



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group  
**SEPTEMBER 2018**

*"We're doing the reverse of what we should be doing ... and nobody's batting an eyelid." - Mayer Hillman ([tinyurl.com/mhendff](https://tinyurl.com/mhendff))*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 at 7 p.m.**  
**"Sustainability Indicators for the City and County of La Crosse"**  
with **Anders Olson, Sustainability Analytics**  
co-sponsored by **UWL Environmental Studies**  
**3314 Student Union, UWL**

In 2009 the La Crosse County Board and La Crosse Common Council adopted the City of La Crosse & La Crosse County Strategic Plan for Sustainability. The plan identified several sustainability indicators which would be monitored on a regular basis including governmental energy, fuel, and water use; paper and green product purchasing; transportation; solid waste and more. **Anders Olson**, Sustainability Analytics of La Crosse, will discuss the outcomes of the most recent, 2017, indicators report. (Read the report at <https://tinyurl.com/17suslaxrpt>). We'll

also hear updates on other Sierra Club programs. Everyone is welcome. You don't need to be a member to attend.

**This meeting is co-sponsored by UWL's Environmental Studies Department and will be in Room 3314 of the UWL Student Union.** Park RIGHT NEXT TO THE UNION in Lot 12 (Cleary Center lot - East Ave & La Crosse St) or in the ramp (levels 1-3) where you will pay 25 cents per quarter hour until 7 pm (after 7 pm no charge for short term parking). The #4 bus stops near the union hourly ([cityoflacrosse.org/mtu](http://cityoflacrosse.org/mtu)) and the Union is accessible by foot and bicycle. The Student Union is #35 on the campus map at [www.uwlax.edu/map](http://www.uwlax.edu/map) and you can view floor plans of the building at [tinyurl.com/uwlaxfloorplans](http://tinyurl.com/uwlaxfloorplans). If you need more information or directions, please email [crsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:crsierraclub@gmail.com)

## Sierra Club Endorses candidates

Before each election, our volunteer-powered Political Committee evaluates candidates' voting records and commitments to conservation. The Political Committee program may include federal, state, and local government races, as well as ballot measures, and shall be conducted in compliance with applicable law and in accordance with the Club's electoral compliance guidelines.

The John Muir Chapter has endorsed **Tony Evers** for Governor, **Tammy Baldwin** for US Senate, and six candidates for Congress including **Ron Kind** who currently represents the Coulee Region group district. Additionally, the Chapter has endorsed candidates in state Senate and Assembly races. The full list of endorsements is in the news release: <https://tinyurl.com/18jmcendorsements>

The fall election will be **Tuesday, November 6**, but voters in many municipalities will be able to vote absentee in person at their clerk's office as soon as ballots are ready. In La Crosse, "early voting" will begin on Monday, October 15. More about voting, registering, finding your polling place, etc. is at <https://elections.wi.gov/voters>.

## September 2 - Open Streets

Join the Coulee Region Sierra Club and other local organizations and businesses at the 2nd annual Open Streets event, Sunday, September 2 from noon to 5 p.m. Several blocks of downtown streets will be closed to cars leaving space for art, music, crafts, sales, activities, food, play, dancing, yoga, demonstrations, conversations, pets, and fun. Find the CRSC table on Main Street in front of Burns Park. More details at <https://tinyurl.com/18oslax>

## September 8 - Climate Rally

**Rise for Climate** is a global day of action to end the era of fossil fuels. Join the CRSC and other local and regional organizations and leaders at **2 p.m. on Saturday, September 8 in Riverside Park near the big fountain.** This event is one of thousands being held around the world to demand our local leaders commit to building a fossil free world that puts people and justice before profits. No more stalling, no more delays: it's time for a fast and fair transition to 100% renewable energy for all. Read more about it at <https://riseforclimate.org>

## Coulee Region Sierra Club Environmental Education Grants

Two schools received environmental education grants in January. Here are reports about what was accomplished with the grant money. Applications for 2019 grants will be available in December.

