



TALLGRASS SIERRA

January, 1992

P. O. Box 3593 Peoria, IL 61612

JANUARY PROGRAM

The significance of the ancient forests of the northwestern United States will be the topic of this month's program on Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 PM at the Forest Park Nature Center.

Larry and Gail Leiken will share their video program, "Lessons From The Ancient Forest: Earth Wisdom and Political Activism" with you. Don't miss this inspiring presentation!

Judy Donath

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO? TOPIC OF SPECIAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

What would you like our conservation priorities to be, what conservation projects would you like to work on, what do you think about what we have been doing?

This will be the subject matter of a special membership-as-the-whole Conservation Committee meeting at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at the Unitarian Church, 908 Hamilton Blvd.

Come, give us a dossier of your thoughts & desires, and your experience and current conservation activities.

If you can't come, send a letter to me via our P.O. box or my home.

Though we have to deal with issues as they occur, this information will help steer our course. And from it we can develop work projects & a file of people to call upon.

--Tom Edwards, Conservation Chr.

Executive Committee Members

Chair - Shirley O'Connell 676-5479

V-Chair - Chuck Buchna 243-7142

Treas - Lucia Miller 691-9643

Sec - Luan Railsback 682-8830

Conservation Chair and Chapter Delegate

Tom Edwards 676-5248

Larry Johnson 697-3211

Judy Donath 697-1863

Other Committee Chair

Membership - Jan Hoyer 694-2732

Volunteer Coordinator and Outings

Mark McClintick 579-3206

Inner City Environmental Coalition

James Polk 674-6829

Larry Johnson 697-3211

Publicity - Dave Grebner 674-3977

Legal Advisor - Larry Leiken 691-3933

Newsletter Editor - Kathy Berry 685-8304

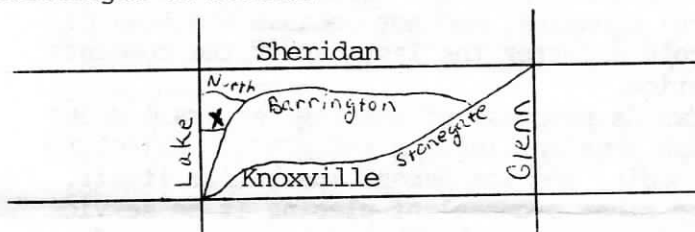
Notes from EXCOM 1-2-92

1. Urban task force to be called "Inner City Environmental Coalition."

2. Hamms Harbor. 3. Response from Bonnie Noble considering request to spend awarded \$50,000 on environmental projects. 4. Chapter Excom to be held in Peoria 3-14-92.

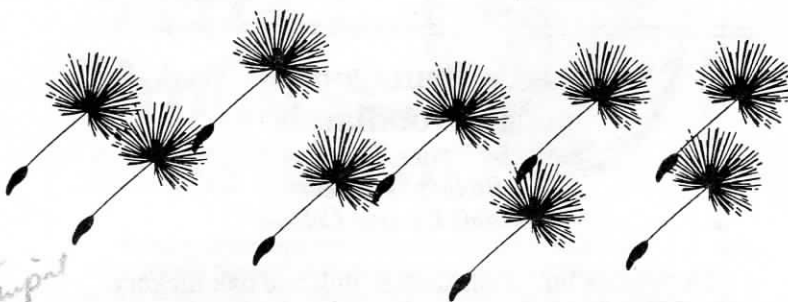
5. Treasurer's report: \$1165.87. 6. Review of old board activities. 7. Turn over to new board. 8. Election and appointments of officers (See names in newsletter) 9. Committee appointed to audit books. L. Railsback

EXCOM MEETING: Executive Committee will meet 1-28-92, 7 PM at 316 Barrington Rd. at L. Railsback's home. 682-8830. All members are encouraged to attend.



CAMPAIGN '92

Take Back the Earth!



HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife and wilderness...

