



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group  
OCTOBER 2017

*"Ninety-eight percent of reports that farms were required to submit were not electronically recorded as being received."  
- from "CAFOs: A Threat to Water in Wisconsin" - a report by the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter, June 2017*



**"Clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realisation of all human rights."** - UN Resolution 64/292, July 2010

**"The DNR doesn't have a policy regarding notifying municipalities or private well owners in the vicinity when a CAFO violates a permit."** - DNR spokesperson, Jim Dick, July 2017

*The Coulee Region Sierra Club invites you to attend a public forum on*

## **LA CROSSE COUNTY GROUND WATER POLLUTION: WHERE? WHY? WHAT CAN WE DO? TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 at 7:00 p.m. HOLLAND TOWN HALL**

**(W7937 Co Rd MH, Holmen)**

*Take Highway 53 to Holmen. Exit onto Co Rd MH. Turn WEST and go about one mile. Town Hall is on the left.*

### **Panelists include**

- \* Steve Doyle State Representative 96th District**
- \* Mike Giese La Crosse County Board**
- \* Jen Rombalski Director County Health Department**

**FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. HOSTED BY COULEE REGION SIERRA CLUB**

## DATES TO REMEMBER!

- Oct. 3: **Coulee Region Sierra Club Highway Clean up** - 5:30 p.m. River Valley Drive, La Crosse
- Oct. 3: **Are we Doomed? An Optimist's Guide to Climate Change** 7 p.m. UWL ([tinyurl.com/optimistgw](http://tinyurl.com/optimistgw))
- Oct. 5: **FILM: Babushkas of Chernobyl** - 6 pm UWL ([share.uwlax.edu/events-calendar/event/15075](http://share.uwlax.edu/events-calendar/event/15075))
- Oct. 7: **Ancient Observatories** - 1 pm UWL Planetarium ([www.uwlax.edu/planetarium/](http://www.uwlax.edu/planetarium/))
- Oct. 11: **Creepy Critters** - 4 pm Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge ([tinyurl.com/umwfr-critters](http://tinyurl.com/umwfr-critters))
- Oct. 13: **Democracy & Science Under Siege** - 7 pm Gays Mills ([www.crawfordstewardshipproject.org/](http://www.crawfordstewardshipproject.org/))
- Oct 14: **Habitat Improvement Volunteer Day** - City of La Crosse bluffland - call 608 789-7309 to sign up
- Oct. 24: **Public Forum on Groundwater Contamination in La Crosse County** ([cr-sierra.blogspot.com](http://cr-sierra.blogspot.com))
- Oct. 25: **Effigy Mounds Birthday** - Harpers Ferry, Iowa ([www.nps.gov/efmo/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/efmo/index.htm))

## Take the next step in activism

The Sierra Club and other state and national organizations need all of us to step up and get more involved as our natural resources and environmentally sensitive gems are under assault from all directions.

If you are a member of the Sierra Club, that's a great first step. Now, it's time to do more. Here are a important actions that need your support.

**MINING** Senator Tom Tiffany has introduced a sweeping *Mining Give-Away Bill* that removes Wisconsin's prove-it-first protections, undermines our wetland laws and sidesteps many of our existing safeguards. As our Mining Chair put it, "These giveaways to the mining industry are nothing more than direct subsidies that reduce operating costs while putting Wisconsin's sustainable tourism and agriculture at risk from pollution." Learn more about the issue and call your representatives to stop this destructive bill. [sierraclub.org/wisconsin/issues/mining](http://sierraclub.org/wisconsin/issues/mining)

**CAFO MORATORIUM** The Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network is leading efforts to pass a CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) moratorium. "Wisconsin's industrial animal factories generate more manure than crops can safely use as fertilizer leading to excess phosphorus and nitrate levels in the soil and groundwater. As a result, our local streams, lakes, and waterways are quickly becoming damaged beyond repair." Learn more and join with Sierra Club and other environmental groups' members to push for a moratorium. [sustainruralwisconsin.org/advocate-for-a-cafo-moratorium/](http://sustainruralwisconsin.org/advocate-for-a-cafo-moratorium/)

**GLOBAL WARMING** The Sierra Club's *Ready for 100 initiative* is a way for mayors and communities to target a quick move to renewable, non-polluting energy use. Start a *Ready for 100* push in your community, or, if your leaders have already signed on, offer to meet with them to help plan and implement a transition to renewables. Climate scientists say we have about 10 years to change! Learn more: [sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/cities-ready-for-100](http://sierraclub.org/ready-for-100/cities-ready-for-100)

## Coulee Region Ecoscapes!



Thank you, Judson Steinbach of Coulee Region Ecoscapes for your wonderful presentation at our September 26 meeting. Judson detailed, in slides and story, the beginnings of the business, its commitment to sustainable and environmentally sound practices, and its "side business" - creating and connecting diverse communities to make lives better.

Judson talked about CRE's work on the Community Food Forest at the La Crosse YMCA and their recent completion of an outdoor classroom/memorial at Myrick Park. He talked about changes in design and plant selection as effects of global warming grow. And he offered plants to those who attended.

We will post a link to the slideshow presentation as soon as it's available. In the meantime, you can view a portfolio of the organizations work and services at their website: [www.couleeregionecoscapes.com/](http://www.couleeregionecoscapes.com/)

**REMINDER** - Our HIGHWAY CLEAN UP will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3. Meet at the pumping station just west of the intersection of River Valley Drive and Gillette Street to get vests, gloves, and bags. Questions? [pbwilson-at-centurytel-dot-net](mailto:pbwilson-at-centurytel-dot-net)

**Connect with us** online at [tinyurl.com/crsierra](http://tinyurl.com/crsierra), [cr-sierra.blogspot.com](http://cr-sierra.blogspot.com), or [crsierraclub-at-gmail.com](mailto:crsierraclub-at-gmail.com). If you know of an environmental event or outing in your area of the Coulee Region group, please let us know so we can include it in our calendar. If your area needs support for an environmental issue, please contact us so we can activate our members.