



Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

GENERAL MEETING

Join us and hear the latest information about our newest wildlife refuge on the Illinois River. Our guest speaker is Andrew French, manager of the local refuges for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He will update us on the development of the new Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge plus the Meredosia and Chautauqua Refuges. A question and answer period will follow.

The date is April 20, 7 pm at Forest Park Nature Center. Everyone is welcome!

LOCAL ISSUES

CLEAN WATER CELEBRATION

by Charlene Lemoine

Students from Illinois and surrounding states recently gathered in Peoria to discuss water related issues, exhibit displays, and attend workshops to formulate position statements to be presented to the legislature on various topics. As the Sierra representative on Solid Waste Issues I attended the workshop entitled "Reducing Our Dependence on Landfills".

After discussions and brainstorming the students authored a position statement that focused on manufacturer and consumer responsibility through decreased packaging, recycling and education. The students also suggested communities and states should be accountable for the waste they generate and felt the Interstate Commerce Clause should be amended to accomplish this goal.

Incineration was not an alternative the students would support. Every student attending this workshop stated they would not like an incinerator located within their community and felt that we could better protect the environment through waste reduction and recycling as a method to reduce dependence on landfills.



LANDFILL UPDATE

Peoria City and County elected officials have opted to extend the present contract with Peoria Disposal Company for the remainder of Section II. Representatives from various environmental groups presented objections to the present operational policy at a recent public meeting. The groups have urged conservation of landfill space. The present policy does not reduce waste within the landfill because operator profits are provided through tipping fees, the greater the volume of waste the more money.

For more specific details contact Charlene Lemoine (692-5724)

NEW EQUIPMENT GETS WORKOUT

by Hal Gardner

This spring, fire fighting equipment purchased with a grant from the Illinois Chapter of Sierra Club has been used frequently for controlled burns by a joint team of Sierra Club and Nature Conservancy volunteers. Several parcels totalling over 300 acres of state, federal and private lands were burned in March. The goal is to help return selected lands to pre-settlement conditions. Since settlement by Europeans, prairie and oak-hickory savannahs have nearly disappeared because of absence of fires. Less than 0.0036% of the original prairie remains in Illinois, and even less of the savannah eco-system has survived. What remains has been seriously invaded by aggressive Eurasian species. Some woodlands have been invaded by garlic mustard which is overcoming native wildflowers. Early in June an outing to some of the burned areas will illustrate the beneficial effects of fire management; look for the announcement in a future issue of *Tallgrass Sierran*. Sierrans wishing to participate in future burns should contact Hal Gardner at 446-9792.

SPECIAL THANKS

A "special thanks" to Rudy Habben for representing the HOI Sierra Group at the organizational meetings for the Clean Water Celebration, contacting people and gathering information for the Group's booth at this event.

And thank you to those that volunteered their time to help setup the booth and represent the Group at this event. It is greatly appreciated!

NATIONAL ISSUES



ENDANGERED SPECIES

Contact senators and representatives between April 22-29 and meet with them about the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Co-sponsors are needed for HR 2043, a strong bill that provides funds and directs federal agencies to protect endangered species. The opposition, Tauzin-Fields bill HR 1490, reduces requirements and authority to protect endangered species.

ACTION NEEDED: Ask Senator Mosely-Braun to co-sponsor S 921, which is similar to HR 2043. We need to express strong opposition to an effort to erode the Endangered Species Act. The Shelby-Gorton bill, S 1591, would seriously damage the ESA. Your voice is needed. (*See Addresses*)

CLEAN WATER ACT

Debates are being held and critical votes are being cast in the House now! Please call your representative right away. **URGENT ACTION NEEDED:** Ask him/her to support the Clean Water Act reauthorization, HR 3948 and include Oberstar bill, HR 2543; support the Wetlands Reform Act, HR 350 and to co-sponsor HR 2565, the Great Lakes National Program Act. Urge them to reject any amendments to "rank" wetlands, to reject any language to weaken EPA's authority or to dilute federal permitting authority. Encourage them to keep the appeals process open to the public, to reject letting USDA do wetlands delineations and do not subsidize mitigation banks. (*See Addresses*).