RESPONSE TO RIVER TRAIL OF ILLINOIS ARTICLE

As special projects Chair of the River Trail of Illinois and Vice Chair of OSRAC I wish to respond to the trail article in the last newsletter.

- *No rip-rap along the Illinois River is in the request.
- *No flooding of wetlands will take place.
- *A .91 A mitigation for the solid part of the trail will return acreage to wetland - i.e. no net loss.
- *Over 20 species of native grasses and forbs will be placed on any disturbed areas caused by construction.
- *No 1/4 A portion of wetland will be filled in for a fishing pier.
- *Objections raised by Tom Edwards were addressed prior to the newsletter and were not endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club.
- *Project changes were accomplished by the efforts of the park district working constructively with the various state and federal agencies, and not because Tom Edwards wrote a letter the last day of the comment period.
- *Edwards proposal of placing the trail under high tension lines on wet ground subject to flooding and ice damage speaks for itself. The other proposal of placing it on service roads not owned by the park district and that have adjoining private property also speaks for itself.

Members wishing additional facts should call George Burrier (676-6113) or the Fon du Lac Park District (699-3923).

George Burrier

Fire as a Management Tool in Woodlands

by Renee Thomas
*Biology Instructor
Illinois Central College*

Numerous botanical studies indicate oak-hickory upland forests are being replaced by shade tolerant species such as sugar maple, elm, ash, and ironwood.

Oaks and hickories are moderately fire-resistant in contrast to shade tolerant species. Historically, this adaptation allowed the oaks and hickories to survive fires, while preventing fire-susceptible species such as sugar maple, elm, ash, and ironwood from invading the upland forest.

Cessation of fire following European settlement has allowed conversion of open forest to closed forest and has encouraged the replacement of oaks and hickories by the shade tolerant species. Managers of oak-hickory forests now realize that fire can be a valuable asset and used as a tool in future management practices.

HEALING THE RIFT BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE:

A RECOMMENDATION

Along East Peoria's commercialized Rt. 116 along the east side of Lower Peoria Lake there still remain two superb privately owned marshes, and between them a mile long strip of woodland wetland owned by the Fondulac Park District.

Otherwise the east shore to the river bluff is consumed by a 4-lane divided hwy. with 2-lane access roads on both sides, a strip of commercial development on the river side of the highway, and a 200-foot powerline easement.

The park district has plans to cut still another corridor thru the woodland for a bikeway with state & local funds.

Rather than take a little more from Nature, why not:

- No. 1, secure those two marshes.
 - Expand what remains of Nature along the east shore out among the clearcut premises of the commercial establishments.
 - Let the expansive, mowed roadsides return to natural vegetation.
 - Employ the sand beach berm along the lake edge, with its windblown, gnarled trees and beaver marshes, as a unique hiking trail.
 - Use the cleared powerline easement for a trail into the marshland.
 - Use the access roads for a tree-shrub bordered bikeway (they only have slow, limited traffic).
 - Catch some of the copious amounts of spring water that wells from the bottom of the bluff to create springfed ponds along the access roads (as some private property owners have done).
 - Let the beaver be.
 - Help the businesses to adapt to this motif.
 - Use all this to educate the public on how man and nature can, indeed, intertwine.
- I have suggested this to the Fondulac Park Dist. as one beginning step toward what all peoples must now turn their attention to -- healing the separation between man & Nature.
- If you want to see my complete recommendation, let me know. -- Tom Edwards

NEWSLETTER POLICY

To submit an article, you must be a Heart of Illinois Sierra Club member, the article must be signed, and the editor has final discretion. The standard rules of writing are as follows: Attribute the source of material not your own, in quotes or otherwise. Don't plagiarize or submit another's writing under your name.

All stories are opinions of the writer unless otherwise stated.

Kathy Berry Editor

Volunteer Opportunities! *

*If interested in any of these openings
please call Mark at 579-3008,
or Shirley at 676-5479*

• Outings - Leaders and Committee Members

Join us for this fun Sierra Club tradition!

Outdoor activities, cultural, educational, camp-outs, whatever... suggestions? All members are welcome.

