



TALLGRASS SIERRAN

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Forest Part Nature Center. Biking aficionado Randy Senneff will talk about the ins and outs of biking, where to go, and what to ride. Refreshments after the meeting. See you there!

Peoria a Toxic Waste Capital?

WE SEEK PUBLIC HEARING ON MORE TOXIC WASTES

A growing mountain of toxic waste sits at the west Peoria city limit near Lexington Hills subdivision.

The Peoria Disposal Co. toxic waste landfill is one of only 20 in the country, and has the 12th largest capacity, 6.6 million yards, and all but 2.1 million have been filled, according to reported statistics.

Now PDC wants "permit modifications" to 1) enlarge the landfill, and to 2) include a "new" EPA toxic classification. the ash from toxic waste incinerators. The toxic wastes are coming from as far as the East Coast.

PEACE and Sierra member Charlene Lemoine learned this after belatedly coming across a fine print legal notice in the Journal Star.

HOI Sierran published the matter in its Aug. 13th newsletter. Excom then unanimously voted to seek a public hearing, and Aug 19th sent a letter to state, county, and city officials outlining the imperatives for one.

The Peoria Co. Board's Land Use Com. responded Aug. 28th by unanimously sending a letter to the EPA asking for a hearing. Also, each individual committee member sent a personal letter.

Chair O'Connell penned a follow-up specifying an evening hearing time. And Lemoine and Donna Schwab canvassed homeowners in the landfill vicinity. Peoria City Council has it on its Sept. 15th agenda.

Plastic liners 1/12 of an inch thick keep these train & truck loads of toxics in 7-acre, 50-ft. deep hilltop pits.

You can add your voice to the call for a hearing by writing Gov. James Edgar and your local legislators. Send a copy to the IL Environmental Protection Agency, C/O Mary McGinness, 2200 Churchill Re., Springfield IL 62794. —Tom Edwards

HAVANA INCINERATOR DEBATE & 'CITIZENS HEARING' SET

International mass burn incinerator opponent Paul Conant, and Jack Matton, a rep of ABB, the Swiss based international conglomerate that wants to build a 2,000-ton per day trash incinerator in Havana, have agreed to debate the matter Sat., Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. at Havana Junior High School. Conant offered to debate early this year.

Mason County's Citizens for a Better Environment, having so far been denied a public hearing on the feasibility study given the City Council by the developers, has called a "Citizens Hearing" for Thurs., Oct. 1, at 7 p.m.

-- T.E.

CENTENNIAL DINNER - On Nov. 7 HOI Sierra Club will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Sierra Club with a special harvest dinner at the Universalists Unitarian Church. Honorees are Joan & Bob Ericksen of the Sun Foundation, Washburn, IL, for their many contributions and work in nature & the environment. Larry Rice will present a slide presentation as well.

We will honor all HOI past chairpersons. We would like for any of you having Sierra newspaper clips, memorabilia or pictures to make them available for display at the dinner to show the history of HOI from 1971 to the present. We also need the addresses of the following past chairs: 1) Linda Jackson, 2) Steve Lomax, 3) Jim Roberts, 4) John Lynn.

Please call Gail and Larry Leiken, 691-3933, Co-Chairman of the dinner program with any ideas relative to providing the above items for the dinner and addresses of the chairpeople. Thanks. Larry Leiken

HOI MARINA ALTERNATIVE IS POPULAR!

HOI Sierra has not had one negative comment on the alternative it has endorsed to the 600-boat marina proposed by developer Ray Becker & the East Peoria City Council in the midsection of lower Peoria Lake.

One takes away from the lake. One adds to the lake. One derives from commercial and political self interests, the other on general public interests. One is based on public funding; one isn't.

Attached is a petition with a full explanation on the back. Help by distributing copies and getting at least one filled yourself. --T.E.

NOTE: Write Gov. Edgar on this too. HOI and the Peoria County Board have requested a public hearing on the E.P.-Becker Marina.

