



# Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region  
P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

## GENERAL MEETING

September's program will be The Illinois Middle School Groundwater Project. It will be presented by Bill Beckman, a science teacher at East Peoria High School. Mr. Beckman will discuss this unique project of hands-on learning about our groundwater supply for middle school students. A question and answer session will follow. Join us and learn about our water.

The date is **September 21 at 7 pm at Forest Park Nature Center**. Refreshments will follow the business meeting. Everyone is welcome.



## LOCAL ISSUES

### FOREST LEGACY: A New Way to Protect Forests by Mary Bodell

The Forest Legacy program is designed to protect private ownership and public interests in threatened forests. Set up in the 1990 Farm Bill, the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USFS), in cooperation with the states, can purchase conservation easements from willing landowners at fair market value. Specific terms of the easement may vary according to the particular resource to be protected and the wishes of the individual landowner. Cost would be shared by state and local governments, private organizations and individuals, with the federal share not to exceed 75 per cent. The easement purchase would remain in effect even if the property changed ownership.

In the Peoria area, forests along the bluffs on both sides of the Illinois River from Cedar Hills Drive to Marshall County is the approximate area of land eligible for this program. If you feel the Forest Legacy program should be implemented in Illinois, write Steward Pequignot, State Forester, Illinois Department of Conservation, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701.

(For more information call Les or Mary Bodell at 309/745-5479.)

Editor's Note: One alternative proposal for the Peoria to Chicago Interstate is along these environmentally sensitive river bluffs. See July-August Tallgrass Sierran.

## HOW LARGE DARE WE DREAM? by Dave Pittman

Can you believe that a new wild area is being created from the ruins of a TNT factory? The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, nearly 20,000 acres, at the headwaters of the Illinois River may soon become the largest parcel of land in Central Illinois to return to its diverse natural ecosystems.

Formerly the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, the management plan calls for riparian zones, prairie restoration, preservation of existing seeps, marshlands and savanna. Many important plant and animal species have been identified by a Nature Conservancy inventory. The Illinois Department of Conservation (DOC) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will manage the site.

Legislation was introduced August 13 by Representative Sangmeister. House bill **HR 4946** and Senate bill **S 2398** will transfer ownership from the U.S. Army to the Department of Agriculture thus, the USFS.

Action is needed now! Letters asking your congressman to support **HR 4946** are needed. Request they work to expedite this legislation and not let it get derailed by other issues in Congress.

Senators Carol Mosely-Braun and Paul Simon have sponsored Senate bill **S 2398**. They need letters of thanks and encouragement to make sure their senate bill does not get lost among other issues.

Write: Congressmen Lane Evans and Robert Michel at House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 to support **HR 4946**. And Senators Carol Mosely-Braun and Paul Simon at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20515 regarding their sponsorship of **S 2398**.

Or call: Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

(For more details contact Dave Pittman at 309/688-7708 or Jack Darin at the Chapter Office 312/431-0158.)



## OUTINGS

**September 24** A guided tour of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Illinois River Refuges will be given by Andrew French, manager of these areas. We will be hiking areas of the new Emiquon Wildlife Refuge, plus Meredosia and Chautauqua Refuges. It will be an all day outing. If you are interested contact Cheryl Pauli at 1-309-446-9792 before September 23.

**Join us  
for Breakfast on  
the Rock Island Trail**

Bike or walk in from the Alta  
parking lot for a delicious  
breakfast to raise funds for  
continuing projects.

**Sunday, September 25, 1994**

**(rain date, Sunday, Oct. 2)**

**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**at the Kickapoo picnic area & shelter between Alta & Dunlap**

**We will dedicate the shelter recently constructed by  
the Friends of the Rock Island Trail**

**\*French Toast\***

**\*Scrambled Eggs with vegetables\***

**\*Fresh Fruit\***

**\*Potatoes\***

**\*Ham\***

**\*Breads & Coffee Cakes\***

**\*Coffee & Juices\***

**- Cooked over an open fire -**

**Must call for reservations:**

**Chris - 682-0549 or 691-2246**

**Cheryl - 446-9792**

**\$5.00 Adult - \$2.50 Child - Children under 5 Free  
Handicapped & elderly rides available.**

**Thank you for supporting events like this Breakfast  
that helped make this shelter possible.**

**Friends of the Rock Island Trail**

## HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

14 Wednesday

Executive Meeting, 7 pm

Corp of Engineers building, foot of Grant St.  
Everyone welcome.

