



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group
JUNE 2016

"[W]hat are you waiting for? ... The time has come to take action commensurate with the scale of the problem." - Bill McKibben

**NEXT MEETING
POTLUCK! 6 pm
Tuesday, June 28
at Rick & Julia's:
3703 Brook Lane
ONALASKA**

Join Sierra Club friends for food and fun on June 28 at Rick and Julia's. From La Crosse, drive north past Menards on Hwy 53. Turn right on OT and left (north) onto Sand Lake Rd. Just past Coulee Life Church (on left) turn right onto Hanson Rd and immediately right again onto Brook Ln. Look for two story white house at end of cul-de-sac. Park on the driveway.

Please bring a dish to pass and plan to relax on the deck with good conversation and some birdwatching. Some wine, tea, and soda will be provided. Please bring a guest! If you can, **RSVP (RandJ2010@charter.net)** to help with food and seating. Call 608 783-7778 with questions. Ride sharing is always encouraged.

Recap of Spring events

This spring the CR group co-sponsored a film series, Years of Living Dangerously, hosted by the First Congregational Church.

On March 5, The CR group had a table at the Climate Action Fair hosted by Coulee Region Climate Alliance.

At our March meeting, guests Mayor Tim Kabat and Professors Chuck Lee and James Longhurst discussed transportation planning and issues in the La Crosse area. We elected a new board.

The new CR board elected Pat Wilson chair, Maureen Kinney vice-chair, Cathy Van Maren secretary, Danny Foote treasurer, and George Nygaard chapter representative. Other members: Bill Katra, Avery Van Gaard

For Earth Day, CR group volunteers collected 25 bags of garbage from River Valley Drive and staffed a table at the Earth Fair.



On May 9 & 10, the CR group participated in a press conference and Rally to Ban Frac Sand Mining and Address Climate Change at the La Crosse Center.

Communication update

We're moving from paper to online only newsletters to save resources, time, and money. This year we will mail paper copies of the June, September and December newsletter only to people for whom we have no email address or who have requested no email from Sierra Club.

ONLINE newsletters are published on about the 10th of each month (Jan. - Dec.) and may be viewed at either of the websites noted below. If we have your email address, we will email a reminder and link when new newsletters are available online.

For news about outings and club activities, visit our website: www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/coulee

For up to date news about local, regional, state, national and international environmental issues and events of interest to club members, please go to the blog at cr-sierra.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog to get new posts automatically emailed to you.

If you've received this newsletter on paper but not by email, please send your email address and your permission to use it to pbwilson@centurytel.net before the end of the year.

If you must get a paper newsletter because you do not have access to the internet, please call Cathy at 608-315-2693.

Sierra deeper (more details in the online only third page)

Blufflands Master Plan

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee has published the first draft of their master plan for the area blufflands – “A Plan for Conservation and Recreation Throughout The La Crosse – La Crescent Region.” A link to the draft is on their website – www.lapc.org. There was a public informational meeting on June 2, but anyone concerned about the La Crosse-Onalaska- Holmen- La Crescent blufflands is encouraged to read the plan and submit comments to the Committee.

Friends of the Blufflands

A new group has been formed – The Friends of the Blufflands – “to promote sound conservation practices in the Coulee Region blufflands and to be a voice for a wide variety of blufflands users who value the area blufflands for the animal and plant habitat they provide, for the natural beauty they provide for residents and visitors to the area, for the outdoor nature study and recreation opportunities that they provide, and the values green space provides to local communities and their residents. “ For more information or to express interest, email pbwilson@centurytel.net.

City of La Crosse Bluffland Restoration Work Days

The La Crosse Park and Recreation Department is making a major effort to restore the blufflands in Hixon Forest and other park properties in the bluffs. The goal is to eliminate invasive species and to clear the goat prairies of invading plants. The Park Department hired Sunshine Love as the Hixon Forest Vegetation Manager. Sunshine has scheduled two public work days to help clear the goat prairies, though tremendous progress has been made already. Scheduled work days are:

Thursday June 16, 2016. 10am-1pm -- Rain Day June 20, 2016

Tuesday July 26, 2016. 10am-1pm -- Rain Day July 27, 2016

Chainsaws will be in use at the site, and only those 18 years old and older are allowed. For more information or to register as a volunteer, call 608-789- 7309. You could be applying herbicide, using a brush cutter, or, for those with chainsaw safety certification, using a chainsaw.

