



# Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

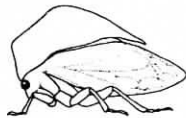
## GENERAL MEETING

Join us for the annual potluck picnic. This year's picnic will be held along the Illinois River, in East Peoria, at Cooper Park North. The Conservationist of the Year award will be presented, the annual auction will be held and an opportunity to visit the proposed wetland restoration sight is planned.

Come and join us on **June 16, 6:30 pm at Cooper Park North**. You will need food to share, a beverage and your table service. If you'd like, bring an item to donate to the auction. And bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!

Take Rt. 116 North (Caterpillar Trail) to Access Road No. 6 past the Par A Dice site. Turn east as if to go into Jonah's Restaurant, but stay on the access road to the Cooper Park North Pavillion which is 1/4 mile north on the access road.

## LOCAL ISSUES



## 1994 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

by Dale Goodner

Volunteers are critical to the survival of our natural heritage. Suzie Barber has, for the past several years, exemplified this principle. Since 1989 she has coordinated the efforts of other volunteers, served on stewardship crews, actively participated in restoration of woodland, savannah, and prairie communities, monitored populations of butterflies and plants in these communities and she has planned and conducted special events in order to draw attention to the needs of our natural environment.

Suzie has been an inspiration and always works with an enthusiasm which is contagious. In 1992 and 93 alone, she donated over 1,910 volunteer hours.

## FROM THE CHAIR by John Wosik

A copy of the Heart of Illinois Group bylaws was presented to the Chapter Executive Committee at its meeting on May 14th. They were received by the Chapter

Secretary as our official bylaws. Copies of the bylaws are available upon request at all general meetings or by contacting John at 682-8950 or Joyce Blumenshine at 688-0950.

## CONSERVATION 2000

Letters supporting the "original funding" initiative for Conservation 2000 are needed. This program would begin an attempt to protect our land and water resources as recommended by the Conservation Congress and the Water Resources and Land Use Priorities Task Force of 1993.

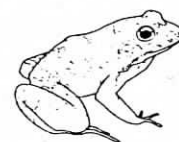
The proposed FY 95 budget would give **Agriculture** \$1,850,000 for conservation practices cost sharing, sustainable agriculture programs, soil and water conservation grants and streambank restoration.

**Conservation** would receive \$825,000 for financial incentives to private landowners, staffing and operations, greenways and macrosite plans and development/distribution of educational materials. The **Division of Water Resources, IDOT** would be budgeted \$125,000 to start studying the State's water law and to eventually overhaul and rewrite it.

**Energy and Natural Resources** would receive \$225,000 for ecosystem monitoring, coordinating council support and conservation and agriculture information networking. The **Illinois EPA** would receive \$500,00 for the Illinois Lake Management Program. **Site M Development** would receive \$2,500,000 and **Conservation Easement Acquisition** would be budgeted \$500,000.

**ACTION NEEDED:** Contact your state senator and representative and encourage them to support **Conservation 2000** and its "original funding". Write your Senator and Representative at the State House, Springfield, IL 62706 or call 217/ 782-2000.

(For more details contact Illinois Environmental Council 217/544-5954)



## Heart of Illinois Group Calendar



### JUNE

4 Saturday  
Bike Trip, 9 am.  
See Outings.

8 Wednesday  
Executive Meeting, 7 pm  
Corp of Engineers building, foot  
of Grant St. Everyone welcome.

11 Saturday  
Prairie Hike, 9 am.  
Jubilee Park, see Outings.

15 Wednesday  
General Meeting, 6:30 pm  
Potluck picnic at Cooper Park

24 Friday  
Newsletter Deadline  
Send articles to C. Pauli, RR 1 Box 168 A,  
Brimfield, IL 61517

25 Saturday  
Workday, 9 am.  
Meet at Forest Park Nature Center. Contact  
John Wosik, 682-8950, for details.

### JULY

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

13 Wednesday  
Executive Meeting, 7 pm.  
Corps of Engineers building.

20 Wednesday  
General Meeting, 7 pm.

## NATIONAL ISSUES

### CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT

by Joyce Blumenshine

The House of Representatives is considering amendments to H.R. 518, the Californis Desert Protection Act. An amendment to downgrade the Mohave Desert from a National Park to a Hunting Preserve is expected. Phone your Representative (Capitol Switchboard 202/224-3129) and state your strong opposition to any weakening amendments to H.R. 518, and in particular, to any amendments that would change the status of the Mohave Desert. The Mohave must be protected from further destruction.

### OUTINGS



June 4, 9 am Enjoy a bike trip on the Rock Island Trail. Meet at the Trail's parking lot in Alta and bike to Wyoming, IL. A picnic lunch will be held at The Depot in Wyoming from 12-12:45 pm. At 1 pm there will be a brief ceremony to dedicate the new Rock Island Trail Maintenance Building. Call George Burrier for more details (266-5085).

June 11, 9 am Hike Jubilee Park prairies and more. You will visit four prairie/woodland preservation areas managed by volunteers throughout the park. Plus visit prairie restoration in former corn fields and seriously degraded areas. See as much as you wish (you can drop out at any time).

Long pants, comfortable shoes to hike in, water to drink and a lunch will be needed. Meet at Hal Gardner's house. Call for directions 446-9792.

## OTHER EVENTS

Friends of the Rock Island Trail Workdays, 9 am,  
June 18, July 9, August 6.

Meet at the new trail office/maintenance building in Wyoming. Enter Wyoming on Rt. 91, turn right at stop sign (Williams St.). The Depot and maintenance building are on your right just past the water tower. The new maintenance building is just behind the Depot.

Also, we will meet at 7:30 am at the Hardees on War Memorial Dr. (by Pharmor/Sams) for breakfast. Call Chris 682-0549 or 691-2246.

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

### Celebrating National Trails Day

Saturday, June 4, 1994

Rock Island Trail  
Maintenance Building Dedication  
1:00 p.m.

at the Depot/Ranger Station  
E. Williams St., Wyoming, Ill.  
(paid ad Friends of the Rock Island Trail)

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3583  
Peoria, Illinois 61614

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To explore, enjoy and preserve the nation's forests, waters, wildlife and wilderness...