

TALLGRASS SIERRAN

Heart of Illinois Group, Vol. 21, Nos. 7 and 8
JULY and AUGUST 1993-The Central Illinois Region



SPECIAL EDITION: Please note this issue of the Tallgrass Sierran is for the months of July and August.

GENERAL MEETINGS, July and August

by John Wosik

****July's** guest speakers will be two representatives from CILCO: Dee Parks, Coordinator of Educational Projects, and Terry Kurtz, Vice-president of Electric Production. They will talk about CILCO's home energy audit program and will answer questions on other topics club members may wish to address.

****August's** guest speakers will be Mark and Janet Mitzner who will talk about their hike of the 2,100 mile Appalachian Trail.

Both meetings will be at Forest Park Nature Center at 7:30 pm. Everyone welcome!



Marina Campaign Puts Wetlands In Forefront

by Tom Edwards

Thank you, both the many members and non-members of Sierra Club who have given moral and financial support to our campaign to save wetland and lakeland from the East Peoria marina and condominium proposal of developer Ray Becker and the East Peoria City Council.

We didn't get the judge's ruling in the court case on the marina, but certainly got his approbation in the tongue lashing he gave the Corps of Engineers for the manner in which they issued the construction permit.

It is going to take a minimum of \$15 million in state and/or federal funds to build the proposed 25-acre harbor in Peoria Lake and on-shore facilities, plus pay Becker \$2.5 million for 26.3 acres that was assessed at \$6,150 on the tax rolls. Without that government largesse, the marina won't be. And if we can get the bare facts to the right places, that tax funding won't be given. That takes photocopying

and mailing.

Our appeal for funds to cover both legal and considerable other costs has passed \$1,300 to date, which covered 3/4ths of the current expenses. Hopefully, even more donations will be coming in, because this effort does not end with a court ruling that lets the Corps' work permit stand.

The court case certainly further injected wetlands in the consciousness of this region, and the special interest politics behind such projects. But perhaps more importantly, our campaign has shown people that they can stand up to such political-financial juggernauts. Fear was the greatest hurdle

We also put forward alternatives that demonstrated there are environmentally superior ways to do such a marina if it were ever actually needed. We also exercised, for the first time locally, the vital Section 404 regulations on wetlands. And we again underlined not only our commitment to the environment, but the environment itself.

Woodford County's 3-Lakes Proposal

At the request of local landowners the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is in the process of planning three structural sediment retention basins (lakes) and land treatment for the Richland, Dry, and Snag Creeks. In an attempt to reduce erosion along the tributaries and sedimentation to Peoria Lake the SCS is proposing development of the 3 lakes. It is felt this proposed project would enhance the Corps of Engineer's Barrier Island Project authorized for construction in Peoria Lake.

An informational meeting on the proposal will be held August 3, 7 pm at Metamora High School.

Membership News by Joyce Blumenshine

Welcome new members and transferring folks! Heart of Illinois Sierra Club says HELLO! and welcome to the following new members: James Brija, M. Chaddock, and Susan Williamson, of Peoria; Toby Barry from Ladd; Joann Simkins of Dunlap; Ladena Skarnikat of Pekin, and the Code Green Environmental Club of the Morton High School.

The following folks are transferring their Sierra membership into the HOI Group: Eric Haag of La Salle; Jason Klecker and Marilyn Weigensberg of Peoria and Matt Ricketts of Morton.

Whither Are We: A Look at Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. Your Heart of Illinois Sierra Club has 646 members. While you may rightly guess that Peoria has the greatest number of members by city, you members outside of Peoria are by far our greatest strength. We would like to hear from you! Send a note if you are not getting your newsletter in time for the meetings, or if you have any suggestions for better reaching those of you outside of the Peoria area.



