



Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

GENERAL MEETINGS

□ **May 15, 7 p.m., Forest Park Nature Center** **"CONGRESS NIGHT"**

Meet and hear the environmental views of the 18th District Democratic Candidate for Congress, Mike Curran. As we all know, the current Gingrich Congress has made the environment the defining issue of the decade, and for environmentalists, possibly the darkest two years in recent times. Considering current events, it is certain that our members will have many good questions for the candidate. Please be present at this important meeting. We had hoped for a debate between Democrat Mike Curran and Republican Ray LaHood, but Mr. LaHood declined because Congress will be in session May 15. Congressman LaHood has said that he can participate in a debate at our August meeting. *Local Group news and refreshments follow the program. Everyone is welcome!*

□ **June 19, 6:30 p.m., Jubilee State Park** **"ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC AND WHITE** **ELEPHANT AUCTION"**

Join us for our annual summer potluck picnic, presentation of the **Conservationist of the Year Award**, and fundraising auction of unusual, useful, and tasty items donated by our members. Bring a main dish or other food to share, plus your own table service. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided. Money raised from the auction will be used to cover expenses of the HOI Group.

This year's picnic will be held at **Jubilee State Park**. Enter the park from Rt. 150 (between Kickapoo and Brimfield). Follow this road north through the park, take the first two right turns past the park headquarters. We'll be at the Quail Meadow picnic area. If you'd like, don't forget an item to donate to the auction. *And bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!*

Conservationist of the Year

The HOI Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the **Heart of Illinois Conservationist of the Year**. The nominee 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 nomination should include a brief explanation of why you feel this person should be considered. The deadline for nominations is June 11. The winner will be announced at our annual potluck picnic on June 19. Send nominations to **Ralph Ginn, c/o HOI Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614; or call him at 274-3289.**



Photo by Ralph Ginn

Clean Water Celebration: Rudy Habben and Mary Bodell talk to students about sedimentation at the HOI Sierra Club booth.

Clean Water Celebration a Success

by Rudy Habben

An estimated 3,200 students and teachers participated in the third annual Clean Water Celebration, held March 18 at the Peoria Civic Center. The Sierra Club display was on sedimentation. It consisted of three metric cones that had been filled with Illinois River water at different time intervals. Students had to use the metric scale to determine how much sediment had accumulated at the bottom of the cones. The display also had six different types of sedimentary rocks which students could examine. Sedimentation will also be the theme at the Club's display at next year's Clean Water Celebration.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

SAVANNA NATIONAL WILDLIFE

REFUGE by Hal Gardner

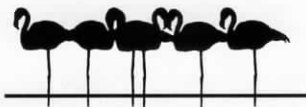
The Savanna Army Depot is scheduled to be decommissioned, and this action will make 13,000 acres along the upper Mississippi River available for disposal. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) initially wanted 11,000 for a wildlife refuge, but a local committee appointed to determine the fate of the Army Depot initially opposed the FWS proposal. Happily, Ed Britton, the new manager of Savanna Fish and Wildlife Refuge, told us at our April meeting that an agreement was reached to transfer 9,300 acres to FWS (everything of ecological significance). --> SEE SAVANNA, PAGE 2

(SAVANNA, FROM PAGE 1)

Only a few months ago the issue seemed to be headed for a grim ending as a developer's paradise with proposals as diverse as mega hog farms, nuclear waste dumps, prisons, and housing sites (non mutually exclusive). The matter seemed to come to a head at a March meeting and "public hearing" of the local committee. At the afternoon meeting, a Salt Lake City lawyer hired by the committee apparently made a big scene about how the whole of the depot should be turned over to local developers (shades of the "wise-use" movement also coincidentally based in Salt Lake City).

Rudy Habben and I attended the evening meeting after this big scene occurred. It became immediately obvious that there was considerable tension among the committee itself as well as the audience. Disorganization seemed to reign, and initially there was no public comment taken. Getting irritated, I held up my hand until recognized. Then I expressed my desire to save the extremely rare sand prairie that exists on the site, as well as the bottomlands. I said that FWS is a very professional organization capable of doing a good job of managing these valuable ecosystems for future generations. To the local committee's surprise (and mine) the audience broke out in applause. The committee took testimony from three others, including Rudy Habben who also spoke in favor of the refuge.

Possibly because testimony was going against the committee, the "hearing" was abruptly terminated. The committee then wanted to go into "executive session", but someone said this violated Illinois law. They decided to do it anyway, but for several minutes did nothing in the hallway because of the legal challenge. Some of the committee members even approached Rudy saying that "other alternatives" needed to be considered. And the "other alternatives" were indeed considered when the local committee came to a satisfactory agreement with FWS before the March 28 deadline.

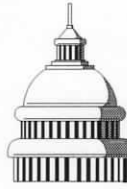


You can make a difference!

