



HEART of ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

TALLGRASS SIERRAN

Recycled paper

P.O. Box 3593, PEORIA IL 61612

NOVEMBER, 1992



NOVEMBER MEETING: Nov. 18th, 7:30 p.m.
Forest Park Nature Center. IL House
Representative, Clem Balanoff (D) 32nd
Dist.. will address our group concerning
environmental issues.

His S.E. Chicago district has the largest number
of toxic waste facilities in the nation, & he const-
antly battles them. Yet he is also a leading opponent
of bills that would simply export his district's
wastes to other places, that would take away local
siting authority. He fought the Calumet Airport pro-
posed in his district, & bucks party line compro-
mises, be it his party or the Republicans.

IL Environmental Council's '92 Legislator of the Year!
CONSERVATION ROUND-UP

THE \$4.6 MILLION "ISLAND" MISTAKE: "Billions are
being spent in the name of 'environmental projects'
that don't have anything to do with helping the env-
ironment," Sierra's chief Washington lobbyist said
on Nat'l. Public Radio recently.

We have a beautiful example of that right here in
the DOC-Corps so-called "island" project in upper
Peoria Lake. To "improve habitat", DOC says. Actually
it will do just the opposite. The Corps seems to be
just going along.

THE BECKER-EAST PEORIA MARINA: Both political parties
accused the other of catering to special interests in
the election campaign. The proposed Becker-E.P.
marina, which would gobble up \$12^{million} in tax money, is a
vivid example of special interest politics.

And a prime example of exploitation of a natural
public resource, Peoria Lake, to boot.

Get your Becker-E.P. marina petitions turned in!
THE FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT is up for re-auth-
orization and faces strong opposition. Get ready.

BIG QUESTION: Why, with all the rhetoric on saving
wetlands, are so few working to preserve the wetlands
along Peoria Lake, specifically East Peoria, where
they are scheduled for virtual eradication?

QUINTESSENTIAL: We get accused of many things. When
I am tempted to make an accusation, I look to see if
it is not my own reflection I'm seeing. -- Tom Edwards

PDC'S EDGE OF TOWN TOXIC WASTE DUMP

A xerox of the Tallgrass articles on the Peoria
Disposal Co.'s toxic waste dump adjoining Lexington
Ridge Subdivision were passed around there by a sub-
resident. So PDC invited the Lex. Homeowners Assn. to
meet with them Nov. 7. An Assn. rep. invited me and
Charlene Lemoine to attend, but the 2 of us were bar-
red at the door by PDC, so we left & the meet went on
without us. "What do you care (if we were present) if
this is all on the up and up, if you have nothing to
hide," said one of the 4 assn. reps. Reportedly we
were referred to as troublemakers by one of the 4 PDC
officials there.

Last month EPA reps said they are committed to the
public hearing we requested.

But right now a major question is how, after 5 years
landfilling there on a permit allowing 1.85 million
cubic yards of capacity, PDC says it still has 2.1 mil-
lion cu. yds. capacity left, but still needs to
further expand. --Compiled by T. Edwards, C. Lemoine

WRITE, WRITE, WRITE: QUICK RESPONSE ESSENTIAL

The courts are formulating a restoration plan
for the barge and dredging activities at Hamm's
Holiday Harbor. Please request these remedies:
1) That the entire illegal breakwater be removed
back to the shoreline.

2) That Mr. Hamm be required to fund an account
for removal of dredge sediment from the river
where it has settled in front of his neighbors'
homes. They have lost access to the river and
fear flooding because of that sediment, and the
natural flow will not move it away.

3) That the entire area, where trees have been
removed, be replanted with the same variety of
trees and vegetation as was destroyed to
prevent erosion, to stabilize the bank, and
to stop soil run-off into the Illinois River.
It appears that as much as a 1000' by 98' area
is being omitted from the proposed restoration
plan.

Send comments today to Mr. Robert Lefevre
U.S. Dept. of Justice, Environment & Natural
Resources Division, Environmental Defense
Section, 10th St. & Constitution Ave., N.W.,
Washington DC 20530 Shirley O'Connell for EXCOM

TOXIC WASTE VETO NEEDS HELP--Gov. Edgar bit one spe-
cial interest bullet when he vetoed H.B.3605. In ef-
fect, it would transfer to taxpayers what are now
private property owner responsibilities for clean-
ing up toxic waste sites on their land. It was draft-
ed by the Ill. Bankers Assn. to benefit land develop-
ers & bank loans to them. There will be a big attempt
to override this veto in next few days. Tell your
state reps. & senators a vote for is intolerable! T.E.