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, Illinois 61612

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

15638648 0703 1093 0 GBX826

PEORIA

IL 61604



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

CONSERVATION MEETING, Wed., Sept. 23, 7:15 p.m.,
1421 NE Perry, 676-5248. Lots to talk about! T.E.

*"Hurt not the Earth,
neither the sea
nor the trees."*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- SEPT 16 Group Meeting
FPNC 7 p.m.
- 27 Jubilee Park Outing 1p.m.
- 29 EXCOM 4100 S. Baker Ln.
(L.Johnson) 697-3211
Open to members 7 p.m.
- OCT 1 Newsletter Deadline Copy to
705 E. Republic Peoria 61603
- 2 Newsletter Paste-up 7 p.m.
705 E. Republic 685-8304
- 6 Newsletter Mailing @ Peoria
Pizza Works, Peo Hgts 7 p.m.
Bring staplers & appetite.
- NOV 7 Centennial Dinner

OUTINGS: Sept. 27, Sunday afternoon hike.
Enjoy the beginning of the fall season. Meet
1 p.m. Jubilee College site parking lot.
Info: Shirley O'Connell 676-5479.

CALENDARS: Yes! We will be selling calendars,
so plan on doing some holiday shopping with
Sierra Club. Calendars are ordered and will be
in soon. Prices range \$7.95-10.95 + tax. S.O.

ELECTION: Members of the nominating committee
for Excom elections are Mary Harkrader, 682-8462
Chris Meydam, 691-2246, & Lauri Buchna, 243-7142.
Members interested in running for one of four
2-yr. terms should contact one of them. S.O.

PUT COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVENESS OUT OF BUSINESS
This Council has wreaked havoc on environmental
protection laws, gutted the Clean Air Act,
delayed or overruled pollution clean-up dead-
lines, and corrupted federal environmental
policy. A move to de-fund the Council is
headed toward a critical Senate vote. Tell
your senators to support Sen. John Glenn's
amendment to H.R. 5488 (Treasury Appropriations
bill), expected to reach the Senate floor
after Sept. 8 Call (202) 224-3121. (Info from
Natl. S.C.) Shirley O'Connell

Update on Sen. Gorton's Bill S.2762 - which
would allow logging of the Ancient Forest &
would weaken the Endangered Species Act -
an attempt was made to get it out of commit-
tee, however, it is expected to reappear
once Congress goes back this month. Encourage
your senator (Sen. Simon or Sen. Dixon) to be
on the alert and oppose this bill. Also,
thank them for tabling this bill in committee.
C. Pauli

Banker's Bail Out Bill H.B. 3605. This bill
makes it easy for bankers & developers to
sell contaminated property without having to
take responsibility for cleaning it up. Call
Gov. Edgar (217) 782-200 - switchboard. S.O.

Revelation 7:3

1992 EXCOM MEMBERS

Shirley O'Connell - CH 676-5479
Chuch Buchna - V-CH 243-7142
Judy Donath - Tres. 697-1863
Al Harkrader - Sec. 682-8462
Larry Johnson 697-3211
Larry Leiken 691-3933
Tom Edwards - Conserv CH 676-5248

RESPONSES TO HOI POLL ON RIVER ISSUES

Of the 10 who sent signed responses to the HOI
poll, "Where do you stand on river issues," the
result was unanimous for the side on 9 of the 10
positions on which HOI has historically stumped.
Some spaces were left blank or question marks
inserted, particularly the one one on periodically
lowering the river level, which was taken from
the "River Rescue Plan." Questions with asterisk
are additions to previous HOI endeavors.

HOI is the only organization to stand for all of
the "X" positions below, or even most of them.

