



# Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

## GENERAL MEETING

Join us **October 19 at 7 pm** at **Forest Park Nature Center** for the General Meeting.



## GOOD NEWS, EMIQUON AND MEREDOSIA GET FUNDED by Hal Gardner

The House-Senate Conference Committee has approved \$0.5 million for land purchase of the new Emiquon Wildlife Refuge and \$1.1 million for Meredosia Wildlife Refuge. Earlier this year there were no funds for these projects included in the Clinton Administration's budget, but Congressmen Lane Evans and Bob Michel managed to put in funding for Emiquon and Meredosia, respectively. All that remains is the President's signature. Such good fortune!

Now, we need to start working for funding next year. For completion of Emiquon it is projected a total of about \$15 million are required, and for Meredosia, \$1.5 million. Start lobbying Lane Evans for Emiquon funding. Meredosia funding will have to come from whoever gets the 18th Congressional seat. Earlier, we questioned 18th District Candidates for their opinion on the Emiquon Wildlife Refuge and other issues. Candidate LaHood favored funding for Emiquon, Stephens did not respond.



## CLUB OUTING HELD AT CHAUTAUQUA AND EMIQUON REFUGES by Hal Gardner

Last year the feds purchased about 330 acres for the newly created Emiquon Wildlife Refuge. In the meanwhile, some major improvements are underway at Chautauqua Wildlife Refuge. For these reasons Cheryl Pauli organized an outing at these two sites on Saturday, Sept. 24. At Chautauqua, Club members saw how a restructuring of water flow will mimic some of the historic conditions of Illinois River backwaters. It is projected that these new flow patterns will reverse the sedimentation in backwaters that have been encouraged by man-made structures. For example, high waters will be permitted to flow through the lower third of Chautauqua into Quiver Creek and Quiver Lake with the predicted result of scouring sediment from both Chautauqua and

Quiver Lake. A levee set-back from the Illinois River at Chautauqua is expected to alleviate flooding, as well as create a riverine environment of sloughs and islands for the refuge.

On that Saturday outing, Chautauqua looked great with green and yellow arrowhead and *Biden* species. However, the newly acquired lands in Emiquon appeared to be ecologically degraded due to its recent use as farmland. Andrew French, the Site Supervisor for Emiquon and Chautauqua, has invited Sierra Club to "adopt" Emiquon. He said he particularly needs help in the spring to plant pin oaks and pecan. In this way, the ecological condition of Emiquon can be "jump-started". A final note of interest: Rudy Habben says that the Native-American word for "Emiquon" means "shell or spoon-like". Thus, early settlers came to name the Spoon River.



## PROPOSED PEORIA TO CHICAGO THRU-WAY by Hal Gardner

You may have noted the news lately. The heat is really being turned up by the Chamber of Commerce and other commercial interests to accelerate planning for the Peoria to Chicago Thru-way. One proposed route would transverse the ecologically sensitive Illinois River bluffs, parallel to existing Route 29. The incentives for such a bluff route seem compelling: (a) this route would connect Route 6 with I-180, (b) a bridge over the Illinois River would not be necessary, (c) there is less likelihood of a fight over farm-ground, and (d) bluff-lands would be assessed at a lower price. But, lower cost does not mean less of value would be lost. As we lose more and more of our native eco-systems, restoration becomes necessary. Anyone who does restoration will tell you that it costs far more for a high-quality restoration from scratch than to purchase the land. This has never occurred to highway planners, who consider an environmental impact study an inconvenience to be done at the last stage of planning. The Club has written to Illinois DOT (IDOT) expressing great concern, if not outright opposition to the bluff proposal. IDOT has invited Sierra Club to meet with them, to discuss and comment on the alternatives in more detail. If you have an interest in the highway proposal and wish to join Executive Board Members in their meeting with IDOT, please contact Hal Gardner 446-9792(H) as soon as possible.

## HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP CALENDAR



### OCTOBER

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

19 Wednesday  
General Meeting, 7 pm  
Forest Park Nature Center

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

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

### NOVEMBER

5 Saturday  
HOI Harvest Dinner, 6 pm  
See insert for more details on our annual  
fund raising event.

9 Wednesday  
Executive Meeting, 7 pm  
See Oct.12 for more details.

16 Wednesday  
General Meeting, 7 pm

## SIERRANS TO FORM A CONSERVATION WORK CREW

Some Sierrans are repulsed by a constant diet of environmental politics. If you like to get your hands dirty for a good cause, the Club has formalized a Conservation Work Crew. A few Sierrans already are working on prairie restoration, particularly at Jubilee Park, but there is no reason why our efforts should not be expanded. For example, tree-planting is needed at Emiquon Wildlife Refuge (see article on page 1). Get out into nature and lend a helping hand to restore our lost heritage. If you are interested in helping, call Hal Gardner/Cheryl Pauli at 446-9792 or any Executive member.



### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS by John Wosik

Four members have been nominated to run for the four executive committee positions open in 1995. They are Mary Bodell, Ralph Ginn, Grace Haworth, and Kelly O'Leary. Our thanks go out to these people who are willing to spend their time and efforts for the Sierra Club. Also, thanks to the Nominating Committee of Les Bodell, Dave Grebner and Chris Meydam.

*\*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.*



### 1995 SIERRA CALENDARS HAVE ARRIVED

A nice selection of Sierra Club Calendars are now for sale through the local Group. If you can't get to a meeting call Chris at 682-0549 and make arrangements to pick them up. We have a) Pocket Calendars for \$8.50, b) Engagement Calendars for \$10.95, c) Adventure Travel for \$9.95, d) Wildlife for \$9.95, e) Wilderness for \$9.95, f) Wolves for \$13.95, and g) Endangered People for \$13.95.

## OTHER EVENTS

Friends of the Rock Island Trail Workdays, 9 am  
Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Dec 4.

Meet at the Alta 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.

### Shawnee Forest Update

Oct 25, 7 pm, George Luthy Botanical Garden  
Jan Wilder-Thomas will update the current status of the Shawnee National Forest and efforts to designate it as a national songbird monument. Contact Michael Brown at 444-8806 for more information.



### Halloween Cookout-Potluck

Oct 29, 4 pm, Rock Island Trail  
Meet at the Alta end maintenance building (see Workdays for directions) or walk in to the new picnic shelter at the Kickapoo Picnic area. This is a potluck, so bring your own table service, beverage, hot dogs, buns and a dish to share.

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

### 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 Mincar, 694-3014; Secretary, Joyce Blumenshine, 688-0950; Membership and Outing Chairperson, Larry Robbins, 692-3930; Conservation Co-Chairperson, Dale Goodner, 682-0789; HOI Representative to Sun Foundation and Board Member Rudy Hadden.

Appointed positions are as follows: Conservation Chairperson, Hal Gardner, 446-9792; Newsletter Editor, Cheryl Pauli, 446-9792

### HEART OF ILLINOIS

**Sierra Club**

P.O. Box 3583  
Peoria, Illinois 61614

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 104  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS



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



Recycled Paper