

# TALLGRASS SIERRAN

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Group  
October 1993, Vol. 21, No. 10



**ANNUAL DINNER:** Mark your calendar! The annual Harvest Dinner will be held November 6, at 6 pm at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Peoria. This is the HOI Sierra Clubs main fundraising event and it promises to be an exceptionally great event! Guest speaker and author, Larry Rice will be presenting a fantastic slide show.

Slide show: Bungle in the Jungle - the adventures and misadventures of crossing Panamas infamous Darien Gap, the last roadless area separating the two continents. Join Larry Rice and his companions as they follow a route similar to the one used by Balboa when he first sighted the Pacific Ocean. Experience jungle rot, crippling blisters, ant bites, and a myriad of other infections and debilities as the group crosses the Continental Divide in the rain forest using jungle trails and travel by dugout canoe. Observe morpho butterflies and howler monkeys; strange, exotic birds, snakes and frogs; spectacular forest scenes and crystal - clear mountain rivers and streams. Witness how the indigenous people of the area -- the Kunas and Chocoes -- survive virtually free of the trappings of the 20th century. Learn how you can partake in a similar expedition if you choose. Following the slide show, Larry Rice will be signing copies of his latest book, Raja to Patagonia: Latin American Adventures. All profits from the book will be donated to the Sierra Club.

Larry Rice is a wildlife biologist with the Illinois Department of Conservation. He has over two hundred articles published, mostly on adventure travel and other outdoor subjects. He is the author of Gathering Paradise: Alaska Wilderness Journeys and a contributing editor to Backpacker and Canoe magazines. His writing has also appeared in Outside, Sierra and Mens Journal.

• A dinner of homemade soups, breads, and desserts will precede the slide presentation. Dinner cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. Contact Shirley OConnell for details and reservations (676-5479). It promises to be an entertaining and pleasant evening. Hope to see you there!



## **GENERAL MEETING:** by John Wosik

Octobers guest speaker will be Dr. Bert Princen, who will talk about the plant and animal life he encountered during a trip to the Netherlands. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.



## **PEORIA LANDFILL UPDATE** by Charlene Lemoine

More than a dozen Waste Industry giants are eager for the opportunity to control the Peoria City/County landfill. Peoria County has a new Commercial Recycling Ordinance effective January 1, 1994. The ordinance will enforce recycling of 25% of the waste stream in Peoria (about 250,000 tons of waste). On the other hand, 35% of the total waste stream is permitted to be special waste, such as industrial material, petroleum, herbicide and pesticide contaminated soils to name a few. In 1992 the landfill accepted 233,273 tons, of which were 91,708 tons of special waste. The 250 thousand tons may be increased in the future years.

The City/County Landfill does not share any revenues with the operator on special waste generated in Peoria County. Peoria does get 10% of an undisclosed fee on out of county special waste. Since

\$18,363.46 was received by Peoria in 1992, one can only guess the actual sum collected by Peoria Disposal Company for special waste disposal in our publicly owned landfill. **ACTION NEEDED:** Contact your City Council or County Board representative and ask them to support meaningful recycling and local control of the landfill. We will be recycling 25% or more and the Waste Industry will fill the space with imported solid and special waste. (Editors Note: Charlene is the chairperson for the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Clubs solid waste policy committee)

## **FORT SHERIDAN ACTION ALERT**

The Fort Sheridan Joint Planning Committee has recommended approval of the conceptual development plan presented by Equitable/Buck. The open space advocates continue to have serious concerns about this plan. You are asked to call Senators Braun and Simon requesting they insist on the following: 1) The transferring of the historic district to Equitable should be conditional upon the transfer of 250 or more acres at the north end of the Fort to the Forest Preserve District at no cost. 2) The bluffs and ravines should be preserved as open space and have public access. 3) No housing should be constructed on the parade grounds or north of Hutchinson Ravine. 4) The Golf Course Clubhouse should be removed from Janes Ravine and placed where the Forest Preserve District originally intended it to be. 5) The character of the Historic

District must be preserved. Contact Senators Braun and Simon at (202) 224-3121 as soon as possible.

The Sierra Club has worked with many of the open space advocates on this issue. For more details contact the Chapter office at (312) 431-0158.

