



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

SEPTEMBER 2009

NEW LOCATION!

Tuesday, Sept. 29

7 pm at the Myrick Hixon Ecopark (In Myrick Park)

(6 pm: ExComm meeting)

Sierra Club members and non-members all welcome

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Urban Sprawl in the La Crosse Region

SPEAKER:
Cynthia Berlin, Associate Professor, Geography & Earth Science, UW-La Crosse



Urban sprawl is a serious problem throughout the United States and has been a major focus of the Sierra Club. While most concern has been with large, metropolitan areas, where urbanization of natural and farm land is increasing at an alarming rate, rapid sprawl is a serious problem for many smaller cities and their surrounding rural communities, including the greater La Crosse, Wisconsin region. Cynthia Berlin of UW-L has done a study of sprawl in the La Crosse area, using data obtained from 30 years of satellite images. Satellite images show

that the amount of urban area increased by over 200% from 1984 to 2000, while the population, estimated from U.S. Census Bureau data, increased by only 18.2% for approximately the same time period. The satellite images also show the spatial pattern of development characteristic of sprawl - including scattered and single-use development, poor accessibility, high edge contrast, and lack of functional space. During the past 9 years, sprawl has continued throughout the greater La Crosse region and shows no sign of abating even during this most recent recession.

From the Chair:

Welcome back everyone! Another summer season is coming to an end and now it's time to gear up for the "meeting" season! I'd like to officially welcome Laura Siitari as our newsletter editor.

Be sure to note the new location for our monthly meetings. It will be very exciting to check out the new center and see their great view of the marsh!

Money, or lack thereof, seems to be the big talk this fall. The State budget will be playing a major role in many environmental issues. On the positive side, monies were allocated in the 2010-2011 budget to help fund a PACE (purchase of ag conservation easements) program, which will be good for family farms.

Also at the State level, the Legislature is debating the make-up of the DNR-- which could also have some lasting affects on our state resources. There are several action items of environmental concern listed on the state Sierra Club website:

www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Involve/action.asp

One issue facing this region is CapX2020, a joint initiative of utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region to expand the electric transmission grid. (To learn more, contact Citizen's Energy Task Force at www.cetf.us).

Be sure to check out our web page for local happenings: www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee. Rick Komperud continues to do an excellent job of keeping the page current.

Hope to see you all on the 29th!

—MARILYN PEDRETTI

608-317-9698 • mjpedretti@yahoo.com

Open Positions

Our group has the following volunteer "opportunities." These are wonderful ways to help the environment and meet like-minded people. Contact any of the officers if you have a little time and an inclination to help.

- **Secretary** (take minutes at monthly ExComm meetings, held an hour prior to our regular member meetings);
- **Group Delegate** to Chapter meetings (4-6x yearly); and
- **Political Chair.**



A big thanks to Marilyn for creating the newsletter for the past three years when my life was too busy. As I will be resuming newsletter duties; please send your articles to lsitari@yahoo.com by the 3rd of each month. And, remember, you can now go to paperless delivery: Email alp@haleskemp.com to receive your newsletter by email instead of paper! —*Laura Siitari*



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

Autumn Highway Cleanup

Tuesday, October 6, 6 pm

The Coulee Region Group's adopted highway is River Valley Drive in the La Crosse River marsh. The third cleanup of the year will be Tuesday, October 6 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.

**2009 Sierra Club
Coulee Region Group
OFFICERS**

A complete list of the Coulee Region Board and Officers is online under "Contacts" at www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/.

2009 Autumn Assembly:

Plan to attend the John Muir Chapter's 2009 Autumn Assembly hosted by the Chippewa Valley and St. Croix Valley Interstate Groups on **October 9 – 11 at Beaver Creek Reserve near Eau Claire.**

The Autumn Assembly is an educational and enjoyable weekend gathering featuring workshops, speakers and hands-on nature activities for kids of all ages! The diverse activities will inform and inspire you as you enjoy the company of Sierra Club members and friends from across Wisconsin.

For more details or answers to your questions, please contact Barb Thomas, Chippewa Valley Group Chair (715-235-9771 or thomash@uwstout.edu) or Carol Hardin, St. Croix Valley Group Chair (cchardin8@gmail.com). You can download a registration form and read more at: <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/Events/aa.asp>.

Bike Ride in Trempeleau

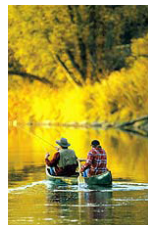
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 • 6PM

This will be a leisurely 1-1/2 hour evening bike ride along the Great River State Bike Trail inside Trempeleau State Park, with a possible snack afterward. We'll meet in the Trempeleau Hotel parking lot at 6 p.m. Please contact Sharon Stoll at (906) 362-1003 or Stoll.Sharon@mayo.edu beforehand.

Fall Colors on the Kickapoo River

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 •
LEAVE AT 9AM**

Canoe the scenic Kickapoo River from Ontario, WI. Let's hope for fall colors. This is an easy canoe trip suitable for inexperienced paddlers. We plan to leave La Crosse at 9 a.m.; meet in Ontario at 10 a.m., Please contact the leaders in advance so they know how many are coming. Leaders: Pat and Bobbie Wilson, 608-788-8831, pbwilson@centurytel.net.



Welcome to 2009 New Members (January – April)

Stacy Ahmad
Betty Antone
Patrick Bailey
Elaine Baker
Michael E. Banks, Sr.
Katherine Boivin
Robert Cheever
Philip Christians
Frances Cody
Stan Dirvin
Florence Dowiasch
Roy Eng

John Euler
Jan & Jim Gallagher
Elizabetha Gastelum
P. George
Joan Gerthoffer
R. Goodhart
Dale Gresseth
Beth Marie & Samuel Hall
Marcia Hardie
Judy Hebel
Dr. Mark F. Hemmerich
Stanley Hollenbeck

Russel Holte
John Horn
Jane M. Hulke
Bruce Humphrey
Ira Johnson
Kermit King
Melissa Klouda
Elizabeth Kozelka
Dian Kruase
Evelyn Larrabee
Dawn Lewis
Lynn Litchfield

Monica and Brad
Lobenstein
Antonio Lombardi
Cynthia Lupton
Rita Magno
Robert Malanic
Nan Marshall
Richard Matti
Patsy McCormick
Arvilla McKeeth
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas
McLenahan

Bruce Mitchel
Diana Moran
Mrs. Jeff H. Neitzke
Valerie Nelson
Christine L. Olsen
Mike Rauschendorfer
Tom Runnels
Adam Ruppert
Kay Rutherford
Charles & Linda
Schauberger
Kimberli Schneden

Martina Skobic
Ruby Smith
Joe Stauffacher
Jacqueline Syens
Kaye & Steve Tope
Jane Umnus
Frank Vancil
Ann Wales