

TALLGRASS SIERRAN

Heart of Illinois Group, Vol. 21, No. 4
APRIL 1993-The Central Illinois Region



RE-EVALUATION OF PERMIT FOR MARINA REQUESTED by Tom Edwards

We are campaigning for the Army Corps of Engineers to suspend and re-evaluate the permit it has issued for 600-boat East Peoria marina proposed by developer Raymond Becker. Corps administrative procedures provide for re-evaluation if the information supporting the permit issuance is "incorrect or misleading" and/or if "significant new information surfaces". Also, federal wetland regulations forbid the issuances of a permit to fill a wetland if alternatives exist that would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, wetland, lake, or river.

We have 2 such alternatives that clearly do that, the CILCO site at I-74 and behind East Peoria's Spindler Marina. Both would expand and improve the lake ecosystem and actually recover former wetlands that have 20 feet of fill. Moreover, not one foot of lakeshore would be touched! The proposed marina would replace 1,800 feet of sand and tree shoreline with a 20-foot high cliff of concrete riprap and parking lots, plus fill 20 plus acres of wetland.

The Corps decision is expected shortly. It was noted that only half of the names on our petitions got in the State's record of the public hearing, also.

"MILL SPRINGS BOG" by Tom Edwards

Mill Springs Bog was the historical name of the 26 acres of lakeside wetland that would be filled for the proposed East Peoria marina. Threatened and rare assemblages of plants have been recorded there by Eunice Tjaden of East Peoria and the Academy of Science Botany Section. Some still exist and springs still gush from the foot of the bluff.

As a "mitigation" substitute, a saucer depression would be bulldozed in a flat field at the Pekin Lake State Conservation Area. This site already has 800 acres of backwater lakes and marshes.

☐ **MARINA CAMPAIGN NEEDS FUNDS!** Our campaign to halt the proposed 600-boat East Peoria marina continues to be quite expensive, yet it is vital to the future of the remaining local river, wetlands and riverfront as well as Peoria Lake itself.

Send donations to: Heart of Il. Sierra Club, c/o Chuck Buchna, treasurer, RR 2, Box 151A, Princeville, IL 61559
HOI Executive Board

LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE SITING AT RISK by Charlene Lemoine

Background: The HOI Sierra Club and PEACE have numerous concerns about a request by Peoria Disposal Company (PDC) to vertically expand their hazardous waste landfill. Last year we met with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to discuss our concerns, and we requested local siting approval before IEPA granted a permit modification. IEPA has not yet made a decision regarding local siting. Current law (Section 39(h) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act) states that "a hazardous waste stream may not be deposited in a permitted hazardous waste site unless specific authorization is obtained from the Agency (IEPA) by the generator and the disposal site owner and operator for deposit of that specific hazardous waste stream." A recent ruling by the Third District Appellate Court stated that Section 39(h) does not permit PDC to be the sole generator of hazardous waste they treat, that the original producer was a generator requiring authorization, and that PDC also must obtain a permit to deposit the waste in their landfill. PDC and IEPA have taken the Appellate Court's decision to the Illinois Supreme Court for a further ruling.

Current developments: The pending Illinois Supreme Court case mentioned above may affect PDC's operation. However, two proposed bills in the Illinois Legislature (H.B. 1163 and S.B. 276) would amend the text of 39(h) to eliminate the original generator from obtaining a permit for the hazardous waste, and would designate the last person to treat the waste prior to disposal as the generator requiring the permit. How generator is defined will determine whether local siting is relevant. Thus, a facility could treat hazardous waste with chemicals or additional material to stabilize it resulting in a greater volume of waste residue. PDC's litigation claims they are exempt from local siting because PDC generates the waste. Thus, the Appeal and the two proposed bills will offer the waste industry a loophole to circumvent the local siting authority.