21 Wednesday

General Meeting, 7 pm

Forest Park Nature Center

Illinois Middle School Groundwater

Project, speaker, Bill Beckman.



24 Saturday

Outing, 9 am

All day hike to tour U.S. Fish and  
Wildlife's 3 river refuges. See  
Outings for more details.

26 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

Send articles to C. Pauli, RR 1 Box 168 A,  
Brimfield, IL, 61517.

28 Wednesday

Conservation Meeting, 7 pm. Meet at  
Hal Gardner's home. Call for directions (446-

### OCTOBER

4 Newsletter Mailing, 7 pm

Peoria Pizza Works. Good food, good  
conversation and great people.  
Everyone welcome.

12 Wednesday

Executive Meeting, 7 pm

See September 14 for location.

19 General Meeting, 7 pm.



## ANNUAL ELECTION

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club is seeking nominations for the annual election of its Group Executive Committee. If you are interested in being considered or would like to nominate a person for consideration contact a member of the Nominating Committee by September 21, 1994. The positions on the Executive Committee will be for a two year period (1995-96). **Nominating Committee: Les Bodell (745-5479), Dave Grebner (674-3977) or Chris Meydam (682-0549).**

Any member that is not contacted, but would like to be listed on the ballot should submit a petition to the Group's secretary, Joyce Blumenshine, by October 19, 1994. For more details contact Joyce at 688-0950.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHANGE

Glenn Zipp resigned from the Group's Executive Committee in June. Rudy Habben has been appointed by the Executive Committee to serve the remainder of Glenn's term, which expires at the end of 1994.

## HARVEST DINNER by John Wosik

Mark your calendar! This year's Harvest Dinner will be on Saturday, November 5th at 6 pm, at the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, 7611 N Knoxville in Peoria. Barb Gurtler, back from her Mount Everest expedition, will be our guest speaker.

If you'd like to help with the dinner contact John Wosik at 682-8950 or Joyce Blumenshine at 688-0950. More details in the October newsletter.

## DONATIONS NEEDED

In 1993 the Executive Board voted to print the newsletter on unbleached 100% post-consumer recycled paper. After losing our purchasing source in 1994 we have found another one and are once again ready to print on this type of paper. This paper is more expensive, but by using it, it sends a message that recycling and recycled products are important.

Donations to help defray this increased cost would be greatly appreciated. Send them to the Group's mailing address on the front of this newsletter.

*(Editor's Note: Due to changes in the postal department's rules for non-profit organizations we cannot have paid adds in our newsletter.)*

## DOWNSTATE SIERRA OFFICE

Piasa Palisades Group office has become the new downstate office for the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club. One of the projects we're taking on is setting up an activist network. Action alerts will be sent to members of this network asking them to call or write when important decisions are pending on Shawnee Forest and Mississippi River issues. If you'd like to be on this list contact the Piasa Palisades Group, 223 Market St., Alton, IL 62002 or call (618)462-6802.



## OTHER EVENTS

Friends of the Rock Island Trail Workdays, 9 am  
Sept. 11, Sunday, Oct. 8, Saturday, Nov.5

Meet at the Alta end maintenance building. Leaving Alta on Rt. 91, go about 1 mile, turn right on Radnor Rd. Follow road around curves, maintenance building is on your right just before the railroad tracks. Call Chris at 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.]

HEART OF ILLINOIS

**Sierra Club**

P.O. Box 3583  
Peoria, Illinois 61614

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PEORIA, ILLINOIS



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