



Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

GENERAL MEETINGS

- ☐ **July 17, 6:30 p.m., Rock Island Trail - Alta Parking Lot**

ROCK ISLAND TRAIL ROOT BEER FLOAT WALK

In place of our regular meeting join us for a leisurely walk on the Rock Island Trail from the parking lot on the west edge of Alta to the picnic area just south of the Kickapoo Creek bridge. Round trip is approximately five miles. Refreshments, including root beer and ice cream for floats, will be provided at the picnic area for all who attend. *Everyone is welcome!*

- ☐ **August 21, 7 p.m., Forest Park Nature Center ENVIRONMENTAL DEBATE:
RAY LAHOOD and MIKE CURRAN**

The Congressional candidates for the 18th District will square off for a debate on the environment. The debate will feature opening comments by Republican Congressman Ray Lahood and his challenger Democrat Mike Curran. Following their comments, there will be questions asked by a moderator, and finally, the audience will have an opportunity to ask environmental questions of importance to them. All of our members are encouraged to come to ask their most pressing questions regarding federal policy on the environment and federal lands. This is your big chance to have your say. A huge turnout alone will send a loud-and-clear message. The press will also be invited to attend. *Everyone is welcome!*



I-TAN Needs You!

Do you want a quick, easy way to make your voice heard on environmental issues? Join the *Illinois Telephone Activist Network* (I-TAN). The Illinois Sierra Club is developing a network of phone trees to quickly respond to state and national environmental issues. As an I-TAN volunteer you will receive a brief phone call about every 2-3 weeks from a local Sierra Club member. You will be asked to: 1.) call the HOI Group's soon-to-be-installed regional hotline to receive more detailed information on the action alert, 2.) pass on the action alert to a few other individuals on our local phone tree, asking them to call the hotline for more detailed information, and 3.) call and leave your legislator or other government official a brief message. We can make a contribution by speaking up on environmental issues, and we can do it with very little effort. To join call Mary Bodell at 745-5479.



Bill Allen (left) and Mike Ingram (right) accept *Conservationist of the Year Award* from HOI Chair Ralph Ginn (center) at the annual potluck picnic at Jubilee State Park.

Conservationists of the Year

BY RALPH GINN

The HOI Executive Committee has named Co-Conservationists of the Year for 1996. They are **Bill Allen**, steward at Singing Woods, and **Mike Ingram**, steward at Detweiler Park.

Bill Allen is a 69 year old Peoria resident and retired Caterpillar employee. He has been involved as a steward at Singing Woods for the past seven years. Bill's top priority is restoration of oak-hickory hill prairie.

Mike Ingram, a 32 year old glazier and employee of Quinn Glass and Mirror, lives in Peoria Heights. He started as a volunteer with Hal Gardner at Jubilee State Park five years ago, worked with Bill Allen at Singing Woods, and has been a steward at Detweiler since 1993. Mike is an accomplished nature photographer and like Bill avidly pursues the restoration of the oak-hickory hill prairie ecosystem.

The HOI Sierra Group salutes Bill Allen and Mike Ingram as our Conservationists of the Year!

Thanks

Thanks to Mary Harkrader and Larry Johnson for conducting the *White Elephant Auction* at this year's June potluck picnic. Thanks also to everyone who donated or bid on auction items. We raised a much-needed \$145 for the HOI Sierra Group.

Midwest Songbird Study Shows Failing Reproduction

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

In a study of songbird reproduction in six small woodlots in Illinois, Scott Robinson, a researcher with the Illinois Natural History Survey, estimated that 80% of the songbird nests had been raided by predators and 65% of the nests of the most vulnerable species contained cowbird eggs.

Robinson is concerned that songbird reproduction success is so low in small remnant patches of forest in Illinois, that they can be sustained only by immigration from other areas with more successful bird populations. Five teams of researchers have tested Robinson's hypothesis by using standard methods to measure rates of nest predation and cowbird parasitism in regions of the Midwest. These regions ranged from areas in Wisconsin and Missouri with 95% forest cover to agricultural sections of Illinois with only remnant patches of woodland.

