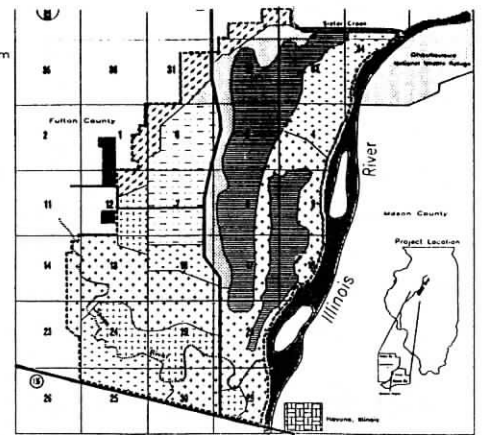


TALLGRASS SIERRA

Heart of Illinois Group, Vol. 21, No. 2
FEBRUARY 1993-The Central Illinois Region

Legend
 - - - - - Refuge Boundary
 ■ Dixon Mounds Museum
 □ Prairie
 ▨ Upland Forest
 ▩ Agricultural Land
 ▧ Moist Soils
 ▦ Open Marsh
 ▤ Bottomland Forest
 ▥ Backwater Lake



ILLINOIS RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE PROPOSED BY FEDS by Cheryl Pauli

During the early 1900's Thompson and Flag Lakes in Fulton County near the confluence of the Spoon and Illinois River was a vast wetland. In the 1920's this area was drained, "protected" from the Illinois River and put into intensive agriculture.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has proposed the development of *Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge* in this location. The alternative preferred by USFWS (Alternative 3) would permit them to acquire from willing sellers 11,039 acres (4 times larger than Jubilee State Park). Thompson and Flag Lake would be restored to an average depth of 4 feet, thus providing the area with 2,800 acres of backwater lake habitat. Approximately 1,900 acres would be native moist soil plants and 800 acres would be restored to shallow open marsh. Another 3,600 acres would be preserved as bottomland/upland forest. About 1,100 acres would remain in agriculture with a percentage of the yield left in fields for wildlife, and 800 acres would be restored as native prairie. The proposed refuge has 89 State and Federal threatened and endangered species. It would help protect and restore natural areas unique to the Illinois river basin and aid in improving water quality within the wetlands system, not to mention the recreation potential. Illinois is deficient in 15,000 acres of wetland habitat. The proposed *Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge* (Alternative 3) needs to be enthusiastically endorsed. Letters and comments should be sent to the following address as soon as possible: USFWS, Attn. Andrew C. French, RR#2, Box 61-B, Havana, IL 62644. Copies should be sent to your State and Federal representatives, also.

CONSERVATION by Tom Edwards

EAST PEORIA MARINA: Keep On Writing: We say E. Peoria needs a new permit application. Though the IL Div. of Water Resources gave conditional permit approval Jan. 26 for the 600-boat marina its fate is still on tenterhooks. A permit must also be given by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Gov. Edgar must release \$5 million in start-up money for the project. It's expected to take \$15 million in public investments. A greatly revised and still incomplete new plan has been substituted for the one on which the Dec. 8 hearing was called. HOI is opposing the marina because it is 1) the wrong direction environmentally, 2) public funds need to be concentrated on halting siltation, 3) the special interest public financing is wholly inappropriate ethically and economically. **Send letters to:** Senators Paul Simon, 462 Dirksen, and Carol Mosley-Braun, 331 Hart Build., Washington, DC 20515; Gov. Edgar, Statehouse, Springfield, IL 62706; Reps. Robert Michel, 2112 Rayburn, and Lane Evans, 2335 Rayburn, Washington, DC

20515 and District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Box 2004, Rock Island, IL 61204

FAIRVIEW LANDFILL: On Jan. 26 a hearing on a permit to allow Gallatin National to dispose of ash from a municipal mass burn incinerator drew about 100 people. In 5 1/2 hours of testimony only 1 person favored it. This would be the first waste contract for the 1,000 acre landfill. Classified as "special waste" this ash can be hazardous.

PROPOSED HAVANA INCINERATOR: Opponents have organized to run for the town council. Mary Harkrader and Larry Johnson are providing campaign advice.