(More on back page)



"I should like to see these profound words inscribed
on the threshold of all the temples of science: 'The
greatest derangement of the mind is to believe in some-
thing because one wishes it to be so.'" Louis Pasteur

HEART of ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, Illinois 61612NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 104
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

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

Nov. 3, 1992

MASS BURN INCINERATION -- A Personal Statement to the Citizens of Havana, IL.

About 2½ years ago the siting of a mass burn incinerator was being proposed at Pekin by the same person who is now seeking the siting of one in Havana. This was a brand new subject in this region, one we hardly knew anything about. "Waste to energy." Some jobs. It sounds good. But really? Was it a shiny apple that we better not bite?

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club began calling around the nation to learn the realities. We were appalled, and began an intensive educational campaign.

The result was that the Pekin City Council (and the Pekin Daily Times) reversed themselves on the issue, and nixed Pekin as a site for the mass burn incinerator.

So the incinerator promoters went to Havana with their enticements of money and jobs.

In the two years since Pekin a growing number of communities, states, and nations have closed their doors to mass burn incinerators. The public has been doing its homework.

Take all the scientific studies, and all the arguments about this and that of incineration, and this much is irrefutable:

EVERY MOLECULE, EVERY OUNCE OF MATERIAL THAT GOES INTO A MASS BURN INCINERATOR, COMES OUT.

IT COMES OUT AS FUMES IN THE AIR AND ASHES IN THE EARTH.

AND IT COMES OUT IN A FAR, FAR MORE TOXIC FORM THAN IT WENT IN!

Put 2,000 tons a day into an incinerator, and it all comes out, as gases, vapors, airborne dust particles, powdery ash, and scorched metal and glass.

Formed in the roaring fire are dioxins and furans, some of the most toxic elements known to man, and as Florida and the world learned the hard way, deadly compounds of mercury, a teaspoon of which can contaminate a whole backwater lake.

And we're still learning. Probably more comes out than is yet known.

Why isn't this simply told to us? Because no one gets paid to say this, that's why.

We learned more at Pekin. We learned that actual government testing of incinerator air emissions is rare and usually a farce, and that all of the so-called safety studies are based on hypothetical perfect performance of facilities which in real life are constantly breaking down and depreciating from the moment they are put in operation -- and that these studies are likely paid for by the industry (as is the case at Havana).

IF HAVANA COULD CONTAIN ALL THE FUMES AND ASHES OF THIS PROPOSED INCINERATOR WITHIN ITS LIMITS, WE COULD JUST, SADLY, WATCH.

BUT THE BULK OF THE FUMES WILL DRIFT ONTO OTHERS, AND THE ASHES BURIED IN THE BACKYARDS OF OTHER COMMUNITIES.

Perhaps the fumes are invisible and odorless. So is radioactivity.

Even if all the poisonous pollutants could be removed, there would still be carbon dioxide and monoxide, and nitric oxides, the emissions that contribute to the "greenhouse effect," plus smog and acid rain. It doesn't make sense to be adding the exhaust of cities' waste to our already pollution laden skies.

Incineration breaks the legs of recycling, destroys our resources, costs more, produces less energy than recycling saves, and leaves 40% of our trash still to be landfilled.

We learned at Pekin that incinerator contracts generally leave the taxpayers with all the liabilities while all of the millions in dollar profits go into the hands of a few individuals.

We learned that the fish in Lake Michigan are unsafe to eat, and the lake's main pollutants are raining from the air, and that cancer in the nation continues to rise, 8% in Chicago between 1980 and 1990, and that the major causes of cancer are environmental.

Do we gain half as much as what we sell?

--By Tom Edwards, HoI Sierra Conservation Chair

(This flyer was distributed in Havana Nov. 3, 1992)

"IF WE SEEK THE TRUTH, WE CANNOT FAIL."

***** MEET THE CANDIDATES *****

PHIL MINEAR: My name is Phil Minear and I work in data processing for Caterpillar, where I have been working for the last 18-years. I have been a member (of Sierra Club) for quite a few years, but I haven't been active in the club since I went to second shift a number of years ago. I am honored to be nominated to be a board member. If elected, my focus will be on trying to get new members involved with the club and club activities.