For more information on the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts contact Mary Bodell at 745-5479.

MARINE MAMMALS by Joyce Blumenshine

In 1972, Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to protect polar bears, seals, sea lions, walrus, whales, sea otter and other marine mammals and their habitat. Despite this, commercial interests have dominated the language of both Senate and House amendments on the reauthorization of MMPA. The reauthorization bills in Congress, Senate bill S 1636 and House bill HR 2760, contain most of the same dangerous provisions. Without extensive rewriting, both bills read like a commercial wish list and are simply unacceptable.

Some of the problems with the most recent versions of both bills are the following:

a) HR 2760 would encourage the US Secretary of the Interior to enter into co-management agreements with Alaska Natives to regulate "subsistence" take. Alaska Natives are increasing the killing of marine mammals for commercial gain. This delegates wildlife management to a private special interest.

b) HR 2760 will encourage the hunting of polar bears in Canada by allowing, for the first time ever, the importation into the U.S. of polar bear trophies.

c) Both HR 2760 and S 1636 would allow fisheries to kill or injure marine mammals unless the government can demonstrate adverse effects to populations.

Both HR 2760 and S 1636 would allow, for the first time since passage of MMPA in 1972, the killing of marine mammal listed as endangered, threatened or depleted.

ACTION NEEDED: Call your Senators and Representative and ask them to vote against these bills. (*See Addresses*)

TONGASS TIMBER MONOPOLY by Mary Bodell

Sierra Club and Alaska Rainforest Campaign are calling for cancellation of joint monopoly of Alaska Pulp Corp. and Ketichikan Pulp Corp. over logging in the Tongass National Forest. It's the largest national forest with 17 million acres. The companies had been given heavy subsidies in the 1950's to create jobs in Alaska, but broke the contract when they closed the mill causing hundreds of Alaskans to lose their jobs. According to the US Forest Service, last year's losses cost \$23 million, but may be twice that.

Current rates of logging could exhaust the timber supply before contracts expire. Environmental degradation has been expressed in serious declines in Sitka deer, salmon, grizzly and other wildlife species. **ACTION NEEDED:** Contact Vice-President Al Gore and Jim Lyons, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources, and express the need to have monopoly contracts replaced with short-term sales at market value as in the rest of the national forest system and reduction of sales to sustainable levels. (*See Addresses*)



WOLF KILL CONTINUES by Joyce Blumenshine

A state-funded wolf control program has killed 83 Alaskan wolves since October 1993. A staggering 70% of the wolves killed so far have been pups, born last spring. These kills are in addition to the 1,000 plus wolves the state of Alaska allows to be killed every year through "normal" hunting and trapping.

The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game intends to kill all but 35 of the 150 to 200 wolves in the 4,000 square mile "Game Management Unit 20 A" area south of Fairbanks. Stated goals of the wolf kill are to increase the Delta caribou herd from its current population of 4,000 to 6 or 8 thousand with a sustainable annual sport hunting harvest of 300-500 caribou by the year 1998.

State employees use helicopters and airplanes to locate areas where wolves are likely to be present. Moose meat and entrails are set out as bait and the area is then saturated with traps and/or snares. Wolves caught in the traps or snares can lay dying for days.

Hunters use aircraft for spotting wolves and then land and shoot the animals. There is a rule that the hunter must be at least 300 feet from his aircraft before shooting, however, the regulation is virtually impossible to enforce.

ACTION NEEDED: The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed a regulation to prohibit "Land and Shoot" and "Same-Day Airborne" hunting in Wildlife Refuges in Alaska. Write to Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt to support the regulation, and urge Roger Kennedy at the National Park Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to do the same.

