



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group
MAY 2017

"The divestment movement has proven to be the most effective way to undermine the power of the fossil fuel industry." - 350.org

May 5-6 Water Conference

The League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region (LWV UMRR) will host a conference in La Crosse at the Lunda Center on the Western Technical College campus (319 7th St. N.) on May 5 and 6 on water quality: **"Navigation Tools for Uncertain Waters"** (www.lwvumrr.org)

The public is invited to join the LWV La Crosse with other Leagues from Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois working together to meet the challenge through an inter-league partnership.

The meeting and conference will explore:

- 1) partnerships by local leadership and action in the Upper Mississippi River basin agricultural watersheds so that farms and fish thrive together,
- 2) ways to make environmental progress at the state and local levels as the U.S. EPA is stepping back,
- 3) opportunities to give voice to citizens when government won't or can't address serious environmental issues, and

- 4) safeguards for our ground water and public health.

The afternoon session will focus on threats to strong environmental protection in our current administrations (state and federal), and will be moderated by WXOW Stormtracker 19 Chief Meteorologist, Dan Breedon.

+ Heidi Keuler, Fish Habitat Biologist for US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fishers and Farmers Partnership Coordinator, Upper Mississippi River Basin.

+ Howard Learner, Director: Environmental Law and Policy Center

+ Kim Wright, Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates:

+ Mark Borchardt, Laboratory for Infectious Disease and the Environment, Microbiologist for United States Department of Agriculture

The public is also invited to join planned social events including a La Crosse Queen Cruise on May 6 and a tour of the Julia Belle Swain on May 7 (for additional cost).

Conference registration costs \$45.

May 19 Active Transportation

UW-La Crosse, in partnership with Urban Connections, will host the second annual Conference on Active Transportation, "Accelerating Effective Approaches for Engaging People in Active Transportation," on Friday, May 19 at the UWL New Student Union.

Dr. James Longhurst, author of the book, "Bike Battles: A History of Sharing the American Road," will open the day with a talk about Why History Matters for Active Transportation. Several breakout sessions will cover planning and advocating for better active transportation (bus, bike, walking) infrastructure, design, funding, and participation. Also included is a lunch at the Southside Neighborhood Center.

Active transportation is any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking or bicycling, including public transportation which begins or ends with a walk or bike ride. While physical inactivity is the cause of many health problems in the US, many Americans believe walking and biking in their communities is not safe due to inadequate infrastructure and car-centric policies and laws.

This conference will provide information, studies, ideas, and tools for active transportation advocates from rural areas and cities.

For registration information, please visit www.uwlax.edu/conted/active-transport/

DATES TO REMEMBER!

May 4, 11, 18 - **Hixon Forest Bird Walk** tinyurl.com/hfbirds

Sat., May 6 - **League of Women Voters Water Quality Conference** Lunda Center, Western Tech College

Tues., May 9 - **Promoting Pollinators on the Farm & In the Backyard** (Viroqua) tinyurl.com/kdkl6js

Tues., May 9, 16 - **La Crosse River Marsh Bird Walk** tinyurl.com/lrmbirds

Sat., May 13 - **Hillview Urban Agriculture Plant Sale** (La Crosse) tinyurl.com/huaplants

Fri., May 19 - **Active Transportation Conference** (UW-La Crosse)

Sat., May 20 - **Sierra Club Root River Canoe and Kayak Outing** (Southeast Minnesota) see below

Sat., May 27 - **Ho-Chunk Nation Memorial Day Pow-wow** (Black River Falls) tinyurl.com/0527powow

Sat., May 27 - **Sierra Club Bois Brule River Canoe and Kayak Outing** (Northern Wisconsin) see below

Tue., May 30 - **Sierra Club Get-Together** 1008 Avon Street, La Crosse 7 pm



Sierra Club Outings

Root River Canoe and Kayak Outing, May 20-21

Enjoy a day or a weekend paddling the Root River in unglaciated Southeast Minnesota near Lanesboro. Dolomite cliffs overlook the valley which has many spring-fed tributaries and abundant wildlife. Learn about the region's early history and its effect on the river valley. Camping is free if you want to camp and do the weekend. Leaders: Sue O'Brien & Carol Brewton of Winona. Contact: Sue O'Brien, 507-858-5290, sueob1@gmail.com or Carol Brewton: 507-454-7187, cbrewton@smumn.edu.

Bois Brule River Canoe and Kayak Outing, May 27-29

This is Class I-II whitewater paddling. Car Camp in Brule River State Forest. Three day-trips on the Bois Brule. Saturday: County S to Hwy 2. Sunday: Pine Tree Landing to Hwy 13—(includes a series of Class II rapids that can be portaged). Monday: Hwy 13 to Lake Superior (includes fairly constant Class I rapids). We'll learn about the work done to protect this trout stream. Helmets required for rapids. Camping available at the DNR Campground south of Brule WI in Douglas County. Campsites can be reserved online through the DNR website. This is a busy weekend so please share your site with fellow paddlers. Contact: Pat & Bobbie Wilson of La Crosse: 608-788-8831, 608-397-2531, pbwilson@centurytel.net or Kevin & Carol Olson of Baraboo: 608-963-2678, olsonfam44@centurytel.net.

Bird Walks, May 4, 9, 11, 16, 18

Pat Wilson, president of Coulee Region Sierra Club board, will lead five bird walks in May. Meet at the Lower Hixon Forest parking lot at the end of Milson Court at 6:30 a.m. on May 4, 11, and 18. On May 9 and May 16, meet at 6:30 a.m. at the La Crosse River Marsh trailhead in Myrick Park. These are easy walks. Bring your binoculars and stay as long as you like. For more information, see links above or contact Pat.

Bill and Marta invite all to their house for a **Sierra Club Get-Together, Tuesday, May 30 at 7:00 p.m.** If you can, bring some veggies or chips

or other appetizers (or liquid refreshments). We'll have no agenda other than sharing company. 1008 Avon St. (two or so blocks from the historical train engine in Copeland Park, La Crosse). 785-2031—but no need to RSVP.



On Thursday, April 27, the Sierra Club joined several area environmental organizations and concerned individuals in hosting a screening of the new documentary, *Sustainable* to benefit **Midwest Environmental Advocates**, a non-profit environmental law center.

If you weren't able to attend the event, please consider supporting MEA as they work to help protect our clean air, water, and land for future generations at midwestadvocates.org.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

Email us at CRSierraClub@gmail.com