



Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

OCTOBER 2018

October 16: Solar Group Buy Info Meeting

Representatives from SunVest Solar, Inc. and the John Muir Chapter Sierra Club will talk about the solar GROUP BUY program aimed at helping homeowners, businesses, and nonprofits install solar systems. The group buy means lower upfront costs and a simplified installation process. Plus, SunVest will make a donation to the John Muir Chapter for each unit installed through the program.

Read more at <https://www.sunvest.com/programs/sierraclub/>, then join us at the **Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House (8th & Main) at 6:30 p.m. on October 16** to ask questions and learn more.

Harvest sunlight.
Join our solar group buy and save money on clean energy

SIERRA CLUB JOHN MUIR CHAPTER SUNVEST SOLAR INC

October 2: Highway Cleanup

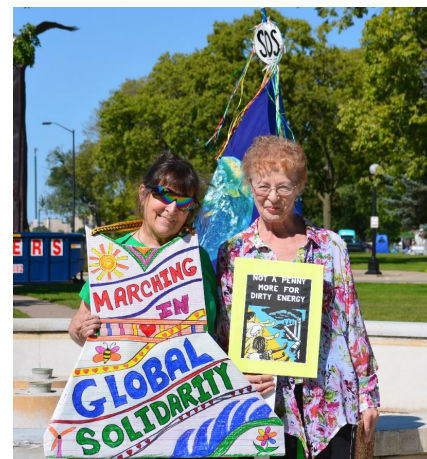
Our autumn cleanup of River Valley Drive will be on Tuesday, October 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. River Valley Drive is the Coulee Region Group's adopted roadway. Meet at the pumping station just northwest of the Gillette Street intersection. Bags and safety vests will be provided. We suggest wearing gloves and old clothes. Consider donning bug and sun protection. We'll head to Rudy's Drive or food and conversation after the cleanup.

For more info, contact Pat or Bobbie at 608-788-8831 or pbwilson@centurytel.net.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Rise for Climate Event

On September 8 members of the Coulee Region Group participated in this Riverside Park event.



It's not too early to think about the holidays!



Again this year, your purchase of Sierra Club calendars will benefit our club and environmental programs and protection activities. \$14.95 for the wall calendar and \$15.95 for the engagement book. Get yours at our December gathering or order from Maureen Kinney: 784-9324/784-5678 or email maureen [at] johnsflaherty-dot-com. Notecards also available.

ELECTION NEWS

2017-2018 Wisconsin Legislative Scorecards Released

Jennifer Shilling, Steve Doyle, and Jill Billings have been designated 2018 Environmental Champions by the John Muir Chapter for achieving a score of 100% on the 2017-2018 Legislative Scorecard just released by the chapter. The Sierra Club scored the legislators based on their votes on legislation important to environmental protection in Wisconsin. The scorecard can be found [here](#).

Sen. Shilling and Reps. Billings and Doyle deserve congratulations and support for their support of the environment. Of the other ten WI legislators whose districts include a portion of the eight counties included in the Coulee Region Group, five of them had scores of 0%—Reps. Treig Pronschinski, Lee Nerison, Edward Brooks, Kathleen Bernier, and Nancy VanderMeer. Three had scores of 20%—Sens. Howard Marklein, Terry Moulton, and Patrick Testin.

Please vote on or before November 6 and consider the scores when you do. The Sierra Club is working on a get out the vote campaign for members, driven by analysis of the 2016 election that showed environmentalists are weak voters compared to some other interest groups. We need to get out and vote our convictions.

Support Kriss Marion in WI Senate District 17

The John Muir Chapter has analyzed this year's legislative races in Wisconsin and identified a few that deserve concentrated effort. One is the election in Senate District 17, where the Chapter endorsed Kriss Marion over the incumbent Howard Marklein. The two candidates contrast sharply on environmental issues, particularly water.

Sen Marklein has voted :

- To reduce funding for state parks by almost 30% in the 2015 State Budget.
- To limit local control on water and approve unlimited high capacity well siting.
- For easing wetlands protections and enabling wetland destruction. Destroying wetlands in a watershed will increase flooding risk in that watershed.

- To severely reduce the funding for the Fertilizer Research Council, which works with farmers to seek innovative solution for manure management.

Kriss Marion responded to the Chapter candidate questionnaire that she:

- Would support repealing the unlimited high cap well bill.
- Would support restricting manure spreading using factors like depth to bedrock, soil saturation, depth to water table etc.
- Is concerned about the Driftless Region and its outstanding recreational resources. She recognizes the importance of hunting, fishing, paddling and trail usage for a healthy economy.

And she had favorable positions on clean energy and the variety of issues in the questionnaire.

Coulee Region Group members in Grant and Richland Counties, please support Kriss Marion for SD17.

Sierra Club Election Endorsements

The Sierra Club John Muir Chapter has made endorsements for the upcoming election, based on voting records and responses to a questionnaire sent out by the chapter Political Committee. For the complete list, see SIERRA CLUB ANNOUNCES ENDORSED CANDIDATES. We encourage you to support the following candidates in the Coulee Region Group territory:

- SD 17 – Kriss Marion D-Blanchardville
- AD 49 – Jesse Bennett, D-Bagley
- AD 50 – Art Shrader, D-Reedsburg
- AD 51 – Jeff Wright, D-Plain
- AD 68 – Wendy Sue Johnson, D-Eau Claire
- AD 70 – Cari Fay, D-Merrilan
- AD 92 – Rob Grover, D-Galesville
- AD 94 – Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska
- AD 95 – Jill Billings, D-La Crosse
- AD 96 – Paul Buhr, D-Viroqua

Click [here](#) to see complete list.



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DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 1 **League of Women Voters Discussion of Mississippi River** (see article in this newsletter)
- October 2 **Highway Cleanup**, 5:30 p.m., River Valley Drive (see article in this newsletter)
- October 3-24 **EcoChallenge** (see article in this newsletter)
- October 13 **MVC Mushroom Foray at Romance Woods**
<https://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/events>
- October 16 **Solar Group Buy info Meeting** (see article on front page)
- October 20 **MVC Land Stewardship Volunteer Day** at Tunnelville Cliffs SNA
<https://www.mississippivalleyconservancy.org/events>
- December 11 **Reserve the date for our Holiday Gathering.** More in the November issue.

Oct 3–24: EcoChallenge!

Sierra Club members are invited to join the Coulee Region Climate Alliance team for this year's October EcoChallenge! The EcoChallenge, organized by Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI), runs **October 3-24**. There are a variety of daily and one-time actions you can choose to take to earn points over the 3-week period. Plus, if there are actions you're already taking, you can earn points for those too! To sign up, visit <https://2018.ecochallenge.org/>. When asked if you want to join a team, search for "Coulee Region Climate Alliance." We hope you'll consider participating so we can see what our collective impact will be!

Oct. 1: Changes and Improvements on the Upper Mississippi

On **October 1** the public is invited to a discussion of changes and improvement on the Upper Mississippi River presented by the League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region (LWV UMRR).

LWV UMRR will host leaders from LWV Jo Daviess County to discuss what they have accomplished in the Galena River watershed, and what we as community leaders can do throughout the Upper Mississippi River watershed.

Time: 12:30, light refreshments; discussion 1 p.m.

Place: Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, N 5727 Co Rd Z, Onalaska, Wisconsin (10 miles north of La Crosse)