Ask your Representatives to co-sponsor and support HR 1391 which seeks to eliminate loopholes in the federal Airborne Hunting Act. (*See Addresses*)

EMIQUON



NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ON THE ILLINOIS RIVER

What: A National Wildlife Refuge of 11,039 acres (about 16 square miles) will be restored as a wetland on the bed of two lakes that were drained over a half century ago (Thompson and Flag Lakes). This would help reverse the trend of past losses of over 90% of wetlands in Illinois. The Refuge will be managed as a haven for waterfowl and wildlife with opportunities for recreation.

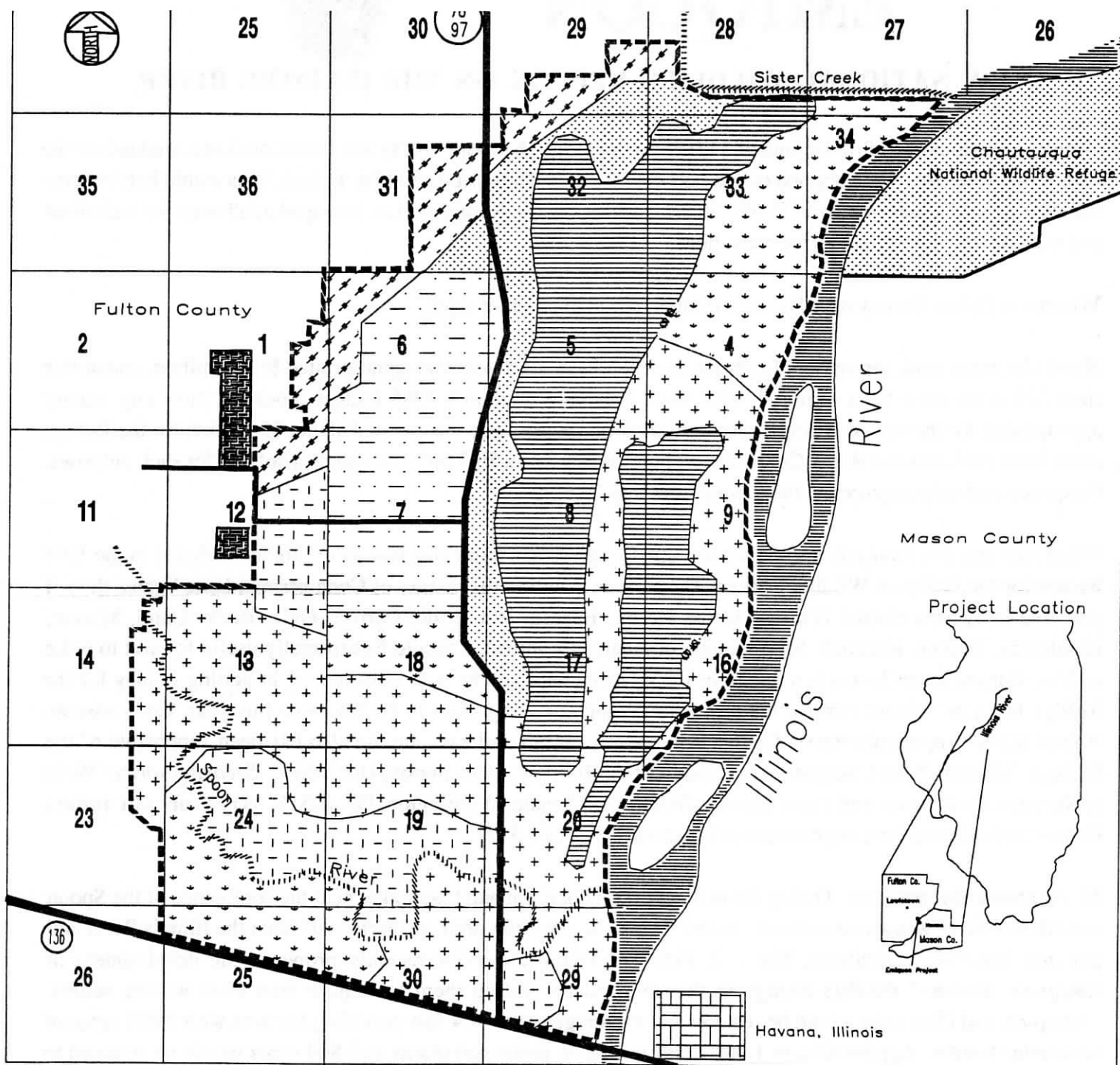
Where: In Fulton County near Havana, Illinois (see map on other side).