--Tom Edwards

| | YES | NO |
|--|-----|----|
| Duplicate Locks (installing 2nd sets of barge locks twice as long & wide as existing ones along river) | | X |
| Barge floating (a big parking lot for barges in Peoria vicinity) | | X |
| Deepening barge channel 33% from present 9 feet to 12 feet) | | X |
| Preserve remaining wetlands (the Illinois River & tribs are still blessed with them) | X | |
| Greenways along river & tributaries | X | |
| Continued development of river floodplain | | X |
| Raise the level of the river & lake by building higher dams | | X |
| *Lower river level every few years to let backwater areas dry and grow vegetation | X | X |
| Continue tax subsidy of barge industry | | X |
| Churn up river bottom sediment so it will float downriver to make P.Lake deeper | | X |
| *Preserve public ownership of river bottom and educate public & legislators of this | X | |
| *Preserve & expand bottomland woodlands | X | |
| Push for state funding of marina & other recreation & tourist development on river | 1 | 9 |

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

UNITED
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Van Lines

paid ad.

RIVER RESCUE OUTING — Persons interested in tour
of river area where DOC-Corps of Engineers is
planning \$4.6 million peninsula extension project-
call T. Edwards - 676-5248 Paid Ad



* PETITION *

To the Governor, Legislators, and PEOPLE of Central Illinois

EXPLORE BETTER ALTERNATIVES TO PEORIA LAKE MARINA PROPOSAL

A 600-boat marina has been proposed by a private developer on lower Peoria Lake in East Peoria. It is dependent on receiving millions in state funds. Gov. Edgar has earmarked an initial \$5 million for a towering breakwater of broken concrete that would jut 900 feet into the midsection of the lake for a harbor. A huge amount of additional fill would be put in adjacent wetland and lake.

THIS IS A PROJECT THAT TAKES AWAY FROM THE LAKE.

THERE ARE FAR BETTER ALTERNATIVES THAT WOULD PRESERVE AND ADD TO THE LAKE AS A NATURAL RESOURCE: (See reverse side.) Such alternatives have not been adequately explored.

- We, the undersigned, want this marina-lake matter totally re-evaluated with general public participation;
- And with such project considerations fully open to alternative proposals from the private and public sectors.

PEORIA LAKE IS A RESOURCE THAT BELONGS TO ALL! SO DO CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING IT.

| NAME | ADDRESS | TELEPHONE NUMBER |
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Venice of the Illinois River

There's a far better place and way for the proposed Peoria Lake marina

By TOM EDWARDS

POINT OF VIEW

An extension of the editorial page dealing with commentary, opinion and analysis.

Whether or not the proposed 600-boat marina in lower Peoria Lake is a good idea for East Peoria and the state — which would be financing it at a tune of over \$12 million — there is a far better location for it, ecologically, financially and aesthetically.

That location is the already filled 100-acre area on either side of I-74 behind the closed Central Illinois Light Co. power plant. Though considered a blighted area because of the fly ash fill from the old power plant, it is at the hub and heartbeat of this overall region.

"It's available for development," says CILCO spokesman Tom Flanagan. "We're ready to work with somebody on it."

If developed with ecological sensitivity, that long trammled isthmus between East Peoria and Peoria — originally part of 2,000 acres of marsh and wooded wetland — could be transformed into the Venice of the Illinois River.

The present location of the marina project, as it was proposed to the East Peoria City Council two years ago by Peoria-based developer G. Raymond Becker, is two miles up the lakeshore. It is 26.3 acres of lakefront property Becker owned along Route 116 (Caterpillar Trail) adjacent to Jonah's Seafood restaurant. That is about the midpoint of the lower lake, an area historically too shallow for general boating.

Becker's proposal was that the city be the developer and buy his property. The city would theoretically recoup its expenses via tax and whatever other revenues materialize from the development.

As the Eastport Marina now stands:

- The city bought (but can return) Becker's lakefront property, and whatever water access rights it may have, for \$2 million in May 1990. The council borrowed the money from the Community Bank of East Peoria, co-owned by Becker, at an 8 percent interest rate.

- The council has entered into an agreement with Becker that makes him the general contractor, with "exclusive" first-development rights.

- Gov. Edgar appropriated \$5 million for the project in his budget last year. Virtually all of that would be spent on building an extraordinarily high concrete riprap breakwater to enclose 25 acres of the lake for a boat harbor. Much of the breakwater would be 17 feet above normal lake level, which is seven feet higher than the breakwater at the Ivy Club in Peoria.

