



TALLGRASS SIERRAN

February Program: LOU GOLD on: OUR IMPERILED ANCIENT FORESTS

and

LOU GOLD IS COMING HERE in person in March

The story of the nation's last ancient forests, those of the Pacific northwest, their unique grandeur -- and imminent peril from logging, will be the the program for the Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. meeting at Forest Park Nature Center.

Mountaineer Lou Gold, a piper for the ancient forests, is the narrator of the video, "Lessons of the Ancient Forests: Earth Wisdom & Political Activism." It features 1,000-year-old mist shrouded Oregon coastal mountain forests, the intricate web of their 1,400 plant species, the significance of the spotted owl -- and the vast clearcutting of them.

Larry & Gail Leiken will conduct the program, which was rescheduled from Jan. 15 because of weather. -- T.E.

WHO IS LOU GOLD?

In 1983 a Univ. of Illinois professor, feeling a gnawing emptiness in his life, walked away from his academic career and headed to the West & nature to find the answer to his lack of wholeness. Lou Gold landed in Oregon, & it wasn't long before, with 5 days food supply, he took a solitary hike into the wilderness of Siskayou Nat'l. Forest & made camp on Bald Mountain 12 miles from any road.

But he stayed 54 days on that mountain top (other hikers left him food), and has spent every summer there since quietly absorbing the lessons of the ancient forest & sharing them with passersby.

Its wonders, he decided, had to be carried to others across the country, and he set out in 1987 hitchhiking from talk to talk. Now the hermit of Bald Mt. is a much sought lecturer whose current off-season tour includes the Harvard Business School Club.

And he has launched a movement to save one of the most unique & threatened wilderness areas of the world, the 700,000-acre Siskayou Forest where the U.S. Forest Service has planned to build 4,000 miles of roads in a 50-by-25-mile area, & log its 350-ft. Douglas firs.

His soft-spoken narration of the intricate web of life in an ancient forest, the consequences of taking forests apart, & the poli-

to tell more of the ancient forest story!

He will speak at the Lakeview Museum of Arts and Sciences auditorium Monday, Mar. 9, at 7 p.m.

We (Heart of Illinois Sierrans) and Sun Foundation are bringing him. But we are enlisting other organizations as sponsors, too.

We lucked out in getting him, and we've got only 5 weeks to publicize this -- and launch a major awareness campaign for saving and expanding forests here, Shawnee, Oregon, Brazil -- everywhere in the world!

It's going to take a lot of help. We need to raise at least \$1,500 to cover expenses, and people to do publicity, contact schools, notify conservationists statewide, organize a letter writing campaign, circulate petitions, & to usher and help with handouts at the program.

We've got copies of Gold's video, "Lessons of the Ancient Forest," to loan out.

To help, call Gail Leiken, 691-3933, Sun Foundation, 246-8403, or Tom Edwards, 676-5248. -- T.E.

tical & economic forces that eliminated 95% of this nation's ancient forests & threaten the remainder with "chainsaw management madness" is bringing hushed audiences to their feet with heartfelt ovations.

"We (Siskayou Education Project) believe in the power of place & of biological cycles... the ideals of wholeness... For us the ultimate model is the Wild, & we are reaching for the Wild inside ourselves... all life forms (are) interconnected & inseparable."

Lou says: "I went into the wilderness to save a mountain, but the mountain saved me."

-- Tom Edwards

"LET US LEAVE SOME PLACES FOREVER UNDISTURBED."

-- Edward Abbey

HEART of ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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

INCINERATION: THE BURNING OF OUR FUTURE

The incinerator threat in Mason Cty. is one that should seriously concern all of us. The incinerator industry needs to get a foothold in the Midwest to expand facilities & their pocketbooks.

The "pitch" of money & jobs is common. Often several proposals are made to a number of communities in hopes of just getting one permitted. This seduction with money is somehow supposed to make the thoughts of importing vast amounts of trash less offensive.

We are all losers when incineration becomes the accepted form of waste disposal. A tremendous amount of trash is burned & produces dangerous emissions into the air. A highly toxic ash is generated that must be landfilled. Hopes of comprehensive recycling for these materials are lost.

Often contracts for communities sending their trash to this facility have a "put or pay" clause. This guarantees the incinerator a minimum of trash. If it is not sent the community must still pay the price. Future recycling plans for these communities are, therefore, eliminated. The facilities also frequently demand increases in tipping fees. They threaten bankruptcy if they don't get increases and look to expansion to solve their financial problems. The bottom line is that the facilities get bigger and more expensive as time goes on.

