with any other questions about the group. If you would like to be in contact with St. Croix Valley Interstate Group members via e-mail, contact Kathleen Vollmer at Kjvollmer@cs.com and you will be added to our list.

OUTINGS

For more information for the following outings, please call Basil Loney at 651/774-2640 (evenings).

April 6-7

Weekend canoe trip on a southern Minnesota or northern Iowa river. We will paddle about 20 miles and camp on the river.

April 20-21

Weekend canoeing on a southern Minnesota or Wisconsin river.

May 4-5

Join us on a 15-mile backpack along the bluffs and bottomlands of the St. Croix River Valley near Grantsburg, WI. Group cooking.

May 11-12

Enjoy getting to the BWCA early this year. We will paddle in the Ely district, and won't paddle too far in.

June 1-2

Sea kayaking on the Mississippi River above the Twin Cities. We will paddle about 20 miles and camp on the river.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415/977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Minnesota Inner City Outings (MN ICO) is a 100% volunteer outreach program of the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club that guides wilderness trips for inner-city children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to enjoy them. MN ICO provides predominantly low-income youth with an introduction to outdoor adventures including day hikes, backpacking, canoeing, camping, and skiing.

Upcoming Trips

April 6 - Mountain biking the River Bottoms

May 11 - Wildflower hike at Lake Maria

May 25-26 - Niagra Cave camping trip

June 25 - Outdoor Survival Skills

Recent Outing

Heated cabins, fresh snow, and lots of laughter made for a great overnight outing at Mille Lacs Kathio State Park.

Four leaders and eight children reached the park

Minnesota



around noon. After an afternoon playing capture the flag and running through the slush along the Rum River, the park's naturalist took time to tell our group about all of the wildlife that called the park home. After that, we played games, made s'mores, and went "snipe hunting" before dragging our weary, cold bodies into bed.

The next morning, we awoke to 4 inches of fresh snow and more coming down hard and fast. After getting the kids fitted into boots and skis, we headed for the trails. The fresh snow made the falls along the way a little easier to manage, and we were rosy-cheeked and happy before leaving for home.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, contact Catherine Baumgartner at seetheworld@hotmail.com. To donate equipment or make a financial contribution, please contact J.C. Grogan at emailjc@rnc.net. Visit our website at <http://www.mn-ico.org>

Chapter Welcomes New Staff Members

Welcome aboard new national staff member, Joshua Davis. Joshua started March 11th as the Environmental Public Education Campaign (EPEC) Forestry Organizer. He joins the Sierra Club North Star Chapter with a great deal of community organizing experience and a Masters of Arts in the Urban Environmental Policy and Planning program from Tufts University. In addition to working with the campaign to stop the building of Highway 55, he brings with him experience in neighborhood organizing and working with the Toxics Action Center.

Grassroots Organizer, Michelle Rosier, joined the national Sierra Club Toxics campaign in December of 2001. Michelle is responsible for building the grassroots base and leadership within the Sierra Club Toxics Program

in Minnesota. Michelle brings several years of experience as a student organizer; former Board chair of the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG); and, Youth Vote organizer, a program designed to get the younger generation to the polls.

Praise and very funny stories flowed wildly at the fifteen-year anniversary party for Vicki Munson. Vicki has been the voice of the chapter for fifteen years. Chances are very good that if you have visited the Chapter to volunteer or have called the chapter to discuss your membership file, you have talked with Vicki Munson. She is the longest serving member of the North Star Chapter staff. Congratulations Vic!

Vicki Munson celebrated her 15th anniversary at Sierra Club in February. Congratulations, Vic, and thank you!
Photo by Keith Bellairs.



Volunteer Column

by Heather Cusick

Thank You Volunteers!

Dozens of Sierra Club volunteers have been running in and out of the office pulling off the logistics of several events. On top of thanking people for taking the time out of the day to write a letter, contact a legislator, or participate in a public hearing, we want to thank the volunteers who worked quietly behind the scenes to make events over the last couple of months very successful.

Thanks go out to all the folks that helped organize the Political Training held February. Thanks go to Ginny Y., Sam G., Evan S., Ken R., Michelle L., Kellie D, Nikki W., Greg W., Melissa B, Don Q., Alex E., Corbin K., and, Jon S. (especially for helping to clean up after the event)

Thanks to everyone who helped organize the Clean Energy Rally. Thanks go to Matt J., Sarah M., Jordan Y., Hilary W., Jessica S., Kellie D., Melissa B., Nikki W., Greg W., Sam G., Clyde H., Jill W., Elizabeth D., Jenny T., and, Liz M. for several days of phonecalling, sending out press releases, and finding out just where to get the permit for Peavey Plaza.

There were a lot of folks who put together Vicki's fifteen year anniversary party including Sharon S., Jill W., Michael S., Judy B., Keith B., and Judy C. It is not easy to keep a secret from Vicki, so special thanks for pulling one over on her.

With the increased conservation work has come the increase in office activity. Special thanks go to Brenda A. for helping with cleaning up some pretty messy files and Joan A. for entering lots of legislative contact information.

A huge thank you and WOW to high school students Nadia, Amir, Josh, and Sonia for their awesome testimony on school bus diesel and their outstanding organizing efforts for the School Bus Diesel rally at the capitol.

Thank you to Air Toxics's volunteer, Elizabeth Dickinson for the great media training update.

Volunteers Needed!

