

TALLGRASS SIERRA

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Group
November 1993, Vol. 21, No. 11



GENERAL MEETING by John Wosik

November's guest speakers will talk about solid waste issues. Charlene Lemoine, local Sierra Club member and chairperson for the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club's Solid Waste Policy Committee, will provide an update on the Peoria City/County landfill and the latest proposal for an incinerator in Havana. Michelle Kloha of the Illinois Public Interest Research Group will talk about solutions to the solid waste crisis, including proposed national legislation. A question and answer period will follow. Refreshments will be offered after the program.

The date is November 17th, 7:30 pm, at Forest Park Nature Center. Everyone is welcome!

MACKINAW RIVER CONCERN



A local landowner has petitioned the Corps of Engineers to build several wing dikes on the Mackinaw River. The placement of wing dikes, for erosion purposes, would virtually channelize the river by filling in the area between the wing dikes. In addition to damaging the river at the location of the dikes this process would cause the river to act as a chute, eventually increasing the velocity of the water and erosion downstream. The Board voted to send a letter opposing the dike proposal. An environmentally sound alternative of willow-post plantings will be strongly recommended. *Ed. Note: The Mackinaw River is a particularly scenic river in Tazwell County with beautiful bluffs and meanders. In 1988 a privately owned area along the*

Mackinaw was dedicated into the Illinois Nature Preserve System.

STUDENT CONGRESS AND CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION

Rudy Habben will represent the HOI Sierra Club on a Sun Foundation committee. The committee is organizing a program and exhibits for the River Project's 4th Annual Student Congress and Clean Water Celebration in March. The Rivers Project is funded by a National Science Foundation grant. This grant allowed a communication and research link between 250 high schools in 23 states. One hundred twenty-five of the schools are in Illinois.

ENVIRONMENTAL ROUND-TABLE

With only 6 months until Earth Day a group of individuals representing either themselves or an organization, gathered at Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria to discuss and share their concerns for the earth and its environment, particularly in the central Illinois area.

While each person had a different concern and approach to their issue, we generally agreed they're important environmental issues, such as toxic landfills, preservation of natural area, and land acquisition to name a few. Educating the public and communication with each other when possible is of utmost importance. Earth Day 1994 is our goal for continuing to create public awareness, which will hopefully translate into public action on environmental issues.

**1993 HEART OF ILLINOIS SIERRA CLUB'S ELECTION
CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT**

Joyce Blumenshine: I am running for the Board because I believe that if you want change you need to make an effort beyond just complaining. I would like to see the Heart of Illinois Group take on two positive projects this year to improve our press and public image. I want this group to reclaim its credibility and respect with other park and conservation organizations. We need to find a way to interest and involve more of our members to reach out to the significant membership beyond the Peoria metro area. I miss the comraderie that I used to enjoy with fellow Sierrans. We have all joined this group for some reason. Let's build from our common ground and contribute to make the Heart of Illinois Sierra a group in which we all are proud of and enjoy.

Joyce is a life member of Sierra Club and has served as secretary of the state and local Sierra.

George M. Burrier, Jr.: My goal is to re-establish the reputation of the Sierra Club as a positive and responsible regional advocate of conservation, environmental and related issues. I believe our organization needs to establish goals for improving our environment with a focus on educating the public and providing outdoor programs that show how others can bring about desired changes.

George has a law practice in East Peoria. He currently serves as chairman of the Friends of the Rock Island Trail, Inc. and was the co-founder of the Illinois Chapter of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. He was a member of the HOI Executive Committee in 1986-87. George works with Morton and Peoria Park District Directors on Greenway acquisition and development and is chairman of the Special Projects Committee for the River Trail of Illinois-Fon du Lac Park District.

Tom Edwards: With a core of hard working people and a great number of supporters, HOI Sierra has compiled and outstanding record of achievement. We have been a major force on such issues as the river, green space preservation, mass burning incineration, recycling and wetlands. But we need to redouble our efforts for an environmental world, because despite efforts and lip service, the march in the opposite direction continues. Environmentalism is sanity, and that is what we must speak to. Conservation is Love, and without Love there is nothing. I fully believe that, "If we seek the truth, we cannot fail." Our job is to learn and teach, to dispel fear. We need to be the prow of a ship cutting thru the seas, free of all mooring, sails set full. This is my course.

Tom is charter member of HOI Sierra, a longtime activist, co-founder of The Trees of Jubilee, on the Illinois Chapter board, a writer and a carpenter.

Hal Gardner: In the past, the central Illinois region was an ecology maintained by burns. This ecology is found in minuscule fragments and degrading at an alarming rate. These "museum-pieces" of prairies and oak/hickory savannas need to be given priority, and we must cooperate with other organizations, like The Nature Conservancy, to manage and acquire these parcels. Selection of other issues should be on the basis of highest conservation impact, like establishment of the 11,000-acre Emiquon Wildlife Refuge, so that we expend our resources and time wisely for maximum benefit. I

also favor a name change of the group to the "Tallgrass" Group to emphasize our change in direction.

