



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group
MARCH 2017

"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home." - Gary Snyder

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 at 7 p.m.
Member Meeting & Board Elections
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE STARTS TODAY!
with UWL Students for Sustainability
Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House
(8th & Main, La Crosse)

How well we confront and solve major environmental challenges today will affect all of us tomorrow, but the consequences are especially important for young people.

UWL Students for Sustainability is working to create solutions for environmental problems locally and nationally with grassroots power, strategic organizing, and a whole lot of sass.

Join us in learning more about how we can work together to protect our environment and our future.

"Exercising my 'reasoned judgment,' I have no doubt that the right to a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society." -U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken's November 2016 decision granting standing to 21 young people, ages 9 through 20 and allowing their constitutional climate lawsuit against the U.S government to go to trial.

Climate Action Fair - March 4

The Coulee Region Climate Alliance will host its second annual **CLIMATE ACTION FAIR** on Saturday, March 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, (Main Street and Losey Boulevard). In addition to representatives from local groups, including the Sierra Club, and tables full of information, this year there will be short workshop/presentation sessions, where local people with experience in taking climate-friendly actions will share how YOU can make a difference too!

Check the blog (tinyurl.com/crcalliance) or the Facebook event (tinyurl.com/crca2017) for a schedule of these sessions and more details on the event. And, there will be door prizes plus snacks and beverages.

Open to all! Donations to help cover costs accepted.



Connect with us online!

We're communicating online as much as possible. **If you prefer to receive mailed paper newsletters** (published in March, June, September and December), **please contact Pat** at 608 788 8831 or pbwilson@centurytel.net, otherwise please send him your email address! Subscribe to CR-Sierra.blogspot.com and receive updates as they are published, including monthly online newsletters. Follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/CRSierraClub) and on Twitter: @CRSierraClub



COULEE REGION GROUP SIERRA CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS BALLOT

There are three open board seats. Vote for up to three candidates. Feel free to write in candidate(s) if you wish. Mail the ballot by March 20 to **Barb Frank, 1965 Valley Road, La Crosse 54601** OR vote at the March 28 meeting.

- Nancy Hartje
- Bill Katra
- Avery Van Gaard

- _____
- _____



Let's Connect!

The Coulee Region group covers a lot of territory and includes members in all corners of the seven counties. We want to make sure every member has a chance to participate - in leadership (group, state, and national), committees, events, and more.

You can help the Coulee Region Sierra Club grow and maintain a strong voice for the environment in our region and state. Email CRSierraClub@gmail.com.

Reporters/Bloggers - we need to know what's happening! Can you report from your area? What events would members be interested in, what issues are people facing, what actions could benefit from more members' attention? Please email articles, announcements, photos, ideas, etc. If you'd like to write a regular monthly report for the newsletter, note that in the email. If you'd like to blog at CRSierra.blogspot.com, note that in your email.

Tablers - there are many events around the area where we could set up a display and talk to potential new members if we had more people to do it! We have the display and materials. We need folks who'd help set up, sit at, and take down the display at local events. Email if interested.

Board member/Club needs - Run for the board, head a committee, help set up events, work on programs and activities, or organize members in your area, Email to volunteer or with your ideas.

Issues chairs - The John Muir (Wisconsin) Chapter has five current conservation priorities: Mining, Protecting Native Forests & Wildlife, Protecting Water Resources, Moving from Coal to Clean Energy, and Moving Beyond Oil to Clean Transportation. The Coulee Region group has been concentrating on Clean Energy and Clean Transportation, but if any of these topics is dear to you, please volunteer for a state wide issues team by contacting Elizabeth Ward at (608) 256-0565 or (elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org).

Executive Committee - The Coulee Region group currently does not have a member on the state (John Muir Chapter) executive board. That board meets monthly, often online, sometimes in the Madison area, to help guide priorities for state actions.

Welcome, New Members!

The Coulee Region Group welcomed 46 new members in January!

