



Tallgrass Sierran

Sierra Club - Heart of Illinois Group - Central Illinois Region

P. O. Box 3593 - Peoria, IL 61614

GENERAL MEETINGS

September 18, 7 p.m., Forest Park Nature Center THE MACKINAW RIVER

Diane Rudin of The Nature Conservancy will give a slide presentation on the Mackinaw River. The presentation will illustrate the beauty of this river only a short distance from Peoria. Diane and Mary Jo Adams will then explain "The Mackinaw River Project", which is a grassroots effort to write and implement a water protection plan for the river. *Everyone is welcome!*

October 16, 7 p.m., Forest Park Nature Center

Join us to listen to a guest speaker on a topic related to the environment. Information on the speaker and topic will be available in the near future by calling the new HOI HOTLINE at 745-1920. *Everyone is welcome!*



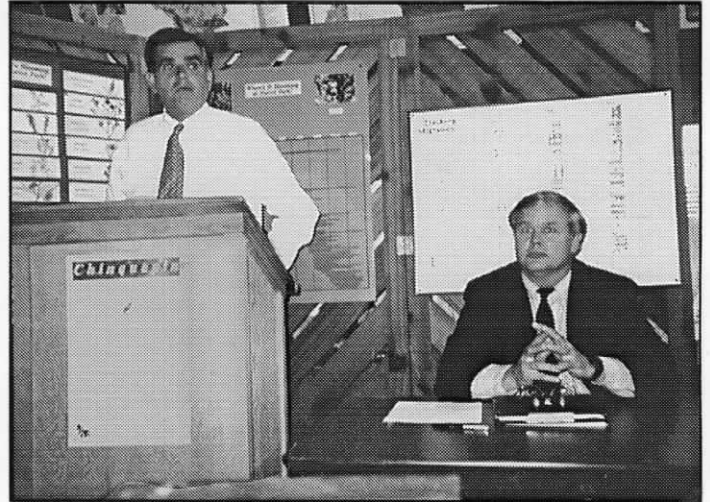
Harvest Dinner

Join us on Saturday, November 2nd at 6 p.m. for our Annual Harvest Dinner at the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church, 7611 N. Knoxville Avenue, Peoria. This year's dinner features a slide presentation, "Paddling a Canoe Through Siberia" by local naturalist-adventurer Larry Rice. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. For reservations call 688-0950 or the HOI HOTLINE at 745-1920 (mailbox 5). The public is invited to attend. **See the newsletter insert for more details.**

The Harvest Dinner is the year's major fundraising event for the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. Proceeds pay for next year's operating expenses and help fund new projects. *Donations of the following items for the dinner would be appreciated:*

- ☼ Your favorite homemade soups, salads, breads, or desserts
- ☼ New or good-quality used items for our **Silent Auction** that reflect an environmental or outdoor theme.
- ☼ Recipes! The HOI Sierra Club will again be selling a "Recipes from the Heart" cookbook for \$1. Preferably, recipes will be for food items donated for the dinner. Mail your recipe to: Joyce Blumenshine, 120 W. Arcadia, Peoria, IL, 61604.

If you do not plan to attend the dinner but would still like to donate a food or auction item, please call. We will also try to arrange transportation for anyone requiring a ride. **Attend the Harvest Dinner and help support the HOI Sierra Club!**



AL HARRADER

Environmental Debate: Over 90 people attended the debate at Forest Park Nature Center on August 21 between 18th District Republican Congressman Ray LaHood (left), and his Democratic challenger Mike Curran (right).

Comments on the Curran-LaHood Debate

BY HAL GARDNER

Those who attended the Curran-LaHood debate at our last regular meeting had to notice the divergent views of the Congressional candidates. While Curran kept emphasizing the need for strong environmental laws and conservation of our natural resources, incumbent LaHood kept repeating there was a need for balance and common sense (for sure, these are buzz words for gutting the environment). Curran emphasized that current bills being passed or considered by Congress amount to big-time corporate welfare at the expense of the environment.