We must oppose incineration not only in Mason Cty, but anywhere the possibility exists. We must form a network that can collectively work to support legislation to reduce packaging and promote comprehensive recycling programs. Practical programs that will be far less expensive than incineration, will not deplete natural resources, that will prevent pollution, that will conserve energy, and those that reduce waste at the source must be enacted.

We must look at a state policy that makes it possible to have the fifth largest landfill in the nation in Fulton County and also have an enormous incinerator in Mason County, both importing trash. It is clear that we must become involved before we are locked into undesirable practices that will only create serious problems for the future. ---Charlene Lemonie---

NATURE NEEDS MANAGEMENT

There was a time when the greatest good that we could do for our planet was as little as possible, when our influence had not yet affected the large, intact ecosystems and they could maintain their biodiversity on their own. Today they need our help to bring back the diversity they once had. Prairies, which once dominated Illinois, are an endangered ecosystem, and many species which inhabited them. Illinois wetlands can also be classified as endangered. Choked by silt, the Ill. River can no longer support the diversity of life it once had. Woodlands of Central Ill. can now be classified as threatened ecosystems since they can no longer support the continued growth & survival of oak seedlings.

It is no longer a question of whether or not we should manage nature. It is now a question of whether or not to manage ethically. Each of us answers that question when we decide whether to take an active role in restoration efforts. I believe HoI Sierra should join such local efforts immediately. -Eric Hoyer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meeting will be at 7p.m. Feb. 25 at L. Railsback's, 316 Barrington Rd. Open to all.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE::: Wed. 2/26. Send to K. Berry, 705 E. Republic, Peoria, 61603. OBSERVE DEADLINE!

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT: Fri. 2/20 @ 7p.m. @ Kenny Johnson Moving Co. Call for directions: 685-8304 -K. Berry

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY PARTY: 7 pm Tues. Mar. 3 @ Pizza Works on Prospect. Fresh Faces & staplers. -Jan Hoyer

HOSTS & HOSTESSES WANTED - If you would enjoy welcoming new members at HoI meetings, consider becoming a "Designated Host." Members with diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Call Jan 694-2732

WELCOMES TO NEW MEMBERS - As the new Membership Chair, I would like to begin a welcome listing. One new member is:

MARY RAISTRICK, owner of Nature's Own Shoppe. Mary joined Sierra Club because she is concerned about the environment & our world. She is a past officer in the Nat'l. Health Federation, & is concerned with drinking water quality, pesticides, food irradiation, & nutrition -- Jan Hoyer.

OUTINGS OUTINGS

Sunday, Mar. 1 -- Chicago Omnivox Theatre to see the film "Antartica," & the new Field Museum exhibit, "Into the Wild: Animals, Trails, & Tales," and we will cap the day at a Chicago vegetarian restaurant. Limited to 20. Call Eric Hoyer in advance. We will carpool from Forest Park Nature Center 6:30am.

Sunday, February 9 -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 WORKDAY - Sat. Mar. Sat., Mar. 7. Meet at trail office in Wyoming at 9a.m. Office is at rear of green-white bldg. next to Magnussen Chev. on west side of Rt. 91. Call Paul at 695-2228 or Chris 691-2246. (Paid ad)

RECYCLING -- Thanks to all of you. As some of you know, Feb. will be my last pick-up. I especially want to thank those who washed & flattened all the cans & plastic jugs. Keep up the good work. -Les Bodell

CONSERVATION PRIORITIES DISCUSSED

Nine priority areas for conservation were voiced by the 19 members attending the HoI Conservation Committee meeting Jan. 21 at the Unitarian Church. It was agreed to treat them as a group rather than to try to rank them in order of importance.

Priorities were: Forests, acquisition, preservation, logging practices; woodlands & prairie restoration; Illinois River; solid waste & recycling; energy bill; update of clean water bill, air quality; education; pesticides.

Any member can add to the list. Write to me.

Six priorities ranked as follows were adopted by the Ill. Chapter of Sierra. They are: 1) wetland protection 2) Shawnee wilderness 3) protection of large forests, 4) agricultural leases on public lands 5) landfills, incineration, recycling, 6) Tollways & transportation. -Tom Edwards, Chr.

NEXT CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING will be Wed., Feb. 26, at Larry Leiken's, 6201 N. Jamestown Rd. 7:10 pm.: Finalization & work assignments for Lou Gold event; incineration; river. -T.E.