How: Congress must appropriate funds for land purchase. Last year they appropriated \$1.48 million, and at this time 280 acres have been acquired. This year, President Clinton's 1995 budget does not have any money appropriated for the refuge. Thirty-seven conservation groups have recommended that \$5 million for the Refuge come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has a \$9.7 billion in funds available for such purposes. Congress need only appropriate the money from this fund.

What you can do: *First priority:* Write to **your** Congressman to request that \$5 million be included in the 1995 budget for the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is within the district of Congressman Lane Evans; thus, if you live in Evan's district (Fulton, Knox, Henry, Bureau, Whiteside, Carroll, Ogle, Rock Island, Mercer, Henderson, Warren, Hancock, McDonough, or Adams Counties), it would be especially useful for you to write to him. Congressman Evans is a friend of the environment, and he was instrumental in getting money for the Refuge last year. Thank him for his past efforts, and encourage him to do the same this year. Congressman Robert Michel represents Peoria County and counties south and east, and he also has been supportive of the Refuge. Address: Your Congressman, House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. *Second priority:* Write to Senators Paul Simon and Carol Mosely-Braun, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20515. **Write or call today!** Capitol switchboard for Congressmen or Senators: (202) 224-3121.

More about the project: During the early 1900's Thompson and Flag Lakes near the confluence of the Spoon and Illinois River was a vast wetland. In the 1920's this area was drained, "protected" from the Illinois River and put into intensive agriculture. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed the development of *Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge* in this location permitting them to acquire land from willing sellers. Thompson and Flag Lake would be restored to an average depth of 4 feet providing the area with 2,800 acres of backwater habitat. Approximately 1,900 acres would be moist soil plants and 800 acres would be restored to shallow open marsh. Another 3,600 acres would be preserved as forest. About 1,100 acres would remain in agriculture with a percentage of the yield left in fields for wildlife, and 800 acres would be restored as native prairie. The proposed refuge has 89 State and Federal threatened and endangered species. It would help protect and restore natural areas unique to the Illinois river basin and aid in improving water quality, not to mention the recreation potential.

EMIQUON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Legend

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| ----- | Refuge Boundary | + | Moist Soils |
| ■ | Dickson Mounds Museum | - - - | Open Marsh |
| □ | Prairie | + | Bottomland Forest |
| ▨ | Upland Forest | ▨ | Backwater Lake |
| □ | Agricultural Land | | |

Scale in Miles

0 1/4 1/2 1

Addresses :

Vice President Al Gore

Phone: (202)456-6225; FAX: (202)456-2710

**Congressmen Lane Evans and Robert Michel, House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

**Senators Carol Mosely-Braun and Paul Simon U.S. Senate
Washington, DC, 20515
Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121.**

**Jim Lyons, Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources, Dept. of Agriculture
Phone: (202)720-5166; FAX (202)720-5166**

**Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Roger Kennedy, National Park Service
Mollie Beattie, Director of US Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202)208-3100**

AUCTION DONATION by John Wosik

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club has donated two Sierra Club books to WTVP 47's April auction. Both books, **Wild Cats: Lynx, Bobcats, Mountain Lions**, by Candace Savage and **Endangered Peoples**, by Art Davidson are lavishly illustrated. They will be auctioned off together on Channel 47 on April 21 in the evening.



