

TALLGRASS SIERRAN

Heart of Illinois Group, Vol. 21, No. 6
JUNE 1993-The Central Illinois Region



GENERAL MEETING

Join us for the annual potluck picnic. Each year the HOI Sierra Club hosts a picnic, presents the Conservationist of the Year award and has a fundraising auction of donated items instead of the usual General Meeting.

This year's picnic will be held on **June 16, 6:30 pm** at **Jubilee State Park**. Enter the park from Rt. 150 (between Kickapoo and Brimfield). Follow this road north through the park, take the first two right turns past the park headquarters. We'll be at the Quail Meadow picnic area.

You will need food to share, a beverage and your table service. If you'd like, don't forget an item to donate to the Auction. And bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

1993 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

by Shirley O'Connell

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club is honoring Charlene Lemoine as the 1993 Conservationist of the Year. Charlene was instrumental in developing Peoria School Dist. 150's recycling policy, which recently received a grant from Illinois Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources. She has done extensive work in researching and presenting thoughtful alternatives and opposition to mass incineration in Massachusetts and Illinois. Plus, Charlene has served as the watchdog for Peoria Disposal Company's hazardous waste landfill. Charlene's concern for the environment is apparent in her unflagging efforts to protect it.



IDOT AND THE PRAIRIE

As you travel within the state you may notice some planting activity along the highway right-of-ways. Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) received a federal grant and

is in the process of planting prairie along some of the highways. Nine districts throughout the state are involved in this 5 year program and are planting prairie forbs and wildflowers. Each district is following a different procedure. During the first year or two, you may notice some non-native wildflowers. These are annuals and biannual flowers with a mixture of perennial prairie emerging and hopefully establishing itself among them.

EMIQUN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

by Cheryl Pauli

In May a group of approximately 20 proponents of the proposed Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge gathered at the Fulton County Courthouse to show support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's efforts to develop this refuge. Although the Fulton County Board voted to oppose the development of the refuge in April, Congressmen Lane Evans and Robert Michel have offered their support of the Refuge to the Interior Subcommittee. This refuge could help the area economically and environmentally. Proponents are now waiting to see if adequate funds will be released. If you haven't written to support the Emiquon please take the time to contact the following people. 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. ➔ Letters of thanks for supporting this issue are also needed. 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.



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

WASTE REDUCTION GRANT AWARDED #150 by Charlene Lemoine

The Dept. of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) has awarded Peoria School District 150 a \$9,956.00 grant for the 1993-94 school year under the ENR's Waste Reduction Grant Program. The Dist. 150 plan has incorporated waste reduction and recycling for all students, faculty and staff in the Dist. 150 school. The plan has demonstrated leadership and commitment to waste reduction and has met the criteria for ENR grant approval. Dist. 150 is sharing this plan with other Peoria County schools in an effort to aid others in developing programs and obtaining future grants in this area.



"Eschew surplusage." (author unknown)

POINT OF VIEW: by Cheryl Pauli

As the farmers prepare their fields for the 1993 crops and people in the suburbs begin their "lawn care", a person cannot help but notice the smell of herbicides permeating the air and see the scorched vegetation along the edges of the fields.

Two of the most often used chlorinated herbicides are atrazine and 2,4-D. Atrazine is used heavily in the rural Midwest and can be found in ground water and most streams in the Midwest during the growing season. Lawn care in the suburbs utilizes 2,4-D, a herbicide. According to Chemical & Engineering News (April 19, 1993) both chemicals are possible carcinogens.

We cannot continue to poison the land, people and wildlife. Biologically safe alternative methods need to be developed, using methods that do not poison the land and allow it to erode.

GROUP CALENDAR:

- JUNE 13** Hike at Starved Rock State Park
- 16** ☀ **General Meeting, Potluck Picnic,** Jubilee College State Park, 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome!
- 19** **Work Day, 9 am,** Contact John Wosik for details (682-8950).
- 24** **Ex.Comm. Meeting, 7pm,** Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.; Everyone welcome.
- 30** **Newsletter Deadline.** Send copy to C. Pauli, RR1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- JULY 8** **Newsletter Mailing, 7pm, Pizza Works;** Everyone welcome. *Please note change from Tuesday to Thursday.*
- 21** ☀ **General Meeting**

Other Events:

- June 22, 7:30 am** Individuals interested in learning about the management of the Peoria County Landfill should consider attending this tour of the landfill. Contact Charlene for details. (692-5724)
- July 10 & August 7** **Work Days on the Rock Island Trail.** Meet at 9 am, at the Trail office in Wyoming. Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91, building is on left between IDOT and Magnussen Chevy. Call Chris 691-2246 (days) or Paul 695-2228 for more information.

(Note: The HOI Grp. provides this information as a public service. Other Events are not sponsored by Sierra Club)

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.

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