

Tallgrass Sierran

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

GENERAL MEETINGS

**** November 15 Meeting, 7 pm, "The Great Discovery Trail"**

Relax and unwind with this informative program on The Discovery Trail, one of the most amazing bicycle trails ever. George Burrier will get you inspired to plan your next bicycle trip on The Discovery Trail. He will give you an update on other trails, also.

**** December 13, 6:30 pm, Annual Holiday Potluck and Member Slide Show**

Celebrate December with a great gathering of friends at our annual potluck feast. This will be followed by famous and sometimes infamous slide showing. Bring dinner foods to share and your own table service. Cider, coffee, tea and juice will be available. Bring some of your new or old slides to show a brief trip highlight or other events.

Please note that this meeting is a week early due to the holidays. The Executive Board will meet at 5:30 pm, prior to the potluck. All members are welcome to attend the Group's board meetings. All new and old board members are asked to attend this meeting.

All General Meetings are held at the Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria at 7 pm. Refreshments will follow the meeting. Everyone is welcome!

CONGRESS IS STEALING YOUR HERITAGE! *by Hal Gardner*

There are really dangerous bills floating around Congress thanks to an unprecedented majority of anti-environmental legislators. Among the most unbelievable are bills to give away 268 million acres of Dept. of Interior land (Bureau of Land Management), as well as the sizeable Tongass National Forest to various states and counties. This is outright theft of public lands that should remind us of the Robber Barons of the late 19th century. Other bills would promote oil drilling in National Wildlife Refuges, including the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. Still other proposals promise to scuttle our newest Mojave National Preserve in Calif.,

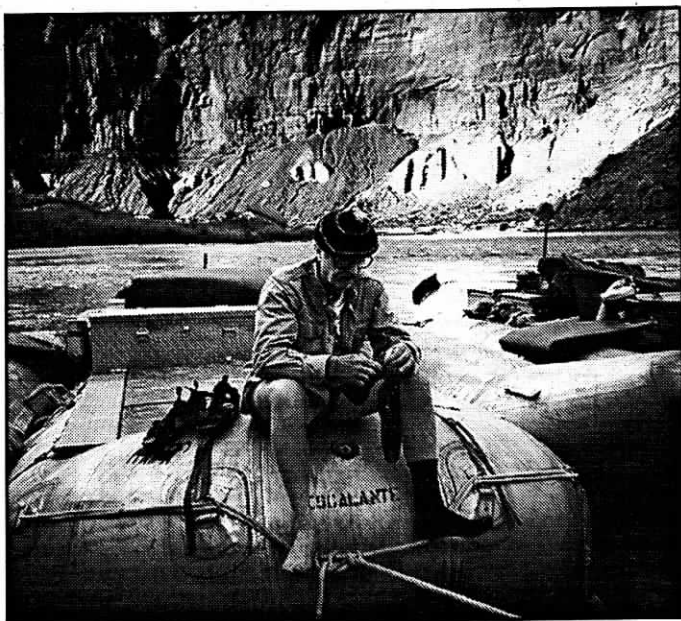
convert public rangelands into the private domain of the livestock industry, stop wilderness designation in Utah, and fatally weaken the Endangered Species Act. Congress is trying to gut everything quickly before opposition can organize. **See the article below for the most current and pressing issues that needs immediate action.** The information below was recently obtained from the *Sierra Hot-line*.

ACTION-NOW ISSUES: CONTACT CONGRESS *by Mary Bodell*

H.R. 1977, the Dept. of Interior Appropriations Bill, is all bad. The following is only a partial list of what it does: (1) increased logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest and other forests, (2) increased mining, (3) bans the United Nations Biodiversity agreement, and (4) cuts funding for the Mojave National Preserve.

The Budget Reconciliation Bill among others will: (1) open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, (2) sell National Forest Lands, (3) institute a moratorium on grazing regulations, (4) exempt timber sales from environmental regulations, and (4) create a National Park closure commission.

H.R. 2000, the EPA Budget Bill, contains all kinds of roll-backs, such as arsenic and radon standards, wetlands protection, pesticides and auto emissions testing, alternative energy, listing of endangered species, and habitat protection. **Your legislators need to hear from you.** You can call the Illinois offices of Senators Carol Mosely-Braun at 312-353-5420 and Paul Simon at 312-3553-4952, and Congressman Ray LaHood at 671-7027, or call the capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. **Also, call President Clinton** to veto these bills if they reach his desk with anti-environmental language. Use 202-456-1111 from 8 am to 4 pm Mon thru Fri; press 1, 1, and 0 to speak to an operator. The Budget Reconciliation Bill has already passed through both houses of Congress, so the only recourse is a very tenuous Presidential veto.