1994 HOI EXECUTIVE BOARD.

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; Dale Goodner, 682-0789; and Glenn Zipp. Conservation Chairperson, Hal Gardner, 446-9792; HOI Representative to Sun Foundation, Rudy Habben; Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Pauli, 446-9792

LAST CHANCE FOR THE OAK

This is your last chance to purchase raffle tickets for the mighty, white, oak tree being raffled. The tree is about 5 feet tall. 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. The Group's treasurer will fill out the additional tickets for you. The money from this fund raiser will help in funding the Group's activities and newsletter. Send ticket request and money to: **HOI Sierra Club Tree, PO Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614**. You need not be present to win.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS		
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You'll Be Helping The Planet• Sierra Magazine A one year subscription to Sierra, our award-winning magazine• Discounts on publications, including our distinguished books celebrated calendars.• Worldwide Outings Program• Local Chapter Membership conservation news and invitations to outings and events.		
Name _____		
Address _____		
City/State _____ ZIP _____		
Phone (Optional) () _____		
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES		
	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

W-0703-1 Entity Code
F94Q W99901

Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968,
Boulder, Colorado,
80322-2968

Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publication (\$1). Dues are not tax-deductible.

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

It's that time of year and the Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the **Heart of Illinois Conservationist of the Year**. The individual nominated does not have to be a Sierra Club member. This individual's conservation efforts should have been pursued on a volunteer basis, not for pay. Your nominations should include a brief explanation of why you feel this person should be considered. Send it to **John Wosik, c/o HOI Sierra Club, PO Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614** or call him at **682-8950**.

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

Heart of Illinois Group Calendar



APRIL

13 Wednesday

Executive Meeting, 7 pm,
Corps of Engineers building, foot of
Grant St. Everyone is welcome.

20 Wednesday ☀

General Meeting, 7 pm,
Forest Park Nature Center. Guest
speaker, Andrew French, U.S. Fish
and Wildlife Service.

20 Wednesday 🌳

Oak Tree Raffle

The drawing for HOI's Oak Tree Raffle
will take place at the General
Meeting. Need not be present to win.

21 Thursday 🎵

John Muir's Birthday

21 Thursday 📺

Channel 47 Auction

HOI Group's donation of Sierra Club
books to be auctioned in the evening.

22 Friday 🌍

Earth Day

27 Wednesday

Conservation Meeting 7 pm,
Meeting at Hal Gardner's home,
Brimfield-Jubilee Rd. Call for
directions (446-9792).

29 Friday

Newsletter Deadline.

Send articles to C. Pauli, RR1 Box
168 A, Brimfield, IL 61517

MAY

3 Tuesday

Newsletter Mailing, 7pm,
Pizza Works. Good food, good
conversation and great people!
Everyone welcome.

11 Wednesday

Executive Meetin, 7 pm

Other Events

APRIL

9 **Friends of the 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).

16 **Bike Ride, 8 am**

Breakfast ride on Constitution Trail, Bloomington, IL.
Meet at Jumer's parking lot. Contact George Burrier at 694-
3196 or 266-5085.

24 **Bike Ride on the Rock Island Trail, 10 am.**

Enjoy a ride and lunch on the RIT. Meet at the Trail's
parking lot in Alta.

24 **Earth Day 1994, Noon**

The fifth annual Earth Day Celebration will be held on
Bradley University's Campus from noon until 4 pm.

27 **WTVP 47, 10 pm, "Mastering the Marketplace".**

A special program will be presented on what it means to be
"green" in the 1990s.

MAY

8 **Mother's Day Brunch and Bike Ride/Hike, 11 am.**

Celebrate Mother's Day with a delicious brunch on the
Rock Island Trail. Join us at the Depot in Wyoming. Enter
Wyoming on Rt. 91. At stop sign, turn right (Williams St.)
and go two blocks. Depot is just past the water tower on
your right.

Cost: \$5 for adults and children under 12 are \$2.50.

Contact: George (694-3196 or 266-5085) Mary (745-
5479) or Chris (682-05400).

Reservations are a must!!

14, **June 4 Rock Island Trail Workday, 9 am**

See April 9 for details.

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

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, Illinois 61614

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife and wilderness...