



HEART of ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

TALLGRASS SIERRA

Recycled paper

P.O. Box 3593, PEORIA IL 61612

DECEMBER 1992

DECEMBER PROGRAM: Wed., Dec. 16, 6:30 P.M.
Bring your favorite dish & table service along with slides to share for our annual holiday potluck & slide show. Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria Heights. NOTE: TIME CHANGE.

BIG CROWD, SURPRISE NEW PLAN AT MARINA HEARING

The big surprise at the Dec. 8 public hearing on the 600-boat East Peoria marina proposed by developer Ray Becker and the E.P. City Council was the substitution of a new plan, literally, at the hearing itself.

Even the reviewing agencies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Illinois Dept. of Transportation's Division of Water Resources, had not seen the plan before it was presented at the hearing by the city's consulting engineer, said their spokesmen.

All that was available at the city hall, where the hearing was held, was the artist's rendering of the re-worked plan, according to members of the council & planning staff. The council had not met on it.

As presented, the big change was a switch from a concrete riprap breakwater to a "floating" breakwater to enclose the 25-acre harbor. But the city's atty. said at the end that that might still be changed again for a more permanent form.

So now there is a different plan that still is in a state of flux. With either, the situation remains:

--The basic impetus is the \$5 million Gov. Edgar has earmarked to begin the project, & Mr. Becker's vision that on-shore recreation & building development will follow.

--15 more acres of wooded marsh wetland would still be filled. Total fill would be 330,000 cubic yards without the riprap breakwater, rather than 490,000 with it, & about 70 million gallons of flood storage space would be eliminated rather than 100 M.

--About 6,000 feet of channel from the harbor out to water deep enough for boating would have to be dredged and regularly re-dredged of watery silt.

--Boat traffic would be further congested in an area where congestion is already in evidence.

--With a 3rd bigger tax subsidized marina competitor, the prospects of the 8 private taxpaying marinas, all less than full for 2 years, may worsen.

--The misconception persists that dredging increases floodwater storage space. It does just the opposite if the dredgings are placed in the floodplain, as they almost invariably are.

--Either breakwater will foster zebra mussels, which need hard surfaces to attach to, unlike others.

The hearing lasted 3 hours & began with a crowd backed up into the hallway. - Tom Edwards

WRITE! YOU CAN STILL TESTIFY. WRITE!

Written comments on the marina proposal will be accepted until Dec. 22. Send them to M. Diedrichsen, Ill. Div. of Water Resources, 2300 S. Dirksen Pkwy., Springfield 62764, with copies to Corps of Engineers Box 2004, Rock Island, Ill. 61204, and to Gov. Edgar.

Position of HoI Sierra, unanimously voted at the Sept. membership meeting, is that there are superior alternatives for such development, & the focus on funding needs to be on preserving the river's lakes & wetlands, and stemming erosion-siltation.

THANK YOU FROM THE CHAIRPERSON: To all of you who have helped with club projects throughout the year, thank you. Whether you contributed to our newsletter, gave a program, wrote lawmakers, circulated petitions, donated food, repaired trails, attended meetings, donated funds, served on EXCOM, or volunteered for many other tasks, you made my job much easier during what has been a very challenging year. Because of your generous contributions of time, talent, and money, we continue to make a difference on environmental issues.

Next year we are likely to be dealing with a planned expansion of Peoria Disposal's Hazardous Waste Dump and the Havana Incinerator. Along with Gallatin National at Fairview, these are examples of the conversion of central Illinois to a dump for a good part of the country, including Chicago and other major cities in the East. Our local battles are caused by a national problem.

The "Wise Use" movement is at our doorstep. It has shown up in the state and locally on the wetlands issue. We see state and local taxes slated for development of a wetland in East Peoria. We hope you will end 1992 by sending in comments, whether lengthy or brief, opposing the East Peoria Marina.

With a growing membership (now 678) in the HOI Group, we have the opportunity to effect significant changes. Please join or continue in these efforts. Your letters and calls to lawmakers do make a difference.

* * *

Grandfather, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the human family has strayed from the Sacred Way. Grandfather, Sacred One, teach us that we may heal the earth and heal each other.