- East Peoria Mayor Jeff Giebelhausen said the city would raise the other half of the \$10 million construction costs.

- East Peoria has applied for state and federal permits to build the harbor and fill the 26.3 acres. Though not

in the plan submitted for permits, Becker's original proposal also included filling about 10 acres within the harbor for building development, which a 17-foot-high breakwater would facilitate.

Filling this lakeside property to above flood height (20 feet above normal lake level) to permit building development and installing the breakwater would conservatively require putting 490,000 cubic yards of fill material and concrete riprap in the Illinois River and floodplain, itself extremely vital to the community. The figures are included in the permit application.

That would be the same, volume-wise, as setting a solid 20-foot-high block as wide and as long as 13½ football fields in the local floodplain. It would eliminate about 100 million gallons of flood water storage capacity.

The project as proposed would also:

- Have a 17-foot-high wall of concrete riprap jutting 900 feet perpendicularly out into the lake.

- Take over 25 acres of public lake area.

- Eliminate another 15 acres of wetland.

- Require dredging and maintaining a 3,700-foot-long channel through the silted lake bottom out to the river's deep water channel.

- Have the public taking all the financial risk of the marina development.

- Monopolize river funding.

How important is preserving river floodplain? Put it this way: The federal government has a national program to buy up and remove buildings from floodways, not for ecological reasons, but simply because it is less expensive than coping with ever-increasing flood damage to buildings as the floodplains are consumed by development. Peoria County is participating in that program.

There are also a multitude of ecological reasons for preserving floodplain and the wetlands they contain.

East Peoria originally had over 2,000 acres of wetland covering an area three-fourths as large as lower Peoria Lake itself. When the river flooded, its waters swept across a marshy area that extended a mile inland from the river channel, that is, all the way from the Murray Baker Bridge to Main Street in East Peoria's downtown. The area is mainly occupied now by Caterpillar Inc. Only about one-tenth or less of that original floodplain remains. The rest has been diked or filled and developed.

The reasons the CILCO site would

be superior for marina development are:

- The CILCO site is already filled above flood level, sparing both the financial and ecological cost of more filling.

- Carving the marina out of the old CILCO fill area would add to rather than subtract from the floodplain — for the first time.

- The actual water area of the lake would be expanded — not by much, but a lot in terms of psychological reversal of mindset.

- The cost of dredging a 3,700-foot channel to deep water would be eliminated. The CILCO site is right next to the lake's deep water area.

- It is also at the bottom of the lake where there are now no marinas. East Peoria's Spindler Marina is near the present proposed site.

- It is at the main entrance and access to both East Peoria and Peoria and could turn around what is now considered a blight area.

- It is at the hub of this river region and could make it much more of a hub.

The fly ash fill, if not usable for road and other construction, could be shipped back to a strip mine. CILCO gets about 100 railroad cars of coal every other day for its Bartonville plant, and those cars return empty.

All of the above is just the starters. Vastly more is in the waiting:

- Rather than digging a new channel into the CILCO site, the present Farm

Creek channel, which borders the upper side of the CILCO site, could be deepened enough for boats. Side channels could be dug from Farm Creek for individual boat moorings and dock facilities.

Using the Farm Creek channel, itself dug across the floodplain in 1957, would give river access to all the other considerable land along the creek in addition to the CILCO site.

In fact, via Farm Creek, East Peoria could put a boat marina in its downtown area.

Now comes the topper: The old creek bed borders the lower side of the CILCO property, running between it and the Caterpillar complex. Though its water has been diverted away, it is still completely open. The present and former creek channels split in a "Y" a couple of blocks from downtown East Peoria. Only a gate separates them.

So a channel looping about 200 acres, the CILCO plant site and environs, could be relatively easily established. A "marina island complex" could be created in what is a filled former marsh area, returning a bit of wetland — and without destroying more.

Dozens of businesses and property owners could have their own boat slips along this canal loop and side canals off it. An assortment of marinas could be established. People could actually boat to work.

