



Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group Sierra

OCTOBER 2009

**NEW
LOCATION!**

**Tuesday,
October 27**

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

(6 pm: ExComm meeting)

**Sierra Club members and
non-members all welcome**

OCTOBER MEETING

Community Supported Forest

**SPEAKER: Amelia Baxter,
Manager - Driftless Farm and Forest**

It started with word play and an understanding that a sustainable forest is more than just its trees. Community Supported Forest (CSF) is a model of membership in a natural resource, much like a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). In a CSF, members reap the abundance of a sustainably managed forest.

This year, Driftless Farm and Forest planted this seed of an idea and is growing what it thinks is the first Community Supported Forest on its 134 acres in Stoddard, WI. This project facilitates a sustainable relationship between its members and a rural forest resource often overlooked. Amelia Baxter, Driftless Farm's manager, will talk about this innovative venture, share Driftless Farm's history of unique forest management, and why we all need to consider the importance of local forests in our global management of CO².



From the Chair:

The La Crosse County Sustainability Commission (with membership from the County, City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska) will be looking to appoint community members to the Commission when they meet in October. The Commission will continue to work towards establishing La Crosse as an Eco-Municipality. If you have any interest or questions about the Commission, please let me know.

On the state level, no word on AB 138 – Restoring Independence to the office of DNR Secretary. The Sierra Club strongly supports the bill, which will restore continuity, integrity and independence to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Call your local legislator to encourage their support of this legislation.

On the Federal level, there appears to be a holding pattern on the International Climate Treaty (due to the focus on health care legislation). A bit of good news came from the EPA's last week when they announced that all 79 mountaintop removal mining permits

submitted for review by the Army Corps of Engineers would likely violate the Clean Water Act. The House Conferees will meet soon to reconcile the contrasting House and Senate versions of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bills for FY 2010 (H.R.3183). A portion of the bill that affects our area includes the "Upper Mississippi River Lock and Dam Expansion" (considered an ineffective initiative by the National Wildlife Federation) and the "Upper Mississippi River Restoration" (we urge support).

To keep up-to-date on these and other issues, check out: www.sierraclub.org

—MARILYN PEDRETTI
608-317-9698 • mjpedretti@yahoo.com

An easy step; Remember, you can now go to paperless delivery of the newsletter. Simply email alp@haleskemp.com to receive your newsletter by email instead of paper!



Plastic recycling in La Crosse, at last?

A group is forming to encourage plastic recycling in the City of La Crosse. It looks like there's a good chance something can be done. Any La Crosse resident who wants to work on this issue, please contact Pat Wilson, pbwilson@centurytel.net or 788-8831.

Open Positions

Our group still has the following positions open and would love to hear from any interested folks. Please talk to anyone on the Ex-Comm committee.

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



COULEE REGION SIERRA CLUB

Maureen Kinney
620 South 23rd Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

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2009 Sierra Club Coulee Region Group OFFICERS

CHAIR Marilyn Pedretti
VICE CHAIR Rick Komperud
TREASURER Danny Foote
SECRETARY *Open Position*
PROGRAMS & OUTINGS
Pat Wilson & Sharon Stoll
MEMBERSHIP Andrea Parr
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
AND CALENDAR REP:
Maureen Kinney
NEWSLETTER Laura Siitari,
laurasiitari@gmail.com
CONSERVATION
Barb Frank, Ardelle Tuxen
WATER MONITORING PROGRAM
Rick Komperud, Danny Foote
CLEAN ENERGY COALITION REPS:
Bill Katra, Barb Frank,
Rick Komperud
*(Individual contact info can be found
online at [www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/
coulee/ContactUs.htm](http://www.wisconsin.sierraclub.org/coulee/ContactUs.htm))*

Clean Energy Coalition

Thursday, 10/29/09 at 7:00 p.m.
Ho-Chunk basement, 8th and Main

“Solar Energy in the Midwest”
Speaker: Alan Stankevitz

Alan is a home-schooled specialist in solar energy systems and address what is or should be happening with solar in the Midwest. He will provide details for the two solar systems he personally installed in his home, plus will discuss state-of-the-art innovations in the field. It's sure to be interesting!

Save the Date!

Our annual holiday party, filled with good food, conversation and holiday cheer, will be held again at Don & Barb Frank's home on Tuesday, December 15 at 6p.m. More details & directions to come in next month's newsletter.

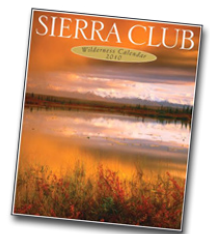
Upper Mississippi Projects

House Conferees are beginning to reconcile House and Senate versions of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bills for FY 2010 - H.R.3183, which funds the Corps of Engineers in 2010. Although it's at a late stage, now would be a great time to weigh in with any officials you've been working with. Visit this link to see items most likely to receive funding:

[www.corpsreform.org/sitepages/
PagesInTheField.html](http://www.corpsreform.org/sitepages/PagesInTheField.html)

Sierra Club 2010 Calendars

These beautiful calendars make perfect gifts for anyone! Available either for wall (\$12.95) or desk (\$13.95), they will be available at Sierra Club meetings. Or, you can order from Maureen Kinney: 784-9324 (home), 784-5678 (work) or maureen@johnsflaherty.com. She'll even deliver if you live in the La Crosse area.



Welcome to 2009 New Members (May – August 2009)

Dr. David Ball
Lawrence E. Birdsong
Kathryn Brandt
Kenneth G. Brown
Scott & Jennifer Brunk
Sandra & Liviu Cepoi
Sally Cozy
Mary Crow
Joann Declute
Kerry Decorah

Sharon Foll
Susan Fossen
Celeste Gibson
Mary Gordon
Peter M. Gutierrez
Brian Haefs
Mary Heath
James Heyer
Brian Hopkins
Joseph R. Houd

Ellen Kallis
Fred Ketterer
Rick Knuth
Howard R. Larson
Tom Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald
Lawrence
Bud & Katie Lemley
Ted Lucksted
Jackie Morphey

Kevin Murray
Aaron Nicks
Karl Oldenburg
Sheryl Olson
Joyce S. Ostergren
Russ Paulson
Kathy Peterson
Jane Ramey
John Raymond
Betty Reininger

Stanley Rieder
Thomas Roberts
Robert L. Rossing H. A.
Schroeder
Dave Scullion
Kristie Shappell
Dave Shepardson
John Slak
Judith Sullivan
Dr. Doug Swenson

Peter Szymanskis
Larry Tabbert
Penny Tilden
L. Vlasak
Deb Winzenried
Jeff Woody
Marion Kay Zinn