LARRY ROBBINS: I came to Peoria from Iowa City, Iowa in 1989. I am a graduate of Iowa State University with a B.S. in Forest Land Management. I have worked as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service for eleven years in Minn., Wisconsin and Michigan. Since 1985, I have been employed in the Natural Resource Management Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this capacity, I am currently responsible for the management of two Corps owned, dry reservoirs comprising approximately 800 acres of land in Tazewell County. While in Iowa City, I was Outings Chairman, Vice-Chair, and Chairperson of the Iowa City Area Sierra Club and was elected to the Iowa State Excom in 1989. I favor pro-active environmental endeavors based upon recognized scientific evidence, not emotional hype and am a pragmatist.

JOHN WOSIK: I joined the Sierra Club last year with a deep appreciation for the ways in which the natural environment has enriched my life. I believe we must work together to protect and responsibly manage our environment for the enjoyment and benefit of our own and future generations. The majority of Americans are sympathetic to environmental concerns. I believe we can capitalize on this by taking clear, well-publicized positions from which people can derive the benefits. My goal would be to work with the Executive Committee and other club members to recognize the concerns of all members, and to turn those concerns into effective policies and actions.

GLENN A. ZIPP: I have been a resident of the Peoria area for the past 17-years, a career employee of the federal government, and a part-time instructor at Bradley University. I have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years, and worked as a volunteer on the development of the Rock Island Trail during its early stages. For the last 3-years, as a member of the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation Board, I have played a major role in the planning, acquisition and fund drive to develop an inner-city veterans memorial park at the corner of Hamilton & Madison in Peoria. Also, I am a founding board member of The Friends of the Glen Oak Zoo and have served as Steering Committee Chair for the Animal Infirmary/Nursery addition. I am interested in environmental issues such as clean air, forests and the preservation of rivers and streams to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations.

B A L L O T - Cut out

Vote for no more than 4 candidates for 2-year terms to the HOI Sierra Club executive board. Return ballots to Sect. Al Markrader, 1712 E. Shady Oak Dr., Peoria 61614. Write the name of the voting member(s) on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot. Ballots must be received by Dec. 16, or may be hand delivered to the Dec. 16 meeting. Joint family members may use the same ballot, or Xerox copies may be used. Ballots will be counted at the Dec. 16 meeting at Forest Park Nature Center.

	<u>1st Member</u>	<u>2nd Member</u>
Larry Robbins	_____	_____
Phil Minear	_____	_____
John Wosik	_____	_____
Glen Zipp	_____	_____

HOI SIERRA ELECTION RULES: Since its inception, HOI bylaws ban Excom members from succeeding themselves in office. They must wait a year after their term expires before running again.

Also, HOI bylaws provide for open nominations to Excom by a) an appointed nominating committee and b) also by providing that any member can nominate any other member with that member's consent and a petition with 10 signatures. This was publicized in last 2 newsletters, & at meetings.

No additional names may be added to the ballot once the nomination period closes (Oct. 30). Sometimes there are more candidates than positions, sometimes there aren't. This year there are 4 open seats, and 4 came forward to serve. -- T.E.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- NOV 18 Group Meeting 7:30 pm FPNC
 26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!! gobble, gobble!
 DEC 2 Newsletter Deadline. Copy to K. Berry
 705 E. Republic, Peoria 61603
 3 EXCOM - 2702 N. Peoria St. 681-9069
 Members welcome
 6 Farmdale Park hike & bonfire 2 pm
 8 Newsletter assembly - Peoria Pizza
 Works, Peo. Hgts. 7 pm Bring appetite
 and stapler.
 16 Holiday Potluck, bring vacation or
 outing slides to share - 6:30 pm FPNC

SIERRA CALENDAR SALES: Beautiful holiday presents
 already in convenient mailing cartons. Call 676-
 5479, Shirley. Profits support this newsletter. S.O.

RAFFLE: Win a framed original watercolor of a
 forest scene. Artist, Anna Hjort. Title - "A
 Closer Look." Tickets are \$1 ea. or 6 for \$5.
 Send donations to Sierra Club, 1609 N. Knollwood
 Ct., Peo. IL 61604, including name, address &
 phone, and we'll fill them out. THANKS to Larry
 Johnson of United Van Lines who donated tickets,
 and to David Brown of the Tower Park Art Gallery
 for donation of this lovely painting! S.O.

