



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

DECEMBER 2014

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On Sunday  
This Year!



## Sierra Holiday Party Sunday, December 21 5:00 PM

**Barb & Don Frank's home**  
**1965 Valley Road**  
**La Crosse**  
**Phone: 788-3914**

Sierra Club members and  
non-members all welcome

Please join us for our annual holiday party; chat with old friends and meet new. There'll be plenty of good food, conversation and the annual ping-pong playoffs. As in past years, Don and Barb Frank have generously offered to host at their home.

WHERE: 1965 Valley Road, La Crosse in Wedgewood Valley, just east of the city. Go 1.1 miles east on State Road/Hwy. 33 from the Losey Blvd. and State Road inter-section. Turn left (north) into Wedgewood Valley, 1/3 mile to the brown ranch home.

**Please bring a snack, appetizer or dessert to share.**  
**The Franks will provide assorted beverages.**

## Public Service Commission Hearings on Badger-Coulee Power Line Expansion

*excerpted from the La Crosse Tribune, December 3, 2014*

**B**eginning next week, Wisconsin regulators will hold a series of public hearings on one of the state's largest high-voltage transmission line project to date—the Badger-Coulee project, a proposed 345-kilovolt power line between Holmen and Madison—which could cost ratepayers millions and slice through western Wisconsin.

The commissioners will determine if and where American Transmission Co. and Xcel Energy can build the line. Whether or not they are there, your comments will be transcribed and entered into the record. (At the time of this publication, it's unclear if any of the governor-appointed commissioners will be present!)

The line, if approved, could encroach on up to 556 residences,

as well as farm, forest and public lands. It is expected to cost up to \$580 million, which would be the most expensive transmission project approved since 1996. The second largest, approved in 2003, had a price tag of \$420 million.

ATC and Xcel say the line would improve system reliability, deliver cheaper power for Wisconsin consumers and provide a pipeline for wind energy from Minnesota and Iowa to population centers to the east.

Opponents say the demand is not there, and the line would allow utilities to profit by trading energy while discouraging more cost-effective alternatives such as energy efficiency and solar power." *continued*

**Go paperless! Email [alp@haleskemp.com](mailto:alp@haleskemp.com) for an electronic newsletter**



*Coulee Region Sierra Club*

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## Hillview Urban Agriculture Center publication: "La Crosse Area's Growing Experience: Our area's urban agriculture & local food system - past, present & future"

**H**illview Urban Agriculture Center (Hillview), along with contributing sponsors—La Crosse Public Library, Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare and Western Technical College—has created an informational publication on Hillview Urban Agriculture Center and the La Crosse area's urban agriculture and local food system.

The publication is a fundraiser to help Hillview continue its mission to "Create

a healthy community through a local, sustainable, and accessible food system."

Cost is \$10 for softcover and \$50 for hardcover. For more information on sales outlets or to order online go to [HillviewUAC.org](http://HillviewUAC.org).



## PSC Hearings, continued

This is your chance to be heard; either in person or in writing.

**Public hearing dates**(citizens can submit written or oral comments):

Dec. 8, Monday, 3 p.m. — Waunakee Village Community Center, 333 S. Madison St., Waunakee

Dec. 9, Tuesday, 3 p.m. — Holland Town Hall, W7937 Hwy. MH, Holmen

Dec. 10, Wednesday, 3 p.m. — Cashton Community Hall, 811 Main St., Cashton

Dec. 11, Thursday, 3 p.m. — Three Bears Lodge, 701 Yogi Circle, Warrens

Dec. 15, Monday, 3 p.m. — Kalahari Resorts, Ste. A, 1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells

Written comments may be submitted through Jan. 5. Go to <http://psc.wi.gov> and click on Public Comments to comment online. Printed comments should be mailed to: Docket 5-CE-142 Comments, Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854

## Support the environment with Sierra Club calendars

The 2015 Sierra Club holiday calendars, our group's primary fundraisers, are now available. These gorgeous calendars (wall for \$13.95 and desk for \$14.95) have been bestsellers for 30-plus years featuring photos worth framing. They will be available at Sierra Club meetings. Or, you can order from Maureen Kinney: 784-9324 (H), 784-5678 (work) or [maureen@johnsflaherty.com](mailto:maureen@johnsflaherty.com).