"THROUGH the GRAND CANYON with WET SOCKS" A 280 mile eight-day trip down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon, Travelogue by Al Harkrader "

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club's Harvest Dinner

*November 4, 6:00 pm, *Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, 7611 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria *\$6 for adults, \$3 for children Call Joyce, 688-0950 or Chris, 682-0549 * Silent Auction of Gift Items
*Purchase 1996 Sierra Club Calendars



ILLINOIS ACTION NEEDED NOW by Joyce Blumenshine

Brownfields Redevelopment (H.B. 544/S.B. 46): Brownfields Redevelopment means cleaning up environmentally contaminated sites so the land can be used for building on and beginning new industries. Gov. Edgar made an amendatory veto deleting weak parts of this bill. The part of the bill that the Governor vetoed was an industry plan to burden the taxpayers with paying for the cleanups instead of having the polluters assume liability for site cleanup. The General Assembly did not appropriate any funds for site cleanup and there is no dedicated revenue source to fund this by the State.

Contact your state representative and senator and ask them to support the Governor's veto on the Brownfields legislation (H.B.544 and S.B. 46). Ask them to require polluters to pay for contaminated site cleanups.

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup (H.B. 901): This program is essential to the protection of

underground water sources from contamination by hundreds of rusting and leaking gas and oil tanks. Illinois EPA owes about \$40 million to property owners waiting to be reimbursed for cleaning up contamination from leaking underground. At this time the state's fund for this project is out of money. Urge your state representative to support H.B. 901, a fee increase to help the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup program.



Write your representative or senator at the State House, Springfield, IL 62706 or call the Capitol operator at 217-782-2000. The fall veto session is in progress. Act now!

REPEAL ILLINOIS RETAIL LAW by Mary Bodell

As most of you know, Illinois is the only state that requires power companies to buy incinerator generated electricity at the retail value and then reduce their state income tax by the difference from the wholesale price. Repeal of the Retail Rate Law nearly succeeded last spring. Let's get this expensive subsidy off the books.

Contact Lee Daniels, Speaker of the House, and tell him you want a show of strong support for the repeal of this law. Call 708-530-2700 or 217-782-2000.

POINT OF VIEW: Local Bus Tax Referendum, Nov. 7 by Elliott Murray

I urge all members of the Sierra Club, who live in Peoria, Peoria Heights, and West Peoria to go vote on Nov. 7 and to vote YES for the tax increase for the funding of the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District.

America has had a long love affair with the automobile. Our automobile culture does have some good points, however there are also many significant and far reaching consequences which have a negative impact on our individual lives and civic culture. Mass transit is much more environmentally friendly than individual automobile use.

The automobile has provided mobility to the vast majority of Americans which is convenient, comfortable, and relatively cheap. However on the negative side are increased pollution of the air we breathe and increased greenhouse effect on our atmosphere. People are walking less with negative effects on their health. The automobile, by providing easy mobility, has promoted urban sprawl and the decay of our inner cities. The very success of the

automobile culture has led to the decreased use of mass transit to the point where its survival is now in doubt.

While there are environmental reasons to vote YES to maintain our mass transit the most compelling reason is that there are still people who depend on the bus for transportation. Something over 10% of our population can't afford a car or for various reasons can't drive. Many of them are dependent on the bus to get them to jobs, shopping, school, medical care, etc..

I urge you to vote YES on November 7 and to talk to others and get them to go vote YES.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The November executive board meeting will be Wednesday, November 8, 7:30 pm at the home of Grayce Haworth, RR 1 south of Lacon. Take Route 26 north to Lacon and at County Rd. 325 turn east and go 1 1/2 miles. For more directions call Grayce at 246-8397.

The December executive board meeting will be Wednesday, December 13, 5:30 pm at the Forest Park Nature Center, preceding the annual potluck. Everyone is welcome to attend.



1995 HEART OF ILLINOIS SIERRA CLUB'S ELECTION CANDIDATE'S STATEMENT

Perry Johnson: As a candidate for the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club executive committee, I believe that now, more than ever it is essential for all club members to actively support current conservation issues particularly as we witness the brazen attempt by Congress to reverse our hard won past gains. Without the intervention of thoughtful, concerned individual such as ourselves we risk encumbering future generations with unsolvable ecological problems...unless we act today.

