



# Sierra

March  
2008

*Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group*

## MARCH MEETING

**PERU:  
A land filled  
with surprise &  
spirituality**

**Tuesday, March 25<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 welcome!**

### **Speakers: Philip & Monique Hooker**

A land of very contrasting geography and vast archeological heritage contribute to Peru's well earned reputation as a mystical universe in itself. The evening will focus on the various regions - from Lima to Caral (the oldest civilization in the Americas, located in the desert); the Amazonian basin (one of those very few unexplored places on Earth); Cuzco (capital of the Incas); Sacred Valley of the Incas (where one can still feel the energy and strength of the Andes); Machu Picchu (discovered in 1911 - holds the admiration of people around the world); and not to forget Lake Titicaca (the highest navigable lake in the world). Along the way we will introduce the Peruvian cuisine and handcrafts. A presentation not to be missed!

### **FROM THE CHAIR:**

There are opportunities to lead in your areas of interest within the Sierra Club! The Sierra Club has interest groups on just about any environmental issue that exists. Let me know if you're interested in any particular issue, whether it's transportation, population, endangered species, agriculture, air quality, water quality, campaign financing, trade, mining, sprawl... You can be the Coulee Group leader on the issue and work with like-minded people in Sierra Club groups around the state and country. Witness the great job Bill Katra has done on the energy issue. There was a front page story in the Tribune on the last Clean Energy Coalition meeting.

Also, if you're interested in getting more timely information on when you should call your legislator about issues such as the Safe Climate Act or Great Lakes Compact or independent DNR Secretary, please ask to have your email address added to our email newsletter distribution list. We would also be able to send more timely notice when a program changes or a meeting is canceled like it was in January.

**Pat Wilson**

### **Welcome new members!**

Gerald & Joanne Adsen, Nichole Basham, Melissa Brunsell, Sheila Coleman, Patty Dayton, Paul Dunn, Nancy Feit, Sharon Fox, Mr & Mrs Wil Fryer, Robert George, R. Goodhart, Debra Havinga, Delores Helke, Linda Henkelman, Thomas Kelley, Amanda McConnell, Michelle Morris, Mark Munz, Nancy Nastvold, Thomas Parker, Dorsey Peterson, Randy Smith, Linda Votava, William Walz, Gerald Weigel, Philip Wolle, David Wood

### **Clean Energy Coalition Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

Energy Star & Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program will be the topic of the next Clean Energy Coalition meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at the Three Rivers House. Please join us!

### **Governor's Global Warming Task Force Hearing Wednesday, March 19, 4 to 7 p.m. UW-La Crosse, Wing Hall, Room 102, 1705 State Street**

The Governor's Global Warming Task Force will meet again on March 19. As it was last time, this will be a video conference meeting with four locations around the state - Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee. The Sierra Club will be doing training to help members be more effective when they attend these meetings. Contact me if you're interested in the training information when it comes out. Pat Wilson 608-788-8831



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### **Wisconsin Safe Climate Act Status**

Passing the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act, aimed at reducing Wisconsin's contribution to global warming, has been a top priority for the John Muir Chapter this year. The legislative status of the bill is that it was passed by the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, but was held up in committee in the Assembly. Spencer Black was able to get a vote in the Assembly on Feb. 26, on whether to pull the bill from committee and allow the full Assembly to vote on it. This motion failed. Local Assembly member Shilling voted for allowing the full Assembly to vote on the bill, while Huebsch voted against. The State Legislature is scheduled to adjourn on March 13, so the bill is most likely dead for this session.

**Send a thank you....**to Ron Kind for voting for important energy tax incentives in a bill that passed the House last week and encourage him to keep voting for a clean energy future!

### **Black River State Forest Master Plan - Possible April 1 Meeting**

A Public Hearing on the Black River State Forest Master Plan is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, in Black River Falls. This is not official yet and there's been no public announcement, because the final details of the recommended plan are still being worked out. Since this will be the last newsletter before April 1, I wanted to mention this possible meeting. Watch for public announcements of the meeting and for the details of the recommended Master Plan for the forest. The Coulee Group entered comments back in April of 2007 requesting habitat protection for any endangered or threatened species; protection for any old growth forest; preserved and expanded opportunities for quiet, non-motorized recreation; and expansion of the forest where possible.

### **Great Lakes Compact Status**

Another priority for the Muir Chapter has been the Great Lakes Compact. We don't hear as much about this issue as residents on the eastern side of the state did. The Great Lakes Compact is an agreement between the eight states and two provinces bordering the Great Lakes. One main goal is to prevent diversions of water out of the Great Lakes watershed. This would prevent exporting water in pipes to Arizona or tankers to China. Wisconsin has not approved the compact yet, one of three states still holding out. The biggest issue is Wisconsin municipalities such as Waukesha which are close to the lake but not in the watershed, and would like to meet their water needs from Lake Michigan. This has been worked out by allowing the water to be withdrawn from the lake if it is treated and returned to the lake after use, and the diversion is approved by the DNR. Municipalities and businesses say they will treat and return the water, but are concerned that the DNR would get more regulatory authority under this bill. The state legislature is scheduled to adjourn by March 14, so the issue will be decided in some way by the time you read this.

### **Coulee Region Group Officers Determined**

The Coulee Group Board met on February 26 and elected the following officers for 2008. Thanks to all these people for serving:

Chair & Outings Chair & Program Chair - Pat Wilson

Vice Chair & Chapter Delegate - Rick Komperud

Secretary & Membership Chair - Andrea Parr

Treasurer - Danny Foote

Environmental Ed. Chair & Calendar Rep. - Maureen Kinney

Alt. Chapter Delegate - Steve Fruechte

#### Non-board positions:

Conservation Chair - Barb Frank

Newsletter Editor - Marilyn Pedretti

Clean Energy Coalition - Bill Katra

Water Monitoring Program - Rick Komperud, Danny Foote