Transportation Equity

The Sierra Club often partners with others to amplify efforts and voices in important environmental issues. Transportation is one such area. Nationally, the Sierra Club is a member of the Transportation Equity Caucus (www.equitycaucus.org/) and the club’s transportation policy positions stress that “the Sierra Club favors the most energy and land conserving, and least polluting systems and vehicles.”

The January issue of Muir View, the newsletter of the state’s Sierra Club (tinyurl.com/wiscjan16) highlights some of the environmental and social impacts of a transportation funding and planning system that favors personal vehicles and road building over transit systems that benefit everyone.

Share your transportation story! Do you take the bus? Is there a bus for you to take? How does public transit affect you? Would you take public transit if something changed? Do you know someone affected by of lack of adequate transit? tinyurl.com/WITransitStories

Car share comes to La Crosse!

Car sharing allows many drivers to share one or more vehicles. Car sharing is offered by local co-ops and international businesses, like Zip Car. In every case, drivers join by paying a modest fee and then have access to a fleet of vehicles for an hourly or daily rate. The service allows people to drive without the costs of owning, registering, insuring, maintaining, and storing (when not in use) a personal vehicle.

The Enterprise Car Share program, which has been available only for UWL students and staff, will expand to accept community members this fall. More details will be available later this summer. For now, consider how your family might support and benefit from this new service. You may not need a second (or even a first!) car if you can use a car share car, for example.

We hope that many people will take advantage of this service so it can grow and be even more accessible to a wider region. Car sharing is a way to use transportation resources more efficiently and ecologically.



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

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DATES TO REMEMBER!

June 17-19 - Midwest Renewable Energy Association Energy Fair, Custer, WI (www.theenergyfair.org)

Tuesday, June 28 - Coulee Region Sierra Club summer picnic, 6 p.m., 3703 Brook Lane, Onalaska

Tuesday, July 5 - River Valley Drive clean up. Meet at 6 p.m. Gillette St. pumping station. Rudy's Drive in after.

Tuesday, Sept 27 - Sierra Club Meeting, 7 p.m. Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, RENEW Wisconsin speaker

Share your transit story

The state Sierra Club is preparing a report on transportation equity in our state. Lack of adequate funding for transit means many people who don't or can't drive cars have difficulty getting to shops, appointments, and jobs. Personal vehicle use is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, yet many have no choice and state policies favor road building over public transit. We need to change current unsustainable, unequal transportation policies. **Please share your own transit story** here: tinyurl.com/WITransitStories

Bluffland Protection

The La Crosse Area Planning Committee is drafting policies to protect our blufflands. Public input is welcomed. See the plan at www.lapc.org.

Friends of the Blufflands is a new group formed to promote sound bluffland conservation and protect the bluffs' animals and plants, natural beauty, recreation and study opportunities, and valuable green space. To join or for more info, email pbwilson@centurytel.net.

The City Park and Rec Department is seeking volunteers to help with **goat prairie restoration**. Two work days for those 18 and older have been set up: June 16 and July 26. For more information see cr-sierra.blogspot.com. To volunteer, please call 608-789-7309.

Seeking BRF area SC members!

We need a few **BRF area Sierra Club members** to staff a booth at the 6th Annual Green Life Expo on Saturday, September 10 at the Milt Lunda Arena. If you can help, please call Cathy (608 315-2693) by June 15!

La Crosse Car Share is a GO!

Enterprise Car Rental which runs the UWL car share program will welcome **ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS 21 and older** into the program this fall! (Thank you Brian Kosiak!) More information at tinyurl.com/laxcarshare.

The fastest, most effective way to reduce your individual carbon footprint, according to the American Public Transportation Association, is to reduce private miles driven and commute via public transit. Car pooling and car sharing also reduce individuals' climate impacts. Some studies show those who participate in car share programs drive 25 to 30 per cent less than they did before joining the car share.

www.apta.com/resources/reportsandpublications/Documents/greenhouse_brochure.pdf

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