-- Ojibway Prayer

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



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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.

CALENDAR

Dec 8 Hearing on East Peoria Marina 1:30
16 Potluck & Slide Show FPNC 6:30
22 Deadline, Comments on E.P. Marina
Jan 6 Newsletter Deadline
705 E. Republic, Peo 61603
7 EXCOM 7 PM 676-5479
1609 Knollwood Ct.
9 Chapter EXCOM, Springfield
12 Newsletter Mailing Party, Peoria
Heights Pizza Works, 7 PM, Bring
a stapler & your appetite!
17 Annual Starved Rock Hike 9 AM
20 Group Meeting

RECYCLE: BRING ALUMINUM CANS TO GROUP MEETINGS
FOR OUR RECYCLING FUNDRAISER!

RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE

There is still time before the Dec. 18 meeting
when we draw for a framed original watercolor
by Anna Hjort titled "A Closer Look." Tickets
for this beautiful forest scene, donated by
David Brown of Tower Park Art Gallery, are \$1
or 6 for \$5. Send checks to Sierra Club, c/o
Shirley O'Connell, 1609 N. Knollwood Ct., Peoria
61604.

ANNUAL STARVED ROCK EXPEDITION: LET'S HAVE
FUN! Bring the kids and join the annual trek
to view spectacular icefalls & watch for bald
eagles from the bluffs. On the return we will
stop for dinner at Mona's in Toluca. Bring
a sack lunch & drink. Meet 9AM, Sun., Jan. 17,
at Forest Park Foundation next to the Nature
Center for carpooling. 309-676-5479 Call
Shirley O. with questions or if bad weather.

ELECTION REMINDER: Return ballots from Nov.
newsletter to Sec. Al Harkrader by Dec. 16.

SIERRA CALENDARS: Complete your holiday
shopping with Sierra Club Calendars. Prices
from \$7.95 to \$10.95 plus tax. We have many
Pocket & 1 Engagement size. Wall calendars
include Trail, Wildlife, & Wilderness. Call
Shirley at 309-676-5479. Calendars come in
sturdy mailing cartons. Profits support local
Sierra activities.

Treasurers Report: As of 12-3-92 we have a
balance of \$631.52.

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



FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL

SATURDAY WORKDAYS: Jan. 9 & Feb 6
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

Other Trail news: Jim & Cathy Hunter
are the proud parents to Benjamin Mc-
Intosh born 11-14-92 & weighed 9 lbs
9 1/2 oz. Congrats!

George Burrier has color postcards of
Wyoming depot for sale. Call 266-5085.
Congrats to Joyce Blumenshine & David
Trachtenbarg married 11-7 at Wildlife
Prairie Park!

OUR VERY OWN HAZARDOUS WASTE DUMP!

A combined group of Sierrans and PEACE members
went to Springfield to review Peoria Disposal
Company's files and will continue their
research. In May, 1992, a PDC summary report
reflected an original permitted capacity of
1,847,200 cubic yards of waste capacity.
This becomes more interesting since PDC now
reports an adjusted 2.5 million cubic yards
of total capacity with 2.1 million remaining
to be filled. At this point no one is able
to tell us why the figures have changed,
including the I.E.P.A. I.E.P.A. assures us
that a public hearing will be held at their
level, however we are also pursuing a county
level siting hearing on PDC's proposed expan-
sion of the site. S. O'Connell & C. Lemoine

CONSERVATION ROUND-UP

--With our support, Gov. Edgar's veto of H.B. 3605
was narrowly sustained. The House voted to override,
but by a 4-vote margin the Senate voted not to, so
the veto holds. It would have transferred to tax-
payers what are now landowner responsibilities for
toxic waste clean-up. (See, it's up to us.)
-- Lots of solid testimony at marina hearing (p.1).

HAVANA INCINERATOR - ABB, the firm that was going to build
the incinerator in Havana, has sold that end of their
business to Ogden-Martin. We're waiting to see the results.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING -- Thurs., Dec. 17,
7:10 p.m., Edwards house, 2702 N. Peoria. Agenda:
What we have to get done now.

"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

