



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

JANUARY 2016

When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe. - John Muir

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday,
January 26
7 pm
Ho-Chunk
Three Rivers House
(8th & Main)

As noted in previous newsletters and at club meetings, our club is on the edge of change. We have asked for input from members with the understanding that our current leadership team, who have been in office five to 13 years, is looking for some new blood.

Rather than having our usual speaker, **our first meeting in 2016 will be a brainstorming session.** We can discuss options and possibly find some focus – perhaps concentrate on one or two issues over the next year. In addition, we would like to continue to participate in the Community Advisory Group for the DOT's La Crosse Transportation study and endorse candidates for upcoming elections in 2016.

Unless we hear from members concerning leadership, the Executive Committee has decided to go to quarterly meetings. Therefore, our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 29. We'll continue to organize the road clean-up three times a year. In addition, we would like to keep in touch via email updates so if you have not previously provided your address, please do so!

We need you! Please attend the next meeting or contact me (mjpedretti@yahoo.com) with your thoughts or complete this survey by January 24: <http://tinyurl.com/crsc2016survey>

Last month ...

Good friends and kindred spirits gathered at Barb and Don Frank's home for our annual Holiday Party. Mild temperatures in the 50s and green lawns made it a most unusual mid December, and while none of us missed icy roads and all that snow shoveling, cross country skiers and climate change believers especially worried about the very atypical weather.

Still, once we got past the lamentations about that and what's happening in Madison and Washington, a good time was had by all. Lots of good food and great conversation. If you missed it we hope you'll join us next year.

And speaking of next year, let's all commit to getting more involved in environmental issues -- sand mining, local transportation corridors, clean water (contaminated wells, EPA regulations being challenged here, mining impacts, mercury, blue green algae, etc.), and of course, electoral politics whose outcomes have such a bearing on what happens to the environment. Remember we are a grassroots organization—that means we all have a responsibility to do what we can to make this a better place, a healthier, more caring environment. We can make a difference!

Best wishes in 2016,

Barb Frank



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Big changes coming to Coulee Region Sierra Club. Please see inside!

TAKE ACTION!

Excerpted from www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/blog/2016/01/resolve-stand-your-rights-clean-air-and-water-2016

The **Wisconsin state legislature** has fast-tracked two bills that will give more control over water and land use to businesses, developers, and corporations. The bills will come up for votes early in January. Please contact your legislators now to protect our environment.

AB582/SB464: This legislation undermines the ability of cities, towns, and counties to protect the rights of local land owners against the desires of a company to develop property and pollute the water and air around it. Local control, transparency, reporting requirements, and the ability of governments to regulate development will be severely curtailed.

AB600/SB459: Helen Sarakinos with the River Alliance of Wisconsin referred to this as, "a full-out attack on water protection." The bill would give public land to private property owners, remove permitting requirements, remove special protections from public waters and wetlands, and shift power from scientists to political appointees.

Climate change film series

The First Congregational Church (2503 Main Street, La Crosse) will host screenings of three episodes of the Emmy award winning climate change documentary series **Years of Living Dangerously** in January. The programs, free and open to the public, begin at 3 p.m. in the lower level of the church. A facilitated discussion will follow. Details at <http://couleeregionclimatealliance.blogspot.com>

January 10 - **Episode 4: Ice & Brimstone** - the effects of global warming in the Arctic.

January 17 - **Episode 5: True Colors** - climate change and state politics.

January 24 - **Episode 6: Winds of Change** - climate change deniers and is natural gas clean?

Support clean power plan

Join the National Sierra Club's effort to lobby the EPA to support a strong and just Clean Power Plan that moves us closer to meeting our climate commitments. More details at <http://sierraclub.org/take-action>