Air Toxics Committee (chapter-wide opportunity): The North Star Chapter, working in collaboration with the Sierra Club's Midwest Office, is establishing a committee to work on clean air issues. Volunteers are needed to get in on the ground floor of this exciting opportunity. You'll learn lots of new information about clean air issues, meet other committed activists, work with knowledgeable and committed Sierra Club staff members, and work as a team to develop and implement a campaign plan that will help to clean up the air we breathe! To get involved, or just learn more, contact interim air toxics committee chair, Brett Smith, at 612-920-9569 or smithb@macalester.edu.

Forestry (chapter-wide opportunity): The U.S Forest Service is revising the Management Plans for Chippewa and Superior National Forests. If you are interested in long term protection of our forests we invite you to attend our forestry committee meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (for meeting details, see page 10). We need scientists, economists, community leaders, activists, and students to make a strong case to adopt the best management plans. Please join us February 6 for our next meeting or contact Don Janes, chair of our Forestry Committee, at 651/429-0016.

We're also looking for volunteers who will help our education and outreach efforts on Minnesota forestry issues. This may include: helping with mailings and calling members and other volunteers; organizing and staffing a Sierra Club booth at events; coordinating and leading outdoor activities; and/or adopting a public forest site for monitoring timber sales and other activities. Training and assistance is provided at all levels of involvement. Please contact our forestry organizer at 612-379-3853.

Sprawl Activists (chapter-wide opportunity): Our sprawl committee is really taking off, with a lot of energy and great ideas for making our urban spaces more livable and protecting ecologically valuable green spaces at the same time. We currently have active sub-committees in policy, education/outdoor activities, and a rapid response team. Interested in getting more involved? Contact our sprawl committee chair, Sharon Stephens, at 952-941-4719 or ssteph2659@email.msn.com

International Issues Committee (chapter-wide opportunity): Volunteers are needed to help plan and carry out chapter activities responding to the impacts of globalization on the environment, including responsible trade, protection of the human rights of those

who stand up for their environment, the devastating effects of megahydro projects and the import of their electricity into the U.S., global climate change, population and consumption, and shade-grown coffee. Contact Brett Smith at 612-920-9569 or smithb@macalester.edu .

Workplace Giving Liaisons (chapter-wide opportunity): The Sierra Club Foundation, which supports the educational work of the North Star Chapter, is a proud member of the Minnesota Environmental Fund—the workplace giving program for the environment. If you are interested in signing up your workplace for the Environmental Fund, contact Scott Elkins at 612-379-3853 or scott.elkins@sierraclub.org.

Newsletter Editor and Layout (metro-area opportunity): After many years of dedicated service both the editor and the layout person for the North Star Journal are ready to pass the baton. If you have experience in either of these areas and are interested in contributing your talents to the Sierra Club, please contact Scott Elkins at 612-379-3853 or scott.elkins@sierraclub.org.

Got E-Mail?

Over the coming year, more of the Chapter’s communications will be electronic. But, we need your help; we need your e-mail address. Make a Difference! Be an activist! Join the Sierran Activist Network at <http://northstar.sierraclubaction.org/>

Yes I'd Like to Volunteer for the Sierra Club!

I will (please check all that apply):

- Make phone calls Write letters
- Do public/media outreach
- Write articles/do promotion
- Call/meet with my representative
- Do database management
- Staff booths/do tabling
- Attend rallies/town meetings
- Do mailings
- Lead outings Plan events
- Participate in trail clearings/cleanup
- Work on issue(s) Fundraising
- Legislative/Lobbying

Date: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Items that interest me:

- Forestry/White Pines Urban Sprawl
- BWCAW/Voyageurs Energy
- Global Climate Change Clean Air
- Wildlife Clean Water
- Feedlots Population Toxic 12 Campaign

Additional comments/areas of interest:

This form may be printed out, filled out, and sent to:

Sierra Club North Star Chapter, Volunteer Activist Network, 1313 5th St. SE, #323, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Calendar

April

3	Wed	Chapter Conservation Committee Meeting	17
		Forestry Task Force Meeting	17
		Twin Cities Group and ExCom Meeting	18
		Big River Group Meeting	18
		Sprawl and Land Use Committee Meeting	17
16	Tue	International Issues Committee Meeting	17
22	Mon	EARTH DAY	3
24	Wed	Chapter ExCom Meeting	17
		Chapter Book Group Meeting	17

May

1	Wed	NORTH STAR JOURNAL DEADLINE FOR JUNE/JULY ISSUE	
		Chapter Conservation Committee Meeting	17
		Forestry Task Force Meeting	17
		Twin Cities Group and ExCom Meeting	18
		Big River Group Meeting	18
		Sprawl and Land Use Committee Meeting	17
21	Tue	International Issues Committee Meeting	17
22	Wed	Chapter ExCom Meeting	17
29	Wed	Chapter Book Group Meeting	17

June

5	Wed	Chapter Conservation Committee Meeting	17
		Forestry Task Force Meeting	17
		Twin Cities Group and ExCom Meeting	18
		Big River Group Meeting	18
		Sprawl and Land Use Committee Meeting	17

Buy Shade-Grown Coffee and Support the Sierra Club!

Drink Shade-Grown Coffee



Now you can buy shade-grown coffee and support the North Star Chapter's conservation work, too. Grown organically and bought from fair-trade co-ops in the country of origin, the coffee beans are roasted in here in Minnesota and shipped to buyers hours later. The whole beans come in 12 oz. bags and remain fresh up to three months. Available caffeinated in dark or medium roast, or in French roast decaf, for \$8.50/bag. Shipping costs \$4 up to 2 bags; \$1.10 each bag thereafter. Please make your check payable to the Sierra Club, and send your order to:

Rick Charboneau
4452 17th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407

For more information, please call Rick at 612/722-4942.

Thanks for voting for the environment with your coffee dollars!