Collin Belby, Joyce Hagmann, Tom Larson, James R Parker, Jacob Sciammas, Susan Thompson, Christopher & Krista Huiras - [La Crosse](#); Philothea Bezin, Amy Crofts, R Jackson & K M Sullivan, D Romary & A Schneeberg - [Viroqua](#); Staci Strobl, Spencer Olds - [Platteville](#); Steve & Linda Hayes - [Onalaska](#); Steve Hodge, Carol Kramer, Mike Meyer - [Richland Center](#); Margaret Rewald, Paula Voskuil - [Black River Falls](#); Kaitlin Earley, Steven Kelly - [Holmen](#); Ann Werner - [Sparta](#); Joyce Stenner - [Prairie du Chien](#); Kjerstin A Lang - [La Farge](#); Shanna Jensen - [Westby](#); Tom Crabtree, Mark Tiller- [Blue River](#); Paul Owecke - [Trempealeau](#); Bonnie Kindschy - [Whitehall](#); S Drobnick - [Boscobel](#); Michelle Glandt - [Bangor](#); Robert & Marcia Hardie - [Taylor](#); Forest Jahnke-Pestcoe - [Gays Mills](#); Kathy Jaszewski - [Arcadia](#); George Kreuzer - [Stoddard](#); Roger Kvamme - [Tomah](#); Paul Manter, Vicki & Richard Miller - [West Salem](#); Dan Sebranek - [Coon Valley](#); Josey Yutzky - [Hillsboro](#).

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

Email us at CRSierraClub@gmail.com

DNR Tree & Shrub Sale

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources sells tree and shrub seedlings to all Wisconsin landowners regardless of residence. Trees must be planted in Wisconsin and used only for conservation purposes such as forest products, wildlife habitat and erosion control. State nursery stock may not be resold, used for ornamental, decorative or landscaping purposes or Christmas tree production.

The minimum order is one packet*, 500 shrubs, or 1000 trees. Tree and shrub seedlings must be ordered in increments of 100 of each species. Call 715-424-3700 or email carey.skerven@wisconsin.gov with questions. More info: tinyurl.com/witrees

Order by printing/completing the order form (tinyurl.com/witreeord) and mailing it with check for FULL PAYMENT. Sale continues until all stock sold.

*A packet consists of 300 seedlings of the landowner's own choice of any combination of conifers, hardwoods or wildlife shrubs, in increments of 100 of each species.





Hundreds of Wisconsin citizens packed the state capitol Feb. 8 for the first ever **Citizens' Water Lobby Day**. Hosted by the Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network, the event helped citizens

share their concerns about water issues with legislators.

Coulee Region Sierra Club members and others met with La Crosse area Representatives Jill Billings and Steve Doyle who came to greet them even though the Assembly was in session. Their staffers joined Sen. Jennifer Shilling's staff member to note constituent concerns and discuss next steps. Look for water-centered listening sessions in at least part of the Coulee Region group's territory this spring.

Earlier, a small contingent of CRSC members had less success trying to visit with Rep. Lee Nerison (R-96).

Nerison's aide arrived 10 minutes late (for a previously confirmed 20 minute meeting) and brought a police officer with her. She refused to open the office and insisted that the group meet in the cramped hallway. When constituents insisted on finding a more suitable location, she agreed to meet in an empty hearing room nearby.

Rep. Nerison's aide took no notes as citizens voiced their concerns. The meeting ended abruptly when a constituent asked her to work on scheduling at least one in-district open to the public listening session where Rep. Nerison himself would attend and talk with voters. She responded that it was unfair to demand an answer on the spot and she left the room. Constituents noted that Nerison has never held an in-district, open to the public listening session. He did not attend this meeting.

Whether or not you were able to attend the Citizens' Water Lobby Day, consider contacting your Representatives in person (best), by phone (good), or by email (less effective but better than nothing) about your own water concerns including accessing public water ways, high capacity wells, Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs), increasing flooding, oil trails, phosphorous contamination, bluegreen algae, and more.

Speak up for our Environment!