#### AMENDMENT THREATENS OUR RESOURCES

The National Biological Survey (NBS) Act of 1993 would authorize the Department of the Interior to research and survey the status of plant and animal species throughout the United States. This research would be used to identify important biological resources at the ecosystem level. This bill is now threatened by a takings amendment offered by Rep. Billy Tausin. The takings amendment would: 1) impose potentially widespread new costs on the federal government, 2) create a vast new government bureaucracy to implement these laws; and, 3) make public health, safety, and environmental programs so expensive that the public could not afford them. **Action needed:** Contact your congressman and ask him to support The National Biological Survey (HR 1845), but oppose any takings language to this bill. Write to: **The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 or call (202) 224-3121.** (Source: Endangered Species Coalition)

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

You are encouraged to contact your congressman and senators and request that they cosponsor The Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1993. The House bill is HR 2043 and the Senate bill is S 921. Senators Braun and Simon have not cosponsored the senate bill at this time. For more details contact Cheryl Pauli (446-9792).

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !

Your help is needed in order to prepare and present the annual **HARVEST DINNER**. Food donations, phone calling, setting-up, serving and clean-up volunteers are needed. If you are new to Sierra Club this is an excellent way to meet and visit with the members, plus help with a fun event. Contact Shirley OConnell (676-5479).

#### RESTORATION WORKSHOP

The Valley of the Fox Sierra Group is holding a workshop on **Restoration Techniques**, November 6, from 9 am to noon at the Tekakwitha Woods Nature Center in Kane County. The Valley of the Fox Sierra Group is hosting the workshop as part of a grant received from the Illinois Sierra Chapter. Tips on managing the maple, oak, hickory woods for which they serve as stewards will be most beneficial for them and for others. Sierra members and natural area volunteers are welcome to participate. Call (708) 859-1687 or 892-6088.

#### ABOUT THE BREAKFAST by Chris Meydam

If you missed the breakfast on the Rock Island Trail you missed fantastic food (must be tasted to believe), pleasant weather and nice folks. Hope to see you at the next event. (Note: The HOI Grp. provides this information as a public service. It was not sponsored by the Sierra Club)

#### ANNUAL ELECTION UPDATE

A list of four members have agreed to run for the Group Executive Committee. Any member that was not contacted, but would like to be considered should contact Cheryl Pauli (446-9792) in order to obtain information about presenting a petition to run for this election.

#### GROUP CALENDAR:

- OCT. 20** General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center  
**25** Newsletter Deadline, send copy to C. Pauli, RR1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517  
**28** Ex. Comm. Meeting, 7 pm, Army Corps Building, foot of Grant St.; Everyone welcome!
- NOV. 2** Newsletter Mailing, 7 pm, Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!  
**6** Workday, 9 am, Forest Park Nature Center. Call John Wosik for more information (682-8950).  
**6** Harvest Dinner and slide program!  
**17** General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center  
**19** Newsletter Deadline  
**30** Newsletter Mailing

#### OTHER EVENTS:

**OCT. 16** Illinois Environmental Councils 19th Annual Statewide Conference. Contact the IEC office for details (217) 544-5954. IEC is our eyes, ears and voice in Springfield for environmental concerns.

**30** Potluck Halloween Party on the Rock Island Trail, 4 pm at the temporary trail office in Alta (see trail workdays for directions). Come with or without costumes. Call Chris for details 691-2246 or 682-0549.

#### NOV. 6 Restoration Workshop

**13 & Dec. 4** Rock Island Trail Workdays 9 am. Meet at the temporary trail office on Fox Rd., Alta. Go west of Alta on Rt. 91 to Radnor Rd., about one mile Turn right on Radnor and continue around curves. House and metal barn (office) will be on your right just before the railroad tracks. Call Chris (691-2246 or 682-0549).

**13 & 14 Sun** Foundation 20th Anniversary Celebration, Sat. 6:30 pm dinner at Pere Marquette, keynote speaker Bernie Siegel, M.D. Sun. 2-4 pm Dr. Siegel lectures at the Civic Center. Call (309) 246-8403 for details.

(Note: The HOI Grp. provides this information 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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To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife and wilderness...

**GROUP EX. BOARD:** Chair, Phil Minear 694-3014; V. Chair, John Wosik 682-8950; Sec., Shirley OConnell 676-5479; Treas., Chuck Buchna 243-7142; Larry Johnson 697-3211; Larry Robbins 692-3930; Glenn Zipp 243-9001. **Other:** Editor, Cheryl Pauli, 446-9792 Cons. Ch., Tom Edwards, 681-9069; Mem.Ch., Joyce Bhramanline, 688-0950.

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