PEORIA'S TOXIC WASTE LANDFILL: The Main Peoria Public Library has information from the U.S. EPA on grinder-shredder permit request of Peoria Disposal Co. Comment period extended to March 5. This machine grinds asphalt & concrete. No word on public hearing for PDC's application to expand.



➡ **ACTION ALERT:** A new process for siting low-level radioactive waste facilities was passed the last day of the 87th Gen. Assembly. It 1) does away with local approval, 2) allows the contractor to select the site, 3) does not include public health, safety and welfare in site selection, and 4) allows only 30 days to file objection (objector bears burden of proof) **Action to take:** Write or fax Gov. Edgar asking him to veto HB 1918 or call his assistant Allen Grosboll 217/524-1395; Write: Gov. Edgar, Statehouse, Springfield, IL 62706; FAX number: 217/782-3560 If he vetoes the bill it is dead, an override is not possible. (Source IEC)

➡ **LETTERS OF THANKS NEEDED:** Gov. Edgar announced the purchase of 15,500 acres of land on Jan. 7. This land, located in Cass Co., contains high quality upland forests, about 100 small ponds, rare hill prairies, threatened and endangered species. Funds specifically designated for land acquisition will be used. The Governor is hearing from opponents of this purchase. He needs to hear from supporters. It will be the largest property owned by DOC and can be managed as an ecologically diverse site. For specific details contact C. Pauli (446-9792). **WRITE** to the Gov. at the address mentioned in above article.

➡ **ROUTING:** A March 27 outing is planned for Sandridge State Forest.. Call Shirley O. for details (676-5479).

HANDYMAN SPECIAL: Two typewriters, IBM Correcting Selective and Olympian, plus one stand available to highest bidder. Donated to Group over the years. For more info. call K. Berry 685-830.

GROUP EX. BOARD: Chair, Phil Minear 694-3014; V. Chair, John Wosik 682-8950; Sec., Shirley O'Connell 676-5479; Treas., Chuck Buchna 243-7142; Larry Johnson 697-3211; 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.

GENERAL MEETING: FEB. 17, 7:30 PM, FOREST PARK NATURE CENTER. Feb.'s guest speaker, Carolyn Schertz, will talk about how natural biological systems function without human intervention, and how human activities alter natural relationships. Carolyn is owner of Green Acres Herb Farm, is current Sierra Club member, and formerly taught Biology and Geology at Peoria Notre Dame. *by John Wosik*

➡ **1993 FOREST SUMMIT BEING ORGANIZED, VICE PRESIDENT ALBERT GORE IN LEADERSHIP POSITION,**

DETAILS NEXT MONTH.

CALENDAR:

FEB. 15 Conservation Meeting, 7 PM, 2702 N. Peoria Ave., T. Edwards home; everyone welcome.

16 Lou Gould Ancient Forest Program, 7 PM, ISU Activity Rm, between Bone Student Union & parking lot, Bloomington; free admission; For info. Saad El-Zanati (438-5765) K. Berry

17 Grp. General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center

25 Ex Com. Meeting, 7 PM, Army Corps Build., foot of Grant St.; everyone welcome.

MAR. 1 Newsletter Deadline, send items for newsletter to C. Pauli, RR 1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517

6 Friends of the RIT Workdays, 9 AM, meet at Trail office in Wyoming. Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91, building is on left between IDOT & Magnussen Chevy. For info. call Chris 691-2246 (days) or Paul 695-2228. (April 6 also)

9 Newsletter Mailing Party, 7 PM, Pizza Works; everyone welcome, good food, interesting conversation.

17 Grp. General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center, more details later.

(Note: The HOI Grp. provides this info. as a public service. Not all items listed are sponsored by Sierra Club)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

It has been my privilege to meet semi-regularly with a group of HOI Sierra Club members who have a dream. These are people who refuse to sit back while our rare and endangered species dwindle. Now thanks to a grant from the State Chapter of the Sierra Club, we will have some of the tools to start on this long journey of healing. The course has been charted by many, including John Muir, who was one of the first to warn of the long term ecological impacts which would result from fire suppression. It is only fitting that his Sierra Club begin its second century by rededicating itself to protection of and access to our precious biodiversity. *by Dale Goodner, naturalist*
Editors Note: The IL. Chapter of Sierra Club's Restoration Fund gave a group of local Sierrans a grant for prairie restoration.