First of all, thank you so very much for the grant money, The students and I learned and visually experienced so much. The students were so excited to receive the butterfly eggs in the mail. Little did they know that was just the beginning. Soon after we transferred the eggs to the little cups with the provided food the eggs grew into fat caterpillars, the students loved to lay on the floor and watch. Soon they became boring (to the eye) larvae, but then it happened one by one - the butterflies emerged. We had 26 out of the 33 hatch. Pre-K and 7th grade students planted butterfly bushes and prepared outdoor food. Then release day came! We hope to have eggs on our plants next year to start the cycle over.

Thank you,  
Cheri Oglesby, Pre-K Teacher St. Rose, Cuba City, WI



On May 10, 265 5th graders from Meadowview Elementary School in Sparta visited the Sparta School Forest for a day of environmental learning. Students were divided into groups and visited several learning stations throughout the day. Thank you for helping fund our transportation request to get us to this amazing outdoor learning center. Stations included: wood craft - Mr. Cook and students use a saw buck and single-person cross cut saw to “put up” wood for the wood pile. This station is located next to the Aldo Leopold Shack—an exact replica of the one located in Baraboo, Wisconsin. Students learned about Aldo, Phenology, and took part in simple wood craft. At other stations, students practiced nature crafts, drawing, and writing. Sparta High School Nature Club participants helped lead some of the learning stations. Because of your donation, four busloads of kids made it to the woods!! Another group, Junior English, came the next day and were able to do so because of your generous gift!! As an educator and the coordinator of the Sparta School Forest, I thank you for providing our students with this wonderful opportunity!

Respectfully from the woods,  
Joe Cook, Sustainability Coordinator Sparta Area School District

### Please help your club!

We're looking for helpers to make sure our club is connected. If you would like to help by posting about local environmental events and issues at our blog, submitting information for our monthly newsletter, please send your information to [crsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:crsierraclub@gmail.com) subject: NEWS.

Also, please consider running for the board this fall. More details will be available in our November newsletter.

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Coulee Region Sierra Club, 620 S 23rd Street,  
La Crosse, WI 54601

We are also seeking someone to be our group's representative to the John Muir chapter executive committee. Our current rep is not able to continue because of other commitments. The executive committee works on strategic planning for the chapter and communication with the state's groups and the national Sierra Club. Meetings are held six times per year (there's an online option). The CR board will review applications until this volunteer position is filled. Read about current members at this link. <https://www.sierraclub.org/wisconsin/contact>. If you are interested in serving on this important committee, please email [crsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:crsierraclub@gmail.com) for more information or call Pat at 608 788-8831.

If you would like to join the state water or transportation teams, please email for details.



## Black River Canoe Camping

The July 14-15 kid-focused Black River canoe camping trip turned out to be a delightful trip, with a great group of active, adventurous kids and adults! The warm weather inspired lots of water play and swimming. We climbed a waterfall. We saw live clams, an immature eagle, a water snake, lots of frogs, butterflies and more. Oh yes, and we experienced our share of mosquitoes and flies. The water was a bit lower than desired, but we were lucky that the predicted storms never materialized.

## Sept. 11 - Foxconn Town Hall

Wisconsin Legislative Democrats are hosting a series of Town Hall meetings around the state to discuss the economic and environmental issues arising from the state's Foxconn deal. One of the Town Hall meetings will be held at Onalaska High School from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11. For more information, please contact the office of State Senator, Jennifer Shilling at 608 266-5490 or [Sen.Shilling@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Shilling@legis.wi.gov).

## Ready for 100

This fall, the Coulee Region Sierra Club Ready for 100 team will kick off an initiative to pass a Ready for 100 ordinance in the City of La Crosse by the end of the year. The Mayor has already signed as a Ready for 100 Mayor. The City, through its partnership with the County on the La Crosse Sustainability Commission has already acknowledged the importance of reducing our carbon footprint, and, through its 25 by 25 (see [tinyurl.com/lax25x25](https://tinyurl.com/lax25x25)) pledge, committed to reducing fossil fuel consumption and increasing energy derived from renewable sources. A Ready for 100 resolution, is the next logical as the full consequences of catastrophic global warming are becoming the new normal. Follow developments at [cr-sierra.blogspot.com](http://cr-sierra.blogspot.com), to learn how you can help move this important initiative forward in the coming weeks.