Action needed: Local siting is in jeopardy. The issue of who generates the hazardous waste has ramifications beyond PDC; however, an expansion at PDC without local siting is at stake. Please ask your legislators to **OPPOSE** House Bill 1163 and Senate Bill 276. If you care about local siting let your opinion be known. (see Addresses on page 2)

NATIONAL TRAILS ACT IN DANGER IN ILLINOIS

by George Burrier

Illinois House Bill 2009, recently introduced in Springfield, seeks to require a railroad to notify all adjoining landowners of railroad right-of-way it seeks to abandon. It would give adjoining landowners first opportunity to purchase the property.

It is my opinion, that of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and other park districts that this would end most, if not all, future rail-to-trail conversions. For more information call 266-5085.

Action needed: Contact your state representative and ask them to **OPPOSE House Bill 2009**.

Addresses and phone numbers for State Representatives and Senators: State House, Springfield, IL 62706; call 217/782-2000.

EMIQUON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Emiquon National Wildlife refuge was authorized on March 6th, but funding is needed in order to make it a reality. Once again you are asked to write or call your Congressman.

Action needed: Ask him to testify on behalf of the proposed Emiquon Wildlife Refuge before the Interior Appropriation Committee's hearing on the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Due to low funds the entire amount needed for the Emiquon Refuge is not available, but request funds to at least start the development of this project. Write to: Representatives Lane Evans and Robert Michel, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515 or call 1/800/852-3445 or 1/202/224-3121 and ask to speak to the Congressman's office.

OUTINGS: April 24. A hike through the center of Jubilee College State Park is planned. We will meet at 10:00 am. Comfortable shoes, water and a sack lunch will be needed. Long pants, long sleeved shirt, a hat and insect repellent are suggested. We will hike through woodlands, tallgrass prairie and cross a creek or two. Arrangements will be made to shuttle cars. Must call Cheryl Pauli at 446-9792 if you plan on hiking.

May 5 at 8:30 pm. A full moon will provide the light for an evening hike at Farmdale Park. Must call Larry Robbins at 692-3930 if you plan on hiking.

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 Blumenahine, 688-0950.

GENERAL MEETING: APRIL 21, 7:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center. April's guest speaker will be Barb Gurtler, who has climbed the high points of five of the seven continents, and all but three of the 50 States. She will talk about her recent trip to Russia, where she ascended Mt. Elbrus, and visited St. Petersburg and Moscow. by John Wosik

FROM THE GROUP CHAIR

Any suggestions or nominations for the Heart of Illinois Conservationist of the Year should be sent to Phil Minear, c/o HOI Sierra Club, PO Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 or call him at 694-3014. Please include a brief explanation of why you feel this person should be considered.

Les Bodell will represent the Group on the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge advisory board. And on behalf of the HOI Group we'd like to thank Tom Edwards for the time and energy he has put into the East Peoria marina issue.

GROUP CALENDAR:

- Apr. 17 Work Day, Forest Park Nature Center, 9 am.
May run into the afternoon, depending on enthusiasm of volunteers. Contact John Wosik at 682-8950.
- 19 Conservation Meeting, 7 pm, 2702 N. Peoria Ave., T. Edwards' home; everyone welcome.
- 21 Grp. Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center. Sierra Club's founder, John Muir's birthday.
- 22 EARTH DAY!
- 24 Hike at Jubilee College State Park.
- 29 Ex. Com. Meeting, 7 pm, Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.; everyone welcome.
- May 3 Newsletter Deadline, send copy to C. Pauli, RR 1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- 5 Hike at Farmdale Park.
- 11 Newsletter Mailing, 7 pm, Pizza Works; everyone welcome

Other Events:

May 1 & June 5 Work Days on the Rock Island Trail, 9 am, meet at Trail office. Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91, building is on left between IDOT & Magnussen Chevy. For info. call Chris 691-2246 (days) or Paul 695-2228.

May 9 Mother's Day Brunch and Bike Ride/Hike. Join us at 11 am at the Depot in Wyoming. Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91. At stop sign, turn right (Williams St.) and go two blocks. Depot is just past water tower. Cost \$5.00 adults, children under 12 \$2.50. **Reservations a must!** Call George 694-3196, 266-5085; Mary 745-5479 or Chris 691-2246.

Peoria to Chicago X-way Opponents call Pete McLure, 243-7511 or Toni Clarke, 579-3012 (t.e.)

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

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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