- ☐ Write your U.S. Senators: Carol Moseley-Braun / Paul Simon
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
- ☐ Write your U.S. Representative: Ray LaHood / Lane Evans
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515
- ☐ Call your U.S. Senators and Representatives at the Capitol
Switchboard: (202) 224-3121, or call their local numbers:
Ray LaHood (309) 671-7027
Lane Evans (309) 793-5760
- ☐ Call the White House comment line at (202) 456-1111
- ☐ Write the White House: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,
Washington, D.C. 20500
- ☐ Write Governor Edgar or your state Senator or Representative:
The Hon. _____
State House
Springfield, IL 62706
- ☐ Call Governor Edgar at: (217) 782-6830
- ☐ Call your state Senator or Representative at the Capital
Switchboard: (217) 782-2000

LCV SCORECARD FOR FIRST SESSION OF 104TH CONGRESS

By Hal Gardner



The League of Conservation Voters just released the environmental scorecard (0 to 100%) for the First Session of the 104th Congress. There are issues not scored by LCV, but the LCV rating does give a good cross-section to evaluate performance.

Congratulations and high praise go to 17th District Congressman Lane Evans (100%), Senator Paul Simon (100%), and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (93%).

However, 18th District Ray LaHood received a failing 23% score. Congressman LaHood voted incorrectly on the following:

- (1) *Voted for "logging without laws"* (a section of the infamous Rescissions Bill, HR 1158) where the taxpayers lose twice: their forests, including ancient forests, and federal subsidies to logging companies.
- (2) *Failed to appropriate money to the Park service to open the new Mojave National Preserve.*
- (3) *Voted for "takings" legislation (HR 925)--provides for government compensation to landowners if impacted by Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, or other laws; otherwise laws can be violated with impunity.*
- (4) *Voted for "regulatory reform" where cost-benefit and risk-assessment must be done before environmental regulations can be instituted, and additional opportunities are afforded industry to legally challenge government rules.*
- (5) *Voted for combined "regulatory reform" and "takings" bill (HR 9).*
- (6) *Voted against funding renewable energy (Klug Amendment to HR 1905).*
- (7) *Voted for a rollback of the Clean Water Act, dubbed the "Dirty Water Act" (HR 961).*
- (8) *Voted for 17 nasty environmental riders attached to the EPA appropriations bill (HR 2099), but then he reversed his vote to drop the 17 riders in conference.*
- (9) *Voted against international family planning (Smith Amendment to HR 1868).*

Congressman LaHood did vote correctly to prevent the closing of certain National Parks (no on HR 260). On the issue of mining on federal lands, LaHood twice voted incorrect, and once correct. Congressman LaHood also voted to delete a rider that would override environmental laws to increase logging in Alaska's Tongass National Forest. If my son received a 23% score from his school, I would hit the ceiling. Are you satisfied with your representative to Congress, or do you deserve better?

25th Anniversary Heart of Illinois Group

Yes, it has been 25 years, as near as the old-timers remember it. Does anyone have old photos of those early years? We would like to select the best of these to publish in future issues of *Tallgrass Sierran*. Contact John Wosik at 682-8950.

Attend an outing

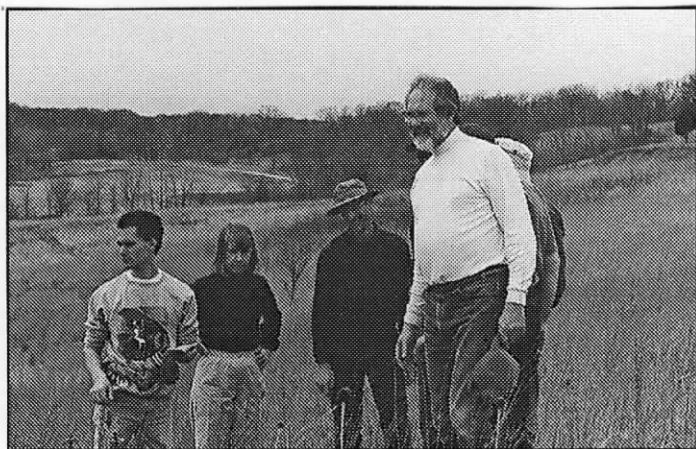


Photo by Joyce Blumenshine

Site M Outing: *Sierra Club members check out the hillside prairie at Site M on April 27.*



Central Illinois BIRDATHON



Help raise funds for both **Partners in Flight**, an international organization studying the Central and South American habitat of migratory birds, and your choice of one of the following sponsoring organizations: **Sierra Club, Peoria Audubon Society, Forest Park Nature Center, Nature Conservancy, or Wildlife Prairie Park.** Twenty-five percent of proceeds goes to Partners in Flight, the rest to the sponsoring organizations. Each organization is sponsoring a team of 2 or 3 members which will identify as many bird species as possible, by sight or by sound, within Peoria County on May 11 between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. To participate, select a sponsoring organization and a pledge amount for each species identified. **Fill out and mail the coupon below, or call Les Bodell at 745-5479, or Ralph Ginn at 274-3289. You can also bring your pledge to the May 15 general meeting at Forest Park Nature Center.**