But, let us take a look at the voting record of incumbent LaHood. The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) gave him a score of 23%. It is more than his current score that should worry voters. For example, he said that in the future he would consider oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. LaHood also said he would favor repeal of the 1872 Mining Law that gives federal land to mining companies, but, in fact, he voted twice against a moratorium on the Mining Law and once for it (LCV gave him a plus vote on this issue based on this last vote). So, what is his real position? He voted for:

- (1) a rollback in environmental safeguards (twice)
- (2) "takings legislation" (twice)
- (3) "logging without laws"
- (4) deletion of funds for the Mojave Preserve

SEE DEBATE, NEXT PAGE

- (5) the "dirty water" act
- (6) cuts in international family planning
- (7) cuts in funding renewable energy
- (8) crippling the EPA (later he voted correctly to delete anti-environmental riders on the Conference Report on the EPA bill).

To give LaHood some credit, he voted against (1) closing National Parks, and (2) allowing increased logging in the Tongass National Forest. At the debate Congressman LaHood said something of extreme interest to Sierrans, "Curran would be a 100% rubber stamp for the Sierra Club". Right on, Congressman LaHood!

HOI Group Executive Committee Election Update

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 18. The positions on the Executive Committee will be for a two year period (1997-98). **Nominating Committee: Les Bodell (745-5479), Rudy Habben (685-5605), or John Wosik (682-8950).**

Any member that is not considered by the Nominating Committee, but would like to be listed on the ballot should submit a petition with the signatures of ten HOI Group members to the Nominating Committee by October 16. Ballots will be mailed with the November-December newsletter and counted at the November Group general meeting.



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

Elmwood Hog Factory Farm Coming

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

A 3,600 sow hog factory, with an annual production of 72,000 piglets is planned for construction by a former strip-mine site in western Peoria County. If you live near Elmwood, Farmington, Trivoli, or Yates City you may begin to have a truly stinking existence. The smell of thousands of confined pigs and open lagoons with their waste will begin when the five building business is built. *If you live in the affected area and would like share your concerns, please call Joyce at 688-0950.*

Nuclear Waste in the "Mobile Chernobyl" Bill: LaHood Voted Yes

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

U.S. Representative Ray LaHood of the 18th Congressional District voted yes on House Bill 1020, which will allow hundreds of annual shipments of high level nuclear waste (spent reactor fuel rods) for more than twenty years. These shipments will go on major highways across the U.S., including through Illinois. Please write to LaHood or call and ask why he supports the most hazardous shipment of this waste. Citizens deserve better management of nuclear waste than this highly flawed "mobile Chernobyl" concept. Please write or call President Clinton and state your concerns about highway shipping of high level nuclear waste and the need for a better solution to this hazardous material.

Wetlands Permits Need Comment

Wetlands Nationwide General Permits, issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, are up for renewal this year. Some of these permits are a corruption of legislation intended to protect wetlands. Your letter or call to President Clinton is needed to ask him to stop the Corps abuse of nationwide general wetlands permits. The Corps allows significant wetland destruction with essentially no notice to the public or federal agencies. Development along coastlines, rivers or lakes can be done with up to one acre of land being filled or drained without telling the Corps. Up to ten acres can be drained or filled if the Army Corps of Engineers is informed, and they routinely approve these actions. President Clinton needs to be urged that protecting the environment includes protecting wetlands from abuses through Army Corps permits.

