



Sierra

December,
2008

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

DECEMBER MEETING



*Annual
Holiday
Gathering*

Tuesday, December 23
from 6-9 p.m.

You're all invited!

Holiday party at

Barb and Don Frank's

Tuesday, December 23, 6-9 p.m.

*Come in a holiday mood with a hearty appetizer to share.
Hosts will provide beverages.*

Address: N1965 Valley Rd., La Crosse (in Wedgewood Valley)
Check phone book map or call us for more directions
608-788-3914

FROM THE CHAIR:

Thank you for your support of the Coulee Group through the year! The Group had 670 members in November, a high for recent years. The treasury was also doing well, at \$1,800. And we still have calendar sales money coming. See the article about the environmental grant given out this past year to see where the calendar money is used.

Thank you to Bill Katra for volunteering to be the group Conservation Chair! This was in response to my request for volunteers in the last newsletter. We're still looking for more volunteers, including people to serve on the Group Executive Committee. Let me know if you're interested.

Happy Holidays to all of you, and best wishes for 2009! I hope to see many of you at the Holiday Party that Don and Barb Frank are graciously hosting.

Pat Wilson

SIERRA CLUB 2009 CALENDARS

Thought it was too late? Wrong!

We still have plenty available and are looking for folks to buy!

Sierra Club calendars feature stunningly beautiful photos from around the world. They are available either as wall or desk calendars and are appreciated by everyone. The wall calendar sells for *MERELY* \$12.95; the desk calendar is a *STEAL* at \$13.95. They will be available at the Sierra Club holiday party, or you can order yours from Maureen Kinney (who will also deliver them if you live in the La Crosse area!). She can be reached at 784-9324 (home); 784-5678 (work) or by e-mail at maureen@johnsflaherty.com.

Congratulations to Kurt Brownell & his team at the US Army Corps of Engineers!

These folks are scheduled to receive the 2008 Chief of Engineers Environmental Honor Award and USACE Design Team of the Year Award for their performance of duties in response to the Water Level Management for Ecosystem Restoration Pool 5, Upper Mississippi River System MN & WI. The Awards will be presented at the Holiday Awards Ceremony on December 16th. Congratulations and job well done!



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

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 La Crosse, WI
 Permit #814

Environmental Voting Records

There's some end of the year good news about our three national legislators. Senators Herb Kohl & Russ Feingold and Representative Ron Kind all received a 100% rating for their environmental voting record in the just-published 2008 Environmental Scorecard from the League of Conservation Voters. Congratulate all of them for their support of the environment!



Coulee Region Group 2009 Elections
 It's time for the annual Coulee Region Group Executive Committee election. Please vote using the ballot included below. There are four positions up for election, all with a two-year term. There are four nominees for these positions.
 The four executive committee members whose terms are expiring are Danny Foote, Rick Komperud, Andrea Parr, and Pat Wilson. All four are running for re-election.

Sierra Club Grant Funds Weather Station
 The Sierra Club grant awarded to Mary Callan at SOTA School in the School District of La Crosse is helping children in the school track and study weather at the school through the use of a high quality weather station. The parent group at SOTA (which stands for School of Technology and Arts) also contributed to the project. This partnership allowed the school to install a wireless weather station that measures temperature, wind speed, direction of wind, and precipitation.
 The school district provided a tripod which was mounted atop a roof access door in the Hamilton building located on Seventh Street between the hospitals in La Crosse. It took a while to coordinate all of the details, but the weather station was up and running in May of this year.
 The weather station also measures highs and lows of wind speed and temperature. The upgrade from a hardwired weather station to a wireless weather station has allowed the readout screen to be used in different classrooms throughout the building.

2009 Executive Committee Ballot
 Four members are to be elected to the Coulee Region Group Executive Committee for two-year terms expiring at the end of 2010. Please vote for up to four candidates from the list below.
 _____ Danny Foote
 _____ Rick Komperud
 _____ Andrea Parr
 _____ Patrick Wilson
 _____ Other _____
 Return ballots to Barbara Frank, N1965 Valley Road, La Crosse, WI 54601 by December 23, 2008. You can also bring them to the Holiday Party on the 23rd.



**Cross Country Ski Outing
 Saturday, January 24, 2009
 Meet at 9 a.m.**

Let's hope for snow this year. We'd like to do some exploring and trail breaking at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. The Trempealeau Refuge is fairly flat, and there are good chances to see wildlife. This is weather dependent. Please call to let us know if you are interested and to make sure the trip is a go. Leaders: Pat and Bobbie Wilson, 608 788 -8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.