



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group
JUNE 2024

"World's top climate scientists expect global heating to blast past 1.5C target" - The Guardian, May 8, 2024
www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/may/08/world-scientists-climate-failure-survey-global-temperature

Sat., June 1, 8:30 - 11:30
TRANSIT 2 TRAILS 4 ALL

MTU to Hass Tract Trail
with Cassie Steiner-Bouxa, WI Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's national [Transit 2 Trails 4 All](#) campaign aims to highlight lack of access to local, state, and national recreation and wild areas for nondrivers, and advocate for more cleaner, safer transportation options.

CRSC is hosting its first ever T2T event with Wisconsin Sierra Club's Senior Campaign Coordinator, Cassie Steiner-Bouxa on Saturday, June 1, National Trails Day!

We'll meet at the Grand River Station Transit Center, 314 Jay Street, La Crosse a bit before 8:30 a.m. and catch the MTU #2 bus to get to the trailhead near Hillview Health Care/Hass Park on La Crosse's south side. Then, we'll hike on the Mississippi Valley Conservancy's [Hass Tract trail](#) before we catch the 11:00 a.m. bus back to the Transit Center. NO BUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! We will have guides available and send details when you register.

Email us or call 608-315-2693 for more information. Register so we can send details and contact you if plans change at tinyurl.com/LaXT2TRegister or by calling.

Make or buy some delicious food to share, grab your personal picnic kit (plate, utensils, cup or bottle), and bike, carpool or drive to Goose Island Shelter #3 on Tuesday, June 18 starting at 5:30 p.m.

The club will supply beverages. The shelter is near the river so bring your bug stuff, too. We'll have activities for children and adults, news about current Sierra Club campaigns, and some surprises!

Tues., June 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
CRSC Summer Potluck
Shelter #3, Goose Island County Park
via Highway 35, south of La Crosse

Ride your bike, or, If you are driving, consider offering a carpool ride - use this link: groupcarpool.com/t/Ogz93w to add your vehicle or to seek a ride, or call 608-315-2693.

You do not need to be a Sierra Club to attend, though the Sierra Club is doing some pretty important work and welcome new talent, energy, passion, and ideas. Bring your friends and family, too!



June 5 - Rally for Clean Energy

We need clean renewable energy, not dirty fossil fuels! Please join us at a rally outside of the Dairyland Power Cooperative annual meeting calling for Dairyland to commit to:

- No new fossil fuels or dirty energy including gas like the proposed Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) or wasteful and expensive nuclear reactors
- Retire all coal like the existing Madgett Coal Plant
- Invest in affordable clean energy and renewable solutions like wind, solar and battery storage

Bring: Comfortable shoes, weather appropriate clothes, signs about NTEC (we will also provide some) Speakers will begin at 10:45 a.m.

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/June5-NONTEC>

Want to learn more about the NTEC campaign? On May 23, our group chair, Kathy Allen, joined members of Neighbors Against NTEC for an educational webinar about the plant and its connection to Dairyland Power Cooperative. Watch the recording here: <https://www.facebook.com/CRSierraClub/videos/812753133758314>

June 4 - Line 5 Hearing

On June 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will hold a public hearing in Ashland, Wisconsin regarding a forthcoming environmental assessment (EA) of Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline expansion, and the May 20, 2024, USACE Draft Combined Decision Document.

This is an opportunity to tell the USACE and the entire Biden administration about your concerns around the Line 5 pipeline.

Enbridge Energy, a multi-billion dollar corporation, is moving oil dangerously through northern Wisconsin every day illegally in trespass, violating the Bad River Band's sovereignty. They are trying to expand that pipeline and operate it for years to come, putting at risk the water, fish, plants and animals, humans, and so much more, with the threat of an oil spill. You can help stop them by participating in the upcoming public input opportunities.