No Comment Received from Peoria/Chicago Freeway Petitions

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club sent over 500 petition signatures opposing the Peoria to Chicago freeway, along with a statement of concerns to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in June. Copies of all materials were also sent to Governor Edgar. This effort was made in response to the citizen input requested by Tri-County for the regional area transportation plan. Thanks to Sierra activists and concerned citizens in the Lacon area, Singing Woods, and other northern Peoria locations, the petitions were ready for this specific statement period. No reply has been received from Tri-County or the Governor's office. An appointed member of an area committee was asked to leave her position when she questioned why citizen opposition to the proposed Peoria/Chicago freeway was not being considered.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Annual

Harvest Dinner

Home-made soups, salads, and breads

6:00 PM, Saturday, Nov. 2, 1996

Grace and Peace Lutheran Church

7611 N. Knoxville, Peoria, IL

Speaker-Naturalist-Adventurer-Writer

Larry Rice

The Wild, Wild East,

Paddling a Canoe Through Siberia

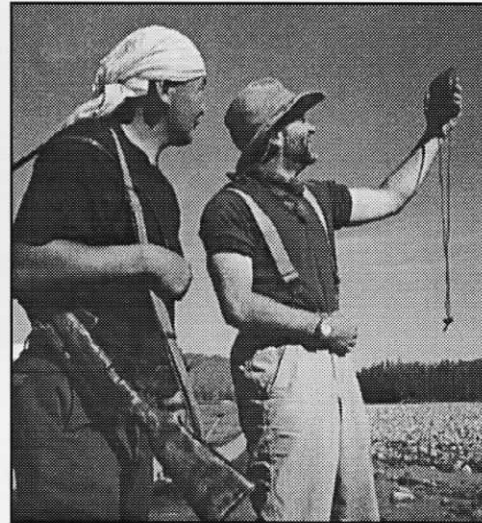
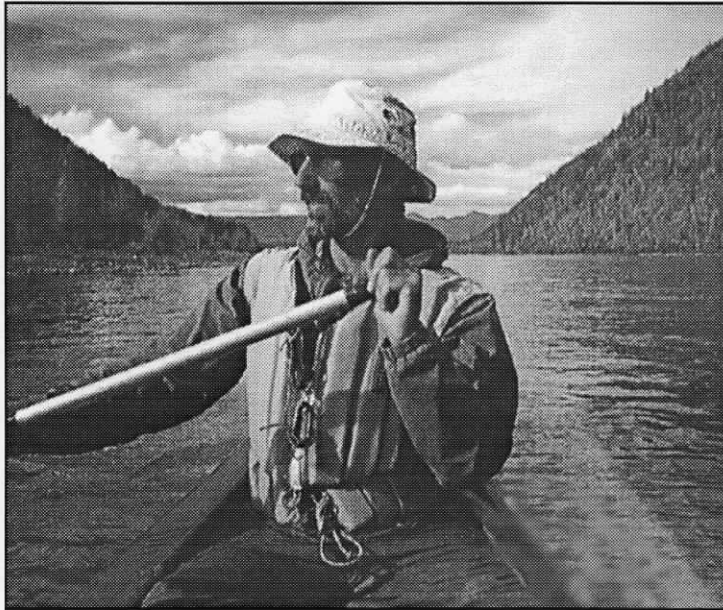
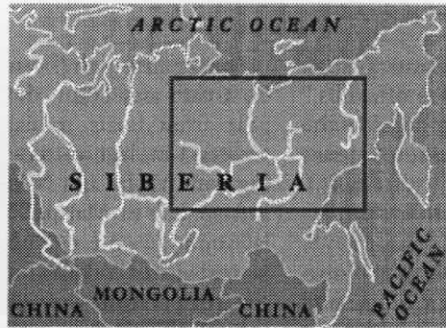


\$6 per person

Reservations Call: 688-0950 or 745-1920 (mailbox 5)

The Wild, Wild East

Paddling a Canoe Through Siberia



Join Larry Rice (above), at the Sierra Club's annual Harvest Dinner, as he paddles his way across the vastness of Siberia and its rivers. The date is Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 6:00 PM, at the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church. At the right is leader Dick Panichi from Chicago with Russian guide Nikita who always carried his SKS military rifle.

With only one million people scattered over a territory nearly five times the size of Texas, there is a lot of elbow room in Yakutia, an Autonomous Republic within eastern Siberia. The area has only been open to foreigners since 1989. Even now, very few Westerners have been there, and as far as anyone can tell, no river runners.