## Solar for Good

Solar for Good, a project of RENEW Wisconsin, provides assistance and grants to non profits who install new solar systems. One 2018 recipient, Kevala Retreat in Norwalk (<https://tinyurl.com/kevsol18>), will host an open house on Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. to celebrate the completion of their installation which produces more than twice as much electricity as the center uses. Applications for 2019 Solar for Good grants will open on October 1. See [renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood](http://renewwisconsin.org/solarforgood) for details.



## Chrysalis Farm Tour

Ten Coulee Region Group members experienced what it's like to live in an earth friendly way and show a true love of the land, when they toured Marcia Halligan and Steven Adams' Chrysalis Farm on August 28. Marcia gave us a tour of the small organic farm she and Steven have lived on since 1985. Their beautiful and efficient house uses whole tree construction with wood and stone coming primarily from their farm. They use straw bales for insulation in walls and roof for energy efficiency, and have photovoltaic panels to generate electricity. They farmed with horses until one of the horses died recently. With the horse gone and with floods from their fork of the Kickapoo River flooding their land more often, they're cutting back on farming, though they still have a garden where they grow heirloom vegetables. Marcia and Steven were gracious hosts, and Marcia ended the visit by reading some excerpts from her book about life on the farm, "Hidden in the 13th Moon." Those who carpoled from La Crosse were fortunate to be able to ride in Kathy Allen's Chevy Bolt all-electric car. It's a very quiet car of the future.





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**DATES TO REMEMBER!** (links to these events and more at [cr-sierra.blogspot.com](http://cr-sierra.blogspot.com))

- Aug 31-Sept 3 8th annual La Crosse Area Bike Fest ([bikelacrosse.explorelacrosse.com/bike-fest/](http://bikelacrosse.explorelacrosse.com/bike-fest/))
- Sept. 2 **Open Streets** noon to 5 p.m. La Crosse Burns Park to Cameron Park
- Sept. 8 **Rise for Climate Rally** 2 p.m. Riverside Park fountain, La Crosse
- Sept. 8 Garden Tour, Hike, Stargazing 4 pm FSPA Villa, St. Joseph's Ridge ([tinyurl.com/0908mvc](http://tinyurl.com/0908mvc))
- Sept. 11 Foxconn Town Hall 5:30 p.m. Onalaska High School
- Sept. 15-16 Driftless Art Festival at Beauford T Anderson Park, Soldiers Grove ([driftlessareaartfestival.com](http://driftlessareaartfestival.com))
- Sept. 25 **Coulee Region Sierra Club meeting** 7 p.m. Room 3314 UWL Student Union
- Sept. 25 Inspiring Sustainability Awards 4:30 pm Lunda Ctr ([tinyurl.com/0925inspiresustain](http://tinyurl.com/0925inspiresustain))
- Sept. 28 -30 60th annual Gays Mills Apple Festival ([www.gaysmills.org/applefest.html](http://www.gaysmills.org/applefest.html))
- Sept. 29-30 **Sierra Club Canoe/Kayak the Kickapoo River** MUST PREREGISTER ([tinyurl.com/jmcwatertrips](http://tinyurl.com/jmcwatertrips))
- Sept. 29 Solar for Good installation Open House 11 am Kevala Retreat, Norwalk ([tinyurl.com/kevsol18](http://tinyurl.com/kevsol18))
- Oct. 2 **Coulee Region Sierra Club highway cleanup** 5:30 pm River Valley Dr ([tinyurl.com/crschiway](http://tinyurl.com/crschiway))
- Oct. 15 Absentee in person voting begins in some municipalities (check with your city clerk)
- Oct. 16 **Sierra Club/SunVest Solar GROUP BUY info program** 6:30 pm Ho-Chunk House (8th & Main)

## October 16 - Solar Group Buy info

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 non profits 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 [sunvest.com/programs/sierra club](http://sunvest.com/programs/sierra%20club), then join us at the **Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House (8th & Main) at 6:30 on Oct. 16** to ask questions and learn more.

Seeking volunteer who could help produce the online-only newsletter in October and provide newsletter back up as needed. Email [crsierraclub@gmail.com](mailto:crsierraclub@gmail.com).



**SIERRA CLUB**  
JOHN MUIR CHAPTER