• Conservation Committee Members

An excellent opportunity to have input with conservation issues. We have several interested members and encourage all members to actively participate.

• Inner City Environmental Coalition Members

This coalition will act as a tool to create environmental awareness and action within the urban city.

• Publications Chair

Pitch in to sell calendars for our club.

• Newsletter Committee Members

Help with various newsletter and mailing tasks.

• Fund-raising Chair

Work for the Earth! Jan Hoyer

Sierra Club Outings

Saturday, January 18th-Got cabin fever?

Join your friends at 8 PM for a full moon hike at Forest Park Nature Center. Hot cider will be available for fellow adventurers. Bundle up!

Sunday, February 2nd-Travel together to view and photograph the bald eagles during the Quad City Bald Eagle Days Celebration. Meet us at Forest Park at 9 AM for carpool. If you live near Galesburg call to make arrangements to join the group. For more info call Eric & Jan Hoyer at 694-2732.

Sunday, February 9th-Annual Starved Rock Hike to view the frozen waterfalls. Meet at 9 AM at Forest Park Nature Center for carpool. Bring sack Lunch and Beverage. Optional stop at Mona's in Toluca for dinner. Call Shirley O'Connell for more information at 676-5479.

FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WORKDAYS

*Saturday, February 1

*Saturday, March 7

*Saturday, April 4

Meet at the trail office in Wyoming at 9 AM. When you enter Wyoming on Route 91, the office is on your left between IDOT and Magnussen Chevrolet. The office is in the rear of the green and white building. Call Paul 695-2228 or Chris 691-2246. - Paid Ad-



1964 Sierra Club

MILESTONES

After years of persistent lobbying, Congress passes the Wilderness Act, the first wilderness protection legislation in the world. Congress also creates the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provides for review of public land laws. Club advocates establishment of Redwood National Park.

For 100 years, Sierra Club members have been at the forefront of environmental action. When you join the Sierra Club, your voice will be heard on environmental issues through Congressional lobbying and grassroots action. Help make a difference in the world — *join us today.*



RECYCLING: Aluminum cans only please. Bring to January meeting. Thanks Les!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 1-29-92 Send to K. Berry, 705 E. Republic, Peoria, IL 61603.

NEWSLETTER PASTE-UP PARTY: 1-31-92 @ 7 p.m. @ Kenny Johnson Moving & Storage. Call for directions. 685-8304.

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY PARTY: 2-4-92 @ Pizza Works, Peoria Hgts. @ 7 p.m. Please bring stapler! Thank you. K. Berry

Sierra Profiles... Aurelia Harwood



William E. Colby Memorial Library

"Because of her, wild flowers lead a safer life, forests tower more grandly skyward, and many learn again the ancient lesson as they look toward the mountains with eyes that see and hearts that understand."

Tribute from the Sierra Club Bulletin, 1929

Aurelia Harwood was the first woman to be elected President of the Sierra Club. She was an active and generous life member who gave unstintingly of her time, effort and finances to a great number of conservation projects. She was particularly active in the Save-the-Redwoods movement, and made substantial gifts to purchase private holdings for national parks.

Each member of the Sierra Club is part of a proud tradition of people united by their love of the natural world and their determination to defend it. Won't you join today?

Help continue the tradition . . . Join the Club!



Ankers, Anderson & Cutts

Club members and other conservationists deliver 1.1 million petition signatures requesting James Watt's removal, Wash., D.C., 1981. Can you spot one of our own H of I Sierra Club members? Larry Johnson in the upper left hand corner!!!!

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Jan Hoyer
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*"Leave it as
it is . . .
The ages have
been at
work on it,
and man can
only mar it."*

Theodore Roosevelt

MEMBERSHIP FORM

☐ Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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City/State _____ Zip _____

☐ Gift Membership: Please complete the information below. We will forward a gift announcement card for your use.

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Address _____

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Annual dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and Chapter publications (\$1). Dues are not tax-deductible.

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