Join Larry Rice and his companions as they paddle a Yakutian wilderness river from the mountains to the flat taiga. The 160 mile journey took 8 days; the shuttle-from-hell another five days. Meet their guides: Misha, a Russian translator/whitewater rafting champion/fishing fanatic; and Nikita/ a Yakutian bear hunter/sheriff who had never been in a canoe before, and who never went far without his military carbine.

Vodka drinking is optional.

LARRY RICE is one part adventurer, one part naturalist, and one part writer. Employed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife area manager, he is a contributing editor to Backpacker, Canoe & Kayak, and Men's Journal magazines, and is the author of four books and over 300 articles on adventure travel and other outdoor subjects. When not speaking, he'll be visiting and signing books. (Proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund.)

For reservations to the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club's annual Harvest Dinner of home-made soups, salads and breads. . . and to hear the adventures of Larry Rice, call 688-0950 or the HOI Hotline at 745-1920, mailbox 5.



Senachwine Creek Clear-Cutting: Heavy machinery has gouged across the banks and bed of this northern Peoria County creek.

Cut and Run

BY RALPH GINN

Clear-cut logging is usually associated with the West, but it is right here in River City land and has the potential for massive erosion along a main tributary of the Peoria Lakes.

Maurice Sinclair of Melrose, Iowa bought 600 acres of prime woodland along the Senachwine Creek in northern Peoria County. His plan is to clear-cut the entire area, sell the logs, and then resell the land. Right now the chain saws are whining, the log trucks are churning dust, and heavy machinery moves back and forth across the Senachwine's bed and banks. Nearby, the State of Illinois is investing thousands of dollars for erosion control along the same stream. The Senachwine is a target stream for an IEPA grant. Already willow sticks are in place two miles from the logging site. Talk about contradictions!

The catch-22 is that Peoria County has reasonably strict storm water and erosion control ordinances, but the State classifies logging as agriculture and it is, therefore, exempt. Clearly, this type of land devastation has fallen through a crack in governmental regulation. And it couldn't come at a worse time. In early August, the Army Corps of Engineers released the results of their 1996 depth soundings of the two Peoria Lakes. The bad news is an average loss of one foot since 1988 due to siltation.

HOI Sierra Club has written a letter to the Peoria County Board asking them to initiate an effort to change the State's regulation of logging. We will keep you updated on this important issue.

Business as Usual in Congress

BY HAL GARDNER

Despite the fact that Newt Gingrich declared the beginning of a new "green" Congress, this blatant PR should fool no one. A new bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), the **Forest Health Act, S 391**, really has conservationists worried. This legislation will permanently cripple the laws that protect our National Forests from misuse by loggers. Incredibly, sponsors claim that we must speed up logging to prevent forest fires. Instead of generating income, the bill will require hundreds of millions of taxpayer subsidies. This law will make permanent the timber salvage law (a.k.a. "logging without laws") that was passed last summer. Please write to Senators Simon and Mosely-Braun to defeat this bill.

Also, look out for the **Timber Contract Extension Act, HR 369 and S 1877**, which will mandate the harvest of 350 million board feet from the pristine old-growth **Tongass National Forest**. The Ketchikan Pulp Company's logging contract is about to run out, and they wish to keep their sweetheart contract with the government which collects the price of a cheeseburger for a 500-year old Sitka spruce to send to Far Eastern markets.

Another Alaska issue will continue to haunt us. The Alaska delegation continues to attempt to authorize **Arctic Refuge oil drilling**. Much legislative jockeying to attach riders is underway. One amendment calls for transferring 2.8 million acres of federal land on the North Slope of Alaska to the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation to open the North Slope to oil drilling in exchange for 1.49 million acres to be included in the Gates of the Arctic National Park. This problem could be permanently cured if Congress would adopt **S 428 and HR 1000**, which would protect the coastal plains of Alaska as a Wilderness.

