



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Coulee Region Group

OCTOBER 2015

## OCTOBER MEETING

**Tuesday,  
October 27**

7pm at the  
**HoChunk  
Three Rivers House  
at 8th & Main**

6pm Board Meeting

### Sierra Club's Goals in Wisconsin

**Presenter: Bill Davis, Chapter Director,  
Sierra Club, John Muir Chapter**

Come meet Bill Davis, the new Chapter Director of Wisconsin's John Muir Chapter. Bill has Wildlife Ecology and Law degrees from the University of Wisconsin and was most recently a Senior Attorney for the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Bill will introduce himself to the Coulee Group and present his vision for the John Muir Chapter in Wisconsin's challenging political climate. What are the goals of the Sierra Club in Wisconsin? How do we develop the power or clout to achieve them? Where do we apply the power and how do we measure success? What issues do we attack first and what's your role as a Sierra Club volunteer? Bill will leave plenty of time for the questions and discussion he hopes to generate.



## To be or not to be; board members needed!

**O**ur Executive Committee is discussing options for the future of the Coulee Region Sierra Club. Like many local non-profit groups, we're struggling for participation and relevance, while the number of local, national, and global environmental issues seems to grow daily. The seven current members of the Coulee Region ExCom have been in office from 5 to 13 years, and are looking for some new blood. We would like your input on where we go from here. That input can range from communicated comments to volunteering to join the ExCom and sharing the leadership.

We currently hold ten meetings per year with two (June and December) as social events. We organize the road clean-up three times a year and schedule an outing or two. We participate in issues, such as the Community Advisory Group for the DOT's La Crosse transportation study. We endorse candidates for office based on their record on environmental issues.

If we are to keep the same pace, we would need folks to step up and assist in the leadership. Options we're discussing

include going from 10 meetings per year to quarterly meetings. Other options are to suspend for a set time, or to "fold" (sending all money and responsibilities to the state chapter).

Please attend the next meeting or contact me ([mjpedretti@yahoo.com](mailto:mjpedretti@yahoo.com)) with your thoughts or suggestions.

So, to be or not to be, that is the question!

*Marilyn Pedretti, Chair*

### Help Us Improve Communication

**Sending a paper newsletter through U.S. Mail is a slow and expensive process. We're asking for email addresses so we can communicate quickly while saving paper and money.**

**To assist that endeavor and to go paperless, send a note to [alp@haleskemp.com](mailto:alp@haleskemp.com).**



Coulee Region Sierra Club

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## This Changes Everything movie screening coming to La Crosse

I am excited to announce that I've received permission to screen the new documentary, THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING, at the Ward Avenue Cinema on **Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.** as a Tugg event. (See <http://resources.tugg.com/howtuggworks/> for more information on how Tugg helps folks bring movies to their communities.)

This new film is based on the highly acclaimed book, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism versus the Climate*, by Naomi Klein. ("The most momentous and contentious environmental book since *Silent Spring*." —Rob Nixon The New York Times Book Review)

The film highlights several communities that are on the front lines of catastrophic climate change. It also highlights solutions to this most important crisis of our time.

Tickets go on sale October 15 at <https://www.tugg.com/events/56146> for \$11, **and must be purchased through the website.** There must be at least 70 tickets (of max capacity 90) purchased by November 10 for the event to go on.

Please email me if you have questions.

Cathy Van Maren  
[cathyvanmaren@yahoo.com](mailto:cathyvanmaren@yahoo.com)

### Support the environment with these gorgeous calendars

The 2016 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 best sellers 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).