OUTING: Sunday, Dec 6, 2 pm hike. Bring hot dogs
 and buns or marshmallows to roast over fire. CALL
 Shirley, 676-5479, if there is a question about
 weather. Meet at campground parking lot. Who
 says we can't picnic in December??? S.O.

CENTENNIAL DINNER THANKS! Thank you Larry Rice for
 your great presentation on the Zambezi River! Also,
 thanks to all the pre- and post-dinner workers,
 talented cooks, and to all who came. We had a great
 crowd! Gail & Larry Leiken extend thanks to Tanner's
 Orchard and The Moss Rose Herb Farm for their dona-
 tions which made the table decorations a reality
 through the talents of June Hutt & Lucia Miller.
 Congrats and thank you to Bob & Joan Ericksen, hon-
 orees for the evening, for all your time & talents.
 KB



1992 EXCOM MEMBERS

Shirley O'Connell - Ch. 676-5479
 Chuck Buchna - V.Ch. 243-7142
 Judy Donath - Treas. 697-1863
 Al Harkrader - Sec. 682-8462
 Larry Johnson 697-3211
 Larry Leiken 691-3933
 Tom Edwards - Consv. Ch. 681-9069

"We need wilderness preserved —

as much of it as is still left, and as many kinds

It is important to us ... simply because it is there.

— important, that is, simply as an idea." —Wallace Stegner



FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

SATURDAY WORKDAYS: NOV 14 and DEC 12
 Meet at 9 a.m. at the Trail office in Wyoming.
 Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91, building is on left
 between IDOT & Magnussen Chevy, in the rear of
 the green & white bldg. Chris 691-2246 (days)
 or Paul 695-2228 for info. PAID AD



ACTION ALERT: We, the environmental community,
 need to work hard with letters, phone calls &
 personal visits to encourage our state rep. &
 senator to support the Governor's veto of HB 3605.
 This bill is bad for the environment and all of
 us as it would shift the responsibility of clean-
 ing up privately owned, contaminated property
 from the owner to the tax payer, and the pol-
 luters would not have to pay to clean up the
 polluted area. It is also heavily backed by
 bankers and developers who are using their
 ample resources to override the veto.

Address: Hon. _____, House of Rep. or Sen-
 ate House, Springfield IL 62706

Phone: 217/782-2000 Ask for legislator's office

Visit: Call first (numbers in local phone book),
 and visit while your legislator is home. With
 the election over they'll return to Springfield
 to finish work of 1992. Final Legislative Session
 Nov 17, 18, 19 and Dec 1, 2, 3, 1992.

State Environmental Voting Record for 1992: The
 pro-environment votes decreased in 1992 - the
 Senate from 60% to 54%, the House from 53% to 43%.
 We deserve more! No matter who won in the Nov.
 election, YOU are still the key to environmental
 protection and preservation! (% info from IEC).

ALERT: A new and real threat to our environment;
 There are over 250 organizations, several of
 which are big-business funded public relation
 groups, that are attempting to gut environmental
 laws and turn over public lands to special inter-
 est groups. One is the Ntl. Wetlands Coalition,
 which is undermining the existing wetlands pro-
 tection, and is backed by the American Farm
 Bureau Federation, Exxon & the Ntl. Assoc. of
 Realtors. The Environmental Conservation Organ-
 ization, out of Maywood IL, represents the con-
 tractor's interests and is supported by the Farm
 Bureau. They are part of the "Wise Use"/Re-
 source Abuse" movement from out west. C. Pauli

"LIVING WITH THE EARTH", a series of classes
 based on the Tom Brown tracking, nature, and
 wilderness survival school teachings is being
 hosted by the Woodford County Chapter
 Izaak Walton League. Classes will begin Sat.
 Jan. 23, 1993, & be held on consecutive Satur-
 days 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Classes will be at the
 Woodford County Izaak Walton Clubhouse one-
 mile west of Metamora at the end of Seven
 Hills Road. We ask only that participants
 be 16-years of age or older, unless special
 arrangements are made. For more information
 contact Ed Willi at 383-4534. Paid Ad