Four other bills to watch are: (1) the **Public Rangelands Management Act, S. 1459**, which requires the taxpayer to increase subsidies to the livestock industry and continue the destruction of federal rangelands, (2) a "moderate" **Endangered Species Reauthorization**, which is known to be fatally flawed, (3) **Rights-of-Ways, RS 2477, Section 405**, legislation would wrest control of rights-of-way designation from the Interior Department, allowing anyone to claim highway rights-of-way regardless of where the route is located, and (4) **Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act, HR 1675**, would subvert the whole intent of the refuges by permitting all sorts of incompatible uses.



*25th
Anniversary*

Heart of Illinois Sierra Group

Order Your 25th Anniversary HOI T-Shirt Today! 

The front of each T-Shirt will sport the design at the right. The Sierra Club emblem will be gray, the print black, and the grass brown. The shirt color is ivory in a 50-50 blend and is available in all standard sizes. Cost is \$12. To order, call Joyce (688-0950) by October 12, or leave a message on the HOI HOTLINE, mailbox 5. A limited number of shirts in various sizes will also be on sale at the Harvest Dinner on November 2.



HOI Group Calendar

September

10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
TUE Mary Bodell's home: 2267
Holland's Grove Rd., Washington.
Call Mary, 745-5479, for directions.

15 Moraine View State Park Hike, 1 p.m.
SUN We will carpool to the park from the Forest Park Nature Center parking lot. *Call Joyce at 688-0950 for more information.*

18 General Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Forest Park Nature Center,
"The Mackinaw River"

22 Erosion Control on the Farm: Firsthand View, 1 p.m.
SUN This outing will take us to the farm of Michael Platt, Director, *Heartland Water Resources Council*. We will view some of the measures he has taken to control erosion on his "top of the watershed" farm. We will carpool from the Forest Park Nature Center parking lot to outside of Yates City. *Call Joyce at 688-0950 for more information.*

October

8 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
TUE Grayce Haworth's home: R.R. 1,
Lacon. Call Grayce, 246-8397, for directions.

13 Rock Island Trail Bicycle Ride and Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.
SUN Meet at the old Handy Andy parking lot on Pioneer Parkway. We will ride to Dunlap and have breakfast at the Bicycle Inn. How far we travel from there is up to you!
Call Joyce at 688-0950 for more information.

16 General Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Forest Park Nature Center,
Guest speaker to be announced.

18 Newsletter Deadline
FRI Send articles for November & December to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@aol.com

22 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.
TUE Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!

November

2 Annual Harvest Dinner, 6 p.m.
SAT Grace and Peace Lutheran Church,
7611 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria.
Program: "Paddling a Canoe Through Siberia" by Larry Rice.
Everyone welcome! See newsletter insert and front page for more information.

5 Election Day

TUE



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.

HOI HOTLINE - Yes!

Our local HOTLINE is now operating! The phone number is **745-1920**. Information on our local Group, as well as action alerts, is now at your fingertips, 24 hours a day!

When you call, you will be greeted with a recorded introduction and instructions. Information is currently divided among the following mailboxes:

- mailbox 1:** Upcoming meetings and programs
- mailbox 2:** Phone #'s and addresses of public officials
- mailbox 3:** Outings information
- mailbox 4:** Newsletter deadlines & mailing parties, and EXCOM dates & places
- mailbox 5:** Leave a message
- mailbox 6&7:** I-TAN action alerts
- mailbox 8:** Local action alerts

I-TAN: *You Can Make a Difference!*

For the price of a few phone calls you can influence legislation in favor of environmental issues. As an I-TAN member, you will receive and pass on phone calls as each action alert comes up. You will then call the HOTLINE for information about the current action alert and the names and numbers of the officials to contact to make your opinion count. **Call Mary, 745-5479, to join, or call the HOTLINE, mailbox 5, give your name and phone# and say, "I want to be an I-TAN member."**

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

HOTLINE: Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts • **745-1920**
Public Official Contacts • Leave Messages

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

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