Please consider adding your comments online or in person by attending and speaking at the hearing. The Sierra Club is arranging buses and car pools and can help prepare those who wish to speak. Learn more about getting to and participating in the Line 5 public hearing at <https://tinyurl.com/June4-Line5Hearing>

Written comments may be submitted at any time to CEMVP-WiL5R-CDD-Comments@usace.army.mil before the expiration date of the DCDD comment period, which will be 31 days after the June 4, 2024 public hearing (July 5, 2024). Additionally, written comments may be submitted in person during the public hearing. All written comments received will be included in the administrative record on this action. Please note that all verbal and written comments, including names and addresses, become part of the administrative record, and may be available to the public under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. If you are unable to submit comments via email, you may send your written comments with a postmarked date no later than July 5, 2024, to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District, Regulatory Division
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

If you have any questions concerning this Public Notice, please email the address shown above, or contact the Corps by phone at 1-651-290-5525. Comments will not be accepted via phone or voicemail.

The Wisconsin Chapter Sierra Club will host Line 5 related comment writing parties around the state in June. The La Crosse comment party is on Tuesday, June 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. with the location to be determined. RSVP here for details:
<https://tinyurl.com/LaXLine5Comments>

Climate Action in a River City

On Tuesday, May 21, La Crosse Mayor Mitch Reynolds spoke at a virtual gathering on Climate Action in a River City. Mayor Reynolds addressed the Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations ("The Treaty") which he attended in Ottawa earlier this year, and his role as co-chair of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI). Both efforts are addressing the pollutants—specifically plastics—that end up in our waterways. Given that the Mississippi River watershed extends through 31 states and two Canadian provinces, waste from much of Middle America has the potential to reach the Gulf of Mexico and beyond, diminishing human health and water quality on an enormous scale.

An essential component of The Treaty, as well as the COP 28 Climate Conference (which Mayor Reynolds also attended as co-chair of MRCTI), involved bringing local government representation into negotiations to make global ideas actionable at a local level. As the only U.S. mayor in attendance at the Plastics Treaty Negotiations, Mayor Reynolds represented not only the voice of La Crosse but every municipality in America. The Treaty is meant to create a legally binding approach to eliminate unnecessary single-use and short-lived plastic products. Treaty development remains ongoing until the next session later this year.

Meanwhile, Mayor Reynolds recently directed City of La Crosse departments to complete plastics "self-audits" to make sure the city is not contributing to the problem. Reducing local plastics usage down to those currently recyclable, and eliminating Styrofoam/styrene, are two clear paths toward reducing pollution in the watershed.

Mayor Reynolds also discussed how the City's Climate Action Plan is further deploying natural infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change. Wetland restoration efforts are underway to offset the effects of flood and drought. By utilizing EPA grants to build lift stations to move water throughout the city to the La Crosse River and by working alongside Ducks Unlimited to enhance and restore wetland areas to improve floodwater storage, Mayor Reynolds is hopeful that the city can prevent and mitigate future flooding events in the region. You can watch a recording of the program on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CRSierraClub/videos/973407544785494>

Youth Climate Action Grant

The City of La Crosse has been selected to participate in the Youth Climate Action Fund, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Microgrants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 will support youth-led initiatives to combat climate change. La Crosse youth and aged 15-24 are eligible to apply. The application deadline is July 31, 2024. More information will be available at a Youth Forum during the week of June 22. The City will also host a grant-writing webinar in mid-July.

Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/LaXYCAF>

June 22 - The Refuge at 100!

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (refuge) is celebrating its 100th anniversary with a FREE open house for people of all ages on June 22.

Activities at the La Crosse District Visitor Center (N5727 County Road Z, Onalaska)

10am - 2pm: Guided walks on the short, paved trail loop, including partner booths, visits from Puddles the Blue Goose, arts and crafts, and vote on your favorite 100th Anniversary Photo Contest winner. Take the River Rat Relay challenge

Live animal programs (seating is first-come, first-served):

- River Valley Raptors: 10:05 a.m., 10:40 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m. in the large outdoor tent
- Coulee Region Humane Society: 10:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. inside the visitor center

12:00 p.m. Birthday Celebration Ceremony and Visitor Center Dedication as a Great River Road Interpretive Center, followed by birthday cake! Keynote remarks will be delivered by honored speakers who will share their connection to this special place.