Dr. Gardner is a prairie restoration expert, who volunteers much time to the Dept. of Conservation and The Nature Conservancy. He serves/served on numerous boards and as an officer of environmental organizations locally and statewide.

Dale Goodner: My affiliation with Sierra Club dates back to the late 60's in Wisconsin. The reason I am interested in becoming active at this time, is that the HOI Group is in need of change. For example: we need to promote greater meeting attendance; we need to effectively communicate with other environmental organizations; we need to enthusiastically support and practice ecological restoration efforts; we need to appreciate the points of view of our diverse membership; topics of special interest should be reflected in the program schedule; we should support efforts to provide access to and appreciation of natural areas such as Cooper Park; and our membership should be enabled to make educated judgements on environmental issues.

Dale is the Chief Naturalist at Forest Park Nature Center.

Voting Procedure: Vote for no more than 3 candidates for a 2-year term to the HOI Sierra Club Executive Board. Fold ballot. Return ballot to Sec. Shirley O'Connell, 1809 N. Knollwood Ct., Peoria, IL 61604. Write the name of voting member(s) on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot. Joint family members may use Ballot 1 and 2. Ballots must be received by Dec. 15 or may be hand delivered to the Dec. 15 meeting. Ballots will be counted at the Dec. 15 meeting.

**1993HOI SIERRA CLUB
ELECTION BALLOT #2**

☐ Joyce Blumenshine
☐ George M. Burrier, Jr.
☐ Tom Edwards
☐ Hal Gardner
☐ Dale Goodner

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!

Peoria County Landfill: Please call your city council and/or county board members and ask them to thoroughly review bid specifications and demand that city council and county board members be allowed the opportunity to approve final bid specifications prior to being sent out to contractors for bids.

Havana Incinerator Public Hearing: The Havana incinerator project would undermine the importance of recycling; plus the disposal of the ash could potentially contaminate groundwater to say nothing about the ash that goes into the air. You are asked to oppose this incinerator project. Comments for the incinerator project should be sent to: Mary Howerterer, City Clerk, 227 W. Main, Havana, IL 62644. *NOTE: On Oct. 25, 1993 opponents to the incinerator presented documentation stating South-West Energy has been dissolved in Illinois in 1992 when the permit was filed. South-West Energy's attorney presented documentation that they were reinstated effective Oct. 26, 1993. Contact Charlene Lemoine for more details. (692-5724)*



CONSUMERISM AND POPULATION

Americans make-up less than 5% of the world's population and consume 25% of the world's resources. It's been estimated that each American makes the same environmental impact as two people in Britain or France. Plus, the U.S. population, 3rd largest in the world, is growing faster than any other industrialized nation. (Source: Sierra Club Population Report)

NOVEMBER 6th ANNUAL DINNER

A big THANK YOU to Shirley O'Connell for organizing the Group's annual Harvest Dinner. And THANKS to all the members that helped with food donations, phone calling, setting-up, serving, and clean-up. Your help is greatly appreciated!

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Using soy ink.

PLEASE READ

If you haven't already read "Contract Killers" in the Sierra Club's national magazine, you will find it essential reading. Did you know that in 1992 the U.S. Department of Agriculture systematically killed 234 mountain lions, 114 timber wolves, 190 river otter and 1,243 bobcat to name a few. A total of 2.2 million wild animals were killed by the USDA's Animal Damage Control Program. It's worth reading.

GROUP EX. BOARD: Chair., Phil Mincar 694-3014; V. Chair, John Wosik 682-8950; Sec., Shirley O'Connell 676-5479; Treas., Chuck Buchna 243-7142; Larry Johnson 697-3211; Outings Ch., Larry Robbins 692-3930; Glenn Zipp 243-9001; Others: Editor, Cheryl Pauli 446-9792; Cons. Ch., Tom Edwards, 681-9069; Mem. Ch., Joyce Blumenshine, 688-0950.

GROUP CALENDAR:

- NOV. 6** Harvest Dinner, 6 pm, Universalist Unitarian Church in Peoria
17 General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center
18 Ex. Comm. Meeting, 7 pm, Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.; Everyone welcome!
25 Happy Thanksgiving!
27 Newsletter Deadline, send copy to C. Pauli, RR1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517
30 Newsletter Mailing, 7 pm, Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!
- DEC. 15** General Meeting

OTHER EVENTS;

Nov. 11, 7:30 pm, Panel on Solid Waste, contact Darlene Bruce for details.

Nov. 13, Dec. 4, Jan. 8 Rock Island Trail Workdays 9 am. Meet at the temporary trail office on Fox Rd., Alta. Go west of Alta on Rt. 91 to Radnor Rd., about one mile. Turn right on Radnor and continue around curves. House and metal barn (office) will be on your right just before the railroad tracks. Call Chris (691-2246 or 682-0549). (Note: The HOI Grp. provides this information as a public service. OTHER EVENTS are not sponsored by Sierra Club.)

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, Illinois 61614

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