



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

SEPTEMBER 2016

*"Climate change will cost millennials more than student debt or the Great Recession." - NextGen Climate report*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 - 7 p.m.\***

**Member Meeting & Program**

**"Get on board the solar train" with Michael Vickerman, RENEW Wisconsin**

**Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House**  
(8th & Main, La Crosse)

The program will focus on solar energy's journey from a boutique energy source to the preeminent source for new electric generation in most states. Despite a less than robust policy framework in Wisconsin, solar generation has exploded here on rooftops, brownfields and farmland. We entered the year with about 25 megawatts of solar generation online, and we'll likely finish the year doubling that capacity. Southwest Wisconsin has turned

into a strong regional center for solar with large arrays serving Xcel (not yet built), Vernon Electric Co-op, Scenic Rivers Co-op, and Oakdale Electric. Vickerman will discuss customer-sited solar for businesses and residences, shared solar (Xcel Solar Connect), and utility solar (Dairyland's projects). **(\*Board will meet at 6 p.m. - open to all members)**

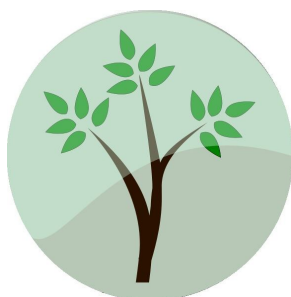


## Enviro-Education Grants

The Coulee Region Sierra Club is offering **grants of \$50 to \$200 for environmental education projects** involving young people at the elementary and middle school level.

In keeping with the Sierra Club's purpose of exploring, protecting, and enjoying our environment, teachers and leaders in all areas of study, as well as youth group advisors, are invited to involve tomorrow's decision makers in making their world a better place in some small way.

Projects (to be completed during the 2016-2017 school year) should provide hands-on experience for students to learn about and explore our environment, promote a world in which all life forms can live and prosper, and show students that they can make a difference in their environment.



The application will be available after September 15 at our website (<http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/coulee>) and blog site ([cr-sierra.blogspot.com](http://cr-sierra.blogspot.com)). **The deadline will be December 31.**

Please spread the word about this opportunity!

## Get your 2017 calendars

Sierra Club 2017 calendars, our group's primary fundraiser, are now available. These beautiful calendars (wall = \$13.95/desk = \$14.95) feature photos worth framing. Get your calendar at our September meeting, or, order from Maureen Kinney: 784-9324/784-5678 or [maureen@johnsflaherty.com](mailto:maureen@johnsflaherty.com)



**October 7-9, 2016**

**Bethel Horizons Camp & Retreat Center, Dodgeville**

The Wisconsin Sierra Club Autumn Assembly is a fun event featuring indoor and outdoor environmental activities for Sierra Club leaders and volunteers or those who wish to get more involved. Autumn Assembly 2016 will focus on campaign planning, communications and other activism skills with an eye toward building a stronger, more effective club. In addition to the hands-on workshops, we'll celebrate some inspirational activists at the annual Awards dinner. Register for the whole weekend or just the Saturday sessions. More details at [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/optional-outings-autumn-assembly](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/optional-outings-autumn-assembly).



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**DATES TO REMEMBER!**

- Saturday, September 10 - Kickapoo Canoe/Kayak Outing
- Tuesday, September 27 - Sierra Club Meeting at 7 pm (board at 6)
- Tuesday, October 4 - Highway Clean up
- October 5 - La Crosse Area Transportation Forum
- October 7-9 - John Muir Chapter Autumn Assembly
- Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Election Day (you can early vote! Check myvote.wi.gov)



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Read why that's great at  
[cr-sierra.blogspot.com](http://cr-sierra.blogspot.com)

## Highway Clean Up

Seven Coulee Region Group members cleaned up River Valley Drive on Tuesday, July 5. Thanks to those who participated! Our **next clean up will be on Tuesday, Oct. 4 from 5:30 to about 7:00 p.m.** Meet at the city water well building at the intersection of Highway B (Gillette Street) and River Valley Drive. Wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Safety vests and bags provided. For more information, please contact Pat or Bobbie Wilson, 608 788 8831 or pbwilson@centurytel.net.

## Canoe/Kayak Outing

On Saturday, Sept. 10, paddle through the sandstone cliffs of the Kickapoo Valley in the heart of the driftless area. We'll also discuss the history of the Corps of Engineers Dam Project that was halted on this river with help from Sierra Club and other local efforts. Quiet water, with lots of turns and the ever-present possibility a downed tree. Contact Meg Nelson - prairiesmoke2@gmail.com or Carol Olson - olsonfam44@centurytel.net



## Transportation Forum

Please join us at a La Crosse Area Transportation Forum on **Wednesday, October 5 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Southside Neighborhood Center, 1300 South 6th Street.** Information about transportation options in our area will be available. In addition, we'll discuss issues of transportation equity: how our transportation dollars - federal, state and local - are spent and how spending decisions affect different communities in our area. This is part of a statewide Sierra Club effort to address transportation planning and funding issues and empower people to advocate for more equitable and sustainable solutions.

## State Council

### Representative Wanted

We are seeking a Coulee Region Sierra Club member to represent our group at the John Muir Chapter state council. The council meets every other month, sometimes online, to discuss national and state plans and programs. If interested, email pbwilson@centurytel.net.

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