Peoria County Resumes Spraying

Last month the Peoria County Board voted to resume spraying in Herbicide Control Zone 1. By June 30th guardrail and road sign areas had been sprayed with Roundup. Supposedly the spraying will not take place every year. There is a concern about a resurgence of noxious weeds, also. By law the highway department is required to keep noxious weeds under control. One of the least expensive means to control these weeds is to apply the broadleaf herbicide 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D). While Roundup is being sprayed at the edge of the roads the use of 2,4-D would take place farther off the road. Considering the fact that Peoria County has not been spraying for the past four years and that there is evidence that 2,4-D may be a carcinogen, it would be unfortunate to return to the excessive spraying practices used in the past.

Your county board member needs to hear from you about the resumption of roadside spraying. If you do not know your county board member, contact the Peoria County Clerk's office for assistance (672-6059)



Annual Picnic Success!

Beautiful weather, delicious food and pleasant company made the annual potluck picnic another success. Many thanks to Auctioneer Larry Johnson for handling the fundraising auction and thanks to those who donated and purchased some interesting and unusual items. **Thank you!**

CONGRATULATION to Charlene Lemoine, 1993 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR!



Remaining Illinois Natural Areas by Cheryl Pauli

Within the counties represented by the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club (HOI) approximately 206 sites are listed in the Natural Areas Survey by the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Each site was listed according to seven separate features as follows: 1) High quality terrestrial or wetland natural communities. 2) Habitat with endangered species. 3) Habitats with relic species. 4) Outstanding geological formations. 5) Lands used for natural science studies. 6) Unique natural features. 7) Outstanding aquatic features. On a scale of Grade A to E, the sites within the HOI area are mainly Grade B sites which are late successional or lightly disturbed communities, although there are Grade A sites.

As people become familiar with these natural areas, their importance and location the chances of protection and preservation of the sites increases. The State's inventory is extensive, but there is the possibility that an area has been missed. The recently dedicated Rock Island Trail Nature Preserve was one such site that was missed by the original inventory. All sites listed on the Natural Areas Inventory continue to be tracked by DOC's Natural Heritage Division. Since 69% of these areas are privately owned, they are all threatened by development. Three sites were removed from Mason County's list, because of site combination, loss of listed endangered species, and degradation by excessive over-shading. Although this list is not complete for the HOI's area, you are encouraged to visit the publicly owned areas. Many are a challenge to get to, but interesting and beautiful.

Peoria County's natural areas are the Rock Island Trail Nature Preserve (mesic prairie), Grandview Woods, Forest Park Nature Preserve, Detweiller Park, North Detweiller Woods (the latter three are mesic upland forests), Jubilee Nature Preserve (dry-mesic upland forest), Peoria Park Hill Prairie and Gentiana Hill Prairies (the latter two are glacial drift hill prairies).

Woodford County's areas are Comlara Park (a perennial stream) and Ridgetop Hill Prairie (glacial drift-hill prairie), the only two sites accessible at this time.

Tazwell County's accessible sites are Fort Creve Coeur Hill Prairie (glacial drift hill prairie), Spring Lake Seeps, Fondulac Seeps, and Farm Creek Geological Area in Farmdale Recreation Area. The Farmdale site will have a group of international earth scientists visiting it this summer.

Fulton County's Rector Woods (a dry and wet mesic upland forest) is the only publicly owned natural area.

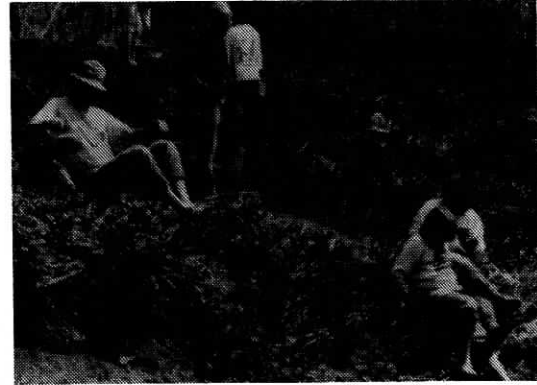
Mason County has the most natural sites in the HOI's area. Its natural areas are Barkenhausen Woods (dry sand forest), Clear Lake Rookery, H.A. Gleason Nature Preserve (sand prairie), Reavis Nature Preserve (loess hill prairie), Rountree Nature Preserve (dry mesic upland forest), Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve, Sand Ridge Prairie and Savanna, Sand Ridge State Forest Geological Area.