In regions with little forest, songbirds generally were not able to produce enough young to replace themselves because of high levels of nest predation and cowbird parasitism. In heavily forested regions, a surplus of young was produced. Some of the productive sites that are helping to build songbird populations are the Chequamegon National Forest in Wisconsin, Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri, and Hoosier National Forest in Indiana. Without the more protected and productive habitat provided by these and other national forests, the populations of many forest bird species may slowly die out in woodlots, state parks, and nature preserves in Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana, that are too small for successful songbird habitat. Robinson's studies show that it is essential to keep forest habitat from being degraded by fragmenting parts through road construction, utility corridors, and other intrusions. *Thanks to the Inner Voice (Assoc. of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics) for this information.*

ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE®

☐ Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Optional) () _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

W-0703 - 1 Entity Code

F94Q W99901

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968

Boulder, Colorado,

80322-2968

Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publication (\$1). Dues are not tax-deductible.

25th Anniversary HOI Group



After Brunch on the Rock Island Trail, July 1988:

Now here is a bunch of hikers to scare the socks off any farmer!

You can make a difference!

☐ The White House:

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue., NW,
Washington D.C. 20500
Comment Line: (202) 456-1111

☐ U.S. Senators:

Carol Mosely-Braun / Paul Simon
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510
Capital Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

☐ U.S. Representatives:

Ray LaHood / Lane Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
Local office: Ray LaHood (309) 671-7027
Lane Evans (309) 793-5760

☐ Governor Jim Edgar:

State House, Springfield, IL 62706
Ph. (217) 782-6830

☐ State Senator or Representative:

State House, Springfield, IL 62706
Capitol Switchboard: (217) 782-2000

Summer Hearings Planned for Hog Mega(Factory) Farms

Bill Passes but Leaves Major Concerns Unresolved

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Critical issues including groundwater monitoring, odor control, liability for manure lagoon spills, and siting requirements are some of the points left unresolved when the Illinois Legislature passed House Bill 3151 in May.

Known as "The Livestock Management Facilities Act," H.B. 3151 was supposed to protect Illinois from the devastating effects of hog mega(factory) farms. Amendments added by Rep. Rich Myers (R-Macomb) made inspection of lagoons during construction mandatory and made operators financially responsible for cleanup should they go out of business. A second part of his amendment created an Advisory

Committee with representatives from the departments of Natural Resources, Public Health and Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency. This committee will draft rules regarding animal waste management, which the Department of Agriculture can then send to the Pollution Control Board. History is being made in Illinois, as other agencies have never before had a say in rules that will be handled by the Department of Agriculture, and DOA rules have not gone to the Pollution Control Board. Tough rules must be established for hog mega(factory) farms. These sites produce more waste than cities of tens of thousands of people and can have

NEXT PAGE



JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Emiquon Overview: View of part of the future Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, looking east from the third floor observation deck at Dixon Mounds State Museum.

Support Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge Now

BY HAL GARDNER

Things are happening that will make Emiquon Wildlife Refuge and Thompson Lake a reality (more about recent acquisitions later). At the moment we must push for future land acquisition, and political pressure is very important. The Nature Conservancy has recommended to Congress an appropriation of \$6 million for Emiquon to be placed in the budget for Fiscal Year 1997. Emiquon was one of only eighteen projects recommended for funding by the Nature Conservancy. The money is to come from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a trust fund earmarked for conservation, but the present budget-balancing Congress is reluctant to spend even this money to obtain the appearance of low expenditure bottom line. Competition for funding is very keen, so **we must write letters of support for Emiquon.** Governor Edgar said that he does not see much local enthusiasm, an opinion we must change by writing him. The project is in Congressman Lane Evans' district. Although Congressman Evans is supportive of Emiquon, he should receive our support, especially if you live in his district (17th). Congressman Ray LaHood should also be encouraged to push for the project. Senators Simon and Mosely-Braun are a must on your letter-writing list.

Present developments at Emiquon are very encouraging. As you know, the first 312 acres was purchased in prior years. Recently, an additional 800 acres was purchased for the refuge using past appropriations plus \$32,000 loaned by the Nature Conservancy. Why is the Nature Conservancy so interested in Emiquon? According to them, *the Illinois River has been identified by the National Science Foundation as one of three large floodplain river systems in the lower 48 states retaining an intact flood pulse. The flood pulse concept suggests that the ability of the river to annually spread out on its floodplain and deposit sediment and nutrients is the principal mechanism supporting the floodplain ecosystem plant communities and biota. The Illinois River contains 12% of all fishes and 9% of all mussel species found in North America. The Illinois River valley contains 33 rare G1-G3 species and 48 rare communities, two-thirds of which occur in the floodplain of the river and a few high quality tributaries. It would be really great to restore a major backwater lake in this ecosystem. But, it should be emphasized that political pressure is needed now!*

HOGS, FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

devastating environmental effects.

