

Sierra Club



# TALLGRASS SIERRA

MAY 1992  
P.O. Box 3593  
PEORIA IL 61612

**MAY PROGRAM:** Wed., May 20, 7:30 at Forest Park Nature Center; "What Does the Future Hold for Peoria County?" Jay Hoekstra, county long range planning director, will discuss and seek our input on the County Land Use Plan that will set the tone for "preservation & development" of Peoria County over the next 20 years. --C. Buchna

**MARINA STAND** -- The HoI Excom has asked the State of Ill. & U.S. Corps of Engineers to deny permits for the 600-boat E. Peoria-Becker proposed marina adjacent to Jonah's Res. on Rt. 116, or in lieu of outright denial, conduct a full public hearing. Help prepare testimony for the hearing. T.E.

**A FAR BETTER PLACE AND WAY FOR LOWER PEORIA LAKE MARINA:** Why spend \$12 million of state & local funds to build a private marina that will takeover 25 acres of public lake area, consume a hunk of vital floodplain, put a 17-foot high wall of concrete rubble jutting 900-feet out into lower Peoria Lake, & do this in a part of the lake too shallow for general boating . . . Why WHEN there is a place in the lake where this could be exactly the opposite, where 1) private investment would, with zeal, do all that without gov. help, & produce, not consume, tax funds; 2) would expand the floodplain for first time in history; 3) would be right where the community could best avail itself of a marina; 4) would reverse, even transform, to a River Venice, a blight area at the community's entrance; 5) could even add a state rec. & wildlife area to the heart of the bi-city area.

That location is the already filled 100 acres on either side of I-74 behind the closed CILCO power plant, in the isthmus between E. Peoria & Peoria, bordered by Farm Creek.

Moreover, if the Farm Creek channel, itself dug in 1957, were deepened enough for boats, that entire area could become a network of canals with side inlets for marinas, all the way to downtown E. Peoria a mile inland, which is all in what was originally marsh & floodplain until its present development beginning with Caterpillar's factory complex. Carving into CILCO's fill area for boat canals would restore a bit of the 1,800-acres of floodplain E. Peoria has filled or diked--if CILCO would cart away the excavated fill in its empty returning coal cars.

Also, Farm Creek has built up a half-mile of tree covered delta since 1957. That automatically becomes state property, & could be simply kept as a state rec. & wild area associated with marina use of old CILCO fill area.

--Excerpted from a paper published by Tom Edwards

**MARINA FACTS** -- For the proposed marina E. Peoria purchased 26.3 acres of lakefront property from G. Raymond Becker (& whatever water rights it has) for \$2 million via a loan from the Community Bank, co-owned by Becker, at 8% interest annually, the J.S. reported.

The 26 acres had a tax assessed valuation of \$6,500 in 1990, on which the taxes would have been \$665.

So now, at 8% interest, the city instead pays the bank \$160,000 in interest on the loan. -- T.E.

--The proposed 17-foot high breakwater would be 7 feet higher than that of the Ivy Club.

--The original marina plan called for filling 10 acres of the lake for development. Could facilitation of that in the future be the reason for the extra high breakwater?

--Fill for the marina would consume 100 million gallons of flood storage space, or 13½ football fields 20 feet high.

## STOP THE LAKE CALUMET AIRPORT -

### CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR

The Illinois Chapter needs calls & letters asking your Senator to OPPOSE the creation of a new regional airport authority which would build Lake Calumet Airport. The proposed airport would: remove 10,000 homes, destroy valuable natural areas, raze public parks & recreation areas, create toxic problems, threaten Lake Michigan drinking water, undermine state & national environmental laws, & encounter serious financing problems. The airline industry is reeling, no major airline wants to move to Lake Calumet, & there is no clear need for another airport.

## PESTICIDES BILLS ON STATE HOUSE FLOOR-

### CALL YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE NOW!

-H.B.3222 promotes voluntary Integrated Pest Management requiring fewer poisons in schools. Guidelines would be set by the Illinois Department of Public Health. This compromise bill has the support of the Ill. Associations of Administrators and of School Boards.

-H.B.4132 is a lawn care bill which requires more information on flags posted in sprayed yards, written contracts detailing information on yard chemicals, & information sheets on hazards to be supplied to employees of lawn service companies.

(phone #'s -217-782-2000) Shirley O'Connell

## CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

The Conservationist of the Year award is given for volunteer work on conservation issues to members of non-members. It is not necessarily presented every year. Contact any member of the excom before May 26th with your nomination or come to the May excom.

