



# Sierra

April  
2009

*Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group*

## APRIL MEETING

### **Walmart's Sustainability Initiative**

**Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

7 pm at the

HoChunk Three Rivers  
House at 8<sup>th</sup> & Main

(6 pm: ExComm meeting)

**Sierra Club members &  
non-members all**

**Speaker:** Lynn Paddy, Walmart Regional Sustainability  
Coordinator

Walmart has taken steps to go green, in both the way they run the business and in the products they sell. Lynn Paddy, local Walmart Store Manager and Regional Sustainability Coordinator, will discuss what Walmart is doing to practice sustainability, including actions that both businesses and individuals can adopt to decrease their ecological footprint. Lynn has also worked with Coulee Partners for Sustainability, to lend her business knowledge to that organization. We hope that Walmart and its 200 million shoppers can have a more positive impact on the world's environment and natural resources.

### **FROM THE CHAIR:**

Ah, the smell of spring! I'm anxious to get outside, dig in the dirt and enjoy nature up close and personal. There are a lot of events in the coulee region that can help you get into spring (see articles). And, there is much work to be done to help preserve/ replenish what we have. Two big issues facing the region are CapX2020 (to learn more contact Citizen's Energy Task Force at [www.cetf.us](http://www.cetf.us)) and the "Big Ag" business (and the new Ag Siting law). At our last club meeting, Ardell Tuxen spoke passionately about the issue and is looking for volunteers to help educate the public. Please contact Ardell at: [atuxen@charter.net](mailto:atuxen@charter.net).

Check out our new & improved web page:  
[www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee). A big THANK YOU goes out to Rick Komperud for his time and energy on this endeavor!

**Marilyn Pedretti**

**608-317-9698 or [mjpedretti@yahoo.com](mailto:mjpedretti@yahoo.com)**

### **May Morning Bird Walks**

**Tuesdays: May 5, 12 and 19** (La Crosse River Marsh, meet at the RABBIT trail, near new Myrick Hixon EcoCenter parking lot)

**Thursdays: May 7, 14 and 21** (Hixon Forest, meet at the Hixon Forest trail parking lot, off Milson Court)

~Join Pat & Bobbie Wilson and Dan Jackson for weekday morning bird walks from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. to enjoy spring migration and to see our regular residents return. Feel free to leave early or stay later.

### **Clean Energy Coalition**

**Thursday, 4/30/09 at 7:00 p.m.  
Ho-Chunk Building Basement**

*Topic: Bio/Manure/Methane Digesters in  
Western Wisconsin*

Any new source of renewable power will serve a positive role in helping to lessen Wisconsin consumers' unhealthy dependence on coal and nuclear. Here, cow manure is abundant, and it makes sense to use bio-digesters that yield methane that, in turn, can be used for heating and electricity production. Neil Kennebeck will talk about Dairyland Power Cooperative's experience with digesters. Jim Poehling, of La Crosse's First Supply, will address the digester's chemical process and possible environmental effects. Art Thelen of LaFarge will speak about Wild Rose Farm's experience in starting up a digester, keeping it running and its relative profitability.

### **Welcome New Members (December 2008)**

Joyce Arthur, Harry Boryczka, Katherine Dahl, Anita Shrago, John Stiehl, Mary Jo Webster, Thomas Wilson



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 Maureen Kinney  
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*The La Crosse Earth Week Coalition (LEWC) presents:*

**Let's Go Green Together  
 2009 La Crosse Earth Week  
 April 19-26**

- Sunday: FREE movie screening of "The Future of Food", 5:30 pm at the Rivoli Theater
- Monday: Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton will be joining us for a Green Discussion at Gundersen Lutheran's Rasmus Center from 7-8:30 p.m. The Event is free and open to the public, RSVP at [www.greenlacrosse.com](http://www.greenlacrosse.com)
- **EARTH DAY**, Wednesday: Myrick Hixon EcoPark tours of their nearly completed new EcoCenter!
- Thursday: "Social Responsibility and Sustainability Best Practices" event will be held at Viterbo University.
- Friday: UW-L brings "Veggies and the Legies" showcasing local vegetables and local legislators. Munch on local produce while engaging a panel discussion with Rep. Jennifer Shilling, Rep. Mike Huebsch and Sen. Dan Kapanke.
- Saturday: everyone is invited to celebrate at the Earth Day Fair from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm at Three Rivers Waldorf School, 901 Caledonia Street. Activities include:

Live music, local foods fair, children's crafts, educational presentations and demonstrations, environmental films, and recyclable art classes. There will also be many "green" vendors, including the Sierra Club with a solar panel display. Several "green" cars will also be on display including hybrids, an electric car, and CNG (compressed natural gas) car. A lunch featuring local foods will be available and "green" door prizes will be given out every half hour. The first 25 people at the fair will receive a "green" gift! At 4:00 p.m. a "grand prize" drawing will be held in which two winners will receive a one month's free use of a Civic Hybrid or one month's free use of a CNG Civic. Go to [GreenLaCrosse.com](http://GreenLaCrosse.com) for a complete schedule of the Earth Day Fair.

*We're looking for volunteers for the Sierra Club booth!  
 Contact Rick at [energy1@charter.net](mailto:energy1@charter.net)*

- Sunday: Earth Week ends with a "green homes" bus tour of Guy & Joan Wolf's and Ronald Gundersen's homes near Stoddard. **Go to [GreenLaCrosse.com](http://GreenLaCrosse.com) for more details and the complete schedule.**

**Spring Highway Cleanup  
 Tuesday, May 12, 5:30 pm**

The Coulee Region Group's adopted highway is River Valley Drive in the La Crosse River marsh. The first cleanup of the year will be Tuesday, May 12 at 5:30 pm. Meet at the city water well building near the intersection of County Highway B and River Valley Drive on the north side of La Crosse. Wear old clothes and bring work gloves. Orange vests and garbage bags are provided. We'll work for about an hour. There's an optional stop at Rudy's Drive-in after the cleanup. For more information, contact Pat or Bobbie Wilson 788-8831.



**Hixon Forest Hike  
 April 15, 6:15 p.m.**

Meet at the Upper Hixon Forest, main trail parking lot. We will hike up the Hixon trails to the top to watch the sunset. It should be a wonderful night and break from an otherwise IRS day. Bring a drink, a coat, and a funny IRS joke if you have one. For more information contact Sharon Stoll at [Stoll.Sharon@mayo.edu](mailto:Stoll.Sharon@mayo.edu).

**Paper or Computer?**

In our last issue we asked folks to let us know if they wished to have their newsletter sent electronically. For those who requested to go "paperless", please bear with us! We're hoping to have everything in place in the next month. For other members still interested in opting for the electronic version, please drop us a line at: [Sierra1601@charter.net](mailto:Sierra1601@charter.net)