1:00 p.m. Audubon Upper Mississippi River history presentation inside the visitor center multipurpose room

Activities at the Fred Funk Boat Landing (W8023 County Rd ZB, Onalaska - Please park at the Swarthout Park parking lots located on County Road ZB across from the boat landing)

Barge boat tours: 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m. Advance registration is required for boat tours and seating is limited. Registration will open Monday, June 10. More details to come! Life jackets are required and will be provided.

Electroshock fishing demonstrations by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: 10:15 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

Learn more at <https://www.fws.gov/rivers/event/100th-anniversary-celebration-la-crosse-district>

June 22 - 33rd Annual Energy Fair

The Energy Fair, in Custer, Wisconsin, is the nation's longest-running event of its kind. Part trade show, educational event, and grassroots festival, the Fair brings thousands of industry professionals and sustainable living enthusiasts together for workshops, exhibits, demonstrations, networking events, and much more. Tickets are on sale now (\$25 or \$15 for seniors) or join MREA and get into the fair free. Enjoy live music, vegan food options, and lots more. View all the special events and workshops here: TheEnergyFair.org. Join in the clean energy transition and help make clean energy and sustainable living accessible to all!

More June Events

- 6/ 1-2: Free Weekend at Wisconsin State Parks. All admission fees, fishing licenses, trail passes free.
- 6/ 1: National Trails Day at Kickapoo Valley Reserve - Sunrise to Starry Skies <http://kvr.state.wi.us>
- 6/ 5: Hixon Forest Trails public input 4 to 6 p.m. at the top of the Bicentennial Trail.
- 6/ 5: Dragonflies of Wisconsin from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Nature Place, Myrick Park, La Crosse. <https://tinyurl.com/NatPI0605-Dragonflies>
- 6/ 7 & 21: Nightlife & Stars at Kickapoo Valley Reserve. 8:30 to 10 p.m. <http://kvr.state.wi.us/Events/Calendar>
- 6/ 8: Friends of the Black River Paddle, noon. RSVP for details: <https://tinyurl.com/fobr24paddle>
- 6/ 8: Guided Bird Hike, 7 to 9 a.m. Wildcat Mountain State Park. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/90046>
- 6/10: Guided Forest Bathing at The Nature Place, Myrick Park, La Crosse from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. <https://tinyurl.com/forbath>
- 6/11 & 25: City Park Nature Walks at Myrick Park, La Crosse 4:30 p.m. <https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/7090/18?>
- 6/12 & 6/25: Invasive Weed Pull at Sugar Creek Bluff State Natural Area. <https://tinyurl.com/mvc624vol>
- 6/13: Year Round Green for a Clean Mississippi. Online from 1 to 2 p.m. <https://1mississippi.org/event/year-round-green-for-a-clean-mississippi-online-via-zoom/>
- 6/15: Lower Kickapoo Valley Birding Hike. 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. <https://tinyurl.com/0615mvcbirdhike>
- 6/15: Music in Wildcat Mountain State Park 7 p.m. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/90116>
- 6/19: Coulee Audubon Potluck and Bird Walk. 7 pm <https://www.facebook.com/CouleeRegionAudubon/>
- 6/22: A Midsummer Night's Dream in Wildcat Mountain State Park 5:30 to 9 p.m. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/93231>
- 6/29: Music in Wildcat Mountain State Park, 6 to 8 p.m. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/89791>
- 6/29: Invasive Weed Pull at Tunnel Cliffs State Natural Area <https://tinyurl.com/mvc624vol>
- 6/29: Universe in a Park, rain or shine, at Perrot State Park, Trempealeau from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/events/93426>
- 6/30: The Nature Place BYOB Backyard Concert Fundraiser. Location upon registration: <https://natureplacelacrosse.org/calendar/backyard-concert/>

ATTENTION: High school juniors and seniors

\$300

Environmental Stewardship Award

The Coulee Region Sierra Club (CRSC) will recognize and award \$300 to a high school junior or senior who has demonstrated leadership, action, engagement and understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship.

Application includes:

- Environmental resume
- Short essay
- Brief portfolio



**Submit
application
by:**
July 1, 2024

- Eligible students must reside in the CRSC region which includes Crawford, Grant, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties.
- For more info, visit sierraclub.org/wisconsin/coulee/Education or tinyurl.com/CRSC-Students.