Literally, East Peoria could become the Venice of the Illinois River.

The benefits from such development of the bi-city isthmus could snowball:

- The desirability of keeping Farm Creek free of silt, given such use of it, would probably lead to an intensive erosion control project in its watershed, and, in turn, help stem lake siltation.

- It would put the shuttered CILCO power plant in the midst of something exciting and attractive, which would likely result in its long hoped for re-employment for some other use.

- It would allow a number of developers and property owners to get involved, and that spawns its own momentum.

- It is the type of development that investors would do, even vie for, without any taxpayer help or incentives as reduced taxes — as is being done in the current proposed project.

But there is something beautiful the state could add to the project:

Since it was rechanneled 35 years ago, Farm Creek has extended its tree-covered delta a half-mile out into the lake. According to a 1973 state legal study, such land is automatically state property.

The Farm Creek delta could become a state recreation and wildlife area right in a metropolitan hub, and associated with the Venice project of East Peoria.

Tom Edwards is a former Journal Star reporter and a local environmental activist.



Friends of the Rock Island Trail

WORKDAYS

- * Saturday, September 12
- * Saturday, October 10
- * Saturday, November 14
- * Saturday, December 12
- * Saturday, January, 9

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Trail office in Wyoming. Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91, building is on your left between IDOT and Magnussen Chevy, the office is in the rear of the green and white building. Call Chris 691-2246 (days) or Paul 695-2228 for more information.

* SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 - ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COOKOUT AND CAMPOUT

(campout optional) Join us for a comfortable hike and traditional cookout and campout at the Kickapoo picnic/camping area (between mile markers 2 and 3). Meet at 4:00 p.m. at the Rangers house on Fox Rd., Alta. (West of Alta on Rt. 91 to Radnor Rd., about a mile, turn right on Radnor, continue around the curves, house is just before the railroad tracks on the right.) Hot dogs, tofu hot dogs, buns, chips, cider and smores will be provided. Please bring a potluck dish and table service. Handicapped transportation available, please tell us when you call. Donation \$3.00 per person, children \$1.50. RESERVATIONS A MUST!! Call Les/Mary 745-5479, Chris 691-2246 or Joyce 688-0950 for reservations or more information.

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE

FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL and PEORIA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Profits from this sale will go toward the construction of a picnic shelter on the Trail between Alta and Dunlap and local preservation efforts of threatened and endangered species of birds.

Please, note: Seed will be sold by pre-order only. For information, call 691-0519 or 676-6113.

IMPORTANT DATES: Order Deadline: October 10, 1992

Pick Up Day: Saturday, October 24, 9:00-12:00 noon

PICK-UP LOCATION: Metro Centre Farmers' Market near
University Street and Glen Avenue in Peoria

PERSONAL REMINDER: I ordered and will pick up on October 24:

___ bags of _____ ___ bags of _____
___ bags of _____ ___ bags of _____

----- cut here ----- mail bottom with check ----- save top -----

ORDER FORM

| TYPE OF SEED | SIZE | PRICE | NO. of BAGS | TOTAL |
|---------------------|--------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Sunflower (oil) | 25 lbs | \$ 7.50 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| | 50 lbs | \$ 13.50 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Sunflower (striped) | 50 lbs | \$ 14.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Sunflower Hearts | 10 lbs | \$ 7.50 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Safflower | 10 lbs | \$ 6.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Thistle (Niger)Seed | 5 lbs | \$ 6.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| | 10 lbs | \$ 10.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Peanut Hearts | 10 lbs | \$ 8.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Premium Mix | 25 lbs | \$ 6.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| | 50 lbs | \$ 10.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| White Millet | 10 lbs | \$ 2.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| Cracked Corn | 25 lbs | \$ 4.00 | ___ | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL AMOUNT DUE | | | | \$ _____ |

Mail order and check for amount due to Peoria Audubon Society, 677 E. High Point Terrace, Peoria, IL 61614. An additional \$3 will be charged if order is not picked up on scheduled date.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, ZIP _____
TELEPHONE _____