Birdathon Pledge (per species): _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Sponsoring org. (circle one):

Sierra Club

Forest Park

Audubon Society

Wildlife Prairie Park

Nature Conservancy

Mail to:
Les Bodell
2267 Hollands Grove Rd.
Washington, IL 61571

. or volunteer at a booth



Photo by Rudy Habben

Earth Day: *Joyce Blumenshine answers questions at the Sierra Club booth at Bradley.*

FROM THE CHAIR by Ralph Ginn

My first thought after being elected Chair for 1996 was how can I possibly fill the shoes of both Joyce and Mary. A moment of reflection told me I can't. But, fortunately Joyce and Mary are still actively working for a better HOI Sierra Club and a better environment. So are two dozen other HOI reliables. And that is just the point. **We have over 450 Sierra Club members in our fifteen county region and we need more of you to get involved. Consider these COMMITMENTS:**

1. Be informed. Start by reading the *Tallgrass Sierran*.
2. Pick an issue that you are sympathetic with. Write a letter. Make a phone call. Congressman, legislators and local leaders are influenced more by one letter from 100 people than 10 letters from each of 10 people.
3. Volunteer for our new Illinois Telephone Activist Network (I-TAN). we need twenty-five people.
4. Work at a HOI booth for a few hours. You may not realize how often we are asked to participate in a public event.
5. Bring a dish or soup for the Harvest Dinner. Help set up. Help clean up. This is our major fundraiser. The income is a must. This year we may sell carryout soup. If so, we will need all of you soup gourmets to add another potato.
6. Join an outing. Both HOI and the Illinois Chapter have some great outing events planned this year.
7. Attend a HOI general meeting. *Everyone is always welcome.*

Group Calendar

May

HOI Hosts the Illinois Chapter!

11 Illinois Chapter Executive Committee Meeting

Dickson Mounds State Museum, Community Room, 2nd floor, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. *Sierra Club members welcome.*

11 BYOB Chapter Cookout, 6 p.m.

Hal Gardner's "barn", Jubilee/Princeville Rd. Meet Illinois Chapter officers in an informal setting. Bring your own brats, buns, beer, etc. to eat and share. Table service is provided. Call Hal at 446-9792 for directions. *Everyone is welcome!*

12 Illinois Chapter Conservation Issues Meeting

Wildlife Prairie Park, Log Room, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. *Sierra Club members welcome.*

14 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

Mary Bodell's home: 2267 Holland's Grove Rd., Washington. Call Mary, 745-5479, for directions.

15 General Meeting, 7 p.m.

Forest Park Nature Center, "Congress Night: Mike Curran"

19 Rock Island Trail Bicycle Ride

Meet at 1 p.m. at the trail parking lot at the west edge of Alta. Call Joyce at 688-0950 for information.



June

9 Mackinaw River Hike

Hike at Mackinaw River State Fish and Wildlife Area. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Forest Park Nature Center parking lot. Bring shade and water. We will carpool to Mackinaw area. Call Joyce at 688-0950 for more information.

11 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

Ralph Ginn's home: 20822 N. Blue Ridge Rd., Chillicothe. Call Ralph at 274-3289 for directions.

19 Potluck Picnic and White Elephant Auction, 6:30 p.m.

Jubilee State Park, Quail Meadow picnic area. (See front page.)

27 Newsletter Deadline

Send articles for July & August to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@aol.com

29-30 Mississippi Palisades Camp Out

Join us for a weekend camping trip to Mississippi Palisades State Park. Leave at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Bring a sack lunch and items for grilling for supper. Trip leader will provide Sunday breakfast. Hiking and general exploring at this river edge park. **Reservations required - phone Joyce at 688-0950.** Extra tents are available. Coolers will be provided.



July

2 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.

Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!



ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE®

Other Events:

(Not sponsored by the Sierra Club but provided as a public service.)

Jubilee Work Crew

Work includes prairie burns, brush-cutting, eradicating alien plants, native plant seeding and planting root stock. Work crews will meet on the first and third Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Hal Gardner's red barn about 2.2 miles west of Jubilee-Princeville Rd. on Jubilee-Brimfield Rd. Except for prairie burns, work usually ends at noon. Call Hal Gardner at 446-9792 for directions.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

Executive Committee

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------|
| Chair | Ralph Ginn | 274-3289 |
| Vice-Chair | Hal Gardner | 446-9792 |
| Secretary | Perry Johnson | 697-3211 |
| Treasurer | Grayce Haworth | 246-8397 |
| Membership Chair | Larry Robbins | 681-1558 |
| I-TAN Coordinator | Mary Bodell | 745-5479 |
| Executive Committee | Kelly O'Leary | 698-1163 |
| ***** | | |
| Conservation Chair / Chapter Rep | Rudy Habben | 685-5605 |
| Outings Chair | Joyce Blumenshine | 688-0950 |
| Calendar Sales | Chris Meydam | 682-0549 |
| Newsletter Editor | John Wosik | 682-8950 |

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614



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

... To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth ...