



Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

EMIQUON WILDLIFE REFUGE IN TROUBLE *by Hal Gardner*

There is no money in Clinton's 1995 budget for the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge in Fulton county near Havana. This is in spite of the fact that 37 conservation organizations, including National Sierra Club, asked for \$5 million to purchase land from the current owner of Norris Farms (Wilder Farms), the largest land parcel in the proposed project. Other monies for land purchase in Shawnee Forest and Cypress Creek were also axed from the Clinton budget. This turn of events is curious because the money would come out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund which has a \$9.7 billion excess. Each year about \$900 million goes into this fund, thus there cannot be any complaint about deficit spending. Only \$254 million was requested from the fund for the 1995 budget for projects over the entire U.S., except Illinois gets nothing. The 1994 budget included \$1.43 million for start-up of the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge, and 285 acres have been purchased so far. The Emiquon is planned to be expanded to 11,039 acres in the bed of the former Thompson Lake. **Action needed now:** Ask your Congressman to approach the House Interior Appropriations Committee to request inclusion of add-on funding of \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Emiquon Wildlife Refuge. Point out that the Wildlife Refuge would remove leveed flood-prone land from future flood disaster. Write or call Congressmen Lane Evans and Robert Michel, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; and Senators Carol Mosely-Braun and Paul Simon, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20515: Capitol switchboard, (202) 224-3121.

GENERAL MEETING *by John Wosik*

March's guest speaker will be Dr. John R. Marquart, Professor of Chemistry at Eastern Illinois University. Dr. Marquart will talk about the chemistry and geology of cave formation, cave ecology, preservation, and techniques for safe caving. He will also include slides of field trips into some fascinating and beautiful caves of the midwestern and southwestern United States.

The date is **March 16, 7 pm, at Forest Park Nature Center.** Refreshments will follow and everyone is welcome.

Please note time change to 7 pm.



CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES VIEW ON THE ENVIRONMENT *by Hal Gardner*

Questionnaires on environmental/conservation issues were sent to 18th district primary Congressional candidates Higgins, Homer, Howard, Koehler, LaHood, and Stephens. **Only candidate Howard responded within the two week deadline given.** It is conceivable that others may respond late, but the lack of response should tell you something. Questions of local interest (environmentally correct answer in parentheses) pertained to funding the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge (yes), conversion of Joliet Arsenal lands to parkland (yes), reconstruction and expansion of duplicate locks for the Illinois River (no), logging and mining in Shawnee National Forest (oppose), correct deficiency of National Parks and other National-lands in Illinois (yes). Candidate Howard ranked 100% on the local

issues, but he admitted to be uninformed on the Joliet Arsenal Lands. National issues were renewal of the Endangered Species Act (yes), protect ancient forests (yes), mining reform (yes), grazing reform (yes), government involvement in trails (considerably), support National Wildernesses, Scenic Rivers and Wildlife Refuges (always), oppose harmful water projects (always), and government involvement in population control (considerably). To the National issues Candidate Howard was 92% supportive. Howard's gave partial or qualified support to the questions on governmental involvement in trails and population growth, for which he said he could give moderate support. On the latter issue, he said he supports Title X of the Public Health Services Act which provides family planning and contraceptive services.

NORTH AMERICAN ISSUES *by Mary Bodell*

The James Bay Hydro-project in northern Quebec is an environmental nightmare planned to be expanded to 600 dams and dikes along 11 major rivers and flood 6000 square miles. One release of reservoir water drowned 10,000 caribou. The project is predicted to decimate polar bear, freshwater seal, snow geese, and other migratory birds. Mercury released from presently flooded areas threatens the health of native Cree people via contaminated fish. Electricity to be sold to America is no longer needed, making it unnecessary to continue the expansion. **Letters of protest should be sent to: The Honorable Derek H. Burney, Embassy of Canada, 501 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, DC 20001, and Mr. Richard**

Drouin, Chairman and CEO, Hydro-Quebec, 75 Blvd Rene-Levesque Ouest, Montreal, Quebec H2Z1A4, CANADA.

For Mining Reform, you should urge your Senators to sign the letter sponsored by Jim Jeffords (Vt) spelling out what is needed in a new law regarding mining on public land (halting mining in sensitive areas, requiring clean-up, etc.). Also ask your Senators to support the House Mining Reform Bill H.R. 322 with strengthening improvements.

Support Endangered Species bills, H.R. 2043 and S. 921, which save ecosystems as well as single species, promote biological diversity and allow species in trouble to recover. The anti-environmental "wise use" movement seeks to create conflict between public and private rights in environmental regulations. This view advocates compensation of private owners for "takings", and would severely limit efforts to save species. Ask your Senators to oppose "takings" language, and advocate the balance of private property rights with responsibilities.

MIGHTY OAK RAFFLE

Tickets are now available for the HOI Sierra's fundraising White Oak Raffle. A white oak tree about 5 feet tall, Illinois state tree, is the prize. If the winner lives within a 30 mile radius of Peoria or wishes to donate it within that radius it will be delivered.

The cost is \$1.00 per ticket. You may purchase as many as you wish. Send money to HOI Sierra Club Tree, PO Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614. The Group's treasurer will fill out the additional tickets you purchase. The drawing will be held April 20, 1994 during the general meeting at Forest Park Nature Center. You need not be present to win.

HEART OF ILLINOIS SIERRA CLUB'S WHITE OAK RAFFLE COST \$1 per ticket

Win a white oak tree about 5 ft. tall. Will be delivered within a 30 mile radius of Peoria. Drawing will be April 20, 1994 at Forest Park Nature Center. Need not be present to win.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Peoria County Raffle License #R-50-94

HOI BOARD ACTION

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Executive Board has approved investigating representation on the Heartland Water Resources Council. Any Sierra member who is interested in this position is invited to send a letter stating his/her interest and qualification by April 1st. Send to: HOI Sierra Club, PO Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614.

GROUP'S RECYCLING

Save your aluminum cans and bring them to the general meeting. Al Harkrader will collect them and take them to be recycled (*please rinse and flatten them if possible*).

DID YOU NOTICE?

The HOI Group's newsletter has a new masthead! Member Al Harkrader designed the masthead for the Tallgrass Sierran. THANK YOU.

1994 HOI EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Chairperson, John Wosik, 682-8950; Vice-Chairperson and Legal Advisor, George Burrier, 266-5085; Treasurer, Phil Mincar, 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. Conservation Co-Chairperson Hal Gardner, 446-9792; HOI Representative to Sun Foundation, Rudy Habben; Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Pauli, 446-9792.

GROUP CALENDAR

- MAR. 9 Executive Committee, 7 pm, Corps of Engineers building, foot of Grant St. Everyone welcome.
- 16 General Meeting, 7 pm, Forest Park Nature Center.
- 21 Clean Water Celebration, Peoria Civic Center
- 23 Conservation Meeting, 7 pm, Hal Gardner's, Brimfield-Jubilee Rd. Call for directions (446-9792).
- 25 Newsletter Deadline, Send articles to C. Pauli, RR1 Box 168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517
- APR. 5 Newsletter Mailing Party, 7 pm, Pizza Works. Everyone welcome.

OTHER EVENTS

MAR. 5, APR. 9, MAY 14 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)

APR 16, BIKE RIDE, Constitution Trail, Bloomington, IL, 8 am. Meet at Jumer's parking lot. Contact George Burrier at 266-5085.

MAY 8 MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH, Rock Island Trail

(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 ...