As an Excom. member, I pledge to support the club's mission of supporting conservation and quality of life issues and encourage others, especially our elected officials, to do likewise.

Hal Gardner: You can expect me to fight for intact eco-systems. We are losing such places at an alarming rate because of development and non-native plant and animal introduction. In scope the problem is local, national and world-wide. This Congress poses the most serious threat by proposing to dispose of over 300 million acres of public land! These are serious times, more serious than anything that has occurred in my lifetime. I feel we cannot afford to dilute our effort on more trivial matters.

Larry Robbins: I came to Peoria from Iowa City in 1989. I am a graduate of Iowa State University with a B.S. in Forest Land Management. I have worked as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service for eleven years in Minn., Wisconsin, and Michigan. Since 1985, I have been employed in the Natural Resource Management Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In this capacity I am currently responsible for the management of two Corps owned dry reservoirs comprising approximately 800 acres of land in Tazewell County. While in Iowa City I was Outings Chairman, Vice-Chair. and Chairperson of the Iowa City Area Sierra Club and was elected to the Iowa State Excom in 1989. In 1993-94 I served on the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Executive Board and as Outings Chair. I am presently the Membership Chair for the group.

I favor pro-active environmental endeavors based upon recognized scientific evidence, not emotional hype and am a pragmatist.



Voting Procedure: Vote for not more than 3 candidates for a 2 year term to the HOI Sierra Club Executive Board. Fold ballot. Return to Sec. Ralph Ginn, c/o Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, P.O. Box 35593, Peoria, IL 61614. Write the name of voting member(s) on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot, Joint memberships may use Ballot 1 and 2. Ballots must be delivered to the Nov. meeting or arrive at the Sierra Club's mailbox by Nov. 14.

1995 HOI Sierra Club Election Ballot

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____ Perry Johnson

____ Hal Gardner

____ Larry Robbins

Group Calendar

Nov. 1, Wed. 7 pm
Imagine Wilderness,
Slide presentation by Brant Calkin

Nov 4, Sat. 6 pm
Annual Harvest Dinner
Travelogue by Al Harkrader, on his
280 mile trip down the Colorado River
through the Grand Canyon.

Nov. 8, Wed. 7:30 pm
Executive Meeting
Meet at Grayce Haworth's home. See
newsletter for details.

Nov. 15, Wed. 7 pm
General Meeting
Forest Park Nature Center

Dec. 15, Wed. 5:30 pm
Executive Meeting
Forest Park Nature Center
Due to the holidays please note time and
date change.

Dec. 15, Wed. 6:30 pm
Annual Holiday Potluck
Forest Park Nature Center
See newsletter for details.

Dec. 26, Tues.
Newsletter Deadline
Send articles to John Wosik, 3403 W.
Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604

Jan. 4, Thurs. 7:30 pm
Newsletter Mailing
Meet at the Pizza Works, Peoria Heights.

Jan. 10, Wed. 7:30 pm
Executive Meeting
Corps of Engineers building, foot of
Grant St.

Jan. 17, Wed. 7 pm
General Meeting
Forest Park Nature Center



1996 SIERRA CALENDARS FOR SALE

For yourself or holiday gift giving, we have a nice selection of Sierra Club calendars. The calendars will be on display and for sale at the meetings and the Harvest Dinner.

Contact Chris, at 682-0549, to arrange to pick up your calendars if you cannot make it to these meeting.

THANKS TO ALL and BEST WISHES FOR 1996! by Joyce Blumenshine, Co-Chair

My genuine thanks and appreciation goes out to all of projects, mailings, and the host of Illinois Sierra Club active. We ts on behalf of the environment ; to do so, too.
ads to a Sierra Club meeting or y other ideas for expanding our dues paying member, every letter ehalf of what we care about can

new Sierra Board Members!

OTHER EVENTS

Rock Island Trail Workday, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2, 9:00 am Meet at the Alta end maintenance building. Leave 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.

Many Thanks! by Chris Meydam

The Annual Rock Island Trail Breakfast was a great success. This year we served 110 people! Thanks to everyone who made this event possible. And a special thanks to Joyce Blumenshine, Les and Mary Bodell, George and Sandy Burrier, John Wosik, David Mark, Elliott Murray and Paul Oltman. (Editor's Note: A special "Thanks!" to Chris Meydam, too.)



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 ...