



Sierra

June
2009

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

JUNE MEETING

**Summer Picnic!
Tuesday, June 30th**



**Town of Holland
(W7937 Co Rd MH, Holmen)
Shelter #2**

It's a pot-luck picnic on Tuesday, June 30th, 6 pm

Come join us, relax and enjoy summer! Bring a dish to pass and your own plates and utensils. In addition to the picnic, there are two options available for added fun: (1) there will be an opportunity to hike the Holland Sand Prairie located next to the park or (2) hike the McGilvray Bridges (part of the Van Loon National Wildlife Refuge) located approx. 3 miles north

Directions to the Park

Take Highway 53 (either from the north or south). Exit MH or McHugh Road. Turn left (west) at the end of the ramp. The Town Hall is approximately 1 mile from the exit on the left. Shelter #2 is west of the Town Hall building (looks like a garage).

FROM THE CHAIR:

Summer is upon us again and Coulee Group membership meetings/newsletters will resume again in September. However, continue to stay involved!

The State Budget is one of the best indicators of our state's conservation values. The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters has a summary of the State Budget (see <http://www.conservationvoters.org/Public/index.php?custID=96>). Under each position it states the action taken by the Joint Finance Committee. Write your state Assembly Rep and your state Senator, asking them to support the pro-conservation budget.

There is a letter-writing campaign, listed in this newsletter, concerning the Black River Forest Master Plan. And, for folks who are interested/concerned about CapX2020, there are public meetings to attend (in La Crosse on June 23rd from 10-Noon at the Radisson and later that day at the La Crescent American Legion from 6-8 p.m.)

How green is your home? Sierra Club has launched a for-profit online venture called [Sierra Club Green Home](http://www.sierraclubgreenhome.com) (see www.sierraclubgreenhome.com) as a one-stop shop for information and services to green up your lifestyle and decarbonize your abode. There's a neat little program that calculates your carbon footprint and the site provides tips and lists local energy efficiency businesses.

Enjoy your summer!

**Marilyn Pedretti
608-317-9698 or mjpedretti@yahoo.com**

Go paperless! Email alp@haleskemp.com to receive your newsletter via email instead of paper!

Summer Canoe Trips

Contact the leaders listed or Pat or Bobbie Wilson for more information about these canoe trips offered through the Sierra Club's Wisconsin River Touring Section.

July 11 - 12 Wolf and Red Rivers (Northeast Wisconsin)

Class II; Car Camp. Practice whitewater skills on these Northern Wisconsin rivers. Paddle the popular Wolf River and the Red River, a favorite of many paddlers. For details, contact: Pat or Bobbie Wilson 608-788-8831 pbwilson@centurytel.net.

July 25 - 26 Upper Iowa River (Northeast Iowa)

Class I; Car camp. The spring-fed river is one of the most scenic rivers in the Midwest—beautiful limestone cliffs break up this stretch of greenbelt. Learn about this unique geology and ecology of the driftless (unglaciated) region. For details, contact: Doug Robinson, 608-334-8026, dougknu@charter.net.

August 1 - 2 Black River (La Crosse Area)

Class I; Canoe Camp (on sandbar). Life's a beach on this section of the Black River! We'll canoe camp on a sandbar in this beautiful quietwater section of the river downstream from Black River Falls. Children are welcome on this family-oriented trip. Learn to canoe camp with children. For details, contact: Kasy Culbertson, 608-222-0746, kasy99@gmail.com.



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<p align="center">20th MREA Energy Fair June 19-21, 2009 in Custer, WI</p> <p><i>The Energy Fair is the world's largest renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable living educational event of its kind.</i> It features hundreds of workshops and exhibits all emphasizing clean energy & sustainable living, and is fun for the whole family. For information about the Energy Fair: www.the-mrea.org</p>	<p align="center">CapX2020 Follow-up</p> <p>At the May Sierra Club meeting, Jeremy Chipps (member of the Citizens Energy Task Force, see www.cetf.us), and Joseph Morse (Bluff Land Environment Watch; Mississippi River Revival) presented an update on the controversial CapX2020 high voltage power line project. Folks are invited to join CETF (membership is free), a group of concerned citizens from Minnesota & Wisconsin opposed to CapX2020. They are also asking for some help with their current mission: to fund legal activities and educational campaigns that will help stop CapX2020. Tax deductible donations for the legal and education fund can be sent to: Mississippi River Revival/CETF Fund at PO Box 315, Winona, MN 55987.</p>	
<p align="center">Educational News</p> <p>This spring, our local Sierra Club sponsored one of the La Crosse Tribune's 8-part series called "Earth Day – Each Day" (which ran from April 20 until May 13th.) On May 11th, the article featured a biography of John Muir and, as part of their Newspaper in Education program, the paper was provided to 100 private and public schools in the area. Our chapter has received hundreds of thank yous from students all across the region. From the student responses, it was a great success! (If interested in reading these letters, please contact Marilyn Pedretti at 608-317-9698.)</p>		
<p>Black River State Forest Master Plan Update by Pat Wilson</p> <p>The Wisconsin DNR has released the Draft Master Plan and Environmental Analysis for the Black River State Forest. This has been in development for two years. The DNR has selected the final draft from the alternatives considered, and is presenting the plan for one more public comment period before presenting the plan to the Natural Resources Board for approval.</p> <p>A public hearing was held May 28 in Black River Falls, but the comment period is open until June 20. You can view the proposed master plan and enter comments online at http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/BlackRiver/. Note that there's an underscore between 'master' and 'planning'.</p> <p>If you've enjoyed the Black River and want to see its values protected, please take a look at the plan and comment. My view is that it's a very good plan that expands the state forest property boundary by nearly 20,000 acres while preserving the natural values and silent sport recreation opportunities in the forest.</p>	<p align="center">Summer Outings</p> <p>If interested in sharing and participating in an outdoor activity during the summer months, contact Sharon Stoll at Stollsha@msu.edu. She's excited to arrange outings for folks interested in enjoying the abundant natural resources of the coulee region.</p>	<p align="center">Summer Highway Cleanup Tuesday, July 7, 6 pm</p> <p>The Coulee Region Group's adopted highway is River Valley Drive in the La Crosse River marsh. The 2nd cleanup of the year will be Tuesday, July 7 at 6 p.m. 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 at 788-8831.</p>