Thanks are due to Rep. Richard Winkel (R-Champaign), who has worked hard on this issue. A mega hog farm is being considered for Beardstown, and there are others in the extended central Illinois area.

The Illinois Environmental Council has been pushing to get dates set for the public hearings, which are to take place this summer. The hearings will give concerned parties the opportunity to speak out and will collect information for the Advisory Committee's work. **SPEAK OUT! Call state representative Richard P. Myers at (309) 836-2707 and request that dates be scheduled for public hearings this summer. Thanks to the IEC for this information.**



Hike for Ricca Slone Campaign!

The Ricca Slone Campaign needs volunteers for door-to-door leaflet leaving. On **Saturday, August 3rd** we will be going door-to-door in Bartonville and other areas of the 92nd District. Ricca Slone is a Sierra Club member and Democratic nominee for the Illinois House of Representatives 92nd District. She is a superior candidate, and needs all our help. Please call Joyce, 688-0950, for meeting place and time, and for more information about Ricca's views. (Not sponsored by the Sierra Club but provided as a public service.)

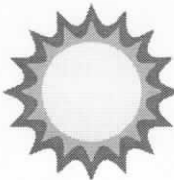
HOI Group Calendar

July

- 6 SAT River Bicycle Ride and Breakfast, 8 a.m.**
Meet at the Fondulac Park District building (East Peoria) parking lot. We will bicycle across the river and connect with the Pimiteoui Trail at least as far as Springdale Cemetery. Breakfast afterwards at a local eatery. *Call Joyce, 688-0950.*
- 9 TUE Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Hal Gardner's barn: Jubilee/Princeville Rd. Call Hal at 446-9792 for directions.
- 14 SUN Snake Den Hollow Fish & Wildlife Area Hike, 1 p.m.**
We will carpool from the parking lot at Forest Park Nature Center. Bring water and hat for sun-shade. *Call Joyce at 688-0950 for information.*
- 17 WED Rock Island Trail ROOT BEER FLOAT Walk, 6:30 p.m.**
Meet at the R. I. Trail parking lot at the west edge of Alta. *See front page for more details.*

August

- 3 SAT Johnson Sauk Trail State Park Hike, 9:30 a.m.**
We will carpool from the parking lot at Forest Park Nature Center. Bring a sack lunch and water to explore this area park. *Call Joyce at 688-0950 for information.*
- 13 TUE Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Ralph Ginn's home: 20822 N. Blue Ridge Rd., Chillicothe. Call Ralph at 274-3289 for directions.
- 21 WED General Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center, "Environmental debate: Ray LaHood and Mike Curran"
- 30 FRI Newsletter Deadline**
Send articles for September & October to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@aol.com



September

- 5 THU Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.**
Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!
- 10 TUE Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Mary Bodell's home: 2267 Holland's Grove Rd., Washington. Call Mary, 745-5479, for directions.
- 18 WED General Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center, speaker to be announced.



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 meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Hal Gardner's red barn about 2.2 miles west of Jubilee-Princeville Rd. on Jubilee- Brimfield Rd. Work usually ends at noon. Call Hal Gardner at 446-9792 for directions.

Rock Island Trail Workdays

Workdays are the 1st or 2nd Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Call Chris, 682-0549, for meeting place and more information.

INTERPLANETARY BICYCLE RIDE

Blast off on **Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21!** Follow the orbits of the planets through Lakeview Museum's Community Solar System Model.

Saturday start times are 6-9 a.m. from CILCO's Pioneer Park Service Center, 8420 University. Riders will follow the Rock Island Trail (or take county roads) through Dunlap (Saturn), Princeville (Uranus), to Wyoming (Neptune), then take county roads to Kewanee (Pluto). Riders may go as far as any planet, and take any combination of trail/road routes. Rides can vary from 10 to 100 miles.

Sunday start times are 7-8 a.m. from Lakeview Museum. Stops are at each of the planets in order from the Sun, enroute to Saturn at Illinois Central College (30 miles). Riders can also choose a 13 mile route to Jupiter (Bradley University).

Registration fees before July 12 are: \$15 Sat., \$5 Sun., \$18 both days. Add \$3 per rider after July 12. Registration includes food and drink, exhibits and activities along the ride, admission to Lakeview Museum and Planetarium, and a special gift package. **Call (309) 686-7000 for more information.**

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 ...