The **Conservation Congress** is the citizen-advisory body to the Natural Resources Board, which advises the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It offers policy suggestions on bag limits, hunting rules, and other issues that impact our natural resources and advises on the process of making permitting decisions and legislation that should be supported. At annual Conservation Congress Spring Hearings, delegates get feedback from attendees who are also able to introduce resolutions for consideration at the following year's Hearings.



This year's Spring Hearing, one in every Wisconsin county, will be held on **April 10 at 7:00 pm**. Locations for each county's meeting are shown here: tinyurl.com/wiccspgloc

There are a number of very important issues on the agenda this year including questions about our water policy, the DNR permitting process, state parking funding and more. There are also questions about a moratorium on frac-sand mining permits and repealing the Bad River Destruction Act.

You can show up and fill out the questionnaire and leave. If you stay, there will be an opportunity to stand and speak to support or oppose any of the questions. You also have the opportunity to vote for a delegate for your county to serve on the Conservation Congress. You must bring your ID to show you are a resident of that county if you want to vote for delegates for your county.

The Sierra Club is looking for people willing to speak for one or more of the important resolutions in each county.

We are also looking for someone in each county to introduce a resolution opposing the repeal of Wisconsin's Mining Moratorium. **Can you help?**

Please visit tinyurl.com/wiccspghrng to RSVP and to sign up to speak at this important event.

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 Coulee Region Sierra Club, 620 S 23rd Street,
 La Crosse, WI 54601



Coulee Region Sierra Club
Maureen Kinney
620 South 23rd Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

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DATES TO REMEMBER!

- Thur., Mar .2** - FILM: The Age of Consequences (online tickets only: tinyurl.com/laxageoc)
- Sat., Mar. 4** - Blue River Sand Barrens Work Day (Grant County) tinyurl.com/brsbwork
- Sat., Mar. 4** - Bike Swap at Logan Middle School, La Crosse 10 a.m.
- Sat., Mar. 4** - Coulee Region Climate Alliance 2nd Annual Climate Action Fair 1 pm Congregational Church
- Sat., Mar. 4** - Spence School Garden Fundraiser Pearl Street Brewery 1401 St. Andrew St. 4 to 6 pm
- Mon, Mar. 6** - Restoring Backyard Habitats - Brewer Library (Richland Center) tinyurl.com/bybtrfly
- Sat, Mar. 25** - La Crosse Mayor's Conference - 8:30 am - 3 pm (www.cityoflacrosse.org/planning/mayorsexpo)
- Tues., Mar. 28** - Coulee Region Sierra Club meeting (board elections) 7 pm, Ho-Chunk House, 8th & Main
- Weds., Mar. 29** - Conservation Lobby Day (Madison) tinyurl.com/wiconslobby
- Mon., Apr. 10** - DNR Conservation Congress meetings (<http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>)

Highway Clean Up

The spring highway cleanup on the Coulee Group's adopted highway - River Valley Drive in the La Crosse River marsh - will be on **Saturday, April 29, starting at 10 a.m.** This will be part of the Earth Fair marsh clean up day and will include **free lunch at Myrick Park afterwards.** Meet at the city water well building at the intersection of County Highway B (Gillette Street) and River Valley Drive. Wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Safety vests and bags are provided.

Our summer clean up will be on Tues., July 18 at 6 p.m. followed by a trip to Rudy's Drive In.

For more info, contact Pat or Bobbie at 608 788-8831 or pbwilson@centurytel.net.



More environmental challenges

Major changes to environmental management, monitoring and enforcement are under way. Call your representatives to voice your opinions. Find contact info here: legis.wisconsin.gov/About/Contact

Comment by February 27 on a DNR plan to increase northern forest timber cutting. tinyurl.com/wiforestcuts

Republicans hope to loosen **requirements governing high capacity wells.** More: tinyurl.com/wihcwells

Comment by March 3 on DNR plans to loosen dredging rules on inland lakes. More: tinyurl.com/widrdg

Republicans plan to repeal Wisconsin's landmark **mining moratorium.** More: tinyurl.com/wiminingmor

Attend **CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY, March 29** in Madison. More: tinyurl.com/wiconslobby