

TALLGRASS SIERRAN

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Group
February 1994, Vol. 22, No. 2



GENERAL MEETING

February's guest speaker will be Philip Klump, a member of the Heartland Riverfront Project and designer of the plans. Mr. Klump will have a brief slide presentation and present the latest conceptual plan for the Peoria Riverfront. A question and answer period will follow.

The date is February 16, 7:30 pm, at Forest Park Nature Center. Refreshments will follow. Everyone is welcome.

LOCAL WILDLIFE REFUGE A REALITY



The Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge (Emiquon) was officially established on December 29, 1993 when the first 283.7 acres of land were purchased, placing the Emiquon on the map. With this purchase and \$1 million in the 1994 budget additional land purchases are planned.

As the President and Congress begin preparing the 1995 budget we must resume contact with President Clinton and members of Congress to request additional funds from the 1995 Land and Water Conservation Fund to continue land purchases for the Emiquon. Once again we need to request that they appropriate the \$14 million for the purchase of the largest parcel of privately owned land if and when it becomes available. For more details contact Cheryl Pauli at 446-9792.

URBAN PARK SPROUTS by Glenn Zipp

The development of an inner-city "pocket park" at the corner of Madison Ave. and Hamilton Blvd. in downtown Peoria became evident in recent months with the construction of sidewalks, tree planters and the installation of four ornamental lampposts. When completed, it will be dedicated as Veterans Memorial Park. It will be landscaped with trees, bushes and park benches and an American flag prominently displayed as its focal point. The site, formerly a parking lot, is adjacent to the historic Grand Army of the Republic Greenhut Memorial Hall.

Organizers of this project are Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation and Peoria City Beautiful. HOI Board member

Glenn Zipp is on the steering committee overseeing the project. If you'd like to make a tax deductible contribution it may be sent to CILF, Box 495, Peoria, IL 61651.

PEORIA COUNTY LANDFILL

It is not too late to oppose importing waste into Peoria County Landfill. The Peoria County Board received only one bid on operating and controlling the landfill. One of the concerns of the waste hauling industry was the area citizens, and businesses, ability to produce enough waste to make it lucrative for the waste industry to control the county landfill.

The county board is requiring the businesses to recycle and asking the citizens to do so, also, in order to meet a State mandate to reduce waste and save our remaining landfills. If the County controls the landfill and the citizens and businesses comply with the County's recycling ordinance, the life of the landfill will be extended considerably. The citizens, businesses and the environment in Peoria County benefit from having the county control all aspects of the county landfill. **Action Needed:** Contact your City Council / County Board Member and urge them to take back the control of the Peoria County Landfill and not import waste.



INCINERATORS

Letters opposing the construction of incinerators in Havana and Beardstown have been sent by member Charlene Lemoin, on behalf of Illinois Chapter of Sierra Club. These proposed incinerators would undermine recycling in Illinois since they would need copious amounts of paper and plastic, among other things, to make the incinerators profitable. The proposed Havana incinerator will be constructed on a major aquifer along the Illinois River floodplain and south of the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge.

NOTICE TIME CHANGE: Starting in March the General Meeting will begin at 7 pm.



Recycled Paper

CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION by Rudy Habben

The HOI Sierra Club, along with thirty government and private organizations will have an exhibition at the Rivers Project - Clean Water Celebration to be held March 21, 1994 at the Peoria Civic Center.

The Rivers Project has involved high school science students in 23 states in conducting water quality tests at local river sites. The data is entered into a computer system used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The Student Congress will present awards to outstanding student projects and exhibits from fifty schools will be on display at the Civic Center. In addition an ongoing series of speakers and presentations will be held in the Center's meeting rooms.

The event is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in soil conservation, aquatic biology, groundwater and siltation should consider attending this event



OUTINGS

A hike / cross country ski outing is planned at Farmdale Park on February 13 at 1:00 pm. Those interested will hike or ski, depending on the weather. The outing leaders are George Burrier and Larry Robbins. Contact Larry Robbins at 692-3930 if you plan on attending.

The annual Starved Rock Winter Hike will take place on February 20. Interested people should meet at Forest Park Nature Center at 9 am to car pool. Bring a sack lunch and something to drink. After the hike those who are interested will drive to Toluca to have dinner at the famous Mona's Restaurant. Outings leaders are Larry Johnson and Al Harkrader. For more details contact Al Harkrader at 682-8462.

1994 HOI EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The following members will be serving on the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club's executive board in the following capacity: Chairperson, John Wosik, 682-8950; Vice-Chairperson and Legal Advisor, George Burrier, 266-5085; Treasurer, Phil Minear, 694-3014; Secretary, Joyce Blumenshine, 688-0950; Membership and Outing Chairperson, Larry Robbins, 692-3930; Conservation Co-Chairperson, Dale Goodner, 682-0789; and Glenn Zipp.

Appointed positions are as follows: Conservation Co-Chairperson, Hal Gardner, 446-9792; HOI Representative to Sun Foundation, Rudy Habben; Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Pauli, 446-9792

FROM THE CHAIR by John Wosik

I am honored and excited to have been elected the new Heart of Illinois Sierra Club's chairperson for 1994. Thanks to Phil Minear for all his time and effort he spent as the Group's 1993 Chairperson.



My greatest reward since joining the Silerra Club has been working with and getting to know our members, who all share a deep concern and often love for the environment beyond their own immediate self-interests. While we sometimes choose different routes to achieve the same goals, this common concern for the environment is our greatest asset and the principal reason we exist as a club.

I hope our members will find this year very challenging, rewarding, and fun. I encourage you to get involved in any area, and at any level: whether it is writing letters, participating in outings or volunteer projects, attending a Club meeting or just letting us know your comments and ideas. **YOU ARE IMPORTANT!** Participation in any organization is usually influenced by the quality of the experience it can offer its members. As Chair, I will do my best to set clear goals for the year, make everyone feel a part of the Club on a personal level, and maintain a friendly, accessible atmosphere where people can become involved more easily and effectively.



GROUP CALENDAR

- FEB. 9** Executive Committee, 7 pm, Corps of Engineers building, foot of Grant St. Everyone welcome.
- 13** Hike/Ski Outing
- 16** General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Forest Park Nature Center.
- 20** Starved Rock Outing
- 21** Newsletter Deadline, Send all articles to C. Pauli, RR 1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517.
- 23** Conservation Meeting, 7 pm, Hal Gardner's, Brimfield-Jubilee Rd. Call for directions (446-9792).
- MAR. 1** Newsletter Mailing Party, 7 pm, Pizza Works. Everyone welcome.

OTHER EVENTS

FEB. 5, MAR. 5, APR. 9, 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)

(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 3583
Peoria, Illinois 61614

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