HEART of ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593  
Peoria, Illinois 61612

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 104  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS



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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- MAY 16** Garage Sale 705 E. Republic  
**19** Conservation discussion 7:30 pm.  
 705 E. Republic 676-5248  
**20** Group Meeting 7:30 pm FPNC  
**21** Fred Small Concert - Ticket  
 info 685-2866/682-8830  
**26** ExCom 1609 N. Knollwood Ct. 676-  
 5479 for directions. Members  
 encouraged to attend.  
**30** Farmdale Park Hike  
**JUNE 3** Newsletter deadline - copy  
 to K. Berry 705 E. Republic 61603  
**6** Newsletter past-up @ K. Johnson  
 Moving and Storage 7 pm  
**9** Newsletter mailing Party 6:30 pm  
 Peoria Pizza Works. Need staplers!  
**17** Annual Picnic - Bring your white  
 elephants and goodies for the auction.  
 Place and time to be announced.

## Positions to fill:

**VACANCY ON HOI BOARD** (1) Luan Railsback has  
 resigned from the Excom. Anyone interested  
 in filling the remaining 6-mo. of her term  
 should contact Shirley O'Connell @ 676-5497.  
 People interested in running for a full 2-yr  
 term in the fall should note that our bylaws  
 state, "Members of the Executive Committee  
 may not succeed themselves."

**(2) OUTINGS CHAIR** If you can help plan  
 outings, call Shirley 676-5497.

## Positions filled:

**LARRY LEIKEN APPOINTED TO EXCOM** - L. Leiken  
 was appointed by Excom at its April meeting  
 to fill the vacancy created by the resigna-  
 tion of Lucia Miller.

Larry was chair of HoI in 1988. He  
 and his wife, Gail, have been constant help-  
 ers since, and were among the principle  
 sponsors of the recent Lou Gold Lecture on  
 "Ancient Forests."

**LARRY ROBBINS - PUBLICITY PERSON** - A big  
 thank you! S. O'Connell

## POLL: WHERE DO YOU STAND ON RIVER ISSUES?

Since our inception, Heart of Illinois  
 Sierra has been an unrelenting advocate  
 for the Illinois River.

Below is a poll list of river issues,  
 some new ones mixed with others on which  
 we have taken strong stands in the past.

Send the poll to HoI Conservation Chair  
 Tom Edwards, 1421 N. Perry, Peoria 61603.

For more information on any point, call  
 him at 309-676-5248.

Be sure to sign the poll. Attach any  
 comments you may have to it.

	YES	NO
Duplicate Locks (installing 2nd sets of barge locks twice as long & wide as existing ones along river)		
Barge fleetling (a big parking lot for barges in Peoria vicinity)		
Deepening barge channel 33% from present 9 feet to 12 feet)		
Preserve remaining wetlands (the Illinois River & tribs are still blessed with them Greenways along river & tributaries)		
Continued development of river floodplain Raise the level of the river & lake by building higher dams		
Lower river level every few years to let backwater areas dry and grow vegetation		
Continue tax subsidy of barge industry Churn up river bottom sediment so it will float downriver to make P.Lake deeper		
Preserve public ownership of river bottom and educate public & legislators of this		
Preserve & expand bottomland woodlands		
Push for state funding of marina & other recreation & tourist development on river		

## OUTINGS

Saturday, May 30, 1:00 P.M.-Meet at  
 the dam overlook. From Rt. 8 in E.  
 Peoria turn south onto Farmdale Rd.  
 Follow signs for 2 miles. Ranger Larry  
 Robbins of the Corps of Engineers will  
 join us. Great family outing! Good  
 hiking with no long drive. Call Shirley-  
 676-5479-with questions.

**FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WORKDAYS:**  
**June 6 & July 11** - Meet at 9 a.m. at the  
 Trail office in Wyoming. Enter Wyoming on  
 Rt. 91, building is on your left between  
 IDOT & Magnussen Chevy, the office is in  
 the rear of the green and white building.  
 Call Chris 691-2246/Paul 695-2228 PAID AD.

## MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

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

Enclose check and mail to:

## Sierra Club

Dept. H-114  
 P.O. Box 7959  
 San Francisco, CA  
 94120-7959

W343

FRIP No.

**Kenny Johnson**  
 Moving & Storage, Inc.  
 901 Bosch Pky.  
 Peoria, IL 61607

Bus: 697-0900  
 800/475-6683  
 Res: 697-3211

676-5479  
 243-7142  
 697-1862  
 676-  
 697-3211  
 691-3933

EXCOM MEMBERS - 1992  
 Shirley O'Connell - Chair  
 Chuck Buchna - V-Chair  
 Judy Donath - Treas.  
 Tom Edwards - Conservation Ch.  
 Larry Johnson - Chapter At Large  
 Larry Leiken

**UNITED  
UNITED  
UNITED**  
 Van Lines

paid ad.

## Letter to the Editor:

The HOI Sierra Club has finally found  
 the answer to perpetual motion in the seem-  
 ingly endless debate between "the trees" and  
 "the grass". After all of the newsletter dis-  
 cussion I still do not know if I should buy a  
 chainsaw or a moldboard plow? In the mean-  
 time I think I'll go fishing. Al Harkrader