McDonough County's Lake Argyle Barren is the only publicly owned area in the county.

If you'd like specific information and directions to these areas you can contact the Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Natural Heritage Division at (217)785-8774.

Outings: July 25, 9:15 am. A bike ride on the Rock Island Trail is planned for July. We'll meet at the Alta parking lot and you may ride as far as you want. Bring plenty of water and sun protection. Contact **Larry Robbins at 692-3930** for more details.

Outings: August 22. A tentative bike ride is planned along the I & M Canal. Contact **Larry Robbins at 692-3930** for confirmation and details.



A challenging creek crossing. Jubilee State Park, April outing.

Endangered Species Act

For 20 years the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has resulted in rare animal and plant protection in the United States. The ESA is once again up for reauthorization and there is a movement to weaken this Act. It is vital that you contact your Congressman and ask him to cosponsor **H.R. 2043** and your senators to cosponsor **S.921**. These bills would: 1) set deadlines for completion of recovery plans and give priority to multi-species plans; 2) require federal agencies to inventory their lands for candidate species and take measures to conserve them; 3) authorize development of habitat conservation plans for candidate species and establish financial assistance; 4) provide financial incentives and technical assistance to private landowners to take steps to implement recovery action; 5) allow citizens to file suit to protect listed species in emergencies without the sixty day notice; 6) substantially increase the funding ceilings for the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to implement the federal endangered species program. (Information source: Endangered Species Coalition, Sierra Club, DC)

➡ **Contact your Congressman and ask him to cosponsor H.R. 2043.** Congressman _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515
Contact your Senators and ask them to cosponsor S.921. Senator _____, U.S. Senate, Washington,

DC 20510. (Editors Note: Congressman Lane Evans has cosponsored H.R. 2043, but we still need our senators to cosponsor S.921.)

Oppose Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act.

This act would create new definitions of wetlands and exclude half of the wetlands from protection under the Clean Water Act. It would allow high quality wetlands protection only if the Federal government offers to buy them. And it would eliminate EPA's role in handling wetlands and give **ALL** authority to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This would allow the Corps of Engineers to totally control Section 404. ➡ Contact your congressman and ask him to oppose H.R. 1330.

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.

GROUP CALENDAR

Jul. 21 General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center

25 Outing 9:15 am, meet at Alta Parking Lot, bike ride on Rock Island Trail

27 Conservation Committee Meeting, 7 pm, Larry Leiken's home, 6201 N. Jamestown Rd.; wear long pants for walk to view stream erosion on his 5 acres. Tom Edwards

29 Ex. Comm. Meeting, 7 pm, Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.; Everyone welcome!

31 Workday, 9 am, Forest Park Nature Center. Contact John Wosik for information. (682-8950)

Aug.18 General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center

22 Outing, Bike ride along I&M Canal (see Outings)

26 Ex. Comm. Meeting, 7 pm, tentative location Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.: Contact Phil Minear for verification. (694-3014) Everyone welcome!

26 Newsletter Deadline, send copy to C. Pauli, RR1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517 (Late submissions will not be accepted.)

28 Workday, 9 am, Forest Park Nature Center.

Contact John Wosik for information. (682-8950)

Sept.2 Newsletter Mailing, 7 pm, Pizza Works,

Everyone welcome!

15 General Meeting



OTHER EVENTS

July 1 LOOK! TRAILSIDE: MAKE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE, Public television, WTVP 47, is presenting a new national adventure series at 10:30 pm. There are 13 half-hour programs which begin on July 1 and run through August

17 Canoe the Vermillion River with the Mackinaw Canoe Club. Contact Chuck Dominic. (815/672-3119)

Aug 3 Informational Meeting, 7 pm, Metamora High School, on proposed sediment retention basin (lakes) development by the SCS in Woodford County.

7 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.

Sept 11 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.

19 Rock Island Trail Breakfast, more information will follow for this fundraising breakfast.

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

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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