

TALLGRASS SIERRAN

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MAY 1993-The Central Illinois Region



REFUGE NEEDS LETTERS! *by Cheryl Pauli*

Letters to Governor Edgar urging him to support the development of the proposed Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge are urgently needed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to acquire from willing sellers 11,039 acres to restore backwater habitat, shallow open marshes, bottomland/upland forests and native moist soil plants is a significant development for the entire state. This project has 89 State and Federal threatened and endangered species within the proposed 11,039 acres. It would aid in improving water quality within the wetlands system, plus protect and restore natural areas along the Illinois River basin. The Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge would offer a variety of recreational activities.

Congressman Lane Evans has sent a letter to the Interior Appropriations Committee requesting the funds needed to develop this project, but strong support from the Governor is also needed. **Action Needed Now:** Call or write the Governor urging him to support the development of the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge. FAX: 217/782-3560 Call: 217/524-1395. ➔ Write: Governor Edgar, State House, Springfield, IL 62706. ➔ Write: Senators Paul Simon, 462 Dirksen, and Carol Mosley-Braun, 331 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20515.



NATURAL AREAS

At this time state and local governments are required to meet with the Department of Conservation about projects that may affect endangered and threatened species, but they do not have to meet with them on projects that may affect sites listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Senate Bill 482 enhances the process by requiring the individual to meet with DOC on projects that may affect sites listed on this inventory. There are several natural areas within the HOI's region listed in Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. **Action Needed:** Contact your State Representative and Senator and ask him to support S.B. 482. ➔ Write to your Representative or Senator at State House, Springfield, IL 62706 or call 217/782-2000. (Bill info. source: Illinois Environmental Council)

PEORIA DISPOSAL UPDATE *by Charlene Lemoine*

On April 5 the IEPA denied Peoria Disposal's (PDC) permit modification request to vertically expand their hazardous waste landfill due to PDC's failure to provide proof of local siting. The denial process took 9 months, and the permit was denied during the time when the Appellate Court's ruling held that the PDC is not the sole generator of waste treated and disposed of in their landfill. Concerns continue regarding H.B. 1163 and S.B. 276. The language in both bills would have the last person to treat hazardous waste prior to disposal become the generator and require a permit for disposal only from PDC and not the original generator. The Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) is opposing this change, and will present concerns at the upcoming hearings. ➔ **Action Needed:** Continue to oppose H.B. 1163 and S.B. 276. Write to your State Representative and Senator, State House, Springfield, IL 62706 or call 217/782-2000.


HOI BOARD ACTION

The Heart of Illinois board voted to support the Peoria Park District's action to put 246 acres of Detweiller Park into the Illinois Nature Preserves. An amendment was added stating their concern for possible over-management. This area of the park is listed with the Illinois Natural Area Inventory.

The board passed a motion supporting Tom Edwards' action on the Eastport Marina project. A motion to contact National Sierra Club about this issue was passed, also.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Nominations for Conservationist of the Year are now being accepted. The individual nominated does not have to be a Sierra Club member. This individual's conservation efforts should have been pursued on a volunteer basis, not for pay. Submit your nomination with a brief description about what this person has done for conservation and the environment. Send it to: Phil Minear, c/o Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614.

 **DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF THE MARINA PROJECT.** Send them to HOI Sierra Club, PO 3593, Peoria, IL 61614.



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RECYCLING AUCTION

Each June the HOI Group has a potluck picnic for its general meeting. At this time a fund raising auction of donated items is held. Save those items that you consider too good to toss in the trash, but you no longer need. Recycle it by donating them to the HOI Group's auction! Picnic location and time will be in the next newsletter.

OUTINGS: June 13. Starved Rock State Park is the setting for the next Sierra Club hike. Hikers will meet at 9:00 AM. Contact Larry Johnson at 697-3211 for location and details. The traditional dinner at Mona's may follow this hike.

FUTURE RAILS-TO-TRAILS

Although H.B. 2009 has been sent to interim study you are asked to contact your state representative and request that he oppose this bill if it should be removed from interim study. This bill would require abandoned rail right-of-ways to be offered to adjacent landowners before interested park or conservation districts have an opportunity to purchase intact right-of-ways for biking/hiking trails or wildlife habitat areas. Action Needed: Let your state representative know you oppose H.B. 2009 and would like him to do so, if it is taken out of interim study this year. (see address under Natural Areas article)

Ed. Note: Vermillion County has a possible rails/trails project.

PEORIA DIST. 150 ADOPTS WASTE REDUCTION POLICY by Charlene Lemoine

Peoria District 150 School Board unanimously adopted a Waste Reduction Resolution as well as a Waste Reduction and Recycling Procurement Policy. The Resolution and Policy form a comprehensive plan to involve all students, faculty, and staff. Purchasing paper and other products containing post-consumer recycled content is addressed as well as a recycling and an environmental educational plan for all District 150 Schools. HOI Sierra Club, PEACE, and Peoria County Model Community presented letters to the School Board in support of their Waste Reduction efforts. *Editor's Note: If you are interested in asking your school board to adopt a similar policy contact Charlene at 692-5724.*

THANKS to Rudy Habben for working at the Sierra Club booth during the Bradley U. Earth Day event.

GENERAL MEETING: May 19, 7:30 PM, Forest Park Nature Center. May's guest speaker will be Jack Darin, the State Field Representative for the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club. Mr. Darin will talk about the Club's lobbying efforts during the current state legislative session in Springfield.

JUBILEE COLLEGE STATE PARK

The April hike through Jubilee Park offered the hikers an opportunity to view the woodland and prairie, but it also showed the serious erosion along the horse trails. Anyone interested in helping with this trail erosion problem should contact Hal Gardner at 446-9792.

PRAIRIE DEDICATED!

Approximately 6 acres of prairie on the Rock Island Trail have been officially dedicated and is now part of the Illinois Nature Preserve System. This prairie remnant is located north of Princeville on the Peoria/Stark County line.

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; 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:

- May 19 ☀ Grp. Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center.
- 22 Work Day, 9 am, Forest Park Nature Center.
Trail work is planned. Contact John Wosik at 682-8950.
- 2 Ex.Com. Meeting, 7 pm, Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.; Everyone welcome
- Jun. 1 Newsletter Deadline. Send copy to C. Pauli, RR1 Box 168, Brimfield, IL 61517. Late submission will not be accepted.
- 8 Newsletter Mailing, 7 pm, Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!
- 13 Hike at Starved Rock State Park.
- 16 ☀ Grp. Meeting and Potluck Picnic

Other Events:

June 5 & July 10 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.

June 6 National Trails Day. Celebrate with a bike ride from Alta to Princeville. Meet at Alta trail parking lot at 10 am. Bring a sack lunch or eat in Princeville. Call Chris for details 691-2246 or 682-0549.

(Note: The HOI Grp. provides this info. 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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